

# Will Open Sharda Peeth In PoK Like Kartarpur Corridor: Amit Shah

• Virtually Inaugurates Sharda Temple Near LoC in Karnah • Says 'Sharda Script Is The Original Script Of Our Kashmir'

## Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah said on Wednesday that Sharda Peeth has been a historical centre of India's cultural, religious and educational heritage like Kartarpur Corridor and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government will move forward to open it for devotees.

Shah made these remarks while virtually inaugurating Maa Sharda Devi Temple located along the Line of Control (LoC) in Teetwal sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday.

Shah was responding to a suggestion made by Save Sharda Committee Kashmir



(SSCK) convener Ravindra Pandita who requested that the Sharda Peeth corridor should be made operational on the lines of Nankana Sahib gurdwara

and the Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan.

The Home Minister also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts, including the

abrogation of Article 370, has established peace in Kashmir Valley and the Union Territory is once again returning to their old traditions, **More on P6**

## Mehbooba Welcomes Temple Opening

**P**DP chief Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday welcomed the opening of the Sharda Devi Temple near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir. She also expressed hope of resumption of cross-LoC trade. "This is very good. We have always been saying that we need to engage, reconcile and resolve things. The opening of Sharda temple is a very good thing. It is **More on P6**

## Ramazan Moon Sighted, Not Sighted Kashmir Caught In Pak-India Moon Tussle

### Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** As Ramazan moon was not sighted anywhere in India or Pakistan till late hours on Wednesday Kashmir Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, like many others, made his customary announcement about the first day of fasting starting from Friday.

However a late night announcement from the neighbouring country that the Ramazan moon has been sighted put many of them in quandary. Interestingly Grand Mufti this time around maintained his stand breaking from the tradition of following Pakistan on the matters related to moon sighting.

Nasir-ul-Islam had said that no evidence from any part of the J&K was received about sightings of Ramazan moon and therefore, the first day of the fasting month will be on Friday (March 24).

However after the Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal Committee officially announced the sighting of the Ramazan moon during late hours on Wednesday, mosque loud-speakers across Kashmir started blaring with announcements declaring Thursday as the first day of fasting.

When contacted Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said he stands by his decision as the crescent wasn't sighted from any territory in Jammu and Kashmir.

Nasir ul Islam said that the office had entrusted its men across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to see if the crescent is visible at any place. Reiterating his earlier stance, he said they had in the evening received a 'witness' from Poonch, which after being put to scrutiny turned too feeble to enable us reach the **More on P6**

## PM Chairs High-Level Meet On Covid Situation

Directed Officials To Enhance Genome Sequencing, Emphasizes On Covid-Appropriate Behaviour

### Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Amid a spike in influenza and COVID-19 cases in the country in the past two weeks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting and directed officials to enhance genome sequencing while also emphasizing on Covid-appropriate behaviour.

India has recorded 1,134 new coronavirus cases, while the active cases increased to 7,026, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday. The death toll climbed to 5,30,813 with five deaths. One death each has been reported in Chhattisgarh, Delhi,



Gujarat and Maharashtra while one fatality was reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Modi chaired the meeting to assess the COVID-19 and influenza situation in the country in terms of preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics, status of the vaccination campaign, emergence of new COVID-19 variants and influenza **More on P6**

## 12 Dead In Pak-Afghan Earthquake

### Press Trust Of India

**Islamabad:** A strong 6.8 magnitude earthquake with the epicentre in Afghanistan shook Pakistan, killing at least 12 people and injuring nearly 250 others in both the countries, authorities said on Wednesday.

The earthquake's epicentre was Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region, while its depth was 180 kilometres, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department. Tremors were also felt in many parts of north India, including the Delhi-National Capital Region.

In Pakistan, earthquake tremors were felt in Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Peshawar, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Kot Momin, Madh Ranjha, Chakwal, Kohat and Gilgit-Baltistan areas. Television **More on P6**

## NGO 'TERROR FUNDING' CASE

## Court Sends Irfan Mehraj To 10-Day NIA Custody

### Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** A court here on Wednesday granted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) 10 days' custody of a person arrested by the agency from Srinagar in connection with an ongoing investigation into an NGO terror funding case.

Irfan Mehraj, a resident



of Srinagar, is the first accused arrested following investigations into the NGO terror funding case

registered in October 2020, the NIA said. He was a close associate of human rights activist Khurram Parvez and was working with his organisation, the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies (JKCCS), it added.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Dharmesh Sharma allowed 10 days of custodial **More on P6**

## Editors Guild Concerned

**T**he Editors Guild of India on Wednesday voiced "deep concern" over the arrest of Jammu and Kashmir-based journalist Irfan Mehraj and "excessive use" of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) against mediapersons. It said earlier journalists Aasif Sultan, Sajad Gul and Fahad Shah too were arrested. **More on P6**

## BSF Fires At Pak Drone In Samba

**Jammu:** A massive search operation was launched on Wednesday after the Border Security Force (BSF) fired at a Pakistani drone along the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said.

The BSF troops manning the Chamliyal border post in Ramgarh sub-sector picked up a blinking red light in the air, believed to be a drone, from Pakistan around 2.30 am and fired over two dozen rounds to bring it down, they said.

They said the suspected drone returned to the Pakistani side, the officials said, adding a massive search operation was launched in the forward villages adjoining Chamliyal, Sapwal and Narayanpur border outposts to ensure that there was no dropping of any **More on P6**

## Two 'Accomplices' Of Gujarat Conman Join Probe

### Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** Two of the alleged accomplices of a Gujarati conman, who 'masqueraded' as a senior official of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), have arrived in Srinagar to assist the police in the investigations, marking significant development in the high-profile case.

Sources in the police department told Kashmir Observer that Amit Pandya and Jai Sitapara both from Gujarat have joined the police probe against Gujarat conman Kiran Bhai Patel, who posed as a PMO official and got the requisite perks, including a bulletproof car and scores of security personnel before arrested by

police on March 3.

Sources said the duo appeared before the officers investigating the case and are presently staying at a hotel in Srinagar.

"They have arrived here four days ago. They have not been arrested as reported by a section of the media. They were asked to report to the police for investigation and they are cooperating quite well," sources said.

Pandya, sources said, deals with IT related products and his father works with the public relation (PR) branch in the Gujarat Chief Minister's office. They also said the questioning of the duo will continue until proven innocent. **More on P6**

## LUT under GST

### A Step towards Ease of Doing Business

**Attention, GST Taxpayers intending to make zero rated supplies of Goods or Services or both without paying IGST or furnishing an export bond, please file Letter of Undertaking (LUT) under GST**

**The new LUT Form for FY 2023-24 is available on GST Portal for making zero rated supplies on or after 01-04-2023**

#### WHAT IS LETTER OF UNDERTAKING

All zero rated supplies are subject to payment of IGST, which can later be reclaimed as Refund. Any eligible supplier\* registered under the CGST Act can furnish LUT in FORM GST RFD-11 and make zero rated supply of Goods or Services or both without payment of IGST.

#### PROCESS FOR FILING LUT CERTIFICATE

- ✓ Login to GST portal [www.gst.gov.in](http://www.gst.gov.in)
- ✓ Click on **Services > User Services > Furnish Letter of Undertaking (LUT)**
- ✓ Enter the required details and submit FORM GST RFD-11

**\*A person who has been prosecuted for evading tax of Rs. 2.5 crore or above under the CGST Act is not eligible to furnish the LUT**

**LUT under GST ~ Easing the liquidity**

**Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

For detailed procedure, please Scan

[www.cbic.gov.in](https://www.cbic.gov.in)

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## Zonal Headquarters Police Telecommunication Kashmir

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat S/O Ali Mohd Bhat R/O Zakura Srinagar working as ASI (Telecom) in J&K Police Telecommunication under Regimental No.1542/PW, TEL-974060 has represented for correction in his name recorded as Mukhtar Ahamad Bhat instead of Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat in the service records of this office.  
As such, objections if any, in this regard are invited from General Public, which should reach the office of the undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this Notice.  
No: - ESTT/PF-1542/KZ-2023/4159  
Dated:- 22-03-2023

Sr. Supdt. of Police  
Telecommunication Kashmir

email id: ssptelecomkmr@gmail.com

Ph- No. 0194-2452698  
Fax No. 0194-2506526

## Zonal Headquarters Police Telecommunication Kashmir

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Imran Majeed Bhat S/O Abdul Majeed Bhat R/O Sathu Bala Barbar Shah Srinagar working as SgCt (Telecom) in J&K Police Telecommunication under Regimental No. 3488/PW, TEL-107276 has represented for correction in his name/ parentage recorded as Imran Majid Bhat S/O Ab Majid Bhat instead of Imran Majeed Bhat S/O Abdul Majeed Bhat in the service records of this office.  
As such, objections if any, in this regard are invited from General Public, which should reach the office of the undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this Notice.

No: - ESTT/PF-3488/KZ-2023/4161  
DIPK-18637/22 Dated:- 22-03-2023

Sr. Supdt. of Police  
Telecommunication Kashmir

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

## Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Srinagar Office Of The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Beerwah

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax Collection contract for the year 2023-24.

AUCTION NOTICE.  
E - NIT No: MC/Bru/2023/  
Dated:

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, the e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons / parties for Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax of Municipal Committee Beerwah, for the year 2023-24 w.e.f. 01-04-2023 to 31-03-2024. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed as Rs. 11,50,000/= (Rupees Eleven lacs and fifty thousand only) the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee as per the following rate schedule.

S. No	Nature of vehicle	Rate
01	Govt. vehicles/Security forces vehicles	Exempted
02	All private light vehicles	Exempted
03	Mini tippers loaded/unloaded	Rs. 40 Per trip
04	All loaded trucks 60 Rupees per trip	Rs. 60/- Per trip
05	Tipppers (Loaded bricks, sand, mud and Bajri etc)	Rs. 40/- Per Trip
06	Matadors/Tata mini bus	Rs. 20/per day
07	Tractor	Rs. 20/per day
08	Sumo/Scorpio/ Tavera/Toyota etc commercial	Rs. 20/per day
09	Passenger tempo/Auto	Rs. 20/per day
10	Passenger vehicle for picnic	Rs. 40/per day
11	JCB/Crane/Road Roller	Rs. 40/per trip
12	Pejjo auto /Mini Load Carrier/Auto load carrier	Rs. 15/- Per Day
13	Private school buses	Rs.20/- Per Day

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	17-03-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18-03-2023 to 25-03-2022
3	Bid submission Start Date	17-03-2023 from 10.00 Am
4	Bid submission End Date	25-03-2023 to 04:00 Pm
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	27-03-2023 at 02.00 PM in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah
6	Submission of CDR.	The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bids offers with Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs. 34500/- (Rupees Thirty four thousand five hundred only) @ 3% of the Minimum Reserve Bid drawn from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah, (without which offers shall be liable for rejection) Balance 25% amount shall be deposited within three months from the date of taking possession for which irrevocable bank guarantee from nationalized bank shall be appended.

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Bank Challan / Receipt (Credited to A/C No. 0036040500020632 maintained with Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch: Beerwah in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah amounting to Rs. 2000/- (Two Thousand Only) and Bid securing declaration as per format Annexure -1, below on stamp paper duly attested by Notary in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah, failing which tender will be rejected.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in). The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah.
- The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- BID SECURITY.**
  - Bid Security Declaration: The bid security declaration shall be submitted as per the Format Annexure - 2 (format for the bid security declaration).
  - Any bid not accompanied by the Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) and Bid security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non responsive.
  - The contract of collection of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax shall be for the year 2023-24 w.e.f. 01-04-2023 to 31-03-2024, and no claim for extension on any pretext will be entertained beyond the allotted period.
  - That, the successful bidder has to execute an agreement duly registered in the Hon'ble court of law with the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Beerwah before issuance of allotment and taking over the possession of the collection posts and no permission shall be granted for recovery fees until agreement / allotment is made in favour of successful contractor.
  - The successful Bidder shall be bound to effect recovery of Entry Fees as per approved schedule of MC Beerwah, which is available with this office as mention above. In case of any violation to the approved schedule, legal action against the contractor / allottee will be initiated.
  - That, the successful bidder shall have to bear /provide/arrange Manpower Stationary, furniture, Sanitation, Toll posts etc without claiming any compensator thereof, from the office of the undersigned taxes like Income Tax/CGST, SGST, which shall be payable by the bidder in addition to bid amount;
  - After expiry of the contract i.e on 31-03-2024, the successful bidder shall hand over the possession of the Entry posts to the Municipal Committee Beerwah in its original position without any damage.
  - That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Entry Fee on the following Toll Posts only:  
01. DIET Beerwah, 02. Tehsil Office Beerwah 03. Sodipora Beerwah as per the approved schedule of this institution and the realization of the entry fee / terminal tax shall be in a public friendly manner without causing any inconvenience to visitors, and also the display of schedule of rates shall be visible at each Post in the Town.
  - The contractor shall be responsible to maintain entry fee collection posts with special care to sanitation / hygiene of the environment and surroundings.
  - That, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof;
  - In case of any dispute arising between the parties with respect to any of the conditions as laid down herein above or any ambiguity will be referred to arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator, Director Urban Local Bodies shall be final and binding upon the parties.
  - Instructions to the 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.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.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 vendor.
    - 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.
    - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

No: MC/Bru/2023/2824-29  
DIPK-NB-6892/22 Dated: 22-03-2023

Executive Officer Municipal Committee Beerwah

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Generation Division USHP II Kangan

Email: [xenekansan@gmail](mailto:xenekansan@gmail).

E-NIT No: USHP-II/GD/05 of 2022-3 Dated:- 09-03-2023

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation, sealed bids (Part-A: Techno Commercial Bid) & Part-B: (Price Bid) valid for 180 days, accompanied with earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank @ 2% amounting to Rs. 62000/= of the estimated cost pledged to Accounts Officer with Chief Engineer Generation Wing Kashmir are invited from Registered firms/ MSMEs/registered suppliers/Licensed Electrical Contractors/ OEMs /Authorized dealers having sufficient related experience for undertaking the following titled work at USHP-II Kangan.

**Realignment and Stabilization of 11 KV Sumbal feeder along the canal for the Power House USHP-II Kangan.**

The e-tender (two cover system) can be downloaded from [www.iktenders.aov.in](http://www.iktenders.aov.in) or [www.ikspdc.nic.in](http://www.ikspdc.nic.in). The tenders should be addressed to the Chief Engineer Generation Circle-II PDC Bemina. However, the downloaded document at the time of submission should be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Demand Draft pledged to CP&AO Kangan or preferably online transfer to account no. 0071010200005002, IFSC Code JAKAOKANGAN & MICR Code 191051110 of J&K Bank Kangan with proper receipt attached and original EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank @ 2% amounting to Rs. 62000/= of the estimated cost pledged to Accounts Officer with Chief Engineer Generation Wing Kashmir.

S. No	Description	Quantity	Estimated cost (Lacs)	Amount of EMD (pledged to Accounts officer with Chief Engineer Generation)	Cost of tender specification (Non Refundable) (pledged to CP&AO Kangan)	Time of completion
1.	Realignment and Stabilization of 11 KV Sumbal feeder along the canal for the Power House USHP-II, Kangan.	As per Scope of work	30.86 lacs (inclusive of all applicable taxes and duties including GST, Insurance etc.)	62000	Rs. 1000	45 Days

### CRITICAL DATES

1.	Date of issue of tender notice.	09-03-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	10-03-2023 to 28-03-2023
3.	Bid submission start date.	10-03-2023
4.	Bid submission end date.	28-03-2023
5.	Deadline for receiving the hard copies (CDR&EMD).	29-03-2023
6.	Date & time of opening of Online tenders (techno commercial), (tentative date)	30-03-2023

### Note:

- The price bid need to be uploaded online only as such no need to submit along with the hard copy.
- The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of this SBD before quoting the rates.

-Sd-

Executive Engineer Generation Division Ushp-II Kangan

No: USHP-II/tech/508-520  
DIPK-NB-6898/22 Dated: 22-03-2023

## Physicists Detect Neutrinos Created By Particle Collider, Experts Explain Significance

Press Trust Of India

Physicists have detected neutrinos created by a particle collider, where two beams of particles smash together at extremely high energy.

The scientists, led by the University of California, Irvine (UCI), US, have claimed it to be a "scientific first".

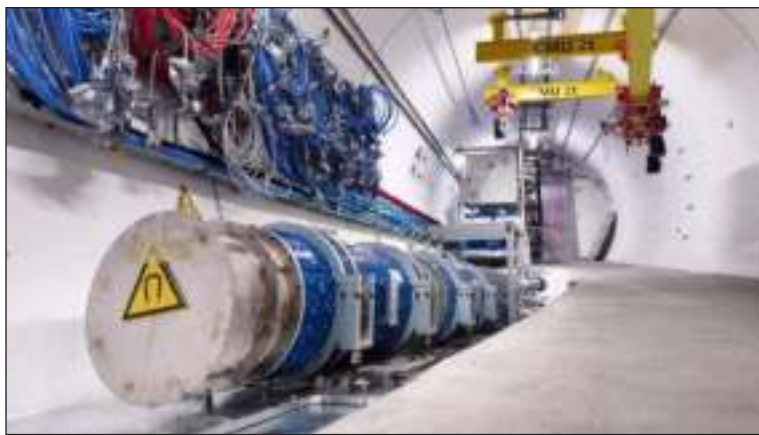
According to them, the discovery is expected to deepen scientists' understanding of neutrinos, subatomic particles that also play a key role in the process that makes stars burn.

"We've discovered neutrinos from a brand-new source - particle colliders," said UCI particle physicist and FASER Collaboration Co-Spokesman Jonathan Feng, who initiated the project, which involves over 80 researchers at UCI and 21 partner institutions.

"These very high-energy neutrinos in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) are important for understanding really exciting observations in particle astrophysics," said Boyd.

Brian Petersen, a particle physicist at CERN, announced the results Sunday on behalf of FASER at the 57th Rencontres de Moriond Electroweak Interactions and Unified Theories conference in Italy.

The results are the latest from the Forward Search Experiment, or FASER, a particle detector designed and built by an international group of physicists and



These very high-energy neutrinos in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) are important for understanding really exciting observations in particle astrophysics

installed at CERN, the European Council for Nuclear Research in Geneva, Switzerland. There, FASER detects particles produced by CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

Neutrinos, which were first spotted in 1956, were co-discovered by the late UCI physicist and Nobel laureate Frederick Reines and are the most abundant particle in the cosmos.

Since the groundbreaking work of Reines and others like Hank Sobel, UCI professor of physics & astronomy, the majority of neutrinos studied by physicists have been low-energy neutrinos.

But the neutrinos detected by FASER are the highest energy ever

produced in a lab and are similar to the neutrinos found when deep-space particles trigger dramatic particle showers in our atmosphere.

"Neutrinos were very important for establishing the standard model of particle physics," said Boyd.

"But no neutrino produced at a collider had ever been detected by an experiment," said Boyd.

"Neutrinos are the only known particles that the much larger experiments at the LHC are unable to directly detect, so FASER's successful observation means the collider's full physics potential is finally being exploited," said UCI experimental physicist Dave Casper



**BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
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### KIND ATTENTION : ENERGY USERS IN 14 NOTIFIED SECTORS

#### Submission of Report on the Status of Energy Consumption under Energy Conservation Act 2001 (52 of 2001)

All users/class of users of energy in the following energy intensive sectors having Annual Energy Consumption of and above the specified limit shown against the following energy intensive sectors are notified as designated consumers vide S.O. 394 (E) dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2007, S.O. 3542 (E) dated 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2015, S.O. 1388(E) dated 02<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 and S.O. 2147 (E) Dated 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, S.O. 3445 (E) dated 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, S.O. 4165(E) dated 07<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 under clause (e) of section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act (52 of 2001).

S. No.	Notified Sector	Threshold Energy Consumption in metric tonne of oil equivalent (mtoe) per year
1.	Aluminium	7,500
2.	Cement	
	(a) Integrated Cement Unit	30,000
	(b) Cement Grinding Unit	10,000
3.	Commercial Buildings or Establishments	
	(a) Hotels	500
	(b) Airports	500
4.	Chlor-Alkali	12,000
5.	Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)	All licensed distribution companies by SERC/JERC
6.	Fertilizer	30,000
7.	Iron & Steel	20,000
8.	Pulp & Paper	20,000
9.	Petroleum Refineries	90,000
10.	Petrochemical units having gas crackers or naphtha crackers or both	1,00,000
11.	Railways	
	(a) All Zonal Railways (Traction)	70,000
	(b) Workshops	750
	(c) 8 Production Factories of Railways namely ICF, RCF, CLW, BLW, PLW, RWF, MCF & RWP	-
12.	Textile	3,000
13.	Thermal Power Stations	30,000
14.	Petrochemical Manufacturing units.	
	(1) Fibre Intermediates	50,000
	(2) Polymers	10,000
	(3) Detergent Intermediates	9,000
	(4) Performance Plastics	3,000
	(5) Other Petrochemical products	6,000
	(6) Synthetic Rubbers	15,000
	(7) Aromatics	20,000

All units/establishment consuming more than the listed threshold energy consumption under respective sectors, notified by the Central Government under S.O. 1409(E) dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, S.O. 1473(E) dated 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, S.O. 1254(E) dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, S.O. 4491 (E) dated 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, S.O. 4552 (E) dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, are requested to submit to the concerned designated agency, with a copy to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a report on the status of Annual Energy Consumption, together with their annual production, for the last two years, namely, 2021-22 and 2022-23 in Form 1 notified under clause (I) of Section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (52 of 2001), duly authenticated by the Energy Manager/Chief Executive Officer.

A copy of the required sector applicable Pro-forma or Form-I could be downloaded from BEE website: <https://beeindia.gov.in/content/pat-performa>.

If any person fails to submit a report on the status of annual consumption etc by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, he shall be liable to a penalty under clause 26 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

For more information/query please contact us on 011-26766700 or send mail on [newdc@beeindia.gov.in](mailto:newdc@beeindia.gov.in).

davp- 34106/12/0024/2223

Mission Director, NMEEE



Shoppers Throng Marketplaces  
For Ramadan Purchases

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People across the city thronged the markets on the eve of Ramadan to make purchases for the fasting month. Dates being the most sought-after product, tops in the shopping list. Dry fruits and fruits were also in demand.

"We always stock up our shops with new varieties of dates and fruits. It is a good business month for us as well. Customers make bulk purchases" said Nazir Ahmad, a dry fruit vendor from Amira Kadal.

Though the religious practice of breaking the day-long fast with dates is common, fruits, especially the more tender ones like watermelons and other fruits re-

main in demand throughout the month.

The officials concerned have been directed by the government to keep a regular check on markets to keep a tab on the quality of food and prices of essentials.

One of the common practices during Ramadan is charity and people also purchase things for donation.

"This is the month when we are supposed to practice more good deeds and charity is one of them. It is advisable to contribute food and money among the poor and needy. While making purchases for ourselves we also buy things for the poor," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a city resident.

The mosques and shrines have been decorated with lights and new furnishing.

NIT Srinagar, CUK  
host first 'G20 - University  
Connect' Program

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar in collaboration with Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Wednesday hosted the first 'G20 University Connect' program, aimed to engage young minds and share their innovations.

The event was organized by the Department of Politics and Governance and School of Business Studies, CUK in collaboration with the Department of HSSM, NIT Srinagar.

Under the G20 presidency, the theme of the program was 'Advertise Your Innovation Contest' and students from both CUK and NIT Srinagar were given opportunities to explain their innovative ideas within the stipulated time.

Dr. Tahir Ahmad Wani and Dr. Asif (CUK) were the jury members for the event.

While the event proceedings were hosted by Dr. Mir Insha from CUK Kashmir. Dr. Mohd. Rafiq Teli and Dr. Nufazil Altaf were the coordinators of the event.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said the University connect program is aimed to spread India's G20 presidency and encourage students to go for innovations.

"Such programs aim to connect our students and explore their innovative ideas and perspectives on G-20-related topics. The greatest challenges can be resolved by acting together," he said.

Prof. Sehgal expressed his gratitude to VC CUK, Prof. Farooq Ahmad, and all the faculty members who visited the campus for the said program. Doors of NIT Srinagar are open for hosting such vibrant activities on the campus, he said.



Women blocked main road outside JLNM Hospital in Rainwari against erratic power supply in the area. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

LCMA Installs Highest Water  
Shooter Aerator In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a bid to attract tourists to the valley, J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LC&MA) in a first-of-its-kind initiative has installed an aerator/fountain inside the Dal Lake which shoots water up to 80 meters high.

An official from the J&K LCMA said the aerator/fountain called by the name "high jet" apart from being the first-of-its-kind in the valley, also features among the tallest water shooters in the country and has a unique characteristic of shooting up the water to an aerial vertical distance of around 80 meters with a mist.

"The aerator/fountain has been installed near Zabarwan Park Ghat, with a high jet single nozzle and two pumps, it shoots

water up to a height of around 80 meters," the official said.

According to the officials, the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority has completed the "Installation, Testing

tors have been pre-programmed with different patterns of formations viz high jet, mist formation, and trumpet formation with changing colors which provides breath-taking and scintillating visuals.

As per the details available, the cumulative length of all five clusters is about 500 meters. Each set of clusters is housed with two hundred nozzles on average to build up different pattern formations, creating and adding a unique beauty to the surroundings, besides improving the quality of lake water.

Notably, Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha last week inaugurated the aerator-cum-dancing fountains in the Dal Lake, a project which has been completed by the J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LC&MA).



& Commissioning of Aerators cum fountains". The aerators have been installed at six locations inside Dal Lake.

The LCMA official further said that the clusters of the aera-

DC Srinagar Visits Sharika  
Devi Temple On Navreh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today visited Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat to inspect the arrangements made on the eve of Navreh festival,

a festival celebrated on New Year as per Hindu calendar and beginning of Navratri celebrations.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the members of Kashmir Pandit community and senior officers from Administration.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Name of my Son has been wrongly spelled in DOB Certificate as Mohmad Rizwan Khan while his correct name is Mohammad Rizwan Khan which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Kakapora and Police Station Pulwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objections shall be entertained.

Tanveer Ahmad Khan  
F/o Mohammad Rizwan Khan  
R/o Ratnipora Pulwama

laa

FATEH KHAWANI



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Ghulam Muhammad Bhat, Resident of Napora Srinagar at present Shah Hamdan Colony Zakura Lane no 8, House no 40, who passed away on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, (29th Shaban 1444). "Inna Lilahi Wa Inna Ilahi Raajion". May Allah grant him highest place in Jannah. In this regard the congregational Fateh Khawani for the Ghulam Muhammad Bhat will be held at our ancestral graveyard situated at Kolipora Napora near City Center School at 10 am on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

BEREAVED  
Bhat Family  
9906154747  
7006335840

Note: Females are requested not to bring any eatables along with them

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:08
	ZUHR	12:40
	ASR	4:58
	Magrib	6:48
	ISHA	8:08

This Day In History

- 1919 - 8th Congress of the Russian Communist Party re-establishes a five-member Politburo
- which becomes the center of political power in the Soviet Union. Original members Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Joseph Stalin, Lev Kamenev and Nikolai Krestinsky
- 1920 Perserikatan Communist of India (PKI) political party forms
- 1921 - Germany announces it will be unable to meet its Great War reparation payments
- 1931 -Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev embrace the gallows during the Indian struggle for independence. Their request to be shot by a firing squad is refused.
- 1933 - Enabling Act: German Reichstag grants Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers
- 1936 - Italy, Austria & Hungary sign Pact of Rome
- 1936 - Physician Joseph G. Hamilton injects a leukemia patient with a sodium radioisotope, the first intravenous injection of a human with a radioisotope
- 1940 - All-India-Muslim League calls for a Muslim homeland
- 1940 - The Lahore Resolution (Qarardad-e-Pakistan or the then Qarardad-e-Lahore) is put

From KO Archives

Vajpayee Swears  
By Secularism

Vows To Create New Work Culture

New Delhi- Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today declared that his coalition government will initiate speedy internal liberalisation of the economy, allow upto Rs 1,500 crore of foreign direct investment in states in the power sector and strive to create a new work culture.

The government is committed to speedy internal liberalisation of the economy, freeing it from all the growth-hindering bureaucratic and government controls, 72-year-old Vajpayee said in his first broadcast to the nation.

Vajpayee said in the turbulence of the world markets and in the new emerging regime of the world trade organisation, India's principle responsibility should be to safeguard and, promote the country's interest.

Asserting that a major area of focus will be restructuring centre-state relations and decentralising financial and administrative powers to states, he said as a first step, the government will urgently devise legal and executive changes so that decision can be taken directly by states in regard to sectors such as power. Even in regard to foreign direct investments upto, say, Rs.1,500 crore, he said.

In his broadcast, the Prime Minister said we must restore the credibility of public life and public institutions, making them once again reliable and independent pillars of state.

Noting that the country must give up the harmful path of confrontation, he said my government is unequivocally committed to the concept of secularism... we treasure it.

Stressing that his government would reach out to talent across the country, Vajpayee said it shall strive to create a new work culture, a world class working environment so that the best remain here to build our country, so that those who are now working elsewhere return, and put their prodigious acumen to work for their country.

The Prime Minister said he would personally monitor programmes for doubling female literacy within ten years, vastly improving medical care for daughters and mothers, protecting self-respect for women and empowering them politically through reservation in parliament and State Assemblies.

On relations with India's neighbors, Vajpayee said the BJP-led coalition will strain every nerve to accelerate the trend in the last few years to improve relations with neighbouring countries.

We are determined to be friend with all and precisely because we happen to be the largest country, we shall be all the more sensitive to the aspirations and needs of our neighbours that applies to Pakistan as much as to our other neighbours, he said. (PTI)

(Kashmir Observer, 23 March, 1998)



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 23-03-2023

Ill-Prepared  
For Disasters

Kashmir was struck by another massive tremor on the night of March 21. The quake lingered for around two minutes, making it probably longer in duration. The buildings swung, the ground seemed to slip from under the feet, and trees went through a jittery high frequency motion. The people frantically rushed out of their houses, many screaming in panic. The scene echoed the one witnessed on October 8, 2005. But mercifully, the valley was spared the enormous loss of life and property. In 2005, around 80,000 people had been killed in the quake across the Kashmir divide with the disproportionate loss of more than 75000 lives in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and around 1400 on this side. Thousands of residential houses were toppled, and the public infrastructure was damaged. But this time with God's grace, the loss is very limited. This is a positive difference now. The similarity is in the immediate government response to the disasters. Almost nothing seems to have changed between the two quakes.

True, the devastation wrought by the 2005 quake has since been overtaken by the unprecedented deluge that swept Valley in 2014 but this hardly justifies forgetting an older catastrophe and unlearning the lessons from it. Seconds after the quake on Tuesday night, the communication system broke down for around fifteen minutes, which created panic as people couldn't get through to their loved ones. However, while the communication infrastructure is a major worry on such extraordinary occasions, an institutional answer to a massive quake calls for an effective immediate response, that in our case is always missing. The reason is that our state has always been lax on disaster preparedness. The older a calamity, the lesser the urge to prepare for its recurrence. For example, since the 2005 quake, our building codes continue to remain lenient and our builders take short-cuts. Similarly, there hasn't been any focus on the safety of our schools which are housed in buildings vulnerable to high intensity tremors. If the government needed a reminder, March 21 quake has handed it one.

There is a critical need to enhance the level of our preparedness to face the calamities of the egregious scale, like earthquakes and floods. The fresh quake has come as an important reminder to us to become more mindful of our vulnerability to the natural disasters – flood being the another – and take pro-active measures to lessen the damage should, God forbid, we experience another disaster. It is incumbent on the government not only to get its act together but also create a public awareness to help people to better prepare for a possible future calamity.

OTHER OPINION

Now or never

IPCC assessment reports typically take six-to eight years to put together; so, AR6 is very likely the last before 2030, by when the window for action to stay on the 1.5°C pathway would have closed. So, the need to act on IPCC's advice couldn't be more pronounced. AR6 is quite clear that the level of ambition on climate action currently endorsed by nations is nowhere near adequate. It says there is a "substantial gap" between the emissions resulting in 2030 if countries implement the Nationally Determined Contributions they submitted before the Glasgow Summit (2021) and the levels projected for modelled mitigation routes that limit warming to 1.5°C. Indeed, without a scaling up of NDC ambitions post 2030, median warming could clock 2.8°C by 2100. Without a strengthening of climate-action policies from the level they were at in 2020, we are staring at a 3.2°C warming of the planet by the end of the century. Anything above 1.5°C is projected to cause irreversible climate change with catastrophic effects.

Climate action financing, for both adaptation and mitigation will be crucial—the IPCC says average annual mitigation investment to be made over 2020-2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C is six times greater than current levels. Even a 2°C limit needs thrice the investment happening currently. It calls for "accelerated financial support for developing countries from developed countries and other sources", in the form of "scaled-up public grants for mitigation and adaptation funding for vulnerable regions". India, which is projected to be among the worst sufferers of long-term climate change effects among the larger countries, has hailed the report for endorsing the principle of climate justice. AR6 offers hope that the world can still keep to the 1.5°C pathway only if countries drastically scale up action to reduce emissions.

Given that a shared ruinous future awaits all nations if this doesn't happen, the developed countries can't continue to think of climate action funding for the rest of the world primarily in terms of debt and private-sector investment. A large chunk of this has to come in the form of grants, including for loss and damages. Developed nations also need to pay heed to UN secretary general Antonio Guterres's exhortation to advancing their Net Zero target to as close as possible to 2040. Only then will there be space for developing nations to transition to a Net Zero pathway without sacrificing growth.

Financial Express



Fasting or Feasting

Amir Suhail Wani

**This reinforces our premise that people, instead of harvesting the month of Ramadan for physical and spiritual control, let themselves loose upon eatables and the daily food intake and the diversity of food items increases without reason and rhyme. This is not to say that people aren't allowed to eat whatever is permissible, but to caution ourselves and the readers of the threat of gluttony and stomach worship in an otherwise month of fasting**

With the month of Ramadan set to dawn, Muslims are anticipating the mercy and blessings of Allah to descend in abundance, there is a simultaneous worry of sorts that grips people in general and Muslims in particular with the onset of this month – exorbitant rates, black marketing, inflation and skyrocketing of prices. It is often seen in the month of Ramadan that South Asian countries, the Muslim majority countries in particular, witness the ripples of surcharging, shortage, money minting and excessive profit gains. "It is common that during the festive seasons, prices of daily commodities, from onion to beef, cosmetics and accessories, clothing items etc rise exceptionally taking these out of the reach of lower-middle income groups of people. We observe this trend the most in the month of Ramadan. Even the government struggles to control the sky-rocketing prices. We often generalise that this is due to maleficent intentions of merchants and businessmen who try to make more profit during this month. Although this explanation seems fit to the general eye, there exist other explanations may sound more logical". This is one of the many issues faced by people in the holy month of Ramadan forcing people to economic bottlenecking, food insecurity and people's inability to meet their basic ends. But this lack of access to basic amenities by the majoritarian poor population is followed by the ironic trend of food wastage in Ramadan and the amount of food wasted is both unprecedented and enough to cater to the needs of the starving lot. "A major factor in the amount of food waste

being produced is the mindset of diners, who expect nothing less than a tantalizing feast-like iftar – the meal taken by Muslims after sunset to break their daily fast during Ramadan. But much of this food goes uneaten. Around 25-50% of the food prepared in the Arab world during Ramadan is wasted, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's 'The State of Food Waste in West Asia' 2021" report.

The basic problem with our understanding of Ramadan is to think of it as the month of feasting instead of fasting. While we continue to observe the scruples of Shariah during the day, our Suhoor and iftars are literally the singular events of gluttony, hyper-consumerism and acrobatics of show off and the race of spendthrift to leave others behind. Lavish iftar parties being thrown open and the means and methods followed are very much antithetical to the spirit of Ramadan, inverting its purpose and creating an opposite binary. These praxis need to be amended to bring them in accordance with the spirit of Ramadan and the larger vision of Islam to avert the ills being incurred and to make Ramadan what has been truly defined as the month of blessings, healing and balance. The fact needs to be emphasised that our excess at Suhoor and iftar not only undo the physical and medical benefits of Ramadan earned during the day but these activities in excess also undo the spiritual merits of fasting and instead of bringing us any good heighten the chances of being caught in divine wrath for our conduct and unbridled consumption.

The problem of inflation and scarcity of goods and food items pitched up above

also bounces back on the face of people on deeper scrutiny. It is observed that the demand for food items and other goods soars up and the items which are otherwise scarcely used are seen to be in huge demand during the month of Ramadan. This reinforces our premise that people, instead of harvesting the month of Ramadan for physical and spiritual control, let themselves loose upon eatables and the daily food intake and the diversity of food items increases without reason and rhyme. This is not to say that people aren't allowed to eat whatever is permissible, but to caution ourselves and the readers of the threat of gluttony and stomach worship in an otherwise month of fasting. This month, as scholars have pointed out, raises our consciousness to the plight and misery of those who can't otherwise afford two square meals a day. But can this end be achieved when we indulge in gluttony and excess at dawn and the time of fast breaking at dusk? What petrifies religion is the danger of transformation of living religious practices into rituals lacking meaning and rationale – and in this case with Ramadan, the threat of ossifying a living religious praxis into a dead ritual is at hand. What is needed is to reclaim Ramadan, consciously and conscientiously and to shred away the false accretions attached to it to realise its spirit and to wake up to its true call.

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

*The author is a Srinagar based columnist*



OBSERVER  
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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Off the Tracks: The Shocking State of Kashmir's Train

Embarking on a train journey in the picturesque region of Kashmir was an exciting prospect for us. The advent of trains in Kashmir had created quite a buzz, and our Melbourne Educational Institute Serch Ganderbal had planned a delightful excursion to mark the occasion. Our teachers ensured that our tickets were in order as we boarded the train from Srinagar Railway Station. The sheer sight of the train was a thrilling experience for us, having only seen it on TV screens before. The sound of the train's horn was music to our ears, and it brought a smile to all our faces. As we settled into the train, our teachers began to acquaint us with its

features and amenities. The digital meters, loudspeakers, and charging ports caught our attention, and we were intrigued by the loud announcements of upcoming stops and helpful reminders for passengers. The train had fans installed for our convenience, making the journey even more comfortable. However, years later, my second encounter with the train was a stark contrast to my first. The condition of the train was appalling, with broken meters, non-functioning charging ports, and seats covered in grime and scribbling. The train was littered with wrappers and garbage, and it was clear that the passengers lacked the basic civility to keep the train clean. It was a sorry

sight, and it made me wonder who was responsible for maintaining the train in such a dismal state.

To ensure the safety and comfort of passengers, it is imperative that the railway department takes swift action to renovate the train and restore its amenities. There have been issues with its upkeep and security.

According to reports, the infrastructure is in a bad situation, with antiquated signalling systems, badly maintained tracks, and insufficient workers. On the railway network, these problems have been blamed for accidents and delays. The department should also impose penalties on passengers who indulge in anti-social behavior, such as smoking or harass-

ing fellow passengers. The installation of an ATM at Nowgam Srinagar Railway Station would be a welcome addition, and the department must take measures to improve the dismal state of the washrooms at Nowgam Srinagar Railway Station. Train journeys are an integral part of our lives, and it is essential that we maintain them in a hygienic and functional state. The railway department must take proactive steps to restore the train's amenities and ensure that passengers have a safe and comfortable journey.

*Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi  
ehsaanamy133@gmail.com*



# Majoritarianism on March in Israel

Asad Mirza

Israel's Parliament, The Knesset, on 14 March advanced a Parliamentary Bill that would let lawmakers pass laws that the Supreme Court cannot overturn - a key piece of legislation in Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies' proposed judicial overhaul that has divided the country.

The new Bill aimed at weakening the Supreme Court passed first reading, alongside a bill that would protect PM from removal, and another that would allow more settlements in northern Israel. These laws have been passed despite months of protests against the first law.

The Knesset worked till the early hours of 14 March morning to pass the first reading of the bill, which has been one of the main priorities of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his governing coalition of far-right and ultra-Orthodox religious parties.

CONTROVERSIAL BILLS

Earlier, on Monday night, in another win for Netanyahu, the parliament also advanced a bill that would make it harder to remove the prime minister over the corruption charges that still hang over him.

The bill would allow the parliament to declare a prime minister unfit to rule only due to physical or mental reasons and would replace a current law that allows the court or the parliament to remove a leader under other circumstances.

The new bill would require approval by three-quarters of the government, and could be overridden by the prime minister.

The proposed change to the rules overseeing the removal of a prime minister is of personal importance to Netanyahu, who returned to power late last year after Israel's fifth election in less than four years.

He is on trial on charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes, and denies the allegations. The proceedings have dragged on for nearly three years.

Another bill that passed the first reading would allow more settlements in the northern occupied West Bank, which would lead to the legalisation of settlement outposts considered illegal even under Israeli law.



The vote comes only weeks after Israeli settlers rampaged through a Palestinian town last month, killing one man and setting fire to dozens of homes and cars. Settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem are already considered illegal under international law.

Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up some 20 percent of the population, have been largely absent from the protests, in part because they suffer from discrimination in Israel and because of Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and blockaded Gaza Strip.

Israelis have killed at least 70 Palestinians this year under Israel's new government, many of them during Israeli military raids. It brings up the total of Palestinians killed in the occupied West Bank over the past year

The proposed change to the rules overseeing the removal of a prime minister is of personal importance to Netanyahu, who returned to power late last year after Israel's fifth election in less than four years

to more than 220.

CRITICISM OF THE BILLS

The steps were the latest in a series of moves by Mr. Netanyahu's coalition to overhaul Israel's legal system. The Prime Minister and his allies say the effort is aimed at reigning in an activist court. Critics say the drive

would upend the country's democratic checks and balances, defang the Supreme Court, and concentrate power in the hands of Mr. Netanyahu and his parliamentary majority.

Speaking to members of his Likud party on Monday, Netanyahu lashed out at the Israeli media, saying they are broadcasting a "never-ending

tsunami of fake news" against him. He reiterated his claim that the legal changes will strengthen Israeli democracy. We can find echoes of these sentiments elsewhere, too.

Netanyahu and his ultranationalist and religious coalition allies have pledged to plough ahead with the legal changes despite demonstrations by tens of thousands of Israeli protesters over the past two months.

Business leaders, legal experts and retired military leaders have joined the protests against the judicial overhaul, and Israeli reservists have threatened to stop reporting for duty if the overhaul passes.

Opposition lawmaker Orna Barbiwai said the bill was "a disgrace, which says the prime minister is above the law".

Natan Sachs, Director, Centre for

Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institute described this legislation as the most far-reaching revolution ever in the state's constitutional makeup. According to him this proposal would all but abolish the role of the Supreme Court as the sole check on executive and legislative power in Israel. In short, he says, in Netanyahu's new Israel, the slimmest of majorities could decide anything, and it is pure, unbridled majoritarianism.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk has raised a range of concerns, which may pose a serious risk to the effectiveness of the judiciary to defend the rule of law, human rights, and judicial independence. He described these as changes going to the heart of a country's long-standing constitutional structure.

Israeli Opposition too is up in arms against the Bills, opposition leader Yair Lapid said that we are fighting for our children's future, for our country's future. We don't intend to give up. Leaders in the booming tech sector have warned that weakening the judiciary could drive away investors.

The overhaul has also prompted otherwise indifferent former security chiefs to speak out, and even warn of civil war. The plan has even sparked rare warnings from the U.S., Israel's chief international ally.

U.S. Ambassador Tom Nides at a podcast said that Israel should "pump the brakes" on the legislation and seek a consensus on reform that would protect Israel's democratic institutions.

As the critics both with and outside Israel say, these steps are in tune with the majoritarian policies of the ultra-right wing political elements in Israel and apart from providing a recluse to the prime minister from corruption cases they are also aimed at denying the right of self-determination to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He can be contacted at [www.asadmira.in](mailto:www.asadmira.in)

## WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

Learn what to do during an earthquake, whether you're at home, at work, at school or just out and about. Taking the proper actions, such as "Drop, Cover, and Hold On", can save lives and reduce your risk of death or injury. During earthquakes, drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly. Be prepared to move with it until the shaking stop.

WHEN INDOORS...

- Stay as safe as possible during an earthquake. Be aware that some earthquakes are actually foreshocks and a larger earthquake might occur. Minimize your movements to a few steps to a nearby safe place and stay indoors until the shaking has stopped and you are sure exiting is safe.
- When you feel an earthquake, duck under a desk or sturdy table. Stay away from windows, bookcases, file cabinets, heavy mirrors, hanging plants, and other heavy objects that could fall. Watch out for falling plaster and ceiling tiles. Stay under-cover until the shaking stops and hold onto your cover. If it moves, move with it.
  - DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
  - Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
  - If in bed when the earthquake strikes, hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
  - Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and if you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway.
  - Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
  - Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on. DO NOT use the elevators.
  - If you are in a HIGH-RISE BUILDING, and not near a desk or table, move against an interior wall and protect your head with your arms. Stay indoors. Glass windows can dislodge during the quake and sail for hundreds of feet.
  - If you're in a CROWDED STORE OR



- OTHER PUBLIC PLACE, do not rush for exits. Move away from display shelves containing objects that could fall.
- If you're in a WHEELCHAIR, stay in it. Move to cover, if possible, lock your wheels, and protect your head with your arms.
  - If you're in the KITCHEN, move away from the refrigerator, stove, and overhead cupboards. (Take time NOW to anchor appliances, and install security latches on cupboard doors to reduce hazards.)
  - If you're in a STADIUM OR THEATER, stay in your seat and protect your head with your arms. Do not try to leave until the shaking is over then leave in a calm, orderly manner. Avoid rushing toward exits.

WHEN OUTDOORS...

- Stay there!
- If you're OUTDOORS, move to a clear area away from trees, signs, buildings, electrical wires and poles. Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
  - Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits, and alongside exterior walls. Many of the 120 fatalities from the 1933 Long Beach earthquake occurred when people ran outside of buildings only to be killed by falling debris from collapsing walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.
  - If you're on a SIDEWALK NEAR BUILDINGS, duck into a doorway to protect yourself from falling bricks, glass, plaster, and other debris.
  - If you're DRIVING, pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses, power lines, and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over. Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires. Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that might have been damaged by the earthquake.

The article was originally published by Quake Kare



# Media Trial Creates Narratives Which Makes Person Guilty In Public Even Before Courts Decide: CJI Chandrachud

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** Media trial can have long lasting repercussions as it creates narratives which make a person guilty in the eyes of the public even before being convicted by a court, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Wednesday said.

While speaking at the 16th Ramnath Goenka Awards function, where he was the chief guest, he also said that responsible journalism is the beacon of truth that can guide us to a better tomorrow.

Flagging the dangers posed by trial by media, he said, "A major issue that has percolated our system is trial by media. The presumption of innocence postulates that a person is presumed innocent until found guilty by a court of law. This is one of the core tenets of law and legal processes."

He went on to add, "However, there have been instances when the media has carried narratives that make a person guilty in the eyes of the public, even before the court finds them guilty. This can have long-lasting

repercussions on the life of the affected individuals, as well as on due process."

On responsible journalism, he said, "It is the engine that drives democracy forward, based on the quest for truth, justice, and equality. As we navigate the challenges of the digital age, it is more important than ever for journalists to maintain standards of accuracy, impartiality, and responsibility in their reporting."

The 50th Chief Justice of India said, journalism ought not to be "elitist, exclusionary or for that matter a selective profession".

Emphasising on diverse representation in newsrooms, he said, "Another issue affecting the media is that of legitimacy. A diverse and representative newsroom is essential for media institutions to provide well-researched and complex stories that explore a multiplicity of perspectives and voices. Maintaining a diverse workforce is imperative for the longevity of any media platform."

"This is not just about providing different perspectives and viewpoints. Media institutions need to ensure that their

newsroom culture reflects the diverse news content they are producing. Otherwise, audiences may question their authenticity. Journalism ought not to be elitist, exclusionary or for that matter a selective profession," he added.

On legal journalism, the CJI said that they are the story tellers of justice system shedding light on the complexities of the law.

"However, selective quoting of speeches and judgments of judges by journalists in India has become a matter of concern. This practice has a tendency to distort the public's understanding of important legal issues. Judges' decisions are often complex and nuanced, and selective quoting can give the impression that a judgment means something entirely different from what the judge actually intended. It is thus essential for journalists to provide a complete picture of events, rather than presenting a one-sided view", he said, adding that journalists have a duty to report accurately and impartially.

On social media, the CJI said that in the recent past, social

media has been a game changer for journalists in more ways than one and online platforms have provided an opportunity to individuals to launch their own online media channels.

He said that in that way, online platforms have led to the democratization of the media and years ago, it was the paucity of space which was a constraining factor and now perhaps it is the paucity of reader patience.

"Readers have short attention spans. News is reduced to shorts on YouTube or reels on Instagram. Our attention spans have seen a steady decline with the advent of social media. It is now the norm for short titbits of information to be conveyed through 280 characters or in a few seconds. This is, however, an unsatisfactory replacement for long-form or investigative pieces", he said.

CJI Chandrachud, who gave awards to journalists said, in fact, there can be no replacement for such reportage and it is also proving to be a challenge for journalists to penetrate the echo chambers that social media has created and illuminate the truth.

BILKIS BANO CASE:

## SC Agrees To Constitute Special Bench To Hear Plea Against Remission To Convicts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to constitute a special bench to hear a plea against the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case, which also involves the killing of seven members of her family during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala assured Bano, represented through her lawyer Shobha Gupta, that the new bench will be formed.

Gupta mentioned the matter for urgent hearing and said a new bench needs to be constituted.

"I will have a bench constituted. Will look at it this evening," the CJI said.

Earlier on February 7, the plea was mentioned for urgent hearing by a fresh bench and the CJI had assured Bano's lawyer that he will set up one at the earliest.

Prior to this, the hearing on Bano's plea could not be taken up for hearing on January 24 as the judges concerned were hearing a matter related to passive euthanasia as part of a five-judge constitution bench.

On that day, the petition

was listed for hearing before a bench of justices Rastogi and CT Ravikumar.

Both justices Rastogi and Ravikumar were then busy hearing, as part of a constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph, the pleas seeking modification of guidelines on the execution of a "Living Will or Advance Medical Directive" for permitting passive euthanasia.

On January 4, a bench comprising justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi took up the plea, including some PILs. However, Justice Trivedi refused from hearing the case without citing any reason.

Bano had moved the apex court on November 30, 2022 challenging the "premature" release of 11 lifers by the state government, saying it has "shaken the conscience of society".

Besides the plea challenging the release of the convicts, the gang-rape survivor had also filed a separate petition seeking a review of the apex court's May 13, 2022 order on a plea by a convict. The review plea was later dismissed in December last year.

All 11 convicts were granted

remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15, last year.

The victim, in her pending writ petition, has said the state government passed a "mechanical order" completely ignoring the requirement of law as laid down by the Supreme Court.

"The en-masse premature release of the convicts in the much talked about case of Bilkis Bano has shaken the conscience of the society and resulted in a number of agitations across the country," she has said in the plea.

Referring to past verdicts, the plea said en-masse remissions are not permissible and, moreover, such a relief cannot be sought or granted as a matter of right without examining the case of each convict individually based on their peculiar facts and role played by them in the crime.

"The present writ petition challenging the decision of the state/ central government granting remission to all the 11 convicts and releasing them prematurely in one of the most gruesome crimes of extreme inhuman violence and brutality," it said.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Will Open Sharda

civilization and Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb.

Starting his address by wishing the countrymen on Ram Navami (the first month in the Hindu lunar calendar), the Union Home Minister said that today on the occasion of New Year, the newly constructed temple of Maa Sharda has been opened for the devotees and as such is an auspicious sign for the devotees from all over India.

"Today the inauguration of Maa Sharda's temple is the beginning of a new era," Shah said, adding that the architecture and construction of the temple has been done according to mythological scriptures under the aegis of Sharda Peeth.

"The idol of Sharda Maa, donated by the Sringeri Math, and its installation here, the time period from 24 January till today was like a journey. The reconstruction of Maa Sharda's temple in Kupwara is a necessary and important step in the direction of discovery of Sharda-civilization and promotion of Sharda-script," he added.

Recalling the old times, the Home Minister said that Sharda Peeth was considered the centre of knowledge in the Indian subcontinent, scholars from all over the country used to come here in search of scriptures and spiritual knowledge.

"Sharda script is the original script of our Kashmir, which has been named after the name of Maa Sharda. This is one of the Mahashakti Peeths and according to religious beliefs, the right hand of Maa Sati fell here," he said.

Shah, who is also Minister of Cooperation, said that Sharda Peeth has been a historical centre of India's cultural, religious and educational heritage, like Kartarpur Corridor.

"Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will move forward to open Sharda Peeth for devotees," he said.

"Due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi peace has been established in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, the Kashmir Valley and Jammu are once again returning to their old traditions, civilization and Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb," he added.

The Home Minister further said that as per its commitment of social and economic transformation, the Modi-led government has taken initiatives in all sectors of Jammu and Kashmir, including the culture rejuvenation.

"The systematic restoration and repair work is going on at 123 identified places under this, which include many temples and Sufi Places. In the first phase, 35 places were being renovated at a cost of Rs 65 crore," he said.

He said that 31 mega cultural programs have also been organized by identifying the 75 places of religious and Sufi saints, while 20 cultural festivals have also been organized in every district which will help in reviving our old heritage.

The Home Minister also praised LG Manoj Sinha for implementing all the flagship schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with zeal. Under the leadership of PM Modi, he said, Sinha has played a major role in bringing industrial investment in Jammu and Kashmir. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

"Today's beginning will help in bringing back the lost glory of this place and with the blessing of Maa Sharda this place will remain the centre of worship and continue to awaken the consciousness of India for ages," Shah added.

#### Mehbooba Welcomes

something that the Kashmiri

Pandits were looking forward to, they really wanted it to be opened," Mehbooba told reporters here.

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah e-inaugurated the Mata Sharda Devi temple in Karnah sector of the north Kashmir district.

The PDP chief expressed hope that the opening of the temple will not be restricted to pilgrimage, but "it will go beyond that".

"I also hope that the business which was conducted on Muzaffarabad Road and Rawalakot road, that also is resumed," she said, referring to the now suspended cross-LoC trade on Uri-Muzaffarabad, and Poonch-Rawalakot routes.

#### PM Chairs

types and their public health implications for the country, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

This high-level review meeting comes in the backdrop of a spike in influenza cases in the country and rise of Covid cases in the past two weeks.

During the meeting, a comprehensive presentation was made covering the global Covid situation including the rising cases in India by Secretary, Health, Rajesh Bhushan.

The prime minister was briefed that India has been witnessing a slight rise in new cases with average daily cases reported as 888 and weekly positivity reported as 0.98 per cent in the week ending March 22. However, 1.08 lakh daily average cases have been reported globally during the same week.

The action taken on the directions given by Modi during the last Covid review held on December 22, 2022 was also briefed, the statement said.

He was informed that availability and prices of 20 main Covid drugs, 12 other drugs, eight buffer drugs and one influenza drug is being monitored.

A mock drill was also conducted on December 27, 2022 in 22,000 hospitals, and many remedial measures taken by hospitals thereafter.

The prime minister was apprised on the influenza situation in the country particularly with respect to higher number of cases of H1N1 and H3N2 being noted in last few months.

Modi directed officials to enhance whole genome sequencing of positive samples with the designated INSACOG genome sequencing laboratories. This will support tracking of newer variants, if any, and timely response, the PMO said.

The prime minister emphasized Covid-appropriate behaviour including wearing of masks in hospital premises by both patients, health professionals and health workers.

He also stressed that wearing of masks is advisable when senior citizens and those with co-morbidities visit crowded areas,

the statement said.

#### Two 'Accomplices'

Sources said Sitapara and Pandya, according to them, had met the main accused in the hotel, wherein he was staying before being arrested by the police.

They said that the duo will definitely be arrested in case their involvement with the conman is established.

"Definitely, they will be arrested if proven guilty, or else will be released. Investigation is on and hopefully police will crack the case soon," sources added.

The story of Patel unravelled earlier this month when he visited Kashmir for the third time, each time passing himself off as Additional Director (Strategy and Campaigns) Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi.

Patel was conferred with Z-plus security cover, a bulletproof SUV and official accommodation at a five-star hotel in Jammu and Kashmir. He was on his third visit to the Kashmir valley and was subsequently nabbed by alert security officials on 3 March.

Besides one case in Srinagar, Patel faces three cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including cheating, forgery and breach of trust, dating back to 2017 registered against him in police stations in Ahmedabad and Baroda, police said.

Purported videos of Patel surveying the snow slopes of Gulmarg with a posse of armed security personnel around him and of a convoy of vehicles accompanying him weaving through a Valley town have been circulated widely across social media platforms.

He had even visited the last post at Uri in north Kashmir, posing for pictures at a bridge treated as a Line of Control between India and Pakistan. (With PTI inputs)

#### 12 Dead In Pak

footage showed panic-stricken citizens out on the streets.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Peshawar in a tweet said that nine persons, including five men, two women and two children were killed in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan.

Two persons - a man in Islamabad and a 13-year-old girl in Abbottabad - lost their lives due to sudden cardiac arrest after the quake, Dawn newspaper reported.

At the time of the earthquake, a stampede was reported in the markets of Rawalpindi, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Nearly 200 people were injured in Swat, where hospitals had declared a state of emergency.

The earthquake also jolted the mountainous region of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB),

where the resultant landslides created fear. However, no loss of life was immediately reported.

Rescue officials said landslides damaged a cattle farm in Yasin Ghizer, resulting in the death of livestock.

Sources said landslides blocked the Karakoram Highway in the Harban area of Kohistan near the border with GB's Diamer district, stranding several people on both sides.

In Islamabad and the neighbouring city of Rawalpindi, cracks appeared in various buildings.

Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif has asked disaster management officials to remain vigilant to handle any situation.

An emergency was declared in the hospitals of the federal capital on the instructions of Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

According to the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan, at least three people were killed and 44 others were injured in the quake.

"There could be more casualties," The Khaama Press - an online Afghan news agency, quoted a spokesperson for the public health ministry as saying.

Sharafat Zaman Amerkhail, another spokesman for Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health, said that the heads of all medical centres had been instructed to prepare staff for possible casualties from the earthquake.

According to the international seismological centre, apart from Pakistan and India, tremors were also felt in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, China and Kyrgyzstan.

Pakistan is located in an active seismic zone and quakes of various intensities often hit the country.

A 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck Islamabad in January this year.

The deadliest quake to hit Pakistan in 2005 killed more than 74,000 people.

#### Court Sends Irfan

interrogation of Mehraj on the federal agency's plea of 12 days of custody.

After his arrest on Monday, the agency brought the accused to the national capital on a transit remand. It alleged that investigations have revealed the JKCCS was funding terror activities and propagating a secessionist agenda in the Valley under the garb of protection of human rights.

The NIA is probing the involvement of some Kashmir-based NGOs, Trusts and societies in the funding of terror-related activities.

The agency said some NGOs, both registered as well as unregistered, have been collecting funds domestically and abroad

under the cover of doing charity and various welfare activities, including public health and education.

"But some of these organisations have developed links with proscribed terrorist outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM)," NIA said.

Activist Parvez was arrested in November 2021 by the NIA and chargesheeted on May 13 next year, along with six others, for alleged anti-national activities, including collecting information regarding vital installations and deployment and movement of security forces, procuring official secret documents and passing the same to LeT handlers through encrypted communication channels for monetary consideration.

#### Editors Guild

"The space for media freedom has progressively eroded in Kashmir," the Guild said in a statement issued here.

"Irfan Mehraj's arrest continues a trend in Kashmir of security forces arresting journalists because of their critical reporting of the establishment," it said.

Mehraj was arrested by the National Investigation Agency in connection with a terror funding case.

The Guild urged the administration to respect democratic values and stop the harassment of journalists in the name of national security. Mehraj had started his career as a journalist in 2015 and covered politics and human rights extensively, it said.

Mehraj has written for several publications about the situation in Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 and also runs an online publication called Wande Magazine, the Guild said.

#### BSF Fires At

weapons or narcotics.

The open fields in Dug, Channi-Sapwal and Asampur villages are also being searched by the BSF personnel who were deployed in strength for the operation, they said.

#### Kashmir Caught

decision about the start of Ramazan from tomorrow (Thursday)".

Dismissing the Pak sighting he also said that sighting of moon in farway FATA (Pakistan's frontier region) has no bearing on Kashmir. "I stand by my decision as 'no credible witness' is on record from any territory in J&K and as such the holy month of Ramazan here (Jammu and Kashmir) will begin from Friday", Grand Mufti added.

Meanwhile various religious bodies including Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Srinagar and Kishtwar and Anjuman-e-Shari Shiayan have announced beginning of the holy month of Ramazan from Thursday. (With agency inputs)

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast



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S.No	NAME	RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION	DESIGNATION	QUAL	PHONE	AADHAR NO.	Photographs
1	ER. KHURSHED AHMAD BUDDO S/O: HAJI GUL MOHD BUDDO	HUMHAMA SRINAGAR	RTD. CHEIF ENGINEER	CHAIRMAN	BE	9419182299	90843551773	
2	MASRAT JABEEN W/O: KHUR-SHEED AHMAD BUDDO	HUMHAMA SRINAGAR	RTD. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER	MEMBER	MA	889966396	947177569687	
3	AFROZA KHAN W/O: NAZIR AHMAD GANIE	GOUSIA COLONY KREERI	PVT EMPLOYEE	SECRETARY	MA, BED	9541489337	400314001361	
4	SUHAIL TRUMBOO S/O: BASHIR AHMAD TRUMBOO	KREERI	BUSINESSMAN	MEMBER	MBA	7006844405	273554640927	
5	BILAL AHMAD BHAT S/O: SONAULLAH BHAT	KAREWA KREERI	PVT EMPLOYEE	MEMBER	MA,BED	9797140417	390760963198	
6	SYED NAZIR HUSSAIN GOWHAR	KREERI	RTD PRINCIPAL	MEMBER	MA,	808295943	69953703441	
7	AARIFA RASHID D/O: ABDUL RASHID BAN DAY	KREERI	PVT TEACHER	MEMBER	MA	9906744628	487148994945	

ASHRAF

SD/- Principal



## LG Meets Players Participating In 84th National & Inter-State Table Tennis Championship

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** LG Manoj Sinha felicitated and interacted with players participating in 84th National & Inter State Table Tennis Championship at Gymnasium Hall, University of Jammu, on Wednesday.

The LG expressed immense pride in the accomplishments of sportspersons at national and international arena.

"Big change always starts with a small step, this is what

tennis players to take inspiration from the likes of Sharath Kamal, Mouma Das and Manika Batra and bring laurels to the country in international championships.

The LG said the presence of Arjuna Awardees, Khel Ratna & Dronacharya Awardees will surely raise the morale and confidence of the other players participating in the championship.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG and Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports also spoke on the occasion and



we learn from the sports. The energy of players, glory earned on the field is giving new impetus to development and our Sportspersons are playing a major role in social transformation & social integration," said the LG. "We have been successful in providing state of the art infrastructure, facilities, coaching and opportunities to the young sportspersons of J&K to prove their mettle," he added.

The LG asked the young table

enumerated the sports facilities and infrastructure developed in the last two years in J&K UT.

Around 900 players from across the country are participating in the championship.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council; members of Table Tennis federation and prominent sports personalities were present on the occasion.

## India Assured Of 4 Medals At World Boxing C'ships



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Tournament favourites Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain lived up to expectations as they secured medals for India with quarterfinal wins, alongside two other home boxers at the ongoing Women's Boxing World Championships here on Wednesday.

Competing in new weight classes, reigning champion Nikhat (50kg) eked out a 5-2 win over Thailand's Chuthamat Rak-sat to secure her second world's medal and then Lovlina (75kg) added a third medal in her kitty with a 5-0 win over Adosinda Rady Gramane of Mozambique.

Apart from the duo, Commonwealth Games champion Nitu

Ghanghas (48kg) and the seasoned Saweety Boora (81kg) also moved to the semifinals.

For India, however, it was a roller coaster day as four pugilists — Sakshi Choudhary (52kg), last edition's bronze medallist Manisha Moun (57kg), CWG bronze medalist Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) and Nupur Sheoran (+81kg) failed to move to the last four stage.

While Sakshi lost to Yu Wu of China 0-5, Manisha was outplayed by a 1-4 margin by Amina Zidani of France.

Like last year, Jaismine faltered in the quarterfinal stage once again, falling 0-5 to Colombia's Paola Valdez. Nupur went down fighting to Lazzat Kungeibayeva of Kazakhstan 3-4 after a bout review.

## Egyptian FA Suspend Referee After He Watched Replay On Mobile Phone

Agencies

**CAIRO:** An Egyptian referee and his has been suspended indefinitely after using a mobile phone before disallowing

a goal in a second division match last week, the Egyptian Football Association said. With the video assistant referee (VAR) system not in use in second-tier games, referee Mohamed Farouk used the phone of a crowd member to watch a replay of a goal during the match between Suez and Al-Nasr.

Al-Nasr thought they had scored a late equaliser, but the hosts protested due to a handball, and after

a long time spent reviewing the video on the phone, the referee decided to rule it out. The Egyptian FA said in a statement that Portuguese Vitor Pereira, who replaced

Englishman Mark Clatten-burg as head of the Referees Committee, decided to suspend the entire refereeing staff for an "indefinite period".

"The Committee decided to investigate the incident when Mohamed Farouk, the referee of the match, used a mobile phone to review one of the footage of the match's events," the Egyptian FA added. Fifteen minutes of stoppage time were added and Suez won the game 3-1.

## Australia Beat India To Clinch 3-Match ODI Series



Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Steve Smith-led Australia beat India by 21 runs in the third ODI to bag the series 2-1 in Chennai on Wednesday.

The Aussies posted a competitive 269 vs the hosts after Smith won the toss and opted to bat. Adam Zampa (4/45) starred with the ball as Australia bowled India out for 248 in the final overs. The Aussie top order batters got starts but none of them could convert it to a big score.

Opening the innings, Mitchell Marsh yet again top-scored with 47 off as many deliveries while his

partner Travis Head made 33 off 31 balls.

Wicket-keeper Alex Carey (38), Marnus Labuschagne (28), Marcus Stoinis (25) and David Warner (23) all looked in good nick before throwing away their wickets.

Sean Abbott (26) and Ashton Agar (17) also played good hands towards the end to take Australia past the 250-run mark before being bowled out in 49 overs.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (30 off 17 balls) started well but played one pull shot too many to be holed out at the deep square leg fence while an alert Alex Carey's decision to convince Steve Smith into taking

a DRS saw the back of Shubman Gill (37 off 49 balls).

Rahul (32 off 50 balls) joined Virat Kohli (54 off 72 balls) and the duo added 69 runs in 15.3 overs but were never able to dominate as such on a track that got slower with the passage of time.

However, a ball fired by Zampa into the blockhole was dug out by Rahul but Abbot timed his jump well to hold onto it at the boundary.

Then it was the turn of Agar to quickly send back Kohli and the out-of-form Suryakumar Yadav (0) for his third first-ball duck in as many games.

## IPL Captains Can Now Name Playing XI After Toss

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The captains of IPL teams can name their playing eleven after the toss instead of handing over team sheets before the spin of coin, stated the new playing conditions issued by the BCCI.

According to playing conditions clause 12.1: "Each captain shall nominate 11 players plus a maximum of 5 substitute fielders in writing to the IPL Match Referee after the toss."

"Other than set out in Clause 12.9 no player (member of the playing eleven) may be changed after the nomination and prior to the start of play without the consent of the opposing captain."

This effectively means that after the toss, if a skipper feels that he needs to change his eleven as per demands of the situation, he is free to do that till the match starts.

The other significant change in playing conditions is penalising unfair movement by the wicketkeeper in case there is shift in position before the batter meets the ball.

In the event of unfair movement by the wicket-keeper, either umpire shall call and signal dead ball and inform the other umpire the reason for doing so. The bowler's end umpire shall then: "award the one-run penalty for Wide or No ball, if applicable or award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side. Inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action. Inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred."

## 2023 WC In India Likely From Oct 5: Report

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The 2023 ODI World Cup in India is likely to start on October 5 with the final to be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on November 19, according to a report.



The BCCI has shortlisted at least a dozen venues for the 10-team marquee event, which will see 48 matches, including three knockouts across the 46-day period, an ESPNcricinfo report said.

The 11 other shortlisted venues, according to the report, are Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamsala, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Indore, Rajkot and Mumbai.

Except for the final match, which is set to be played at the world's largest stadium in Ahmedabad, the BCCI has not specified the venues for any games as yet.

The list of 12 cities, however, does not include Mohali and Nagpur, which had hosted a Test match against visiting Australia recently.

## Mbappé Named France Captain By Coach Deschamps

Agencies

**PARIS:** World Cup top scorer Kylian Mbappé was named as France's new captain on Tuesday, succeeding goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

France coach Didier Deschamps made the announcement in a short video clip which is set to be aired on soccer show Téléfoot.

"It will be Kylian Mbappé and Antoine Griezmann will be vice-captain. Kylian ticks all the boxes to take on this responsibility, given what he does and will continue to do on the field," Deschamps told Téléfoot.

"And because he's a unifying link between the youngest, the not so young and the oldest players. That's why I made this choice but it's not to the detriment of Antoine, because Antoine will also have an important responsibility."

Griezmann, who turned 32 on Tuesday, has played 117 games for France and the forward is regarded as being very close to Deschamps.

The 24-year-old Mbappé will captain France against the Netherlands at Stade de France on

Friday when qualifying starts for next year's European Championship. France then plays Ireland in Dublin on Monday.



Mbappé scored eight goals at last year's World Cup in Qatar, where he became only the second player to score a hat trick in the final, taking his tally to 36 goals in 66 matches for Les Bleus of which 12 have been scored in World Cups. France lost on penalty kicks to Lionel Messi's Argentina in Qatar following a wild 3-3 draw.

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