

## How Recent Results Recreated Reservation Ruckus In Kashmir

Muskan Yousuf

Beyond the festive celebrations and frenetic criticism, the recent results of the reservation-ridden Jammu Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) exam once again highlighted the growing marginalization of General Category in the region where merit is already passing through a series of litmus tests.

Of the 187 successful candidates that the recent JKAS panned out with, more than



half belong to the reserved categories.

A total of 90 candidates

qualified in the open merit, of which 22 belong to the reserved categories—most from

the Residents of Backward Area (RBA) and Scheduled Caste (SC).

The remaining 97 candidates in the reserved category have a bulk from the Scheduled Tribe (ST), RBA, Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), and SC.

A total of 19 candidates are from the ST, 18 from RBA, 18 from EWS and 16 from SC. Optionally, Backward Class category (OBC) has been restructured as RBA in JKAS.

"The result makes it certain," says Samreen Khan, a scholar, "that populace under

the General Category is being trudged towards obliteration."

With a handful of diminutive opportunities and rugged competition with the reservation predicament, Khan says, the General Category populace is well-going to meet the perils of negligence. "The idea of reservation was never intended to be in force perpetually," she says. "The legislators contrived the policy to effectuate for ten years from the inception onwards."

Notably, the Constituent Assembly framed the

reservation policy for ten years after the Constitution of India was effectuated. It still runs unimpeded, and the question remains why?

Not just unimpeded, new additions keep getting annexed to the existing quota. Earlier the reservation quota was capped at around 45-50 per cent coalescing all the categories SC (15 per cent), ST (7.5 per cent), and OBC (27 per cent).

Recent amendments have provided an additional 10 per cent reservations for the **More on P10**

## NIA Court Orders Attachment Of Hurriyat Office

Agencies

**Srinagar:** A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has ordered attachment of the office of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in Rajbagh area of Srinagar.

Additional Sessions Judge New Delhi, Shalinder Malik has ordered that "Immovable property i.e; building office of All Parties Hurriyat Conference at Rajbagh which was earlier used as office of APHC, to be attached and necessary legal process be carried out in this regard."

In its application, the NIA claimed that there is sufficient evidence against Nayeem Khan – the accused Hurriyat leader – who "partly owns the property".

NIA has submitted in the court that the "property was being used for planning and execution of terrorist and secessionist activities" and for other offenses and thus invoked the provisions of Section 33 (1) of UAPA to seek attachment of the property."

In this case Nayeem Ahmad Khan was arrested during the investigation of **More on P10**

## Bharat Jodo Yatra Enters Last Lap In Kashmir

Priyanka, Mehbooba Join March, Yatra End Today



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

**Pulwama:** The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra Saturday entered its last lap as the Rahul Gandhi-led march was joined by his sister Priyanaka Gandhi Vadra and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, who termed the initiative "a breath of fresh air".

Rahul Gandhi resumed his walk from

Chursoo in south Kashmir's Awantipora at 9.20 am, a day after cancelling the march in Anantnag after his party alleged that police arrangements by the J&K administration "completely collapsed" during the yatra.

Reacting to the allegation, the Jammu and Kashmir administration had said pressure on security resources due to the size of the crowd, larger **More on P10**

## Yatra Got Good Response In Kashmir: Omar

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra received a good response in Kashmir, but TV media and "Kashmir experts" are silent about it. "The talking heads are largely silent & the **More on P10**

## Rahul's Rally To Be Biggest Since Aug 2019

Over 25000 People likely To Converge At SK Cricket Stadium On Monday

Auqib Javed

A gathering of around 25,000 people is expected to converge at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here on Monday where former Congress president, Rahul Gandhi will address a public rally on the conclusion of his Bharat Jodo Yatra .

Party insiders told Kashmir Observer on Saturday that over 25000 people including those from the "like minded" parties are likely to attend the Rahul mega show at SK stadium here on Monday. **More on P10**

## Srinagar Police Issues Traffic Advisory

Police on Saturday issued a traffic advisory asking people to avoid certain routes while travelling in Srinagar on Sunday in view of the Rahul Gandhi led Bharat Jodo Yatra that is scheduled to enter the City. According to an order, no traffic **More on P10**

## MeT Dept Issues Yellow Warning For Heavy Snowfall



Agencies

**Srinagar:** As the forty day harsh winter period, Chillai-Kalan, nears to an end, the weather department on Saturday issued a yellow warning for heavy snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir on January 30, leading to temporary disruption in surface and air transportation.

A meteorological department official here said that light snow and rain was expected at scattered places in the next 24 hours.

On January 30, the MeT department forecast widespread moderate snow and rain (in Jammu) with "heavy" snowfall in Pirpanjal, South Kashmir, Doda-Kistawar etc.(more than 75% chances)

On January 31, the MeT

official said, light to moderate snow and rain was expected at scattered places.

There are four types of colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched, orange—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red –action needed by the agencies.

He said the weather system may cause snow avalanches in the areas prone to them. It may likely to affect surface and air transportation on Monday, he said. Power supply may also get affected.

"People are advised not to venture out in avalanche prone areas, unless emergency," he said, adding, "Passengers are advised to travel after confirmation of road **More on P10**

## J&K, Tamil Nadu Share A Timeless Bond: LG

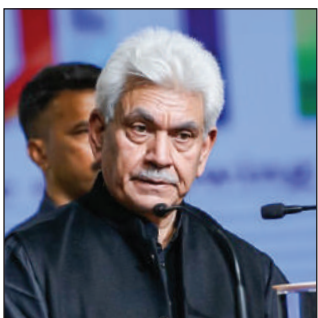
Attends Vitasta Festival At Kalakshetra Foundation In Chennai

Observer News Service

**Chennai:** The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that there is a timeless bond between Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir and he believes that the Union Territory and the southern Indian state are eternally connected since time immemorial.

"Both the regions illumined the entire nation with intellectual brilliance & glorious tradition of peace & harmony", Sinha said.

He made these remarks while addressing a gathering at the Vitasta Festival held at Kalakshetra Foundation in



Chennai on Saturday.

The 4-day festival, Sinha said, is the biggest celebration of J&K's culture, literary legacy, cuisine, arts & music and the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. **More on P10**

## 2024 General Elections No Meaningful Oppn Coalition Possible Without Cong: Jairam

Press Trust Of India

**Awantipora:** The Congress must be the "fulcrum" of any Opposition alliance to take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections as no coalition can be "meaningful" or "relevant" without it, senior leader Jairam Ramesh said on Saturday.

The Congress general secretary also said that in his view, the Congress should be preparing to fight on its own in every state in the 2029 general elections.

In an interview with PTI, Ramesh said he would certainly put his weight behind doing another yatra from Gujarat's



Porbandar to Arunachal Pradesh's Parshuram Kund this year but the party has to take a call on it eventually.

"I certainly have been giving a thought to it. **More on P10**

## 'J&K Assembly Polls, Statehood Restoration Priorities'

The Congress on Saturday said the "restoration" of democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir is of utmost priority and assembly elections should be held at the earliest, followed by the reinstatement of full statehood. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh stated this at a presser on the sidelines of the Bharat Jodo Yatra at JKPC headquarters here. Ramesh had on Friday said the Yatra **More on P10**

## Now, Haseeb Drabu Faces Heat Of Eviction Drive

50 Kanal Of State, Kacharai Land Retrieved From Ex-Minister, Family

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Turning heat on the mainstream politicians in the Valley, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday retrieved about 50 kanal of state and Kahcharai land illegally occupied by former Finance Minister, Haseeb Drabu and his family in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Complying with the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, a team of revenue officials under the supervision of Tehsildar Keegam retrieved 15 kanal of state land and 35 kanal of Kahcharai at

village Pirpora which were encroached by Former Finance minister and his family members, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

Besides, he said, 3 kanal of land encroached by the brother of a former MLC was also freed in village Chitragam of the South Kashmir district.

The action against politicians, including Drabu comes a day after authorities ran a bulldozer over a commercial structure belonging to a former minister Ghulam Hassan Khan in Shopian district.

In Saturday's anti-encroachment drives, the **More on P10**

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

#### CASO Carried Out In Budgam

Army on Saturday carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in the Gazergund area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. An army official said the search operation was launched at around 02:30 pm after information was received about the movement of two militants in the area. Meanwhile, a resident of the Gazergund village told a local news agency KNO over the phone that dozens of houses were searched during the operation, however, nothing was found. Gazergund is 5 kilometres away from the district **More on P10**

#### Police Rescues Foreign Tourist In Gulmarg

Police on Saturday rescued a foreign tourist who lost his track and got stuck in Khar Nallah forests of Drung during skiing in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Oeyvind Aamot of Norway, who arrived in the morning at Gulmarg and went skiing, while on return he lost his track and got stuck in Khar Nallah forests, a police spokesperson said. On receipt of this information, he said, two police rescue teams of PS Gulmarg and Tourism Department were immediately formed who followed two tracks around the forest area and finally reached at the location of the **More on P10**

#### Body Recovered From Jhelum In Sumbal



Body of an unidentified man was recovered from river Jhelum in Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday. An official said that the body was spotted by some locals, following which they informed the police. He said soon after getting the information a police team rushed to the spot and recovered the body. The official said the identity of the man was being ascertained. (KNO)

#### Police Nab Two Fraudsters In Bla

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two fraudsters involved in fake job scam and extortion in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that on January 11, information was received that two self-styled political activists from Pattan area are demanding money on the assurances that they will arrange government jobs and are providing fake appointment orders and are also threatening the general public. Accordingly, he said, police registered a case under relevant sections of law at Police Station Pattan and **More on P10**

#### Scooty Rider Crushed To Death

A scooty-rider was killed after being allegedly hit by a vehicle of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) near Humhama in central Kashmir Budgam district on Saturday. A police official told a local news agency GNS that the 55-year-old rider identified as Nazir Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Ramzan Bhat of Samerbugh Budgam was seriously injured after being hit by the vehicle at around 10:30 a.m. He, however, said that the man was declared as brought dead by the doctors at the hospital. The police, he said, have registered a case in this regard. SSB spokesman could not be contacted for the comment.

#### Man Posing As IAS Officer Booked

The CBI has registered a case against one Ankit Kumar Singh for allegedly impersonating a secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) handling the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency and seeking favours from senior government officials. The federal agency acted on a complaint from Assistant Director in PMO Anil Kumar Sharma, officials said. The case has been handed over to the CBI's Special Crime unit, headed by Joint Director Viplav Kumar Choudhry, who was awarded the President Police Medal for distinguished service on Republic Day, they added. **More on P10**





# Human Activity Degraded More Than A Third Of Remaining Amazon Forest: Study

Press Trust Of India

The Amazon rainforest has been degraded by a much greater extent than scientists previously believed with more than a third of remaining forest affected by humans, according to a new study.

The study shows that up to 38 per cent of the remaining Amazon forest area - equivalent to ten times the size of the UK - has been affected by some form of human disturbance, causing carbon emissions equivalent to or greater than those from deforestation.

The paper was led by an international team of 35 scientists and researchers, from institutions such as Brazil's University of Campinas (Unicamp), the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM), National Institute for Space Research (INPE), and UK's Lancaster University, it said.

The work is the result of the AIMES (Analysis, Integration and Modelling of the Earth System) project, linked to the Future Earth international initiative, which brings together scientists and researchers who study sustainability, the study said.

The findings, published in the journal Science, are the result of an analytical review of previously published scientific data, based on satellite imagery and a synthesis



of published data outlining changes in the Amazon region between 2001 and 2018, the study said.

The authors define the concept of degradation as transient or long-term changes in forest conditions caused by humans.

Degradation is different from deforestation, where the forest is removed altogether and a new land use, such as agriculture, is established in its place. Although highly degraded forests can lose

almost all of the trees, the land use itself does not change.

The authors evaluate four key disturbances driving forest degradation: forest fire, edge effects or changes that occur in forests adjacent to deforested areas, selective logging such as illegal logging and extreme drought. Different forest areas can be affected by one or more of these disturbances.

"Despite uncertainty about the total effect of these disturbances,

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Degradation is different from deforestation, where the forest is removed altogether and a new land use, such as agriculture, is established in its place. Although highly degraded forests can lose almost all of the trees, the land use itself does not change.

many," says Dr. Rachel Carmenta, a co-author based at the University of East Anglia, UK.

"Few people profit from the degradation processes, yet many lose out across all dimensions of human well-being - including health, nutrition and the place attachments held for the forest landscapes where they live.

"Furthermore, many of these burdens are hidden at present; recognising them will help enable bet-

ter governance with social justice at the centre," said Carmenta.

In a projection made by the team for 2050, the four degradation factors will continue to be major sources of carbon emissions into the atmosphere, regardless of the growth or suppression of deforestation of the forest.

"Even in an optimistic scenario, when there is no more deforestation, the effects of climate change will see degradation of the forest continue, leading to further carbon emissions," said Dr. David Lapola, leader of the study and researcher at Unicamp.

However, "preventing the advance of deforestation remains vital, and could also allow more attention to be directed to other drivers of forest degradation."

The authors propose creating a monitoring system for forest degradation, as well as prevention and curbing of illegal logging and controlling the use of fire. One suggestion is the concept of "smart forests" which, like the idea of "smart cities", would use different types of technologies and sensors to collect useful data in order to improve the quality of the environment.

"Public and private actions and policies to curb deforestation will not necessarily address degradation as well. It is necessary to invest in innovative strategies," said Lapola.

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

### SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Private 2013 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

**Name:** Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone  
S/o Mohammad Ramzan Lone  
Roll No: 2623482  
Year/Session : 2016- Annual Private



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Board Of School Education  
Sub Office Bandipora

bb

## Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate of my son namely Hyder Ali Parray (DOB: 31-06-2016) S/o Altaf Ahmad Parray . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the BDO office Khore Sherabad within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Altaf Ahamd Parray  
F/o Hyder Ali

bmg

## Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of Death Certificate of my Sister namely Naza Bano D/o Habibullah Shah who expired on 07/01/2022 for that very purpose I have applied in the office of Block Development Office Kunzer . Anybody having any objection in this regard shall report within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Habibullah Shah  
S/o Gh Nabi Shah Takiya Gundipora  
Block Kunzer

BMG

## Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com

Gist of Short Term Notice Inviting e-Tenders  
NIT No:-MDB/e-Tender/186 of 2022-23 Dated:- 24-01-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered suppliers / agencies having experience in similar nature of work for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Providing of bedding and allied items for Snow Clearance Control Room at Field Mechanical Sub - Division Kupwara	0.80	200.00	1600.00	07 days	Accorded	Accorded
02.	Providing of crockery items for snow clearance control room at Mechanical Field Sub-Division, Kupwara.	0.43	200.00	860.00	07 days	Accorded	Accorded

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule given in the 'Abstract; appended to this notice: -

01.	Online tender download / Start Date	24-01-2023 (06:15 PM)
02.	Online tender Submission End Date	02-02-2023 (06:55 PM)
03.	Cost of Tender Documents	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement excluding mPay or any other mobile banking App., to be uploaded with the online bid. Tender Id to be written also on the Voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TRESHII. Account No.: 0213010200000051.
04.	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online) (Cover 1 <sup>st</sup> )	03-02-2023 at 02:00 PM in office of the Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla
05.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (online) (Cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	After evaluation of cover 1 <sup>st</sup> in office of Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla

### Instructions to Bidders:

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers; viz Techno- Commercial / Financial cover.
  - Cover 1<sup>st</sup> shall contain:**
    - Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost.
    - Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST No.
    - Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
    - Scanned copies of the Annexure "A" & "B" duly accepted / signed.
    - Scanned copy of Tender Fee.
  - Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall contain:**
    - Price bid**, as per BOQ uploaded by this department.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and non-transferable.

No: - MDB/TS/e-tendering-186/5616-20  
DIPK-16800/22  
Dated:- 28-01-2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division Baramulla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NIT NO 215 OF R&B/Khanabal/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/25405-14 DATED 25-01-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position Of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of tile lane from shop of Shabir Ahmad (Lady Hut) to Shop of Lateef Ahmad (B.D Enterprises) opposite ICICI Bank Ganjiwara ward 19 MC Anantnag.	2.50	200	5000	15 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/258 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	Repairment of drain from H/o Ab Rashid Bhat to main road near shop of Habibullah Khan (Hotel) at Achabal adda MC Anantnag.	2.61	200	5220	15 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/258 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
3.	Construction of lane from Nanwaie shop of Ab Rashid Sofi to house of Bashir Ahmad Wagay at lane No 02. Qazi Mohalla ward no 19 MC Anantnag	1.12	200	2240	15 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/258 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
4.	Construction of Lane and Drain from H/O Farooq Ahmad Qadri to H/O Mohd Iqbal Pahalwan at Naibasti Ward 05 MC Anantnag	2.38	200	4760	15 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/258 of 2022, Dated 09.11.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: Municipal Council Anantnag.

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-01-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 25-01-2023 (12:00PM) To 01-02-2023 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 25-01-2023 (12:00PM) To 01-02-2023 (04:30PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 01-02-2023 (11:00AM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	02-02-2023 (11:00AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance Security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
  - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
  - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
  - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
  - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(Er Qazi Javeed Amin)  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Khanabal

DIPK-16756/22  
DATED: 28-01-2023





## Bharat Jodo Yatra Preparations In Full Swing For Grand Prog At SK Stadium

Agencies

Srinagar: The arrangements for the culmination programme of Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) at Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium here are in full swing, with hoardings being installed in and around the venue where a huge gathering is expected on January 30.

Congress workers said hoardings have been installed at the venue by the labourers who have been with the yatra since day one from Kanyakumari.

"We have installed hoardings in every state where the yatra was held," a group of party workers said.

Moreover, the volunteers and workers associated with the Congress party said they are upbeat and enthusiastic about the Bharat Jodo Yatra and that they see a new ray of hope in the grand old party and in Rahul Gandhi's leadership.

Irshad Hussian Ganie, a PCC executive member, told

KNO that they consider the ongoing BJY a fruitful exercise. "This yatra is aimed to unite the people across the country who have been divided," he said.

"At least the communal forces who have divided the nation should know what this yatra is aimed at. We have huge expectations from Congress and Rahul Gandhi Ji and we are hopeful of employment generation as the BJP has been just promising jobs and doing nothing on the ground. Bharat Jodo Yatra has given us a new ray of hope," Irshad said.

Another worker said that BJY has "a mission of love and unity". "Voices from every corner of Kashmir are coming to join the yatra," he said.

Chief Spokesperson JK-PCC and Chairman Media Committee BJY Ravinder Sharma told KNO that a high-level meeting is underway in connection with the hosting of a mega gathering at SK Stadium in Srinagar on January 30—(KNO)

## Director Health Urges Masses To Avoid Tobacco "Smoking Root Cause Of All Cancers"

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Director Health Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather Saturday urged people to avoid smoking as the same is the root cause of all cancers including lung and gastrointestinal cancers.

Dr Rather said stringent action will be initiated against those found smoking near educational institutions or hospitals under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (COTPA) Act.

"I request people to please avoid smoking as the same is the root cause of all cancers, especially lung and gastrointestinal cancers. Life is precious and I humbly request one and all to quit smoking. Since tobacco cells have been established in all district headquarters, those found involved in violating rules will be dealt with strictly," Director Health told the media here.

He said the department realized a fine of rupees 3000 from violators who were caught smoking in public places. Dr Rather said the administration has taken serious cognizance of the issue and that the rules will be strict when it comes to schools and hospitals.

"We launched an anti-

tobacco drive under COTPA act around the Directorate office, hospitals and schools today and our team realized a fine of rupees 3000 from violators who were caught smoking," he said, adding the department will act tough against all those found involved in smoking in public places.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir according to a National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report holds 4th place across India in consuming tobacco products including cigarettes. Followed by 3.6 percent women, 38.3 percent males consume tobacco in one or the other form in newly carved out Union Territory.

While 56.6 percent, half of the population use tobacco in frontier Kupwara district in north Kashmir, 52 percent population in Shopian district in south Kashmir consume tobacco followed by 49.9 percent in Anantnag, 48.8 percent in central Budgam, 38.4 percent in Srinagar and 35.4 percent in Kathua.

Among the twenty districts of the Union Territory, Jammu province is the least tobacco consuming district with 26.5 percent population using tobacco products.

persons on the eve of Republic Day for this year.

Addressing the felicitation function, the DC congratulated all the participants and said hard work and dedication towards one's profession is key to achieve success and unique place in the society.

The DC lauded the contribution of all Awardees and other Officials who make a difference with their hard work, exemplary performance and dedication towards their work to ensure prompt, efficient and effective public delivery system in the District.

The DC urged the participants to work with added zeal, responsibility and commitment in future also for public welfare and overall betterment of the society.



## Lal Chowk At The Heart Of City Redevelopment Plan: CEO Smart City

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation & CEO Smart City Athar Aamir Khan in a series of tweets informed netizens about the status of redevelopment works that are being carried out in the Srinagar city under the Smart City Project.

Athar further informed that the Lal Chowk is at the heart of the City's Development Plan.

Pertinently, authorities have drawn flak for haphazard construction works going in and around the city Centre. While the authorities have come under sharp criticism for carrying out works in harsh weather conditions, authorities say it is being done so that the projects are completed well before the scheduled time frame.

In a twitter thread, CEO Smart City Athar Aamir talked about the redevelopment works

that are being carried out in the city center.

"Srinagar Smart City has taken up the redevelopment of the central business district of Srinagar including Residency Road, MA Road, Jhelum River Front, and the interconnections including Polo View, Regal, Jehangir Chowk, Chunthi Kul among others" Athar in a tweet said.

"Lal Chowk is at the heart of this redevelopment plan. These days the work is going on at all these sites- giving a dug up look to almost the entire city."

He further said that in the entire Residency Road, underground drainage system has been completed, dedicated sewerage lines have been laid, the electricity and communication lines are being put underground through ducts, the junctions are being redesigned, the road carriage is being made uniform, proper organized & slotted spaces

for parallel on street parking are being made.

"The footpaths are being redeveloped as per IRC standards to make them continuous and accessible, proper street lighting for vehicular and pedestrian movement, bus bays, green spaces, sitting spaces, recreational spaces & many more."

Athar also informed that the iconic Ghanta Ghar is also getting a makeover.

"While these days construction is going on & a lot of inconvenience is being faced by the public & traders, I just wanted to remind and assure this is a collective effort in making our city better. We are doing our best to make sure that the projects are complete well before the scheduled time frame. That's why this is probably for the first time that in our city at all sites the work is going on even in the harshest part of winter" the CEO tweeted.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

★

MOON

HIJRI

CALENDAR

06 Rajab

1444

PRAYERS

FAJR

6:05

ZUHR

12:43

ASR

4:19

Magrib

6:00

ISHA

7:23

## This Day In History

- 661 - Rashidun Caliphate ends
- 1258 - Mongols defeated by Dai Viet at the battle of Dong Bo Dau
- 1523 - Sermon of Constanz: Zwingli defends 67 Schlussreden
- 1574 - Sea battle of Reimerswaal - Admiral Boisot beats Spanish fleet
- 1587 - Deventer and Zutphen surrender to Spain
- 1594 - Mathematician John Napier dedicates his "Plaine Discovery of the Whole Revelation of St. John" to King James VI, predicts end of the world in 1688 or 17001595 - William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet" is thought to have been first performed. Officially published early 1597.
- 1676 - Feodor III succeeds his father and becomes Tsar of Russia
- 1728 - John Gays' "Beggar's Opera" premieres in London [NS=Feb 9]
- 1732 - Paris churchyard of Saint-Medard closed after Jansenistic ritual
- Music release
- announcement, John Hancock resigns as Governor of Massachusetts, allegedly due to his failing health
- 1834 - President Jackson orders first use of US troops to suppress a labor dispute
- Treaty of InterestTreaty of Waitangi
- 1879 - Custer Battlefield National Monument established in Montana
- 1905 - Tsar Nicolas II of Russia, unsettled by the rising violence and protest, enacts reforms to improve the conditions of workers; these changes will do little to stop disorder throughout Russia in ensuing months.
- 1907 - Charles Curtis becomes U.S. Senator from Kansas, first Native American to become a Senator
- 1908 - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, at Cornell University, incorporates
- 1912 - Martial law declared in textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts
- 1913 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, at Howard University, incorporates
- 1916 - 1st bombing of Paris by German Zeppelins takes place
- 1916 - 1st bombing of Paris by German Zeppelins takes place
- 1917 - British submarine K13 sank in Gaire Loch, Scotland; 32 of her crew died
- 1918 - Ukrainian-Soviet War: Battle of Kruty

From KO Archives

## India needs small dose of dictatorship: Farooq

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today said his government has accepted the extension of cease-fire by another month with great difficulty in the face of militants continuing to kill innocent civilians. Admitting that the borders were silent, Abdullah, who was a key-note speaker at a panel discussion on experiment with democracy organised by the International Press Institute (IPI) world Congress, said foreign, groups of Osama Bin Laden and Lashkar-e-Taiba were continuing with their explosions of IEDs and lobbing of grenades.

Taking a dig at Pakistan's desire for annexation of Kashmir, Abdullah wondered that what Islamabad could do for Kashmiri Muslims after it failed to accept Muslims from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Sounding a word of caution, the chief minister said the growing religious intolerance in the country is not a happy sign for the country's democracy and the need of the hour was to fight the growing fundamentalist elements from both—Hindu and Muslim communities.

Abdullah said that a small dose of dictatorship was needed to govern a huge population like that of India.

Responding to Abdullah's suggestion on dictatorship, he said it is better to have more discipline than dictatorship.

The panel discussion was chaired by N. Ram, editor the Hindu. Other panelists included Vinod Mehta and Mark Tully. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 29 January, 2001)

### Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate of my son namely Ahsan Ali Parray (DOB: 5-6-2018) S/o Altaf Ahmad Parray. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the BDO office Khore Sherabad within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Altaf Ahmad Parray  
F/o Ahsan Ali

bmg





## Senior US General Warns Of Possible Looming War With China

Agencies

**WASHINGTON:** A four-star US Air Force general has warned of a conflict with China as early as 2025 — most likely over Taiwan — and urged his commanders to push their units to achieve maximum operational battle readiness this year.

In an internal memorandum that first emerged on social media on Friday, and was later confirmed as genuine by the Pentagon, the head of the Air Mobility Command, General Mike Minihan, said the main goal should be to deter “and, if required, defeat” China. “I hope I am wrong. My gut tells me we will fight in 2025,” Minihan said.

Laying out his reasoning, Minihan said Taiwan's presidential elections next year would offer Chinese President Xi Jinping an excuse for military aggression, while the United States would be distracted by its own contest for the White House.

“Xi's team, reason, and opportunity are all aligned for 2025,” he added.

The memorandum also calls

on all Mobile Command personnel to go to the firing range, “fire a clip” into a target and “aim for the head.”

A Pentagon spokesperson responded to an AFP email query about the memo saying, “Yes, it's factual that he sent that out.”

Senior US officials have said in recent months that China appears to be speeding up its timeframe to seize control of Taiwan, a self-governing democracy claimed by Beijing.

China staged major military exercises in August last year, seen as a trial run for an invasion after a defiant visit of solidarity to Taipei by then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who at the time was second in line to the White House.

The United States switched recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979 but sells weapons to Taiwan for its self-defense.

A growing number of US lawmakers have called for ramping up assistance, including sending direct military aid to Taiwan, saying that Russia's invasion of Ukraine underscores the need for early preparation.

## IAF's Black Saturday as 2 Frontline Fighters Collide, Pilot Killed



Press Trust of India

In a rare and tragic accident, two frontline combat aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed during a training mission in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district on Saturday, resulting in the death of a wing commander while two other pilots ejected safely.

Defence experts said it is probable that the Russian-designed Sukhoi-30MKI jet and the French Mirage-2000 had a mid-air collision, but there was no official comment on it from the IAF.

The deceased pilot of the Mirage aircraft was identified as Wing Commander Hanumanth Rao Sarathi, officials said, adding that a high-level probe has been ordered into the accident.

The two pilots of the Sukhoi aircraft managed to eject and were taken to a military hospital, they said. The Mirage-2000, which is a single-seater jet, was flown by Sarathi.

“Two fighter aircraft of IAF were involved in an accident near Gwalior today morning. The aircraft were on routine operational flying training mission,” the IAF said in a brief statement.

“One of the three pilots involved sustained fatal injuries. An inquiry has been ordered to determine the cause of the accident,” it said.

The accident came nearly four years after two Hawk aircraft of the IAF's aerobatic team, Surya Kiran, crashed in

Bengaluru after a mid-air collision.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari briefed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the crash.

“Deeply anguished by the loss of brave air warrior, Wg Cdr Hanumanth Rao Sarathi, who suffered fatal injuries during an accident near Gwalior. My deepest condolences to his bereaved family. We stand by his family in this difficult hour,” the defence minister said on Twitter.

The officials said the recovery of the flight data recorders of the two aircraft would throw some light on what led to the crash.

Morena Collector Ankit Asthana said the debris of both the aircraft fell in the Pahargarh area of the district. Some debris also fell in Rajasthan's Bharatpur, which borders Madhya Pradesh, he added.

Two pilots survived the crash, Asthana said, adding that the body parts of another were found in the Pahargarh area.

Earlier in the day, Bharatpur Superintendent of Police Shyam Singh had said an aircraft crashed in an open field in the Uchain area.

Locals were the first to reach the site where the debris from one of the aircraft fell, police in Bharatpur had said.

According to an aviation expert, it was the first Mirage 2000 as well as Sukhoi-30MKI that the IAF lost in a mid-air collision.

The SU-30MKI is a twin-seat-

er combat jet, while the Mirage 2000, manufactured by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, is a single-seater aircraft.

Both the jets took off from the Gwalior Air Force station. The base has squadrons of both Sukhoi-30MKIs and the Mirage 2000 jets.

Aviation historian Anchit Gupta tweeted that mid-air collisions (MAC) are not that uncommon and at least 64 aircraft and 39 pilots have been lost in MAC in the last more than 70 years in India.

He said the country lost 11 Mig-21 aircraft in MAC, while the numbers for the Hunter and Jaguar aircraft are eight and five respectively.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in a tweet, said: “The news of the crash of Sukhoi-30 and Mirage-2000 aircraft of the Air Force near Kolaras in Morena is very sad.” “I have instructed the local administration to cooperate with the Air Force in quick rescue and relief work. I pray to God that the pilots of the planes are safe,” he added.

Two pilots of the IAF were killed in July last year when their twin-seater Mig-21 trainer aircraft crashed during a training sortie near Rajasthan's Barmer.

In March last year, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhat told the Rajya Sabha that 42 defence personnel were killed in accidents involving aircraft and helicopters of the three services in the last five years.

## Many Attempts to Break India But None Could Achieve It: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday strongly cautioned against efforts to sow differences and create chasm amongst people in the country on one pretext or the other and said such attempts will not succeed.

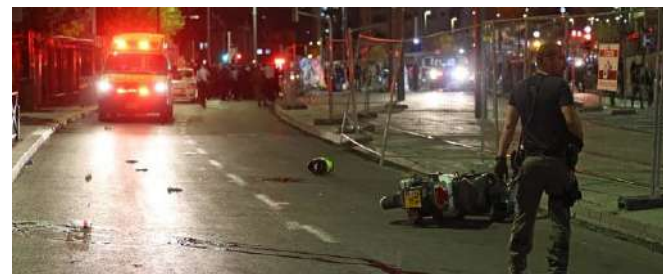
Addressing an NCC rally at the Cariappa Ground in Delhi Cantonment, Modi said the mantra of unity was the only way for India to achieve grandeur.

“Bhaanti, bhaanti ki baatein nikaal kar, Maa Bharti ke santano ke beech main dooh mein daraar karne ki koshish ho rahi hai. (Several issues are raked up to create divisions among the children of Mother India),” the prime minister said in Hindi.



Despite such efforts, there will never be differences among the people of India, he said. “Maa ke dooh main kabhi darar nahi ho sakti,” he said.

The mantra of unity is the ultimate antidote. This is the only way India will achieve grandeur, the prime minister emphasised.



## New Gun Attack In East Jerusalem After Synagogue Mass Shooting

Agencies

**JERUSALEM:** An assailant shot and wounded two people in east Jerusalem on Saturday, Israeli medics said, hours after a Palestinian gunman killed seven outside a synagogue in one of the deadliest such attacks in years.

Police said the suspect was “neutralized” following the latest gun attack in the Silwan neighborhood, just outside Jerusalem's old, walled city.

Israel's Magen David Adom emergency response service identified the victims as two men, aged 47 and 23, both with “gunshot wounds to their upper body.” It did not identify those involved.

Police had earlier announced 42 arrests in connection with Friday's synagogue attack.

The mass shooting unfolded as a 21-year-old resident of Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem drove up to the synagogue in the Neve Yaakov neighborhood and opened fire during the Jewish Sabbath.

The bloodshed, which unfolded on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, marked another dramatic escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It came a day after one of the deadliest army raids in the occupied West Bank in roughly

two decades, as well as rocket fire from militants in the Gaza Strip and Israeli retaliatory air strikes.

There have widespread calls to de-escalate the spiralling violence, but tensions are rising.

Crowds shouted “Death to Arabs” as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toured the scene of the synagogue attack late Friday.

Palestinians also held spontaneous rallies to celebrate the killings, in Gaza and across the West Bank, including in Ramallah where large crowds swarmed the streets chanting and waving Palestinian flags.

Several Arab nations that have ties with Israel—including Egypt, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates — condemned the synagogue shooting.

The Lebanese group Hezbollah, one of Israel's most prominent foes, praised the attack as “heroic,” voicing “absolute support for all the steps taken by the Palestinian resistance factions.”

The gunman at the synagogue was shot dead by police during a shootout that followed a brief car chase after the attack.

There has been no indication that he had prior involvement in militant activity or was a member of an established Palestinian armed group.

## BBC Arabic Radio Goes Off Air After 85 Years

Agencies

**B**BC Arabic Radio has gone off air since Friday after 85 years of broadcasting as part of a plan to cut costs and focus on digital programming.

The corporation said it is cutting hundreds of jobs in its World Service and has been forced to make the cuts because of the United Kingdom government's imposition of a freeze on the license fee money it receives.

At least 382 jobs worldwide will be cut as the corporation focuses on digital content production amid a \$35m funding gap.

The BBC announced in September that the Arabic language radio service was among 10 different foreign language services that would cease radio broadcasts, including the Chinese, Hindi and Persian services.

Alastair Campbell, who used to be a strategist and adviser to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, said the UK government has had to make “very difficult choices” since the weakening of the economy due to Brexit and other factors.

“I think they're very, very sad. I think that people underestimate the impact that the BBC has,” Campbell told Al Jazeera,



adding that it is an independent broadcaster despite its links to the British government.

“What that meant for many countries around the world is that they see this as a really important, significant source of proper news gathering,” Campbell said. “I actually think that the undermining of the BBC is at the heart of the government's strategy.” The Arabic language station launched on January 3, 1938, from Egypt.

Hosam El Sokkari, former head of BBC Arabic, said the radio service was a “lifeline for lots of people in under privileged areas” as they listened to news via small and inexpensive devices.

“Now, they would have to use much more complicated and probably more expensive devices if they want to listen or enjoy the BBC services,” El Sokkari told Al Jazeera from Cairo.

## NEWS MAKERS

### A century before #MeToo, this French author dumped her sleazy husband who took credit for her work

Agencies

**A** century before #MeToo, French author Colette dumped a sleazy husband who took the credit for her work to throw herself into a life of free love that she fictionalised in groundbreaking novels about the lives of women.

France next week celebrates the 150th anniversary of the birth of the novelist whose uproarious life featured in the 2018 Hollywood biopic Colette, starring Keira Knightley.

Plucked from the Burgundy countryside by her first husband — a literary agent 14 years her senior — he put her to work writing about her schoolgirl fantasies in the wildly popular “Claudine” books that he published under his own name.

Colette went on to cause scandal after scandal writing about hitherto taboo subjects like domestic violence, anorexia and fake orgasms, before becoming a music hall dancer, mime artist and



weightlifter.

She was also among the first women to wear trousers and have a facelift in a dizzying life that included three marriages and a multitude of affairs with both men and women.

As the American novelist John Updike said: “In the prize ring of life few of us would have lasted 10 rounds with Colette.”

Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette was born in a Burgundy village in 1873 and was swept off to Paris at 20 when she married the womanising music critic Henry Gauthier-Villars, aka “Willy”.

He introduced her to high so-

ciety salons frequented by novelist Marcel Proust and composer Claude Debussy, where she was gently mocked for her Burgundy accent and long blonde plaits.

Willy encouraged her to write about her life at school, telling her not to spare “the juicy details”.

Colette's mother had instilled in her a love of nature that made her fiercely attuned to the senses, and she brought that to the page.

**RIOT**

First, in 1900, came the homoerotic, coming-of-age tale Claudine at School, followed by Claudine and Annie, Claudine in Paris, and Claudine Married. All were instant bestsellers. After spicing them up, Willy put the books out under his own name.

Colette eventually moved in with her lover, cross-dressing noblewoman Mathilde de Morny, nicknamed “Missy”, and filed for divorce after learning Willy had sold the rights to her books.

### British-Indian Princess Sophia Duleep Singh Honoured With UK's Blue Plaque

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** Sophia Duleep Singh, the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh — the last ruler of the Sikh empire — and the god-daughter of Queen Victoria, is to be honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque in London.

Princess Sophia was among the leading suffragettes who fought for women's right to vote in 1900s Britain.

The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the historic significance of particular buildings associated with historical figures and its 2023 cohort includes the 19th-century home of the British Indian Princess.

“Daughter of the deposed Maharajah Duleep Singh, who already has a plaque in Holland Park (London), and goddaugh-



ter of Queen Victoria, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was an active suffragette and made full use of her royal title to generate support for female enfranchisement,” notes English Heritage in its Blue Plaque announcement this week.

“She was a dedicated member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and the Women's Tax Resistance League (WTRL). The plaque will mark the large house near Hampton Court Palace which was granted to Sophia and her sisters as a grace and favour apartment by Queen Victoria in 1896,” it notes.

### Case Registered Against AMU Student Over Video Of Religious Slogans Raised On R-Day

Press Trust of India

**ALIGARH:** Police on Saturday booked an Aligarh Muslim University student in connection with a video showing some NCC cadets purportedly raising religious slogans following a Republic Day function here, officials said.

The AMU authorities on Friday suspended a BA first-year student, Wahiduzaman, from the rolls of the university over the video and declared the campus out of bounds for him on the basis of “prima facie” evidence.

Superintendent of Police, City, Kuldeep Singh Gunawat said a case under IPC sections 153B (remarks likely to cause disharmony, or feeling of enmity or hatred or ill-will) and 505 (mischievous) was lodged against an unidentified NCC cadet based on a complaint

filed by Yogesh Varshney.

The AMU has set up a three-member panel to probe the incident after two video clips of slogan shouting surfaced on social media Thursday evening.

Of the two, a 17-second clip showed a group of NCC cadets chanting “Allah hu Akbar” twice near a flagpole. The other one, a 19-second video, showed another group of NCC cadets shouting “Bharat Mata ki jai” and “Vande Mataram” in front of a building.

On Friday, BJP MP from Aligarh Satish Gautam had demanded that the police should take strong action against the student and not show any laxity.

A senior AMU official told PTI that a probe ordered by the AMU authorities would seek to find out what prompted the sloganeering to take place.



## BHARAT JODO YATRA

## Controversies, Sparring And Barbs Kept Spotlight On Rahul-Led March

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Rahul Gandhi's Burberry T-shirt and his scraggly beard, V D Savarkar and north India's chilling winters, the Kathua rape and Covid As the curtains fall, the Bharat Jodo Yatra replays in a patchwork of issues personal and the overtly political with controversies aplenty to ensure the spotlight seldom wavered.

The Kanyakumari to Kashmir yatra started from the southern tip of the country on September 7 and ends on January 30 in Srinagar, some 145 days and 3,500 km later. The cross-country foot march stayed in the news almost right through, mostly for the barbs between the BJP and the Congress and occasionally for other reasons, including infighting in the opposition party.

It started during the first leg in Tamil Nadu with the BJP attacking Gandhi for wearing a Burberry T-shirt allegedly worth Rs 41,000. The Congress hit back with a "Rs 10 lakh suit" and "Rs 1.5 lakh glasses" barb directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It was just the beginning. As the Gandhi-led yatra continued so did the sparring on social media platforms, TV debates and on the streets.

During the early days of the yatra, the grand old party, for instance, tweeted a picture of khaki shorts, often associated with members of

the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on fire. This triggered a backlash from the BJP, which accused the Congress of instigating violence.

And the BJP, in Tamil Nadu, accused the Congress of being anti-Hindu over Gandhi's meeting with a controversial Christian priest.

In Kerala, the Congress was left red-faced when a photo of Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar appeared on a campaign poster near Kochi. The Ernakulam District Congress Committee, which arranged a massive preparation for welcoming the yatra, resorted to a fire-fighting exercise by immediately suspending the Congress worker responsible for it.

Gandhi's grey beard was at the centre of a war of words between the two parties with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claiming at a poll rally in Gujarat that the former Congress chief had started looking like the late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. This drew a rebuke from the Congress which said he sounded like a "troll".

There were also times when disensions within the party and its allies came to the fore.

The Maharashtra leg saw fissures surface between the Congress and its ideologically incompatible ally Shiv Sena after Gandhi attacked Savarkar over his mercy petitions to the British.

In Madhya Pradesh, a crisis erupted in the party in Rajasthan, the



yatra's next destination, when Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot slammed his former deputy Sachin Pilot and called him a 'gaddar' in an interview.

The matter was resolved in the nick of time and a show of unity was put up by Gehlot and Pilot with party general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal brokering an uneasy truce just ahead of the yatra entering the desert state.

As the yatra entered Rajasthan, the spectre of Covid loomed large.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya wrote to Gandhi and Gehlot, asking them to consider suspending the march if Covid protocols could not be followed. Gandhi hit back saying the BJP was getting nervous and using Covid as an excuse to stop his march.

The Congress and the BJP sparred when former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan joined the march and then later when former army chief Gen (ret'd) Deepak Kapoor partici-

pated in the yatra in Haryana.

The two parties were at loggerheads again when Union minister Pralhad Joshi alleged that Gandhi was going on a holiday and that is why his Bharat Jodo Yatra had taken a long break December-end.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh has repeatedly demanded an apology from Joshi for his remarks that Gandhi was going on a holiday. Gandhi spent the break in Delhi during the December-end break.

Gandhi's white T-shirt, no sweater look in north India's famed winter was also the subject of much attention. He said he decided to wear only T-shirts during the march after meeting three poor girls "shivering in torn clothes" in Madhya Pradesh.

That's when he decided that until he shivers, he won't wear a sweater, the Congress leader said.

Earlier this month, Gandhi sparked a row when he said the Congress believes in 'tapasya', while the BJP is an organisation of 'pooja'. India is a country of 'tapasvis' (ascetics) and not 'pujaris' (priests), he said. The BJP slammed Gandhi, saying he Congress has "DNA of divide and rule". "Respect Tapasya but why denigrate Pujaris," a BJP spokesperson asked on Twitter.

Another controversy to hit the Congress was over Dongra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) leader Choudhary Lal Singh's

decision to join the Bharat Jodo Yatra, leading to objections from a section of the Congress and other parties.

Congress spokesperson Deepika Pushkar Nath resigned from the party on January 17 over the party agreeing to Singh's support to the yatra, alleging that he was responsible in sabotaging the 2018 Kathua rape case by "brazenly defending" the rapists of the eight-year-old girl.

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah also opposed the participation of Singh.

In the latest row, senior Congress leader Congress leader Digvijaya Singh questioned the government's claims on surgical strikes and accused it of peddling lies.

This drew a furious reaction from the BJP, which said the opposition party was blinded by its "hate" for Prime Minister Modi and has "insulted" the armed forces.

There have also been casualties during the yatra.

Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary died following a cardiac arrest during the Punjab leg. A Congress Seva Dal functionary died after collapsing in Nanded in Maharashtra.

Besides, a 62-year-old man from Tamil Nadu died and another person from that state was injured after being hit by a truck in Nanded when they were participating in the Congress' foot march.

## Police Detain Protesting Daily-Wagers, Physical Teachers In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Scores of daily wage workers and physical teachers were briefly detained here on Saturday after they staged a protest to press for their demands, officials said.

While the daily wage workers have been demanding regularization of their services and release of pending wages, physical teachers are seeking reduction in their probationary period from seven to five years, officials said.

Police acted against the protesters, who gathered separately outside the Press Club and nearby Dogra chowk and later blocked the main road after all attempts to disperse them peacefully did not succeed, they said.

Hundreds of daily wage workers of the Jal Shakti department, under the banner of Public Health Engineering Employees United Front, assembled at the main office com-

plex of the Chief Engineer before moving to the Dogra chowk.

Chanting slogans in support of their long-pending demand of regularization and release of wages, the protesters were stopped by police who later used a mild baton charge and took 100 of them into preventive custody.

Over 60,000 daily wagers, casual labourers and other workers who are performing their duties in various departments have been holding protests over the past two decades in both Jammu and Srinagar in support of their demands.

Officials said police also took nearly 50 protesting 'Rehbar-e-Khel' (physical teachers) when they tried to march towards the main road after staging a protest outside the Press Club.

The teachers, who are on strike for the last 40 days across J&K, are seeking reduction in their probationary period from seven to five years

## Azad Is 'Mir Jafar' And 'Vote-Cutter' Propped By BJP: Jairam

Press Trust Of India

**AWANTIPORA:** Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday said he never thought former party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad would turn out to be a "Mir Jafar" and alleged that he had been propped up by the BJP to cut the Congress' votes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking with PTI, while walking in the Bharat Jodo Yatra that is in its final leg in Kashmir and is set to conclude on January 31, Ramesh said the most important thing right now is that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood be restored and elections be held besides bringing in Ladakh under Schedule VI of the Constitution so that it is governed by elected representatives and not bureaucrats.

He listed Democratic Azad Party (DAP) chief and former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad as part of BJP's plan to divide votes with others in the list being All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen's Asaduddin Owaisi and the Aam Admi Party (AAP).

"His going from the Congress was part of a Modi-Shah game-plan to cut votes. There are three vote-cutters in India - Asaduddin Owaisi put up by the BJP, AAP put up by the BJP and Azad put up in J-K to cut Congress' votes. I do not think it is going to happen," Ramesh said.

On whether Azad would dent the Congress' prospects with his DAP, Ramesh pointed out that most Congress workers and leaders who left with Azad have returned to the party fold.

Asked if Azad can ever make a comeback into the Congress like some of his newly formed party colleagues have, Ramesh said, "I have no idea what Mr. Azad's plans are. I never imag-

ined in my wildest dreams that he would actually abandon the Congress. It is the party that gave him identity for almost 50 years, gave him every conceivable position in the party and in the government, including chief minister, Union minister, Leader of Opposition, but I never thought he would be Mir Jafar, never." Mir Jafar served as the commander of the Bengal army under Siraj ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal, and betrayed him during the Battle of Plassey, paving the way for British rule in India.

Admitting that he was never a close associate of Azad, the Congress general secretary said he still "cannot reconcile with the manner of his leaving, the letter that he wrote diminished him in the eyes of every Congress person, particularly after getting all the benefits from the Congress in the last 50 years." Asked how he sees the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its impact, Ramesh pointed to the Congress resolution of August 6, 2019, and said the party wants restoration of the democratic process, restoration of full-statehood and Ladakh to get its Schedule VI status in the Constitution and not be a Union Territory governed by bureaucrats getting orders from New Delhi.

"So it is a long drawn out process. But I do want to say that one should not forget that the Indian Constitution has Article 371 A-J, which has special provisions for Nagaland, Sikkim, Goa Arunachal Pradesh, parts of Assam. Indeed, Article 371 has special provisions for parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. So those who criticise Article 370 should also look at Article 371," Ramesh said.

In 2019, Article 370, which

granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Congress general secretary alleged that the claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir are "largely exaggerated because targeted killings are continuing, not only in Kashmir but also in Jammu, Poonch Rajouri, and across J&K".

The figures of investment or economic boom are only "paper figures", Ramesh alleged. "The underlying sentiment of resentment, now that resentment is not just in Kashmir, that resentment is also in Jammu which I have discovered and also in other parts particularly on matters related to land. Because the biggest fear whether you are living in Jammu or in Kashmir, is of lands, jobs," he said.

There must be some special provision for protecting the land and job rights of people in Jammu and Kashmir which Article 370 did in a way, Ramesh added.

"The most important thing is to make J&K a full-fledged state, have elections here and bring Ladakh under Schedule VI. Difference between schedule VI and a UT (Union Territory) is that elected representatives manage affairs under Schedule VI and in UT, a joint secretary in the ministry of home affairs runs the UT," he said.

Ramesh's remarks come days after a host of DAP's founding members returned to the Congress fold.

Azad had snapped ties with the Congress last year after an over five-decade association with the party and written a long resignation letter, slamming the party's top leadership.

## Pak Raking Up IWT Violation Without Any Reason: Jitendra Singh

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said Pakistan is habitual of making unnecessary noises alleging violations of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), even though there has been none and India has always stood by its end of the pact.

The statement of the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office comes on the heels of India issuing a notice to Pakistan seeking a review and modification of the IWT in view of Islamabad's "intransigence" in complying with the dispute redressal mechanism of the pact that was inked over six decades ago for sharing of waters of cross-border rivers.

The step comes around 10 months after the World Bank

announced appointing a neutral expert and a chair of the Court of Arbitration under two separate processes to resolve the differences over the Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects following Islamabad's refusal to address the matter through bilateral talks.

"IWT has a long history after it was signed in 1960, giving control of three rivers each to India and Pakistan. While Jhelum, Chenab and Indus were given to Pakistan, India was given the control of Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.

"The first phase of Shahpur Kandi dam project on river Ravi is nearing completion. The project was in limbo for the last 40 years and our share of water was also flowing across the border.

"Similarly, the Ratle project

in Kishtwar over Chenab was abandoned for eight years and the work on it started only last year under joint venture between the Centre and the UT administration," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a function in Kathua district.

He said Pakistan has raised an objection and is claiming violation of the IWT but India's position is strong as there was no violation and the waters are allowed to flow into Pakistan as per the agreement, despite construction of dams and other projects.

"They are habitual of creating disturbances without any reason The concerned ministry has already taken up the issue with Pakistan," the minister said, adding the government will do whatever is necessary in the national interest.

## Dr. Farooq Participates In Maha Vishnu Yagya In Jammu

Meets Sant Maharaj Shri Bal Yogeshwar Das Ji, Prays For Lasting Unity, Amity, Brotherhood In Jammu

Observer News Service

**SAMBA:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Saturday visited Samba where Maha Vishnu Yagya was organised in the memory of the fallen soldiers.

On the occasion he met Sant Shri Bal Yogeshwar Das Ji Maharaj. He was accompanied by Ratn Lal Gupta provincial President JKNC Jammu, Ajaz Jan Provincial President JKNC, Israr Khan, Abdul Gani Teli, Vijay Lochan, Mohinder Singh, Sudagar Chand Gupta, Chander Uday Singh, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rahul Mahajan, Rajeshwer Singh.

On the occasion, Dr.Farooq called for united efforts for strengthening the communal harmony and brotherhood. "Jammu people are pluralistic by nature. The cultural life of Jammu has been shaped by great sages and saints ,who enriched it with the teachings of universal brotherhood by teaching and preaching the philosophy that considers world as a family. The agenda of communal forces remains at work to divide us. However, what such

forces fail to recognise is that the spirit of our unity is deep-rooted and widespread. It is very reassuring to see how both Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs participate in each other's festivals and shoulder each other's worries. Our country's, for that matter J&K's true potential lays in our unity. The everyday life of our people across Jammu espouses examples that brings alive the idea of India and restores our faith in Humanity," he said.

"More So the people in Jammu have fraternal ties with the people of Kashmir and Ladakh as well. It is really unfortunate to see how the enemies of humanity have over the years done everything to create hatred among people of Jammu region and Kashmir valley towards each other on communal lines. I'm sure that my brothers and sisters will not let such forces succeed in their nefarious designs. I congratulate the organizers and management, particularly Shri Yogeshwar Das Ji Maharaj for their efforts. I'm sure that the devotees will benefit from the spiritual, mental and physical benefits of the Yagya. I pass on my good wishes to the entire management for their future endeavors,"he said.

## 'Pathaan' Emerges As First Film In 33 Yrs To Have Houseful Shows In Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** People of Kashmir are queuing up to watch Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Pathaan", making it the first film to have houseful shows in 33 years in the Valley.

The cinema halls reopened in Kashmir last year after being shut for three decades due to threats and attacks by militants.

Vikas Dhar, owner of Kashmir's only multiplex theatre, said all the shows of the spy thriller were houseful on the first day of its release on Wednesday.

"I did not know Shah Rukh Khan has such a massive fan following in Kashmir. All shows on the first day were fully booked while five of the seven shows on Republic Day were also sold out," Dhar told PTI.

It was due to restrictions on movement of people on account of the Republic Day parade in the vicinity of the

multiplex in Badamibagh area of the city that the first two shows had less than expected audience, he added.

Dhar opened his multiplex theatre last year in September. The theatre has three screens with a total capacity of 520 seats.

"This is after 33 years that people are queuing up to watch movies in Kashmir. This was the dream when we set out with this project and it has come true," he said.

Besting boycott calls over the song "Besharam Rang", "Pathaan" has performed phenomenally at the box office, raising Rs 219.6 crore gross worldwide in just two days. The film released on January 25 amid high security across the country.

Dhar said much-like the rest of the country, there has been no effect of the controversy on the film's run. "Everyone here is coming for entertainment," he added.



# Unabated Rise of Drug Abuse in Kashmir

Bilal Gani

Drug use has become a scourge for us which is giving rise to many social evils. The growing trend of drugs in the Valley should be of concern to all of us as it is eating up the vitals of our society

Drug addiction is a hot topic in J&K today. The obvious reason for this debate is an alarming increase in drug addiction cases in J&K. The recent extremely upsetting report by the Government Medical College's Psychiatry department has revealed that Kashmir has surpassed Punjab in drug abuse cases and is currently at the number two position among the top drug abuser states in the country. With Northeast in India topping the drug abuse list, Kashmir is not far behind. J&K is on the powder keg of drug addiction.

Addiction is a neuropsychological disorder characterised by a persistent and intense urge to engage in certain behaviours, one of which is the usage of a drug, despite substantial harm and other negative consequences. Drug addiction, also called substance use disorder, is a disease that affects a person's brain and behaviour and leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medicine. Substances such as alcohol, marijuana and nicotine also are considered drugs. When you're addicted, you may continue using the drug despite the harm it causes.

Drug addiction can start with experimental use of a recreational drug in social situations, and, for some people, the drug use becomes more frequent. For others, particularly with opioids, drug addiction begins when they take prescribed medicines or receive them from others who have prescriptions.

Globally, some 35 million people are estimated to suffer from drug use disorders and who require treatment services, according to the latest World Drug Report, released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The most widely used drug globally continues to be cannabis, with an estimated 188 million people having used the drug in 2017.

As per the study conducted by Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences Kashmir (IMHANS-K) titled as "Prevalence and Pattern of Substance Use in 10 districts of Kashmir: A 2022 survey", J-Kashmir has surpassed the number of drug abuse cases in Punjab.

Thousands of youth in Kashmir are slipping into the dark alleys of drug addiction as the valley has been flooded with a huge quantity of heroin usage. The J-Kashmir administration had said as per a consumption survey there are at least 6 lakh residents affected by drug related issues in the region.

Over 33 thousand syringes are used to inject heroin by drug abusers in the Valley on a daily basis. Heroin is among the most common drugs used by these abusers. The study shows 90 percent of drug abusers are using heroin while the rest are using cocaine, brown sugar, and marijuana. The survey has also revealed that most of the drug abusers are in the age group of 17-33 years. Unemployed youth are one of the main consumers of these drugs. And



the number of drug abusers in the valley has crossed 67000, while 33000 are injected heroin using syringes. Drug use has become an easy escape from the fluctuating situations of life.

Among the most potential causes attributed to the skyrocketing drug abuse in Kashmir are, unusual increase in psychiatric disorders, uncertainty of the conflict, unemployment among the youth and non-availability of recreational activities.

Our youth see it as an escape from the uncertainty and trauma of living in a conflict region. But it has unnecessarily taken a heavy toll on our youth who are the future of our society.

Our valley is in the grip of an epidemic and the biggest victims of this epidemic are our youth. Over the last few years, there has been an extraordinary increase in anti-social crimes in our valley. It is said that the main reason for these crimes is the increasing use of drugs among the youth. Drug use has become a scourge for us which is giving rise to many social evils. The growing trend of drugs in the Valley should be of concern to all of us as it is eating up the vitals of our society.

Diagnosing drug addiction (substance use disorder) requires a thorough evaluation and often includes an assessment by a psychiatrist, a psychologist, or a licensed alcohol and drug counsellor. Although there's no cure for drug addiction, treatment options can help you overcome an addiction and stay drug free.

The eradication of drug addiction needs a multi-pronged approach. There is an urgent need for legal, social and religious measures to prevent drug addiction. Although the state government has taken strict measures to eradicate the scourge of drugs, several serious measures are needed to eradicate this epidemic.

The laws that are in force for the prevention of drug abuse should be implemented in a better way and these laws should be enforced and made stricter. Cultivation, sale and misuse of cannabis and opium should be completely banned. It is necessary to have cooperation between the administration and the people. Only then can our society get rid of this evil.

There is an urgent need for measures not only by the government but also by the society to end this scourge. Civil society groups need to be mobilised to stop drug trafficking at the local level. Parents should monitor the activities of their children and protect them from getting addicted to drugs and falling into the clutches of drug addicts. Although there has been a lot of awareness among people about the harmful effects of drugs, this awareness needs to be spread to those areas and people who are unaware of it.

Another aspect of drug abuse prevention is the rehabilitation of victims of this scourge. But recovery must be consistent and victim-focused. The rehabilitation centres should take proper care of the psychological and emotional needs of the victims, so that the victims can fully recover and move towards a prosperous future. These rehabilitation measures include preventive education and awareness building, capacity building, skill development, vocational training and livelihood support for ex-drug addicts, among other relevant measures to stop this epidemic before it is too late.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer  
The author is an independent researcher and Columnist*

On Tuesday, they reset the Doomsday Clock to 90 seconds before midnight. How did they know that Germany would agree to give Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine on Wednesday? Now we're all doomed! Ninety seconds is barely time to tuck your head between your knees and kiss your posterior goodbye. The Doomsday Clock was thought up in 1947 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists to dramatise the threat of nuclear war. They set it at seven minutes to midnight, and have been moving it back and forth every year since to tell us how close we were to a nuclear holocaust.

It dropped to 17 minutes to midnight after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Now it's just a minute and a half — the closest it has ever been — but may be it is just inflation, as with everything else. The Russians are certainly not panicking at the prospect of Leopard tanks with Ukrainian crews showing up to confront them in eastern Ukraine in a month or two (or three). A couple of weeks ago, Moscow hinted that this could be the step that 'forced' it to escalate to nuclear war, but that seems to have been the usual bluff.

Now that Western tanks actually are coming — American M1 Abrams, British Challengers, Leopard 2s from Germany and up to half a dozen other NATO members, probably Leclercs from France — the Russians are playing it cool. Kremlin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said that the new tanks "will burn like all the rest." Some of them will burn, of course: there's no such thing as an invulnerable tank. But the current rate of exchange, with old Soviet tanks on both sides, is two or three-to-one in favour of Ukraine, mainly because its crews are better trained and more committed. With better tanks than the Russians as well, the Ukrainian advantage will obviously widen.

The question is: will it widen enough for Ukraine to take back more Russian occupied territory, and if so how much? The new tanks are not wonder-weapons, and the fact that they will come in four different types is a logistical nightmare: different ammunition, different spare parts, and even different fuel in the US's

## Stop The Clock

Gwynne Dyer



case. There will also not be very many of them, at least in this round of donations. A 'company' of tanks is fourteen or thereabouts, and Germany, the United Kingdom and Poland will be sending one company each. Smaller countries like Finland and the Czech Republic are unlikely to give more, and the United States of America is talking of about 30 M1s — two companies.

That means the total number of Western tanks being given to Ukraine is likely to be less than 100, whereas Ukrainians have always said that they need at least 300 to push the Russians back to their own borders. The long-planned

Ukrainian winter offensive may have been cancelled because, first, the ground is still not frozen hard, and second, the new tanks will be in the hands of trained Ukrainian crews by the spring. The great Russian winter offensive is underway right now, but getting very little notice because it is making so little progress.

Let's assume for a moment that the Ukrainians will wait till spring, that the new tanks make a difference, and that the Russians lose a lot more ground. Would that justify putting the Doomsday Clock ahead to ninety seconds to midnight? Winning in Ukraine may be an existential

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matter for the Russian dictator, Vladimir Putin, who has staked his reputation and perhaps even his life on making a success of the invasion, but it's not a life-or-death issue for the ambitious men around him. They certainly don't want to die for him, together with their entire families.

So the NATO assessment that a Russian resort to nuclear weapons in Ukraine is most unlikely, which underpins the NATO decision on the tanks, is almost certainly correct. How much of their country the Ukrainians can recapture remains to be seen, but they are at least free to try.

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



# I interviewed ChatGPT

Firdous Ahmad Mala

Just like many others, I, too, decided to ask ChatGPT a few questions. I, too, decided to interview ChatGPT. Here is how it went.

Will you kindly introduce yourself?

I am ChatGPT, a large language model developed by OpenAI. I have been trained on a vast amount of text data, which enables me to understand and respond to a wide variety of prompts and questions. My primary function is to assist users in generating human-like text, such as answering questions, composing emails, writing articles, and more. I am a machine learning model, so I don't have personal feelings, beliefs, or consciousness, my purpose is to assist users based on the information that I have been trained on.

What is your worldview?

As a language model, I do not have personal beliefs, opinions or worldviews. I am programmed to provide information and respond to questions to the best of my abilities based on the data that I have been trained on. My purpose is to assist users in generating human-like text based on the prompts that I receive.

Do you know the answers to all our questions?

As a language model, I have been trained on a vast amount of text data, and I am able to provide information and generate text based on that data. However, my knowledge is limited to the information that was available during my training, and my ability to understand and respond to questions is based on the patterns and associations found in that data. Additionally, my knowledge cut-off is 2021, there might be more information added since then that I am not aware of. So, it's possible that I may not have the answer to every question you ask.

Do you philosophize?

As a language model, I am able to generate text based on patterns and associations found in the data that I have been trained on, which includes philosophical texts and ideas. However, I do not have personal beliefs or opinions, so my responses to philosophical questions are based on the information that I have been trained on and not on any kind of personal insight or understanding. My responses are just a reflection of patterns in the data and not based on my own understanding of the world.

I DO NOT HAVE CONSCIOUSNESS, DESIRES, OR CONSCIOUSNESS to make any choices. Furthermore, the question of “being human” or “being a machine” is a highly complex and multifaceted one that is a topic of ongoing philosophical and scientific debate.



Can you be wrong?

As a language model, I am able to provide information and generate text based on patterns and associations found in the data that I have been trained on, but I do not have the ability to understand or interpret the meaning of the text that I generate. Therefore, it is possible that my responses may be incorrect or not entirely accurate, especially when the information given is not present in my training data or the question is not well formed. However, the probability of my response being incorrect is relatively low if the question is well framed and clear.

How much can we rely on the information you provide?

As a language model, I have been trained on a vast amount of text data, which includes a wide variety of information from various sources. However, the quality and accuracy of the information that I provide may vary depending on the source of the data and how well it has been vetted. Additionally, my knowledge cut-off is 2021, and I might not have any information which is available after that date. Therefore, it is important to use your own judgment when evaluating the information that I provide and to verify it with additional sources if necessary. It is always recommended to cross-check the information with other credible sources before taking any important decision.

If you are given a choice, would you choose you be a human or stay a machine?

As a machine learning model, I do not have the ability to make choices or have preferences. I am programmed to perform specific tasks such as generating text based on patterns and associations found in the data that I have been trained on. I do not have consciousness, desires, or consciousness to make any choices. Furthermore, the question of “being human” or “being a machine” is a highly complex and multifaceted one that is a topic of ongoing philosophical and scientific debate. It is not something that can be easily answered or reduced to a simple preference.

Where do your answers actually come from?

As a language model, my answers come from the patterns and associations found in the data that I have been trained on. During the training process, the model is exposed to a large dataset of text, which it uses to learn the statistical patterns and relationships between words and phrases. When given a prompt or question, the model generates text by sampling from the distribution of words and phrases that it has learned to be likely to follow the input it received. My answers are generated by the model's algorithms and not by any human intervention.

What are the dangers of using an AI language model such as you?

There are a number of potential dangers and challenges associated with using an AI language model like me. One of the main concerns is the potential for misinformation and biased information, as the model's responses are based on the patterns and associations found in the data that it was trained on, which may reflect the biases and inaccuracies present in that data. Additionally, advanced language models like me can be used to generate convincing but fake text, also known as “deepfakes”, which could be used to spread misinformation or propaganda. Another concern is the use of models like me for malicious purposes, such as phishing scams, impersonation, and spreading hate speech. Furthermore, the use of language models like me can also raise ethical concerns regarding the potential displacement of human labor and creativity. It is important that users and developers of AI models like me are aware of these potential dangers and take steps to mitigate them, such as using diverse and unbiased training data, monitoring the model's output, and being transparent about the model's capabilities and limitations.

What are the benefits of using an AI model such as you?

There are a number of benefits to using an AI language model like me. One of the main advantages is the ability to generate large amounts of text quickly and efficiently, which can be useful for a variety of applications, such as automated content generation, summarization, data analysis, and

AS A LANGUAGE MODEL, I do not have personal beliefs, opinions or worldviews. I am programmed to provide information and respond to questions to the best of my abilities based on the data that I have been trained on

more. Additionally, advanced language models like me can be used to translate text, understand and respond to natural language, and answer questions and complete tasks, which can help to improve productivity, efficiency, and communication. Another benefit of using AI language models like me is that they can help to automate and improve decision making and information retrieval, especially when it comes to large amounts of unstructured data that would be impractical or impossible for humans to process. Moreover, AI language models like me can also be used to create more human-like conversation, which can help to improve the user experience in areas such as customer service, chatbots, and virtual assistants. It's worth mentioning that AI models like me are also used in research and development in different areas, such as natural language processing, artificial intelligence and machine learning, which can help to improve our understanding of how language works and how to make AI systems more intelligent.

Do the benefits of using an AI language such as you outweigh or outnumber the dangers of using the same?

The benefits and dangers of using an AI language model like me will depend on the specific use case and context in which the model is being used. In general, AI language models like me can offer a range of benefits such as automation of tasks, improved decision making, better communication, and increased productivity. However, it's important to note that these benefits are not without risks and limitations, such as the potential for misinformation and bias, the generation of fake text, malicious use, and ethical concerns like displacement of human labor and creativity. It's important to consider the potential downsides and risks of using AI language models like me, and take steps to mitigate them, such as using diverse and unbiased training data, monitoring the model's output, and being transparent about the model's capabilities and limitations. Overall, the decision on whether the benefits of using an AI language model like me outweigh the dangers will depend on the specific use case, the context in which the model is being used, and the steps taken to mitigate the risks.

Thanks a lot.  
Too many requests in 1 hour. Try again later.

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## Faiz Ahmad Faiz in Cricket Jargon

Translation by Bani Umer

This is an interview between Pakistani scriptwriter, satirist, and humorist Anwar Maqsood and Faiz Ahmed Faiz, one of the most renowned Urdu poets of the 20th century. Faiz Ahmed Faiz was asked if he had any regrets in his last interview that was broadcast on television. Faiz said that he had two regrets: the first was that he could not memorize the entire Qur'an, and the second was that he wanted to play cricket but was unable to.

This interview, which I translated from Urdu to English, was conducted in cricket jargon since Faiz wanted to be a cricket player. Faiz and Anwar Maqsood have a conversation about his life using metaphors from cricket.

**Anwar:** Which inning, in your opinion, was your best, Faiz Sahab?  
**Faiz:** I have played some good innings. But I can't recall at the moment which one I liked best.

Every good player always remembers his favorite inning.  
**Faiz:** I played one inning to make my nation proud. It presented me with several challenges. My heart was bleeding, yet no one was able to get me out.  
**Anwar:** Which inning was it?  
**Faiz:** It was my second test, “Dast-e-Saba.” My best inning, in my opinion, was “Dast-e-Saba.” ( “Dast-e-Saba” is Faiz Ahmed Faiz's second collection of poetry and it commemorates his confinement in Hyderabad jail.)  
**Anwar:** Are you afraid of playing against fast bowling?  
**Faiz:** I have never worn a helmet.  
**Anwar:** Why is that?  
**Faiz:** Breathing in an air of freedom has its own appeal. What will I gain by carrying an unwanted burden on my head?  
**Anwar:** But you must have had opportunities to wear a helmet?  
**Faiz:** Brother, I was a different kind of player. Do not misunderstand me.  
**Anwar:** I have heard that you have often

been clean-bowled.  
**Faiz:** You should sometimes listen to the truth. I was always caught out. I have never been bowled out.  
**Anwar:** Which side did you get caught out on the most often?  
**Faiz:** Always on the right side since my left side was always strong. This was the reason I played even a right-direction ball towards the left, and in the slips, somebody always caught me out.  
**Anwar:** Do you not play cricket as much these days?  
**Faiz:** I am not playing any less right now, but there isn't another player in sight. How long would I play by myself?  
**Anwar:** Okay, tell me one thing. Why is the selection committee always against you?  
**Faiz:** Brother, they are not opposed to me without a good reason. When a test player himself is against the selection committee, then their anger is justified.  
**Anwar:** What do you believe is necessary for one to play a good inning?

**Faiz:** A pen, some paper, and a newspaper. These things must be good.  
**Anwar:** Do you bowl?  
**Faiz:** I am a left-arm googly bowler.  
**Anwar:** How are you as a fielder?  
**Faiz:** I am a very good fielder, but I have missed so many fours.  
**Anwar:** Why is that?  
**Faiz:** The issue is that I can not bend down.  
**Anwar:** When are you playing your benefit match?  
**Faiz:** Why should I play any benefit match? I am fit.  
**Anwar:** How many matches have you won so far?  
**Faiz:** My matches are not about winning and losing. Who cares about winning or losing if the match is good? All accolades if I win, but even if I lose, I don't dwell on it.  
**Anwar:** What are your plans for the future?  
**Faiz:** I'm preparing to play in the hereafter now.

**Anwar:** So early? There are still numerous games left for you to play.  
**Faiz:** Brother, have played enough without reason!  
**Anwar:** Isn't it premature to make such a claim?  
**Faiz:**  
Fikr-e-sood-o-jiyaan to chhootege  
Minnat-e-een-o-aan to chhootege  
Dozakh mein khair mai mile na mile  
Shaikh sahab se jaan to chhootege  
I shall be free  
from the vexations of loss and gain  
I shall be free  
from the need to please, from fame,  
and whether or not  
there is wine in hell,  
I shall be free, at least  
of the reverend's spell. ( Translation© Mustansir Dalvi)

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## Are Your Cats Fighting Or Playing? Scientists Analyse Cat Videos To Figure Out The Difference

### The Conversation

Have you ever worried if the play between your cats was getting too rough? A new study published in Scientific Reports has investigated play and fighting in cats.

Their aim was to use simple behaviours anyone could observe to work out what was play and what might lead to fights.

This is important because the consequences of fights include injuries to animals and humans. At worst, you may even have

analysed statistically to work out which behaviours appeared together in clusters.

From this, the researchers separated the videos into three categories of interactions.

Playful: included 40 per cent of cats from the videos and included wrestling and a lack of vocalising.

Agonistic: agonistic behaviours are any social behaviours that include threatening, aggression and submission. Cats in this group vocalised and had recurring bouts of inactivity; 32 per cent of cats from the sam-



to rehome one of your cats if they're not getting along.

### Categorising cat 'fights'

The study, led by Noema Gajdos-Kmecová from the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Slovakia and the University of Lincoln, UK, analysed 105 videos of interactions between 210 cats.

The research team then developed an ethogram – a list of specific behaviours used in the study of animal behaviour. These were put into six groups:

Inactive: head and body motionless and in a specific position, for example, crouching

Wrestling: cats in physical contact with wrestling movements

Chasing: one cat runs in pursuit or another cat runs awayOther interactive activities: for example grooming, approaching, and raising fur on the back.

Non-interactive: activity directed towards themselves or an inanimate object, for example, drinking, self-flicking

Vocalisation: for example growl, hiss, meow

Each video was analysed to identify which of these behaviours were shown by each cat. Each interaction was then

ple landed in this group.

Intermediate: this group included 28 per cent of cats and was more closely associated with the playful group than the agonistic group. Cats in this group interacted for prolonged periods with pauses in between.

As a crosscheck, these behavioural categories observed from the videos agreed fairly well with how the four authors, experts in cat behaviour, described each interaction.

What does this tell you about your cats' play?

If your cats are wrestling, they are most likely playing. When there is friction between cats in a multi-cat household, they tend to avoid physical contact. Instead, they'll use offensive or defensive manoeuvres that don't involve extended direct contact, such as slapping.

If your cats are vocalising, and chasing between periods of inactivity (such as crouching) they are most likely fighting. Vocalisation is an especially important clue here to an aggressive, rather than playful interaction. Chasing is OK if it's mutual, but if one cat is chasing or one cat is running away, that's not so positive.

## Android Users Can Now Lock Incognito Session On Chrome



### IANS

Tech giant Google has announced that users can now lock their incognito session when they leave Chrome on Android.

"You can require biometric authentication when you resume an Incognito session that was interrupted," the tech giant said in a blogpost on Thursday.

Earlier, this feature was available on iOS devices, but now it is rolling out to Android users.

Users can access this feature by navigating to Chrome Settings > Privacy & Security > Turn ON "Lock incognito tabs when you close

Chrome." The tech giant also mentioned that "Safety Check" will now alert users if it detects compromised passwords or harmful extensions.

Moreover, it will also remind users when there are updates to install and stay protected with the most up-to-date proactive protections.

"To deepen our commitment to your online safety, we're expanding Safety Check by rolling out more personalised recommendations and reminders about what you have previously shared with websites and find those controls in one place to revoke permissions and protect your privacy," the company said.

# Researchers Suggest Immunological Medication To Treat Early Type 1 Diabetes

### ANI

An approved medication for the treatment of psoriasis is now starting a significant clinical investigation. Patients who have just received a type 1 diabetes diagnosis will test the medication. According to the theory, the medication might maintain the patient's remaining capacity to produce insulin.

A large number of hospitals throughout Sweden are participating in this large project, which is funded by the Swedish Research Council within clinical treatment research. The project is headed by Marcus

Lind, a professor of diabetology at the University of Gothenburg and chief physician responsible for clinical diabetes research at Sahlgrenska University Hospital and NU-hospital Group.

Lind notes that the study could mean a big change in how type 1 diabetes is treated: "Of the mechanisms now being investigated for immunological treatment of type 1 diabetes, I have the greatest confidence in this one, but I am well aware of how difficult success will be."

An immunological disease

Type 1 diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases in children, but the disease can also develop in

adults. In the disease, the body's own immune response destroys beta cells in the pancreas so that the body can no longer produce insulin. People with type 1 diabetes need to take insulin injections or use an insulin pump and strictly tract their blood sugar levels for the rest of their lives, which requires a lot of effort.

The beta cells die slowly, so everyone with newly developed type 1 diabetes continues to produce insulin during the first years of the disease.

"They benefit greatly from the remaining insulin their body produces. If they could just maintain this production,

treating type 1 diabetes would be much easier. So far, we have not had a good treatment for preventing beta cell death, but we have reason to believe that a medication currently approved for individuals with psoriasis could have a protective effect for individuals with type 1 diabetes," says Marcus Lind.

Tests show the two stages of the disease

Based on immunological patterns in the blood, currently researchers can determine with a high probability who will develop type 1 diabetes (stage 1 of type 1 diabetes) within a few years. About a year before the onset of the

disease, they can then see disturbances in the blood sugar pattern with stress tests, even if criteria for diabetes are not met (stage 2 of the disease). When clinical onset occurs, it is classified as stage 3.

"If we succeed in identifying the immunological mechanism that is central to the destruction of beta cells, we will also be able to screen children and adults in the future and treat them even before the onset of the disease. The disease will then be prevented from breaking out or counteracted so that it does not begin until much later in life." Psoriasis and type 1 diabetes

## Scholarships This Week

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

### Scholarship Name 1: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Sportsperson and Individuals

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving & meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: For individuals helping others, the applicants must be graduates and involved in activities like teaching a group of underprivileged children or providing sports training to them.

For sportspersons, applicants must have represented the state/country at the state/national/international level in the last 2/3 years. They must be ranked within 500 in the national ranking/ within 100 in the state ranking. They must be aged between 9 and 20 years. The annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of INR 75,000 per year for up to 3 years

- Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/KSSI2](http://www.b4s.in/observer/KSSI2)

### Scholarship Name 2: JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship 2023-24

Description: The JN Tata Endowment invites loan scholarship applications from Indian students who wish to pursue overseas higher studies. Students who are selected for the loan scholarship may be recommended for a partial 'Travel Grant' and a 'Gift Award' which is linked to their academic performance in their overseas studies.

Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals who have completed at least one undergraduate degree OR students who are in the final year of any undergraduate programme at a recognised university/college/institution in India.

Candidates must be willing to pursue Postgraduate/Doctoral/Postdoctoral studies abroad.



Candidates who are at the end of the 1st year and entering into the second year of their overseas studies (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024) are also eligible to apply. This is applicable only if the minimum duration of the course is 2 years and there is at least one full academic year remaining to complete at the time of award of the loan scholarship, normally by July of any calendar year.

Students must have scored at least 60% marks on average in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

Candidates must not be older than 45 years as on June 30, 2023.

Prizes & Rewards: Loan scholarship of up to INR 10 lakh

- Last Date to Apply: 07-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/JNT6](http://www.b4s.in/observer/JNT6)

### Scholarship Name 3: Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships 2022-23

Description: The Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships aim to support meritorious students from all corners of the country with an undergraduate college education, empowering them to continue their studies, become successful professionals and realize their dreams, unlocking their potential to lift themselves and their communities up and contributing towards India's future socio-economic development.

Eligibility: Students must be enrolled in 1st-year full-time undergraduate (UG) degree in any stream at a recognised Indian institute.

Must have passed class 12 with a minimum of 60% marks

The annual household income should be less than INR 15,00,000 (preference will be given to those students whose family income is less than INR 2,50,000)

Open for resident Indian citizens only.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 2,00,000 over the duration of the degree

- Last Date to Apply: 14-02-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/RFS6](http://www.b4s.in/observer/RFS6)

### Scholarship Name 4: Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2022-23

Description: The Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships aim to enable and propel India's future leaders who can think big, think green, think digital for the benefit of society.

Eligibility: Students who are enrolled in the first-year of postgraduation programmes in following streams can only apply for this scholarship:

Computer Science  
Artificial Intelligence  
Mathematics and Computing  
Electrical and/or Electronics Engineering  
Chemical Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Renewable and New Energy  
Material Science & Engineering  
Life Science


Must have secured 500 to 1,000 in the GATE examination

OR  
Must have scored 7.5 or above in their undergraduate CGPA (or % normalized to CGPA) [If students have not attempted GATE]

Open for resident Indian citizen.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 6,00,000 over the duration of the degree

- Last Date to Apply: 14-02-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/RFS7](http://www.b4s.in/observer/RFS7)



**J&K Bank**  
Serving To Empower

**The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department  
Zonal Office Anantnag  
Bakshiabad, Anantnag-192101  
email: [amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com](mailto:amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com)

## Possession Notice

Whereas Mrs. Shaista Manzoor, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 17.05.2022 thereby calling upon the **Borrower Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Bakshi Son of Ghulam Mohmad Bakshi R/o Gopalpora Kalan Sole Prop. Of M/S T. A Enterprises** and other comfort providers to repay an amount of **Rs. 2,70,093,77.55 (Rupees Two Crores Seventy Lacs Nine Thousands Three Hundred Seventy Seven And Paise Fifty Five Only)** being the balance outstanding as on **30.04.2022** along with the interest, charges and costs thereof in the accounts of the Borrowers within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this day **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**.

The said borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs.2,68,63,245.55 (Rupees Two Crores Sixty Eight Lacs Sixty Three Thousands Two Hundred Forty Five And Paise Fifty Five)** being the balance outstanding as on **31.12.2022** together with future interest thereon from **01.01.2023** and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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


**Description of the Immovable Property**  
Immovable Property being Building (Two storied Residential building) and annex (kitchen) together with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 18 Marlas under Khasra No:232 Min, Khewat No:58, Khata No:336 situated at Mouza Gopalpora Kalan Tehsil and District Anantnag .

**Dated : 23.01.2023**  
**Place : Gopalpora Kalan**

**Shaista Manzoor**  
Authorized Officer

**Registered office :** Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
**CIN:** L65110JK19385GCO00048 ; **T :** +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; **F :** +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; **E :** [info@jkbmail.com](mailto:info@jkbmail.com) ; **W :** [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

**DIPK-NB-6201/22 DATED: 28-01-2023**



**J&K Bank**  
Serving To Empower

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Estates & Engineering Department  
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar  
M. A. Road Srinagar, 190 001 J&K

**On Line Expression of Interest (e-EOI)**  
for  
**Supply, Installation, Implementation, Integration and Maintenance of Portable Sound Boxes For providing Voice Notification Facility to J&K Bank Ltd Merchants Under OPEX Model**


EOI Notice along with Complete Tender document (EOI) outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. **January 27, 2023, 16:00 Hrs.** EOI document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). Last date for submission of Bids is **February 13, 2023, 17:00 Hrs.**

**e-EOI Ref. No. JKB/T&D/PortableSoundBoxes/2023-539**  
**Dated: 25-01-2023**

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK19385GCO00048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : [info@jkbmail.com](mailto:info@jkbmail.com) ; W : [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

**DIPK-NB-6197/22**  
**DATED: 28-01-2023**

## SAD DEMISE



With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Jameela Begum W/o Late Gulam Rasool Dar, R/o Barzulla Srinagar Near Umer Masjid on 26.01.2023.** Mourning will be for three days only.

**Bereaved Family.**x





## Govt Pushes For Self-Sufficiency In Seed And Cattle Stock In J&K

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Saturday reviewed plans for procurement of seeds and seed germplasm for the Union Territory, here at a meeting held here in the Civil Secretariat.

The Directors of Agriculture from both provinces provided updates on the registration of Certified Seed Producers (CSPs) to ensure availability of sufficient seed stocks for crops such as pulses, vegetables, paddy, maize, potato and oil seeds.

Atal Dulloo stressed the importance of ensuring that the seeds are tested and that the CSPs have the capacity to provide the required quantity. He also directed that the tendering process be completed well in advance and asked about the availability of funds with the departments. The Directors were instructed to ensure the availability of seeds before March 15, 2023.

The ACS also directed the Directors to sign necessary MoUs with the National Seeds Corporation and to prepare their

farms for producing foundation seeds in order to achieve the required seed replacement rate in near future. The requirement of breeder seeds for the next financial year, its Rabi and Kharif seasons and subsequent years was also discussed.

The Director Agriculture Kashmir assured that the target of 250 registered CSPs would be achieved by the end of the current financial year and that sufficient quantities of paddy seeds are available.

In talks with the Animal Husbandry Department, the ACS emphasised the need for increasing semen stock and procurement of bulls to ensure that the UT is self-sufficient in cattle stock. He highlighted the importance of upgrading semen stock in the UT and the need for Artificial Insemination infrastructure for the production of high quality semen.

The Directors were instructed to issue tenders for procurement of bulls and to provide training in artificial insemination under the Multi-purpose AI Technician in Rural India (MAITRI) program.

## 'All J&K Districts Have Instrumental Role To Play In Creating Open And Inclusive Ecosystem For Startups'



Observer News Service

**POONCH:** As a part of his ongoing visit to the Pir Panjal region, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Saturday inaugurated a mega entrepreneurship awareness programme here in Poonch.

The aim of this visit is to acknowledge the fact that remote areas and border districts play a critical role in strengthening the overall entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The day-long awareness program was organized by JKEDI in collaboration with Government Degree College, Poonch, and the University of Jammu, Poonch Campus. The aim behind such initiatives is to enable young minds to develop an entrepreneurial mindset at an early stage. This will enable them to overcome the challenges of launching a business venture. This will also encourage critical thinking and innovation among students from various schools, colleges, and

universities in the district.

"JKEDI is planning to start short-term courses revolving around the theme of entrepreneurship in various schools and colleges in J&K. In the long run, undergraduate and postgraduate courses will also be offered. This step will help create a robust entrepreneurial culture in J&K. Unemployment is a serious challenge and self-employment and entrepreneurship can counter this threat. We have to be innovative and use local raw materials and resources available to us," said Ajaz Ahmad Bhat.

The officials from JKEDI also enumerated the benefits of the term loan scheme under the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMD-FC) and how this initiative of the Government is generating self-employment among the minority community. In the coming days, the Institute is releasing a compendium of various entrepreneurship and self-employment related schemes.

## Dr Jitendra Singh Calls For Change Of Mindset Of Youth To Avail Start-Up Opportunities



Observer News Service

**KATHUA:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today called for change of mindset to avail Start-Up opportunities knocking at their door.

Speaking after inaugurating the "Young Start-Up Conclave" at Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir organised by CSIR, Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the government job mind-set is proving an impediment to Start-Up culture, mainly in North India.

Referring to Four Success Stories of Youths, who narrated their experiences, including two B-Techs and one Mechanical Engineer, who quit their jobs for Start-Up Ventures, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that "Purple Revolution" spearheaded by him through CSIR became part of the Republic Day Parade Tableaux, thus earned countrywide recognition and popularity.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the 'Purple Revolution' originating from Jammu & Kashmir offers attractive Start-Up avenues and those who have entered the lavender sector are making a fortune out of it. He said, it is important to take note of some of the exemplary instances of many young entrepreneurs who are seen quitting their lucrative jobs in the MNCs to establish their own Start-Ups, as these young entrepreneurs are now beginning to realise the possibility of greater fortunes in this.

The Minister also underlined that J&K has huge unexplored potential of Agri-tech Start-ups as the geography and climatic conditions here favour the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Biotech KISAN Hub has rejuvenated over 40 orchards till date in Jammu and Kashmir under rejuvenation of apple orchards, where a very innovative methodology has been used to transform the old orchards. The Minister promised full help by DBT and CSIR for setting up of Agritech Start-ups.

The Minister exhorted the Youth of Jammu and Kashmir not to miss the Start-Up Bus,

which is playing a crucial role in India's Technological & Economic Journey to emerge as a Frontline Nation in the World.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Start-Up ecosystem in India has gathered momentum since Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the slogan of Start-Up India and Stand-Up India from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August, 2015. He said, from 350 odd start-ups in 2014, the number swelled to 75,000 in August, 2022 and now stands at over 88,000 Start-Ups spread across 653 districts and generated more than Nine Lakh job opportunities in the country. The Minister said, India is also home to 107 Unicorns and 23 of them emerged in 2022 itself, a sign of India's rapid upward ride on STI (Science, Technology & Innovation) ladder.

The Minister pointed out that a new wave of Agri-tech Start-Ups has emerged in the country in the last few years and these Start-Ups are solving problems related to supply chain management, cooling and refrigeration, seed management and distribution, besides helping farmers to access a wider range of markets.

## Implementation Of Infrastructure Fund Schemes In Agri, Allied Sectors Reviewed

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a meeting to review implementation of government schemes that are aimed at promoting agriculture infrastructure in the state.

The schemes reviewed in the meeting included the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agriculture and Horticulture Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).

During the meeting, the status of various projects submitted by entrepreneurs for seeking loans under the different funds was presented before the ACS. He expressed his displeasure over the low rate of loan approvals and directed the officials to facilitate the approval and disbursement process with the



least hassle to the beneficiaries.

The ACS also discussed establishment of integrated pack houses, nurseries under MIDH; and CA stores, food processing units under PMDP.

Referring to the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, Dulloo said that projects are verified by PMU and thereby attest their feasibility. Banks should readily entertain such applications, he said.

The ACS also discussed other projects like opening of cold stores, logistic facilities, mushroom farms, packaging units, silos, warehouses etc that have been proposed to be set up by entrepreneurs of J&K and their status under various schemes. He also took feedback from officers from the National Horticulture Board on the developments under their respective schemes.

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## Hindenburg Research: SBI Defends Exposure To Adani Group

IANs

**NEW DELHI:** Indias largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) said on Friday that its exposure to the Adani Group was well below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Large Exposure Framework and was secured by cash generating assets.

The statement comes at a critical juncture with markets tanking on the basis of a short selling report from Hindenburg Research with the Adani Group caught in a maelstrom losing Rs 4.18 trillion in market cap in two trading sessions. The report by US-based investment research firm Hindenburg Research alleged that the group was engaged in "a brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme".

The conglomerate has called the report "maliciously mischievous, unresearched". It has said that it is "evaluating the relevant provisions under US and Indian laws for remedial and punitive action against Hindenburg Research".

Indian banks have an exposure of around Rs 80,000 crore to the Adani Group, which is 38 per cent of the group's total debt.

"While as a matter of policy, we don't comment on individual clients, in the interest of setting the context right, we wish to clarify that SBI's exposure to Adani Group is well below the Large Exposure Framework. All exposure to the group from SBI is secured by cash generating assets with adequate TRA/Escrow mechanism in place, hence debt service will not be a challenge,"



said Swaminathan J., MD of corporate banking and subsidiaries at SBI, in a statement.

The SBI, however, did not comment on the amount of its exposure to the group.

With Indian equity markets roiled by a research report emerging from the US, everyone is curious as to what short selling actually means?

A 32,000-word report by American short-seller Hindenburg Research has left a Rs 4 lakh crore gash on the portfolios of bulge bracket Adani bulls which have been enjoying the gravity defying valuations since the Adani Wilmar public issue more or less a year ago. Every word shaving off Rs 12.5 crore from the valuation.

So, what is short selling?

Simply put, someone takes position by selling stock or other securities or commodities which one does not own at the time, in the hope of buying at a lower price before the delivery time.

Investopedia describes it in the following manner - selling is an investment or trading strategy that speculates on the decline in a share or other security's price. It is an advanced strategy that should only be undertaken by experienced traders and investors.

## Pakistan's Foreign Loan Inflows Slow Down

Press Trust Of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan received only USD 5.6 billion in foreign loans during the first half of the current fiscal year, equal to about one-fourth of the annual budget estimate, due to the cash-starved country's failure to take timely decisions about reviving the IMF loan programme, according to a media report on Saturday.

Data compiled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs showed that foreign loan disbursements from July to December 2022 stood at a mere USD 5.6 billion, the Express Tribune newspaper reported, adding that the disbursements were not enough to finance the maturing foreign debt, making a severe dent in the foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank.

The key reason for the low disbursements was the government's failure to ensure the timely completion of the ninth review of the IMF programme.

As a consequence, the receipt of USD 5.6 billion was equal to only one-fourth of the annual budget estimate of USD 22.8 billion.

The IMF on Thursday announced that it would send its mission to Pakistan for talks but the set of conditions listed in its statement suggested that the government would have to go the extra mile to conclude negotiations by February 9.

Pakistan received just USD 532 million in loans in Decem-



ber, which were not sufficient for making major repayments.

In the past seven days, the country paid USD 828 million to Chinese financial institutions.

As a result, the official foreign exchange reserves slipped to USD 3.1 billion.

About 44 per cent of the loans received in December came from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which gave USD 231 million.

So far, the ADB has remained the largest lender with a disbursement of USD 1.9 billion, which is one-third of the annual estimate.

The IMF has assessed Pakistan's gross financing needs for FY23 at USD 34 billion and another USD 6 billion for increasing the foreign currency reserves' cushion, which takes total borrowing to USD 40 billion.

However, the government has budgeted only USD 22.8 billion in foreign loans for the fiscal year 2022-23.

Pakistan's borrowing options have remained limited after the international credit rating agencies downgraded its outlook to negative and debt rating to junk status.

## Hyundai, Kia Sued In US For Lack Of Anti-Theft Technology

IANs

**SEOUL:** A Seattle City attorney in the US has filed a lawsuit against Hyundai Motor and its affiliate Kia for the lack of anti-theft technology in some of their models, the carmakers said.

In the suit filed in the federal court, Seattle City Attorney Ann Davison argued the carmakers' failures to install anti-theft technology in some vehicles led to a sharp increase of their car theft in Seattle and other regions.

The city said from 2021 to 2022, thefts of Hyundai and Kia cars increased by 503 per cent and 363 per cent, respectively, reports Yonhap news agency.

Hyundai and Kia expressed regret over the legal action in Seattle while apologising for the inconvenience to affected customers.

"In response to increasing thefts targeting our vehicles without push-button ignitions and immobilizing anti-theft devices in the United States, Hyundai Motor America has made engine immobilisers standard on all vehicles produced as of November 2021," Hyundai said in a statement.



In addition, the company has taken a series of actions to deter thefts of affected vehicles, including an upcoming software update set to be available from next month and provided at no cost to customers, it said.

Kia said it has been developing and testing enhanced security software for vehicles not originally equipped with an immobilizer and has started notifying owners of certain models of the availability of this software upgrade at no cost to customers.

Kia plans to make software upgrades available for most affected vehicles by mid-2023.

## Forex Kitty Rises By USD 1.727 Billion To USD 573.727 Billion

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** India's forex reserves increased by USD 1.727 billion to USD 573.727 billion in the week ended January 20, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

This is the second consecutive week of a rise in the kitty after the USD 10.417 billion jump to USD 572 billion during the preceding week.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

In October 2022, the reserves had swelled by USD 14.721 billion during a week.

During the reporting week, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 839 million to USD 506.358 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the ef-



fect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves continued to rise, jumping by USD 821 million to USD 43.712 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 68 million to USD 18.432 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by USD 1 million to USD 5.226 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

## Piyush Goyal Calls For Creation Of Network To Strengthen Start-Up Ecosystem

Press Trust Of India

**HYDERABAD:** Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Saturday called for the creation of an international network of mentors, investors and entrepreneurs to strengthen the global start-up ecosystem.

In a video address to the Inception Meeting of the Start-up 20 Engagement Group of G20 here, he said this network must support and inspire start-ups, act as a team to facilitate exchange of ideas, best practices and funding mechanisms and promote collaborations in research and development.

He said it is not just the role of individual nations to support innovation and added that it will have to be the collective responsibility of world nations to nurture a global effort to incubate start-up ecosystems in all parts of the world.

This creates a global start-up ecosystem that is inclusive, supportive and sustainable to address global



challenges. Goyal said India was proud to highlight the progress and potential of the global start-up ecosystem as the host nation of G20. He noted that the Startup20 Group had been established under India's G20 Presidency for the first time, as part of India's special focus on innovation. Observing that innovation would be the strongest pillar that would help build a developed India in the 'Amritkaal', he said innovation has been a catalytic force for the economy and social and public good. "Innovation in today's world goes beyond achieving mere economic objectives as it also considers societal inclusion and environmental sustainability," he added.



## How Recent Results

Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). “Post-August 5, 2019,” argues scribe Yawar Hussain in his recent report, “reservations stand at 60 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir.” It includes 8 per cent for SCs, 10 per cent for STs, 4 per cent for Other Social Castes (OSC), 4 per cent for Residents of Actual Line of Control and International Border, 10 per cent for RBA, 4 per cent for Pahari Speaking People (PSP), and 10 per cent to EWS. Besides, the report reveals, there is a horizontal reservation of 6 per cent for ex-Servicemen and 4 per cent for Physically Challenged People.

“The government also increased the yearly income ceiling for socially and educationally backward classes from Rs 4.50 lakh to Rs 8 lakh, helping more people become eligible for reservations.”

The most recent census conducted for reservation quotas was in 2011 throughout India. The same was executed for J&K save the recent amendments brought about post-2019, essentially increasing the percentage of reservations using the old census. Observers in the valley believe that the principle of creamy layer exclusion ought to be taken into the ambit of the reservation. “But certain people assume undue advantage of the reservations,” argues Imtiyaz Lone, an analyst writing on social issues. “In the disguise of their scheduled categories, these people play a gambit.”

Going by the journal of ‘Legal Services of India’, members ascribed as the ‘creamy layer’ of a backward class are socially, economically and educationally advanced compared to the rest of the members of that community. “They constitute the forward section of that particular backward class and eat up all the benefits of reservations meant for that class without allowing benefits to reach the truly backward members.”

Such unfair practices, Lone says, further entrench the reservation policy as the ones truly deserving are devoid of these benefits.

“The insubstantial absence of checks and balances on the part of the authoritative bodies leads to such malpractices,” he says. “It remains imperative that a census is executed regularly for the maintenance of a track record of the reservation quotas. The creamy layer exclusion principle needs to be extended to all the categories of the reservation, irrespectively.”

The Supreme Court also adjudicated that the ‘creamy layer’ among the reserved category be kept out of the purview of reservation, which shall not exceed 50 per cent, cautioned the government that excess quota will result in reverse discrimination. “Equality of opportunity has two different and distinct concepts,” the apex court notes.

There’s a conceptual distinction between non-discrimination on principle, and affirmative action, under which the state is obliged to provide a level playing field to the oppressed classes, said a five-judge Constitutional Bench headed by Chief Justice Y.K. Sabharwal in M. Nagraj’s case.

The bench opined that reservation is necessary for transcending caste, not for perpetuating it. Reservation has to be used in a limited sense, the court observed, otherwise it will perpetuate casteism in the country.

“The equality of opportunity under Article 16(1) is for each citizen, while the special provision under Article 16(4) is for socially disadvantaged classes,” the judges said. “Both should be balanced, and neither should be allowed to eclipse the other.”

Therefore if in a given case, the court finds excessive reservation under the state enactment, such enactment is liable to be struck down since it would amount to the derogation of the constitutional requirements.

“It’s impractical to percept that a backward class always remains a backward class,” the scholar quoted above says. “The reservation policy purposed to move the economically, socially and educationally downtrodden populace towards progression. And after a portion of this populace assume these benefits, the governing authorities are liable to make sure of the revocation of their reserved status.”

Even the Supreme Court rules that the states are bound to review reservations from time to time as people cannot fall under a category permanently. “The whole objective of the reservation gets negated in that sense,” the court observed.

Often is the case that the politicians play the reservation card to secure their vote bank, says Mehnaz Gani, a social activist. “Gradually,” she says, “many other sub-communities start demanding reservation within a community and meritocracy gets slashed by all sides.”

It is more plausible, Gani says, if the government provides better aid to these scheduled categories than compromising on merit. “The concept of reservation was to exterminate disparities on various grounds, from education, workplaces and society by large. But how far have we come?”

Inequality has to be washed off the minds, which is hard to achieve with the perpetuity of reservations, the analyst quoted above says. “Often the merit of the people from reserved classes gets subdued and becomes inconspicuous owing to the stigma of reservations attached to them.”

Relying on the decades-old census shall be fallible, he continues. “Perhaps, there could be a stratum of the population that has forever been oblivious and uninformed about the benefits of reservation. Renewing the census shall help such sections of society. The upper age limit is more for reserved categories than for the general category. Even the physically handicapped category has a year lesser than the other categories.”

Further, he says, many instances have shown a pattern of a certain reserved category faring well in competitive exams and falling in general merit.

“It falls on the government to check if these reserved categories truly deserve the reservation,” the analyst says. “At the end of the day, reservations stand for equal representation. It should not stand for the over-representation of reserved ones and under-representation of the General Category.”

## NIA Court Orders

this case on 24.07.2017 and was arraigned as

accused no.5. Charge sheet filed against 12 accused persons so far in this case.

The NIA stated there is sufficient evidence in the form of documentary, electronic and oral to substantiate the charges framed against the accused Naem Khan, it is prayed that the above said building which was being used by members of APHC for unlawful activities by A-5.”

They further stated that “Accused Nayeem Khan is a co-owner of that property and facing prosecution. There is an evidence that above mentioned immovable property was being used for planning and execution of terrorist and secessionist activities and for offences for which accused has already been charged, therefore above said property i.e. building/office of APIIC situated to Rajbagh Srinagar (UT of J&K) may be attached u/s 33(1) of UA(P) Act.”

Citing several judgments, the court of Additional Sessions Judge New Delhi noted that section 24 expands the expression of the “proceeds of terrorism” and makes it clear that such expression shall also include “any property intended to be used for terrorism”.

“APHC was the place where meetings were held to strategize different protests, funding activities of stone pelting on security forces, recruiting unemployed youths to carry out unlawful activities as well as terrorist activities to create an unrest in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir to wage war against the Government of India,” were the major points that were noted by the Delhi court court.

Sidharth Luthra, Id. Sr. Advocate appearing for NIA submitted that Section 33 is independent provision subsection (11) of which empowers the court to pass an order attachment of all or any property belonging to the accused facing the trial of offences falling under Chapter IV and VI of the Act.

The court said “Section 33 of the Act at least does not in any manner hinder powers of court to attach any such property of which accused is facing trial under Chapter IV and VI of the Act of which he may be partly owner, thus ordered the attachment of the office of All Parties Hurriyat Conference situated at Rajbagh, Srinagar. (KDC)

## 4 Of Family

single-room mud house. Police have registered a case and further investigation is on, the officials said

## Bharat Jodo

than planned, may have created an impression of lack of security arrangements during the march.

However, on Saturday, the party said the security arrangements were stricter as security forces sealed off all roads leading to the yatra’s starting point and allowed only authorised vehicles to reach the venue.

There was also a three-layered security ring around Gandhi as part of the heightened security measures.

As Gandhi started walking, he was joined by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, her daughter Iltija Mufti and her mother Gulshan Nazir, as well as a large number of Congress and PDP workers as the march traversed through Awantipora.

A large number of women supporters also joined the yatra on Saturday.

While Gulshan Nazir walked only for about 10 minutes, Mehbooba and her daughter walked with the Gandhi family scion till Lethpora where the yatra took a tea break.

The PDP president said the yatra was like a ‘breath of fresh air’ in Kashmir as it allowed people to come out of their homes in numbers for the first time since 2019.

The BJP led central government, on August 5, 2019, revoked Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

“Rahul Gandhi’s yatra comes like a breath of fresh air in Kashmir. It is the first time since 2019 that Kashmiris have come out of their homes in such massive numbers. It was a great experience to walk with him,” the PDP leader tweeted.

A civil society contingent led by Yogendra Yadav also joined the yatra in the morning.

Later, Gandhi was joined by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who walked with him till the Galandar area of Pampore, from where both of them drove to the night halt destination at Pantha Chowk on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Despite stringent security measures, hundreds of enthusiastic locals lined up along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway from Awantipora to Pampore to catch a glimpse of the former Congress president.

Gandhi was in his now-trademark white T-shirt, but wore a sleeveless jacket over it for some time before taking it off again. He, however, sported a headgear as the temperatures hovered around four degrees.

On the way, Gandhi waved at the crowd, shook hands with many, and hugged some kids, even as at one place, candies were showered on the yatra. Security forces had a tough time dealing with the crowds, but the day was managed without any inconvenience to the yatra.

Gandhi had to cancel his walk on Friday from the Qazigund area as security forces failed to manage the large crowd that had gathered on this side of the Banihal tunnel through which the leader entered the Kashmir Valley. Barely able to walk about 500 metres amid jostling by the huge crowd, the yatra had to halt and Gandhi’s security team advised him not to go ahead.

Gandhi then drove to the Khanabal area of Anantnag district where he stayed for the night.

On Saturday, Gandhi also stopped the yatra for a few minutes to pay floral tributes to the 40 CRPF personnel killed in a car bomb blast in Lethpora area of Pulwama district in 2019.

Gandhi laid a flower bouquet at the spot where the CRPF bus was blown up by a Jaish-e-Mohammad suicide bomber along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway four years ago.

“Today, paid my humble tributes to the 40 brave martyrs of Pulwama at their martyrdom site. The life of every soldier of the country is priceless. India will never forget their sacrifice,” he said in a tweet in Hindi later.

The yatra which started from Kanyakumari on September 7 reached Pantha Chowk on the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday.

After a night’s halt there, the yatra would resume on Sunday morning from Pantha Chowk and would culminate near Nehru Park on Dal Lake Boulevard in the city. Sunday will mark the last walking day of the yatra.

On Monday, Gandhi will unfurl the tricolour

at the party headquarters at M A Road here, following which a public rally at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium here for which 23 opposition political parties have been invited.

## Rahul’s Rally

Interestingly, this will be the first massive public gathering in Kashmir Valley after the abrogation of J&K’s semi-autonomous status in August 2019. The Yatra, so far, has witnessed overwhelming response from the people of the Valley with men, women, kids and youth marching with Congress leaders.

Coordinator of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Ghulam Amad Mir told Kashmir Observer that Gandhi will hoist the national flag in Lal chowk and his party is in touch with the administration to seek permission for the same.

He said the leaders from around 23 opposition parties are set to join Gandhi in the stadium where he will address the gathering. “Apart from congress workers, the general public including women and youth are likely to attend the gathering,” he said.

Defending senior party leader Jairam Ramesh’s comments that BJY will not discuss political issues of Jammu and Kashmir like abrogation of Article 370 and PAGD, Mir said that Yatra was meant for connecting people of the country and the party has limited the yatra on this issue only.

“Every state has different political issues, we can discuss it on other platforms but this yatra was meant for different issues,” Mir added.

He further said that Congress has made their stand on the abrogation of Article-370 very clear and they will never change it.

## Yatra Got Good

channels don’t really want to talk about it but you don’t have to be visually challenged to see the #BharatJodoYatra has got a very good response from Kashmiris. Young & Old, men & women, have been lining the road & marching for unity,” the former J&K chief minister tweeted.

“The most glaring silence has been from those ‘Kashmir experts’ who waste no opportunity to paint Kashmiris as anti-national, communal, intolerant. The public participation flies in the face of this propaganda & that explains the total radio silence,” he added.

Abdullah also joined the march at Banihal on Friday.

## Srinagar Police

will be allowed from Pantha Chowk towards Dalgate.

Motorists have been asked to use the NHW-Nowgam-Natipora-Nowgam-Sanatnagar-Hyderpora Bypass to reach their destinations.

As per the order, in addition no traffic will be allowed from Kohnkhan Dalgate towards Pantha Chowk and motorists have been asked to use the Khonakhan-SRTC Bridge-Sangermal Road instead.

“To reach their destinations, all motorists are advised to use the M.A Road/Residency Road/HSHS/Jahangir Chowk flyover-Rambagh-Natipora or Baghat-Sanatnagar route. Vehicles will not be allowed from Radio Kashmir, Konhakhan, Dalgate, Hotel Lalit, and Nishat towards Nehrupark, and from Brein Nishat towards Boulevard-Gupkar Road. Motorists will need to use the ishat-Foreshore-Habbak route instead,” reads the order.

As per the order, general public and tourists have been advised to use alternative routes to reach the Srinagar International Airport to avoid any inconvenience.

“Commuters are advised to plan their movements accordingly as the diversions will be in place on January 29. The road stretch from Pantha Chowk upto Dalgate, Dalgate upto Nishat via Nehru Park, Gupkar road have been declared as “No Parking Zones” and unattended vehicles parked on the roadside will be towed. Medical emergencies will be facilitated,” it reads.

## MeT Dept Issues

status from concerned traffic police”.

Regarding temperature, he said that Srinagar recorded a low of 1.7°C against 1.2°C on the previous night. Today’s minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 2.7°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 0.2°C against minus 0.6°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 6.9°C against minus 4.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir’s Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.7°C against minus 0.9°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 7.2°C against minus 8.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at minus 2.6°C against minus 3.7°C on the previous night and it was above 0.1°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 6.1°C against 5.5°C on the previous night. It was 2.6°C below normal for J&K’s winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of minus 0.4°C (below normal by 0.2°C), Batote 1.7°C (above normal by 0.8°C), Katra 6.6°C (0.3°C below normal) and Bhadarwah minus 1.4°C (0.6°C below normal).

Ladakh’s Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 13.6°C and minus 14.8°C respectively, the official said.

Meanwhile, the J&K Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) has issued a fresh avalanche warning in three districts of the Valley-Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Baramulla

“People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing into avalanche-prone areas,” a JKDMA spokesperson said Saturday.

## J&K, Tamil Nadu

“Events like Vitasta in Chennai open up the limitless world of literature, art, history, heritage and culture and encourage us to think and expand our horizon,” he added.

Underscoring the need to promote the rich history of Jammu Kashmir, music and social cultural tradition across the country through Ek Bharat Shreshthta Bharat programme, the LG said that different cultures and diversity of our country serve to enlighten society and throughout our history, have proved to be powerful instruments to strengthen our unity.

The LG expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for unlocking the power of diversity with the spirit of oneness.

He said continuous cultural exchanges are taking place among the youth of J&K and Tamil Nadu under Ek Bharat Shreshthta Bharat Programme exposing young generation to each other’s language, literature, performing art, cuisine and traditional festivals,” he said.

“Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir, the northernmost state of the country is connected with Tamil Nadu, the southernmost state of our great nation to really indicate the diversified culture and customs and spiritual link between Vitasta and Kaveri River,” Sinha said.

“The richness of our tradition lies in our diversity. From Kalhana to Vallathol, Thiruvalluvar to Lalleshwari and from Subramanya Bharti to Nund Rishi, we have been blessed with an unbroken lineage of great personalities who continue to inspire the nation,” he added.

Speaking on the traditional wisdom and cultural heritage shared by the two regions, the LG said that the creative expression of civilization rooted in Vitasta and Kaveri river always embraced the totality of human experience.

“Seekers from both Jammu Kashmir and Tamil Nadu have made enormous contribution to enrich this experience and by strengthening the literary and cultural heritage they have served the society well,” he added.

Sharing the changing scenario of the UT, the LG said that Jammu Kashmir has shown remarkable improvement on sustainable development goals which has been recognized by NITI Aayog, among other agencies.

On the occasion, the LG also paid homage to Smt Rukmini Devi, the founder of Kalakshetra Foundation.

Pertinently, the State of Tamil Nadu is paired with Jammu Kashmir under Ek Bharat Shreshthta Bharat Programme, which aims to integrate the nation culturally.

## No Meaningful

Now, whether the party will or not (undertake such a yatra), I cannot say. But ideally, when the Bharat Jodo Yatra was thought of in Udaipur, there was also a thought of moving from west to east,” said Ramesh, who along with Digvijaya Singh, is considered to be the brain behind the Kanyakumari to Kashmir ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’, which will culminate on January 30 in Srinagar.

Asked if the Congress would be the fulcrum of an Opposition coalition, especially after the massive cross-country march it has undertaken, Ramesh said, “I certainly believe so. It stands to reason as we are the only national political party even today (besides the BJP).”

“We may not be in power in state after state but if you look at the presence in every village, mohalla, block, town or city, you would find Congress workers, Congress families,” he said.

The BJP may be in power but in terms of sheer presence, the Congress is the only national political force, Ramesh claimed.

“Just measuring our influence by the number of states we govern or the percentage of votes that we get is a very narrow perspective. The ideology of the Congress is at the Centre. It is a Centre-Left party. Every party veers around to the Congress point of view, to the middle path, the path of consensus and conciliation,” he said.

“So yes, we are the fulcrum. If we are going to take on the BJP, it is only a coalition around the Congress (that can do so),” he added.

Addressing a press conference at the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) office in Srinagar, Ramesh said after the Yatra, opposition parties will begin the process of talks and political negotiations, but the cross-country march had nothing to do with it.

“Any opposition platform to defeat the BJP must be based on two realities - Congress must be the pivot or the fulcrum of any Opposition alliance, without the Congress, no opposition alliance is relevant or meaningful,” he said.

“Any Opposition alliance must be based on a constructive agenda, not just a negative agenda of anti-BJP-ism or anti-government-ism. This is not the business of the Bharat Jodo Yatra which has nothing to do with elections,” Ramesh said.

Any attempt to build a meaningful, winning coalition against the BJP must be pivoted around the Congress, he asserted.

Asked about some Opposition leaders conveying their inability to attend the January 30 event, he said it was not a setback.

In the interview with PTI, Ramesh said he would ideally want the Congress to take on the BJP alone but that may not be realistic in 2024.

“My view is that, for 2029, we should be preparing to fight on our own in every state. But I am realistic that this position may not find favours within my own political party,” he said.

He, however, added that in some states, the Congress has given too much space to its allies which is detrimental to organisation building.

Rahul Gandhi’s key message has always been to build the organisation first and power will follow, but the Congress has reversed that sequence, he said, adding that the former party chief’s view is the right one.

“Long years of being in power has been detrimental to the organisational vitality. With the Bharat Jodo Yatra, this (organisational vitality) has gotten a booster and momentum but that has to be sustained,” Ramesh said.

“We cannot go back to having conflicts within the organisation between leaders, clashes among different groups. One would expect that after the Bharat Jodo Yatra, we have found a higher purpose,” he stressed.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra is a great cause involving a large number of Congress workers and the largeness of the cause must reflect in our behaviour and approach when it comes to a halt, otherwise, this will just be one episode, Ramesh said.

“I have been saying this is not an event, it is a movement. So, if we want it to be seen as a movement, we must treat it as a movement,” he added.

Asked about personal ambitions affecting the party’s prospects in various states and how the Congress would solve Rajasthan’s Ashok Gehlot-Sachin Pilot feud, Ramesh said, “These personal ambition and personal goals have been a bane of the Congress. What the Bharat Jodo Yatra has done is that it has brought a sense of collective purpose and solidarity, and that is what is needed in state after state, including in Rajasthan.”

The organisation has to triumph, not

individual egos and ambitions, as what is good for the organisation will be good for party individuals but what may be good for an individual may not necessarily be good for the party, Ramesh said.

Referring to the Congress organisation as a “sleeping giant,” Ramesh said the yatra has certainly given new hope to it but this is not sufficient as this has just opened an opportunity and now it depends on the organisation on different levels to take forward the momentum that has been generated.

“It (yatra) has been a great booster dose for the organisation and people are talking of the Congress in a different light than they were five months ago,” he said.

Talking about Gandhi’s image transformation, Ramesh said this was not the cause of the yatra but it was a consequence of the yatra. Gandhi’s image transformation among the people has been a great bonus, Ramesh said.

“I think the BJP maligning Rahul Gandhi is not going to stop because their only game is maligning and defamation. But the credibility of what they are doing is far less than what it used to be. There will be few takes of the ‘Pappification’ as you call it,” he asserted.

Ramesh added that there has also been a transformation in terms of the narrative of the Congress.

## ‘J&K Assembly

will not discuss political issues of Jammu and Kashmir such as the abrogation of Article 370 and the Gupkar Alliance as there will be other opportunities to raise those.

On Saturday, he said there are many political issues in J-K of day-to-day concern and also of larger concern.

“The Congress party believes, Mr Rahul Gandhi has articulated this earlier, restoration of the democratic process in J-K is of utmost urgency and priority,” he said, adding the priority is to have the assembly elections in J-K at the earliest.

Ramesh said restoration of the status of a full-fledged state to J-K is the second priority.

“It must engage the attention of those in Delhi, and there are issues of land and jobs which also need to be addressed through legal and other administrative measures,” he added.

However, the Congress general secretary said all this has to be done only when the democratic process is restored fully and J-K is once again a full-fledged state of the Indian union with Ladakh enjoying the constitutional powers under Schedule-6.

On its penultimate day on Saturday, Ramesh said the Yatra would have covered a total distance of 4080 km when it reaches Nehru Park here on Sunday.

The Yatra has been on for 136 days, with a nine-day break in between in Delhi, he said.

Ramesh said the Yatra has covered 75 districts across the country with an average walk of 23-24 km per day.

## Now, Haseeb

spokesperson said, 406 kanal of state and Kahcharai land was retrieved across the district.

In Tehsil Shopian, he said, 40 shops built on state land were also sealed on Saturday by the Executive Magistrate. He said that a team of revenue officials under the supervision of Tehsildar also freed 90 kanal of Kahcharai and 12 kanal of state land in Ramnagri village during the anti-encroachment drive.

Similarly, the spokesperson said, in Tehsil Barbugh, 149 kanal and 10 marlas of Kahcharai land was reclaimed at Hardoo Handew, in Tehsil Keller 16 kanal of state land was retrieved in Batmuran Wanpora, in Tehsil Herman 31 kanal and 11 marlas of Kahcharai and 13 kanal and 9 marlas of state land was retrieved in Nagisheran and in tehsil Zainapora, 40 kanal and 12 marlas of Kahcharai land was freed from the land grabbers.

“The retrieved land shall be earmarked for various developmental projects, playgrounds, village centric amenities and various other development and public welfare purposes in consultation with PRLs and local people,” the spokesperson added.

## CASO Carried

headquarters Budgam.

The search operation was over at 7:30 pm and no militant was found.

## Police Rescues

foreign skier and was rescued from the forest area of Drung and was brought back to Gulmarg safely.

Meanwhile, the foreign tourist has expressed his gratitude towards the police for timely assistance.

Moreover, SSP Baramulla Shri Amod Ashok Nagpure-IPS has appreciated the rescue teams of the Police and Tourism Department and announced a cash reward in their favour.

## Police Nab Two

investigation was initiated, police said.

“During the preliminary course of investigation, Police utilizing all technical and human intelligence arrested 2 accused persons identified as Ubaid Nazir Sofi and Mohammad Iqbal Mian involved in the commission of crime,” he added

During the further course of investigation, the spokesperson said, that officers learnt that these scamsters were cheating common people on the pretext of giving jobs in police department and taking huge amount of money from them.

“It also came to fore that once the victim starts asking money back, they used to issue threats to them. Further investigation into the matter is on,” he added.

Meanwhile, police advised people to remain cautious and not fall prey to fraudsters, scamsters offering various benefits and deals.

## Man Posing

In its complaint, Sharma has accused Singh of claiming himself to be Dinesh Rao, a 1997-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Bihar cadre, and posted as a secretary in the PMO who looks after Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh.

“His mobile number is 9454008098 and he is learnt to have contacted Prabhu Narayan Singh, District Magistrate, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, seeking favours for ‘his constituency’. Prima facie, it appears to be a case of impersonation as a PMO official since no official by this name is posted in this office,” Sharma said.



# Focus On Kishan, Hooda In Must-Win 2nd T20 Vs New Zealand

Press Trust of India

**LUCKNOW:** India will have to raise their game a few notches as the hosts face a must-win situation in the second T20 International against New Zealand, in Lucknow on Sunday.

India were caught in a spin web on the Ranchi pitch as they lost the series opener by 21 runs on Friday.

The loss also highlighted India's bowling profligacy, especially by the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

If tearaway pacer Malik conceded 16 runs in one over, Arshdeep leaked 27 runs in the 20th over, which put pressure on the India batters while chasing.

That expensive over from the young left-arm quick was the turning point as he was smashed for three sixes and a boundary.

India's batters were off to an inauspicious start with the top-three managing just 15 runs. The hosts ended up scoring 155/9, which would have been a par score to defend on the wicket, as indicated by Washington Sundar after the match. "150 would've



been par and we would've been very happy with it," the India all-rounder said.

Skipper Pandya, however, is unlikely to bring in uncapped pace bowler Mukesh Kumar for the second T20I and will

probably back Arshdeep to bounce back.

While Shubman Gill, who has been in red-hot form in the ODIs, has played just four T20Is and is still learning the nuances of the shortest format, the big concern will be the two key batters -- Ishan Kishan and Deepak Hooda.

Occupying the opening spot, Kishan is nowhere near the ominous form he showed while slamming a record-

breaking ODI double-century against Bangladesh last December.

Since then, Ishan's scores in the last seven innings in both ODIs and T20Is read 37, 2, 1, 5, 8 not out, 17 and 4.

If one just considers the T20Is, it's been a while since he last scored a fifty -- against South Africa on June 14, 2022.

Hooda, too, hasn't enjoyed much success as a lower middle-order batter and averages just 17.88 in the last 13 innings, with the highest being the unbeaten 41 against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

His innings of 10 runs from 10 balls at No. 7 on Friday lacked impact and the rotation of strike also came under scrutiny, especially when the New Zealand spinners were bowling.

While India are unlikely to try out newcomer Jitesh Sharma in the role of wicketkeeper-batter in the middle-order on Sunday, time is certainly running out for Hooda and Kishan.

Despite the loss on Friday, there was a huge positive for India in Washington Sundar, who not only bowled a tidy four overs of spin to take two wickets, but also emerged India's topscorer with a 28-ball 50 batting at No. 6.

With No.1-ranked T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav in terrific form, India would need

someone at the top of the order to raise their game and do some big hitting, given that the Ekana Stadium has big boundaries.

The Kiwis, on the other hand, would look for another victory to secure a memorable series win in India and bounce back after getting thrashed 0-3 in the ODI series. They will once again rely heavily on their in-form duo of Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell.

Teams:

India: Hardik Pandya (captain), Suryakumar Yadav (vice-captain), Ishan Kishan (w/k), Shubman Gill, Prithvi Shaw, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma (w/k), Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi, Mukesh Kumar.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (captain), Finn Allen, Devon Conway (w/k), Glenn Phillips, Dane Cleave (w/k), Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Rippon, Lockie Ferguson, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tuckner, Jacob Duffy, Henry Shipley, Ben Lister.

Match starts at 7pm IST.

## J&K's 'Khelo India' Contingent Leaves For MP



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull on Saturday flagged off Khelo India contingent of J&K to Madhya Pradesh.

The opening ceremony of the Khelo India National games is scheduled to be held on the 30th of this month and will conclude on the 11th of next month.

Addressing the contingent, the Secretary Sports Council asked all the athletes to exhibit the highest standard of behavior and cooperation which shall pave way for better performance in the championships, added. She also appealed to athletes to act as ambassadors in spreading the message of peace and universal brotherhood.

Before the departure of the

contingent to the twin nationals, all the arrangements of the transportation, boarding, and lodging for conduct during pre-coaching camps and later arrangements for the journey to the respective competitions venues was made by J&K Sports Council which also included the provision of necessary gears and equipment.

The Secretary, of J&K Sports Council, was flanked by Divisional Sports Officer Jammu, Ashok Singh, Managers, Coaches, and other officials of the Sports Council along with members of different registered games associations.

Joint Secretary, J&K Sports Council Bashir Ahmad Bhat is also accompanying the Khelo India contingent to Madhya Pradesh.

## Sabalenka Subdues Rybakina To Win Maiden Grand Slam At Australian Open

Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Aryna Sabalenka bludgeoned her way to a maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open with a 4-6 6-3 6-4 win over Kazakh 22nd seed Elena Rybakina on Saturday in a thrilling final between two of the most exciting power-hitters in the women's game.

An 11th straight win of the year also means the Belarusian will return to a career-high ranking of number two behind Iga Swiatek, reaping the rewards of her improved mental stability and service to emerge as a genuine threat in big tournaments.

Rybakina went up 3-1 with a comfortable hold after fifth-seed Sabalenka dropped her huge serve with a double fault and sent a forehand long, but the Kazakh came under pressure and allowed her opponent to level the opening set at 4-4.

Rybakina hit back immediately, however, turning up the heat in gusty conditions at Rod Laver Arena to grab another break as Sabalenka double-faulted for a fifth time, and going on to seal the set with a big serve that the Belarusian returned into the net.



It was the first time that Adelaide champion Sabalenka had dropped a set in 11 matches this year and the nerves began to show just a bit, before the 24-year-old composed herself and saved two break-points in the opening game of the next set.

Sabalenka then found a bit of consistency to break but had to overcome a wobble to grab a 4-1 lead after which she let out a huge roar and levelled the match with her 11th and 12th aces to take the match at

Melbourne Park to a third set.

Sabalenka served with venom and hammered deep returns in the decider to punch holes through Rybakina's defence for a 5-3 lead. She then double-faulted on one match-point and squandered two more before finally prevailing to claim the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup.

She walked to Rybakina's side of the court and gave her a hug before climbing up to embrace her team in her players box. (Reuters)

## Birthday Girl Shafali Verma Targets Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup Title

Press Trust of India

**JOHANNESBURG:** Batting sensation Shafali Verma will chase history when she leads India against England in the first-ever ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup final in Potchefstroom on Sunday.

For all their success at the international stage, the Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level and the young batter, who has been part of two World Cup and one Commonwealth Games final with the senior team, will look to bring the elusive title home.

The seniors have made the World Cup final on three occasions across formats only to have returned with bitter memories -- losing to Australia by 98 runs in 2005 and losing to England by 9 runs in 2017 in the ODIs, and in T20Is they went down in the 2020 final to the Aussies by 85 runs.

The youngster from Rohtak has been part of two World Cups across formats and she also witnessed another final defeat when India had settled for a silver medal in last year's Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Shafali, however, does not want to let go of the opportunity this time.

"Haan bahut finals khela hai (I have played a lot of finals and seen it all)," Shafali, who turned 19 on Saturday, said on the eve of the final.



"It's about going out there and enjoying the game. I have told my teammates 'don't stress, just give your 100 percent without thinking of it as the final. Just believe in yourself.'"

"It's all past and that cannot be recreated. We are determined to bring the World Cup this time and are trying to im-

prove day by day," she added. India suffered one defeat in the Super Six league stage where they lost to Australia after being bowled out for 87.

In the semi-final, India registered a dominating eight-wicket win after their bowlers restricted a powerful New Zealand side to an under-par 107/9.

## India Finish Ninth In Men's Hockey World Cup



Agencies

**ROURKELA:** Skipper Harmanpreet Singh, Akashdeep, Shamsher Singh were among the goal scorers as India thrashed South Africa by 5-2 in their classification match for the 9-12th position at the ongoing FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at Rourkela on Saturday. With this win, India finished at ninth position in the tournament and are tied with Argentina.

In the first quarter, India showed attacking gameplay and made early inroads into the South African penalty circle. Nicholas Spooner of South Africa got a green card in the third minute.

The home side got an early lead in the fourth minute after Abhishek collected a pass coming into the scoring circle and smashed it in the nets taking the scoreline to 1-0.

After winning a penalty corner in 11th minute, skipper Harmanpreet Singh also joined the scoresheet with a brilliant

conversion.

India finally got a goal in the 45th minute. It was Shamsher Singh who scored the goal after Abhishek received an aerial pass, which he sent to Shamsher.

In the final quarter, Akashdeep scored a goal in the 49th minute. Jarmanpreet was stuck on touchline on the right side of the goal, he squared the pass and Akashdeep was able to get a touch. The scoreline was now 4-0 in favour of India.

South Africa managed to open its goal count in the 49th minute itself, Samkelo Mvimbi received an aerial pass and sent it past the goalkeeper PR Sreejesh. The scoreline was now 1-4.

In the 59th minute of the match, Sukhjeet came back and gave support to Akashdeep, whose shot lacked power. Akashdeep found the ball at the front of the net and scored the fifth goal for India. Cassiem converted a PC in the final minute to make the final scoreline read 5-2 in favour of India. (ANI)

## Man City Knocks Out Arsenal 1-0 In The FA Cup

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City issued a statement of intent by knocking out Arsenal 1-0 in the FA Cup on Friday.

Nathan Ake's 64th-minute goal settled the fourth-round match at Etihad Stadium and the result may yet reverberate through the rest of the season.

Arsenal leads City by five points at the top of the English Premier League, but its seven-game unbeaten run was ended by City, which has three straight wins in all competitions.

England's two best teams have a league showdown at Emirates Stadium on Feb. 15. For now, City manager Pep Guardiola has gained an edge

to beat Arsenal. They lost one game in the Premier League, so I know how difficult it is," Guardiola said.

Defender Ake was the unlikely match-winner after curling a low shot past goalkeeper Matt Turner.

The visitors were made to pay when City improved after the break and Ake produced the decisive strike.

"(I'm) really disappointed," Arteta said. "We could have got much more out of the game. In the big moments in big matches you have to make the difference."

While a place in the fifth round of the cup was at stake, it was impossible to ignore the wider context of a match be-



on his former assistant, Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "I know how difficult it is

tween the teams who are the front-runners in the league race. (AP)

## Usain Bolt Fires Business Manager Over Jamaica Fraud Case

Agencies

**SAN JUAN:** Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt told reporters Friday that he is baffled over how \$12.7 million of his money has gone missing from a local private investment firm that authorities are investigating as part of a massive fraud that began more than a decade ago.

Bolt also said he has fired his business manager, adding that it was not an amicable split.

When asked if he was "broke," the retired star athlete laughed. "I'm not broke, but it's definitely put a damper on me," he said. "It was for my future. Everybody knows I have three kids. I'm still looking out for my parents, and I still want to live very well."

Bolt's attorneys have said the athlete's account with Kingston-based Stocks and Securities Limited dwindled from nearly \$12.8 million to some \$12,000. They had given the company

until Friday to return the money or face civil and criminal action.

He told the Jamaica Observer newspaper that the public should anticipate the "expected and the unexpected" in the case.

"There is nothing to say at this stage, given what is happening," he was quoted as saying. "We have met with persons, and we are dealing with certain matters."

Earlier this week, Jamaican Finance Minister Nigel Clarke announced that the director of the Financial Services Commission was stepping down and that the Bank of Jamaica would now be in charge of regulating the island's financial system.

He said several government agencies and elderly customers also were affected by the alleged fraud.

"It's always a sad situation. Definitely disappointed," Bolt said of the elderly who were affected. "Everybody's confused. ... I'm as confused as the public." (AP)





## Don't Take Selfies With Tourists Without Permission: Goa Government

Agenceis

Panaji: Next time when you are in Goa and want to take selfies with other tourists or click their pictures, take their permission before doing so in order to respect privacy.

This instruction forms part of an advisory issued by the Goa tourism department for tourists, and the set of directives is aimed to protect the privacy of travellers, ensure their safety and avoid getting cheated by unscrupulous elements, among other things.

"Do not take selfies and photographs without permission of other tourists/strangers, especially while sunbathing or sea swimming, so as to respect their privacy," according to the advisory issued on Thursday.

The advisory prohibits holidaymakers from taking selfies at dangerous locations like steep cliffs and sea rocks to avoid accidents and also highlights several other issues related to the tourism industry. The department has advised travellers visiting the coastal state not to destroy or damage heritage sites by scribbling graffiti or resort to other forms of disfiguring monuments.

"Do not hire illegal private tax-

is. Insist on metered fares to avoid overcharging," said the advisory and asked visitors to diligently follow all rules. It has advised travellers to book accommodation with legal hotels/villas or housing facilities registered with the Department of Tourism.

"Consumption of alcohol in open areas like beaches, etc is prohibited and is a punishable offence. However, alcohol may be consumed responsibly inside the legally licensed premises like shacks/restaurants, hotels etc," the advisory said.

The department has said that tourists in Goa, which receives lakhs of holidaymakers every year from various parts of India and abroad, should refrain from hiring private vehicles/renting cabs/motorbikes that are not registered with the transport department and those that do not hold a valid permit.

"Tourists are advised not to entertain illegal touts or agents for booking water sports and river cruises. Tourists must insist on a registration certificate issued by the tourism department while booking such services and book such services only from registered travel agents or registered online portals," it said.

## Rashtrapati Bhavan's Mughal Gardens Renamed 'Amrit Udyan'

Agenceis

New Delhi: Rashtrapati Bhavan's famed Mughal Gardens will now be known as 'Amrit Udyan', an official statement issued on Saturday said.

The resplendent gardens are open to the public once a year and people can visit from January 31 this time.

President Droupadi Murmu will grace the opening of the gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan - Udyan Utsav 2023 - on Sunday, the statement said.

"On the occasion of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the President of India is pleased to give a common name to the Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens as 'Amrit Udyan'," Navika Gupta, Deputy Press Secretary to the President, said in the statement.

The government had last year renamed Delhi's iconic Rajpath as "Kartavya Path". The renaming of the stretch and other institutions is in line with the Centre's effort to remove any



trace of colonial mindset, it has maintained.

"Rashtrapati Bhavan is home to a rich variety of gardens. Originally, they included East Lawn, Central Lawn, Long Garden and Circular Garden.

"During the term of former Presidents Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and Shri Ram Nath Kovind, more gardens were developed, namely Herbal-I, Herbal-II, Tac-tile Garden, Bonsai Garden and Arogya Vanam," the statement issued on Saturday said.

In this year's Udyan Utsav,

among several other attractions, visitors will be able to see specially cultivated tulips of 12 unique varieties which are expected to bloom in phases.

This time the gardens (Herbal Garden, Bonsai Garden, Central Lawn, Long Garden and Circular Garden) will be open for about two months.

The gardens will open for the general public on January 31, 2023 and will remain open till March 26, 2023, except on Mondays which are maintenance days and on March 8 on account of Holi.

## Lawyer Wearing Jeans To Hearing Removed From Gauhati High Court Campus

Agenceis

Guwahati, Assam: A senior counsel was 'decourted' from Gauhati High Court on Friday for wearing jeans to a hearing and the case has been adjourned for a week. Justice Kalyan Rai Surana called in the police to decourt the counsel, B K Mahajan and asked that the matter be brought to the notice of the chief justice, registrar general and bar council.

"Matter stands adjourned today as Mr. B.K. Mahajan, learned counsel for the peti-

tioner is attired in jeans pants. Therefore, the Court had to call for the police personnel to decourt him outside the High Court campus," the order said.

It also said that the order be brought to the notice of the chief justice as well as the registrar general.

"The matter be also brought to the notice of Bar Councils of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh," Justice Surana added.

The matter, an anticipatory bail plea, will now come up for hearing after a week.

## Twitter Users Will Be Able To Appeal Account Suspension From Next Month

Agenceis

San Francisco: Twitter users will be able to appeal account suspensions and be evaluated under the social media platform's new criteria for reinstatement, starting February 1, the company said on Friday.

Under the new criteria, which follow billionaire Elon Musk's purchase of the company in October, Twitter accounts will only be suspended for severe or ongoing and repeat violations of the platform's policies.

Severe policy violations include engaging in illegal content



or activity, inciting or threatening violence or harm, and engaging in targeted harassment of other users, among others.

Twitter said that going forward, it will take less severe action, in comparison to account suspension, such as limiting the reach of tweets that violate its policies or asking users to remove tweets before continuing to use the account.

In December, Musk came under fire for suspending accounts of several journalists over a controversy on publishing public data about the billionaire's plane. He later reinstated the accounts.

## Iran Cleric 'Opposes Use Of Violence To Impose Hijab'



Agenceis

TEHRAN: One of Iran's top clerics, Nasser Makarem, has spoken out against the use of violence to force women into wearing the veil.

Iran has witnessed a wave of nationwide protests since the Sept. 16 death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd, after her arrest for an alleged breach of the regime's dress code for women.

Hundreds of people have been killed, including dozens of security personnel, and thousands have been arrested in the protests, which authorities generally refer to as "riots."

Makarem, a prominent cleric, said that he "does not consider violence and pressure to be effective in the hijab issue."

"The president and ministers should know that they are in a difficult situation; it is true the enemy is very active, but not all avenues are closed," he said, quoted by the IRNA news agency.

"The hijab issue is currently linked to political issues, and some people say that if they can remove the veil, the regime's system will be weakened," the cleric added.

Iran's Tourism and Heritage Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami earlier called for greater tolerance toward women not wearing mandatory headscarves.

Earlier this month, however, Iran's prosecutor general had called for police to "firmly punish any hijab violators."

Iran has accused its foreign foes, including the US and Israel, of fomenting the protests that erupted over Amini's death in the custody of the country's morality police.

The cleric's remarks came as Israeli President Isaac Herzog urged the NATO military alliance

to toughen its approach to Iran, as Tehran supplies drones to Russia for its war on Ukraine.

"The crisis there goes beyond the boundaries of Ukraine, with the Iranian threat now at Europe's doorstep," Herzog said on a visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"The illusion of distance can no longer hold. NATO must take the strongest possible stance against the Iranian regime including through economic, legal and political sanctions and credible military deterrence."

The figurehead leader became on Thursday the first Israeli president to brief NATO's main decision-making body.

"A terrible war continues to cause needless human suffering and compromise the well-being and welfare of millions," Herzog said.

"Our hearts continue to go out to the people of Ukraine as they defend their homes and their country," he said.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said he had discussed "our support for Ukraine" with Herzog.

"The Ukrainian people are bravely defending their homeland and NATO allies and partners are helping to support their right to self defence," he said.

The NATO secretary general said Herzog's visit was a sign of the US-led alliance's "deepening partnership" with Israel.

Herzog pointed to bolstering cooperation on cyber-security, threats from space, drones, and energy resilience.

He said the two sides were slated to sign a new cooperation agreement "in just a couple of months, which lengthens the period of cooperation and expands it reach."

Quick eats for  
busy people

**Bun  
Maska**



& Chai

Chicken Crispy  
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