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## Tourism Players Upbeat As Foreigners Returning To Kashmir After 3-Year Hiatus

Auqib Javeed

After three year hiatus, the foreign tourists have finally returned to Kashmir as their footfall in the Valley witnessed a significant spike in the last year, much to the delight of the people associated with the tourism industry

Sarmand Hafeez, secretary tourism revealed that Jammu and Kashmir received some twenty thousand international visitors last year and more foreign guests are expected to visit the Valley this year.



"Most of the tourists were from Southeast Asian and European countries," Hafeez told Kashmir Observer.

**A NUMBER OF HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS** have been renovated, refurbished and re-started which has generated more employment."

It may be noted that the tourism sector witnessed a massive blow after New Delhi imposed a crippling lockdown ahead of the abrogation of special status of the region and divided the state into two Union Territories

on 5 August 2019. A year later in 2020, the foreigners' footfall in the Valley received another blow due to the outbreak of Covid-19 followed by back-to-back lockdowns and travel restrictions

However, in 2022, record breaking footfall of tourists was witnessed with over 24 lakh tourists visiting the Valley.

According to official data, In 2020, 3897 foreign tourists visited Kashmir, while in 2021, the number declined to 1615. However in 2022 around 20,000 foreigners visited the region.

"You must be knowing since there were travel restrictions in the last few years now the same has been revoked. We expect more footfall in 2023," Hafeez said.

He further said the foreigners are also getting easy access to visas.

The return of foreign tourists has brought cheer to the tourism players in the Valley.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, noted businessman and Chairman Hoteliers Club, Mushtaq Chaya said that the foreign tourists spend more than domestic tourists which benefits the local **| More on PIO**

## J&K Integral Part Of India: MEA

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** India asserted on Thursday that Jammu and Kashmir is its "integral and inalienable" part in the face of certain comments on the region by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"We have reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir is an inalienable and integral part of India. Article 370 is entirely a matter of India as well as our Constitution. It is our sovereign matter," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told a media briefing.

"We do not see what is their locus on this," he said when asked about Sharif's tweet on Thursday urging the global community to play its part in "giving" the people of Kashmir their "right to decide their destiny".

Sharif also referred to India's decision to withdraw the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

On August 5, 2019, India announced the withdrawal of the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and its decision to bifurcate the erstwhile state into Union territories.

Till then, Jammu and Kashmir had enjoyed the special status that was granted **| More on PIO**

## RAJOURI KILLINGS AFTERMATH

# VDCs Reactivated, Searches Continue For 5th Day

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** A massive combing operation is going on for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to hunt down terrorists involved in the twin attack in which six people were killed in Dhangri hamlet.

Authorities also re-activated the village defence committee (VDCs) by providing members with new ammunition of .303 rifles to strengthen the self-defence set up in the border district.

A cordon and search operation (CASO) is going on in various villages and forest areas in the district, the officials said.

They said sniffer dogs, metal detectors and at some places drones are also being used during the operation in in-depth areas.

A special camp for VDC members from the Dhangri village in



Rajouri was held by police on Thursday wherein members of defence committees were provided with new ammunition of .303 rifles which were cleaned and repaired, they said.

Organised at the government higher secondary school at Dhangri, special weapon trainers and handlers **| More on PIO**

## 1500 CRPF Personnel Deployed In Rajouri, Poonch

Fifteen companies of CRPF comprising 1,500 personnel have been deployed in Jammu and Kashmir's twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to secure minority areas in the region, officials said. The development comes in the aftermath of twin terror attacks in Rajouri's **| More on PIO**

## 3 Suspects Escape In Forest Belt

The search operation to track down three suspected persons, who jumped a police checkpoint and escaped to a forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, continued on Thursday, officials said. "We are searching for the three persons who escaped into forest belt after jumping the checkpoint of police," Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh said. **| More on PIO**

## Pet Dog's Barks Saved 3 Families From Attackers

Press Trust Of India

**Dhangri:** A pet dog's frantic barks alerting its guardians minutes before a terror attack on their home in the Dhangri hamlet of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district saved at least three families in the neighbourhood from being wiped out.

Four minority community members were killed and six injured in indiscriminate firing by terrorists on four houses in the Upper Dangri village on Sunday,

officials said.

The family of Nirmal Devi, however, can thank their pet -- Micheal -- for saving their lives. The dog's yelps and high-pitched barks alerted Nirmal Devi and her granddaughter, who went outside to find out if anything was wrong.

They soon heard the rattle of AK-rifles as the militants who had entered the premises to kill the family fired off a volley of rounds.

"Me and my granddaughter were in the **| More on PIO**



**SRINAGAR RECORDED ON THURSDAY** season's coldest night with mercury plunging to minus 6.4 Degree Celsius freezing water bodies, including part of Dal Lake, besides the water supply pipes. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# Srinagar Shivers At Minus 6.4 Degree Celsius

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Srinagar and few other weather stations in Jammu and Kashmir experienced the coldest night of the season so far as the minimum temperature plunged several degrees below the freezing point at most places in the valley, officials said on Thursday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius last night against minus 5.2 degrees Celsius the night before.

The officials said that last night was the coldest of the season so far in the city.

The minimum temperature recorded was also the second lowest in the month of January in the last five years.

In 2021, the city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 8.8 degrees Celsius on January 31.

Apart from Srinagar, Qazigund and Kupwara also experienced



the coldest night of the season, according to the officials.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, registered the minimum of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius a degree down from the previous night.

Kupwara, a frontier district, also recorded the minimum of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.4 degrees, the officials said.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered the low of minus 9.2 degrees Celsius and was the coldest **| More on PIO**

## Panel To Verify Genuineness of School Leaving, Discharge Certificates

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The School Education Department Thursday constituted a committee to check the authenticity of school leaving or discharge certificates damaged in fire related incidents and floods in 2014.

It has been learnt that Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Alok Kumar has said that there would be a verification of Genuineness of School leaving and discharge certificates.

In this regard, Kumar has ordered constitution of six member Committee.

The committee will be headed by Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) followed by five members including Joint Director of SCERT, Deputy Director of Academics of BOSE, Deputy Director (M) of the department, law officer



of DSEK and Chief Education Officer (CEO) Srinagar.

"Sanction is accorded to the constitution of a committee of six officers to examine the authenticity of school leaving certificates and recommend the genuineness of school leaving or discharge certificates gutted in fire or flash floods of 2014," it reads.

Kumar said that the committee may co-opt any member or expert as may be required and shall **| More on PIO**

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

### SIU Raids Multiple Places In Kupwara

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted raids at multiple locations in Kupwara district in connection with a case regarding terrorist activities in the area, a police spokesperson said Thursday. The raids, he said, were carried out in a an under investigation case of Police Station Kupwara registered vide FIR number 276/2022 under sections 120-B, 121, 121-A, 122, 123 IPC & sections 17, 18, 20, 38, 39, 40 of UA(P) Act. The spokesperson said that searches were conducted in the residential houses of relatives of eight (8) terrorists who have crossed LoC illegally and joined terrorist ranks and are affiliated **| More on PIO**

### 5.9 Magnitude Quake Jolts J&K



A moderate earthquake was felt across the parts of Jammu and Kashmir this evening.

Director Met, Sonum Lotus said that tremors, measuring 5.9 on Richter scale, were felt for several seconds at around 7:55:51 PM on Thursday. He said the epicentre of the earthquake was Hindu Kush Region, Afghanistan, **| More on PIO**

### Girl Allegedly Hangs Self To Death

A 21-year-old girl allegedly hanged herself to death in Trikbal village of Pattan in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday.

An official said that the girl hanged herself to death at her residence in Trikbal village. He said she was rushed to Pattan hospital where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and started further investigations. Notably, this is the second incident in the district in the last 24 hours. On Wednesday, a 27-year-old youth hanged self to death in Hib Dangerpora village in Sopore—(KNO)

### MHA Declares TRF As Terrorist Group

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday declared militant outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), which the Jammu and Kashmir Police say is an offshoot of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), as a terrorist organisation. In an order, MHA said TRF is recruiting youth through online medium for furtherance of terrorist activities and it has been involved in carrying out propaganda on terror activities. It said TRF is involved in recruitment of terrorists, infiltration of terrorists and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir. "TRF is involved in psychological operations on social media platforms for inciting **| More on PIO**

### 4 Gamblers Arrested In Sumbal

Four gamblers were arrested in an input driven raid in Sumbal area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said Thursday. Acting on specific information about gambling activities in Nowgam area of Sumbal, a police party led by In-charge PP Nowgam raided a gambling site at village Tulrazoo Sumbal and arrested 4 gamblers on the spot, a police spokesperson said. He identified the accused as Javid Ahmad Dar, Afaq Ahmad Rather, Ashiq Hussain Ahangar and Mushtaq Ahmad, all residents of Nowgam Sumbal. Besides playing cards, the spokesperson said, an amount of Rs 3,700 was recovered from the gamblers. **| More on PIO**

### UK Saw Hottest-Ever Year In 2022

Britain had its warmest year on record in 2022, official figures showed Thursday, the latest evidence that climate change is transforming Europe's weather. The Met Office weather agency said the provisional annual average temperature in the U.K. was 10.03 degrees Celsius (50 Fahrenheit), the highest since comparable records began in 1884. The previous record was 9.88 Celsius (49.8 Fahrenheit) set in 2014. Met Office scientists said human activity - primarily fossil fuel emissions - has made such warm conditions vastly more likely. "The results showed that recording 10C in a natural climate would occur around once **| More on PIO**





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# 'Outdoor Air Pollutants Linked With Asthma Attacks In Children, Adolescents'

Press Trust Of India

**M**oderate levels of two outdoor air pollutants, ozone and fine particulate matter, are associated with non-viral asthma attacks in children and adolescents who live in low-income urban areas, a study conducted in the US has found.

The study also identifies associations between exposure to the two pollutants and molecular changes in the children's airways during non-viral asthma attacks, suggesting potential mechanisms for those attacks.

The observational study, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), US, is one of the first to link elevated levels of specific outdoor air pollutants in particular urban locations to distinct changes in the airways during asthma attacks not triggered by respiratory viruses, according to the investigators.

The findings are published in the journal The Lancet Planetary Health.

"The strong association this study demonstrates between specific air pollutants among children in impoverished urban communities and non-viral asthma attacks further augments the evidence that reducing air pollution would improve human health," said Hugh Auchincloss, acting director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of NIH.

Asthma is caused by chronic inflammation of the airways.

During an asthma attack, the airway lining swells, muscles around the airways contract, and the airways produce extra mucus, substantially narrowing the space for air to move in and out of the lungs.

Children who live in low-income urban environments in the US are at particularly high risk for attack-prone asthma. Asthma attacks provoked by respiratory virus infections - a common trigger - have been studied extensively, but those that occur independently of such infections have not, the study said.

In the current study, investigators examined the relationship between air pollutant levels and asthma attacks occurring in the absence of a respiratory virus among 208 children ages 6 to 17 years who had attack-prone asthma and lived in low-income neighbourhoods in one of nine U.S. cities, the study said.

Then, the researchers validated the associ-



ations they found between air pollutant levels and non-viral asthma attacks in an independent cohort of 189 children ages 6 to 20 years with persistent asthma who also lived in low-income neighbourhoods in four U.S. cities, the study said.

The investigators followed the children prospectively for up to two respiratory illnesses or approximately six months, whichever came first. Each illness was classified as viral or non-viral and as involving an asthma attack or not, the study said.

The researchers matched each illness with air quality index values and levels of individual air pollutants recorded by the Environmental Protection Agency in the relevant city on the dates surrounding the illness, the study said.

The investigators subsequently adjusted their data for city and season to decrease the impact of these variables on the findings, it said.

According to the study, the scientists found that asthma attacks had a non-viral cause in nearly 30 per cent of children, two to three times the proportion seen in non-urban children, according to previously published reports. These attacks were associated with lo-

cally elevated levels of fine particulate matter and ozone in outdoor air.

The investigators linked changes in the expression of specific sets of genes that play a role in airway inflammation to elevated levels of these two pollutants by analyzing nasal cell samples obtained from the children during respiratory illnesses.

Some of the identified gene-expression patterns suggest that unique biological pathways may be involved in non-viral asthma attacks, the study said.

Given the study findings, it will be important to develop and test different strategies to see if they prevent or reduce pollution-associated asthma attacks in urban children, the study said.

These strategies may include treatments designed to counteract the harmful effects of elevated levels of outdoor air pollutants on airway inflammatory responses linked to non-viral asthma attacks, and devices for personalized monitoring of local outdoor air pollutant levels to inform asthma management, the study said.

## SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our mother, **MRS RAJA BEGUM** W/o: Late Ghulam Mohammad Baba who left for heavenly abode on Thursday at her home at Mushtaq Colony Hyderpora Srinagar. Her Rasm e Chahrum will be held on 08<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Fateh Khwani will be offered at graveyard near **Bilal Masjid Gulberg colony near petrol pump at 11 AM on 08<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (Sunday)**.

All are requested to pray for the departed soul and not to bring any kind of eatables.

**Bereaved**

**From Hafeez Ullah Baba (Son)**

**Farooq Ahmad Baba (Son)**

**Address: Mushtaq Colony Hyderpora**

**Phone No.: 9906637362, 9419003515**

كَفَىكَ رِزْقًا لَوْنِي

## SAD DEMISE



With profound grief & sorrow we inform the demise of **Mohammad Yousuf Pahalwan S/o Ali Mohammad Pahalwan R/o Amda Kadal Rehmaniya Colony Jogi Wan Srinagar** passed away on **4th Jan 2023 (WEDNESDAY)**. May Almighty Allah grant Jannat-UI-Firdous to the departed soul. Fateha Khawani will be held on **08th of January (SUNDAY) 11:00 A.M.** at their ancestral graveyard Khaiwan Narwara

**BEREAVED**

Family

**9622582415**

## Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric (O&M) Division Anantnag. (KPDCL)

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

NIT No :- 03/ EDA of 2022-23

Dated:- 03/01/2023

The Executive Engineer Electric M&RE Division Anantnag for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT invites Sealed Tenders affixed with Rs.6/- revenue stamps from registered firms / agencies / contractors for carrying out illumination at the following places to the tune of 0.98 lacs on the eve of 26th of January. The agency / firm / contractor shall quote the rates as per the following format (Note:- The decoration should be in tri-colour)

The tender documents can be had from office of the undersigned from 03-01-2023 up to 13-01-2023 (4.00 PM) against cash payment of Rs 200. The tenders should reach to the Executive Engineer Electric M&RE Division Anantnag by or before 13-01-2023 up to 4.00PM by hand. Registered post, Courier Or through speed post only. Tenders received after last date due to postal or any other delay shall not be entertained. Any request for extension in last date of receipt of tender is likely to be rejected. Tenders shall be opened on 14-01-2023 or any other convenient day by Tender Opening Committee in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to be present.

Executive Engineer Electric Division Anantnag, reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

S.No	Particulars	Approx. Quantity	Unit	Rate in Rs. Per Unit	Amount in Rs.
1. Providing/fixing /installation and operation of decorative 'mallas' on rental basis for two days at following locations					
1.	Khanabal Bridge both sides and top in tri colour	800	No.		

Terms and Conditions:-

- The illumination / decoration job at the sites to be carried out latest by 25h January, 2023 & shall be switched on with effect from evening of 25th January, 2023, till 27th January, 2023 (Morning)
- You shall have to keep a skilled person for operation of Decorative lights on 25/26 of January till the (Evening) function is complete.
- The payment is subject to availability of funds under this head of the object.
- The payment shall be released only after the bills are received duly verified from the AEE Concerned.
- You shall have to obey and carry all the instructions of the departmental officers at all times and in all cases.
- You or your authorized representative is required to remain present at site during the carrying out of illumination job.
- The department will not be responsible for any loss or damage caused due to the natural calamities/ force majeure / theft or any other cause what so ever to the materials at work site during execution.
- Any extra item not covered in the allotment and if found necessary as per the site requirement shall be paid as per actual / at the rates already in vogue in this division for similar works which shall have to be certified by the concerned AEE.

No:- 8761-68/EDA

DIPK-NB-5891/22 Dated:-05-01-2023

Sd/= Executive Engineer, ED Anantnag

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Department of Sheep Husbandry

## Office of the Sheep & Wool Development Officer Hajin

E-mail:-sdo-hajin@jk.gov.in  
sdohajin@gmail.com

Subject: - Auction of 04 No. of GB Rams of Sheep & Wool Development organization Hajin Bandipora.  
Reference: - (1). DSHK-Tech/Culling/2022-23/12525-26 Dated:-02.01.2023  
(2). DSHO/Bpr/Tech/2022-23/1575-77 Dated: - 03.01.2023.

### AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public and the Butchers in particular that an open auction of 04(Four) number of Govt. Rams shall be held on 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 (Thursday) at 11:30AM in the premises of Sheep & Wool Development Office Hajin in presence of auction committee. The auction through open bid will be conducted in accordance with the following terms and conditions:-

- The interested bidders/persons can inspect the livestock to be auctioned prior to their participation on the day of auction up to 11:00AM at Sheep & Wool Development office Hajin.
- The successful bidder shall to necessarily pay 100% of the final bid amount on spot to the auction committee.
- Any terms & conditions, if found necessary, the same shall be communicated to the bidders on spot at the time of auction.
- In case of the date of auction happens to be a holiday or any untoward situation arises due to any eventuality/circumstance, the auction will be held on the next working day at same venue and time.
- The auction committee reserves the right to accept/reject any bid without assigning any reasons thereof.
- All bidders should strictly adhere to COVID-19 SOP's during Bidding Process.

Sd/= Sheep & Wool Dev. Officer Hajin

No.- SDO/Hajin/Tech/2021-22/1226-32  
DIPK-16015/22 Dated: - 05.01.2023

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02	FAYAZ AHMAD BUDOO	ASADULLAH BUDOO	BUDIBAGH	CHAIRMAN	37 YRS	B.A. BED	6006649129
03	MOHD ASHRAF CHOPAN	AB REHMAN CHOPAN	CHECKI RAITHAN	TREASURER	28 YRS	M.A	9622464169
04	FAYAZ AHMAD BHAT	GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHAT	GURWAIT KAIAN	SECRETARY	41 YRS	12TH	9596800308
05	MOHAMMAD ASHRAF CHOPAN	HABIBULLAH CHOPAN	GURWAIT KALAN	MEMBER	38 YRS	5TH	9906646470
06	MOHAMMAD ALTAF SHEIKH	ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH	LANILAB RAITHAN BUDGAM	MEMBER	33 YRS	8TH	9596999078
07	NAZIR AHMAD SANGOO	FATEH MOHAMMAD SANGOO	LANILAB RAITHAN BUDGAM	MEMBER	47 YRS	MATRIC	9906703385

bmrg

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B PROJECT CIRCLE DIVISION NO, 1<sup>st</sup> Srinagar.

### FRESH TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No PCD-RnB-122 of 2022-23.

Dated:-03/01/2023.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Percentage basis (% basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money Rs.10000/-	Time of completion 7 Days	Class of Contractor	Major Head Of Accounts 2059 M&R (Add.)
1	Supplying of Toiletry items for VIP Guest House	Rs.0.50 Lacs	Rs.200/-			"DEE" "MSE's"	

Position of TS: Submitted

Position of funds: Committed

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www .jktenders. gov. in as per schedule of date given below :-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03/01/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03/01/2023 05:00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	03/01/2023 from 06:00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	09/01/2023 up to 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10/01/2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1 <sup>st</sup>

All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria /qualification information with their bids :- ( Photo-stat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-

- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-
- All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
- All bidders who are registered as Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE's) can avail the option of uploading bid security deceleration as per (annexure A) instead of Earnest Money Deposit. Further the cost of tender document is also exempted for MSE's. However, the participated should have to upload the proof of MSE registration to avail the above mentioned benefits.
- Registration Card valid for the year 2022-23.
- All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate duly issued by the card issuing authority or an Affidavit duly certified by 1<sup>st</sup> class Judicial Magistrate to the effect of genuineness of the registration.
- All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan.
- All bidders shall upload Earnest Money @2% of Advertise Cost In shape Of CDR/FDR.
- All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN Registration and PAN Card.
- All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter i.e. ending July-September-2022 or preceding month i.e.November-2022.

No: PCD-1st/NIT/9084-94.

DIPK-16001/22

Dtd:-05-01-2023.

sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1st, Srinagar





## Landlords Win 2-Decade-Old Legal Battle To Reclaim Shop

### Agencies

Srinagar: A court in Srinagar has ordered a tenant to hand-over shop to landlords, to bring to close a litigation instituted nearly two decades ago.

“Defendant (tenant) is directed to vacate and hand-over the possession of the suit shop to the Plaintiffs (landlords) within a period of two months and in default Defendant will be liable to pay to the Plaintiffs the damages at the rate of Rs. 1,000 (Rupees One Thousand Only) per day till the suit shop is handed over to Plaintiffs,” the Court of Munsiff Sub Registrar Srinagar said in a judgment passed on December 3.

The landlords had filed the case in 2004, seeking directions to the tenant, Mohammad Syed Nazki, to vacate the shop situated at Killi Masjid Saraf Kadal Srinagar.

According to the landlords, they rented out the shop to the tenant in March

1987 and according to an agreement between them, the shop was to be handed over after one year.

However, the court observed, the tenant did not vacate the shop after the expiry of the agreement and hand-over it to them despite their repeated demands. The landlords, through their counsel Sajad Sofi, had contended that they need the shop back for their personal requirement as they are repeatedly in need of it so as to have a source of income to support their family. The landlords said that the tenant neither vacated the shop nor did he pay the rent from April 2002.

After hearing the parties, the court, besides ordering the tenant to vacate the shop within two months, also ordered him to pay the rent on account of occupation of the shop from April 2002 at the rate of Rs 75 per month along with 9% interest per annum. (GNS)

## KU Delays Advertising Vacant Administrative Positions, Draws Flak

### Agencies

Srinagar: The authorities at Kashmir University (KU) continue to delay advertising vacant administrative positions including that of Registrar for more than a year, drawing flak from academics.

Insiders said that more than a year has passed since the post of Registrar fell vacant but the authorities are not making any effort to put the post to advertisement despite demands for the same.

Since January last year, when the three year term of Registrar Dr. Nisar ended, the J&K LG as University Chancellor issued instructions that Dr. Nisar shall continue till the new VC joins the University.

However, insiders say, Dr. Nisar continues to hold the charge of Registrar allegedly without any official orders on his continuation as In-Charge Registrar.

“We have not seen any official order regarding continuation of In-Charge Registrar,” said a KU academician,

wishing anonymity. “The temporary arrangement on the important administrative position like Registrar is not good for the institution.”

The other posts which are vacant include Director IT, Director North Campus and Director DIQA which haven’t been advertised despite repeated requests to the Vice Chancellor by stakeholders to end the temporary arrangement.

Insiders said that In-Charge IT Director is holding the charge since 2016 in total violation of the three year rotation policy for all heads of departments, coordinators and directors.

The official is accused of misusing his proximity with the administrative department of the Kashmir University to stay on the chair despite serious allegations related to his Ph.D Degree and grant of huge amounts of money as medical reimbursement to him in violation of Medical Reimbursement Rules.



A tailor sews golden coated thread on a traditional Tilla Pheran in old Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Govt Tightens Noose On Mutton Shops, Says Wholesalers Main Culprits

64 mutton shops sealed in city, fine of Rs 27k imposed on 17 erring traders

### Agencies

Srinagar: Amid the ongoing drive against the mutton shopkeepers for selling meat at the exorbitant rates, the government on Thursday said that all those involved in norm violations will have to face the law. The authorities also said that the main culprits of wholesalers and action against them will be initiated from tomorrow.

Director Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department, Abdul Salam Mir, said that the drive against the mutton shopkeepers is not confined to Srinagar district only, but has been extended to other districts also.

He added that the drive against the norm violations will not stop until and unless the government fixed rates are strictly adhered to. “The main culprits behind the exorbitant rates of mutton are wholesalers, who are running the business affairs without the license. Thus, we will start the drive against them from tomorrow,” he said.

He also said that the mutton shopkeepers have been found selling meat after their shops have been sealed and added that the matter will be looked into.

“Anyone, who is a repeat offender, will have to face the cancellation of license as well,” he said.

“The drive is presently going on and in the next couple of days; the decision to come up with a solution to make mutton available for the people as well,” he added.

Pertinently, in the last over one week, the authorities have sealed 64 mutton shops across

as many as 64 mutton shops have been sealed from last one week vis-à-vis a fine of Rs 27,000 have also been imposed on 17 erring traders,” the statement said.

“During the month of January-2023 in the entire valley, an amount of Rs 55200.00 (Fifty five thousand and two hundred) has been collected as fine from 197 erring traders for violating E.C.Act.

During the month of January-2023 in the entire valley, an amount of Rs 55200.00 (Fifty five thousand and two hundred) has been collected as fine from 197 erring traders for violating E.C.Act. Besides, 41 establishments also stand sealed

the district.

Assistant Director Enforcement, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani in a statement said that in view of complaints pouring in from various corners regarding overcharging by mutton sellers, a special drive was launched in various areas of Srinagar City by the Enforcement squad of this department under his supervision.

“During the course of action

Besides, 41 establishments also stand sealed,” Wani said.

Moreover, the erring lot has been reprimanded to remain careful in future. The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well & whosoever found violating the norms will be brought to justice. In case of any complaint, people may contact on toll free number 18001807011, the statement added—(KNO)

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

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

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

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

**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
13 Jumad al-Sani  
**1444**

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	6:08
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	3:57
Magrib	5:37
ISHA	7:03

## This Day In History

- 1661 - The Fifth Monarchists unsuccessfully attempt to seize control of London
- 1781 - Battle of Jersey: Major Francis Peirson and his men defeat invading French troops
- 1784 - Turkey & Russia sign treaty in Constantinople
- 1809 - Napoleonic Wars: Invasion of Cayenne, by combined British, Portuguese and colonial Brazilian forces, begins
- 1842 - 4,500 British & Indian troops leave Kabul, massacred before reaching India
- 1853 - Franklin Pierce, the President-elect of the United States at the time, and his family are involved in a train wreck in Massachusetts
- 1857 - Patent for reducing zinc ore granted to Samuel Wetherill, Penn
- 1887 - Abd-allah II of Harar opens the Battle of Chelenqo with an attack on the camp of the Shewan army of Negus Menelik II
- 1896 - 1st US women's 6-day bicycle race starts, Madison Square Garden
- message from a submerged submarine, by Simon Lake
- Event of interestEvent of interest
- 1907 - Maria Montessori opens her 1st (Montessori) school (Rome)
- 1912 - New Mexico becomes 47th state of the Union
- 1912 - Alfred Wegener, geophysicist and meteorologist, presents his controversial theory of continental drift in a lecture at a the Geological Association (Geologischen Vereinigung) at the Senckenberg-Museum, Frankfurt.
- 1921 - The Iraqi Army is formed
- 1925 - Mussolini forms a cabinet composed entirely of Fascists in Italy
- 1929 - Mother Teresa arrives in Calcutta to begin a her work amongst India's poorest
- 1930 - 1st diesel engine automobile trip (in a Packard sedan) completed
- 1931 - Thomas Edison submits his last patent application
- 1941 - US President Franklin Roosevelt makes his "Four Freedoms" speech (freedom of speech and worship; freedom from want and fear) during his US State of Union address
- 1950 - Britain recognizes Communist government of China
- 1951 - Ganghwa massacre: Hundreds of South Korean communist sympathisers are slaughtered
- 1953 - The first Asian Socialist Conference opens in Burma
- 1968 - Surveyor 7 (last of series) launched by US for soft-landing on Moon
- 1971 - Berkeley chemists announces 1st synthetic growth hormones
- 1972 - Vladimir Bukovski is exiled from USSR
- 1976 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1980 - Indira Gandhi's Congress Party wins elections in India
- 1986 - STS 61-C scrubbed at T-31sec because of liquid oxygen valve problem

*From KO Archives*

## Kashmiris Being Hounded In Delhi

Srinagar - Kashmiris spread throughout the country are having a tough time following the Fidayeen attack on the Red Fort in New Delhi.

In various cities, police and intelligence agencies have instructed hotels and inns to refuse accommodation to Kashmiris. Kashmiris residing in Jammu too are bearing the brunt of security measures which have been tightened on the advent of January 26.

Kashmiris have been told to vacate their rooms from nearly all hotels in Delhi and those arriving from other cities are not being allowed to stay in the capital. Police and intelligence agencies have picked up scores Kashmiri students and traders for questioning over the last 10 days. So far the Jammu and Kashmir government has not taken a serious note of the situation. (CNS.)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 06 January, 2001)

## Two Extortionists Arrested In Khanyar: Police

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday said they arrested two extortionists in Khanyar area of Srinagar.

A police spokesman said that on receipt of a complaint by Khanyar police Station against two persons identified as Arbaz Ayoub Khan, son of Mohd Ayoub Khan of Kwajapora Syedpora Rainawari and Sameer

Ahmad Ahanger, son of Bashir Ahmad Ahanger of Aqilmir Khanyar to the effect that the duo have threatened and demanded money from the complainant, who is constructing a residential house with proper permission near Shiraz Chowk.

According to the complaint, the duo threatened him that they will not let him construct the said house if he did not pay them Rs 5,00,000, the statement said.

“On receipt of this

complaint, a case under FIR number 02/ 2023 was lodged and the duo was arrested immediately. During the investigation of the case, it came to fore that the duo along with few others operate like a gang in Khanyar area of downtown and have been threatening innocent people, especially those who construct residential houses or commercial buildings, in order to extort money they used to claim links with influential people.”

**J&K Bank**  
Serving To Empower

**The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Zonal Office Srinagar

**Extension of time**

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22 -Dt:-29-10-2022, issued by this office, followed by extension notice dated 24-11-2022 regarding advertisement for premises for housing Branch Umer abad Shalteng , Sgr the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). The parties who have already applied in response to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22 -Dt:-29-10-2022 need not apply again.

**Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.**

No. jkb/zoSgr /Est/22-  
Dated:-02-01-2023

Sd/-  
Zonal Head  
Zonal Office Srinagar

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-5871/22     DATED: 05-01-2023

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

**Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-26-22-23**  
**Closing Date/Time: 18/01/2023 15:00**  
**Dated:- 03.01.2023**

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-26-22-23 Closing Date/Time 18/01/2023 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

**NIT HEADER**

<b>Contract Type</b>	Works
<b>Name of Work</b>	(I) Sectional Signal maintenance Contract (SSMC) in the beat of ADSTE/LDH for one year. (ii) Sectional Signal maintenance Contract (SSMC) in the beat of DSTE/FZR for one year. (iii) Sectional Signal Maintenance Contract (SSMC) in the beat of ADSTE JUC for one year. (iv) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Hitachi Make Electronic Interlocking systems installed at 4 stations on FZR-JUC section for Three (3) years.
<b>Tender Type</b>	Open (E-tendering)
<b>Tender Closing Date &amp; Time</b>	18.01.2023 15:00 hrs.
<b>Pre-Bid Required</b>	No
<b>Advertised Value (Rs.)</b>	(I) 2850001.37 (ii) 3412604.75 (iii) 2916494.48 (iv) 6027789.24
<b>Bidding Style</b>	Single Rate for Each Schedule Item
<b>Earnest Money (in Rs.)</b>	(i) 57000.00 (ii) 68300.00 (iii) 58300.00 (iv) 120600.00
<b>Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)</b>	NIL

Bidding System	Date Time of uploading tender	Single Packet System	23.12.2022 15:55
Bidding Start date as per IREPS			04.01.2023
Tendering Section		SIGNAL & TELECOM	
Bidding Unit	Validity of offer (Days)	Rs./Unit	60 days
Period of Completion		12 Months & 36 Months	

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

27/23



## Pakistan Threatens Taliban Over Failure To Curb Border Instability



Agencies

In a statement to local media on 2 January, the Minister of Defense of Pakistan, Khawaja Asif, issued a harsh statement against the Taliban, blaming the leadership for failing to uphold promises on border security and stability.

Asif accused the leadership of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) of harboring Pakistan-designated terrorist groups on its soil, which resulted in the deterioration of stability in the country.

The remarks are in reference to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a militant group with close ties to the Taliban. The group aims to establish an Islamic Emirate in Pakistan, similar to the Afghan model.

According to Al-Jazeera, the TTP is responsible for more than 150 attacks inside Pakistan, which resulted in the death of dozens of civilians alongside members of the security services.

December 2022 was designated the deadliest month for security forces in the past decade, as the insurgency killed 40 Pakistani soldiers.

"They [TTP] are coming from across the Afghan side of the border to carry out these ac-

tivities," Asif told Geo News TV.

He added that "they may have sleeper cells here [in Pakistan], but their overwhelming presence is on Afghanistan's soil, which is being used for cross-border terrorism."

Asif elaborated that they contacted Afghanistan's government officials about the situation and reiterated the need to uphold their obligation based on the Doha agreement with the US.

"We have been requesting the Taliban ever since they returned to power to stop the TTP from plotting terrorist activities in Pakistan," Asif noted.

His remarks align with the statement issued by the National Security Committee (NSC) of Pakistan, which vowed not to allow any country "to provide sanctuaries to terrorists."

The council promised to "deal with the full force of the state," to crush those attempts, and those negatively sabotaging the border peace between neighboring states.

Although the statement made no reference to Afghanistan explicitly, the spokesman for the IAE, Zabihullah Mujahid, issued a swift commentary early on 3 January, to restore calm with Pakistan.

'50,000 PEOPLE CANNOT BE EVICTED OVERNIGHT'

## SC Stays Uttarakhand HC Order In Haldwani Case

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** In a relief to thousands of people facing imminent threat of demolition of their houses in winter, the Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court order for removal of encroachments from 29 acres of land claimed by the railways in Haldwani, terming it a "human issue" and saying 50,000 people cannot be uprooted overnight.

According to the railways, there are 4,365 encroachers on the land, while the occupants are holding protests at Haldwani asserting they are its rightful owners.

Nearly 50,000 people, a majority of them Muslims, belonging to over 4,000 families reside on the disputed land.

Observing that many of the occupants have claimed they have been residing there for over 50 years, a bench of Justice S K Kaul and A S Oka noted there is a "human angle" to the problem and the authorities have to find a "practical way out".

The apex court issued notices to the railways and the Uttarakhand government seeking their responses to a batch of pleas challenging the high court order for removal of encroachments.

"Notice. In the meantime, there shall be stay of directions passed in the impugned order," said the bench, which posted the matter for further hearing on February 7.



"We do believe that a workable arrangement is necessary to segregate people who may have no rights on the land....

coupled with schemes of rehabilitation which may already exist while recognising the need of the railways," the bench said.

The top court observed it may not be correct to say to bring in paramilitary forces to dispossess these people.

In its December 20 last year order, the high court had said, "The railway authorities in coordination with the district administration, and if need be, with any other para-military forces, shall immediately, after giving a week's notice to the occupants over the railways land, ask them to vacate the land within the aforesaid period." The apex court, however, said since people sought to be removed have stayed there for so many years, some rehabilitation has to be found

for them.

It said, "People have lived there for 50, 60, 70 years. Some rehabilitation scheme will have to be done. Even let us assume for the sake of arguments, it is completely railways land, some scheme will have to be done." Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for railways, said the land belongs to the railways and 4,365 unauthorised occupants have been identified.

The bench said these people have claimed they have the leases and also the properties of those, who migrated in 1947, were auctioned and, in that process, they have got the properties.

"What is troubling us is this. One, how do you deal with a scenario where people may have purchased in the auction... If the people have acquired title, how will you do it?" the court asked the railways.

KILLING GEN SOLEIMANI

## Top Iraq Court Issues 'Arrest Warrant' for Trump

Agencies

**BAGHDAD:** The President of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council issued an arrest warrant for former U.S. President Donald Trump for assassination of anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani, according to Baghdad Today.

In a statement issued by Faiq Zaidan Iraqi judiciary issued an arrest warrant for former U.S. President, who confessed to having committed the crime, calling on those investigating the assassination of the Quds Force commander, Qasem Soleimani, and chief of staff of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in Iraq, Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, to make an exceptional effort to uncover the perpetrators, Baghdad Today reported.

"Why has he not yet been held accountable for this heinous crime?" Zaidan asked, referring to Donald Trump.

The U.S. army carried out a military operation in which Soleimani was assassinated near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

Earlier the Iranian authorities issued summons to 73 people involved in the assassination of the iconic Iranian



commander.

"A court notice has been issued against 73 people involved in the murder of martyr Soleimani," Judiciary Spokesman Masoud Setayeshi said on Tuesday as quoted by news agency IRNA.

Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' elite Quds Force, was killed by a US drone strike in Baghdad on January 3, 2020.

The operation, in which Al-Muhandis was also assassinated, led to an escalation of tension between the US and Iran.

Meanwhile Iraqi leaders and officials on Thursday reiterated condemnations of the killing of Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a US strike in Baghdad three years

prior, during a forum commemorating the anniversary of the assassination.

Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani called the killing "a flagrant violation" of Iraq's sovereignty, adding that the repercussions could have threatened the stability of the region. The Iraqi premier said that the blood of "martyred leaders must not go in vain."

President Abdul Latif Rashid also condemned the US assassination, saying that their targeting is a blow to all "moral, legal and political regulations."

"The targeting must remain a subject of denunciation and rejection, and be a priority for Iraqi political dealings until justice is achieved," said the Iraqi President.

## Ram Mandir To Be Ready In 2024 Ahead Of Elections: Amit Shah

Press Trust of India

**SABROOM (TRIPURA):**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be ready by January 1, 2024, the year the Lok Sabha elections will be held.

This is being seen as an indication that Ram Mandir, a plank raked up by the saffron camp since 1990 when BJP leader L K Advani started out on a Rath Yatra to focus on the issue, may again be one of the cornerstones of BJP's campaign in the next General Election.

"Rahul baba, listen from Sabroom that a mammoth Ram

lieved a major factor in the rise of the BJP in the 1990s which had been politically hit by both the advent of Rajiv Gandhi in 1984 and the Mandal Commission award in the late 1980s which saw regional parties espousing the cause of OBCs gaining strength.

The Rath Yatra also saw the spawning of a movement calling for the destruction of the 16th-century Mosque in Ayodhya, which some believed was the site of a palace where Lord Ram was born. It culminated in the public destruction of the mosque by saffron brigade volunteers in December 1992.

Addressing a public rally at Sa-



Mandir will be ready on January 1, 2024," he said attacking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who is in the midst of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, a 3500 km long march from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Secretary of Ram Mandir Trust Champat Rai and chief priest of Ram Janmabhoomi temple Acharya Satyendra Das had come out with separate statements appreciating Gandhi for the Bharat Jodo Yatra earlier this week.

Advani's Rath Yatra was be-

broom in Tripura, where Assembly polls are due early this year, Shah said that the Congress and Communists had put the Ram Mandir issue in the jurisdiction of the court for long, whereas Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for it after the Supreme Court's order permitting construction.

The Congress and the CPI(M) are the main opposition parties in the BJP-ruled northeastern state and there are indications that the two will fight the assembly election together.

## India To Send 3 Aquanauts 500 Meters Into Sea This Year In 'Samudrayaan Mission'

Press Trust of India

**NAGPUR:** India will send three explorers to a depth of 500 meters under the sea in an indigenously built vessel, Samudrayaan, this year, an official said.

Engineers at the National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai have already designed the steel sphere that will house the aquanauts for their journey, he said.

However, the plan to send the Samudrayaan to 6,000 meters deep into the sea could be delayed due to difficulty in procuring the titanium sphere capable of withstanding pressure at those depths, the official, requesting anonymity, told PTI on the sidelines of the Indian Science Congress underway here.

He said a steel sphere can withstand pressure up to a depth of 500 meters but will crumple as it cruises deeper, making titanium as the metal of choice.

"These are exclusive technologies and no country is ready to part with them. The Ukraine conflict has further aggravated the situation," the official said without elaborating.

India has also set its eyes on achieving human spaceflight by



the end of next year.

The Ukraine conflict has already pushed the timelines for human spaceflight to the end of 2024 and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to carry out an uncrewed mission to test and validate technologies for the Gaganyaan mission this year.

"It is not like sending a satellite to orbit. We cannot take chances when it comes to human beings. We are being cautious and careful. Globally, it took about 10 years for countries to develop human space flight capability, which we are doing in four," ISRO chairman Somanath said.

## NEWS MAKERS

## Another Mid-Air Peeing Incident, Now On Paris-Delhi Air India Flight

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Ten days after the shocking November 26 incident on a New York-Delhi Air India flight, another episode of a "drunk" male passenger allegedly "urinating" on a blanket of a female passenger was reported on the Paris-Delhi sector but penal action was not pressed after the passenger gave a written apology, officials said today.

This incident happened on December 6 on Air India flight 142 and the pilot of the aircraft reported the matter to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport about it, following which the male passenger was apprehended.

It was not known which



class the passengers were travelling.

The flight landed around 9:40 am at Delhi and the airport security was informed that the male passenger was "under the influence of alcohol and he was not following the instructions of the cabin crew and he later peed on a

blanket of an onboard lady passenger", airport officials told news agency PTI.

The male passenger was apprehended by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as soon as he deboarded the plane but was later allowed to leave after the two passengers had a "mutual compro-

mise" and the accused tendered a "written apology", they said.

The lady passenger, who had initially made a written complaint, refused to file a police case and hence the passenger was allowed to go by the airport security after he cleared immigration and customs formalities, they said.

The incident came just over a week after the November 26 episode where a man allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger onboard a New York-Delhi Air India flight.

The Delhi Police has now registered an FIR in the November incident, based on a complaint by the victim to Air India, and has formed several teams to nab the accused.

## A Town Changed Its Name For The Sake Of "Equality"

Agencies

**PARIS:** A French mayor has announced that his town's name will take on the feminine form for a year to raise awareness about gender equality.

Bertrand Kern, the socialist mayor of Pantin outside Paris, announced the move in a New Year's video message on Twitter earlier this week.

"Pantin will for a year be called Pantine," he said, adding an 'e' to its name to highlight "equality between women and men" and the struggle to end "violence against women".

A noun can often be made feminine in French by adding an 'e' on the end.

He hoped it would be "a wake-up call for this equality between women and



men, which is still not perfect -- even if there have been improvements in recent years."

Women are still "less well paid than men", and their place in the public domain is "not always well accepted by men", he said.

But the move seems to be largely symbolic.

The mayor's office said there would be no changes to road signs on the outskirts of town, or in the municipality's official communications. Its Twitter

account on Wednesday remained unchanged, except for a background banner reading "Pantine: committed to equality".

The announcement has unleashed a stream of mockery on social media, with many users suggesting rude feminine alternatives for other towns in France.

But others have seen in it a welcome media stunt to revive the debate on gender disparities.

France ranked 15th worldwide in the World

Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2022.

Elisabeth Borne, a 61-year-old engineer, was named French prime minister last year, becoming only the second woman to hold the position.

But French politics has been rife with allegations of sexual harassment and assault in recent years.

In one of the latest cases, a prominent young leader of France's hard-left party, Adrien Quatennens, was handed a suspended four-month prison sentence last month for slapping his wife.

Three ministers in President Emmanuel Macron's governments since 2016 have been accused of rape, including one who was sacked in July. All three deny the allegations.



## BJP Govt Failed To Handle J&K Situation: Mehbooba

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The BJP government has failed to control the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and is now arming locals to "further its agenda of creating a wedge" between communities, People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti said on Thursday.

Arming people with weapons will only serve the BJP's agenda of creating an atmosphere of fear, suspicion and hatred. It will pit one community against the other," Mehbooba said.

She was speaking to reporters in Anantnag district after paying obeisance at the grave of her father, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

The move to provide arms and ammunition to Village Defence Committees in wake of the Rajouri attack has exposed the BJP's claims that the situation has become normal in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, she said.

Mehbooba, also a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, added, "If that were the case, why bring more security personnel into Jammu and Kashmir? Why arm the local people with weapons?"

"This only shows that BJP has failed in controlling the situation. Now they want to harass the people and increase the bloodshed by these measures." The PDP leader added that



the problems in Jammu and Kashmir needed a political solution and could not be resolved militarily.

"No power on earth can win a war against its own people. Jammu and Kashmir is already a military cantonment, there is no dearth of Army here. The Army has discharged its duties well over the past 30 years to the extent that the democratic system was restored and elections to the Parliament, Assembly and panchayats were held. But now, it is not the job of the Army.

"All the security experts and many former army officers maintain that Jammu and Kashmir is a political issue for which there is no military solution," she said.

Highlighting the need for dialogue, Mehbooba said the government was engaged in talks and reconciliation with China even after the neighbouring country committed acts of aggression in Ladakh.

"There cannot be a military solution... China martyred 20 of our soldiers and has occupied 2,000 square kilometres of our land (in Ladakh) but there is dialogue and reconciliation going on there," she added.

## Training For First Batch Of Agniveers Begins In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The training for the first batch of Agniveers begins amid the visit of Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Dwivedi to review preparedness at the Agniveer training facility (ATF) at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JKLI) regimental centre in the outskirts of Jammu city.

The youth of Jammu and Kashmir has shown a considerable amount of interest in Agniveer recruitments and the recent recruitment rallies have shown tremendous enthusiasm in the form of huge numbers turning up, a defence spokesman said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi visited the state-of-the-art Agniveer training facility located at JKLI regimental centre at Dansal to review the preparedness and arrangements for the first batch of Agniveers being trained, he said.

Recently the Ministry of Defence signed Memorandums

of Understanding (MoU) with various stakeholders like the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the director general of training for facilitating continued education of serving Agniveers and providing appropriate skill certificates.

"In keeping with the vision of Nation Building and National prosperity the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre has been transforming the youth to become brave soldiers for the Nation", he said.

The selected Agniveers will undergo 10 weeks of basic military training (BMT) followed up by 21 weeks of advanced military training (AMT) at this regimental centre, the spokesman said.

After successful completion of the prescribed training, Agniveers will be dispatched to the different Jammu and Kashmir light infantry battalions located in various parts of the country, he added.



**A BOATMAN PICKS UP A PIECE** of ice from the frozen Dal Lake in Srinagar, as this capital city witnessed the season's coldest night on Thursday at minus 6.4 Degree Celsius.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Govt Committed Towards Welfare, Upliftment Of Tribals: LG

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his government is committed towards the welfare & upliftment of the tribal communities in the Union Territory.

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with a delegation of BJP ST Morcha J&K led by its President Ch. Roshan Hussain at Raj Bhawan here, an official spokesperson said.

Hussain, he said, highlighted various welfare issues of Tribal Community related to education; opening of new Gujjar Bakerwal Hostels at Anantnag, Kupwara & Ganderbal; constitution of Tribal Advisory Council/ Board; Gujjar Bhawan in Kashmir etc.

"While interacting with the members of the delegation, the Lt Governor observed that the government is committed towards the welfare & upliftment of the tribal communi-



ties," the spokesperson said.

Earlier, he said, Parveen Kumar Sharma, Chairman, The Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd. Jammu called on LG,

The Chairman, he said, accompanied by Adv. S.Surinder Singh, Director of the Bank and Ravi Kant, Managing Director briefed the Lt Governor on the functioning of the bank and extension of the services to the people.

Chander Mohan Gupta, former Mayor, JMC apprised the

LG about the various issues of public importance, besides matters concerning smooth functioning of the Municipal Corporation.

Mir Junaid, President, Jammu & Kashmir Workers Party (JKWP) also called on the Lt Governor and projected various concerning issues of Co-operative Societies, farmer community, fruit growers and agricultural entrepreneurs.

Later, Ramesh Sharma, State Executive member, BJP J&K UT and Swarn Kishore Singh, Vice President BJP, District Ramban also met the Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum of issues and demands pertaining to strengthening of DH Ramban, augmentation of staff in some schools, reactivation of VDGs, besides other issues concerning the people of Ramban.

The Lt Governor assured the deputations of due consideration of all the genuine issues and demands projected by them during the interaction.

## Police Foil Protest Of ReK Teachers In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Police on Wednesday resorted to cane-charging and foiled the protest of Rehbar-e-Khel (ReK) teachers demanding that their services be regularised.

Hundreds of ReK teachers tried to undertake a protest march from Jammu Press Club but were prevented by police to do so.

When the protestors insisted to take out the march, police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse them.

Hitting out at the administration, the teachers said it had promised them that their de-



mands would be looked into.

Former J and K Lt Governor G C Murmu had formed a committee to find a way to ease the sufferings of Rehbar-e-Khel

teachers like reducing the probation period from seven years to five years as per ReT pattern and enhancement in our salaries, they said.

Educational Assistance Scheme

## Rs 2 Cr Disbursed Among 2900 Beneficiaries In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** Labour department Ganderbal has disbursed an amount of Rs 2.7 crore among 2900 beneficiaries under educational assistance scheme during the year 2021-22.

Keeping the legacy of the department alive, the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir in presence of Assistance Commissioner Labour (ALC) today disbursed 1142 educational assistance cases amounting to Rs 96.48 lakh thereby benefiting around 2100 children of registered construction workers.

On the occasion, the Assistant Labour Commissioner

Ganderbal said that the Labour Department Ganderbal has received around 4600 cases under educational assistance scheme during the year 2021-22 out of which 1700 cases were found deficient for various reasons.

To reach out to these deficient case holders, the department through various means informed the concerned workers to correct their cases for disbursement. Hundreds of workers were also personally telephoned so that the workers could not be deprived of benefits. A total of 339 cases stands rejected due to their non-eligibility for the assistance, he added.

## ARTO Bandipora Cracks Down On Traffic Violators



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** To curb violation of traffic rules, ARTO Bandipora Bilal Ahmad along with a squad of concerned officials on Thursday conducted surprise inspection of vehicles on Bandipora Srinagar road.

ARTO said that Bike/ Scooty riders have been challaned for traffic violations including triple riding and not wearing helmets besides seized 02 Scotties.

ARTO said checking of vehicles

was carried with special focus on installation of Speed limiting devices, overloading and checking of required documents.

He said around 75 vehicles were checked and Rs. 25500 were recovered from the offenders and documents of the number of vehicles were also seized.

He said 15 vehicles were also blacklisted for violation of rules and urged the public to follow the rules and regulations besides maintaining necessary documents of their vehicles.

## 4 Day Peace Education Programme Ends In Pulwama

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** A four days Peace Education programme organised by Prem Rawat Foundation in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama culminated here on Thursday.

During these days, District officers, Professors of Higher Education, lecturers of School Education department, Principals, Zonal Education Officers, Tehsildars, BDOs and other officers besides police officers participated in the programme.

It was informed that the Peace Education programme is an innovative series of video workshops that helps people discover their own resources and personal peace with focus to develop a "Holistic Perspective about Life".

DEPO, Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Nodal officer of the program said that the objective of the programme is to inculcate inner strength and personal peace, self direction to improve wellbeing of an individual.

Speaking on the occasion, he thanked the members of the

foundation for organizing this program. He further said that such programmes are important to inculcate moral values in the youth of the District. It is the need of the hour that content about individual peace must be included in the curriculum courses, he added.

District Administration and the organizers of the program resonated the golden words of Prem Rawat that "Peace needs to be in everyone's life. It is not the world that needs peace; it is people. When people in the world are at peace within themselves, the world too will be at peace."

The organizers of the program stressed that, Rather than describing or defining personal peace, the program empowers individuals to reach their own understanding. The program has proven effective in a variety of settings including community centers, youth groups, schools, adult education programs, veterans' groups, healthcare settings, senior centers, homeless shelters, drug rehabilitation facilities, and correctional facilities.

## CUK's Rajbhasha Cell Holds One Day Workshop

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Rajbhasha Cell of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Thursday organised a one-day workshop on "Rajbhasha Policies, Annual Programme and Quarterly Report," for the employees of the varsity at Green Campus here.

Finance Officer and Dean Students Welfare, Dr. Mehrajuddin Shah, Deputy Registrar, Mr. Abdul Rashid Bhat, Hindi Adhikari, Dr. Sakina Akhter and other senior officials of the university administration were present during the event.

Addressing the gathering, Finance officer, Dr. Mehrajuddin Shah in his presidential address said majority of people in India speak Hindi and it is easily understood which can make it the language of every Indian. "Proper training for learning this language must be undertaken in offices and other places as this language has a lot of scope to become our nation-

al language." He further added that Hindi as a language must be put in school curriculum so that the necessary training starts early.

Former Director. Rajbhasha, Ministry of Home affairs, Dr. Suniti Sharma, in her special address (online) appreciated the efforts of the Rajbhasha cell of the varsity in ensuring progress and implementation of Hindi language. She said that despite a variety of languages, dialects from Kashmir to Kan-yakumari, Hindi is chosen as the main language as Rajbhasha. She said that these workshops prove to be a reminder to all regarding the importance of use of this language. "We need to spread it, enrich it and embellish it keeping in view the composite culture of our country" she added.

Two technical sessions were also conducted during the day-long workshop. Dr. Suniti Sharma during the first technical session titled as "Rajbhasha

Policies, Annual programme, Quarterly Report" presented a detailed overview of the implementation of Rajbhasha policies, annual reports and quarterly reports of the University to the concerned ministry. She also emphasized on the importance of use of Rajbhasha in official work to achieve the targets set by the department of Official Languages, Government of India regarding the progressive use of Hindi. She also threw light on various official language acts, rules and regulations as well as directions issued from time to time by the department.

Hindi Adhikari, Dr. Sakina Akhter, in her lecture during the second technical session titled as "How to use Hindi in official work effectively" deliberated upon various methods and ways employed for capacity building of the employees of the varsity. She further added that the cell has been working for the implementation of

## Varanasi Cantt Railway Station Awarded 'Eat Right Station' With A 5-Star Rating Certification By FSSAI

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Railways' Varanasi Cantt Railway Station has been awarded a 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers. This certification is granted by FSSAI to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices. The 'Eat Right Station' certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that set benchmarks in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers. The station is awarded a certificate upon a conclusion of an FSSAI-empowered third-party audit agency with ratings from 1 to 5. The 5-star rating indicates full compliance by the station to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers.

The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement-a large-scale effort by FSSAI to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians. Eat Right India adopts a judicious mix of regulatory, capacity building, collaborative, and empowerment approaches to ensure that our food is suitable both for the people and the planet.

The other railway stations with Star certification include Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station (Delhi); Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Mumbai); Mumbai Central Railway Station, (Mumbai); Vadodara Railway Station, Chandigarh Railway Station and Bhopal Railway Station.

## Comm Secy Reviews Performance Of PIAs Under Himayat

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), Mandeep Kaur on Thursday convened a series of meetings with Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) of sanctioned projects under HIMAYAT program to review implementation of this ambitious project in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Chief Operating Officer, HIMAYAT Mission, Indu Kanwal Chib besides officers from the department, NIRD&PR and TSA to HMMU, NABCONS.

While addressing the meeting, Commissioner Secretary reaffirmed government's commitment of providing ecosystem support to those PIAs who desire to work for good of the society.

Mandeep Kaur asked the PIAs to submit complete details of current and prospective employers where the candidates have been placed and yet to be

placed as well. She emphasized the need for revision of existing trades under which PIAs are imparting training in view of current market scenario. HIMAYAT Mission shall coordinate with other departments for seeking different trade opportunities in various sectors required for the youth of J&K, she maintained.

The meeting also had a threadbare discussion regarding redressal of issues pertaining to the training and placement of candidates by the PIAs. Commissioner Secretary had an exclusive interaction with the PIAs regarding their future plans and strategies under HIMAYAT Mission in the coming years.

The PIAs apprised the Commissioner Secretary of the issues related to ERP portal and various banks.

Commissioner Secretary assured the PIAs that HIMAYAT Mission shall coordinate with the banks and MoRD for resolution of these issues.



KASHMIR OBSERVER  
Friday | 06-01-2023

'Tourism Hotspot'

Jammu and Kashmir has turned into "a tourism hotspot from a terrorism hotspot" and the security forces have gained "complete control" on terrorism in the union territory, the year-end review by the Ministry of Home Affairs states. The review reiterates the words of the national general secretary of the BJP, Tarun Chug. Speaking recently at a press conference in Srinagar, Chug said the BJP had transformed Kashmir from a centre of terrorism into a tourist destination. Chug was referring to the boom in tourism in the union territory over the last year. More than 20 lakh tourists, including 3.65 lakh Amarnath yatis and over ten thousand foreigners, visited Kashmir during 2022.

The MHA review also highlights the progress made in J&K over the last year on economic and security fronts. The union territory, the report said, witnessed a 54 percent reduction in terrorist incidents, 22 percent drop in recruitment of militants and 84 percent decline in the deaths of security forces. In real terms, the militancy related violence has decreased from 417 incidents in 2018 to 229 in 2021 while the number of slain security personnel had reduced from 91 in 2018 to 42 in 2021.

On the development front, the report says that the BJP government at the centre has brought an investment of Rs 56,000 crores in just three years. Under the Prime Minister's Development Package in Jammu, the report mentions, J&K got about 63 projects in hydroelectricity at a cost of Rs 80,000 crore.

It is true that J&K has gone through a make-over of sorts over the last three years, albeit the first two years were largely lost to Covid-19 pandemic. However, the last year was different: not only did the pandemic abate after the Omicron wave in the first three months of the year, the peace also largely held. That made it possible for the businesses to find their footing again and also for tourism to thrive. According to the tourist officials, the number of tourists Kashmir received this year is the highest so far, beating by far even the pre-turmoil period record. This has generated employment for the thousands of people who had lost their jobs during Covid pandemic. Going forward, the situation looks set to improve further. But Dangri village incident is a sobering reminder that peace in Kashmir can't be taken for granted. Here's hoping that 2023 makes J&K a truly peaceful place.

OTHER OPINION

Gaming And Gambling

The Union government's proposed measures for regulating online gaming in a draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 leave several questions unanswered. Some of these proposed measures, such as the establishment of a self-regulatory body, collection of know-your-customer (KYC) information from players, and appointment of a grievance officer within the company, are already in place. These are moves that industry bodies representing such companies have encouraged. States such as Tamil Nadu want much stricter regulation of the sector than what is being proposed by the Centre in the draft, particularly for gambling with real money. The Centre's draft remains ambiguous on the question of whether States can have additional restrictions. So far, the industry has staved off several bans by mounting legal challenges arguing that they offer games of skill and not those purely dependent on chance — a tenuous distinction for real money gaming. Still, games that require wagering are outlawed in the physical form under the colonial Public Gambling Act, 1867 or States' own gambling laws. A clear answer should come from the Union government on whether States are empowered to prohibit these games online as they do offline. While the gaming industry has huge potential as an economic driver of growth in India, there is strong case for robust regulation. Of skill or of chance, all online games impact individuals and society, in the short and the long term.

The government has indicated that the definition of an 'online game', which is limited in the draft amendment to wagering platforms, may be expanded in future to include all games broadly. Societies around the world have grappled with the effects of video games on young players, and the addictive cycles that some gamers can get stuck in; China, for instance, has limited the number of hours that young gamers are allowed to play daily, after which they are locked out for the day. Care and restraint must be exercised when pondering similar steps in India, lest the government introduces uncertainty for both small domestic game developers and large international studios with Indian audiences. The government has said the goal is to facilitate the industry and not hinder its growth. It has also indicated that in future, it will try to curb "violent, addictive or sexual content" in video games. There should be widespread public consultation to ensure that economic rights, individual freedoms, and social imperatives remain in balance.

The Hindu

Dairy Farming  
Wave in Kashmir

A Possible Way Out of Soaring Unemployment



Ishaq Jamal

“The sustainability of the commercial dairy sector under prevailing inflation and economic slump will largely depend upon an organized and competitive procurement chain, value addition and a diversified market for milk and milk products

Newly established dairy units under the integrated dairy development scheme of the Animal Husbandry department are changing the face of dairy farming for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir. A large chunk of population used to rear local and nondescript cattle with very less production had thus rendered animal husbandry to only subsistence farming. Cross breeding program of the animal husbandry department through artificial insemination resulted in the induction of quality germplasm thus enhancing genetic potential and milk production.

Locally produced milk and milk products offered good market opportunities to producers. However, only certain communities took dairying as an economic enterprise and they too mostly adopted traditional dairying techniques. Therefore, beyond a certain limit, dairying couldn't get more profitable for them.

Modern dairy farming is both a science as well as an art and only aspiring, educated and talented youth can change the face of dairy farming.

Covid-19 and its ensuing economic impact had affected business sectors the worst. Woes of small businesses are still deepening and active employment has been reduced. Economic slump is acting as a great obstacle.

In these bleak times for the economy, dairy farming is providing a fresh hope to farmers and youngsters alike. The integrated dairy development scheme of the Animal Husbandry Department is providing 50% subsidy on the establishment of dairy units, milk collection and processing units, pasteurization and packaging units, bulk milk coolers, paneer/khoya/butter/

Cheese/ ice-cream making machines, milking machines and milk parlors, milk ATMs and milk vans for transportation of milk. Support for transportation of processed milk products via air to any place in India in addition to biogas plants and Vermicompost units for environmental management of dairy farms is also being provided.

Hundreds of small to large dairy units have been setup in last two years under IDDS scheme of Animal Husbandry de-

costs have also largely increased but the procurement rate of milk from farmers has barely increased. In Kashmir, farmers are mostly dependent on the market for feed and fodder, this further adds to the input cost on milk and milk products. Not getting a fair price on the sale of milk may prove to be an obstacle in the expansion of the dairy sector which can otherwise do very well.

Though the government has taken some measures to help with the marketing by provid-

“Covid-19 and its ensuing economic impact had affected business sectors the worst. Woes of small businesses are still deepening and active employment has been reduced. Economic slump is acting as a great obstacle.

partment and they are providing employment opportunities, surplus milk and milk products production and food security across the UT. This year, the department has reduced the size of a single dairy unit from 5 cows to 2 cows thus making the eligibility criteria easy for farmers. It just takes only a month to conceive the idea of dairy farming and then getting right into the process.

Despite all the positives, marketing remains a big challenge. The surplus milk production through these newly established farms lacks an organized procurement chain. Except JKMPCL, there aren't many big players in the market who could procure raw milk as per the production scenario and provide remunerative prices to the producers. With the increase in feed and fodder prices, the input

ing packaging, processing and transportation facilities in this scheme, commercial dairy farm operators need to form local cooperatives, self-help groups and FPOs and set up their own packaging and processing units which can diversify and create a competitive market. The sustainability of the commercial dairy sector under prevailing inflation and economic slump will largely depend upon an organized and competitive procurement chain, value addition and a diversified market for milk and milk products.

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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Feedback on Video Content

I wanted to convey my observations about the paper and the video clips[Intishaf] prepared and presented by my friend Dr. Raja Mohammad Muzaffar Bhat, from time to time on important social issues. Honestly speaking I am of the opinion that the Kashmir Observer is one of the best english newspapers of the Valley both in quality and content, in spite of restrictions. It has maintained the ethics of journalism when compared to other newspapers. I am regularly rather religiously

reading this newspaper, because its coverage is marvelous. I appreciate topics on health issues that are also published. It is a moment of pride and privilege for all of us that intelligent and competent people are at the helm of affairs. I remember sometime back a video clip on dog menace was uploaded by a Journalist of KO, Sheikh Arsh, from a window of SKIMS on dog menace depicting the harrowing scenes of dogs in large numbers in the lanes and bylanes of SKIMS, quarreling and chasing the cars,

which promoted me to write a chilling article on dog menace for publication in newspapers. That video was widely appreciated.

Regarding the program Inkishaf, usually prepared and presented by Dr. Raja Mohammad Muzaffar Bhat, on various social issues I want to convey that they are most credible, and informative because this is supported by official information. Dr. Raja Mohammad Muzaffar Bhat has shown the courage and willingness to highlight a most important

public issue of Fruit Mandi which needs a lot of appreciation. Fruit Mandi Srinagar is situated in the heart of Srinagar and its condition is deplorable. On the one hand the Government claims to make Srinagar a smart city but on the other side there are some such issues which need the attention of the Government.

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## Mindful Fridays

# Do You Have Anxiety Disorder? Here Is How Much Psychotherapy Can Help

WASIM KAKROO

Anxiety disorders are severe mental illnesses that produce intense worry or fear that persists over time and might possibly get worse. We all experience anxiety from time to time, but those who suffer from anxiety disorders tend to experience it more frequently, and it has a very detrimental and intrusive effect on their quality of life.

Research has found that women are more prone than men to experience anxiety, and hence experts now advise that screening for anxiety disorders should be done as part of regular medical care for women and girls over the age of 13.

## What are the various types of anxiety disorders?

The various types of anxiety disorders are as follows:

- Generalized Anxiety Disorder:** In generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), there is excessive worry and anxiety about many different things. It is challenging to control this worry, and it frequently changes from one worry to another.
- Agoraphobia:** Agoraphobia is an intense and illogical fear of being trapped in a situation from which there is no way out. People frequently avoid situations where they might feel terrified, helpless, or imprisoned out of a fear that they will exhibit panic symptoms or other symptoms in front of others.
- Panic disorder:** The symptoms of panic disorder include frequent, severe panic attacks that come on suddenly and without much or any warning. Rapid breathing, a heightened sense of fear, and rapid heartbeat are just a few of the physical and emotional signs of a panic attack.
- Social Anxiety Disorder:** A fear of social situations is a symptom of social anxiety disorder (SAD), formerly known as social phobia. This phobia may be focused on certain scenarios, such as public speaking, or it may be more broadly focused on a fear of numerous social interactions.
- Selective Mutism:** A childhood anxiety disorder called selective mutism affects speech. When children experience anxiety, humiliation, or dread in particular situations, such as at school or around strangers, they are unable to speak.
- Specific Phobias:** A specific phobia is an overpowering, unreasonable, and excessively fearful reaction to a particular situation or object. People who have a specific phobia exhibit acute symptoms such as sweating, sobbing, shaking, a quick heartbeat, and accelerated respiration when they come in contact with the source of their fear.

## What are the various types of psychotherapies that clients can opt for?

Since no two people experience anxiety the same way, hence there is no "one size fits all" treatment. What works for one individual may not work for another.

Knowing as much as you can about your therapy options and then customizing them to suit your requirements is the greatest strategy to combat anxiety. Working with a professional therapist to find the greatest fit can be helpful in many situations.

Through therapy, you may learn more about how you feel, why you feel that way, what triggers you, and how you could alter how you react to them. Some therapy models impart useful methods for reframing negative thoughts and altering behaviors.

There are various types of therapies avail-



able for clients to opt for. Few evidence based psychotherapies include:

1. Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT)
2. Mindfulness based cognitive therapy
3. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)
4. Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
5. Metacognitive Therapy
6. Psychodynamic Therapy

Eye-Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy

A particular type of therapy or the elements of various therapies are used as per the joint consensus of the therapist and client. Usually competent therapists use eclectic method, i.e. they use tailor made treatment by choosing elements from various therapies

warm and scientific approach, encourages you to open up about how you have been feeling because of anxiety. Because anxiety is unreasonable, we may feel ashamed of what we're going through, which makes it easier for us to keep our suffering a secret from loved ones and even from ourselves. It can feel quite relieving to simply admit how much you've been suffering.

Therapists don't make their clients feel foolish or judged for feeling nervous. On contrary, therapists take your anxiety very seriously and understand everything you're saying. And whatever you share with a skilled therapist won't come as a surprise to them as they've dealt with a lot of cases just like yours.

It might be difficult to understand how anxiety started and "why you," as the saying

In order to learn how to handle your anxiety, your therapist might encourage you to confront your worries and take risks that can make you feel anxious. Additionally, they can help you to develop brand-new abilities (including mindfulness, cognitive defusion, acceptance, tolerance for uncertainty etc) that may at first seem foreign to you. Your initial response to your therapist's suggestions may be skepticism: "I can't do that," "That's too scary," and "That might work for other people but not for me" are common beliefs people have when they first learn about various anxiety-relieving skills and strategies. All the different types of such skills might seem counter-intuitive to clients as they might have been using problematic coping strategies such as avoidance, escapism and distractions of various types

ity that it will if the therapist's theories are sound. Therefore, the only choice you have that gives you a chance for success is to trust your therapist.

The significance of having faith in your therapist is related to what I've found to be one of the single strongest predictors of a client's success in anxiety therapy as it might motivate you to do your therapy homework.

Although therapy is a place to learn and practice anxiety-reduction techniques, genuine change doesn't take place during therapy sessions. What matters most is how well you use the lessons you've gained in therapy outside of therapy sessions. I tell my clients that the actual healing does not happen in the session itself; the actual healing happens in-between the sessions where the client works patiently and persistently on what has been discussed in the session.

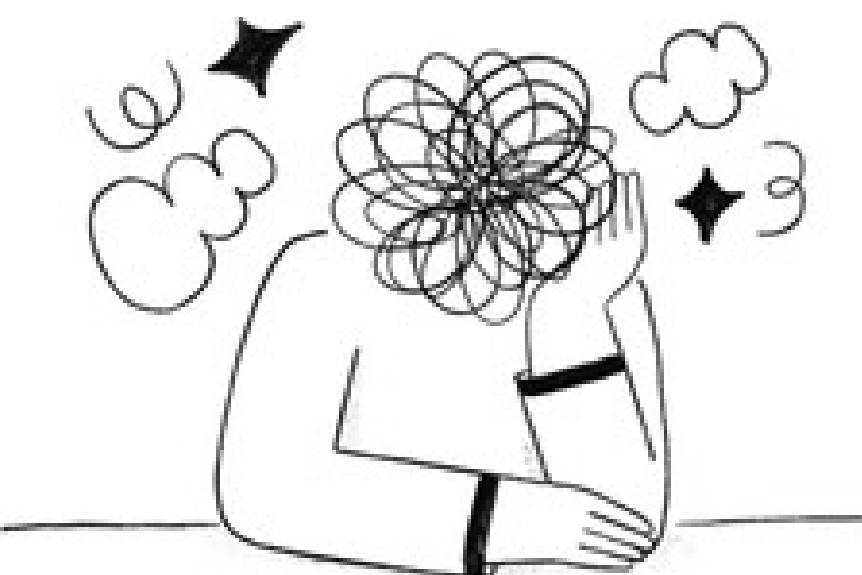
In my experience, clients who do their therapy homework improve, and clients who do not do their therapy homework do not improve, whether they are my own clients or the clients of the counselors I've supervised.

It frequently calls for risk-taking and doing things that appear counter-intuitive to complete therapeutic homework. In order to achieve long-term relief from their anxiety, clients who are successful in therapy generally approach it with a willingness to endure the short-term suffering brought on by therapeutic homework.

For instance, a client with contamination OCD (fear of germs) can be encouraged to touch objects they believe to be filthy (such as door handles, floors, toilets, and garbage cans) and then be told not to wash their hands, despite feeling like they are running the danger of being ill. Or a client who is anxious about losing a relationship may be advised to cease asking their spouse for assurance, even though the uncertainty is intolerable and the assurance feels good.

You must experience anxiety in the short term if you want your anxiety to improve. In general, clients who are willing to push past momentary worry improve, whereas those who are unwilling to do so do not.

I sincerely hope that whatever we discussed above regarding anxiety and how a therapist can help you in dealing with it might prove useful as you begin your journey to treat your anxiety. Although it could seem intimidating at first, if you put in the



as per the requirements of the case.

## How does a psychotherapist help you to deal with anxiety?

Therapist in a private and confidential atmosphere through their non-judgmental,

goes, because it frequently feels so disconnected from what is actually happening to you and around you. A therapist is qualified and experienced in assisting you in sorting through your past events to determine exactly how you may have built anxiety as a coping method.

**IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW ANXIETY STARTED AND "WHY YOU," AS THE SAYING GOES,** because it frequently feels so disconnected from what is actually happening to you and around you. A therapist is qualified and experienced in assisting you in sorting through your past events to determine exactly how you may have built anxiety as a coping method.

to deal with their anxiety.

Though it's natural and understandable to feel skepticism and fear, consider this: if you don't believe in your therapist, there is no possibility that therapy will be effective. Even though you may have doubts about whether therapy will help, if you believe your therapist, there is at least a probabil-

effort, you will succeed!

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196



# ‘From Chronic To Aggressive, How Blood Cancer In Some Can Progress As A Disease’

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have identified an important transition point in the shift from chronic to aggressive blood cancer by conducting experiments in mice, providing a new intervention point for hampering the progress of the disease, according to a study.

The researchers at Washington University School of Medicine, US, have shown that blocking a key molecule, called DUSP6, in the transition pathway prevents this dangerous disease progression both, in mice with models of the disease and in mice with tumours sampled from human patients. The research appears in the journal Nature Cancer.

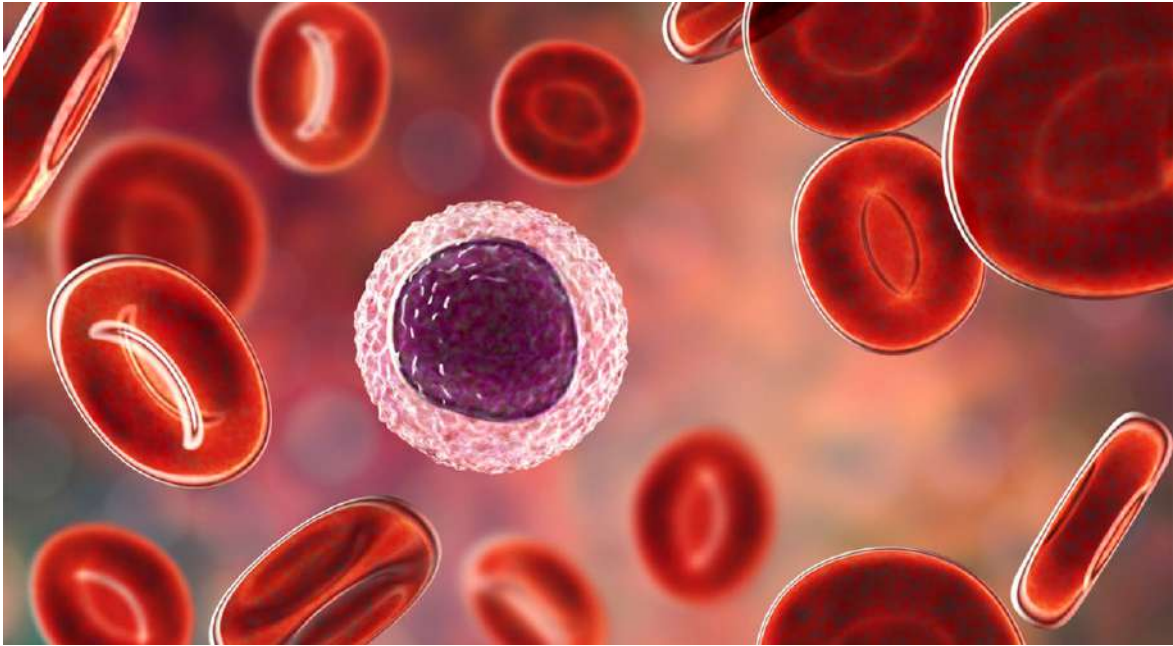
A type of chronic leukemia, or cancer of the body's blood-forming tissues, can simmer for many years. Some patients may need treatment to manage this type of blood cancer - called myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) - while others may go through long periods of watchful waiting.

However, for a small percentage of patients, the slower paced disease can transform into an aggressive cancer, called secondary acute myeloid leukemia, that has few effective treatment options. Little has been known about how this transformation takes place.

"Secondary acute myeloid leukemia has a grim prognosis," said senior author Stephen T. Oh, MD, PhD, an associate professor of medicine and co-director of the Division of Hematology at the School of Medicine.

"Almost every patient who develops acute leukemia after a history of myeloproliferative neoplasms will die from the disease. Therefore, a major focus of our research is to better understand this conversion from chronic to aggressive disease and to develop better therapies and, hopefully, prevention strategies for these patients," said Oh.

The study suggests that inhibiting this key tran-



“Almost every patient who develops acute leukemia after a history of myeloproliferative neoplasms will die from the disease. Therefore, a major focus of our research is to better understand this conversion from chronic to aggressive disease and to develop better therapies and, hopefully, prevention strategies for these patients

sition molecule, DUSP6, helps overcome the resistance that these cancers often develop to JAK2 inhibitors, the therapy typically used to treat them.

JAK2 inhibitors are an anti-inflammatory therapy also used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

"These patients are commonly treated with JAK2 inhibitors, but their disease progresses despite that therapy, so we're also trying to identify

how the disease is able to worsen even in the setting of JAK2 inhibition," said Oh.

The researchers conducted a deep dive into the genetics of these tumours, both during the slow chronic phase and after the disease had transformed into the aggressive form while patients were taking JAK2 inhibitors.

The DUSP6 gene stood out as highly expressed

in the 40 patients whose tumours were analyzed in this study.

Using genetic techniques to delete the DUSP6 gene prevented the transition to aggressive disease in mice with models of this cancer.

The researchers also tested a drug compound that inhibits DUSP6 and found that the compound - only available for animal research - stopped progression of the chronic disease to the aggressive disease in two different mouse models of the cancer and in mice with human tumours sampled from patients.

Reducing DUSP6 levels both genetically and with a drug also reduced inflammation in these models.

Since the drug that inhibits DUSP6 is not available for human clinical trials, Oh and his colleagues are interested in exploring treatments that inhibit another molecule that they found is activated downstream of DUSP6 and that they showed is also required to perpetuate the negative effects of DUSP6. There are drugs in clinical trials that inhibit this downstream molecule, known as RSK1.

Oh's team is interested in investigating these drugs for their potential to block the dangerous transition from chronic to aggressive disease and address resistance to JAK2 inhibition, said the study.

"A future clinical trial might enrol myeloproliferative neoplasm patients who are taking JAK2 inhibitors and, despite that, show evidence of their disease worsening," said Oh.

"At that point, we might add the type of RSK inhibitor that's now in trials to their therapy to see if that helps block progression of the disease into an aggressive secondary acute myeloid leukemia.

"A newly developed RKS inhibitor is in phase 1 clinical trials for patients with breast cancer, so we're hopeful our work provides a promising foundation for developing a new treatment strategy for patients with this chronic blood cancer," said Oh.

## IIT Researchers Develops Drone For Warehouse, Military And Law Enforcement

Press Trust Of India

'Warehouse drones' for warehouse management, 'Reaper drones' for military and law enforcement and 'Ornithopter' based on the design of birds for surveillance in tight spaces are among the various drones developed by the aeromodelling club at IIT-Guwahati.

The club is encouraging students to harness creativity, technology and innovation in aeromodelling and develop smart drones with an easy interface for common people, an official said.

"The club has developed dif-

ferent types of drones, including 'Warehouse drones' for warehouse management, 'Reaper drones' for military and law enforcement, 'Ornithopter' based on the design of birds that can be used for surveillance in tight spaces, for wildlife photography, and 'RAVEN', an indigenously developed VTOL (Vertical Takeoff and Landing) capable fixed-winged aircraft," said Chivukula Vasudeva Sastri, a professor at the Department of Chemistry, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Guwahati.

"Apart from these projects, students have also developed a drone capable of firing at targets with high precision. The firing mecha-

nism is designed in such a way that it returns to its previous position waiting for the pilot's command for the next firing," he added.

Sastri explained that in a real-world scenario, warehouses were one of the most difficult places to maintain with various repetitive tasks such as inventory management or moving objects to different places.

Any failure in doing these tasks on time can cause heavy financial losses. To avoid human inefficiency, the innovators have developed a drone to eliminate such labour-intensive duties that involve time consuming repetitive physical work.

### از عدالت جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول وانکو

باجلاس مسٹر عمران حسین وانی

سرکار بمقد مدعلہ 09 سال 2017 بنام فاروق احمد مارگرے وغیرہ

بزرگئے تھانہ پولیس کوکرائنگ

بجرائم Act . 6f . 379/lpc

وارنٹ گشتی عام بخلاف ا۔ بشیر احمد کشانا ولد قادر کشانا ۲۔ طالب کشان ولد عبدلہ

ساکنان کوکریستی فرسناڈ گڈول کوکرائنگ انتت ناگ

حکم بنام:- اہلکاران پولیس جموں و کشمیر

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں چالان متذکرہ بالا بے عدم جاری ملزمان (۱) و (۲) عدالت میں

مورخہ 06-10-2021 کو پیش ہو تھا اور اس نسبت تفتیشی متعلقہ نے اظہار کیا تھا کہ ملزمان

متذکرہ بالا کی دستیابی مشکل ہی نہیں بلکہ ناممکن ہے۔ چونکہ مقدمہ ہذا اطوالت کا شکار ہو ہے لہذا

ا پکو حکم و اختیار دیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ جب کبھی بھی اور جہاں کہیں بھی ملزمان متذکرہ بالا توا ندر

حدود جموں و کشمیر یوٹی پاؤ گئے تو انھیں گرفتار کر کے عدالت ہذا میں پیش کریں وارنٹ ہذا تا

دستیابی ملزمان زیر کار رہیگی

تحریر 20-12-2022

جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول وانکو

DIPK-15996/22  
dated: 05-01-2023

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore**  
Tele-fax    01954222282    email:    irrigationsprl@gmail.com

**e-tender**  
**Short Term e-NIT No: 21of 2022-23 Dated: - 28-12-2022**

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-Tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the works listed in Annexure "A" to this NIT. 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

1.	Publishing Date	28/12/2022
2.	Download Date Start	28/12/2022
3.	Tender Submission date Start	28/12/2022(From 5:00 P.M)
4.	Tender Submission date Ends	06/01/2023(Up to 06:00 P.M)
5.	Date of Opening	07/01/2023(at 11:00 A.M)

Position of funds:    Available

Position of A.A.A.:    Accorded

Position of T.S.:    Yes

NO:    I&FC/ Sopore / NIT/6060-85

DIPK-15971/22    DATED:    05-01-2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division  
Sopore

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:  
1.    Tenders must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal-Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore.  
2.    The Tenders for the works shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of Tenders.  
3.    The Tenders shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in  
4.    The Tender uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the schedule date and time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority.  
5.    The tenderer shall have to execute the agreement within 10-days after fixation of contract.  
6.    Instruction to Tenderer regarding E-Tendering process:-  
a)    Tenderers are advised to download Tender submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "Tenderers manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint Tenderers submission process.  
b)    To participate in tendering process Tenderers have to get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology act. 2000 Tenderers can get digital certificate from approved vendor.  
c)    The Tenderer have to submit their Tenders online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial Tender will be accepted in physical form.  
d)    Tender will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.  
e)    Tenderers must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like Registration Card duly renewed, Verification of Registration Card, Call Deposit Receipt, PAN, G. S. Tin, Latest GST Return & Treasury challan/receipt under MH 0702in respect of Irrigation & Flood Control Works, in respect of each work as mentioned in the NIT in addition to other formalities in vogue.  
7.    Nothing shall be paid on a/c of dewatering / diversion / close timbering & extraction of roots / cutting of trees.

Annexure "A" to e-NIT No 21 of 2022-23							
S. No.	Name of work	Estd. Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)
1.	Improvements to Left side sloughed embankment of Pohru Nallah at Wadoora Payeen near the House of Mohd Sultan Malla and others (Re-Adv)	7.96	15920	40 Days	CEE/ DEE	UT Capex 4711	800
2.	Flood protection work on Frashar nallah by way of providing check crates near Mir Mohalla Kakawathal.	6.91	13820	45 Days	CEE/ DEE	UT Capex 4711	700
3.	Repairs renovation to main office building of District Superintending Engineer Hyd Circle Bla Bdp HQ Sopore.	4.98	9960	40 Days	DEE	2711 M&R	500
4.	Repairs to compound walling of flood control sub division sopore and renovation of flood control sub divisional office building/ Circle office.	4.87	9740	40 Days	DEE	2711 M&R	500
5.	Construction of culvert over the existing Aquaduct of Zaingeer canal at village Onagam Bandipora	4.36	8720	30 Days	DEE	4701 Capital Outley	500
6.	F.P Work on Khursi Nallah by way of provoding crate protection bund at village Nowpora Jageer near the House of Haji Gh. Qadir Mir and others (at spots)	3.68	7360	40 Days	DEE	UT Capex 4711	400

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal-Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore





## ‘Govt Employing Latest Technological Interventions To Diversify Agri Sector Across J&K’

**Rs 42 Crs PRYMC project set to revolutionize Mushroom Cultivation in UT**

**Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** Agricultural diversification is key to reduce the risk in farming activities and the J&K Government is constantly employing latest technological interventions to diversify agriculture sector across Jammu and Kashmir.

Mushroom cultivation is one important tool in not only enhancing agricultural income of the farming community but also securing it against rising changes in climate and soil resources.

With this in mind, the Government of J&K is implementing a full-fledged project on 'Promotion of Round the Year Mushroom Cultivation' (PRYMC) across the UT. The project to be implemented at a cost of around Rs 42 Cr over the next three years by the Agriculture Production Department of J&K will increase the production of Mushrooms by 3.5 times and revolutionise Mushroom Cultivation here. The project will also increase employment generation by 3 times and more than 768 new enterprises are also being created in the process to ensure sustainability of the interventions.

"Mushroom farming generates revenue and helps to reduce poverty. The production of mushrooms creates a significant amount of direct and indirect employment opportunities in the fields of cultivation and marketing, as well as provid-

ing opportunities for processing businesses and labour-intensive management", said Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo.

He added that Mushroom farming requires little capital, little technical expertise, and it is even possible to grow mushrooms indoors on a small scale and easily earn a high return on investment. He further said that women can grow mushrooms in their homes with little investment and as a result, mushroom farming not only gives rural women more power but also fights poverty at its source.

'Promotion of Round the Year Mushroom Cultivation' is one among the 29 projects, which were approved by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after being recommended by the UT Level Apex Committee for holistic development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in UT of J&K. The prestigious committee is headed by Dr Mangala Rai, Former DG ICAR and has other luminaries in the field of Agriculture, Planning, Statistics & Administration like Ashok Dalwai, CEO NRAA, Dr. P. K Joshi, Secretary, NAAS, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner MOA & FW, Dr. H. S Gupta, Former Director, IARI, Atal Dulloo IAS, Financial Commissioner (Addl Chief Secretary) APD apart from the Vice Chancellors of the twin Agriculture Universities of the UT.

## Dulloo Calls For Filing Maximum GI Applications For J&K Agriculture Products

**Chairs Preliminary Meet Of Experts-Officers Of Agriculture-Allied Sector Over Gi Tagging Of Agri Crops Of UT**



**Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a preliminary meeting of experts and officers of agriculture-allied sector over the application of Geographical Indication (GI) tagging of agriculture products of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors of SKUAST Kashmir/Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir/Jammu, Director Horticulture Kashmir/Jammu, Technical Officers (APD) and other concerned in person and through online mode.

At the outset, Dr Rajni Kant, GI expert from Varanasi, delivered a detailed presentation over the GI registration process in India and guidelines for drafting of statement of the case.

He informed that GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin

and ensures good qualities or a reputation in the region.

He explained each step applicable for registration as authorized user, including filing of an application, preliminary scrutiny and exam, issue of show cause notice, advertisement, opposition for registration, registration, renewal, additional protection to notified goods, and appeal.

He told the meeting that each step in the registration process is important supported with historical evidence and proofs and beside display of products for ready reference and added that there are certain Geographical Indications, the registration of which is prohibited by law.

The meeting was informed that 23 crops or products have been tentatively identified for GI Tagging from Jammu and Kashmir and technical working groups have been formed for these products to apply for GI certification.

Appreciating the vast experience of Dr Rajni Kant in the field of GI tagging, the ACS said that Dr Kant's presentation will help the working groups to study thoroughly before final GI application of a particular product.

Dulloo also impressed upon the concerned to prepare a Guidance Note so that maximum GI application would be filed and accordingly pursued so that there is little chance for rejection of any crop or product.

He said that the Guidance Note will be a model for filing GI registrations of products from J&K and will be shared with Technical Facilitation Committee members for clarifications, if any, for further GI applications.

He also urged the concerned to go for awareness and sensitization campaigns to connect with farmers to let them know about the GI Tag for their crops with support from the government and other stakeholders.

## 2 Day Workshop On GIs Concludes At SKUAST-Jammu

**Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** Two Day workshop on Geographical Indications concluded on Thursday here at SKUAST-Jammu.

Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu was chief guest while Prof. N.A. Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir and Padamshree Dr. Rajanikant, GI expert were the guest of honours on the occasion.

Prof. J.P. Sharma in his address said that since per capita land holding in J&K is less than the national average and hence only through diversification of agriculture can bring holistic development in J&K.

He urged for the promotion of local products of J&K like Kala Zeera, Rajmash, honey, mushroom and saffron. He emphasized on the preparation of a comprehensive list of potential GI products of North-Western Himalayan region. Further, he advocated the launch of a sensitization programme for farmers through KVKs and for students through NAHEP

on registration of GIs. He also urged for sharing the concept of GIs in Farmers Producers Organizations.

Padamshree Dr. Rajanikant said that GI is the legal local guarantee and is the golden sparrow of India by its commodities such as handloom, handicrafts, spices, millets etc. He appreciated different types of Dogra cuisine and stressed upon its conservation and dissemination. He urged for preservation of ethnic community products. He further explained the complete process of registration of GIs and answered the queries of the participants.

Second day of the workshop begins with technical session third being chaired by Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and co-chaired by Dr. Lakshmi Kant, Director, ICAR-VP-KAS, Almora, Uttarakhand.

During the session, Prof. N.A. Ganai Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir delivered a presentation on the topic 'IPRs in Agriculture- Way to

prosperity'. He said that the different stakeholders must recognize and realize the mantra of the IPR regime so as to ultimately bring farmers away from subsistence farming with the transfer of IPR enabled technologies through various commercial, cooperative, public routes.

He gave the example of the GI tag given to Kashmiri saffron (A prized GI commodity of Kashmir) with the proof of origin and its uniqueness. He also discussed other GI products viz., Kashmir Pashmina, Sozni Art, Kani Shawl, walnut wood products etc. He highlighted the future Green Revolution of the state with the aim to make J&K a bio-economic state with the national vision of Atam Nirbhar Bharat. He said that a strong resilient approach is required for inclusive growth of India to join the league of developed countries. He also emphasized on the five pillars of self-reliant India-Economy, namely Infrastructure, System, Demography and Demand as a strategy for Atam Nirbhar Abhiyan.

## Domestic Air Passenger Traffic Grows 15% To Around 129 Lakh In Dec 2022: Report

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI-** Domestic air passenger traffic grew 15 per cent year-on-year to around 129 lakh in December 2022 but remained 1 per cent lower than the pre-pandemic level (December 2019), rating agency ICRA said on Thursday.

ICRA has also maintained a 'Negative' outlook on the Indian aviation industry.

In the April-December period of the current fiscal, domestic passenger traffic is estimated at around 986 lakh, registering around 63 per cent year-on-year growth and lower by approximately 9 per cent compared to April-December 2019 (pre-COVID levels), it said.

At the same time, the airlines deployed slightly higher capacity (less than 1 per cent) in the previous month over the year-ago period, the rating agency said, adding that it, however, was lower by around 7 per cent than the pre-COVID levels.

According to ICRA, the domestic aviation industry operated at an estimated passenger load factor of around 91 per cent in December 2022 against approximately 80 per cent in December 2021 and about 88 per cent in December 2019.

The agency said it expects a fast-paced recovery in domestic passenger traffic in FY2023, aided by normalcy in operations. However, the earnings recovery for domestic airlines is likely to be decelerated due to sharp escalations in aviation



turbine fuel (ATF) prices and depreciation of the rupee against the US Dollar in the backdrop of increased competition.

"FY2023 is witnessing a quick recovery in domestic passenger traffic, aided by normalcy in operations and the waning impact of the pandemic," ICRA vice president Suprio Banerjee said.

While a meaningful improvement in passenger traffic is expected in FY2023, the pace of recovery in the industry earnings will be sluggish, and the industry is expected to incur a net loss of around Rs 150-170 billion owing to elevated costs, the report said.

However, this will be notably lower compared to the Rs 235 billion net loss in FY2022, primarily driven by a recovery in passenger traffic and lower interest burden, following the significant reduction in Air India Limited's debt before the divestment by the central government, it stated.

In the near term, the credit profile of Indian carriers will remain stressed until they are able to reduce their debt burden through a combination of improvement in operating performance and/or by way of equity infusion, it said.

## Total Vehicle Retail Sales Jump 15% To 2.11 Cr Units In 2022: FADA



**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** Retail sales of overall vehicles in India grew by 15.28 per cent to 2,11,20,441 units in 2022 led by record sales of passenger vehicles and tractors, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Thursday.

In 2021, total retail sales of vehicles in India were at 1,83,21,760 units, FADA said in a statement. Two-wheelers retail sales stood at 1,53,88,062 units last year, a growth of 13.37 per cent from 2021 when sales stood at 1,35,73,682 units.

Passenger vehicles (PV) retail sales were at 34,31,497 units in 2022, as against 29,49,182 units in 2021, up 16.35 per cent, it added.

FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said, "For CY2022, while total vehicle retails grew by 15 per cent year-on-year and 17 per cent compared to CY20 it failed to surpass CY19 retails, (a pre-Covid year) and registered a fall of 10 per cent."

He further said, "The PV category during this period continued

to gain new grounds by clocking 34.31 lakh retails during the full year. This is by far, the highest retails which PV has done till date."

Singhania, however, lamented that the two-wheeler segment once again failed to impress as retail sales during December 2022 continued to fall after two good months.

"Reasons like rise in inflation, increased cost of ownership, rural market yet to pick up fully and increased EV sales, the ICE (internal combustion engine) two-wheeler segment is yet to see any green shoots," he added.

In 2022, commercial vehicles retail sales stood at 8,65,344 units, as against 6,55,696 units in 2021, a growth of 31.97 per cent.

"The CV segment has continued to grow during entire CY2022 and is now almost at par with CY2019 retails. With an uptick in demand in LCV (light commercial vehicles), HCV (heavy commercial vehicles), buses and construction equipment, the government's continued push for infrastructure development has kept this segment going," Singhania said.

## Mukesh Ambani Has A New \$75 Billion Focus. Take A Look

**Bloomberg**

**NEW DELHI:** Mukesh Ambani, the billionaire chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd., will be focusing his attention on the Indian conglomerate's pivot to green energy, according to people familiar with the matter, after putting his children in charge of other businesses.

The 65-year-old will oversee strategy, including the building of gigafactories and blue hydrogen facilities, will assess acquisition targets, and is talking to potential investors, the people said, asking not to be named as the information isn't public. Ambani last year unveiled plans to spend \$75 billion on clean energy projects over the next 15 years.

Asia's second-richest man is known for his single-minded focus on key pursuits: In the 1990s he lived for months in shipping containers to build what is today the world's largest petrochemical refinery and about two decades later another of his upstart firms became India's biggest telecom operator. Ambani has since handed the op-



erational reins to his three children and turned his attention to green energy, which will see him go head-to-head with the region's wealthiest person, Gautam Adani. A spokesman for Reliance didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

Reliance is seeking billions of dollars of investments in India's energy sector and has approached potential investors including Middle Eastern funds, two of the people said. His ambition is to disrupt the sector just like he did with his mobile phone company Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., one of the people said, adding that the billionaire and his team were telling marquee investors they would own every link of the renewables supply chain that can enhance margins.

## SHORT TAKES

### ‘Housing Sales Momentum To Sustain In 2023’

**NEW DELHI:** Sales of residential apartments, which rose 68 per cent in 2022, are likely to sustain this year on likely moderation in inflation and better price deals from builders, according to JLL India.

In a statement, JLL India on Thursday said that the sale of apartments grew 68 per cent to 2,15,666 units in 2022 from 1,28,064 units in the previous year across seven major cities -- Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune.

Mumbai includes Mumbai city, Mumbai suburbs, Thane city and Navi Mumbai.

The annual sales of 2,15,666 units recorded in 2022, the highest in over a decade, next to the peak seen in 2010 at 2,16,762 units, it added. Data includes only apartments, while rowhouses, villas and plotted developments have been excluded.

On the outlook, JLL India said, "Sales momentum is likely to sustain in 2023 on the expectations of moderating inflation supporting a reversal in repo rate hikes".

"Moreover, likely measures from stakeholders, such as longer loan tenures and attractive pricing deals, will keep buyers' affordability levels within comfort," it added.

JLL India noted that the sales of apartments rose despite the rise in mortgage rates, property prices and global headwinds during 2022. **PTI**

### 28 Cases Under SEI, Mumkin Schemes Approved

**SHOPIAN-** The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting was held on Thursday at Shopian under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also Chairman DLIC.

At the outset, Assistant Director Employment, Hafsa Qayoom informed the meeting that 18 cases under Mumkin Scheme and 13 cases under Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI) have been placed for sanction of the District Committee.

After thorough deliberations, all the 18 cases under Mumkin Scheme and 10 cases under SEI were found feasible and approved.

While chairing the meeting, DC directed the concerned to ensure wide dissemination of information regarding the benefits of the scheme and take strenuous efforts for identifying more and more persons for pursuing entrepreneurship for generating meaningful employment.

He said that the employment schemes are aimed to provide the employment opportunities to a vast number of youth and eligible beneficiaries should avail opportunities provided under different employment generation schemes for their economic empowerment. **ONS**

### RBI Allows 6 Entities To Test Fintech Products To Deal With Financial Frauds

**NEW DELHI-** Six entities, including HSBC and Creditwatch, have been allowed to test their fintech products to prevent and mitigate financial fraud as part of the fourth cohort under the RBI's regulatory sandbox scheme.

Regulatory sandbox refers to the live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which the regulators may permit certain relaxations.

The Reserve Bank announced the opening of the fourth cohort under the regulatory sandbox in June 2022 for the prevention and mitigation of financial fraud.

The RBI said it had received nine applications under the fourth cohort, of which six entities have been selected for the 'test phase'.

The six entities are—Bahwan Cybertek, Crediwatch Information Analytics, enStage Software (Wibmo), HSBC in collaboration with Wibmo, napID Cybersec and Trusting Social.

The selected entities would commence testing their products in February.

The applications for the fourth cohort were received from June 15 to August 1, 2022. **PTI**

### ‘Hopeful Of Improvement In FDI Inflows In Coming Months’

**NEW DELHI-** The commerce and industry ministry is hopeful of improvement in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in the coming months despite global headwinds, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Joint Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Manmeet K Nanda said that usually investments and equity inflows improve towards the last quarter of a financial year.

FDI equity inflows into India contracted by 14 per cent to USD 26.9 billion during the April-September this fiscal, according to the DPIIT data.

The total FDI inflows (which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital) too declined to USD 39 billion during the first six months of the current fiscal against USD 42.86 billion in the year-ago period.

He said that foreign inflows have a lot of effect because of the global slowdown that "we are seeing for the last 18 months...But we are hopeful, India has shown very great numbers compared to rest of the countries... So, we are hoping that we would be making up for all that would have been a drop by".

He was replying to a question about the reasons for the decline in FDI and the way forward. **PTI**

### Fresh Rs 140 Cr Bank Fraud Case Against HDIL Promoters

**NEW DELHI-** The CBI has booked HDIL promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and Sarang Wadhawan in a new bank fraud case involving an amount of Rs 140 crore pertaining to their subsidiary Guraush Construction, officials said today.

The fresh action was initiated on a complaint from the Union Bank of India against the businessmen who are embroiled in a Rs-4,300 crore Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank scam case, they said. The bank has alleged that Guraush Construction was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) engaged in the real estate business in Mumbai.

The Wadhawans were booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in October 2020 in connection with a Rs 200 crore alleged loan fraud from Yes Bank and have been facing investigation by multiple agencies.

They are also being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as part of another Prevention of Money Laundering Act case related to an alleged loan fraud at the PMC Bank involving an amount of more than Rs 4,300 crore.

The officials said the firm had allegedly entered into a Rs-3,167 crore development contract with the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) for the development of 40 acres of land in Mumbai's Goregaon (West) in five phases. **PTI**



CJI Chandrachud Recuses From Hearing Contempt Plea Against Comedian Kunal Kamra



Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday recused himself from hearing a clutch of petitions seeking initiation of contempt action against comedian Kunal Kamra for publishing tweets making undignified and derogatory comments against the top court.

As a bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud and Justice P.S. Narasimha took up the petitions seeking contempt action against Kamra, the Chief Justice said the matter will be placed before a bench, where he is not a part, because the comments (tweets) were made on the order, which he had passed.

The top court listed the matter after two weeks. In 2020, Kamra had started tweeting, when the top court was hearing an appeal of Arnab Goswami against the Bombay High Court's order rejecting his plea for interim bail in a 2018 abetment-to-suicide case. A bench headed by then Justice Chandrachud had granted interim bail to Goswami.

Kamra, in an affidavit, had

told the Supreme Court that his tweets were not published with the intention to diminish the faith of people in the highest court of the country.

"To believe any institution of power in a democracy is beyond criticism is like saying migrants need to find their way back home during ill-planned, nationwide lockdown: it is irrational and undemocratic," said Kamra in an affidavit in January 2021.

The top court, in December 2020, issued show-cause notice to Kamra for his tweets against the apex court and exempted him from personal appearances.

Then Attorney General K.K. Venugopal had granted consent for initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against Kamra, saying it was time that people understood that attacking the apex court brazenly would attract punishment.

Criminal contempt of the Supreme Court is punishable with a fine of up to Rs 2,000 and imprisonment of up to six months. One of the petitioners seeking initiation of contempt against Kamra is law student Shirrang Katneshwarkar.

BRO's 'Relentless' Efforts Kept Zojila Pass Open In Winters Despite Heavy Snowfall: Official



Press Trust of India

Srinagar: The strategic Zojila pass on the Srinagar-Leh national highway, connecting the Kashmir valley with the Ladakh region, has remained open through December and January despite heavy snowfall due to the relentless efforts of the Border Roads Organisation, a defence spokesperson said on Thursday.

BRO 'Karmyogis', with their relentless effort under 'Project Beacon', facilitated connectivity to Ladakh region by ensuring that the Zojila pass remained open despite heavy snowfall, the official said.

Zojila, which falls on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road, is located at an elevation of 11,643 feet and serves as the lifeline between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh, the official said.

"Last year, Zojila Pass was kept open till January 3. This year once again due to the concerted efforts of Project Beacon, the Zojila Pass was kept open for the first time ever till January 6," he said.

The spokesperson said the extended opening of Zojila

the local population of Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

The snowfall in last two-three days has resulted in slippery road conditions along Zojila Pass on the Srinagar Leh highway, causing disruption to traffic movement.

Detachments of 'Project Beacon' with pre-positioned equipments located at Gumri, Bajri Nallah, Baltal, Sonamarg and Gagangir played a key role in opening the pass despite inclement weather conditions, the official said.

"Day and night lost their relevance when six teams deployed at different locations worked 24x7 to keep the road open during extremely challenging conditions since the onset of winters in 2022. Approximately 13,500 vehicles crossed Zojila since November 25 while moving from Kashmir to Ladakh and vice versa," the spokesperson said.

Despite closure of Zojila Pass, snow clearance operations by 'Project Beacon' will continue unabated in order to keep the Sonamarg Tourist Destination open throughout the winters as per requirements of Kashmir Division, he added.

North India Reels Under Cold Wave; Fog Affects Train Movement

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Several parts of north India reeled under severe cold and dense fog affected railway movement, with Delhi recording a minimum temperature of three degrees Celsius -- the lowest in January in two years -- making it cooler than several hill stations.

Most people kept indoors and turned to space heaters and cups of hot beverages to keep themselves warm as frosty winds from the snow-clad Himalayas barrelled through the plains, including the national capital.

Delhi's minimum temperature was lower than Dalhousie (4.9 degrees Celsius), Dharamshala (5.2 degrees Celsius), Kangra (3.2 degrees Celsius), Shimla (3.7 degrees Celsius), Dehradun (4.6 degrees Celsius), Mussoorie (4.4 degrees Celsius) and Nainital (6.2 degrees Celsius), according to official data.

Jammu and Kashmir too saw a dip in temperature, with capital Srinagar recording its coldest night of the season so far at minus 6.4 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night against minus 5.2 degrees Celsius the night before.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said dense fog blanketed several parts of north India and the situation would continue in the coming weeks.

At least 12 trains were delayed by one-and-a-half to six hours and two rescheduled due to the foggy weather, a Railways spokesperson said.

According to the IMD, 'very dense' fog is when visibility is between 0 and 50 metres, 51 and 200 metres is 'dense', 201 and 500 metres 'moderate', and 501 and 1,000 metres 'shallow'.

For Rajasthan, the meteorological office has issued an 'Orange Alert' for continuation of the extreme cold wave in many districts, including Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Jhunjhunu and Karauli.

It had on Wednesday issued an orange alert for Delhi-NCR for Thursday and Friday.

In Jammu and Kashmir, officials said the minimum temperature in Srinagar was also the second lowest in the month of January in the last five years.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Kashmir Valley, registered a minimum of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius a degree down from the previous night, they said.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered a low of minus 9.2 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

A senior meteorologist said cold wave and temperature below normal would persist across north India, including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Day temperatures in these states are likely to remain much below normal. Cold day and severe cold day conditions are predicted to wallop Uttar Pradesh, the IMD official said.

Maximum temperatures in the state will remain 10 to 12 degrees Celsius below normal, the official said.

People in Jharkhand too witnessed chilly weather as the state was witnessing temperature hovering between 7 and 10 degrees Celsius with dense fog and cloudy sky.

All primary schools in Jharkhand will remain closed till January 8 amid the cold wave that gripped the state, according to a government notification.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Tourism Players Upbeat

businessmen.

"It's a good thing that they have returned. We welcome them," Chaya added.

According to Mudasir Mushtaq, who owns a hotel in Gulmarg, tourists from UK, US and Thailand stayed at his hotel in the months of June, August and September.

"Three rooms of our hotel have already been booked by a group of tourists from the UK from the first week of January," Mushtaq said.

Notably, the Valley received the season's first snow on Friday bringing joy to tourists and locals preparing to welcome 2023 at different tourist resorts. Most of the foreign tourists prefer skiing in Gulmarg.

Official sources said that the tourism department is gearing up to woo more foreign tourists in the UT and the officials of the department have attended different International travel marts to showcase the huge potential J&K offers to visitors, travellers and adventure lovers.

"We are hoping that our travel and trade will also be represented in these marts and we will be able to advertise and invite people here," Hafeez said.

He expressed pleasure that the travel agents of the valley have also taken several initiatives to get more foreign tourists.

"Our travel agents also visited Thailand and Malaviya, where they conducted several road shows to get tourists to the valley," he added.

When asked if the tourism department has enough infrastructure to accommodate foreign tourists keeping in view the luxurious lifestyle, he said the department has enough infrastructure but they are working to improve it.

"A number of hotels and restaurants have been renovated, refurbished and re-started which has generated more employment," Hafeez said, adding that a chain of hotels have shown interest in operating in the valley.

"The new groups are also coming and home stay schemes have also been launched recently so that it will benefit at the gross root level," he added.

He said for winter tourism, the department has taken several initiatives to keep the season vibrant. The tourism department, according to him, have also opened two more tourist destinations-- Yousmarg and Doodhpathri-- active to attract more tourists this winter season.

"The Pahalgam is jam packed with tourists which would usually witness less tourism in winter but we have started several initiatives to keep it open for winters," Hafeez said adding that "Skiing operations in Sonamarg is going on and Gulmarg is also witnessing an unprecedented rush of tourists,"

J&K Integral

to it under Article 370 of the Constitution.

GOC, DGP Discuss

counter the new tactics of terrorists including dropping of arms ammunition and drugs being adopted by Pakistan were discussed, a police spokesperson said.

The DGP, he said, lauded the synergy between different forces which he said has

contributed immensely in foiling the ill intentions of Pakistan and the terrorists sent by it.

"He stressed for sharing of intelligence between the forces on a regular basis, and also stressed on enhancing the cooperation between the officers of the forces for better results," the spokesperson added.

VDCs Reactivated,

of police further educated the VDC members about various measures of security and weapon handling.

This step was taken to reactivate VDCs in remote and mountainous belts in the wake of the twin attacks.

There has been a demand by villagers of the Rajouri district for strengthening of these committees with people asking for the provision of new weapons to people besides proper maintenance and repair of existing ones.

There are more than six dozen VDC members in Dhangri village where terrorists carried out a deadly attack on Sunday evening in which four people from a minority community lost their lives and six others sustained injuries.

In an IED blast on Monday, two children were killed and nine were injured.

VDC members of the village demonstrated proper use of weapons to the committee members. The working condition of these weapons was also checked. Police also issued new ammunition to these members. They were also taught weapon cleaning practices, they said.

Ashok Kumar, who is a VDC member for the last 22 years, said that VDCs should be strengthened in every possible manner as they play a pivotal role in the fight against terrorism.

He further demanded the issuance of new weapons to those villagers who are retired from the army and other security forces who are trained in weapon handling and firing.

In village Prodi Brahamana, 12 VDC members, including a woman, took up weapons for the security of their village.

"We are ready to take one terrorists if they dare to come to this side. We will eliminate them", a woman VDC member said while the rest of them raised the "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" slogans.

1500 CRPF Personnel

Dangri village on Sunday evening and Monday in which six people of a minority community including two children were killed and 11 others were injured.

The incidents, occurring barely 14 hours apart, triggered protests across the district.

One company of CRPF has been deployed in the Dhangri village, officials said.

Over 20 companies comprising 2,000 troops will be deployed in militancy-prone and minority areas to strengthen security in the twin border districts, they said.

They said 15 companies have reached the border districts while the remainder will be reach in the next few days.

The CRPF personnel are being ferried from outside the union territory for their deployment in the region, they said.

A senior CRPF officer told PTI the security deployment is underway.

"It is being directly supervised by IG CRPF and senior officers," he said.

There is a huge cry from the minority community people over the security of their areas in border districts after the twin attacks.

3 Suspects Escape

However, he clarified that there were no weapons or bags with them.

"Terror angle is unlikely in this case," he added.

Security forces are on high alert in Rajouri after six people were killed in two terrorist attacks in Dhangri village of the district.

"A motorcycle with three riders broke a police naka at Thalka near Nowshera. However, policemen, with the help of locals, chased the two-wheeler and intercepted it at some distance," a senior police officer said on Wednesday night.

However, the three persons, who were riding on the motorcycle, left the vehicle in the middle of road and escaped, he said.

Searches have been launched to trace them, the officer said.

Pet Dog's Barks

kitchen when our pet dog started to bark at a high pitch. My granddaughter told me that Michael never barks at a high pitch unless there is some danger," Nirmal Devi said.

Michael, who was tied near the main gate to Nirmal Devi's home, ostensibly noticed the terrorists moving towards the premises and barked and yelped to warn the family of the impending danger.

"I got concerned and ran towards the room where my husband was sleeping. I bolted the room from outside and then rushed to lock the main gate.

"But by then, the terrorists had entered through the gate and were on the premises," Nirmal Devi added.

She said the militants fired at Michael but he escaped unhurt. Bullet marks are still visible at the place where he was tied.

"After Michael stopped barking, the two terrorists entered a room, fired at the television and escaped," She said.

Nirmal Devi said Michael's alertness saved her family.

"It gave a feeling to the terrorists that there was no one inside and they did not enter the room," she said.

Nirmal Devi added that Michael's bark also alerted two families living next door and they also bolted the gates to their houses from inside.

"I think many other people in the area are alive due to the alarm raised by the dog and we can say that he saved many lives," she said.

Srinagar Shivers

recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minimum temperature in Gulmarg, the famous ski resort town in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recorded a temperature of minus 7.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The Met office has forecast dry weather for the region, leading to colder nights and slightly warmer daytime temperatures, over the next

couple of days.

Doctors said that less-than-normal precipitation this winter has resulted in increased respiratory problems for residents, particularly the children and the elderly.

The sub-zero temperatures have resulted in several water bodies in the valley freezing.

However, the Met Office has said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain/snow over many places of J-K during the second week of January.

There is a possibility of light snow over scattered places towards night on January 7, with a 70 percent chance of snowfall at many places of J-K over a few days from January 8 to 13.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of Chilla-i-Kalan, the 40-day harshest weather period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' begins on December 21 and ends on January 30.

The cold wave continues even after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold) following it.

Panel To Verify

submit its report within a period of one month from the date of issuance of this order (KNO)

SIU Raids Multiple

with banned organisations like HM, LeT and JeM etc.

"As per initial investigations, these terrorists have been found involved in actively conspiring and facilitating infiltration of terrorists, supplying of arms and ammunition in addition to using of Cyber space in radicalising Kashmiri youths to join terrorist ranks besides raising funds for terrorists activities," he said.

The searches, the spokesperson said, were conducted at Hyhama, Kralpora, Mirnag, Lolab and Sulkoat localities of the district after search warrants were obtained from the designated Court.

He further said that during the searches, vital evidences including mobile phones and other materials have been seized which are relevant for investigation of the case for corroborating the role of these persons in perpetuation of terrorism.

"With the investigation at its initial stages, more searches shall be carried in due course of time," the spokesperson said.

"The crackdown on terrorist elements operating within the district and those from Pakistan is a step towards dismantling of terror ecosystem working in the valley," he added.

5.9 Magnitude

(70.66°E 36.39°N) and depth was 200 Km.

There were no immediate reports of any injury or damage to any property received from J&K so far.

MHA Declares

people of Jammu and Kashmir to join terrorist outfits against Indian State and Sheikh Sajjad Gul is a Commander of The TRF and has been designated as a terrorist under the fourth schedule of the said Act," it said.

It also said that the activities of the TRF are detrimental for the national security and sovereignty of India as a large number of cases have been registered against the members and associates of this outfit.

It added the central government believes that the outfit is involved in terrorism and it has committed and participated in various acts of terrorism in India.

"The TRF came into existence in the year 2019 as a proxy outfit of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a proscribed organisation listed at serial number 5 of the first schedule under the said Act," it said--(KNO).

4 Gamblers

"They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody," he said, adding "Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sumbal and investigation has been taken up,".

UK Saw Hottest

every 500 years, whereas in our current climate it could be as frequently as once every three to four years," said Met Office climate attribution scientist Nikos Christidis.

Britain is not alone. France's average temperature was above 14 Celsius (57.2 Fahrenheit) in 2022, making it the hottest year since weather readings began in 1900. In Spain, preliminary data from the end of December indicated that 2022 was the hottest year since records started in 1961.

Last year saw summer drought and heat waves across much of Europe, with the temperature in Britain rising above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for the first time on record. Norway's Svalbard islands in the Arctic had their warmest summer in more than a century of record-keeping. The archipelago's average temperature for June, July and August was 7.4 Celsius (45.3 Fahrenheit), the Norwegian Meteorological Institute said.

Autumn brought more heavy rain in parts of Europe, including the mountainous Italian island of Ischia, where downpours in November triggered a massive landslide that pushed cars and buildings into the sea and killed at least a dozen people.

Unlike the U.S. and Canada, which have been hit by bitter cold and snowstorms, much of Europe is experiencing unseasonably warm winter weather.

In Germany, the year ended with the warmest New Year's Eve on record, with temperatures reaching 20 Celsius (68 Fahrenheit) in the south of the country. Belarus, Belgium, Czechia, Latvia, Poland and the Netherlands all set national record daily highs for Dec. 31 or Jan. 1.

As 2023 begins, many low and medium-altitude ski resorts in the Alps, the Pyrenees and other European ranges are suffering from a lack of snow.

In Bosnia, spring-like weather has foiled even artificial snow -- either it's too warm to make it, or it melts soon after being spit out onto the slopes. Along the slopes in Bjelasnica near Sarajevo on Wednesday, snow accumulation amounted to little more than several white patches on an otherwise grassy landscape of brown and green. (AP)



## J&K Lose 3-0 To Kerala In Santosh Trophy



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K football team was effectively knocked out of the 76th edition Santosh Trophy after the side was hammered 3-0 by hosts Kerala on Thursday. The match was played at EMS Corporation Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala.

In a must-win game, the Jammu & Kashmir boys did well to keep the match 0-0 till half time. However, the team started to unravel after Kerala's Viknesh M opened the score in the 51st minute of the match. Unbeaten in the competition thus far, Kerala then added another in the 76th minute through Rizwan Ali. Nijo Gilbert scored the third goal for Kerala in injury time.

The defeat means J&K will not qualify for the next round of the national football championship, even if they defeat Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. The J&K players will rue the lack of competitive football in the 2022 season, as the region's top most league, the Super Division, failed to kick start. After turmoil in the Football Association, the players will now hope to see better days in the local football scene.

J&K Playing XI: 1) Furqan Ahmad Dar (GK) 3) Zahid Yousif 6) Hyder Yusuf 7) Mohammad Inam 9) Furqan Nabi Zargar 10) Aakif Javaid 11) Adnan Ayub (C) 12) Farhan Ganai 13) Faisal Maqsood Thakur 15) Dimple Bhagat 20) Urfan Hamid Bhat.

## J&K Ranji Team Suffer Crushing Defeat To Railways



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K cricket team faced a humiliating defeat against Railways on Thursday, as the side was comprehensively defeated by an innings and 73 runs in the Ranji Trophy match.

The J&K side could only make 193 in their second innings on Day 3 of the four-day test match. Wicketkeeper Fazil Rashid scored 53 (57) to boost J&K's total, but with only Aquib Nabi 31 (50) and Vivrant Sharma 29 (42) contributing with the bat, the team was bowled out in 62.4 overs.

Railways' left arm spinner Akash Pandey again proved to be the wrecker in-chief as he

took 4 wickets in the second innings. He had taken 6 in the first.

Earlier, Railways scored 427 runs in the first innings. In reply, the J&K side was bundled out for 161 and was forced to follow-on. The match was played at Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat, Gujarat. For Railways, left-hand batter Mohammad Saif scored an unbeaten 233\* (293) to lead his side to a grand total.

J&K will next face Punjab on January 10.

J&K XI: Shubham Khajuria (c), Fazil Rashid (wk), Vivrant Sharma, Henan Nazir, Suryansh Raina, Abid Mushtaq, Musaiif Ajaz, Mohammad Tahir, Auqib Nabi, Sahil Lotra, Umar Nazir.

## Sri Lanka Beat India By 16 Runs In 2nd T20I



Press Trust of India

**PUNE:** Suryakumar Yadav and Axar Patel struck blistering fifties in a stunning 91-run stand, albeit in a losing cause as Sri Lanka tightened the screws in the nick of time to beat India by 16 runs in the second T20I and level the three-match series 1-1 here on Thursday.

Skipper Dasun Shanaka made a rear-guard unbeaten 56 off 22 balls, while wicket-keeper Kusal Mendis hit a 31-ball 52 to power Sri Lanka to an imposing 206 for 6. India had a nightmarish start

to their chase slumping to 57 for 5 before Axar (65 off 31) and Surya (51 off 36) raised hopes of an improbable win with a scintillating sixth-wicket stand. The task became tough once Surya departed in the 16th over, but Axar and Shivam Mavi (26 off 15) shared quick 41 runs to bring down the equation to 21 off the last over.

But Axar's dismissal in the third ball of the final over was the last nail in the coffin for India.

Chasing the total, India lost openers Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill in the second over to

Kasun Rajitha.

If that was not enough debutant Rahul Tripathi sneaked one to Kusal Mendis off Dilshan Madhushanaka in the next over before skipper Hardik Pandya departed an over later as India slumped to 34 for 4 in 4.4 overs.

Surya and Deepak Hooda tried to stabilise the innings with a hard-fought 23-run partnership but with the asking rate creeping up, the latter departed in search of a big shot, caught by Dhananjaya de Silva off Hasaranga de Silva as India lost half of their side for 57.

## BCCI, PCB On Collision Course: ACC Chairman Jay Shah Announces 'Calendar', PCB Terms It 'Unilateral'

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The simmering tension between India and Pakistan cricket boards was palpable after PCB chief Najam Sethi took a sarcastic jibe at BCCI secretary Jay Shah for "unilaterally announcing" the Asian Cricket Council's two year calendar.

On Thursday, Shah, in his capacity as ACC chairman announced the 2023 and 2024 itinerary on his Twitter handle with the marquee Asia Cup slotted in September this year, though the detailed itinerary and the host country have not been announced yet.

Pakistan is the original host of the Asia Cup this year but the BCCI is not keen on playing there owing to political tension between the two countries. The then Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja had opposed the BCCI's stand and even threatened to boycott the 50-over World Cup in India.

Raja's contention was that the decision to award Pakistan the hosting rights was taken by ACC's Board of Directors

and Shah can't decide about shifting the tournament.

Sethi, who was perceived to be close to previous Indian board bigwigs, however was sharp in his response after Shah released the calendar in the morning.

"Thank you Jay Shah for uni-

UAE after they beat Pakistan in the final. The tournament was played in T20 format because of the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

With India are set to host the ODI World Cup later this year and the focus of all the participating teams being on the 50-over format, this year's Asia Cup will be held in that format.

It is understood that India wants the tournament to be shifted to UAE due to existing complex socio-political scenario between cross-border nations but Pakistan's argument has been if Australia, England and New Zealand can come and play without fear of security, why would they host an event in a neutral country.

BCCI secretary and ACC president Jay Shah, while releasing the calendar for the next two years, said the schedule "signals our unparalleled efforts and passion to take this game to new heights. With cricketers across countries gearing up for spectacular performances, it promises to be a good time for cricket."



laterally presenting ACC structure & calendars 2023-24 especially relating to Asia Cup 2023 for which Pakistan is the event host. While you are at it, you might as well present structure & calendar of our PSL 2023! A swift response will be appreciated," Sethi's sarcasm-laden tweet wasn't lost on anyone.

The Asia Cup 2023 will be a six-team affair involving India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and a qualifier team.

Sri Lanka are the defending Asia Cup champions in the



## Babar, Brook Nominated For ICC Men's December POTM

Agencies

**DUBAI:** Pakistan captain Babar Azam, England's star batter Harry Brook and Australia batter Travis Head have been nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month December 2022, the International Cricket Council announced on Thursday. Three countries are represented in the shortlist for the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award, as batting reigned supreme.

The Pakistan skipper Babar Azam continues to enjoy a fine run of form with bat in hand, filling his boots against England and the start of the New Zealand series. Making runs in all four Tests he played, Babar showcased his consistency even with the burden of captaincy, making a pair of hundreds and

three scores of half-centuries in eight knocks.

Given licence to attack in the middle order, Harry Brook has enjoyed a fine first year of Test cricket, helping England secure a famous Test series victory in Pakistan. England's Brook has short-listed thanks to a breakout month with the bat, scoring centuries in each of their Tests during the 3-0 series victory in Pakistan.

The final contender is Australia's Travis Head, who excelled in their WTC series against both West Indies and South Africa, scoring consistently throughout. Head finished with 455 runs at an average of 91 with one century in Australia's four Test matches played this month, as well as two wickets in the team's first Test win over the West Indies. (ANI)

## Late Blows Boost New Zealand's Victory Hopes In Karachi



Reuters

**KARACHI:** New Zealand set Pakistan a tricky target of 319 and then landed two late blows to boost their hopes of a series-clinching victory in the second test on Thursday. In his first series as test captain, Tim Southee declared New Zealand's second innings on 277-5 with three overs left on the penultimate day of the contest at the National Stadium.

Pakistan could not open their account in those overs but lost opener Abdullah Shafique and nightwatchman Mir Hamza in dying light to find themselves in a hole. Southee breached Abdullah Shafique's defence with a ball that kept low and Ish Sodhi bowled Hamza with a sharply turning delivery, with both indicating how the pitch might behave on Friday.

Earlier, Sodhi claimed the final Pakistan wicket as the home side were all out for 408 in their first innings, conceding a lead

of 41. When New Zealand came out to bat for the second time in the match, Tom Latham (62) and Tom Blundell (74) smashed their second fifties of the contest and Michael Bracewell made 74 not out to stretch their overall lead past 300.

Three wickets fell and several umpiring decisions had to be reversed in the eventful second session with Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed in the thick of things. Pakistan blew two reviews inside 12 overs, trying to get Kane Williamson (41) lbw by Abrar on both occasions, and more agony was in store for the bespectacled spinner.

Abrar's celebration was cut short when Latham, then on 36, got an lbw decision against him reversed. Pakistan, wary of wasting their remaining review, then did not challenge a not-out decision after Abrar had trapped Latham plumb in front, as replays would later confirm.

The opening test between the sides had ended in a draw.

# A Club-By-Club Look At Cristiano Ronaldo's Glittering Career

Agencies

A club-by-club look at Cristiano Ronaldo's career ahead of the start of the Portugal superstar's time in Saudi Arabia with Al Nassr:

**SPORTING (2002-03)**

At the age of 12, Ronaldo left the island of Madeira and headed to Lisbon for a trial at Sporting. He joined the club's academy and by age 16 was training with the first team. Ronaldo, a skinny, skillful winger, made his senior debut at 17 and was already earning admiring glances from big European clubs during his only full season at Sporting (2002-03), when he scored five goals and had five assists. The following pre-season, Manchester United visited Sporting for a match to inaugurate the Portuguese team's stadium. Ronaldo's performance was so good — he tormented right back John O'Shea — that United's players urged their manager, Alex Ferguson, to sign him. Ronaldo was even introduced to United's players in the locker room after the game. Within a week, he had signed for United for 12.25 million pounds (now \$14.75 million).

**MANCHESTER UNITED (2003-09)**

It was during his first spell at United that Ronaldo became a superstar, developing from a supreme-



ly gifted but erratic winger into a prolific, fearsome striker. He scored 118 goals in 292 matches in all competitions, helping United win the Premier League for three straight seasons from 2007-09 — matching the club's achievement from 1999-2001. He also won the Champions League with United in 2008, scoring

the team's goal in the final that finished 1-1 before United triumphed in a penalty shootout. Ronaldo won the first of his five world player of the year awards in 2008, after a 2007-08 season when he scored 42 goals in all competitions. By that time, he was heavily linked with a move to Real Madrid but he stayed

at United one more season — during which he helped the team to a Premier League-League Cup double.

**REAL MADRID (2009-18)**

Signed for a world-record 80 million pounds (then \$131 million), Ronaldo gained more trophies and fame in a nine-year stint that was

defined by his rivalry with then-Barcelona star Lionel Messi and their combined scoring prowess. So prolific was Ronaldo, who mostly played as a center forward, that he averaged more than a goal a game in his time at Madrid — 450 goals in 438 games — to become its record scorer. He topped the 40-goal mark in eight of his nine seasons, reaching 60 in two of them. He won the Champions League in 2014, '16, '17 and '18 along with two La Liga titles and picked up more Ballon d'Or awards in 2013, '14, '16 and '17 amid a sustained period of excellence that lifted him among the greatest players to ever play the game.

**JUVENTUS (2018-21)**

Wanting to start a "new phase" in his career — amid a period when he and other top players in Spain were accused of tax fraud — Ronaldo secured another big-money move, this time to Juventus for 112 million euros (then \$131.5 million). It was a record transfer fee in the Italian league and he kept on delivering goals, scoring 101 times in 134 appearances and being the top scorer in two of his three seasons. He never won the Champions League with Juventus, though it was at the Italian club where he moved ahead of Messi in the overall scoring charts in Europe's top competition. He also won the league title twice (2019, '20).

**MANCHESTER UNITED (2021-22)**

"I'm back where I belong," wrote Ronaldo after he sealed a sudden, rather unexpected return to United amid reported interest from the team's local rival, Manchester City. A fee of 15 million euros (then \$17.75 million) to be paid to Juventus over five years seemed a bargain for United, which saw Ronaldo as the player to lead the club to its first Premier League title since 2013 and a place back on European soccer's top table. It didn't work out that way. He continued to score goals — there were two in his first match and 24 in all competitions, including hat tricks in successive home league games — but his reduced mobility and work rate affected United as a whole as the team finished sixth in the 2021-22 season, extending its run without a trophy to five years. Ronaldo missed the start of this season after returning late to training because of what was described as "personal reasons." Essentially, he wanted a move because United hadn't qualified for the Champions League. So began a standoff with United's new manager, Erik ten Hag, that saw him become a bit-part player and then deliver an explosive pre-World Cup interview with Piers Morgan that was the beginning of the end. A week later, his contract was terminated. (AP)





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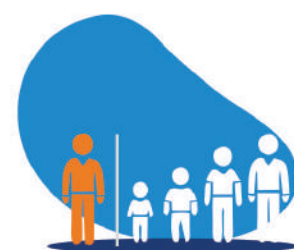
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