

## Hindi Language Not Being Imposed On Students: JKSCERT

Auqib Javeed

**Srinagar:** Putting all speculations over imposition of Hindi language in the schools here to rest, the Jammu Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT) on Wednesday said that the initiative is aimed to help students and will not be forced upon them.

An official from the JKSCERT said on Wednesday that the initiative was taken for the students who could at least "fill the forms" and learn the basics of the language in order to avoid any inconvenience while going for studies in other states of the country.

"Let me clarify, it is not compulsory and is not being offered as a separate subject. This is being done for the benefit of the students so that he/she may be able to read or write Hindi when they go to further studies in other states of the country," the official, who is one of the members of the committee formed by the government, told Kashmir Observer.

He further said that the idea is to give the basic knowledge of Hindi to the students as an "Index" and "Bibliography".

"When you are living in a country where Hindi is everywhere, our kids find it difficult to

deal with any kind of situation. So, this is being done to make reading and writing Hindi easy for them," he added.

In the first week of February, the JKSCERT constituted a committee to chart out a mechanism for teaching and learning of Hindi language in schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

The idea was to teach the Hindi language of classes 1st to 10th in all schools of the Union Territory and the Director, JKSCERT sought suggestions from the committee. The committee is likely to submit its recommendations by February-20-2023.

According to the order, the committee will be headed by Chairman of JKBOSE followed by seven members that include Director School Education Jammu, Director School Education Kashmir, Project Director Samagra Shiksha, JK, Director Academics of JKBOSE, Joint Director, SCERT Divisional Office Jammu, Joint Director SCERT Divisional Office Kashmir Member and Joint Director SCERT Central, JK.

In the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, JKSCERT said that the committee shall be serviced by Jammu and Kashmir Board **More on P6**



Students returned to their colleges in Kashmir after 50-day winter vacation came to an end on Wednesday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## 100's of Vehicles Stranded On Banihal Highway

Agencies

**Srinagar:** Hundreds of vehicles continued to remain stranded for the second straight day on Wednesday as the Srinagar-Jammu highway continues to remain closed for the traffic due to shooting stones in Ramban while the administration said that the men and machinery has been pressed into service to restore the highway at earliest.

An official said that Jammu-Srinagar highway remained closed for the second consecutive day today due to shooting stones at Mehar-Cafeteria in Ramban district.

He said due to the disruption of traffic on Mehar-Cafeteria stretch, the traffic congestion was also witnessed at different places on the stretch. "Hundreds of Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMs) are stranded at various places along the highway. The work is on to clear the highway," the official said, adding that they are expecting the partial restoration of vehicular movement on the highway within the next few hours.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic National Highway, Ramban, Mohita Sharma said that the highway is blocked so far. **More on P6**



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## J&K Gets 1-Year Extension In Rs 1500 Crore WB Project

Agencies

**Srinagar:** Noting the remarkable progress made over the last 2.5 years, the World Bank has extended the deadline for completion of its Rs 1500 crore project in Jammu & Kashmir by one more year, but made it clear to the Central Government and J&K authorities that any works not completed by December 31, 2023 would need to be completed with the government's own resources.

In a letter to the Union Finance Ministry and J&K administration, the World Bank has accepted the Union Finance Ministry's request to extend the deadline of the project to December 31, 2023.

"We also refer to the letter from the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance F.No. 05/06/2014-FB. VIII/V dated December 19, 2022,



requesting the Association to extend the Closing Date of the Credit by 12 months. We are pleased to inform you that the Association concurs with the request and has established December 31, 2023, as the later date for purposes of Section IV.B.2 of Schedule 2 to the Financing Agreement," reads the letter written by WB's Hideki Mori, Acting Country Director, India to Rajat Kumar Mishra. **More on P6**

## Ladakh Groups Protest In Delhi, Seek Statehood; 6th Schedule

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Slogans demanding statehood for Ladakh were raised at the Jantar Mantar on Wednesday as a joint protest was held by the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance in the national capital.

Representatives of social, cultural and political organisations from Ladakh, as well as hundreds of common Ladakhis gathered at the 18th-century observatory, a stone's throw away from the Parliament building, and said they hoped their voice would reach the government.

"Our traditions, ethnic identity, resources and security are at stake today. Our demand is very simple, we want democracy to be



restored in Ladakh by giving it statehood, and to be brought under the sixth schedule of Constitution," said Thupstan Chhewang, a former BJP MP who resigned in 2018 accusing the party of not fulfilling promises made to the people of Ladakh.

He said Ladakh is an ecologically sensitive area and development activities without consulting locals will be harmful.

"A big solar power project has been planned, but the area earmarked is the area of nomadic **More on P6**

## Scores Of Protesting KP Employees Detained In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Scores of migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees demanding a transfer from the Valley and release of salary dues were detained on Wednesday, shortly after they assembled here for a protest to press for their demands, officials said.

The employees were supposed to stage a protest outside the Press Club but were not allowed by police.

As the employees assembled in the nearby chowk and started to raise slogans in support of their demands, the police detained nearly 50 protesters. They were shifted to the Police Lines in a bus.

"We tried to persuade them to disperse but since they were adamant about continuing the protest, we took them into preventive custody," a government



official said. When asked if prohibitory orders had been implemented outside the Press Club - the scene of frequent protests -- the official said prolonged protests in the area have become a public nuisance.

"There are no restrictions on peaceful protests for half an hour or one hour but they are occupying the space for hours till midnight. **More on P6**

## Rahul Gandhi Goes Skiing In Gulmarg

Press Trust Of India

**Gulmarg:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi went skiing in Gulmarg in north Kashmir on Wednesday as he began a two-day personal visit to the valley.

Gandhi, who completed his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar two weeks ago, was once again in his now-trademark T-shirt as he stopped for a brief period in Tangmarg town while on his way to Gulmarg skiing resort, 52 km from Srinagar.

The former Congress president refused to take questions from the media. "Namaskar" was all he said when he was asked to comment.

At Gulmarg, Gandhi took a ride on famous Gondola Cable car and went to Affarwat for skiing.

Before heading downhill, the Congress leader posed for selfies with an excited bunch of tourists, giving a tough time to his security personnel.

Gandhi was accompanied by police personnel on skis as he glided down the majestic mountains of Gulmarg.

"We are lucky to have met Shri Rahul Gandhi," said one of the tourists who met the Congress leader.

Another tourist said Gandhi deserved to enjoy his holiday "after undertaking the monumental Bharat Jodo Yatra". Pradesh Congress **More on P6**

## Govt Okays 7 New Battalions For ITBP At LAC Shinkun La Tunnel For All-Weather Connectivity To Ladakh Also Approved

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Seven new battalions of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) will be raised and a 4.1-km tunnel to provide all-weather connectivity to the border areas of Ladakh built with the government giving its approval on Wednesday, in a major move to bolster the country's defence along the China border.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) cleared the proposal for hiring of 9,400 fresh personnel for raising seven new border battalions apart from a new operational base for the ITBP, which guards the 3,488-km-long India-China border ranging from the Karakoram



Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh. The new personnel will be stationed mainly in Arunachal Pradesh.

The government decisions come amid the India-China

military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh that erupted in May 2020 and scuffles in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh in December last year. **More on P6**

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

#### Tyre Burst Creates Panic In Old City

**P**anic spread Wednesday night as a loud sound of explosion rocked Saraf Kadal area of the city and was mistaken as a grenade blast, but was actually caused by a tyre burst in a security vehicle, a police official said. The incident took place near a CRPF camp in the old city area around 8 pm, the police official said. Eyewitnesses had earlier claimed that a grenade explosion had occurred on the roadside near the security force camp. "A tyre of a vehicle belonging to security forces burst **More on P6**

#### Forest Fire Trigger Landmine Blasts

**S**everal landmines exploded following a forest fire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The fire started in the forest area across the border and spread to the Balakot sector of Mendhar subdivision on the Indian side. The fire also prompted a security alert, they said. At least half-a-dozen landmines, part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, got activated due to the fire but there was no report of any damage. Efforts were on to **More on P6**

#### New CJ Of J&K, Ladakh HC Takes Oath

**J**ustice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh was on Wednesday sworn in as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. He was administered the oath by J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Convention Centre here. Justice Singh was appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on February 12. The post had fallen vacant after the retirement of Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey. **More on P6**

#### Iltija Moves Court For Passport Renewal

**P**DP president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija moved the Jammu and Kashmir High Court for issuance of passport, pleading that she needs the travel document immediately to pursue her higher education outside the country. The 35-year-old said her passport expired on January 2, and she had applied for a fresh one in advance on June 8 last year. "The passport, as per the instruction manual, is expected to be dispatched within approximately 30 days... the inaction is **More on P6**

#### 3 Injured In Fire Caused By Cylinder Blast

**A**t least two civilians and a firefighter were injured while putting off a blaze, triggered by a gas cylinder blast, in the Wanihama area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. News agency GNS reported that a gas cylinder exploded with a bang, resulting in fire in the house of one Mohammad Ishaq Parry, son of Ghulam Mohidin Parry at Watrigam Wanihama. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot to contain the spread of fire and in the course of time two civilians identified as **More on P6**

#### Computer Shop Sealed For Overcharging

**T**he district administration here on Wednesday sealed a computer shop for overcharging people for online services. The computer shop was sealed by Tehsildar Kahara on the basis of a complaint that an applicant was charged Rs 500 for filing 4 online domicile applications, an official spokesperson said. He said that Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan has already prescribed the rates for online services and has appealed to the public to pay accordingly to the service providers and **More on P6**





## KASHMIR OBSERVER

Thursday | 16-02-2023

### Evolving Security Situation

Speaking on the fourth anniversary of Pulwama bombing, the Assistant Director General of Police Vijay Kumar said that among the 19 involved in the attack that killed 40 security personnel, eight have been killed and seven arrested. More importantly, the ADGP Kumar said that the number of active militants in Jammu and Kashmir has dwindled to 37, almost all of them new recruits. This is a drastic drop from the 200 militants who roamed the Valley a year or so ago. Kumar also expressed confidence that there would be no repetition of a Pulwama-like attack. He also assured people that police would protect minorities saying that the attacks were being aborted by timely action of the department.

The drastic reduction in the number of militants is the biggest change that has taken place over the last three years. This, for once, has created a distinct possibility that the militancy could very well end in the next few months or over the course of this year if there is no replenishment of the ranks in the form of local recruitment or influx from across the border. Contrary to the apprehensions, the foreign presence in the Valley's militancy has also increasingly diminished over the years. The depleted Kashmir militancy is now mainly composed of the local youth who are untrained in armed combat and have fewer weapons to use. So, they have posed little challenge to the security forces beyond some occasional attacks on the policemen and the civilians.

The militancy in the union territory apparently looks on a shaky wicket. But it is premature and also risky to make predictions about Kashmir. The situation in Kashmir remains far too complex to lend itself to linear analysis. A case in point can be the sudden heightened violence in Jammu in recent past, which worsened the security situation in Rajouri. The militancy had all but ended in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri since early 2000. But since the middle of 2021, the area has witnessed a sharp resurgence in violence, led by the militants infiltrating from across the Line of Control.

In the past also this ebb and flow in militancy has continued. As the history of the past thirty years shows militancy has gone on. And it seems unlikely to die down until the corresponding local replenishment and the infiltration from across the LoC continues. That said, the coming weeks and months will be crucial as to the fate of militancy in the union territory.

#### OTHER OPINION

### Women's Premier League

Not quite 25 even, Siliguri's Richa Ghosh might be coming a home owner soon if her father's dream of buying her a house near Eden Gardens plays out after going for Rs 1.9 crore. With the BCCI coming good on its pledge to offer an equal platform to women cricketers, a whole bunch of aspiring athletes can dream of taking up that sport as a career, and play in front of large crowds, just like the men, if they can summon equally thrilling cricket.

The early figures are impressive. Only the women's NBA and England's Women's Super League in football reportedly have bigger broadcast deals. England cricket star Nat Scivers' Rs 3.2 crore earning is almost three times her national central contract and it is a staggering 10 times the highest sum paid out in the Hundred or Australia's women's Big Bash. Leading female rugby players in England earn a sixth of that figure, and Scivers will pocket a cool £100,000 more than what England's UEFA Euro captain and Arsenal star, Leah Williamson was believed to have been paid in the 2021-22 season. More importantly though, all the cricketers will now be able to avail the technical, financial and strategic coaching expertise of a pro league.

For the Indian team, the timing couldn't have been any better. Freshly minted U19 champions, the start of the WPL means franchises will begin to deploy scouting armies into the hinterland to unearth talent. India is yet to win an ICC World Cup for women and the WPL gives a fillip to women's domestic structure, as franchise expertise will likely extend to women's teams. The likes of Mahela Jayawardene will be available to pick brains of, while the best of analysts, physios, trainers and specialist coaches will become available. Expect the skills and big-hitting to upgrade several notches in coming years. The big test of course is if the five teams will be able to pull in the crowds to the bleachers like the men's game does and much curiosity centres around finding that answer.

The Indian Express



## Salal Lithium - The Battery of Potentials

Dr. Ashaq Hussain

Surging demand, driven primarily by the use of lithium batteries, plus an abundant supply and adequate infrastructure in place to mine this resource means we are well placed to reap the benefits of lithium over the next decade or so

When your cars need juice, lithium is the thing to use. The days of petrol and diesel cars are numbered. In a decade or so their sale will be minimised and might be banned as of 2035-40 in most of the metropolitan cities as lithium has the power to offer this change and electric cars will become the norm. Since, EVs run on lithium batteries, each containing about 10 kilos of the metal, the future of any region will depend upon this white gold and Jammu and Kashmir is the luckiest one as we too are about to join this white gold rush. The Government has made a historic discovery in the mineral-rich region of Jammu and Kashmir, for the first time ever, the country has found lithium deposits in this area. According to the Mines Ministry, the Salal-Haimana area of Reasi District has approximately 5.9 million tonnes of lithium reserves. This information was revealed recently during the 62nd meeting of the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB).

The lithium deposits found in Jammu and Kashmir are the first of such deposits discovered in India and are expected to give a major flip to the country's self-sufficiency in Electric Vehicle (EV).

A non-ferrous metal, lithium is one of the key components used in EV batteries for electric vehicles. Till now India used to import lithium required for EV Battery production but now this discovery could lead to not only a reduction in India's dependence on foreign countries but also bring down the cost of such batteries in the future. The

discovery is likely to make India truly 'Atmanirbhar' while also creating jobs, generating revenue, and furthering its renewable energy ambitions.

Not only EVs batteries; Lithium has a broad range of other uses in our modern world, encompassing both chemical and technical applications. It is used to make soap and lubricant greases, to produce heat resistant glass and ceramics such as stove tops, and to manufacture aircraft. It is also used to make fireworks: lithium mixed with strontium salts and other chemicals creates a vibrant red colour upon combustion. A lesser-known application of lithium today is as a treatment for mental health issues. Lithium carbonate, most often sold as a pharmaceutical, is a common treatment of bipolar disorder and manic depression, helping stabilise and boost mood. Studies have even found that lithium in drinking water correlates with lower levels of suicide, although psychiatrists are careful about prescribing lithium in high doses, due to unknown effects it can have on the body.

Thus the discovery of lithium deposits in J&K is a positive step for the state and lithium has a bright future in India. Surging demand, driven primarily by the use of lithium batteries, plus an abundant supply and adequate infrastructure in place to mine this resource means we are well placed to reap the benefits of lithium over the next decade or so. Thus, it has the potential to drive economic growth and boost the country's mineral resources and thereby the economy of the country on the whole.

But a million dollar question to ponder over is, from time immemorial, the mineral resource sector has played a vital role in the world economy and human development. Will the Mineral riches be really good for J&K too? Will 5.9 Million Tons of Lithium reserves change the economy of Jammu and Kashmir and especially the future of residents of Reasi District?

Usually the minerals mining industry supports a good number of jobs and metal mining jobs are one of the highest paying in the private sector. Prospects are thus bright for the unemployed youth who choose entering the field but only when preference will be given to locals who are already facing unemployment pangs. Therefore, lithium mining is critical for our economy as well.

Other good things associated with the mining in the region will be the infrastructural, technological and productivity gains that will also transform other sectors. Thus, the Lithium reserve of Jammu and Kashmir is a Jackpot for the Indian economy on the whole and is set to boost the economy and future development of Jammu and Kashmir in general and that of Salal-Haimana area of Reasi District in particular as well.

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

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### AI Becoming a Boon in Cardiology

RESEARCHERS found that clinicians who most frequently followed an Artificial intelligence (AI) tool's recommendations were twice as likely to diagnose low ejection fraction (EF) perfectly, a sign that the heart is not functioning as well as it should. AI is poised to revolutionize medicine. AI can fill in any gaps in prior clinical experience. Promoting early detection, timely treatment,

and proper referral procedures in primary care can be greatly aided by this. It is evident that those that are able to employ AI effectively can increase their diagnostic precision and deliver superior patient care. Since AI is still in its infancy, the tools developed will undoubtedly advance in the coming years to assist physicians in determining whether a patient has a cardiac condition or a problem with their heart's func-

tion. Most patients approach the doctor when they have symptoms like heaviness in the chest or difficulty in breathing - AI will diagnose heart conditions before the symptoms start prompting early treatment as per study. AI Technology will help doctors diagnose patients way before symptoms start and this will help in future according to research. With recent developments, the widespread use of electronic

health records, and the capacity to apply machine learning to this large data store, it is now conceivable to employ AI to enhance the precision of diagnoses and fine-tune treatment regimens. AI systems will be easy for busy caregivers to use.

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# The Scope of Predictions

Harold Tobin

Almost like aftershocks, questions about earthquake prediction tend to follow disasters like the Feb. 6, 2023, Turkey-Syria quake. Could advance notice have prevented some of the devastation? Unfortunately, useful predictions are still in the realm of science fiction.

University of Washington professor of seismology and geohazards Harold Tobin heads the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network. He explains the differences between predicting and forecasting earthquakes, as well as early warning systems that are currently in place in some areas.

## CAN SCIENTISTS PREDICT A PARTICULAR EARTHQUAKE?

In short, no. Science has not yet found a way to make actionable earthquake predictions. A useful prediction would specify a time, a place and a magnitude – and all of these would need to be fairly specific, with enough advance notice to be worthwhile.

For example, if I predict that California will have an earthquake in 2023, that would certainly come true, but it's not useful because California has many small earthquakes every day. Or imagine I predict a magnitude 8 or greater earthquake will strike in the Pacific Northwest. That is almost certainly true but doesn't specify when, so it's not helpful new information.

Earthquakes happen because the slow and steady motions of tectonic plates cause stresses to build up along faults in the Earth's crust. Faults are not really lines, but planes extending down miles into the ground. Friction due to the enormous pressure from the weight of all the overlying rock holds these cracks together.

An earthquake starts in some small spot on the fault where the stress overcomes the friction. The two sides slip past each other, with the rupture spreading out at a mile or two per second. The grinding of the two sides against each other on the fault plane sends out waves of motion of the rock in every direction. Like the ripples in a pond after you drop in a stone, it's those waves that make the ground shake and cause damage.

Most earthquakes strike without warning because the faults are stuck – locked up and stationary despite the strain of the moving plates



**MOST EARTHQUAKES STRIKE WITHOUT WARNING BECAUSE THE FAULTS ARE STUCK – LOCKED up and stationary despite the strain of the moving plates around them, and therefore silent until that rupture begins. Seismologists have not yet found any reliable signal to measure before that initial break**

around them, and therefore silent until that rupture begins. Seismologists have not yet found any reliable signal to measure before that initial break.

## WHAT ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A QUAKE IN ONE AREA?

On the other hand, earthquake science today has come a long way in what I'll call forecasting as opposed to prediction.

Seismologists can measure the movement of the plates with millimeter-scale precision using GPS technology and other means, and detect the places where stress is building up. Scientists know about the recorded history of past earthquakes and can even infer farther back in time using the methods of paleoseismology: the geologically preserved evidence of past quakes.

Putting all this information together allows us to recognize areas where conditions are ripe for a fault to break. These forecasts are

expressed as the likelihood of an earthquake of a given size or greater in a region over a period of decades into the future. For example, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates the odds of a magnitude 6.7 or greater quake in the San Francisco Bay Area over the next 30 years is 72%.

## ARE THERE ANY HINTS A QUAKE COULD BE COMING?

Only about 1 in 20 damaging earthquakes have foreshocks – smaller quakes that precede a larger one in the same place. By definition they aren't foreshocks, though, until a bigger one follows. The inability to recognize whether an earthquake in isolation is a foreshock is a big part of why useful prediction still eludes us.

However, in the past decade or so, there have been a number of massive earthquakes of magnitude 8 or more, including the 2011 magnitude 9.0 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan and a 2014 magnitude 8.1 in

Chile. Interestingly, a larger fraction of those very biggest earthquakes seem to have exhibited some precursory events, either in the form of a series of foreshocks detected by seismometers or sped-up movements of the nearby Earth's crust detected by GPS stations, called "slow slip events" by earthquake scientists.

These observations suggest perhaps there really are precursory signals for at least some huge quakes. Maybe the sheer size of the ensuing quake made otherwise imperceptible changes in the region of the fault prior to the main event more detectable. We don't know, because so few of these greater than magnitude 8 earthquakes happen. Scientists don't have a lot of examples to go on that would let us test hypotheses with statistical methods.

In fact, while earthquake scientists all agree that we can't predict quakes today, there are now essentially two camps: In one view, earthquakes are the result of complex

cascades of tiny effects – a sensitive chain reaction of sorts that starts with the proverbial butterfly wing flapping deep within a fault – so they're inherently unpredictable and will always remain so. On the other hand, some geophysicists believe we may one day unlock the key to prediction, if we can just find the right signals to measure and gain enough experience.

## HOW DO EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS WORK?

One real breakthrough today is that scientists have developed earthquake early warning systems like the USGS ShakeAlert now operating in California, Oregon and Washington state. These systems can send out an alert to residents' mobile devices and to operators of critical machinery, including utilities, hospitals, trains and so on, providing warning of anywhere from a few seconds to more than a minute before shaking begins.

This sounds like earthquake prediction, but it is not. Earthquake early warning relies on networks of seismometers that detect the very beginning of an earthquake on a fault and automatically calculate its location and magnitude before the damaging waves have spread very far. The sensing, calculating and data transfer all happen near the speed of light, while the seismic waves move more slowly. That time difference is what allows early warning.

For example, if an earthquake begins off the coast of Washington state beneath the ocean, coastal stations can detect it, and cities like Portland and Seattle could get tens of seconds of warning time. People may well get enough time to take a life safety action like "Drop, Cover and Hold On" – as long as they are sufficiently far away from the fault itself.

## WHAT COMPLICATIONS WOULD PREDICTING BRING?

While earthquake prediction has often been referred to as the "holy grail" of seismology, it actually would present some real dilemmas if ever developed.

First of all, earthquakes are so infrequent that any early methods will inevitably be of uncertain accuracy. In the face of that uncertainty, who will make the call to take a major action, such as evacuating an entire city or region? How long should people stay away if a quake doesn't materialize? How many times before it's a boy-who-cried-wolf situation and the public stops heeding the orders? How do officials balance the known risks from the chaos of mass evacuation against the risk from the shaking itself? The idea that prediction technology will emerge fully formed and reliable is a mirage.

It is often said in the field of seismology that earthquakes don't kill people, buildings do. Scientists are already good enough today at forecasting earthquake hazards that the best course of action is to redouble efforts to construct or retrofit buildings, bridges and other infrastructure so they're safe and resilient in the event of ground shaking in any area known to be at risk from large future quakes. These precautions will pay off in lives and property saved far more than a hoped-for means of earthquake prediction, at least for the foreseeable future.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*

# Why Climate Change Is A Medical Emergency

Aamir Amin

From luxury car-collecting influencers boasting about their 'enormous emissions' on Twitter, to fierce protests at Lützerath, Germany over lignite coal mining against the backdrop of an unprecedented energy crisis – the optics and politics of climate change have been less than slightly this past year.

Let's put things in perspective. As a defining challenge of the 21st century, climate change has all the hallmarks of being a man-made disaster. The alarm raised from within the scientific community is no longer a Cassandra prophecy of doom, rather the widespread concern itself qualifies as a vaticinium ex eventu.

Catastrophic floods displacing thousands in the US, scorching wildfires in the UK and France, extreme heat in Australia and Pakistan, followed by devastating floods, droughts in Europe heralding an unbelievable 'winter' heatwave – together account for merely a few of the many recent outbursts of an irascible Mother Nature, while humanity keep belching out green houses gases.

Teetering on the edge, our existence is threatened by a failing balance between the natural forces that make up our planet. In this death-dealing reality which intersects on race, poverty, education, industry and the future of civilisation itself – human health and health care are no exceptions.

In fact, the present state of knowledge about climate change is that it has transformed the epidemiology of infectious diseases since the late nineteenth century.



sickness and death worldwide. There were 241 million cases of malaria in 2020 and 627 thousand malaria deaths globally (WMR, 2020).

Higher temperatures promote higher mosquito-biting rates, shorten reproductive cycles and are expected to increase chances of survival in previously uninhabitable areas. Dengue viruses, just like malarial parasites, are temperature dependant in terms of their replication and spread.

## FIFTH WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD

Despite 2022 being a La Niña period i.e. cooler-than-average water temperatures, the most recent data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service reveals that the world experienced its fifth warmest year on record.

Evidence shows that climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of warmer-than-aver-

age El Niño conditions which are associated with higher mortality and morbidity.

It is believed that the 2015 El Niño event provided an optimal climate for the Zika virus infection to disseminate. Moreover, rising temperatures have favoured the proliferation of Vibrio species causing outbreaks around the Baltic Sea, Spain, Chile and the US Pacific North-west.

Food security and access to safe

drinking water – the very foundations of health – are under significant threat from climate change.

Malnutrition is bound to increase in the setting of extreme weather events, coastal inundation, desertification, etc. Increasing precipitation is associated with the spread of waterborne diseases primarily through contamination of both surface and underground drinking water supplies.

## RAVAGING TRAIL OF HURRICANES

Microbiological findings have revealed that outbreaks of leptospirosis, cholera and dengue have lashed communities in the ravaging trail of hurricanes in the US.

Furthermore, the threat of rising

form or energy to function.

If the world fails to adopt clean, sustainable sources of energy before it's too late, access to modern surgical treatments will become crippled with limitations, or worse, completely lost in the foreseeable future.

Estimates predict that between 2030 and 2050, there will be an additional quarter of a million deaths per year globally due to climate-sensitive diseases (WHO).

Many a policy in favour of 'green' and 'clean' energy has found itself charred in the flames of political argumentation or pigeonholed due to corruption, short-sightedness and lackadaisical political will.

Far from requiring a siloed ap-

Malnutrition is bound to increase in the setting of extreme weather events, coastal inundation, desertification, etc. Increasing precipitation is associated with the spread of waterborne diseases primarily through contamination of both surface and underground drinking water supplies

sea-levels due to global warming looms large over human habitations, particularly those residing in the South-Pacific and similar low-lying areas. At the present rate, large-scale human displacement is becoming an imminent reality.

It is likely that, in the long run, modern surgical care will also be affected by climate change. Operating rooms work on electricity and numerous instruments require some

proach, the predicament of climate change needs an international solution guided by the latest science driven by sustainability. To embark on anything less than an intersectional global strategy is to court failure and, as a consequence, undermine human health itself.

*The article was originally published by Gulf News*





## India Becomes World No.1 Team In All Three Formats

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India on Wednesday claimed the top spot in the latest ICC Test rankings to become the number one ranked side in all three formats of the game. India's big innings and 132-run win over Australia in the first Test catapulted the 'Men in Blue' to the top spot, dislodging the Pat Cummins-led team.

Already the top T20 side, India had reached the number one spot in ODIs last month after beating New Zealand 3-0.

India (115) are four rating points ahead of Australia (111) in the Test rankings and a win in the second Test, starting Friday, will not only consolidate their top spot



but also aid their push for entering second consecutive World Test Championship Final. India need to win the four-match Border Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 or 3-0 to make the final.

Among individuals, India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin jumped to the second spot in the Men's Test Bowlers Rankings following his eight-wicket show against Australia in Nagpur.

The 36-year-old is 21 rating points behind Australia captain Pat Cummins and is contention to return to the No.1 ranking for the first time since 2017.

The second Test between India and Australia will be played in New Delhi from Friday.

## Explosive Revelations Of BCCI Chief Selector Chetan Sharma

Agencies

The Chairman of the National Selection Committee Chetan Sharma made several shocking revelations during a sting operation with a popular news channel on Tuesday.

We have compiled a list of some explosive revelations that Sharma made.

### Use of injections in national team:

"Even if players are 85 per cent fit, they ask us to let them play even though the medical science does not clear them. Players never refuse to play matches and want to play. There is Bumrah (Jasprit Bumrah) who cannot even bend properly right now. There are one or two such major injuries that happen. Otherwise, at 80 per cent of fitness, these players take an injection, come to

us and tell us that they are fit to play," said Sharma.

"They are big superstars. Do they really face shortage of doctors? They can have them come to their house after making a phone call and he will give them an injection," he said.

### Viral Kohli vs Sourav Ganguly

"When the player becomes popular, he considers himself to be bigger than the Board and thinks that nobody can touch him. He feels that cricket in India would stop without him. But has that ever happened? Some of our biggest cricketers came and went but cricket remained the same. So he (Kohli) tried to hit back at the (former) president at that time. It was a damaging controversy. It was a classic case of a player going against the BCCI.

## SQAY Martial Arts Champion Hanaya Nisar Felicitated

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: District Administration Anantnag on Wednesday felicitated ace SQAY Martial Arts International Champion Hanaya Nisar, who was also awarded with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puruskar in the sports category by President of India and recently won gold medal in the 7th SQAY South Asian Championship at Kathmandu.

Nepal. The felicitation ceremony was held at Dak Bungalow, Anantnag with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom felicitating the athlete.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that it is a proud moment for Anantnag that Hanaya is such an acclaimed martial arts champion at such a young age. He said that success is the result of years of hard-



work and dedication demonstrated by Hanaya.

Hanaya said that she is overwhelmed by the appreciation and plans to continue to work with the same dedication and discipline.

ACD Anantnag Riyaz Ahmad Shah threw light on the career of Hanaya Nisar and the various achievements of the champion at such a young age. He said Hanaya who hails from Kokernag area is presently enrolled at HSS Kokernag and has represented India and won Gold Medal in 3rd World SQAY Martial Art Championship held in Chingju, South Korea in

October 2018 at the age of 12, Gold Medal in 4th Tri-Nation SQAY Event, Gold at 9th International Masters Cup Pahalgam, Gold at 7th International Masters Cup Pahalgam, Silver at 62nd National School Games under SGFI Delhi, Gold at 63rd National School Games under SGFI, Gold at 64th National School Games Under SGFI, Gold at 18th Federation Cup National, awarded Role model of J&K 2019, Gold at 23rd SQAY National Championship 2023 Jammu and won Champion of Champions Title 2023 in 23rd SQAY National Championship held at Jammu.

## Baramulla Police Felicitates SQAY Gold Medallist

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Police in Baramulla on Wednesday facilitated an athlete for securing Gold Medal in 7th South Asian SQAY Martial Art Championship held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The event was organised at District Police Headquarters Baramulla, where SSP Baramulla Amod Ashok Nagpure (IPS) felicitated a 6th standard student of St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School Baramulla, Saaed Manzoor, for securing the



Gold medal.

On the occasion, SSP Baramulla congratulated the achiever for making the feat and hoped that this achievement would inspire other youth also in engaging them in sports activities. He also stated that the sports play an important

role in the overall personality development of an individual and is important for channelization of youth energy to keep them away from negative forces. Appreciating his role, he was felicitated with appreciation letter presented by SSP Baramulla.

## KASHMIR CLINICS SOUTH Announcing Free Medical Camp On SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023

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<b>UROLOGY</b> Dr. Shahid Hamid MBBS, MS, DNB Urology Dr Malik Suhail MBBS, MS, MCH	<b>GASTROENTEROLOGY</b> DR. HAMZA WANI MBBS, MS, DNB(S).Gastroenterology DR. MOHD MUZZAFER MIR MBBS, MS, DNB	<b>ORTHOPAEDICS</b> DR. KHURSHID AHMAD MBBS, MS ORTHO FELLOWSHIP IN JOINT REPLACEMENT SURGERY
<b>ALLERGY &amp; SLEEP</b> Dr. Ghulam Hassan MD Internal Medicine) DTCO (Respiratory Medicine). DAA (Allergy) FSM IB (Sleep Medicine) FNCCP, FCCP, FRCP (Glasgow)	<b>DENTISTRY</b> Dr. Aijaz Naik MDS Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. Fellowship AOCMF, AOCID	<b>PAEDIATRICS</b> DR. AEJAZ AHMAD MBBS, DCH, DNB (PAEDIATRIC) CHILD SPECIALIST
<b>RHEUMATOLOGY</b> DR. ARSHID BASHIR MBBS (SKIMS), PGC. RHEUMATOLOGY (ESOR) EUROPEAN CERTIFICATE	<b>ONCOLOGY</b> DR. AB WAHEED DAR MBBS, MD Radiation Oncology	<b>PSYCHIATRY</b> DR. MIR HUMAYUN MAJEED MBBS DNB NEURO Psychiatry
<b>EAR, NOSE &amp; THROAT</b> DR. PARVEZ AHMAD RESHI MBBS, M.S ENT HEAD & NECK SURGERY	<b>PAIN &amp; PALLIATIVE PHYSICIAN</b> DR. MOHD YOUSUF TAK MBBS, MD FIPM FELLOWSHIP IN PAIN MANAGEMENT	

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