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# **Eid Prayers Likely At Eidgah After 3 Yrs**

There Is A Good Atmosphere In Kashmir Now: Waqf Chairperson

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Srinagar: The congregational Eid prayers are likely to be offered at the historic Eidgah here for the first time in three years, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board said on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters at the Eidgah after conducting a review of the preparations for the congregational prayers that are offered after the culmination of the holy month of Ramazan, Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi said if the weather permits, the prayers would be offered at the Eidgah this year.

This year, the Eid namaz will be offered at the Eidgah.... There is a good atmosphere in Kashmir now and it is the administration's endeavour to have the Eid namaz at the Eidgah," she said.

Andrabi said all arrangements will be put in place so that the prayer is offered smoothly.

"Today, Kashmir wants peace, development and prosperity. Let us not think about the past," she added. The Waqf board chairperson said the Eidgah is the face of the city and it will be developed and made better with proper facilities.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Muhammad Aijaz Asad told reporters that the Waqf Board had raised several issues like drainage, encroachment, lighting and other things.

"A proper demarcation will be done to identify the encroached land of Waqf Board. A few works regarding the lighting, drainage and beautification of Eidgah will be started to restore all the utili-

ties of the Eidgah," he said. Pertinently, the Eid prayers have not been allowed at Eidgah since the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir on August 05, 2019 as authorities were apprehensive of law-andorder problems.



THIS YEAR. THE EID NAMAZ WILL BE offered at the Eidgah.... There is a good atmosphere in Kashmir now and it is the administration's endeavour to have the Eid namaz at the Eidgah."

A MESMERIZING VIEW of snow capped Zabarwan mountain range captured by KO photojournalist Abid Bhat on Tuesday.

**China Renames 11 Places** 

In Arunachal, India Fumes

Attempts To Assign Invented Names Will Not Alter Reality: MEA

#### **Rains Drench** J&K, More Likely **Till April 6**

Agencies Srinagar: A spell of light

to moderate rain drenched Jammu and Kashmir since Monday evening even as the weather department on Tuesday predicted intermittent precipitation and thunderstorm to continue at most places of Kashmir and at isolated places of Jammu. A meteorological department

official said that in last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Srinagar received 5.2mm of rain, Qazigund 6.5mm, Pahalgam 4.8mm. 19.5mm, Kokernag Kupwara Gulmarg 10.8mm, 5.0mm. 29.0mm. Baniha lammu 24.8mm, Batote 18.8mm, Katra 15.0mm, Bhaderwah 11.8mm and Kathua 9.2 mm.

Regarding the forecast, he said, intermittent rair



reports. This is not the first time China has made such an attempt. We reject this outright," Bagchi said.

"Arunachal Pradesh is, has been, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. Attempts to assign

#### **Banihal Highway** To Remain **Closed On Apr 7**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Jammu: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway will remain closed on April 7 for carrying out repairs in landslide-hit areas of Ramban district, officials said Tuesday.

The 270-km-long highway, which is the only all-weather road link between Kashmir and the rest of the country, was blocked several times due to landslides and shooting stones in the past few months and was in need of repairs.

"Based on the direction passed for undertaking important repairs and maintenance works on the highway, April 7 has been declared as a traffic dry day between Nashri to Navyuga tunnel", Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Ramban, Mohita Sharma said.

She said only emergency ve-hicles will be allowed to ply on the highway to and fro in Ramban section from 6 AM on April 7 to 6 AM on April 8.

Mughal road still closed

Meanwhile people from Poonch-Rajouri and Shopian are demanding re-opening of the historic Mughal road for vehicular traffic

The road connecting Kashmir via Shopian with Pir Panchal region in Jammu remains shut in winters because of snow.

Closure of the road has badly hit businesses and other activities of residents of Shopian, Hirpora, Dubjan, Pir-Ki-Gali and Buffliaz, Thanamadi and other villages. Many people from Shopian are married in Poonch or Rajouri and vice-versa.

But the closure of the road is affecting people traveling to their relatives on both sides.

Besides, it has also affected students from Kashmir studying at Baba Gulam Shah University in Rajouri.

Despite getting national high-way status in 2016, the proposed tunnel to More on P6

#### **Avalanche Blocks** Leh Highway

Crinagar-Leh highway was on S Tuesday closed for traffic after an avalanche hit near oiila Pass in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that avalanches hit near Panimatha and Kai-Pathri on Zojila Pass following fresh More on P6

It was the third batch of standardised geographical names for Arunachal Pradesh issued

by China's civil affairs ministry. The first batch of the standardised names

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Former chief minister

and veteran politician Ghulam

Nabi Azad has favoured early

polls in Jammu and Kashmir say-

ing the exercise is "very much"

important not only for democra-

cy but also for resolving issues of

the common people of the region.

newly-created political party

will have a pre-poll alliance be-

fore polls are held in the Union

"We are very keen, rather we

He also rejected that his

invented names will not alter this reality," he said.

# **Gujarat Police Likely To Get Conman's Custody Trial Against The Accused**

To Run Concurrently

#### Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir police is likely to hand over custody of conman Kiran Jagdish Bhai Patel to a two member team of Guiarat police who have been camping in this capital city since March 23.

Patel, a resident of the Ghodasar area of Ahmedabad, was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police last month from a five-star hotel in Srinagar for posing as a top official of the Prime Minister Office (PMO) and availing requisite perks, including a bulletproof car and scores of security personnel.

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 More on P6

and thunderstorm may continue at most places of Kashmir and at isolated places of Jammu. On April 5-6, he said, there was More on P6

We have seen

THE OFFICIAL NAMES OF THE 11 PLACES WERE RELEASED on Sunday by China's ministry of civil affairs. It also gave precise coordinates, including two land areas, two residential areas, five mountain peaks and two rivers and listed the category of places' names and their subordinate administrative districts.'

# CONNECTING KASHMIR **PoK Probes Resolution Seeking Kartarpur-Type Corridor**

**Press Trust Of India** 

alter this reality.

as southern part Tibet.

in Arunachal Pradesh.

External Affairs Ministry

spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

said India outrightly rejected

China's renaming of the places

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Islamabad: Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) government has initiated an investigation to ascertain the facts regarding the adoption of a resolution in the region's Legislative Assembly seeking an opening of a Kartarpur-type corridor connecting both sides of Kashmir. PcK "Prime Minister" Sardar

Tanveer Ilyas Khan shared this plan in his speech at a dinner hosted by him in honour of Hurriyat leaders, the Express Tribune newspaper reported on Tuesday. Khan expressed his seri-

ous concern over the resolution presented in the Legislative Assembly and said



a fact-finding inquiry was underway and added it would soon be made public. Inaugurated in 2019, the Kartarpur corridor links

ТА

Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, where Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev lived and died at the start of the 16th century, to Dera More on P6

are getting very late because we have almost completed nine years - after two or three months we will be entering the

10th year after the elections. "Elections are very much important for not only democracy but also for issues which the

Territory.

people of the state are confronted with," he said.

Early Polls In J&K Very

**Much Important: Azad** 

He said while restoration of statehood is an important thing but this is not up to the assembly. "I am happy and thankful to the Prime Minister, home minister that after our repeated speeches in the parliament both of them assured on the floor of the house, that the statehood would be restored," he said.

When the prime minister called the all-party meeting, there the home minister also repeated commitment of restoration of statehood but made it clear that it would be done after the elections are held.

Azad, who has been campaigning in Jammu and Kashmir, ruled out any tie ups before the elections. "I don't think I would have More on P6

#### **SIA Raids Six Spots In Kashmir**

he State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Tuesday carried out raids at six different locations in Central and North Kashmir as part of its investigation of a militancy funding case. The sleuths of the investigating agency with the assistance of the local police and the CRPF carried out raids at six locations in the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara, reports said The searches were carried out in a militancy funding registered case under FIR no 22/2022 of police station CIK/SIA Kashmir.

#### IAF Sergeant **Killed In Car Crash**

n Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel died after his car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. The accident took place at Maroog along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway when Sergeant, Directorate of Mechanical Transport (DMT) at Air Headquarters, Sarafraz Ahmad Bhat, was heading for Kashmir. A rescue operation was launched soon after the More on P6

#### **Kupwara Put On Avalanche Alert**

S H O

he Jammu and Kashmir **Disaster Management** Authority (JKDMA) on Tuesday issued an avalanche warning in North Kashmir's Kupwara district for the next 24 hours. The avalanche warning comes amid a heavy downpour in the Valley over the last few days. "LOW Danger Level Avalanche is likely to occur above 2800 metres above sea level over KUPWARA districts in next 24 hours," JKDMA said. The advisory urged people to take precautions and More on P6

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#### J&K Logs 31 **New Covid Cases**

ammu and Kashmir Tuesday reported 31 fresh cases of Covid-19, taking the number of active cases to 156, while no death was reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Among 31 new cases, 29 have been reported from Kashmir division and two from Jammu division, an official said. He said that the total number of positive cases in Kashmir have reached to 305,679 including 303,125 recoveries and 2,433 deaths while total number of positive cases in Jammu division have More on P6

#### **Teenager Falls From** Minibus, Dies

teenage boy died on Tuesday after falling from a moving Minibus in Kotranka sub division of Rajouri district. 18-year-old Rashid Hussain was standing at the door of the minibus when he lost control and fell on the ground, reports said. Hussain, who was on his way to Larkuti from Kotranka, sustained serious injuries in the fall and was rushed to the Community Health Center (CHC) Kandi for treatment. However, after first aid, the doctors there referred More on P6

#### 7 Tourists Killed In Sikkim Avalanche

• even tourists were killed as a massive avalanche hit Sikkim's Nathu La area on Tuesdav morning, burying their vehicles under the snow, officials said. The avalanche hit the arterial Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, which connects Gangtok to Nathu La at the China border, around 11.30 am, trapping five-six vehicles with around 30 people under the snow, the Army said in a statement. Till 4 pm, seven bodies were brought out of the snow and 23 people were rescued alive, including six tourists More on P6

K E S



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# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>™</sup> Srinagar | Wednesday| 05-04-2023

#### **Google Starts Testing Generative AI Features In** Gmail, Doc

#### IANS

After announcing the upcoming generative artificial intelligence (AI) features to Workspace apps two weeks ago, Google has now started public testing them in Gmail and Docs.

The current trusted test programme includes consumer, enterprise and education users (over 18 years) in the US, reports Google.

This "small group" is invited by the tech giant to join and they must sign up and opt-in.

The testers can also leave the programme at any time. Users in the programme can use generative AI in Gmail to draft everything from a birthday invitation to a job cover letter. "Users can also have Google take what they've written and make it more elaborate or shorten it, including down to bullet points," the report said.

On the other hand, AI in Google Docs will make the text more detailed or rewrite it.

Also, it will help users to draft blog posts or even write song lyrics. Participants in the test programme will be able to send feedback through Gmail and Docs.

The company will expand the availability of the generative AI features "over time", the report said.

# **AI Tool Helps Remove Atmospheric** 'Blur' From Cosmos Images: Study

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Scientists have adapted a wellknown computer-vision algorithm, which works faster and produces more realistic images, and applied it to astronomical images from groundbased telescopes.

This innovation of the researchers of Northwestern University, US, and Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, could help remove errors and solve the "blur" in astronomical images, they said.

The research is published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

"Astronomical images are used for science. By cleaning up images in the right way, we can get more accurate data. The algorithm removes the atmosphere computationally, enabling physicists to obtain better scientific measurements.

"At the end of the day, the images do look better as well," said Northwestern's Emma Alexander, the study's senior author. The blur, caused by the Earth's atmosphere through which the light coming from distant objects passes, becomes an issue when astrophysicists analyze images to extract cosmological data.

Studying the apparent shapes of galaxies helps astronomers in detecting large-scale cosmological structures' gravitational effects.

smears the image in a way that can distort the shapes of galaxies and make them appear rounder or more stretched than they are.

Removing the blur enables scien-

However, the atmospheric blur Vera C. Rubin Observatory's (currently under construction in Chile) expected imaging parameters.

> The resulting tool produced images with 38.6 per cent less error compared to classic methods for removing blur



tists to collect accurate shape data.

"If you look at an image from a ground-based telescope, a shape might be warped. It's hard to know if that's because of a gravitational effect or the atmosphere," said Alexander.

To tackle this challenge, Alexander's team combined an optimization algorithm with a deep-learning network trained on astronomical images, that included simulated data matching and 7.4 per cent less error compared to modern methods.

ting it into the hands of astronomy panying tutorials are available online.

"Now we pass off this tool, put-

experts," Alexander said. "We think this could be a valuable resource for sky surveys to obtain the most realistic data possible." For astronomers interested in using the tool, the opensource, user-friendly code and accom-

fko

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" contractor card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the R&B Deptt Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Suhaib Ahmad Dar S/o Gh Mohammad Dar fko R/o Palhallan Ghat

#### Janki Ram Public School Dhanmasta

Name & parentage	Residence	Qual.	Occupation	Desig.
Karanjeet Singh S/o Hariom Singh	Dhanmasta	B.A	Business	Chairman
Rajeshwer Šingh S/o Lt Chain Singh	Dhanmasta	B.A.M.A	Pvt Teacher	Member
Naresh Singh S/o Janak Singh	Dhanmasta	B.A	Pvt Teacher	Member
Yudhveer Singh S/O Puran Singh	Dhanmasta	B.A	Pvt Teacher	Vice- Chairman
Ajeet Singh S/o Puran Singh	Dhanmasta	BA. B.E.D	Pvt Teacher	Member Staf
Anoop Singh S/o Hari om Singh	Dhanmasta	12	Pvt Sector	Member Staf
Bharat Singh S/o Kishan Singh	Dhanmasta	10th	Pvt Job	Member
Kuldeep Singh S/o Shamlal	Dhanmasta	12th	Businessman	Member Parent

#### Public Notice

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd NO: jk01ae 3413 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seen days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Ashiq Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Rashid Mir R/o Bakshi Pora Noorbagh Srinagar fk

زيٹ سب بچ سرينگر	ازعدالت چيف جوڈ پشل مجسط
بااجلاس راجامحمه تشليم	
رجسٹرار برتھس اینڈ ڈیتھس	محمة شفيع ولدعبدل احدذ ارساك نهصعد هكدل خواجه
الیس _ایم _سی سرینگر	یاربل سرینگر (سائل) <b>بنام</b>
يز ويتح ب	
	درخواست بمراداندراج کرنے بن بیچ
	عبدل احد ڈار تاریخ فو تگی بید
	اشتہار بمرادآگاہی
	معاملہ مندجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /سائلہ نے عدالہ بندیہ چرب نہ بیٹر وزیکر رہا کہ بیسا در وروں
	اندارج کرنےتاریخ فونتگی دائر کی ہے۔لہذاعواما نسبت درخواست سائل /سائلہ منظور ہونے میر
	مسبت در تواست شال اسالکه مسطور جوقے کر میں عدالت میں آکر مورنڈ2023-04-12 ب
ىك چين ترجي_بعد تر ريے معيادوں غدر	ین صلاحت ین مرجعہ 202-12-17 بااعتر اض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
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م مجسٹریٹ سرینگر ان مشاق	
مجسٹریٹ سرینگر ن مشاق رجٹرار بڑھس اینڈڈیٹھس	ازعدالت سب بنج میونیل بااجلاس مهر
م مجسٹریٹ سرینگر ان مشاق	ازعدالت سب بچ میونیز بااجلاس مهر Mohd Altaf Churgam
مجسٹریٹ سرینگر ن مشاق رجٹرار بڑھس اینڈڈیٹھس	ازعدالت سب بنج میونیز بااجلاس مهر ۲ ساکل /سائلہ
مجسٹریٹ سرینگر ن مشاق رجٹرار بڑھس اینڈڈیٹھس	ازعدالت سب بچ میونیز بااجلاس مهر Mohd Altaf Churgam
مجسٹریٹ سرینگر ن مشاق رجٹرار بڑھس اینڈڈیٹھس	ازعدالت سب بنج میونیز بااجلاس مهر ۲ ساکل /سائلہ
مجسٹریٹ سرینگر ن مشاق رجٹرار بڑھس اینڈڈیٹھس	<b>ازعدالت سب بنج میونیل</b> ب <b>ااجلاس م</b> هر <mark>با</mark> ماک اسائلہ درخواست بغرج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفات نام: Fazil Bin Altaf
<b>ں مجسٹریٹ سرینگر</b> <b>ین مشاق</b> ایس۔ایم۔ی سرینگر(سیول)	از عدالت سب بنج میونیز با اجلاس مهر ۲ سائل اسائله درخواست بغرج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفات Fazil Bin Altaf

عتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت ہٰدامیں 2023-04-06 کومقرر ہے۔

ni

ىب جح ميوسپل مجسٹريٹ ہ

نحريرالصدر

#### Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mechanical **Irrigation Division Anantnag HQAwantipora**

GIST

GIST for E-NIT S. No. 01/MIDA of 2023-24 For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of Jammu &Kashmir e-tenders in single cover system are invited from reputed and experienced Registered Electrical/Mechanical contractors/ Workshop holders /Firms whose registration are valid in terms of standing rules with sufficient experience and financial resources dealing with

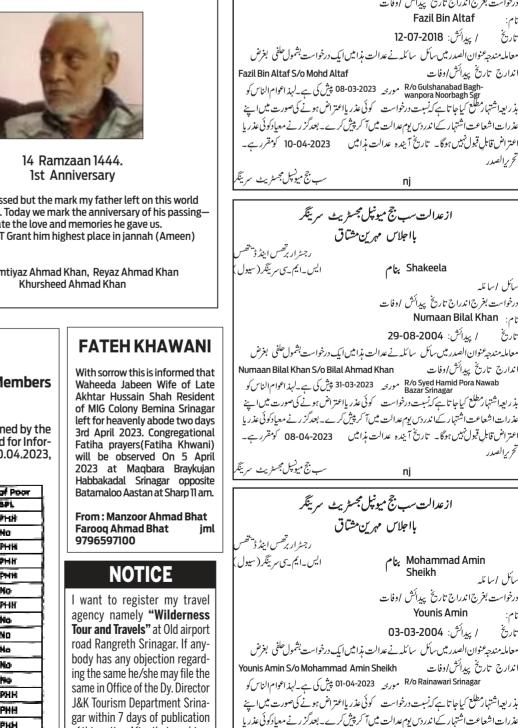
S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender	Earnest	Time for	Major
			Document s	Money @2% of Adv Cost	completion	Head
1.	Repairs Replacement of parts to 20 cusec VT pumping unit No.01 at LIS Tokina	0.68605 lacs	100/=	1372/=	8 days	M&R
2.	Repairs Replacement of parts to 20 cusec VT pumping unit No.02 at LIS Tokina.	0.424 lacs	50/=	848/=	8 days	M&R
3.	Electrical Mechanical works at US Pahoo Right	0.19905 lacs	50/=	398/=	6 davs	M&R
4.	providing and fitting of priming pump coupled with mo- tor and other mechanical iobs at LIS Pahoo Main	0.64415 Lacs	100/=	1288/=	8 days	M&R
S.	Relocation Augmentation of LI station Larkipora	2.23190 Lacs	250/=	4464/=	15 days	M&R
6.	Mechanical Repairs to 10 cusec capacity K pump coupled to 60 HP prime mover of Unit no.2 at LIS Buijbagh	0.46699 Lacs	50/=	940/=	8 days	M&R
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" contractor card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the R&B Deptt Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Manzoor Ahmad Tantray

S/o Asadulla Tantray R/o Palhallan Pattan

#### **DEATH ANNIVERSARY**



of this notice. After that no objec-

Name : Mohd Iqbal

R/o: Old airport Rangreth Srinagar

tion will be entertained.

<ol> <li>to 60 HP prime mover of Uni</li> <li>Modification alteration of sumechanical works to be carri</li> </ol>	uction pipe li	ne and allied	0.397Lacs	50/=	794/=	8 days	M&R	
The NIT consisting of qualifying info seen/downloaded from the departr						of contract can	be	S 1/6
S. No. Description	Date			Time				
	DD	MM	YYYY					14 Ramzaan 1444
1 Publishing date of NIT	03	04	2023	04:0	0 PM			
2 Download start date	03	04	2023	04:0	0 PM			1st Anniversary
3 Bid submission start date	03	04	2023	04:0	0 PM			
4 Bid submission end date	22	04	2023	04:0	0 PM			"A Year has passed but the mark my father
5 Bid opening date	24	04	2023	11:00	AM or any date	e convenient to	o Deptt	will never fade. Today we mark the anniver
All the terms and conditions will ren	nain same a	s laid down in e	-Nit & PWD form N	No.25-double.				and we celebrate the love and memories h May Allah S.W.T Grant him highest place in
No. MID A/ 32-38							Sd/=	
DIPK-73/23 Dated:- 04.04.2023			Me	echanical Irriga	ation Division A		e Engineer	Sons: Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan, Reyaz Khursheed Ahmad Khai

#### Office Of The Zonal Education Office Anantnag

#### Tentative Selection List OF AAYAS To Be Engaged In The Nominated Schools framed by the committee Members designated by this office vide no ZEO/A/3487-90/23 Dated 17.03.20Z3

NOTIFICATION

Proposed Tentative Seniority List of Candidates for Hlring/Enggcment of AAYA/Helper In 16 nominated Schools under Samagra Shiksha framed by the Committee members designated by this office vide No:ZEO/A/3487-90/23 Dated 17.03.2023 In accordance with the norms In vogue Is notified for Information or objections. If any, along with documentary evidence to be deposited In the office of the Zonal Education officer Anantnag up to 10.04.2023, Objections filed beyound the stipulated time will not be entertained and such objections shall be deleted without any further Notice.

				man and stated	Qualificati	Category			Poorest of Poor	
S.No	Name of the School	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Date of Birth	en	Wildow	Divorced	Orphan	AAY	BPL
3	BMS Shirpora	Rafa Yousuf	Mohd Yousuf Sofi	20.01.1990	12th pass	No	No	No	No	PHH
2	GMIS Chee	Nadira içbəl	Lt Mohd igbal Nanda	14.03.1993	12th pass	No	No	ĭes	No	No
. 3	GMS Anchidera	Sameera Jan	Mohd Ayoub Bhat	20.03.1999	10th Pass	No	No	Ňo	No	РНН
4	MS Sursana	Rukiya Jan	Mohd Ramzan	15.02.1991	80h	No	No	18 1	No	рнк
5	Wanpoh	Masarat Jan	Li Ab Rehmen Look	02.05.1996	10th Pass	No	No	Yes	No	PHH
6	BMS Ruhu	Najme Gultar	U Gulzer Ahmed	20.03.2002	10th Pass	No	No	Tes	AAY	Mo
7	MS Shoul	Meema Akhter	Ui Abdul Ahad dar	24.10.1988	10th Pars	No	No	Tes	No	рня
8	MS Chinhama	Parveena AMer	W/O Irshed Ahmad Ahanger	10.04.1987	9th Pass	No	No	No	AAY	No
9	8MS Nai Besti	Ruby Akhter	Ruisar Ahmad Thoker	10.10.1987	9th Pass	No	No	No	AAY	No
10	MS Pushwara	Taranum Anjum	W/o Late Mehraj ud Din Shah	30.12.1982	9th Pass	Yes .	No	Rio	MAY	No
12	MS U N Gund	Humaira Majeed	Lt Abdul Majeed wani	20.03.1993	12th pass	No	No	Yes	AAY	(No
12	BMS Ganoora	Ruby Jan	Lt Beshir Alwaed Bhat	05.12.1984	8th Pass	Tes	No	No	AAY	No
13	PS Hanji dancer pati	Sarva Akhter	Lt Meijd Ahmad Bhat	02.08.1978	9th Pass	Yes	No	No	No	РНН
	PS Gund Mohala Uranhalt	San'a Jan	Lt Gh Mohl Ud Din Hajam	01.04.2004	12th pass	No	No	Yes	No	PHH
	P5 5004	Shoqia John	U Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh	03.01.1998	8th Pass	No	No	Yes	No	РЮН
	PS Gund Jeffar	Fancy Jan	Ab Rashid Bhat	10.01.1986	8th Pass	No	Tes	No	No	Рнн

No: ZEO/A/29-46/23 DIPK-92/23 DATED: 04-04-2023

Zonal Educational Officer Anantnag

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# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>™</sup> | **う** Srinagar | Wednesday | 05-04-2023 U

### **Consumers Complain Overpricing Of Mutton During Ramazan**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Amid the holy month of Ramadan, people have accused the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs (FCSCA) department of failing to regulate the prices of mutton which they say is being sold at Rs 650-700 per kg against the government notified price of Rs 535.

People from various parts of Srinagar that mutton sellers are openly selling it at exorbitant rates. They said there is the least inspection by the FCSCA department to check on "illegal profiteering".

'This is the holy month and we are being fleeced by the mutton shopkeepers. The month of Ramadan witnesses extra consumption of mutton but they are making it difficult for us by selling it at Rs 650 and at some places Rs 700 per kg," Touseef Ramzan, a Srinagar resident said.

"Mutton retailers are selling it at Rs 650 per kg, how is that okay when the government's declared price is Rs 535? I often have to argue with the shopkeeper over the rate. Why is the concerned department not

### **DC Srinagar Chairs District Level Consultative Committee Meet**

600 per kg.

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: In order to achieve saturation under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana(PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana(PMSBY) in all Panchayats of the District, a meeting of District Level Consultative Committee(DLCC) was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Sri-Aijaz nagar Mohammed Asad here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex. Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, the meeting was among others attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Programme Officer, ICDS, Zeenat Ara, Assistant Commissioner Development, Syed Farooq, Lead District Manager, Abdul Majid, the meeting was attended by concerned Zonal/ Sectoral Officers, representatives of Banks and financial institutions operating in Srinagar. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner finalized the Panchayat wise action plan regarddoing anything about it?"

Touseef asked. Jan Mohammad, another Srinagar resident, alleged that the department is soft on those who resort to illegal profiteering or overpricing. He said that in some areas, mutton is being sold at Rs 700 per kg.

"There should be a punishment to offenders on the basis of mutton quality grades. Imposing a mere fine won't make any impact; the authorities should suspend their license," he said.

"I have to buy mutton for a patient at home, who needs mutton soup on a daily basis, but the overcharged prices are making it difficult for us," Jan added.

Similar reports were received from other districts of the valley where people have complained of overpricing of mutton by sellers.

Meanwhile, the Director of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Kashmir department, Dr Abdul Salaam Mir said that he has given strict directions to his enforcement teams to seal the shops that are selling mutton beyond Rs

ing three-month long sat-

uration campaign rolled

out by the Department of

Financial Services (DFS),

Ministry of Finance from

April 01, 2023 to June

30, 2023 to saturate all

the eligible beneficia-

ries under Jansuraksha

schemes including Prad-

han Mantri Jeevan Jyoti

Pradhan

Suraksha

Yojana(PMSBY).

Bima

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tri

Yojana(PMJJBY)

On the occasion,

Man-

Bima

house owner, whose house was being used as a 'prostitution centre' in the Bagh-e-Mehtab locality in uptown Srinagar. Locals have demanded strict action against the house owner for renting his vacant house without

**Observer News Service** 

any police verification. As reported earlier, police ar-rested 8 persons, including 4 female sex workers from Srinagar, 2 kingpins from Pulwama, and two customers from Srinagar during a raid in the Bagh-e-Mehtab area. Police said the rented house

Srinagar: Police have booked the

was being used as a prostitution centre.

The house owner has been identified as Altaf Hussain Afaqi son of late Asadullah Afaqi, a resident of Zalosa village of Charar-e-Sharif Budgam, who presently lives at Chanapora. Entire racket police said, was run from Afaqi's rented house.

'How can he rent his house to people whom he doesn't know and that too without any police verification? The house owner must be taken to task and booked as he brought disrepute to the whole Bagh-e-Mehtab locality," an elder-ly man from the area said.

Another man from the local Masjid Committee while appreciating the role of police said that locals were shocked after the news broke. "We demand strict action against the house owner first and For the unversed, two king-pins, Irhad Bhat son of Shaban Bhat, a resident of Kadlabal Pampore Pulwama and Shafi Hajam son of Qayoom Hajam from Karimabad Pulwama have already

Historic Ghata Ghar (Clock Tower) in city center Lal Chowk undergoes

major facelift under Srinagar Smart City Project, KO Photo Abid Bhat

**House Sealed, Owner Arrested** 

**Prostitution Racket At Bagh-E-Mehtab** 

been booked by police while a formal FIR vide number 19/2023 un-der section 3,4,8 of Immoral traf-ficking act stands registered at police station Chanapora.



#### **DM Appoints SPO To Tackle Offences Under Immoral Traffic (Prevention)**

rinagar: In wake of busting of a prostitution rack-

ment of a Special Police Officer not below the rank of an Inspecet a day earlier in Bagh- tor of Police for dealing with e-Mehtab locality of the offences under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. 1956". And accordingly, the DM appointed Inspector Gulshan Akhtar(No. 4463/NGO) of DPL Srinagar as Special Police Officer under section 13(2) of immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956 for dealing with offences within the territorial jurisdiction of the District. The officer is now empowered under the Act to investigate and carry criminal proceedings in all such matters.



### **This Day In History**

14 Ramazan

- FAJR---4:48
- ZUHR---12: 34
- ASR---5:05
- Magrib-6:57 ISHA---8:20
- ХхХ

1609 - Daimyo (Lord) of the Satsuma Domain in southern Kysh, Japan, completes his successful invasion of the Ry ky Kingdom in Okinawa

- 1648 Spanish troops and feudal barons strike down people's uprising in Naples
- 1739 French emperor Karel VI sign secret treaty
- 1751 Adolf Frederik of Holstein-Gottorp crowns himself king of Sweden 1792 - George Washington casts 1st presidential veto
- 1804 High Possil Meteorite: The first recorded meteorite in Scotland falls in Possil
- 1806 Isaac Quintard patents apple cider
- 1812 British storm Badajoz fortress in Extremadura,
- Spain, held by French & Spanish
- 1814 Netherlands Bank issues its 1st banknotes



sentatives of Banks and financial institutions to gear up for the saturation campaign and ensure active involvement of PRI members to cover all eligible beneficiaries under the scheme in all 21 Panchayats of the District. The DC also finalised the Panchayat wise camp schedule for satu-ration under PMJJBY and PMSBY in Srinagar District to be organized

jointly by the banks with active participation of the District Administration and other allied Departments to ensure that benefits of the two Jan Suraksha schemes PM-

JJBY and PMSBY reach the masses.

DC asked all Zonal/ then against others," he said. Sectoral Officers, repre-Sources said that the house owner is a retired government employee who is a native of Budgam district and owns 3 houses, each one at Zalosa Charar-e-Sharif, Chanapora and Bagh-e-Mehtab. His late father had been a prolific writer known for his works on

Sheikh-ul-Aalam (RA) while his brother runs a popular school in Budgam district. Police sources said that Altaf Hussain Afaqi has been booked for not verifying the background of tenants through police as prescribed by the law.

District, the District Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today issued an order for appointment of Special Police Officer for dealing with offence under immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956 within the territorial jurisdiction of the District.

The order reads that "Whereas, Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar vide his letter No. CRB/RDR/11595 dated: 03-4-

2023 has requested for appoint-

# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BUDGAM

"GREATER PARTICIPATION FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY" Phone No:-01951-255203 | fax : 01951-255204 | entbadgam@nic.in

No: DEO/Bud/2023/69-73

Datcd:-03-04-2023

Subject: Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls with reference to 01-04-2023 as qualifying Dale in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Election Commission of India has issued schedule for conduct of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls w.r.t. 01-04-2023 as the qualifying date. The different stages of the revision are detailed below:

S.No	Revision Activity	Timeline
1	Publication of Draft Electoral Roll	05-04-2023 (Wednesday)
2	Period for Filing of Claims and objections	05-04-2023 (Wednesday) to 20-04-2023 (Thursday)
3	Special Campaign Dates	09-04-2023 (Sunday) 15-04-2023 (Saturday)
4	Disposal of Claims and Objections	By 28-04-2023 (Friday)
5	I. Checking of health parameters and obtaining commission's	04-05-2023 (Thursday)
	permission for final publication	
	II. Updating Database and printing of supplements.	
6	Final Publication of Electoral Roll	10-05-2023 (Wednesday)

Accordingly the Draft Photo Electoral Rolls shall be published on 05-04-2023 at all the Polling Stations, Offices of Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and Electoral Registration Officers and District Election Officer for public inspection. Any person attaining 18 years age as on 01-04- 2023 or who have been left out is eligible for registration as voter in the electoral roll. Similarly the persons with incorrect particulars/entry in the roll can also apply before the concerned ERO/AERO and BLO for modification within the prescribed schedule. The necessary forms for inclusion in Form-6, Objection to the inclusion of name in Form-7, Correction of the entry/ transposition of entry/replacement of EPIC and Marking of Persons With Disability (PwD) in Form-8 shall be kept available at all the above designated places for supplying free of cost to the public. Besides this the advance applications of those persons who shall achieve the qualifying age with reference to the two subsequent qualifying dates 1st July & 1st October shall also be received during revision exercise. The disposal of such advance forms/claims shall be completed in the first month of concerned guarter only. However, online applications can also be filed by a person for inclusion, objection to the inclusion of name, correction or transposition of entry in the electoral rolls by login @ www.nvsp.in and Voter Helpline App.

Any assistance required in this behalf, kindly email us at entbadgam@nicAn.

DIPK-NB-46/23 dated: 04-04-2023

Sd/-**District Election Officer Budgam** 

Co-Sponsored By Kashmir Observer **Biscoe Holds Annual** Cross Country Run

#### **Observer News Service**

rinagar- Tyndale Biscoe School today had its annual cross country run Amidst great enthusiasm and exciteent among the students, teachers and staff as also the parents of the boys taking part in the annual event. The students dressed in their House colours (red, yellow, blue and orange) added colour to the event.

The cross country run of the Biscoe students was co-sponored by The Kashmir Observer, which offered trophies for the

"best runners" in three different categories. From early morning students trickled in along accom-panied by their parents who also had a day off because of the holiday in connection with the urs of Hazrat Shah Hamadan. By 7.15 a.m. the entire school campus was full with people, staff, students and the parents. The security check at the entrance had no effect on till the unexpected announcement that the chief minister Farooq Abdullah was on way to flag off the run. Entire campus was virtually cordoned off and security personnel in strength deployed with the Residency Road, where the school is located, declared out of bounds for vehicular traffic. No vehicle. even those of the newsmen who were to cover the event, was alowed to go beyond Regal Chowk and Clock Tower

The chief minister accompanied by his MP son. Omar Abdullah, arrived at 7.25 a.m. sharp just five minutes before the scheduled start of the event. The cordon was tightened around the school, but it hardly mattered to the students who were lost in the excitement and quest for glory. Abdullah was given the customary Biscoe standing ovation by the students.

The show started soon with the chief minister raising the flag for the first batch of students which comprised those of class XI and XII, followed by the senior department, the middle, the junior and lastly the lower primary department. But the real excitement was on the way. The students raced

with each other raising slogans to encourage their House mates. The partly wet road and the muddy and slippery track made no impact on their high spirits. The gods also seemed to be kind as the weather was clear and sunny. Although it was a long and tiring one, the run joined by over 1500 students, was completed in less than two hours.

The first boy to return was Ather Latif of junior school and for this achievement he was offered a "biscuit" by the chief min-ister who was still present when Latif came back, after completing the run successfully. Soon the students started coming back and all of them were greeted with applause by the parents and teachers. The most concerned were the. House masters who virtually had their pride at stake. However it was the Yellow (Haramukh) House, that emerged the winner with a tally of 538 pts, followed by Green (Mahadev) with 502 pts, Red (Kolahi) with 494 pts and Bally the Blue (Tatakoti) with 489 pts.

The students and teachers of the victorious house were seen hugging each other. The parents were as eager as students and teachers for the final result. It was heartening to see young buds and young men running for the pride of the institution and also to involve themselves in other activities apart from studies (Kashmir Observer, 05 April, 1998)

Srinagar: Program on "Youme Azad" was organized on Tuesday in Abdul Ahad Azad memorial degree college Bemina. According to a state-

Program On 'Youme Azad' Held

At Degree College Bemina

ment, the event was inaugurated by the vice chancellor, Cluster University Prof Qayyum Hussain.

Observer News Service

This event was organized by the Abdul Ahad Azad Chair GDC Bemina.

On this occasion 3 papers were presented by the experts, which highlighted the life and the works of the legendary poet.

Vice chancellor congratulated the coordinator of the chair, Dr Shaista Ahmad and ap-

principal, GDC Bemina. Other dignitaries who spoke on the occasion were Prof Mushtaq Ahmad Lone (Dean Academics), Prof Khursheed Ahmad Mir (Registrar), Dr Deeba Sarmad (Dean Hu-

manities and liberal Arts). Dr Shaista Ahmad while conducting the program thanked the vice chancellor for establishing this chair in GDC Bemina. Dr Behjat Huma presented the vote of thanks. (KNS)

preciated her hard work. He also stressed on the need to lay emphasis in

research and translation of his work. The welcome address was delivered by Prof Fauzia Durrrani, vice

# *Think* Opinion, Analysis, Essays

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# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>®</sup> Srinagar | Wednesday | 05-04-2023

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>®</sup>

Wednesday | 05-04-2023

# **Modest Covid Surge**

ndia is witnessing a fresh spike in the Covid-19 infections. In the last twenty four hours around 3600 new cases were reported, almost the same number recorded a day before. This has forced India Inc to enforce stricter measures to combat the surge. Most large entities already have elaborate Covid protocols in place, and those are expected to continue. Measures that are being enforced include work-from-home protocols, regular testing at work sites, regular temperature checks and mask mandates. The new spike is fuelled by a latest subvariant of Omicron virus. Health experts have warned about the subvariant and its potential to trigger serious outbreaks. But so far, they haven't seen a major change in severity in individuals or in populations. But what has emerged as more concerning is the potential of the virus to become more transmissible and severe.

The World Health Organization has said it is keeping a close eye on COVID subvariant, which is driving a rise in COVID cases in India. WHO's CO-VID-19 technical lead and infectious diseases specialist said that one of the big uncertainties about the virus is that it hasn't settled into a predictable pattern but continues to evolve. The global health body has also recommended booster vaccination for the elderly and other vulnerable groups. Globally, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, UAE and Qatar have reported the biggest increases in Covid cases over the last 28 days. Indonesia too has reported a modest rise.

That said, India has witnessed a drastic decline in the number of COVID cases. This is despite the fact that China was recently overrun by a major COVID-19 outbreak leading to the deaths of reportedly thousands of people. The sudden surge in infections followed after the country ended its zero-COVID strategy and lifted the sweeping lockdowns following public protests.

That the infections didn't spread to India in large numbers showed that the country has developed a certain herd immunity. One of the reasons could be that India experienced a nationwide explosion of infections during the virulent Delta wave in the beginning of 2021. Thousands perished as a result. This, together with a successful vaccination programme, may have gone some way to build mass immunity among the people.

However, this is no reason to let our guard down. The virus is now a part of our lives and it has already become endemic. Besides, the new variants of the virus keep triggering fresh outbreaks. So, we can't afford to abandon precautions altogether.

#### OTHER OPINON

# The New Virus

# **Game Of Thrones**



akistani politics is getting messier with each passing day. From alleged audio leaks of senior judges to alleged (non)interviews of a former army chief to a war of words between the Pakistan Democratic Movement government and Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the political chaos in the country continues to grow. Moreover, there are visible cracks in the superior judiciary even as differences between the government and the judiciary continue to increase. Things have come to such a pass that there is bound to be a collision that may not end well.

Amidst all this, it seems that the elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not be taking place till the general elections in October this year. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court's larger bench ruled in a 3-2 split verdict — that the elections should be held within 90 days in both provinces. It directed the Election Commission of Pakistan to propose a date for the holding of the polls that deviates to the "barest minimum" from the 90-day deadline. Finally, polls in Punjab were announced for April 30. But a week ago, the ECP announced the postponement of the upcoming elections in Punjab citing security reasons and said that the elections will now take place on October 8. The polls for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that were set to take place on May 28 have also been delayed to October 8 by the governor. The PTI condemned this move and has taken the mat ter to court. The delay in polls in these two provinces has led to another constitutional crisis as the Supreme Court is hearing a petition by the PTI challenging the ECP's decision on the Punjab elections. The PDM government had already made it clear that it is in no mood to allow elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while a population census is ongoing. However, legal experts say that the decision by the ECP is weak and flawed. On the other hand, the government's justification to delay the polls was only to be expected. The political polarisation in the country has grown to such an extent that political parties don't even pretend to care for the law of the land. There were clashes between the police and PTI workers/supporters as Imran Khan continued

to evade appearing in court in the Toshakhana case. The scenes that played out on our television screens and on social media were surreal, to say the least. When Imran Khan finally decided to appear before the court, the judicial complex almost turned into a war zone. He, therefore, signed his appearance papers from his car That someone was accorded this leniency by the courts for so many months may seem bizarre to many but somehow, the judiciary is not bothered about accusations of institutional partisanship to one party. The top court in the country has come under fire for its judgments that allegedly favour the PTI. Now, there are voices within the superior judiciary that are lamenting the Chief Justice of Pakistan's discretionary powers to form benches and take suo motu cognisance. In a recent, detailed ruling, two judges of the Supreme Court wrote: "We find it essential to underline that in order to strengthen our institution and to ensure public trust and public confidence in our Court, it is high time that we revisit the power of 'one-man show' enjoyed by the office of the Chief Justice of Pakistan.' A day later, the government tabled a bill in the National Assembly to shift the powers of taking suo motu notice from the Chief Justice to a three-member committee comprising three senior judges so that the power does not remain with one officeholder. This will surely lead to a clash between the executive and the judiciary, something that we remember vividly during the Pakistan People's Party's tenure from 2008-13 when Iftikhar Chaudhry was the Chief Justice. The courts had dismissed the then prime minister, Yusuf Raza Gilani, and made it quite difficult for the PPP to rule. Political observers have pointed out that leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) are also saying that if rules do not apply to Imran Khan, then they, too, will not follow the principles and rules that political stakeholders are expected to follow. Insiders say that the PML-N insists that if Imran Khan's popularity rose after the PTI used Article 5 to get rid of the vote of no-confidence — a move that was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last year — then delaying polls

in two provinces would not harm the PDM government either. They also say that it is clear that Imran Khan, who had exploited the false foreign conspiracy narrative, is now trying to mend relations with the United States of America. So other political parties feel that they no longer have to play by the rules.

This sort of thinking amongst political stakeholders is dangerous. If nobody follows the rules of the game, the resultant political chaos will be uncontrollable and the damage to the country will be immense. The PML-N leadership has made it abundantly clear that it is fighting a war of survival. Ever since the PDM and its allies ousted Imran Khan as the prime minister through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022, the PML-N has become considerably unpopular due to rising inflation and the economic crisis confronting Pakistan. The PML-N blames Imran Khan's government for the crisis because it did not honour the commitments made to the International Monetary Fund during its tenure. As a result, the IMF is giving Pakistan a tough time. But it is no secret that the PML-N has not been able to manage the economy either. Buying time will not help the economy if there is political uncertainty in the country. Dialogue is the way forward.

İmran Khan has — finally agreed to sit with his political opponents to resolve the crisis. This, after he had continuousrefused to sit with his rivals when he was in government. But now the prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, who extended an olive branch to Imran Khan on several occasions, has said that talks will be held with him only after he apologises to the nation for his wrongdoings. In this game of thrones, the PML-N wants to stick to power come what may and the PTI wants to be back in power. Unfortunately, democracy may turn out to be casualty in this political gimmickry.

Mehmal Sarfraz

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arburg virus, which causes infection as deadly as Ebola, has been spreading like a wildfire in Africa. Now the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has urged all travellers going to Guinea and Tanzania to take prevention to avoid catching the fatal virus. Furthermore, the health body is also sending personnel to help halt the spread of the virus.

The Marburg virus is an infectious illness with a high mortality rate and epidemic potential, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases will be sent by the CDC to respond to the outbreaks in Tanzania and Guinea, the organisation said.

Equatorial Guinea first reported the virus in February and since then the WHO has recorded nine confirmed cases and 20 additional probable cases, all of which have died. According to WHO, Marburg virus disease is a highly virulent disease that causes haemorrhagic fever, with a fatality ratio of up to 88 per cent. It is part of the filovirus family that also includes the Ebola virus, which has caused havoc in several previous outbreaks in Africa. The natural host of the Marburg virus is the African fruit bat, which carries the virus but does not fall sick from it.

Bats and other infected animals can transmit the Marburg virus. High fever, bleeding both internally and externally, and excruciating headaches are some of the symptoms of the viral illness.

After being infected, the Marburg virus can spread to another person by coming into direct contact (through cuts in the skin or ruptured mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of an infected person, as well as by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces and materials (like bedding and clothing).

Marburg has no known cure or vaccine, but according to the WHO, early candidate vaccines as well as blood products, immune therapies and drug therapies are being studied as possible treatments.

NDTV

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

OBSERVER MAIL

ers have a wrong perception that

e-cigarettes are the right alternate

means for them to quit cigarette

smoking. On the contrary, test re-

sults have shown that they could

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

#### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001 email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Just As Dangerous This is with reference to the write-up, "WHO thwarts our perception of e-cigarettes" in Kashmir Observer, dated February 28, 2023. Smok-

cause potential health problems, including cancer, as they contain chemicals and toxins that are addictive. When you stop using them, you go into withdrawal and feel depressed, and incorrigibly tetchy. Researches have proved that use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) have not been shown to be effective in curbing and stopping cigarette smoking. Tobacco related toxins have also been found in the aerosol vapor of ENDS products. Tiny metal particles that are most likely from the casings and heating elements have been found in the aerosols created from this device. There is increasing evidence that inhaled nicotine from ENDS damages lung tissues and lowers the body's natural resistance to infections and to cancers. It is a matter for concern that youngsters who use e-cigarettes are most likely to develop brain impairment.

> Ranganathan Sivakumar siva19kumar@gmail.com

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# The Lure of Dishonesty and Rewards of Ethics

#### Wajahat Qazi

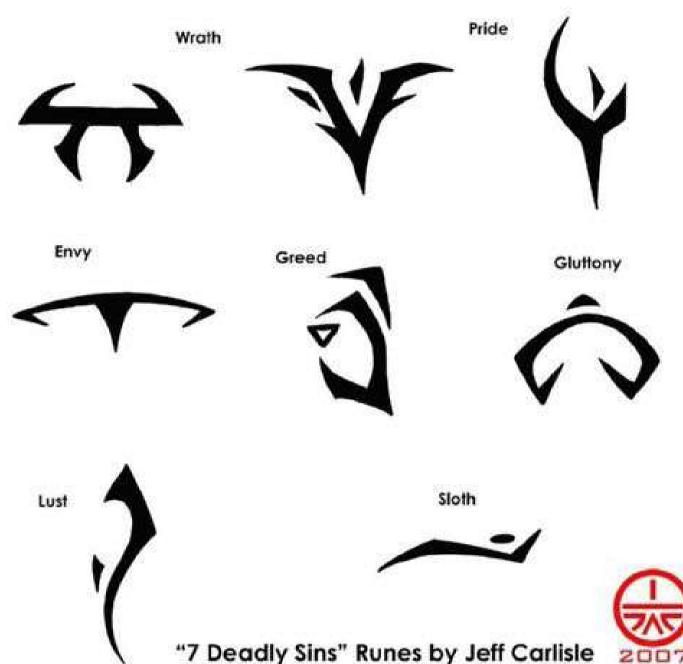
ACH one of us faces a moral or an ethical dilemma or dilemmas at any given point in time. This is perhaps because we are human, defined as we are by foibles, weaknesses, temptations and so on. There is also a structural factor that overlays our human (ness); context and a given situation can present us with challenges that have a moral or an ethical flavour or ingress. For example, conditions of extreme poverty, say, an exigent need to feed one's hungry children, can make a perfectly ethical and moral person



For one, for all the glitter and wealth effects of unethical behaviour, there are invariably opportunity costscompromises have been made, prices(at times even in terms of life) are paid, or , in other words, a lot is mortgaged in return for unethical behaviour

commit theft or even worse. In this circumstance, the element of moral choice is overridden; it actually does not exist. (You either feed your children or they die of hunger). But these are extreme circumstances (with the caveat that for many deprived and underprivileged of the world, these are unfortunately the normal).

However, generally, and usually we all have a choice, if our mental faculties and the ability to reason are intact. Here the dilem-



ma is that of the prevalent mores in society. Say, if corruption is widespread and acceptable in it, what does the ethical or the moral person do? Be part of the game, so to speak and move on or be an outlier seen as an oddball by the rest? Or, say, if there are moral and ethical issues in society that are brushed under the carpet(as in hushed up), does one

stand up to and expose these or close one's eyes as well or even, at another extreme, to employ the jargon of economists, earn rents off these?

Practically, there's no easy answers or solutions to these dilemmas. But if one is ethical and moral, one may become a cynic if by omission or commission unethical behaviour

is prevalent in society. What then can a person do to remain wedded to a moral compass against the backdrop of unethical situations that present themselves?

For me, the answer is pretty simple and straightforward. As a Muslim, I am a believer. The corollary here is that an ethical path is laid out for me by my religion. This does not

then present nuanced moral and ethical ambiguity for me. (I say this in a very non -judgmental manner. I do not judge others for their ethical laxity, perceived or real). Each situation is unique, there is context, there are permutations and combinations, and each one of us is answerable for his or her own acts of omission and commission. Who am I to judge?

But, as a society, whatever and wherever one's given society might be, there are and must be ethical standards, that are usually universal, that must not be breached. For instance, a crime like murder is bad. There is universal consensus on this. Exploiting someone or abusing a person's vulnerability is immoral and unethical. The list goes on. How can these crimes and unethical behaviours be checked?

One answer is by the instrument of law and the state. While law and the state argument and recourse is a sound one but, in the final analysis, a good and ethical society is one where both there is minimal intervention by either. The well springs or ethics and morality must emerge from people. I am not aiming or alluding here to a moral utopia but merely suggesting that a 'good' society is one that is populated by good people, that is, moral and ethical people. This level and nature of morality and ethics can perhaps be arrived at by multi- pronged efforts: one, economic conditions and conditions that give short shrift to crime (this will not prevent crimes of a psycho-pathological behaviour). Two, persons in a given society must be morally and ethically aware and be constantly reviewing and sharpening their moral and ethical compass. Third, morality and ethics can be made chic. But this leaves the question of 'returns

from either moral and ethical behaviour or returns from unethical and immoral behaviour unaddressed. With respect to the latter, sometimes, it may seem that unethical behaviour yields returns such as economic and financial payoffs, and other forms of glitter. Is then, given the finiteness of life, unethical behaviour worth it? No. Not at all.

For one, for all the glitter and wealth effects of unethical behaviour, there are invariably opportunity costs- compromises have been made, prices(at times even in terms of life) are paid, or, in other words, a lot is mortgaged in return for unethical behaviour. There are then clear tangible benefits to be had from an ethical and moral orientation. But the most effective, important and long lasting benefit to be had from either is intangible: peace of mind, contentment and even happiness. Let us then strive to strengthen our moral and ethical compasses and live honest, happy and contented lives.

# **Rethinking AI and Assessment**

#### Sam Illingworth

hatGPT is a powerful language model developed by OpenAI -that has the ability to generate human-like text, making it capable of engaging in natural language conversations. This technology has the potential to revolutionise the way we interact with computers, and it has already begun to be integrated into various industries.

However, the implementation of ChatGPT in the field of higher education in the UK poses a number of challenges that must be carefully considered. If ChatGPT is used to grade assignments or exams, there is the possibility that it could be biased against certain groups of students.

For example, ChatGPT may be more likely to give higher grades to students who write in a style that it is more familiar with, potentially leading to unfair grading practices. Additionally, if ChatGPT is used to replace human instructors, it could perpetuate existing inequalities in the education system, such as the under-representation of certain demographics in certain fields of study.

There is also the potential for ChatGPT to be used to cheat on exams or assignments. Since it is able to generate human-like text, ChatG-PT could be used to write entire assignments or essays, making it difficult for educators to detect cheating.

For example, ChatGPT (meaning "generative pre-trained transformer") could be asked to "write an essay about the challenges that ChatGPT poses higher education in the UK". In fact, the first four paragraphs of this article were written by ChatGPT, in response to this exact request.

ChatGPT's response (and this is your human author writing now) actually amounted to more than four paragraphs, as it went on to ar-



ticulate its inability to fully replicate the expertise and real-world experience that human teachers bring to the classroom. This particular line of enquiry made me both appreciative of its concern for my job security, and somewhat cynical of its Machiavellian designs to win me over.

In my research and teaching, I am involved in developing assessment and feedback processes that enrich the student experience, while also equipping them with the skills they need upon graduation.

The truth is, if I was looking at 200 pieces of work submitted by firstyear undergraduate students on this topic, I would probably give Chat-GPT's efforts a pass. But far from being worried about the challenges this AI programme might pose, I see this instead as an opportunity to improve the way we assess learning in higher education.

#### **FINDING OPPORTUNITIES**

For me, the major challenge that ChatGPT presents is one I should be considering anyway: how can I make my assessments more authentic - meaning, useful and relevant. Authentic assessments are designed to measure students' knowledge and skills in a way that is particularly tailored to their own lives and future careers.

These assessments often involve tasks or activities that closely mirror the challenges students may encounter in real life, requiring them to apply knowledge and skills in a practical or problem-solving context. Specific examples might include asking a group of engineering students to collaborate on a community issue as part of the Engineers without Borders challenge, or inviting environmental science students to curate an art exhibition in a local gallery that explores the local impact of the climate crisis.

While there will always be a need for essays and written assignments especially in the humanities, where they are essential to help students develop a critical voice - do we really need all students to be writing the same essays and responding to the same questions? Could we instead give them autonomy and agency and in doing so, help to make their assessments more interesting, inclusive and ultimately authentic? As educators, we can even use

ChatGPT directly to help us develop such assessments. So, rather than posing the question that generated the start of this article, I could instead present students with Chat-GPT's response alongside some marking instructions, and ask them to provide a critique on what grade the automated response deserves and why.

Such an assessment would be much more difficult to plagiarise. It would also invite the students to develop their critical thinking and feedback skills, both of which are essential when they graduate into the workforce, no matter what their profession. Alternatively, ChatGPT could be used to generate scenariobased tasks that require students to analyse and solve problems they may encounter in their future careers.

This feels like a Pandora's box moment for assessment in higher education. Whether we decide to embrace ChatGPT in our pursuit of authentic assessment or passively acknowledge the ethical dilemmas it might present to academic integrity, there is a real opportunity here. This could help us reflect on how we assess our students and why this might need to change. Or, in the AI's own words:

ChatGPT could be a useful tool for creating authentic assessments, but it would still be up to the instructor to design and implement the assessment in a way that is meaningful and relevant for their students.

The sophistication and capability of AI technologies are accelerating. Rather than reacting with trepidation, we must find and embrace the positives. Doing so will help us think about how we can specifically tailor the assessment of students, and provide better and more creative support for their learning.

By arrangements with The Conversation

# News

# **Chief Justice Inaugurates LADC Office at Samba** Know The Law To Be A Good And Responsible Citizen: CJ **Observer News Service**

Samba: Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patronin-Chief, J&K LSA, today inaugurated Legal Aid Defense Counsel office at ADR Centre Court Complex, Samba in presence of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

Sonia Gupta, Principal District and Sessions Judge, (Chairperson, DLSA) Samba, Deputy Gupta, Anuradha Samba, SSP Commissioner Benam Tosh, judicial officers, Bar members and officers of police and civil administration were present on the occasion.

A ceremonial guard of honour was given to the Chief Justice. Chief Justice and Justice Tashi

Rabstan planted medicinal saplings within the Court Complex. After inaugurating the LADC

office, Chief Justice addressed the gathering of lawyers and other stakeholders present in the Court Complex. He highlighted the importance of LADC office and urged upon the general public to take maximum benefit of free legal services being provided by the Legal Services Institutions through the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority to the needy, poor and marginalized section of the society. While handing over the en-

gagement orders to Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel namely Nisha Rani (Advocate) Assistant Legal Aid and



Defense Counsel Versha Anthal (Advocate), Chief Justice congratulated both the appointees and exhorted upon them to discharge their duties as LADCs with utmost dedication and honesty to serve the people of the district. Chief Justice hoped that with operationalization of the office of LADC at Samba the criminal cases of legal aid seekers shall be defended effectively to ensure immediate relief to them. Chief Justice inspected all

the courts and took stock of judicial infrastructure at Samba. He also had a meeting with the Advocates to take stock of their grievances. He assured them of remedial measures to address all the issues highlighted in the meeting. The staff members of District

Court, Samba also felicitated the Chief Justice and the Executive Chairman, J&K LSA. During an interactive session

with the judicial officers, Chief Justice impressed upon them to expedite disposal of old cases on

priority basis. He asked them to encourage the parties to settle the dispute through alternate modes of resolving the dispute with the help of mechanism created by Legal Services Authority. Later, Chief Justice visited the Conference Hall in the office of Deputy Commissioner Samba and inaugurated an awareness programme on the topic "Expanding Horizons of Access to Justice and Role of Legal Services Authorities".

During the programme, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Samba formally welcomed the dignitaries where-after a faculty member of Bhargava College, Samba and two students, one from Government Degree College (Girls), Samba and another from Dogra Law College, Bari Brahmana delivered talk on the topic which was appreciated by the Chief Justice and the guest

of honour. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice, N. Kotiswar Singh

present in the programme to encourage the students for participation in such programmes which would enable them to become good citizens. Deputy Commissioner, in her

speech, highlighted the steps taken by the Government in general and Samba administration in particular to mitigate the sufferings of the downtrodden and marginalized sections of the society. She also took pride in informing the gathering that a Legal Aid Clinic was working in her office.

While appreciating the work done by DLSA Samba, she said that every college and school in Samba is having a Legal Literacy Club. She assured the full support to the DLSA Samba in all its endeavors.

The programme was atby Shahzad Azeem, tended Registrar General, Y.P. Bourney, Vigilance, Registrar M.K Sharma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice, Rajinder Sapru, Registrar Rules, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, Anoop Sharma, Registrar IT, Prem Sagar, Secretary HCLSC, Pravin Pandoh, Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol and other civil and police officials, Advocates, Principals, faculty members and students of different Government colleges and law colleges.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary DLSA Samba whereas vote of thanks was proposed by Advocate Hitesh Sharma.

# Infertility affects one in six people globally, says WHO report

#### Press Trust of India

New Delhi: An estimated one in six people globally are affected by infertility, according to a new report from the World Health Organization published on Tuesday. The global health body not-

ed that around 17.5 per cent of the adult population experience infertility, showing the urgent need to increase access to affordable, high-quality fertility care for those in need.

The new estimates show limited variation in the prevalence of infertility between regions. The rates are comparable for high-, middle- and low-income countries, indicating that this is a major health challenge globally.

Lifetime prevalence was 17.8 per cent in high-income countries and 16.5 per cent in lowand middle-income countries. WHO said.

"The report reveals an important truth: infertility does not discriminate," said Tedros Ghebreyesus, Adhanom Director-General at WHO.

"The sheer proportion of people affected show the need to widen access to fertility care and ensure this issue is no longer sidelined in health research and policy, so that safe, effective, and affordable ways to attain parenthood are available for those who seek it," Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

Infertility is a disease of the male or female reproductive system, defined by the failure to achieve a pregnancy after 12

months or more of regular unprotected sexual intercourse. It can cause significant distress, stigma, and financial hardship, affecting people's mental and psychosocial well-being.

Despite the magnitude of the issue, solutions for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infertility -- including assisted reproductive technology such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) -- remain underfunded and inaccessible to many due to high costs, social stigma and limited availability, WHO said.

"Millions of people face catastrophic healthcare costs after seeking treatment for infertility, making this a major equity issue and all too often, a medical poverty trap for those affected," said Pascale Allotey, Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research at WHO.

"Better policies and public financing can significantly improve access to treatment and protect poorer households from falling into poverty as a result," Allotey said.

While the new report shows convincing evidence of the high global prevalence of infertility, it highlights a persistent lack of data in many countries and some regions.

The report calls for greater availability of national data on infertility disaggregated by age and by cause to help with quantifying infertility, as well as knowing who needs fertility care and how risks can be reduced.

#### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### **Rains Drench**

possibility of a brief spell of rain at scattered places of J&K towards late afternoon and evening.

From April 7-12, he said, mainly dry weather (60-70% chance) was expected in the entire I&K.

The weather department also urged farmers to avoid spraying orchards till April 6 and maintain proper drainage to drain out excess water in fields.

Meanwhile, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 6.9°C against 7.9°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 6.4°C against 5.1°C on the previous night while the hill station of Pahalgam in South Kashmir recorded a low of 3.2°C against 3.0°C on the previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of 5.4 °C against 5.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.5°C C on the previous night and it was rainst 0 0.3°C above normal for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 4.4°C against 7.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

administrative districts, state-run Global Times reported on Monday.

China's renaming of the places in Arunachal Pradesh came in the midst of the lingering eastern Ladakh border standoff that began in May 2020.

Following the standoff, India bolstered its overall military preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Arunachal Pradesh sector as well.

Jaishankar said the situation along the LAC in eastern Ladakh remained "very fragile" and is "quite dangerous" in military assessment because of close deployments of troops of both sides in some pockets though "substantial" progress has been made in the disengagement process in many areas.

tion points in eastern Ladakh even as the two

and military talks. India has been maintaining that its ties w China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

Sources in the police department told Kashmir Observer that Patel will be handed over to the two member Ahmedabad Crime Branch team in a day or two.

urged upon all the students

present in the programme

to read the preamble of the

Constitution like a poem. He

also highlighted the impor-

tance of the knowledge of basic

laws for becoming a good and

responsible citizen. He further

impressed upon the students

to work Pro-bono as Para Legal

Volunteers and spread aware-

ness about various schemes

launched by the Government

and Legal Services Authorities

in order to make difference at

their individual level to ensure

that the benefit of the same

reaches to those for whom the

In his address, Justice Tashi

various schemes

Rabstan underlined the need

for spreading awareness re-

launched by NALSA as well as

UT Government for the benefit

of those falling in the category

of persons entitled to legal

aid under the Legal Services

Authorities Act. He impressed

upon the faculty members

same have been formulated.

garding

They said the trial against Patel, who masqueraded as Additional Director (Strategy and Campaigns) Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi, will run concurrently.

It is pertinent to mention that the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar had on March 23, rejected bail of the accused on the grounds that granting bail to him at this stage would undermine the integrity of the probe.

"I am of the considered opinion that arguments advanced by Ld. APP are just, proper, appealing and carries more weight and on the other hand, I respectfully disagree with Ld counsel for the applicant because in case at this stage discretion of bail is exercised in favor of the accused, it shall definitely destroy the very fabric of the investigation," reads CJM order.

Sources said the custody of the conman will be given after necessary sanction from the court and that the trial against him will run concurrently in cases pending against him.

temple has been made possible by the blessings of Mata Sharda Devi and by the joint efforts of the people on both sides of the LoC.

Referring to the demand for the opening of the Sharda Peeth across LoC on the lines of the Kartarpur Corridor, Shah said the Centre will surely make efforts on this and there is no doubt about it.

Sharda Peeth, the seat of Sharda, the Kashmiri name for goddess Saraswati, was one of the foremost ancient universities of the Indian subcontinent.

#### **Early Polls**

any tie up with any political party before elections. And post elections one does not know whether any political party gets majority or not ... I do not want to commit myself to a thing which one is not able to know what to do post elections."

#### **IAF Sergeant**

vehicle rolled down into the over 300-feet gorge, the officials said, adding Bhat was found dead on the spot and his body was later retrieved by rescuers.

him to GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri for advanced treatment.

However, he succumbed to injuries during treatment at the GMC.

Meanwhile, the body of the teenager was handed over to his family for last rites after completion of medico-legal formalities.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered in police station Kandi, reports said.

#### 7 Tourists Killed

from a deep valley, a state government official said, quoting reports from the Armv.

Among those dead are a woman and a child, he said.

Search operations in the area are underway by the Army, state disaster management teams and police to find if any other person is trapped, officials said.

Those injured were admitted to different hospitals in Gangtok, around 55 km away, they said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Centre was closely monitoring the situation, and the teams of the NDRF will reach the area -- between Milestones 13 and 17 -- soon "My sincerest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in the tragic avalanche in Sikkim. We are closely monitoring the situation and the teams of NDRF will reach the affected area soon. I pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," he tweeted.

Last month, External Affairs Minister S

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a nearly three-year confrontation in certain fricsides completed disengagement of troops from several areas following extensive diplomatic

Jammu recorded a low of 17.1°C against 16.3°C on the previous night. It was 3.9°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 6.5°C (below normal by 0.5°C), Batote 7.3°C (below normal by 1.6°C), Katra 11.5°C (3.0°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 6.2°C (0.6°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 2.5°C, he added. (GNS)

#### **China Renames**

of six places in Arunachal Pradesh was released in 2017 while the second batch of 15 places was issued in 2021. The official names of the 11 places were released on Sunday by China's ministry of civil affairs.

It also gave precise coordinates, including two land areas, two residential areas, five mountain peaks and two rivers and listed the category of places' names and their subordinate

#### **Banihal Highway**

make the road all-weather is nowhere in sight.

An official said that the decision about reopening the road will be taken shortly

He said that snow clearance work was completed, however, fresh snowfall has accumulated on road at some spots.

Allowing traffic in these circumstances is risky and can prove fatal, he said adding that it is likely road will be thrown open for traffic by April 15

#### **Avalanche Blocks**

snowfall in the area. He said that men and machinery have been pressed into service to clear the road

"Due to snowfall and avalanches at various places on Zojila axis, upward traffic was not allowed today," he said.

#### **Gujarat Police**

at a bridge treated as a Line of Control between India and Pakistan.

A senior police official said that J&K police

team would follow Gujarat police in transporting the conman to Ahmedabad, wherein a formal case vide FIR number 11191011230073 under section 406, 420, 170, 120 B was registered against him for usurping a senior citizen's bungalow. Besides it, three cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including cheating, forgery and breach of trust, dating back to 2017 are registered against him in police stations in Ahmedabad and Baroda.

Regarding his two accomplices Amit Pandya and Jai Sitapara, who had arrived in Srinagar to join the probe against Patel, sources said their questioning is ongoing and both are present in Srinagar. They said their involvement is thoroughly probed at the moment.

#### **PoK Probes**

Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab's Gurdaspur district. The 4 km-long corridor provides visafree access to Indian pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib.

Virtually inaugurating the Mata Sharda Devi temple near the Line of Control in the Karnah sector of Jammu and Kashmir last month, Home Minister Amit Shah said the opening of the

Bhat was a resident of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

#### Kupwara Put On

avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

#### J&K Logs 31

reached to 174,152 including 171,764 and 2,353 deaths

He further said that the total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 156 including 121 from Kashmir division and 35 from Jammu division.

"Among the fresh 31 cases today, 16 are from Srinagar, 3 from Pulwama, two each from Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam and Kulgam and one each from two from Pulwama and one each from Kupwara and Ganderbal in Kashmir division and one each from Jammu and Kuthua in Iammu division.

"In last 24 hours, 1125 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the UT while 41 patients have recovered," he said.

#### **Teenager Falls**

Nathu La, situated at 14,450 feet above the sea level, is one of the three open trading border posts between India and China. It is a major tourist destination because of its scenic beauty.

The tourists were not permitted to travel bevond Milestone 13 due to inclement weather, but they forced the tour operators and the drivers to take them to the area where the incident happened, a police officer said.

The road has been opened for traffic by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) as the snow was cleared, the Army said.

Some 350 people in 80 vehicles, stranded on the road because of the snow, were being brought back to Gangtok, officials said.

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang condoled the deaths, and said that he was praving for the speedy recovery of those injured.

"My heart goes out to the bereaved family and friends in this hour of grief and I pray that the departed souls rest in eternal peace," Tamang said.

OBSERVER.

KASHMIR

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

# STATE

#### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A day after the recovery of a cache of arms near the

International Border, a senior police officer on Tuesday said Pakistan is making repeated attempts to smuggle weapons and narcotics but majority of these were foiled by the securi-

ty forces guarding the borders. "Pakistan is making repeated attempts to smuggle weapons, improvised explosive devices and grenades (in the recent past) but majority of these attempts were foiled as we have full control of the situation (on the borders)," Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone. Mukesh Singh told reporters in Samba.

On Monday, security forces recovered three pistols, six magazines, four hand grenades and 48 rounds of ammunition from a packet believed to have been dropped by a Pakistani drone near the International Border in Samba district.

"I want to assure all that all the conspiracies hatched across the border will be foiled," Singh said, adding the shortcomings, if any, will be addressed to

Responding to a question about the possibility of terrorists trying to sneak into this side from Pakistan, he said there have

been many infiltration attempts in the past couple of years and all such attempts were foiled. "Our attempt is

to foil their plans (to push terrorists) and we are doing our job," he said.

Singh was in Samba district to preside over a police-public meet as part of the efforts to reach out to the public and listen to their problems.

"The people raised many issues of concern like drug trafficking, weapon smuggling, illegal mining and bovine smuggling (during the meet). We will have one more meeting in the coming days and chalk out a proper action plan to address all these issues," the ADGP said.

He said the people were appreciative of the police campaign to make Samba a drugfree district.

Singh said the drug smugglers who had fled to other districts amid the crackdown will be identified and arrested.

#### Baramulla Secures Rank 1 In **DSEK's Special Enrollment Drive** and dedication so that the district

**Observer News Service** 

BARAMULLA: In a significant development, Baramulla district has achieved another milestone by securing rank first in all the districts of Kashmir division during the ongoing enrollment drive across all the educational institutions by a total of 14671 new enrollments with an increased percentage of 12.03%.

It is pertinent to mention that the said drive was kick started by Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Tassaduq Hussain with a special 10 days long enrollment drive from Sub Division Uri during which more than 1500 new entrants including out of school and dropout children were enrolled in the first instance.

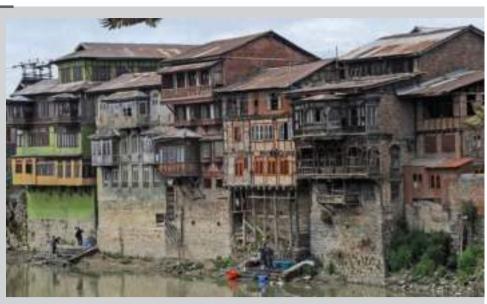
Speaking in this regard, Chief Education Officer Baramulla, Balbir Singh Raina extended his appreciations to educational institutions and emphasized upon them to work with added zeal

will achieve the desired targets. The CEO said that providing quality education to the students is our top priority. He appealed to all the stakeholders

including the teaching community to participate in the enrollment drive without affecting the school work. He stressed the teachers and others concerned to toil hard for ensuring meaningful enrollment in their respective schools.

He also gave on spot directions to all the educational heads to make people aware with regard to the special drive and also expressed hope that during this drive, government schools will witness the highest number of new entrants across the district.

Meanwhile, the CEO informed that the government is all set to provide the best possible facilities at government schools so that more and more students are benefited by these educational institutions.



TRADITIONAL DRY CLEANERS washing clothes along the banks of river Jhelum in the Old City of Srinagar on Tuesday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

# **J&K Announces Rs 560 Cr Project To Create A Robust Market Ecosystem**

**Press Trust Of India** 

IAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir administration has announced a Rs 560-crore project under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to strengthen the existing market infrastructure and create a robust market ecosystem to boost the region's economy and benefit farmers. The project aims to improve

the terms of trade (ToT) in favour of farmers, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the market ecosystem, and minimize value loss while maximizing societal welfare.

"lammu and Kashmir government announces Rs 560 crore investment in agriculture and allied sectors under HADP to strengthen the market ecosystem and benefit farmers and consumers", Additional chief secretary Agriculture department, Atal production Dulloo said

Jammu & Kashmir is implementing this project under the programme that aims to strengthen the existing market infrastructure and create a robust market ecosystem that caters to the needs of all stakeholders, he said.

The agriculture and allied sectors in the Union Territory are poised for significant growth, thanks to technological advancements and extension programmes. "These interventions, incentivized through various schemes and projects, have already led to improvements in the quality and quantity of produce". "However, the challenge remains in integrating smallholder produce with market systems that are both effective and transpar-

ent. This will ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their goods he said. while consumers get good value for their money", Dulloo said.

The official said that the project will create a robust marketing ecosystem including market reforms, infrastructure development, institutional and capacity building, branding, digital marketing, and market research information systems. "The project aims to achieve its objectives through an investment of Rs 560 Crore, which will be spread over a period of five years", he said.

Dulloo expressed confidence that this project will bring about significant improvements in agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu & Kashmir, providing a boost to the region's economy and benefitting farmers and consumers alike.

He said that the proposed activities or areas of intervention will strengthen the existing agricultural marketing system in Jammu & Kashmir, bringing long-term dividends across stakeholders, particularly farmer-producers. The proposed project in Jammu & Kashmir aims to achieve significant growth in agriculture and allied sectors through various activities.

"The market reforms include the implementation of an open auction system, a single license for trading in all mandies, and the institutionalization of post-harvest infrastructure with the eNAM network. Infrastructure development will involve converting mandies

of Niche Product Marketing FPOs",

Dulloo said that branding activities will include the creation of two Agriculture Branding Centers, mapping of existing branding practices, farmers and FPO brand building training and workshops, and integration of branded niche products with the tourism and hotel industry. Lastly, rural business and service hubs will be established in production areas.

The Directorate of Horticulture, Planning & Marketing will be responsible for the on-ground implementation of the project and will serve as the nodal agency for providing unified licensing to potential traders.

Private entrepreneurs will be responsible for the development of infrastructure, including CA stores, grading lines, mini cold stores, reefer vans, and pick-up vans. "The Directorate of Horticulture, Planning & Marketing will establish composting units at potential mandies, and also create new mandies in collaboration with the respective District Administrations", Dulloo said.

He said that the promotion and support of institutional building and capacity development of Niche Product Marketing FPOs will be done in collaboration with allied departments and Agriculture Universities of the UT.

"The project will also include the identification, capacity building, and promotion of Rural Busi-Service Hubs (RBSHs) ness &

# **Congress Holds 'Satyagraha' Protest Rally In J&K**

lence" on the Adani issue.

part of the party's "Satyagraha" campaign against the "blatant loot of people's money" and the Adani issue.

Addressing the party workinto the Adani issue.

and disclosure requirements. Patil alleged that the government was silent despite the charge of Rs 20,000 crore of investment from shell companies in the Adani Group dealing with ports, airports and other business. She termed it a serious threat to the security of the country.

The assets of the country are on sale and the money of common people is being misused for promotion of crony capitalism and the voice of the opposition is being crushed through various arm-twisting methods, she alleged.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee chief Vikar Rasool Wani lashed out at the BJP government over its "vendetta politics".

He said the Congress will not

He said the Congress is in the

allow the government to de-

strov democratic atmosphere

DNA of the people of this bor-

der belt as they strongly believe

in secularism and brotherhood

and have always defeated ne-

farious designs of Pakistan and

in the country.

divisive forces.



Recently, Adani Group stocks took a beating on the bourses after the US-based short seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, includfraudulent transactions ing and share-price manipulation, against it.

The Gautam Adani-led group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws

#### Amarnath Yatra 2023

# **Meeting Held In Anantnag To Finalise Sanitation Plan**

#### **Observer News Service**

**ANANTNAG:** In order to finalise the sanitation plan for forthcoming SANJAY 2023 Additional deputy commissioner Anantnag Dr S.M Ashraf today chaired a meeting of concerned officers.

The meeting was apprised by ACD that 1200 persons are required for cleaniness of the halting stations and the yatra route. He said that we are going to hire the sweepers, sanitation workers, workers for segregation at source, besides the volunteers. He shared his previous years experience with the chair to

make this year's yatra more successful. He stated that 26 sanitation centres are being mobilised dur-

ers is also being utilised. ADC while speaking on the occasion said that no compromise will be made on the services being provided to the pligrims of SANIAY and every effort must be taken well in advance to avoid

any delay in services. The line departments were directed for early implementation of their plans with regard to SANIAY 2023. He further said that the event being of national importance and sanitation and other services from Nawvug tunnel to holly cave is the prime concern of the Adminstration.

He advised the officers for early installation and inspection of the machinary and makeshift of sanitary points.

The meeting was attended by ACR. ACD. CEO MC Anantr

Press Trust Of India JAMMU: The Congress took out a protest rally in the border belt of R S Pura in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday and launched a frontal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his "si-

The rally was organised as

ers, AICC in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir Rajni Patil targeted the prime minister for not acceding to the opposition's demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Wednesday | 05-04-2023

### **Union Secretary Releases** JaKeGA Annual Report 2022-23

#### **Observer News Service**

IAMMU: Union Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Alkesh Kumar Sharma on Tuesday released the first annual report 2022-23 of Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), IT department.

CEO JaKeGA, Abhishek Sharma, Director NIELIT, Shameem Khan, JaKeGA team and officials of IT department were present on the occasion.

Union Secretary appreciated the efforts being taken up by the UT administration to promote digital governance in the region. He interacted with the batch of officers undergoing Cyber security training at NIELIT, officers of JaKeGA and Information Technology Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Abhishek Sharma informed that this report highlights some of the innovative digital initiatives undertaken successfully by JaKeGA in the year 2022-23.

### **CUK's Chemistry Dept Organises Students Visit To FSL**



#### **Observer News Service**

GANDERBAL: Department of Chemistry, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organized a one-day visit to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Srinagar, for the students of M.Sc. Chemistry on Monday. The event was organised as part of the G-20 university connect.

Head, Deptt of Chemistry, Dr. Abid Hamid Dar, flagged off the event and highlighted the benefits and importance of this outreach programme.

Speaking on the occasion, FSL Deputy Director, Dr Shahoor Ahmad Kanth, emphasised on the importance of having indepth knowledge of Forensic

Science. He mentioned that this outreach activity programme of the department of chemistry is the first experience of FSL (J&K) to allow the students to visit the Laboratory. He discussed the alleged rising crimes in J&K and highlighted the role of FSL in finding the reason behind these cases.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Rayees Ahmad Shah, Scientific Officer (Chemistry and Toxicology) gave a detailed presentation on the various applications of Forensic chemistry and toxicology in forensic science. He emphasized the role of different spectrometric and chromatographic techniques used for analysis and interpretation samples of narcotic drugs.

into value chain parks, creatacross all districts of I&K. A dediing new mandies, and installing cated Market Intelligence Cell will composting units. Institutional be established at SKUAST-K in building and capacity developcollaboration with concerned dement will focus on the formation partments", he said.

# Kunfer Tunnel Along Jammu-**Srinagar NH Nears Completion**

One Tube Likely To Be Opened Next Week

**Press Trust Of India** 

IAMMU: The work on the Kunfel tunnel connecting Peeda with Chanderkote along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway is nearing completion, with one of the twin tubes likely to be thrown open for traffic by the end of next week, officials said on Tuesday.

The construction of the 924-metre tunnel, which will bypass a nearly three-km landslide and accident-prone area in Ramban district, started in 2018 after a year's delay due to some issues related to awarding of contract by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Gammon India Limited has been given the contract for con-

structing the tunnel. The tunnel is part of the ongoing four-laning of the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national high-

way -- the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country. The first tube of the Kun-

fer tunnel is almost complete and we are expecting it to be opened for traffic within the next eight days," Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam told PTI. Islam, who is monitoring the

highway project on a daily basis, said laying of only 50 to 100 metres of pavement quality concrete (PQC) and construction of the approach road are pending and will be completed by the next week

"Inclement weather over the past few days played spoilsport and hampered the work on the approach road," he said.

On March 16, the NHAI dedicated the 880-metre T-5 tunnel on the highway to the public. The tunnel bypasses the most vulnerable stretch of Panthya in Ramban district.

The work on the four-laning project started in 2011 and includes a number of small and major tunnels, bridges and flyovers. The project is likely to be completed by the next year after missing several deadlines over the past decade.

"The first tube (T1) of the Kunfer tunnel is almost ready and will take a maximum of 10 days to become operational. Only some road construction is pending," said Salim Khan, deputy general manager of Gammon India Limited. Asked about the second tube (T2) of the Kunfer tunnel, he said it will be ready within two months. "The work is going on round the clock and will be completed as soon as possible. While the first tube is almost ready, the T2 is going through tunnel lining with 45 metres of excavation work yet to be completed," the official said.

Ramban Deputy Commissioner Islam said the most critical stretch of 66 kilometers of the highway passes through the district between Nashri and Banihal tunnels.

"We have got three tunnels in the past year and several other small tunnels and bridges are nearing completion and will bypass other critical spots on the road," he said.

The officials said work is also progressing smoothly on the Ramban flyover and several other bridges.

They said the completion of these projects will not only help resolve the issue of traffic jams on the highway to a large extent but will also cut down the distance between different points by several kilometers.

ing the yatra besides the services of NGOs and other stakehold-

ACP, BDO pahalgam, E. Os of MC Mattan, Qazigund etc.

# **Govt Conducts Social Audit Of Works In 4291 Panchayats**

**Observer News Service** 

**IAMMU:** The government of lammu and Kashmir has successfully conducted social audit of works in all 4291 Gram Panchayats in the UT to improve transparency and accountability in implementation of various schemes and programmes.

The unwavering support of Commissioner Secretary RD&PR, Mandeep Kaur and tireless efforts of District Resource Persons (DRPs), Block Resource Persons (BRPs)/Programme officers (PO)s and SHG members from NRLM as Village Resource Persons (VRPs) contributed tremendously towards this accomplishment.

The field team, comprising DRPs, BRPs/POs and VRPs, played a crucial role in success of these social audits. They were responsible for providing technical support and assistance to the community members and the department. The DRPs and BRPs with their in-depth knowledge of local context and government schemes and programmes, helped in verifying the records and documents related to the schemes and provided vital inputs. The VRPs, on the other hand, acted as a bridge between the community members and the social audit team, and helped in identifying the issues and difficulties faced by the local inhabitants.

### **DC Bandipora Assesses Progress On Transit Accommodation**

#### **Observer News Service** each block.

BANDIPORA: In order to take first hand appraisal of progress on transit accommodation, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Tuesday visited Odina village in Sumbal sub division to take first hand appraisal of progress

on transit accommodation. SDM Sumbal and concerned engineers from executing agencies briefed the DC about the progress of work on the project. Officers informed that transit accommodation is coming up at the cost of Rs 57.60 crores comprising 480 flats in 30 blocks. They said each block

is four-storied with four flats in

each storey, totaling 16 flats in

The concerned executing department informed that 14 blocks have been completed. It was further apprised that work on other blocks is in full swing and shall be completed within the set deadlines.

During the visit, the DC urged officers to enhance the pace of work to complete the project within a set time line.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned executing agency to speed up the pace of work on the project on war-footed basis to ensure its completion within the shortest possible time and also gear up men and machinery for completing the project in stipulated time frame.

# SPORTS





# **Rowing Selection Trials Today At Bakshi Stadium**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) has Rowing for its Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE). The trials are scheduled to take place today, Wednesday (April 5), at Bakshi Stadium. The trials begin at 10:30 AM.

Selected athletes will be encated at Nehru Park in Dal Lake. events are raced over a course of The centre offers a residen- 2000m.

tial scheme along with expert coaches and international infrastructure.

Rowing is one of the oldest announced selection trials in Olympic sports and has been on the Olympic program since 1900. The Olympics hold 14 Rowing competitions, seven each for men and women. These include: Single sculls, Double sculls, Quadruple sculls, Coxless pair, Coxless four, Eight, and rolled at the KISCE, which is lo- Lightweight double sculls. All

# J&K Women Lose 9-0 In **Senior Football Nationals**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: J&K senior women's football team suffered a resounding 9-0 loss at the hands of Jharkhand on Monday in the 27th Senior Women's National Football Championship 2022-23 at Pant Stadium in Bhilai, Chhasttisgarh.

This was J&K's fourth loss in a row in the competition, which included 5-0, 6-0 and 13-0 scorelines. They now sit at the bottom of the Group IV table.

Jharkhand scored six goals in the first half of the match and added another three in the second half.

Out of the competition, the J&K team will now play their fi-nal match against debutants La-pared to J&K's 33 in four.



nior national. However, Ladakh women have played much better than J&K women, conceding

# **Sport Sponsorships Rise To** Rs 5,900 Crore In 2022: Report



# IPL 2023: Confident **Royals Face Stiff Punjab Challenge**



**Press Trust of India** 

GUWAHATI: Rajasthan Royals would be banking on their against Kolkata Kinght Ridnear-perfect combinations in almost all departments of the game to put up another commanding performance when they take on a strong Punjab Kings, in an IPL match, in Guwahati on Wednesday.

The Royals would be buoyed against Sunrisers Hyderabad. who were outsmarted by last year's runners-up in every aspect of the game on Sunday. With Yashasvi Jaiswal, redhot England white-ball skipper

los Buttler and captain Sanju Samson smashing half-centuries against SRH, the Royals' dominance with the bat was there for all to see, while their matured as an opener, Buttler bowlers, led by Yuzvendra Cha- seemed to be carrying on from hal (4/17) and New Zealand quick Trent Boult (2/21), were more than a handful for SRH.

But with Punjab Kings also immense firepower with both where Devdutt Padikkal and a knee injury in December.

& WTC Final

NEW DELHI: India batter Shreyas Iver will miss the entire IPL as well as the World Test

Championship final in June against Australia as he is

**Press Trust of India** 

seven-run win courtesy of the Duckworth-Lewis system ers at Mohali, the match on Wednesday promises to give the spectators in Guwahati good value for money.

With Royals playing two of their 'home' matches in the Northeastern city, a winning performance from Samson's by their massive 72-run victory side will not only build their brand value in Guwahati, it will also expand their fan base in the region, which has seen precious little IPL action over the vears

The depth in Royals' batting is such that it can withstand any bowling attack. If young Yashasvi's 37-ball 54 at the top showed how quickly he has where he had left off in the previous season, smashing a 22-ball 54

The only weak link, if any,

the bat and the ball in their Riyan Parag were both dismissed cheaply, before West Indian Shimron Hetmyer took the team beyond the 200-run mark. With a bowling line-up boasting of one of the premier pacers in the world in Boult along with two Indian stalwarts in Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin, the Royals can soften up the most resolute batting sides. And Punjab know they have an uphill task when the two teams clash at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium

While the experience of toporder India batter Shikhar Dhawan will come in handy along with the bowling prowess of young left-arm India pacer Arshdeep Singh, the team would be eagerly awaiting the return of England power-hitter Liam Livingstone, who missed the opener against Kolkata Knight Riders after not getting the fitness clearance from the England and Wales Cricket Board giving an indication of their seemed to be their middle (ECB). The batter had suffered

### Xavi Tries To Repeat **Guardiola's Feat Against Madrid**

#### Agencies

MADRID: Xavi is on the verge of leading Barcelona back to the Copa del Rey final and repeating a feat last achieved when Pep Guardiola was in charge more than a decade ago.

Barcelona, the 2021 champion eliminated in the round of 16 last year, can return to the final with just a draw against Real Madrid at the Camp Nou on Wednesday but a win would make it four straight triumphs over its rival for the first time since Guardiola won five in a row from 2008-10.

The Catalan club has never defeated Madrid four times in a row in the same season. It beat Madrid four times in 1982-83 but not in consecutive matches. Barcelona lost 3-1 to Madrid in the first "clasico" of the season 11 matches remaining. (AP)

in the Spanish league, but since then it won 3-1 in the Spanish Super Cup final, 1-0 in the first leg of the Copa semifinal and 2-1 in the other league match.

"I think they are hurt and will be wanting to get revenge after losing the last three games," Xavi said Tuesday. "But they always compete well."

The last time Barcelona had won three in a row was in 2011-12. Madrid won five consecutive against its rival in a period from 2020-22. Guardiola's winning run included a 6-2 rout at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium and a 5-0 triumph at the Camp Nou.

Barcelona's most recent league win against Madrid left the club close to its first league title since 2018-19. It has a comfortable 12-point lead over Madrid with

# **Retired Boxer Amir Khan Gets 2-Year Ban For Doping**

#### **Press Trust of India**

LONDON: Retired British boxer Amir Khan has been banned from all sports for two years after testing positive for a prohibited substance following what

proved to be the last fight of his career. Khan, a former light-welter-

weight world champion and Olympic silver-medalist, returned a positive result for anabolic agent ostarine after his loss to Kell Brook in Manchester in 2024.

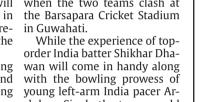
February 2022, UK Anti-Doping said Tuesday. Ostarine is a selective androgen recep-

tor modulator that can help muscle growth. Khan, who announced his retirement three months af-

ter the fight, accepted a violation of anti-doping rules but said he had not intentionally ingested the substance. That was accepted by an independent panel following a hearing in January.

His ban will expire on April 5,





#### **Press Trust of India**

better performing sectors of the

MUMBAI: Sponsorships bagged by sporting events and personalities more than doubled to Rs 5,907 crore in 2022, but cricket continues to corner a bulk of the

729 crore in 2022, which was a 20 per cent growth over the previous year, the report by media said. agency Groupm said, adding that Virat Kohli, M S Dhoni, Rohit Sharma, Sachin Tendulkar, Neeraj Chopra, and PV Sindhu are among the highest billing sportspersons.

The overall spends on sports were pegged at Rs 14,000 crore by the agency, as against Rs 9,500 crore in the year-ago period.

A report 'Sporting Nation 2023' highlighted "the unprecedented growth of sports sponsorship in India, with spends on-ground, team, and franchise rising by Rs 3,021 crore, a whopping 105 per cent growth from 2021, making the total sponsorship spends Rs 5,907 crore".

It attributed the rise in overall spends in 2022 to a jump in the number of IPL matches, addition of two new teams in the popular cricketing league, the ICC T20 World Cup, Asia Cup, FIFA World Cup, and the return of emerging sports events and tournaments like PKL, marquee marathons, Maharashtra Open, and Commonwealth Games 2022.

Without mentioning the time period, a press statement from Groupm said the sporting spends have grown at a compounding annual growth rate of mar Yadav are also scoring big in 14 per cent, making it one of the the endorsement space.

economy. The renewal of IPL sponsorships post the 2023 season, BCCI home series title and central sponsorship along with team India sponsorship, BCCI home money, a report said on Tuesday. series media rights, and the in-Sports celebrities pocketed Rs augural season of WPL in March 2023 will be the tipping point for Indian cricket, the report

> Cricket has cornered 85 per cent of the sponsorship spends, while emerging sports like football, kabaddi and marathon have had to contend with 15 per cent, the report said, adding that there has been a massive upsurge in sponsorships in the emerging sports.

The growth of cricket sponsorship has been made possible by the Indian cricket team playing almost double the number of matches and IPL two new franchises -- Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants -- and a full house of central sponsorship.

"Despite facing unprecedented pandemic challenges, the exceptional performance of the sports industry in 2022 reflects its resilience and unwavering commitment," the agency's chief executive for South Asia, Prasanth Kumar, said.

On the celebrity endorsement front, it said cricketers' endorsement has grown by 18 per cent. Virat Kohli, M S Dhoni, and Rohit Sharma are endorsing over 30 brands each, and added new brands in 2022 as well. Others such as Hardik Pandya, Jaspreet Bumrah, KL Rahul, and Surya Kucording to BCCI sources.

set to undergo a back surgery abroad

Iyer, who is the captain of IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders, is expected to be out of action for at least five months. That would mean that his participation in the 50-over World Cup in India in October-November could be touch and go. "Yes, he will have his back surgery abroad. He is likely to be out of action for at least five months with full rehabilitation," a BCCI source PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The WTC final will be played between India and Australia in London from June 7. The recurring lower-back injury had forced Iyer out of the final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy last month, before ruling him out of the ODI series against Australia that followed. His injury surfaced in December last, following India's tour of Bangladesh. In Iyer's absence, Nitish Rana was named interim KKR captain ahead of this IPL season.

### **Babar Azam Returns To Lead Pakistan**

**Press Trust of India** 

LAHORE: Babar Azam on Tuesday returned to the Pakistan team as captain of the ODI and T20 squads for the home series against New Zealand beginning April 14. Besides Babar, left

arm fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi also

returned to international cricket for the first time since the T20 World Cup in Australia last November.

Though Shaheen bowled and also captained the Lahore Qalandars franchise to their second successive title in the Pakistan Super League last month, a knee injury kept him out of a home Test series against England and later New Zealand.

The national selectors had rested Babar, Shaheen, Haris Rauf, Fakhar Zaman and Muhammad Rizwan for the recent T20 series in Sharjah against Afghanistan which Pakistan lost by 1-2.

All five seniors returned to the side for the five ODIs and five T20 internationals against New Zealand, which will be played in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi from April 14 to May 7.