

# KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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## India Attaches Special Importance To SCO: Amit Shah

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India attaches special importance to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in promoting dialogue on multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

He said this while chairing a meeting of Heads of Departments of SCO member states responsible for Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations in New Delhi. He said India's priority as the chair of the SCO is to take forward the SECURE theme articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Qingdao Summit of the grouping in 2018.

SECURE stands for Security, Economic Cooperation, Connectivity, Unity, Respect For Sovereignty and Integrity and Environment Protection.

Under the leadership of Modi, India attaches special importance to the SCO in promoting dialogue on the subject relating to multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, an official statement said.

Shah said India attaches special importance to disaster risk reduction and is ready to share its expertise



and experience in this field for greater cooperation and mutual trust among SCO member states.

He said India believes that no hazard is small or big and it does not leave anyone behind.

Shah said India now has more accurate and timely early warning system in place and the country has seen a sea change in the way its early warning systems (EWS) of drought, flood, lightning, heat wave, cold wave, cyclone, have improved.

He said the forecast not only warns India about the disaster but also predicts the potential impact it is

likely to cause. According to Shah, at the time of a natural disaster, it is of great importance how quickly the relief reaches the affected area and this speed reflects the preparedness of the team and the efficiency of their training.

He said India has been associated with the SCO since 2005 and playing an important role as an observer country, since then.

At the 17th Summit in 2017, India became a full member of the SCO as part of an important step in the process of expansion of this organization.

Shah said it is a matter of

pride that India is donning the mantle of the chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the very first time since becoming a full-fledged member state in 2017.

He said the SCO will probably be the largest regional organisation in the world at this time, representing 40 per cent of the global population, 25 per cent of the global GDP and 22 per cent of the world's total land area.

Today, the SCO has developed into an international organization and it has provided an excellent platform for harmonising cooperation | More on P10



# मसाले

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**Office Of The Executive Engineer JS-PHE Deptt.  
Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr.**

H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.

e-mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 - 2416292

Reference: This Office Fresh e-NIT No: 01/JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2023-24, issued Under No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/ 07 - 32, Dated: 01.04.2023, Work figuring at S.No: 01 bearing Tender ID No. 2023\_PHE\_209106.1

**EXTENSION NOTICE - I**

Due to Poor response for the work advertised/ published vide this office above referred e-NIT No. & date bearing tender ID mentioned above, the bid submission end and bid opening (online) dates are re-scheduled as under:-

- Last date of submission of Bids online 27.04.2023 up to 02:00 p.m.
- Date of opening of bids online 28.04.2023 at 11:30 a.m.

All other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall remain unchanged

No. JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. / 587 - 611  
DIPK-605/23 Date: - 20.04.2023.

Sd/-  
(Er. Samiullah Beigh)  
Executive Engineer JS-PHE,  
RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer  
Special Forest Division Tangmarg**

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No: 01 of 2023-24 DATED: 20-04-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) INR (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Time of Completion
01	Providing/Fixing of Devri Stones for Gazebo surrounding area at ZIG MODE Gulmarg	7.028	4000	"C" & "D" Class Civil contractor	300	10 days

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA/Ts	Accorded vide No.03/CF(Sgr) of 2023 dated. 19-04-2023

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: - [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

Publishing Date:	20-04-2023
Download Start Date:	20-04-2023 from 6:00 P.M.
Bid submission Start Date:	25-04-2023 from 6:00 P.M.
Bid submission End Date:	27-04-2023 Up to 6:00 P.M.
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	28-04-2023 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD (CDR) for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. Bid security in shape of (EMD in form of CDR), Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Fduy renewed for the current year 2023-24, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document), Affidavit cum undertaking.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

Divisional Forest Officer,  
Special Forest Division,  
Tangmarg.

NO: - DFO/TNG/ACcts./2023-24/01-06  
DIPK-620/23 Dated: -20/04/2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT)

**Office Of The Executive Engineer,  
Jalshakti Irrigation & Flood Control, Division Sumbal.**

IRRIGATION COLONY SUMBAL SONAWARI - 193501

PHONE: 01954-230584; FAX: 01954-230584; EMAIL: Irrigationsonal2@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS  
E-NIT NO-IFC/Sumbal/01 OF 2023-24

For and behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, E-Tenders on Item Rate Based are invited, online from registered contractors/firms/agency/vendors dealing with the job of furnishing of commercial vehicle for the official use of I&FC Division Sumbal under Single Cover system. The detail of works/service is as below:-

S. No	Name/make of the Vehicle	Cost of T.D.(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Period	Tender receiving Authority
1	Providing of commercial Light inspection vehicle SUV type such as Mahindra Bolero, Innova, Chevrolet Tavera, Scorpio etc. of make not before 2015 Model on hire charge basis alongwith Driver, including Salary/wages of driver, Toll Tax and expenses for repair and maintenance etc. of Vehicle alongwith timely insurance. The quoted rates should be on Daily rent basis for official use of I&FC Division Sumbal and shall include all expenses incurred excluding POL. The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all taxes etc.	300/-	5000/-	18 months (extendable by increments of 06 Months for further period of 1 Year at same rates/terms and conditions)	Executive Engineer I&FC Division Sumbal

Authorization = Vide Chief Engineer Letter No. 5934-35 dated 31-03-2023  
The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, book of quantities (BoQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	17/04/2023
02	Download date Starts	From 17/04/2023
03	Bid submission date starts	17/04/2023
04	Bid submission date ends	26/04/2023
05	Submission of hard copies	Hard copies shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as 1 <sup>st</sup> lowest bidder (L1) at the time of opening of tenders. The cost of tender documents will be collected through e-challan / receipt under head of account 0702. However, the unsuccessful bidders will submit the same separately after the opening of bids online.
06	Date and time of opening bids online	27/04/2023 11 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer I&FC Division Sumbal (Jal Shakti Department)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- The rates are inclusive of all charges, taxes & wages of Driver (complete) but excluding POL, Consumables like lubricants, tyres, battery and repairs, maintenance, taxes, insurance etc. will be liability of contractor/agency/firm/individual. The Department shall Deduct Taxes as applicable at the time of Payment as per Government norms in vogue.
- Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders has been dispensed with as per Govt. order No. OM No. AJ/24 (2017)-651 Dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids.
- The contract is valid for Eighteen months and extendable by increments of 6 months upto year at same Terms and conditions.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non-transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein NIT No, Serial No of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Sumbal, besides the date on the instrument must be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice.
- The vehicle shall be SUV type such as Mahindra Bolero, Innova, Chevrolet Tavera, Scorpio etc. with make model not before than year 2015 and with registration No. of Jammu & Kashmir, with valid permit.
- The successful bidder shall have to submit performance security of Rs. 12000/- in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer I&FC Division Sumbal which shall be released only after successful completion of contract.
- The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Sumbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
- All the bidders have to furnish CDR's amounting to the extent indicated in the relevant column. A copy of Call Deposit Receipt, as bid security, duly pledged to the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Sumbal should be uploaded by the bidders. However, before allotting the work, the original CDR shall be obtained from the bidder declared as L1 & shall be released only after submission of performance security.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the stated period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the Bid/BOQ, the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited.
- The consumption of Fuel/mileage shall be paid as per actual and shall in no case be given less than that prescribed by Government (i.e. State motor Garages) for the vehicle type offered by the bidders.
- The opening authority reserves himself the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The vehicle shall have to remain stationed at the Head quarter/ Jurisdiction to meet any exigency/unforeseen situation. The vehicle shall have to be available 24\*7 and Nothing shall be paid extra for any overtime etc.
- The payment shall be made for the actual Number of days the vehicle is provided/used in a month after deducting public holidays/Sundays. The Holidays/Sundays shall be paid only if the vehicle is put in use.
- If the successful bidder fails to supply & operate vehicle within 07 days of its allotment, it shall be treated as cancelled without serving any notice to the contractor/firm and the work shall be offered to 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bidder at the rate offered by 1<sup>st</sup> lowest bidder.
- The contract can be terminated anytime depending upon the actual requirement of the Department.
- The Driver of vehicle should not be changed/replaced without advance notice. The Driver should not be changed frequently.
- Arbitration: The Arbitration and conciliation Act-1996 shall be deemed to apply to the arbitration, disputes, if any regarding reference to Courts shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the J&K Courts only.
- In any case the Department will restrict the hire rates to those prescribed by Government.
- All other terms and conditions shall be same as are laid down in detailed general NIT and in PWD Form 25/33 double Agreement Form.

No: - IFCDS/CS/  
DIPK-611/23 Date: 20/04/2023

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

**Algorithm Developed To Measure Wind  
Uses Water Vapour Movement Data**

Press Trust Of India

Atmospheric scientists have developed a new way of measuring wind by creating an algorithm that uses water vapour movement data, that could help predict extreme events such as hurricanes and storms.

The researchers from University of Arizona, US, got the water vapour data from the two operational satellites of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, which recorded the data through infrared radiation.

NOAA is the US federal agency for weather forecasting.

Wind influences cloud formation by bring water vapour together, thereby, providing clues for forecasting weather patterns.

The study, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, provides data on the vertical distribution of horizontal winds over the tropics and mid-latitudes.

Wind brings everything else in the atmosphere together, including clouds, aerosols, water vapour, precipitation and radiation, said Xubin Zeng, co-author of the study and the director of the Climate Dynamics and Hydrometeorology Collaborative at University of Arizona.

"We never knew the wind very well. I mean, that's the last frontier. That's why I'm excited," Zeng said.

Employing more advanced algorithms, the researchers were able to estimate horizontal winds not just at

one altitude, but at multiple altitudes at the same location, which Zeng said had not been possible a decade ago.

Nowadays, Zeng said, to study topics like air quality and volcano ash dispersion, which are directly influenced by wind, experts use weather forecasting models to ingest measurements from different sources rather than us-



ing direct measurements of wind.

But model outputs are not good enough when there is rainfall, Zeng said.

Lead author Amir Ouyed, a member of Zeng's research group, used machine-learning algorithms that do better image processing to track water vapour than human eyes can, they said.

"For decades, people were saying, 'You have to move the cloud top or water vapours enough so that you can see the difference of the pattern.' But now, we don't need to do that," Zeng said.

"The resolution of the data is coarse, with a pixel size of 100 kilometers. It's a demonstration of the feasibility for our future satellite mis-

sion we are pursuing where we hope to provide the 10-kilometer resolution," Zeng said.

Conventional methods of measuring winds included using radiosonde, an instrumental package suspended below a 6-foot-wide balloon, or studying cloud top, which is the height at which the upper visible part

of the cloud is located.

While radiosondes proved to be expensive, the downside to studying cloud top was that wind information is not usually available between 2 and 4 1/2 miles above Earth's surface, because cloud tops exist most of the time below 2 miles or above 4 1/2 miles depending on whether the clouds are low or high.

Light detection and ranging, or lidar, provides good data but is limited in that its measurements can be acquired only in one vertical "curtain," with measured wind typically in the east-west direction, the researchers said.

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F.No: A.12044/1/2023-Admn.1  
**VACANCY NOTICE**

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Sl No	Name of Post	Pay Matrix Level	No of post (01)	Category	Method of Recruitment
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3	Assitant	Level - 06	03	1 Post for ST 2 post for UR	Direct

For Application Form & other details including Hindi version of this advisement, please visit Institute's website: [www.nihf.org](http://www.nihf.org). Completed application in all respect should reach Deputy Director (Admn.), NIHF at the above address on or before 30th April, 2023.

CBC 17153/12/0002/2324  
Director

**From the office of the Advocate Mudasir Gulzar**

In the case of:  
Mohammad younis sheikh  
S/o mohammad ismail sheikh  
R/o Bishember nagar srinagar

(caveator)  
V/S  
Public at large (Non caveator)

IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat petition in terms of Section 148 A of Civil Procedure Code for providing right of prior opportunity of being heard to the caveator before passing any orders if the non-caveators choose to file any suit, application or any other legal proceedings against the order of the Hon'ble Court.

May it please your Honour  
The applicant/Caveator most humbly submits as under:-  
1. That the caveator/applicant is the resident of UT of J&K and as such has every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for the protection of their rights.  
2. That the caveator has reason to believe that the non-caveators may likely approach this Hon'ble Court with unclean hands and may choose to file any writ Petition, suit, application or any other legal proceedings against the caveator and may secure interim order(s) by misrepresenting the facts which will be injurious to the rights of the caveator.

NJ

ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب ج سرینگر  
با اجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم  
رہنما راجا محمد تسلیم  
ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر  
(شمول)

ذخیرہ رقم 2004-12-20  
تاریخ فونکی 20-12-2004  
اشتراک برادرا گائی ہرناس وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسانکے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بیضر اندارج کرنے تاریخ فونکی وارکی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسانکے منظور ہونے میں 01-05-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد کرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
تحریر الصدر 20-04-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب ج میڈیٹل سرینگر nj

ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب ج سرینگر  
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تحریر الصدر 20-04-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب ج میڈیٹل سرینگر nj\_r

## 5 Army Jawans Killed In Poonch Ambush



Press Trust Of India

**Poonch:** Five Army personnel were killed and another was seriously injured on Thursday after their vehicle caught fire following a militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, the Army said. The deceased Army soldiers were from a Rashtriya Rifles unit deployed for counterterrorist operations, it said in a statement. Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande has briefed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the incident. "Anguished by the tragedy in Poonch District (J&K), where the Indian Army has lost its brave soldiers after a truck caught fire. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," the defence minister tweeted. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also expressed grief over the loss of lives of soldiers. "I am deeply anguished by

the loss of lives of brave Army personnel in a tragic incident at Poonch. Their rich service to the nation will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families," Sinha posted on his official Twitter handle. The Army said the vehicle the soldiers were travelling in came under fire from unidentified terrorists and it caught fire because of likely use of grenades. "Today, at approximately 1500 hours, one Army vehicle, moving between Bimber Gali and Poonch in the Rajauri sector was fired on by unidentified terrorists, taking advantage of heavy rains and low visibility in the area," the Army said. "The vehicle caught fire, due to likely use of grenades by terrorists," it said. Five personnel of the Rashtriya Rifles Unit deployed for counterterrorist operations in this area | [More on P10](#)

## Army Imparts Weapon Training To VDC Members

The Indian Army has held a workshop to sharpen the shooting and weapon handling skills of its personnel guarding the hamlets along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Thursday. The workshop, organised by the Kalal-based Rashtriya Rifles battalion with a team of police personnel led | [More on P10](#)

## ECI Revises Schedule Of J&K's Voter Revision

Exercise To Culminate On May 27

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The Election Commission of India has revised the schedule of special summary revision of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir. The poll-body, in a letter sent to Jammu & Kashmir chief electoral officer, has approved the proposal sent by him for modifying the schedule of voter revision. The exercise, which otherwise would have concluded on May 10, would now culminate on May 27. As per revised schedule, the claims and objections can be filed from April 05 to May 6. The disposal of claims and objections would be done by May 15. The final voter list would be published on May 27. This is the second voter revision in Jammu and Kashmir in a period of less than one year after culmination of delimitation



exercise by a three-member panel headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice (retd.) Ranjana Desai. The delimitation exercise concluded on May 5, 2022 by the panel when it unveiled the final electoral map of J&K. Jammu & Kashmir is without an elected government for almost five years. The erstwhile state is under the central rule from June 19, 2018 when BJP withdrew support to Mehbooba Mufti-led government, citing "deteriorating security situation" in J&K. (KNO)

## Shawwal Moon Not Sighted, Eid Tomorrow

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The crescent for the month of Shawwal 1444 A.H was not sighted anywhere in Jammu and Kashmir, Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said here on Thursday. "No evidence or any witness was received from any part of J&K about the sighting of the moon. Hence, Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on Saturday," Grand Mufti said. He said the decision to announce Eid-ul-Fitr on Saturday was taken after consensus with the Ulema from Kashmir and Jammu region respectively that included head of Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, patron of Darul Uloom Raheemiyah Bandipora, Maulana Rehmatullah Qasimi, also from Darul Uloom Bandipora Mufti Nazir Ahmed Qasmi, Mufti Muzaffar, Mufti Abdur Raheem from Baramulla, Khateeb at the shrine of Hazrat Naqshband Sahab (RA) Maulana Muhammad Tayib Kamili, Chairman Karwani-e-Islami Ghulam Rasool Hani, from Sautul Awliya Fayaz Ahmed Rizvi, Shia Ulema Aga Syed Hassan Al Mosavi, Aga Syed Hadi Al Mosavi and Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, Gen Secretary Muslim Personal Law Board Muhammad Yaseen Kirmani, Mufti Himayon, Shabir Ahmed Geelani, | [More on P10](#)

## Admin Rules Out Flood Threat Amid Heavy Downpour

MeT Forecast Significant Improvement In Weather From Saturday

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** The authorities here on Thursday ruled out possibility of floods in view of incessant rainfall over the last few days, raising water level in River Jhelum and its tributaries besides other water bodies across the Kashmir Valley. Water level in Jhelum at Sangam in South Kashmir was recorded at 15.19 feet against 18/21 in the morning, while the water level at Ram Munshi Bagh in the city was 15.5 feet against 16/18. Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control (I & FC) department, Naresh Kumar urged people not to panic saying that the flood threat has completely subsided with considerable improvement in weather since Wednesday evening.



"There is absolutely nothing to worry. If the rain had not stopped last evening, there would have been the possibility of flooding in the valley," Kumar told Kashmir Observer. He added that the I & FC department was constantly monitoring the situation and

seeking regular updates from the Meteorological department as well. "Water level at Sangam is receding while at Ram Munshi Bagh it is a bit high," he said. Deputy Director of Meteorological department, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer that | [More on P10](#)

## Waqf Cancels Eid Prayers At Historic Eidgah

The congregational Eid-ul-Fitr prayers will not be offered at the historic Eidgah here due to inclement weather, chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Darakhshan Andrabi said on Thursday. The Waqf Board had earlier said that Eid prayers would | [More on P10](#)

## 8 Districts Put On Avalanche Alert

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority on Thursday issued avalanche warnings in eight districts of the Union Territory, officials said. Avalanche with 'low' danger level is likely to occur above 2,400-3,200 metres over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, | [More on P10](#)

## Highway Reopens After Hours Of Closure

The 270-km long strategic Jammu-Srinagar highway has been reopened after remaining closed for several hours overnight due to a massive landslide at Hingri Nachlana near Ramsoo along the thoroughfare. "After clearance of the debris, passenger traffic has been released from both ends on the highway," a traffic department official said. He urged people to "keep lane discipline." A big slide was reported at Hingri Nachlana, Ramsoo around midnight, | [More on P10](#)



The Eid shopping rush has started picking up in Srinagar and other major towns of the Valley ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## NGT Seeks Report On Poonch River Pollution

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The National Green Tribunal has directed the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and the Budgam district magistrate to verify the facts and file a report on the alleged unscientific dumping of solid and biomedical waste in the Poonch river. The green panel was hearing a petition claiming that such waste was being dumped on the confluence of the Poonch river and the Belar Nala near Poonch town. A bench of Chairperson Justice A K Goel said, "Let the J&KPC (Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee) and the district magistrate, Budgam, furnish a joint report in the matter after verifying the facts and take remedial action within two months." The J&KPC will be the nodal agency for | [More on P10](#)

## Centre Asks Local Bodies To Enforce New Rules To Check Stray Dog Numbers

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Tuesday directed local bodies to ensure only recognised organisations carry out the animal birth control programme in stray dogs as per the recently notified rules. The municipal corporations need to implement the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Programme and Anti Rabies Programme jointly, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying said in a release. The Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 were issued



following the guidelines of the Supreme Court in a case between Animal Welfare Board of India and People | [More on P10](#)

## Boy Sustains Serious Injuries In Canine Attack

An eight-year-old boy was badly mauled when a stray dog attacked him in Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a stray dog entered | [More on P10](#)

## J&K HC Quashes Series Of Detention Orders Under PSA

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed a series of detention orders under the Public Safety Act including that of journalist Fahad Shah on ground that the "detaining authority did not apply its mind". In one of the cases pertaining to the detention of Srinagar resident Peerzada Mohammed Waseem, the court came down heavily on the district administration for stating in the dossier that the accused had indulged in rioting and stone pelting in 2020 whereas he was in jail

since 2017. How can a detenu already in jail and facing trial participate in rioting and stone pelting during that intervening period, the judge asked. This "clearly proves that the detaining authority has passed the order without application of mind", Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said in his order. "I have gone through minutely the grounds of detention and perusal whereas reveals that the Detaining Authority has shown its wavering mind by stating that the activities of the detenu are prejudicial to the security of the | [More on P10](#)

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

#### Four JKAS Officers Transferred

The Union Territory government on Thursday transferred four Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers and assigned additional post to another officer, in the interest of the administration. According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Sumera Shamim, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Stamps), Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director, | [More on P10](#)

#### Man Held For Posting Obscene Pics Of Girl

A man was arrested by the Cyber police here for allegedly capturing obscene photographs of a girl and circulating them on social media, officials said Wednesday. Sanjay Kumar alias 'Kala', a resident of Kalyar-Mathwar, was arrested from Durga Nagar area of Chinore after a case was registered based on the girl's complaint, Superintendent of Police, south Jammu, Mamta Sharma said. She said the case was registered at Cyber Police Station | [More on P10](#)

#### Ex-Minister, Powerlifter Calls On LG

Sukhnandan Choudhary, former Minister; Ms Surbhi Bali, National Gold Medallist Powerlifter from Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here, an official spokesperson said. Choudhary, he said, apprised the Lt Governor about various issues concerning registered vendors and suppliers working with the Rural Development department. "Ms Surbhi Bali discussed with the Lt Governor | [More on P10](#)

#### NC Dissolves Media, Social Media Cells

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Thursday dissolved its media and social media cells, and said it is in the process of restructuring its communication wing. In an order, the party's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said the decision was taken following a discussion with NC president Farooq Abdullah. "As discussed with the party president, please be informed that the Media Cell and Social Media Cell of the | [More on P10](#)

#### Tulip Garden Closing From Today

Tulip Garden in Srinagar, which is one of the major tourist attractions in Kashmir, will be closed for the general public from tomorrow. An official said that as the Tulip bloom is almost over, the garden will be closed from tomorrow. The garden, which is located at the foothills of the Zabarwan Range, was opened for tourists on March 25 this year. During this period, tourists from different parts of the country thronged to the garden to witness Tulip blooms. | [More on P10](#)

#### Mudslide Blocks Leh Highway

A mudslide in the Rezan area of Gund in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday led to the closure of the Srinagar-Leh highway. The incident occurred at approximately 4 am, prompting the rescue workers to quickly respond to the situation. An official said that there was no loss of life or injury. However, the mudslide did damage the electricity poles which were later restored by the employees of the Power Development Department (PDD), he said. | [More on P10](#)

## Surat Court Rejects Rahul Gandhi's Plea For Stay On Conviction In Defamation Case

Press Trust of India

**SURAT:** A court in Gujarat's Surat city on Thursday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's application for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

The court of additional sessions judge R P Mogera rejected Gandhi's plea for stay on conviction which, if allowed, could have paved the way for his reinstatement as the Member of Parliament.

While the BJP hailed the Surat court's decision as a "victory" of the judiciary and the people, the Congress said it will continue to avail all options still available under the law.

Gandhi's lawyer Kirit Panwala said the sessions court's order will be challenged in the Gujarat High Court.

On April 3, Gandhi's lawyer filed two applications along with his main appeal against the lower court's order sentencing him to two years in jail, one for bail and another for stay on conviction pending his appeal.

While dismissing Gandhi's application, the court said his counsel failed to demonstrate that an "irreversible and irrevocable damage" is likely to



be caused to him if he is denied the opportunity to contest election under section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, on account of his conviction not being stayed.

A metropolitan magistrate court here on March 23 sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail after convicting him under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code for criminal defamation in the case filed by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi.

A day later, 52-year-old Gandhi, who was elected as the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019, was disqualified under provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

## One Month On, No Sight Of Pro-Khalistan Separatist Amritpal Singh Except On CCTV



Press Trust of India

**CHANDIGARH:** Radical preacher and pro-Khalistan separatist Amritpal Singh has managed to remain elusive even a month after the Punjab police launched a crackdown following the storming of the Ajnala police station by his supporters to secure the release of an arrested associate.

His wife Kirandeep Kaur was stopped at the Amritsar airport by immigration officials today while she was trying to board a flight to London. Amritpal Singh married UK-based Kirandeep Kaur in February this year.

The crackdown against Amritpal began on March 18 and members of his outfit 'Waris Punjab De'. He however, escaped the police dragnet twice - first on March 18 in Jalandhar district by switching vehicles and then again on March 28 in Hoshiarpur when he returned to Punjab along with his key associate Papalpreet Singh.

Papalpreet, who is considered to be Amritpal's mentor and who has allegedly been in contact with Pakistan's ISI, has been arrested.

Several cases have been lodged against the Khalistan sympathizer and his associates for allegedly spreading disharmony, attempt to murder, attack on police personnel and obstructing the lawful discharge of duty by public servants.

Despite being sighted in several CCTV footage and photos with changed appearances at many places, including Patiala, Kurukshetra and Delhi, the radical preacher-turned separatist continued to hoodwink the police.

While on the run, two videos and one audio clip of Amritpal surfaced on social media. In one of his two videos, which surfaced on March 30, Amritpal Singh asserted that he was not a fugitive and would soon appear.

## 2002 GUJARAT RIOTS

# All 67 Accused Acquitted in Naroda Gam Case

Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** More than two decades after 11 Muslim community members were killed in the post-Godhra riots in Ahmedabad's Naroda Gam, a special court here on Thursday acquitted all the 67 accused in the case, including former Gujarat minister Maya Kodnani and ex-Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrang.

The Ahmedabad-based court of S K Baxi, special judge for Special Investigation Team (SIT) cases, acquitted all the accused in one of the worst massacres witnessed during the state-wide riots triggered by the Sabarmati train carnage on February 27, 2002. The Naroda Gam case was probed by a Supreme Court-appointed SIT.

A detailed court order was awaited.

Soon after the brief verdict was announced, some of the accused raised slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' outside the court.

Those acquitted include former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) minister in the Gujarat government Kodnani (67), former VHP leader Jaydeep Patel and ex-Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrang.

There were a total of 86 accused in the case, of which 18 died during the pendency of the trial, while one was discharged by the court earlier under section 169 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure)



due to insufficient evidence against him.

The CrPC Section 169 relates to release of accused when evidence is deficient.

Reacting to her acquittal, Kodnani, who was a minister in the government headed by then-Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, said, "The truth has truly won today."

Advocate Chetan Shah, who represented 82 out of the 86 accused, said he made sure "innocents" were acquitted for which he presented a written argument in the court running into 7,719 pages.

Advocate Shahshad Pathan, who represented the victims, said the acquittal order will be challenged in the Gujarat High Court.

"We will study the grounds on which the special court decided to acquit all the accused and challenge the order in the High Court. It appears the victims have been denied justice. The question remains as to who burnt 11 persons to death in the presence of po-

licemen?" Pathan said.

One of the accused who was acquitted said the special court's judgment has exposed those who conspired to frame innocents like him. "The court has passed its order after studying all the aspects of the case. That the truth always wins has been proved again today," he said.

The accused were booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapons), 120(B) (criminal conspiracy), and 153 (provocation for riots), among others.

Riots broke out in the Naroda Gam area of Ahmedabad on February 28, 2002, during a bandh called to protest the torching of the S-6 coach of Sabarmati Express by a mob near Godhra station a day earlier. As many as 58 train passengers, mostly karsevaks returning from Ayodhya, were charred to death.

## Buddha's Teachings Offer Solution To Global Problems: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the world is passing through challenges such as war, economic instability, terrorism, religious extremism and climate change and asserted that Lord Buddha's ideas offer a solution to these problems.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi, PM Modi took a swipe at rich countries, saying the world is facing a climate change crisis now because in the last century, "some countries stopped thinking about others and the coming generations".

"For decades they kept thinking that meddling with nature will not impact them. They kept putting it on others," he said.

Emphasising that the path shown by Lord Buddha is the



"path of the future and sustainability", the Prime Minister also said that "had the world followed His teachings, it would not have faced the climate change crisis".

In his address, PM Modi quoted ancient texts on Lord Buddha's teachings and said the need of the hour is that people and nations prioritise global interests along with that of their own by drawing inspiration from the Buddha's philosophy.

This is the road to a happy and stable world. This is necessary to move from self to the wider world, from narrowness to integral (approach),

the Prime Minister said, adding that the world will have to think about the poor and countries lacking resources.

Inspired by the teachings of Lord Buddha, India is taking new initiatives for global welfare, he said.

PM Modi asserted that India has been following the path shown by the Buddha and cited the country extending help to others, including Türkiye after it was hit by an earthquake, to say that it has treated every human being's pain as its own.

"Challenges to solutions is the journey of the Buddha ('samasya se samadhan'). The Buddha didn't leave his palace because He was in discomfort. He left because he saw and felt the pain of others," he said.

It is universally accepted that today's time is the "most challenging time of the century," PM Modi said.

## Lawyers Can't Go On Strike Or Abstain From Judicial Works: SC

Press Trust of India

The Supreme Court on Thursday said lawyers cannot go on strike or abstain from work and directed all high courts to constitute a grievance redressal committee at the state level headed by the chief justice, where advocates could make representations for redressal of "genuine problems".

A bench headed by Justices MR Shah and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said that separate grievance redressal committees be constituted at the district court level to provide a forum, where lawyers could seek redressal of their genuine grievances related to procedural changes in filing or listing of cases or misbehavior of members of lower judiciary.

"We once again reiterate that no member of the bar can go on strike...Time and again this court has emphasised that advocates going on strike or abstaining from their work hampers judicial work", the bench said.

The court disposed of an application filed by District Bar Association of Dehradun seek-



ing an appropriate forum for redressal of their complaints and directed the registry to send the copy of this order to the registrar general of all high courts for taking steps in accordance with the order.

Justice Shah, who pronounced the order, said if members of bar have some genuine grievance or face difficulty because of the procedural changes in filing and listing of matters or any genuine grievance pertaining to the misbehavior of member of the lower judiciary, they can very well make a representation for redressal of genuine grievance by some forum, so that such strikes could be avoided.

It said the forum should be a place where members of the bar can ventilate their grievances.

## Israel Wary As Iran's Military Might Has Grown 'Hundred-Fold': Israeli General

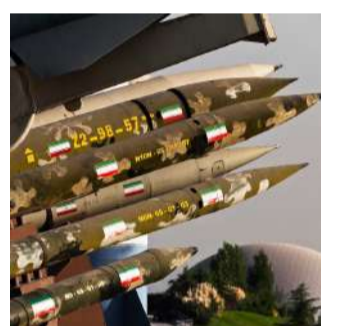
Agencies

A high-ranking former Israeli military commander has acknowledged Tel Aviv's inability to carry out acts of military adventurism against Iran's peaceful nuclear program, saying the Islamic Republic's military might has grown "hundred-fold".

Major General Yitzhak Brick was cited by the Arabic-language Rai al-Youm newspaper as saying on Wednesday that the Israeli military had decided in 2009 to launch a strike on Iranian nuclear facilities after the regime allocated a four-billion-dollar budget for the aggression.

Brick said the attack did not materialize because Israeli military leaders had reached an inevitable conclusion that the strike, if successful, would disrupt the Iranian nuclear program for a period of several months at most, and on the other hand, Iran's counter-strike would cause great losses and many victims for Israel, so they decided not to go ahead with the attack.

"The operation itself, even if the United States of America participates in it, will result in the disruption of the Iranian nuclear program for several months, no more, but what is more dangerous than that is that we will be attacked by thousands of missiles daily, which will cause absolute de-



struction, which we did not expect, nor our ancestors expected it," the former Israeli military commander said.

Their ability to strike "has increased by hundreds of times from their ability in 2009, and especially, the ability they now enjoy to bomb Israel with long-range missiles," he added.

Brick said the Iranian missiles are capable of carrying out a strategic attack against Israel and that these missiles have the capability to launch a "fatal military strike against Israel and cause massive damage to the Israeli infrastructure and vital installations, and heavy losses, which will take us many years back."

Stressing that the successive Israeli cabinets have become addicted to issuing "absurd threats," the former military commander said, "If you make empty threats and do not implement what is stated in them, then in the eyes of others you will turn into a barking dog that doesn't bite."

## NEWS MAKERS

## Bilawal Bhutto To Attend SCO Meeting In India

Agencies

Pakistan announced on Thursday that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would participate in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) meeting in India next month.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahrah Baloch announced it at a weekly media briefing here. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be leading the Pakistan delegation to the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) being held on May 4-5, 2023, in Goa, India, she said, ending weeks-long speculation if he would attend the conference in-person.

She said the Pakistan foreign minister would be attending the meeting as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had invited him to attend the SCO moot.

Our participation in the meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to the SCO Charter and processes and the importance that Pakistan accords to the region in its foreign policy priorities, Baloch said.

It would be the highest level visit to India by any Pakistani leader in recent years and a possible opportunity to break the ice between the two nations.



The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India announced the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories in August 2019.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India and Pakistan became permanent members of the Beijing-based SCO in 2017.

## China Buying 1 Lakh Endangered Monkeys For Experiments? Sri Lanka Says...

Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka has confirmed China's request for importing 1,00,000 endangered monkeys from the cash-strapped island nation, amidst protests from environmental groups against the deal.

Gunadasa Samarasinghe, the top bureaucrat in Sri Lanka's Ministry of Agriculture said that a privately-owned Chinese company connected to Zoological Gardens which are animal breeders had made the request to his ministry.

"We will not send the whole 100,000 in one lot. But we considered the request due to crop damages caused by the monkeys in several parts of the country. They will not be taken from conserved areas. The focus will be only in the cultivation areas", Mr Samarasinghe told reporters.

The toque macaque monkey is endemic to Sri Lanka and classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list.

Last week, Sri Lanka's agriculture minister Mahinda Amaraweera said that China's request for 1,00,000 monkeys to be exhibited at over 1,000 Chinese zoos could be considered.

"They want these monkeys for their zoos," the minister was quoted as saying. Sri Lanka bans almost all live animal exports but the proposed sale comes at a time when the country is facing its worst-ever economic crisis.

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka has removed several species from its protected list this year, including all three of its monkey species as well as peacocks and wild boars, allowing farmers to kill them.

The toque macaque is known to destroy crops in several parts of Sri Lanka, and even sometimes attacks people.

Authorities in Sri Lanka have pegged the monkey population in the country between two to three million.

## Elon Musk's SpaceX Rocket Explodes Minutes After Launch

Press Trust of India

SpaceX's giant new rocket exploded minutes after blasting off Thursday on its first test flight and crashed into the Gulf of Mexico.

Elon Musk's company was aiming to send the nearly 400-foot (120-metre) Starship rocket on a round-the-world trip from the southern tip of Texas, near the Mexican border. It carried no people or satellites.

Images showed multiple engines weren't working on the 33-engine rocket as it climbed from the launch pad, reaching as high as 24 miles (39 kilometres).

The flight plan had called for the booster to peel away from the spacecraft minutes after liftoff, but that didn't happen. The rocket began to tumble and then exploded four minutes into the flight, plummeting into the gulf.

After separating, the spacecraft was supposed to continue east and attempt to circle the world, before crashing into the Pacific near Hawaii.

Thousands of spectators watched from South Padre Is-



land, several miles away from the Boca Chica Beach launch site, which was off-limits. As it lifted off, the crowd screamed: "Go, baby, go!"

Musk, in a tweet, called it "an exciting test launch of Starship! Learned a lot for the next test launch in a few months."

In the weeks leading up to the flight, Musk gave 50-50 odds that the spacecraft would reach orbit.

The company plans to use Starship to send people and cargo to the moon and, eventually, Mars.

NASA has reserved a Starship for its next moonwalking team,

and rich tourists are already booking lunar flybys.

It was the second launch attempt. Monday's try was scrapped by a frozen booster valve. At 394 feet and nearly 17 million pounds of thrust, Starship easily surpasses NASA's moon rockets past, present and future.

The stainless steel rocket is designed to be fully reusable with fast turnaround, dramatically lowering costs, similar to what SpaceX's smaller Falcon rockets have done soaring from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Nothing was to be saved from the test flight.

The futuristic spacecraft flew several miles into the air during testing a few years ago, landing successfully only once.

But this was to be the inaugural launch of the first-stage booster with 33 methane-fuelled engines.

SpaceX has more boosters and spacecraft lined up for more test flights. Musk wants to fire them off in quick succession, so he can start using Starships to launch satellites into low-Earth orbit and then put people on board.

## Markets Face 50% Business Slump Ahead Of Eid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Rain drenched valley plains for the third day in a row on Thursday, with traders disappointed over a "50 percent" dip in sales, ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Mohammad Yaseen Khan, a senior trade leader and chairman of Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA) – an amalgam of various trade bodies, said the markets were struggling for quite some time now to gain sales momentum, but the rains ahead of Eid festival played a spoilsport.

"It is not like that our sales dipped due to rains only; we have been struggling for multiple reasons," Khan said. "However, we were hopeful of picking up good sales ahead of Eid, but the continuous rainfall adversely impacted our sales."

KEA chairman said that ahead of the Eid festival, people mostly buy bakery and mutton products for which rains can hardly hamper people from coming out, but in other areas, it made an effect. "The overall impact it made on sales is around 50 percent," he added.

"Clothing, footwear, communication, and other items which used to witness good sales on Eid witnessed sluggish sales due to rains," he said.

Mehraj-ud-Din Ahmad, general secretary of All Kashmir Wholesale Mutton Dealers Association said although the rains did not make any negative impact on their sales, the brief closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway impacted the supply of stock.

"On festivals, be it any situation, people come out to buy mutton," he said, adding, "Rains did not make any such impact on their sales; however, a brief closure of the highway hampered the supply,

and the stock which was scheduled to be delivered today reached the very next day."

Bashir Ahmad, who owns a prominent telecom showroom in Srinagar, said they were already struggling to stay afloat in the market but that the incessant rainfall for the last few days dampened the market spirit.

"Rains prevented people from coming out and when there are fewer people in the market, there are fewer sales. Rains played a spoilsport. We were expecting good sales. It is just a helpless situation for us," he rued.

As officials at the J&K's weather department have forecast intermittent light to moderate rain at scattered places on April 20 to 22, the intermittent downpour started early morning on Thursday.

Haji Mohammad Aslam Mattoo, a well-known name in Srinagar, dealing with retail and wholesale footwear items, said the sale of their products is purely dependent on weather conditions.

"In view of the pre-summer and Eid festival, we had planned the footwear stock accordingly, but with this intensity of continuous rainfall, who is going to come to the shop? What is to be used on a sunny day can't be worn on a rainy day," he said.

"The already ongoing works in the city have slowed down our sales to a large extent. Out of the remaining expected market, we only witnessed 30 percent of sales," Mattoo said.

Meanwhile, the weatherman on Thursday predicted intermittent light to moderate rain at scattered places towards late afternoon and evening for April 21 and 22, and a decrease in precipitation, predicting mainly dry weather during the subsequent two days.



A mehendi artists designs a chic bridal pattern on girls hand ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr in Srinagar on Thursday, KO Photo Abid Bhat

## G-20 Summit

# CS conducts City Tour

Directs Officers To Complete Ongoing Projects Within Fixed deadlines

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to take stock of developmental works being carried out in view of hosting G-20 at Srinagar and preparations for Eid-ul-Fitr, the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today conducted an extensive tour of the Srinagar city to make on spot appraisal of ongoing developmental works.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Commissioner SMC & CEO Srinagar Smart City; VC Lakes Conservation and Management Authority; Chief Engineer Srinagar Smart City Ltd and other officers from line departments besides from Police and Traffic departments.

During the tour, the Chief Secretary visited IG Road, Jhelum Riverfront Development Project, Residency Road, Maulana Azad Road, Gupkar Junction, Boulevard Footpath, Nishat Garden precinct, Northern Foreshore Road including cycle track, Shalimar Canal and Dargah Hazratbal Shrine.

Dr. Mehta while taking stock of the works carried out at all these locations directed the concerned officers to further accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of all these projects within fixed deadlines.

He also directed to make all necessary arrangements for the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr festival in-

cluding sanitation, cleaning, traffic management etc.

patches of Dal with special focus on shoreline. He also directed him to start water sports activities in Hazratbal basin by 15th of May.

terpark, Jet skies, Zorbing balls, Parasailing etc.



Later, Dr Mehta visited Hazratbal Shrine where he gave necessary directions to the concerned officers for face-lifting of compound wall and other make-over works for the comfort of the devotees.

sum of rupees 19300 for violating Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well & whatsoever found violating the norms will be brought to justice. In case of any complaint, people may contact the toll free number 18001807011.

## Parimpora Road Rage

# RTO Realizes Rs 5000 Fine From Parents Of 2 Boys, Suspends Vehicle Registration

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Regional Transport Officer Srinagar has penalized parents of two boys and also suspended registration of a two-wheeler involved in creating nuisance, attacking and harassing a family on road in Parimpora area of Srinagar on March 27 this year.

According to a separate order, RTO Kashmir has penalized parents of two boys for Rs 5,000 each for being involved in a heinous crime and creating nuisance on the road.

As per the order, RTO Kashmir has penalized Lal Mehraj of Mir Mansoor Colony Srinagar and Abdul Hamid Bazaz of Rampora Chattabal for allowing their juvenile sons to drive two-wheelers without possessing a valid license.

"In exercise of powers under section 180 of MVA, 1988, a penalty of Rs. 5000 each is imposed upon Hi-

lal Mehraj and Abdul Hamid Bazaz, owners of the vehicle used in offence, for causing and permitting his vehicle to be driven by a person who did not possess a valid driving license," reads the order.

It also added in exercise of powers under section 53 of MVA, 1988, the registration certificate of vehicle No: JK01AS-7723 is hereby suspended with immediate effect, with the direction to surrender the original Registration certificate in this office.

Meanwhile, RTO Kashmir said the action has been taken so that it would act as a deterrent for others and such incidents are prevented from happening in the future. Notably, on March 27 Srinagar police had arrested 9 persons for harassing and attacking a family on the road in Srinagar. Video of the incident had also gone viral on different social media platforms.

## FCS&CA Conducts Intensive Market Checking In Srinagar Ahead Of Eid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement squad of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department under the supervision of Assistant Director Enforcement Fayaz Ahmad Shah launched a massive drive within the vicinity of Srinagar City par-

ticularly at Sariabala, Jawahar Nagar, Dalgate, Sonwar, Nishat, Hazratbal, Zakura, Eidgah, Khanwar, Fateh Kadal & Karan Nagar areas, etc.

During the course of action as many as 118 establishments were inspected, out of which 25 erring traders were penalized with a

## Office Of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Ut of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore, invites tenders from reputed and successful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/Consortiums between bidder/firm and financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state government for "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipment at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore". The bidding process shall be completed online on <https://jktenders.gov.in> in two covers viz. Cover I consisting of Pre-Qualification criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover II shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BQQ.

S.No.	Description of work	Tender document Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money	Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs)	Bid Validity (Days)
I.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipment at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.	Rs 500.00	Upload "Bid Security Declaration" duly notarized	As devised against each item of work in Form I of SBD	180 Days

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division North Sopore.  
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).  
Critical Dates:

I.	Publish Date	20-04-2023 (10:00am)
II.	Bid submission start date	20-04-2023 (10:00am)
III.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	27-04-2023 (02:00pm)
IV.	Bid submission end date	09-05-2023 (06:55pm)
V.	Date and time of Bid opening	10-05-2023 (02:00pm)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on the tender portal <https://jktenders.gov.in>. The intending bidders shall download the bid document from the tender portal and submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document and shall be payable at Srinagar.
- Bid Security declaration duly notarized shall be uploaded separately against each work instead of EMD (as annexed in SBD). However, to ensure due performance of the contract, Performance Security is to be obtained from the successful bidder.
- The cost of tender documents should be in form of Treasury Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipts, Earnest money in shape of FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who declares as late for opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period, he shall be liable for a penalty of Rs. 10000/- (Ten thousand only) and shall be debarred from participating in the tender process for a period of 180 days.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- Queries by email if any, should be made at [phe.mdns@gmail.com](mailto:phe.mdns@gmail.com)
- No: PHE/MDNS/DB/274-86
- DIPK-601/23
- Dated: 20-04-2023

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


**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**

30 RAMAZAN  
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:25
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	5:14
Magrib	7:10
ISHA	8:36

## This Day In History

- 43 BC - Battle of Mutina: Mark Antony is again defeated in battle by Aulus Hirtius, who is killed. Antony fails to capture Mutina and Decimus Brutus is murdered shortly after.
- 1453 - Turkish fleet sinks ships Golden Receiver in Constantinople
- 1521 - Battle at Villalar: Emperor Charles I beats Communards
- 1526 - Battle at Panipat: Central Asian conqueror Babur defeats Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, establishing the Mughal Empire in India.
- 1572 - France & England sign anti-Spanish military covenant
- 1649 - Maryland Toleration Act passed in the American colony, allowing freedom of worship for Christians but sentencing to death anyone who rejected the divinity of Jesus
- 1654 - England & Sweden sign trade agreement
- 1689 - William III & Mary Stuart proclaimed King & Queen of England
- 1739 - Spain & Naples-Austria sign peace accord
- 1796 - Napoleon and the French defeat the Piedmontese at Battle of Mondovì
- 1836 - Battle of San Jacinto, Texas wins independence from Mexico
- 1857 - Alexander Douglas patents the bustle
- 1898 - Spanish-American War: The U.S. Congress, on April 25, recognizes that a state of war exists between the United States and Spain as of this date.
- 1945 - Allied troops occupy German nuclear laboratory
- 1945 - He Shima Okinawa conquered in 5 days, 5,000 die
- 1954 - Gregori Malenkov becomes premier of USSR
- 1954 USAF flies French battalion to Vietnam
- 1960 - Brasilia becomes capital of Brazil
- 1963 - The Universal House of Justice of the Bahá'í Faith is elected for the first time.
- 1969 - The Ministry of Defence in London announces that British troops would be used in Northern Ireland to guard key public installations following a series of bombings
- 1972 - John Young & Charles Duke explores Moon (Apollo 16)
- 1972 - Orbiting Astronomical Observatory 4 (Copernicus) launched
- 1976 - Swine Flu vaccine, for non-epidemic, enters

## From KO Archives

# Pak, India Must Seize 'Historic Opportunity': Musharraf

MANILA - Pakistan and India must seize the "historic opportunity" for peace in the wake of the recent meeting of the two countries' leaders, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said here today.

Addressing the Philippine Congress following his trip to New Delhi, Musharraf said that he was "encouraged by my interaction" with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other Indian leaders.

"Both sides realise the historic opportunity created by the improvement in bilateral Relations must be seized to address the. Long standing Kashmir dispute squarely with determination, courage and flexibility," he said.

He said success in this area would "usher in a new era of durable peace, trust and confidence that would ensure a bright future for the region.

Musharraf, who is on a three-day state visit to this country remarked that East and Southeast Asia had left South Asia behind in economic growth, remarking that "our neighbourhood has remained disturbed due to the turmoil in Afghanistan and the Kashmir issue between India Pakistan.

The Pakistan President said with the improvements in Afghanistan and the warming of ties between India and Pakistan, the situation in the South Asian region should improve.

He expressed hope that Pakistan could use its strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia to "promote economic cooperation within these regions through special arrangements and development of infrastructure. (AFP)

(Kashmir Observer, 21 April, 2005)



**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Cross Selling Department,  
Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road  
Srinagar, 190 001 J&K

**Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP)**  
for  
**GROUP ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE COVER TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF J&K UT**

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. April 20, 2023, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). Last date for submission of Bids is May 06, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.

e-RFP Ref. No. JKB/CHQ/CS/GAI-G-Emp(JK)/2023-622  
Dated: 20-04-2023

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65101JK19385G000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928;  
E: [info@jkbank.com](mailto:info@jkbank.com); W: [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

DIPK-NB-332/23      DATED: 20-04-2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Friday | 21-04-2023

## Waiting For The Day

As Eid-ul-Fitr arrives, it brings with it a sense of spiritual fulfilment and joy for the faithful who have observed a holy month of fasting and worship. For many in Kashmir, this joy is accompanied by the remembrance of those who have been lost due to the turmoil that has plagued the region for the past quarter of a century. This year, unlike the previous year, the situation on the ground is even more normal. The past more than a year have seen tourist and business activity pick up, which has provided some relief to the economy. However, the economy is still reeling from the successive lockdowns from 2019 to 2021 and needs normalcy to sustain for a longer period of time to recover fully.

In the run-up to Eid, there is often a shopping frenzy, with consumerism taking over. However, it is important to remember the poor and the people who have suffered the most over the past three decades. It is our obligation as a community to celebrate Eid while also contributing in a meaningful way to lessen their misery.

Eid in Kashmir is more than just an occasion for joy and celebration. It is a time for reflection, mourning, and remembrance. The festival is about spiritual renewal and a sense of fulfillment, and it provides an opportunity for individual and collective reflection.

As we celebrate Eid, we must also remember the thousands who have died in recent decades. We must reflect on the turmoil that has plagued the region and the impact it has had on the lives of ordinary people. We must remember our obligation towards our society and work towards creating a better future for all. Let us remember the values of compassion, empathy, and generosity that lie at the heart of the festival.

Furthermore, as we reflect on the past and present, we must also look towards the future with hope and optimism. Despite the challenges that we face, we must remember that we have the power to make a difference. Whether it is through small acts of kindness towards those in need, or larger efforts to bring about positive change in our communities, we can all play a part in building a better world. Let us use this Eid as an opportunity to renew our commitment to these values.

### OTHER OPINION

## The caste imperative:

With the Congress party joining the chorus for an updated caste census, there seems to be an emerging consensus among the political opposition on the need for this exercise. While the parties committed to reservations in the northern belt — the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in particular — have made this demand as a reaction to the expansion of reservation benefits to economically weaker sections among “forward” castes using income criteria, the Congress’s pivot towards supporting this stems from the party’s new political emphasis on expanding its support base. With the Mandal Commission report of 1980, that was based on caste census data of 1931, still remaining the basis of identifying backwardness and determining the extent of reservation to the Other Backward Classes, the need for a comprehensive census that provides data to support, or evaluate existing reservation quotas, or to assess demands for them remains pertinent. Such a diligent exercise would also serve a legal imperative allowing the government to answer the Supreme Court’s call for quantifiable data. But counting castes is not easy. An inherent weakness is evident in how the government described the Socio-Economic and Caste Census in 2011: as being riddled with infirmities that made the data collected unusable. Data here recorded 46 lakh different castes, sub-castes, caste/clan surnames, which required adequate parsing before being used for proper enumeration. The survey’s hurried conduct, without utilising the Census Commissioners and the Office of the Registrar General properly, also rendered it problematic.

A more thoroughgoing exercise would entail an adequate consolidation of caste/sub-caste names into social groups based on synonymy and equivalence of the self-identified group names revealed by respondents in the census. Marking these groups against the OBC/Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes lists for each State would build a useful database, which can be utilised in the decennial Census. The data obtained this way can be used to parse aggregated socioeconomic information for these groups. But with the government having postponed the long-delayed 2021 Census and not acquiescing to the demand of including caste counts, questions remain whether an effective caste census is possible. There is of course the risk of reification of caste identities even as the constitutional order seeks to build a casteless society. But with caste-based identification still predominant, such a census seems politically imperative, even if morally flawed, for the purpose of addressing socioeconomic inequities through facile reservation quotas that confer income benefits and a degree of social justice without actually advancing the cause of a truly casteless society.

The Hindu

## Mindful Fridays

# Sadaqa and Zakat: More Than Just Giving

Mental Health Benefits Of Charity In Islam



Wasim Kakroo

“  
In addition to promoting social justice, Sadaqa and Zakat also promote community engagement and activism. When we give to those in need, we are demonstrating our commitment to the well-being of our communities and our willingness to take action to promote positive change

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.” (Quran 2:261)

Zakat is not just charity, it is the fundamental act of social justice in Islam. Giving zakat means giving a specified percentage of one’s wealth to certain categories of people in need. Zakat has economic, social and religious dimensions. It is designed to help the poor, not only by redistributing wealth but also by reducing disparities in society and promoting social justice- John Esposito, Professor of Religion and International Affairs at Georgetown University

In Islam, charity is considered one of the pillars of faith, along with prayer, fasting, and pilgrimage. Muslims are encouraged to give to those in need, both as a religious obligation and as a means of promoting social justice and equality. Sadaqa and Zakat are two types of charity that are mentioned frequently in the Qur’an and Hadith. Sadaqa refers to voluntary charity, while Zakat is a mandatory tax that Muslims must pay if they meet certain criteria. In addition to the spiritual benefits of giving, there are also numerous mental health benefits that come from practicing Sadaqa and Zakat.

### Sadaqa and Zakat as Acts of Worship

Sadaqa and Zakat are both considered acts of worship in Islam. By giving to those in need, Muslims are fulfilling their obligation to serve God and help their fellow human beings. This sense of purpose and fulfillment can be incredibly beneficial for mental health. Studies have shown that people who have a strong sense of purpose in life are more resilient and better able to cope with stress and adversity.

In addition to the sense of purpose that comes from giving, Sadaqa and Zakat also promote feelings of compassion and empathy. When we give to those in need, we are acknowledging their humanity and recognizing their struggles. This can help us

to develop greater empathy and compassion for others, which can improve our relationships with friends, family, and the wider community.

### Zakat as a Means of Purification

Zakat is considered a form of purification in Islam. By giving a portion of their wealth to those in need, Muslims are purifying their own wealth and protecting themselves from the negative effects of greed and materialism. This can be especially beneficial for mental health, as materialism has been linked to a range of mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

In addition to purifying

**Zakat is not just charity, it is the fundamental act of social justice in Islam. Giving zakat means giving a specified percentage of one’s wealth to certain categories of people in need. Zakat has economic, social and religious dimensions**

their wealth, Zakat also promotes humility and gratitude. By recognizing that their wealth is a blessing from God and sharing it with those in need, Muslims are reminded of their own dependence on God and the importance of gratitude. This can help to reduce feelings of entitlement and promote a greater sense of humility and gratitude, which are both beneficial for mental health.

### Sadaqa as a Means of Self-Improvement

Sadaqa is often described as a means of self-improvement in Islam. By giving to those in need, Muslims are encouraged to develop greater self-discipline and self-control. This can be especially beneficial for mental health, as self-discipline has been linked to a range of positive outcomes, including greater resilience, better stress management, and improved emotional regulation.

In addition to promoting self-discipline, Sadaqa also promotes generosity and kindness. When we give to those in need, we are demonstrating kindness and compassion, which can improve our relationships with others and promote a greater sense of social connectedness. This sense of connectedness is

important for mental health, as social isolation and loneliness have been linked to a range of negative outcomes, including depression, anxiety, and poor physical health.

Sadaqa and Zakat as Forms of Social Justice

Sadaqa and Zakat are both forms of social justice in Islam. By giving to those in need, Muslims are promoting greater equality and fairness in society. This can be especially beneficial for mental health, as studies have shown that greater social equality is associated with better mental health outcomes.

In addition to promoting social justice, Sadaqa and Zakat also promote community en-

gagement and activism. When we give to those in need, we are demonstrating our commitment to the well-being of our communities and our willingness to take action to promote positive change. This sense of community engagement can be incredibly beneficial for mental health, as it promotes a sense of purpose and belonging.

In conclusion, Sadaqa and Zakat are both important practices in Islam that promote both spiritual and mental health benefits. Through giving to those in need, Muslims are able to develop a sense of purpose and fulfillment, compassion and empathy, humility and gratitude, self-discipline and generosity, and social justice and community engagement. These practices promote mental health by providing individuals with a sense of connectedness, social support, and purpose, which can help to reduce feelings of isolation and promote resilience in the face of adversity.

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

# Listen In: 5 Islamic Podcasts to Follow

**W**E thought videos were taking over. However, podcasts are not only followed but loved by many. Who would have thought that in the era of Instagram takeover by short videos and visuals, audio could still make a mark?

Whether it is your commute to the office, your morning walk, running errands, buying groceries, cleaning your room or your kitchen chores, why not spend your time listening, learning and living alongside? There are thousands of podcasts in every single genre and it is not quite possible to recommend a representative list. So, we've tried to compile here some podcasts that will help you brush up Islamic history among other topics that will help you understand the world around critically, as Muslims.

Views expressed in the podcasts do not necessarily represent the views of Kashmir Observer. These are random recommendations for information and are not meant for promoting any specific person or ideology.



#### The Islamic History Podcast

This podcast is a hit among youngsters as it gives them an opportunity to explore history that has often been institutionally sidelined in modern day schools and university curriculums. IHP began in 2015 as an offshoot of Islamic Learning Materials blog.

The podcast not only deals with history as it panned out but reads it in tandem with Islam as it exists and operates today. In their own words, their website states that they aim at understanding, "not only what happened" but "why it happened". They have explored the most pressing, integral, significant and instrumental aspects of Islamic history.

You can listen to them on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, IslamicHistoryPodcast.com and Google Play Music



#### Mindful Muslimah Speaks

This self-help podcast is meant for an overall growth of Muslim women. It focuses on personal growth, parenting, relationships, marriage, work, mindfulness, social life, mental health and every aspect of one's life.

It answers some of our everyday questions such as facing failures, dealing with divorce, navigating relationships, achieving goals, making and breaking habits, nurturing family life and many others.

It is available on Spotify, iTunes or their website



#### Yaqeen Podcast

The Yaqeen Podcast by Yaqeen Institute is yet another source of enlightening content on Islam. It cov-

ers a wide range of topics. Whether it is matters of fiqh, tafseer or modern day issues that concern Muslims — it is your one stop destination for all information. Yaqeen Institution in general has brilliant resources on Islamic content. Subscribe for your Ramadan learning!

It is available on Apple, Google, Spotify, Other Platforms

#### Boys In The Cave

This popular podcast aims at reviving the ethos of discussions and debate about Islam and Muslims in a



modern context. It intends to and deservedly achieves to trigger a revival of Islamic discourse. The discussions revolve around varied subjects like activism, orientalism, masculinity, colonization, racism and bioethics. Their latest episode, "China, Authoritarianism and the Uyghurs" talks about oppression, Chinese communist party, Islamophobia, politics and the Muslim World with Uyghur activist Arslan Hidayat.

Check out Episode 56, "Orientalism, Modernity & Mohammad Iqbal" and thank us later (email maybe?)

Find here



#### The Qarawiyyin Podcast

The Qarawiyyin podcast, a part of the Qarawiyyin project is an attempt at reviving the tradition of scholarly debates and critical issues among Muslim women. It aims to empower Muslim women to discuss issues that concern them and take an active role in engaging with the world around.

## Connecting With Nature as a Gateway to Intimacy With Our Creator

HIBA NOOR KHAN

**A**s a children's author, I am blessed to regularly meet and chat with children about all sorts of weird, wonderful, and important things, ranging from time-travel to ripples of kindness. Since doing school visits and book events centred around my book, *One Home*, which was published last year, many conversations have centred around our connection to our beautiful, precious planet. Two things that stand out to me every time are; the purity and vastness of a child's inner state and capacity for connection, and the urgent need for nature to be a significant daily feature in their lives.

The air in our lungs is literally the breath of trees. The water in our bodies might once have been a raindrop or ocean wave. From sparkling glaciers to desert oases, mighty mountains to the lush tropics, the earth nourishes us at every single moment of our time here, providing wondrous sensory experiences, and a comfortable, perfectly balanced home. Every human being ever created shares the same bountiful abode, the ultimate gift from God.

As the physical manifestation of the mighty Quran, every leaf and every crystal, every animal and every plant has meaning, purpose, and weight. The natural world is sacred and to be revered and honoured as a Divine entrustment as well as our door to the Divine. Spending time in nature reflecting, pondering, remembering God, is a cornerstone of the path to wilayah. It is a gateway to intimacy with the Creator, a key feature in the journey of our Beloved Him's journey to prophethood. Every prophet had a profound connection to the natural world, with many spending long years shepherding animals under expansive skies before being given their message.

Everything from the natural world is in a state of perpetual glorification of the Divine. Though most of us are too veiled to perceive this reality, every insect and rock, tree and cloud is indeed singing songs of praise at every moment. Children are of course, born in a state

of pure fitrah, unaffected by the darkneses and agitations of this world. Their state is also one of perpetual glorification of God, and is in absolute harmony with the state of the natural world. Almost as if the default state of a child is resonating at the same frequency as the grass and breezes and birds. When a child is surrounded with untouched nature, crafted directly by the hand of God, their soul is at peace. The primordial state is supported, mirrored, and comforted.

Contrasting harshly with this is the reality most children in the Western world find themselves in; surrounded by artificiality, man-made materials and landscapes, with snippets of nature granted in between. Many of us find

**“The air in our lungs is literally the breath of trees. The water in our bodies might once have been a raindrop or ocean wave. From sparkling glaciers to desert oases, mighty mountains to the lush tropics, the earth nourishes us at every single moment of our time here, providing wondrous sensory experiences, and a comfortable, perfectly balanced home. Every human being ever created shares the same bountiful abode, the ultimate gift from God.”**

the vastness of our skies marred by tall buildings and towers, the soil underfoot buried by the urban jungle. The non-natural world is in a sense at loggerheads with the fitrah, instead of the echoes of heavenly praise emanating from the soul of a child being reflected back at them by the forest or valley, in the artificiality of modernity, there is a disharmony. Agitation of the soul begins. The state of peace and contentment starts giving way to the earliest signs of anxieties and imbalances.

When I speak to children about the gifts that nature gives them and how it makes them feel, I am endlessly inspired on hearing their thoughts and emotions. From befriending trees, to honing in on the meditative world of insects, being awed by passing clouds, to notic-

ing the magic of animals, their innate attunement to the natural world is beautiful. I do also feel quite disheartened at how scarce exposure to the natural world is for many. No doubt, proximity to wild, untouched spaces is a huge privilege, and so I factored this into the challenge/DIY sections of *One Home*. Not everyone has the luxury of outdoor space in the form of a garden or balcony, and so many activities and tasks don't require them at all.

*One Home* is a love letter from me to our planet, an adventure around the globe exploring 18 beautiful ecosystems and habitats through the eyes of young climate activists. From Pakistan to Chile, Sudan to Indonesia, the pages of the book are an ode to our wondrous

world, and a guide as to how young minds and hearts can help protect it. In order to truly care for and love something, you must know it and value it. My intention for the book was for it to be a seed for this knowing and valuing, and I'm going to share two simple activities inspired by *One Home* that I often use during my events to build this connection.

#### Sit Spots

This is a powerful practice that nurtures a connection between us and the natural world, one that will help attune young hearts and senses to the stories, treasures, and comforts that it holds. The following excerpt is from p37 of *One Home*:

Foster dialogue with your child about what they are perceiving, take a sketchbook and

draw what you see, or take rubbings of bark and leaves using crayons. Choosing a sit spot near your home will make it easier to visit frequently. At first, simply being present in one place might feel uncomfortable as we are used to constantly being busy, but encourage your little one to breathe deeply, and to engage their senses wholly where they are.

#### Japanese Micro-seasons

We're used to four distinct seasons in each year, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. In ancient Japanese culture however, they split the year into a whopping seventy-two! Stemming from a profound connection to the subtle changes and appreciation for the incredible gifts that unfold perpetually around us, I feel strongly that we have much to learn from this. The names of the micro-seasons tend to be wonderfully poetic and descriptive, and nod to a deeply attuned bond with the natural world. There is frogs start singing, rainbows hide, first peach blossoms, distant thunder, East wind melts the ice, Earth is damp, air is humid, hawks learn to fly, sparrows start to nest, to name a few!

I ask children to come up with their own micro-seasons. By being encouraged to look around them outdoors, to be perceptive and observant of the small details we often miss because of the pace of modern life, a gentle calm descends. Through paying close attention to the changes and miracles occurring all around us, the vital connection between humans and nature is nourished. This is a fantastic practice to initiate as a household, and I'm always blown away by the poetry and beauty in what the kids in my sessions come up with!

The natural world holds powerful healing, keys to well-being and emotional regulation, and spiritual doors. May we all be granted deep and ongoing intimacy with its wonders.

Amaliah

## Div Com Jammu Reviews Preparations For Investors Meet

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for Northern Level Laghu Udyog Bharti Sammelan and Investors meet scheduled to be held on April 23, 2023 at KC Regalia hotel Jammu.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various important issues while the President Laghu Udhog Bharti apprised the Div Com about the investors meet programme. It was informed that around 300 to 350 business delegates from different parts of the country were expected to participate in the meet.

The Div Com instructed Industries and Commerce Department, Pollution Control Board, JDCL, Handicraft and Handloom

department to establish stalls during the meet to highlight the schemes of their respective departments and apprise the visiting investors about the procedure of applying for different types of required permissions.

All the concerned departments were asked to appoint nodal officers for the meet. The Div Com observed that the meet would attract more investments, generate jobs and strengthen the economy of the UT.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, Director General Industries, Anoo Malhotra; Director Handloom & Handicrafts, Vikas Gupta; ADC Jammu, Harvinder Singh; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; besides President Laghu Udhog Bharti, Pradeep Gupta alongwith other members also present in the meeting.

## Group Of Musicians Alleges Fraud, Demands Inquiry Against Top Official

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** A group of musicians on Thursday accused a top Jammu and Kashmir administration official of committing a "fraud" on them by withholding full payment for their performance at the Dubai Expo last year.

Addressing a press conference, Kashmiri singer and J-K Artists Association convenor Mehmeet Syed charged the current Handloom and Handicraft Department Director Mehmood Shah of committing "fraud" and demanded an inquiry against him.

When contacted, Shah said, "With respect to remuneration, the Performance Fee has been paid in accordance with the rates notified by the Cultural Academy, J-K."

"Pertinent to mention, an amount of Rs 17 lakh (approximately) was spent on the boarding and lodging of these 11 artists, who were part of the cultural troupe," he added in a statement.

Syed, however, said Shah, then the director of the Department of Industries and Commerce, booked the group to perform at the Dubai Expo during a 15-day trip and committed to pay each of them Rs 2.25 lakh.

"We performed there for 12 days. The commitment was for the payment of Rs 2.25 lakh. But they have not kept their promise. We have not received even 20 per cent of what we were promised," she said.

When asked if they would approach the anti-corruption bureau or the courts, and whether they had any proof to support the allegation, she said it was a verbal commitment and there was no written commitment.

"When there is a group of artists (for performing at an event),

there is only verbal commitment. Mehmood Shah had committed to us," she said.

For the past one year, they have dodged the group members on one pretext or the other, she said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was also present at the expo.

The popular singer claimed the event had a budget of Rs 5.5 crore and a verbal commitment was made to each artist for a payment of Rs 2.25 lakh.

"When we returned, we were dodged, and we came to know that a proposal has been made and Rs 5.5 lakh was written there to pay the cultural group as a lump sum amount - which means only 22 per cent of what they committed to us," she alleged.

"It is a fraud with us. An inquiry be conducted to ascertain where the Rs 5.5 crore budget got when the genuine people were not paid," she demanded.

Another famous singer, Waqar Khan, said, "It is very painful that it happened to us".

"On one hand, the LG is saying they are promoting art, but, on the other, there is no justice for us. It is about our dignity, our art, our respect, our honour, and not about money," Khan said.

He said the officials "dodged" them till the time budget lapsed. Shah said Ficci was given the responsibility of managing the Dubai Expo 2020 event.

Due to a delay in the submission of the bills by Ficci and a change of guard at JK Trade Promotion Organisation and their shifting to treasury operations caused the delay in payment. The amount on account of liabilities is expected to be paid to Ficci, who in turn shall make the payments to the concerned vendors, he added.

## DC Kupwara Hosts Iftar Party For Students

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** In a unique and humanitarian gesture, an Iftar party for the students of Bal Ashram Handwara and Nari-Niket-an Gulgam was organised by the District Administration Kupwara at TRC complex, officials said Thursday.

The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara; Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray, Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara; Irfan Sultan Pandithpori, Vice-Chairman District Development Council Kupwara; Haji Farooq

Mir, ADC Kupwara; Gh. Nabi Bhat, District Social welfare officer Kupwara besides Wardens and staff of both the institutions also attended the Iftar party.

The district administration had invited over 80 students of both the institutions which included 35 Girl students.

The DC expressed gratitude to the participants and conveyed his best wishes to the whole Muslim community on the culmination of the holy month. The participants also lauded the District Administration with great applause for hosting the Iftar party.

## Pulwama Admin Tightens Noose Around Erring Traders, Imposes Fine

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** Acting tough against delinquent and erring business establishments, traders & dealers, the Executive Magistrates and the market checking squads of FCS&CA Pulwama on Thursday carried out an extensive market checking drive throughout the length and breadth of the district, imposing strictly the directions of Worthy District Magistrate Pulwama regarding rates and quality.

The aim of holding extensive market checking was to regulate price line and quality control of essential commodities in the markets

of Pulwama district during these holy days.

A team of revenue officials and MC Pulwama headed by Naib Tehsildar Pulwama carried out a market checking in order to foil any bid of overpricing and to ensure smooth regulation of traffic.

Similarly, market checking was conducted by the officials of MC Khrew and a fine of Rs 1700 was charged against adulteration and overpricing from various shopkeepers.

While interacting with the shopkeepers, the team members asked them to display rate lists at prominent places and adhere to the

rates approved, keep shops neat and clean and ensure that all package commodities sold to the consumers must bear MRP, Package date, Net Content and other related information.

District Magistrate Pulwama Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary earlier said that no one will be allowed to resort to overcharging, black marketing, profiteering, and adulteration especially during these holy days.

He, however, appealed to the general public to cooperate with the Department and come forward wherever any instance of wrongdoing is found. Public has a greater role to play in checking

violations at trade and other public places, DM added.

The violator traders were warned of more stern action against them in case they continue doing violations.

Further, the shopkeepers were advised to display the rate list on the conspicuous place of their shops and restrain from overcharging and in case of failure, action as warranted under relevant law shall be taken against the erring shopkeepers.

Moreover, Butchers /Chicken sellers were directed to maintain hygiene/Sanitization & Provide quality of meat to the Consumers mandated as per the Food Safety & Standards Act-2006.



WITH A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN WEATHER conditions, shoppers have started thronging marketplaces in Srinagar ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr on Saturday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Kathua School Gets Facelift After Student's Video Appeal To PM

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Days after a Class 3 student urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a video message to ensure basic facilities at her school in Kathua district, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has started work to give it a facelift.

Seerat Naaz's appeal in a video to the prime minister last week, which was shared widely on social media, prompted Director of School Education, Jammu, Ravi Shankar Sharma to visit the government school in the remote Lohai-Malhar block.

"Assalam Alaikum Modiji. Kaishe ho aap aap sab ki baat suntey ho, meri bhi baat suno (Hello, Modiji. How are you? You listen to everyone, please listen to me also)," Naaz said in the beginning of her over four-minute video.

Speaking about the dilapidated condition of the school, Naaz said students are forced to sit on dirty floors, which often stain their uniforms. She also highlighted the bad condition of the toilets, problems of open defecation and the unfinished construction work of

the building.

"You listen to the entire nation, please listen to me as well and build a nice school for us so that we can continue our education and not get scolded by our mothers for getting our uniforms dirty," the girl said in her passionate appeal to the prime minister.

Taking note of the video clip, the Jammu and Kashmir administration immediately swung into action to give the school a facelift.

"A project worth Rs 91 lakh was sanctioned to upgrade the school on modern lines but the work was stalled due to some issue related to administrative approval. It has now been sorted out and the work is underway," Sharma said after visiting the school.

The official said hundreds of schools are running in the remotest parts of the Union territory and the government has already chalked out a detailed project to ensure proper and modern facilities at all of these schools.

"We have also started constructing 1,000 new kindergartens in all districts of Jammu

province, and in the next three to four years, we will be able to ensure the construction of 250 kindergartens in each of the 10 districts (in Jammu province)," he said.

Sharma said there are three types of funding available for improving school infrastructure under UT CAPEX, district CAPEX and Samagra. Over 2,500 projects have been completed under Samagra since 2018, while 6,000 more are in progress.

He said the department is also utilising the UT capex and district capex to ensure the best facilities for the students.

Naaz, who aspires to be an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, said she had made a video and she is happy that her message has received a positive response.

"I made the video myself to share my thoughts with our prime minister. I am glad that action was taken and our school is getting a facelift," she said.

Villagers are also cheerful about the renovation of the school and expressed hopes that it will be developed on modern lines like schools in urban areas.

## Arrangements For Seasonal Migration Of Nomads Reviewed

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and concerned Officers to review the arrangements for facilitating smooth seasonal migration of the nomads Gujjar-Bakerwal community along with their livestock to upper reaches of the districts.

The Div Com directed DCs to issue permissions for movement after seeking proper satisfactory reports from the concerned departments. He also directed DCs to appoint nodal officers and share the number of Trucks required in their respective districts.

The Animal and Sheep husbandry departments were directed to set up first aid camps at different locations to provide vet services to the migrants. He further directed the revenue, police and forest departments to facilitate smooth movement of nomads.

Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry Departments were also told to ensure tagging of each Animal.

The meeting was attended

by Director Animal Husbandry, Director Tribal Affairs, Director Sheep Husbandry, ADC Jammu, ACJ Jammu and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division along with concerned officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner, in another meeting, reviewed the issues related to West Pakistani Refugees and cases of Displaced persons (DP) of 1947, 1965 and 1971.

The Deputy Commissioners apprised the Div Com about the total number of WPRs and DPs families in their district, number of applications received, number of applications approved and recommended for relief assistance.

The Div Com instructed the DC Jammu, Samba Kathua to expedite the process of identification of left out families of WPRs and Displaced Persons of 1965, 1971, 1947 in their respective districts. He also directed them to submit all completed cases in his office for providing relief assistance to WPR and displaced persons families under the Prime Minister Development Package.

## Dismissal Of Rahul's Appeal

### 'Black Day' For Indian Democracy, Says Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

**ANANTNAG :** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday lashed out at the BJP after a Gujarat court rejected Rahul Gandhi's plea in a defamation case, saying it is a "black day" for Indian democracy.

She also charged that opposition leaders are being hounded, saying they are either in jails or will be sent to jail.

"Today is a black day in the democratic history of the country, which takes pride in being mother of democracy. The way Rahul Gandhi is being treated shows that BJP wants to end democracy. They want to establish one party system -- The BJP 'Rashtra' -- by sidelining the Constitution," she told reporters here, 55 km from Srinagar.

The PDP leader was reacting to

a Surat court rejecting Gandhi's appeal against his conviction in a criminal defamation case.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said, "Judiciary is the last hope of the people but its role of late has given rise to questions".

Look at the Article 370 petitions, they are pending for several years without a hearing, she said.

"The case of Bilkis Bano is pending but Rahul Gandhi case is being expedited," she added.

The PDP leader said it seems that the BJP was "scared" of the popularity of Gandhi "who has emerged as a credible face after the Bharat Jodo Yatra."

"I am hopeful that people will rise against the misuse of the West India Company just like they did against the East India company before 1947," she added.



## Edu Dept Seeks List Of Govt Schools Falling Above 7 Km Radius Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** School Education Department Thursday sought a list of government schools falling above a radius of seven kilometers or more on foot.

Personal Officer (PO) at Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) had issued a communique to all Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of the region.

"In this regard, you are asked to verify the distance of such schools and furnish the same to DSEJ," it reads.

The PO said, "If any other schools in Jammu Division apart from the list issued by DSEJ where a distance of more than 7 km is required to be covered on foot and same may also be communicated to DSEJ itself through return mail."

The officer has informed the CEOs to treat the matter as most urgent.

In the meantime, top officials at DSEJ said that the move is aimed for internal purposes.

"As of now, we are consolidating the data for internal use and we will see what will be done to those schools after the transfer drive," the official said--(KNO)

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (PHE KASHMIR) JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT KASHMIR, SRINAGAR

Phone No: 0194-2311832 Fax: 2311835 E-Mail: kmrphed@gmail.com

**Subject: Tentative Seniority list of Ministerial staff viz; Section Officers/Head Assistants of Jal Shakti PHE Department Kashmir as it stood on 01.01.2023.**

The tentative seniority list of Ministerial staff viz; Section Officers/ Head Assistants of Jal Shakti, PHE Department Kashmir as it stood on 01.01.2023 is hereby circulated forming Annexure to this letter among all Head Assistants for submission of necessary objections, if any, from the concerned officials with regard to position allotted to them in the tentative seniority list within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of the Tentative Seniority list of Section Officers/Head Assistants. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated 21 days. The position of seniority has changed due to the retirement/promotion of following officials since 01.03.2021 upto 01.01.2023, hence their names have to be deleted/added in the seniority list of Section Officers/Head Assistants as per details given hereunder:-

S. No.	S No. of the final Seniority list issued vide No: JSD/Estt /45975-46012 Dated: 23.03.2022	Name of official	Designation	Date of retirement/promotion	Remarks
1.	1	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Section Officer	31.03.2021	Retired
2.	2	Ab. Hamid Baba	Section Officer	31.03.2022	Retired
3.	1	Fayaz Ahmad Sherwani	Head Assistant	30.04.2021	Retired
4.	2	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	Head Assistant	31.03.2021	Retired
5.	3	Ajaz Ahmad Sidiqui	Head Assistant	31.03.2021	Retired
6.	4	Shiraz Ahmad Mir	Head Assistant	30.04.2021	Promoted as SO w.e.f. 01.04.2021 and retired
7.	6	Gh. Hassan Darzi	Head Assistant	30.04.2021	Retired
8.		Asifa Bhat	Senior Assistant	22.12.2020	Promoted as HA
9		Javaid Ahmad Rather	Senior Assistant	22.12.2020	Promoted as HA
10.		Shabir Ahmad Shah(RBA)	Senior Assistant	01.01.2022	Promoted as HA
11.		Abass Ahmad Gilkar	Senior Assistant	01.01.2023	Promoted as HA w.e.f. 01.01.2023 & Retired on 31.03.2023
12.		Affifa Gam	Senior Assistant	01.01.2023	Promoted as HA

No:JSD/Estt/2492-527Kashmir  
Dated: 19.04.2023

(Er. Sanjeev Malhotra)  
Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Department

Annexure to this office letter No: JSD/Estt/ 2492-527Dated: 19.04.2023  
Tentative Seniority List of Section Officers/Head Assistants as it stood on 01.01-2023

S.No.	Name of Official	Designation	Date of Birth	Date of 1st. appointment	Date of Promotion as Junior Assistant	Date of Promotion as Senior Assistant	Date of Promotion as Head Assistant	Remarks
1	Gh. Jeelani (SAC qualified)	Head Assistant	10.01.1987	12.05.2006	29.06.2009	11.09.2017	21.09.2020	(Qualified Foundation Course in the year 2011 vide result notification No: PSC/EXAMS/2011/126/126 dated 20-10-2011) The official has been assigned to look after the temporary charge of the post of Section Officer
2	Asifa Bhat	Head Assistant	15.04.1963	02.07.1981	09.03.1982	01.01.2012	22.12.2020	
3	Javaid Ahmad Rather	Head Assistant	29.07.1966	28.10.1983	28.10.1983	01.01.2012	22.12.2020	
4	Shabir Ahmad Shah (RBA)	Head Assistant	10.03.1967	01.04.1994	01.10.2001	01.01.2012	01.01.2022	
5	Abass Ahmad Gilkar	Head Assistant	04.03.1963	08.01.1980	30.05.1984	01.01.2012	01.01.2023	
6	Affifa Gani	Head Assistant	02.05.1966	02.05.1984	06.11.1986	01.01.2012	01.01.2023	

DIPK-581-23  
DT: 20-04-2023

(Er. Sanjeev Malhotra)  
Chief Engineer  
Jal Shakti PHE Deptt. Kashmir  
Srinagar









Downtown Heroes Beat JSP FA 1-0 In I-League 2

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC defeated table-toppers Jagat Singh Palahi Football Academy 1-0 on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC in an I-League 2 match.

Downtown Heroes' Tripura-born forward Parvaj Bhuiya scored the game's decisive goal in 64th minute to send the team into jubilation. The Srinagar-based football club then held on to their slender lead to see off their Punjab-based opponents and earn a vital victory.

The win lifted the Heroes into second place of the Group A

standings, taking 13 points from seven matches. Jagat Singh Palahi remained top, with 13 points from six games. Breathing down the Heroes' neck is Delhi Football Club, who have taken 12 points from six matches.

The Heroes, led by veteran coach Hilal Rasool Parry, next play Delhi Football Club on April 29 in a must-win fixture. The match will be a home game for Downtown Heroes and will take place at Synthetic Turf TRC. It will be the final group game for the Heroes and a win would secure them a place in the next stages of the competition.

AIFF Allocates Two Coaching Courses To JKFA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) announced on Thursday that the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has for the first time ever allotted the FA with two back-to-back coaching courses.

"The AIFF has given the green light for the AFC 'C' Diploma coaching course, scheduled to take place in May 2023, followed by the AFC 'B' Diploma coaching course in June 2023. The courses will be held in Sri-



nagar and are expected to draw participation from football coaches across the state," the JKFA said in a statement.

"Interested candidates can apply online on the AIFF Coaching Portal," the statement added.

Inter-School Chess & Carrom Events Held At Khanabal



Observer News Service

KHANABAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Anantnag organised sports competitions in chess and carrom at Zone Khanabal on Wednesday.

The Inter School Zonal Level competition in chess and carrom was held for Under-14 and Under-17 boys at HSS Khanabal under the supervision of Principal of HSS Khanabal. A total of 320 students participated in these competitions.

IPL: CSK Hope For Stokes Boost Ahead Of SRH Clash



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Four-time champions Chennai Super Kings will hope their star allrounder Ben Stokes finally takes the field after recovering from his injury when they go up against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match here on Friday.

In a relief to CSK, Stokes, who was suffering from a toe injury and missed three IPL matches, took part in the net practice on Wednesday after regaining fitness and is available for selection.

The England Test captain's return will be a big boost for CSK as they return to their fortress following a close win over Royal Challengers Bangalore. Their opponents Hyderabad, however, copped a defeat at the hands of Mumbai Indians.

The Super Kings batters have been able to put up good scores, thanks to the starts provided by Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad at the top while the big-hitting Shivam Dube has managed a few impactful knocks.

Ajinkya Rahane has been a revelation, batting with a lot of freedom and going after opposition bowlers, but in an orthodox manner and though the rest of the batters have not done much, the crowd, especially in Chennai, will expect to see a vintage Dhoni uncorking some huge hits.

While the CSK batting unit has been finding the runs, the bowlers have been inconsistent and fielding below par.

Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana did an admirable job in the match against RCB but the same cannot be said of the others, though Tushar Deshpande has got better with each game.

CSK will be wary of the fact that they were trumped in the previous home game by Rajasthan Royals, losing by three runs as the middle-order could not force the pace leaving Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja too much to do at the end.

The Super Kings will look to strangle SRH batters with spin as is their wont and the trio of Theekshana, Jadeja and Moeen Ali could prove more than a

handful. CSK has won four of its last five matches against Hyderabad and the home team would hope to extend the run.

SRH, on the other hand, would be expecting their batting unit to click and the onus would be on captain Aiden Markram to rise to the occasion. The other batters in the line-up need to step up if Hyderabad hope to upset CSK's appellation at Chepauk.

Loss of wickets in the powerplay has set Sunrisers back and head coach Brian Lara said after the defeat to MI that someone in the middle-order needs to bat deep and finish off games.

The impressive Harry Brook will be the man to watch in the Hyderabad line-up and if he gets going he could prove a handful for the CSK bowlers.

Local lad Washington Sundar, who plays for SRH, will be hoping to get a game and perform well in front at his home ground. He has been up and down while the bowling unit's inconsistency has hurt their chances.

PCB Appoint Mickey Arthur As Men's Team Director

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board on Thursday confirmed Mickey Arthur's appointment as the men's team director, a post which will ensure he plays a major role in the preparations for the 50-over World Cup to be held in India later this year.

In his role, the 54-year-old Arthur, who served as Pakistan's head coach between 2016 and 2019, will be involved in designing, formulating and overseeing strategies for the men's team.

"He will also be a part of the coaching staff for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, away tour to Australia and home series against the West Indies. He will also be present with the side for Pakistan's matches against India in the ACC Asia Cup," the PCB said in a statement.

During his time at the helm from 2016 to 2019, Arthur coached Pakistan to No.1 in Tests and T20Is, and also helped the side win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

mances so that we can extract the best out of them," added the South African.

Arthur was offered a full-time coaching position with the team by Najam Sethi who also initially brought him into the fold in 2016. But the South African turned down the full-time assignment, deciding to continue coaching English county side Derbyshire but agreed to the role of team director and consultant where he will not be available physically with the team for all matches.

Najam Sethi, Chair of PCB Management Committee, said Arthur will also be responsible for grooming future stars to increase the bench strength of the national team.

"I am pleased that Mickey has formally rejoined the Pakistan men's cricket team with an enhanced role in which he will be responsible for formulating and implementing strategies for the upcoming assignments across all formats," Sethi said. "Furthermore, he will also be responsible for strengthening the national team



"I am absolutely thrilled to be rejoining the Pakistan cricket team and look forward to working with the group," said Arthur.

"Since moving on, I have kept a track of the players and their collective performances. This is a talented bunch with the potential to be number one across all formats and my endeavour is to put in place strategies and create an environment that can contribute in further enhancing their perfor-

culture, identifying and grooming future stars so that we can strengthen our bench-strength and strategically secure our future.

"Having lived and worked in Pakistan during his previous tenure, Mickey knows the current players, the structure and the system at the back of his hand. I am sure he will incorporate learnings from the previous tenure so that he can have an even more successful second term."

8 Healthcare Workers Face Trial Over Maradona's Death

Agencies

Eight healthcare workers will go on trial over the death of Diego Maradona after being charged with "homicide by negligence", Argentine media reported on Wednesday. The footballing great, who led Argentina to a second World Cup title in 1986, died aged 60 in November 2020 from heart failure after undergoing brain surgery days earlier.

A court in San Isidro, a town on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, rejected defence appeals for a lesser charge and upheld a year-old indictment by prosecutors for "reckless and inefficient work" in the treatment of the former Boca Juniors and Napoli player, TV channel TN reported.

The process is unlikely to start until next year and the defendants could face prison sentences ranging from eight to 25 years, the reports said.



RCB Beat PBKS By 24 Runs

Press Trust of India

MOHALI: Pacer Mohammed Siraj grabbed four wickets, while Virat Kohli (59) and Faf du Plessis (84) struck half-centuries as Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Punjab Kings by 24 runs in their IPL match here on Thursday.

RCB scored 174 for four after being put in to bat, before Siraj (4/21) and Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga (2/39) struck to dismiss PBKS for 150 runs in 18.2 overs at the PCA-IS Bindra Stadium.

Prabhsimran Singh, who came in as an impact player for PBKS, scored 46 runs, while wicket-keeper-batter Jitesh Sharma made 41.

Brief Scores: Royal Challengers Bangalore: 174/4 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 59, Faf du Plessis 84; Harpreet Brar 2/31).

Punjab Kings: 150 all out in 18.2 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 46, Jitesh Sharma 41; Mohammed Siraj 4/21, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/39).



Milan Teams Turn Focus To Serie A Ahead of Champions League

Agencies

MILAN: A city that boasts two teams with a combined 10 European Cup titles has both back in the semifinals of this year's Champions League — and set to play each other for a spot in the final.

Inter Milan and AC Milan need to control their excitement, however, and put their focus back on Serie A, where they are each at risk of not qualifying for next season's Champions League.

Inter Milan completed a 5-3 aggregate victory over Benfica on Wednesday to reach the semifinals for the first time since José Mourinho led the team to the treble of the Champions League, Serie A and Italian Cup in 2010.

That came a day after seven-time European champion AC Milan prevailed over Napoli to earn a spot in the final four for the first time since winning the title in 2007.

The Milan teams also met in the 2003 semifinals, with AC Milan winning on away goals and going on to beat Juventus in the final.

Milan will host Inter on May

10 before the return leg six days later — with both matches played at their shared San Siro Stadium.

There are four Serie A matches to be played before that first leg, including games against direct rivals for the Champions League qualifying spots — both play Roma and Lazio. Inter also has the second leg of the Italian Cup semifinals against Juventus.

Milan is currently in fourth place — the final Champions League spot — two points above Inter. The Rossoneri are three points below Roma and eight behind second-place Lazio.

However, they could be dumped out of the top four before this weekend's matches if Juventus gets its 15-point penalty suspended on appeal. That would lift the Bianconeri up to third.

Milan hosts Lecce on Sunday, while Inter visits Empoli. Inter has lost four of its past five matches in Serie A, drawing the other one, and only scored two goals in that run.

"We have to transfer the enthusiasm from Europe into the league," Inter coach Simone



Inzaghi said. "We know where we have come from, what crazy run of matches we're hav-

ing. We're playing every two and a half days. "We've dropped important

points but we know that we must do better. We know that probably without the Champi-

ons League or cup we would have certainly had a better position in the standings, but we have to play like Inter in every match."

Inter got a boost when Lautaro Martínez ended his goal drought on Wednesday. The forward got one goal and set up another against Benfica to snap a run of eight matches without scoring.

Martínez had scored nine goals in the previous 14 matches after returning from helping Argentina win the World Cup in Qatar.

"I had two great months after the World Cup, then I dropped off a lot," Martínez said. "I was also a bit tired physically. ... I hope this goal will help me get back on form and help my teammates." (AP)

Bayern Munich Eyes Another Bundesliga Title As Consolation

Even if Bayern Munich goes on to win the Bundesliga title, it will be scant consolation for what has been a disappointing season.

After winning the last 10, a record-extending 11th consecutive league title is seen as

the minimum target for what remains the biggest and most successful club in Germany.

The Bundesliga is the only remaining target after quarterfinal exits against Manchester City in the Champions League on Wednesday and Freiburg in the German Cup two weeks before that. And if closest challenger Borussia Dortmund can stop its own self-inflicted setbacks, the league title race could become uncharacteristically exciting over the remaining few weeks.

Bayern's troubles this season are also self-inflicted. Chief executive Oliver Kahn and sporting director Hasan Salihamidžić are under scrutiny for their decision to fire coach Julian Nagelsmann before decisive games last month. They said they were worried the club would not reach its goals for the season.

The gamble didn't pay off as Bayern dropped out of two competitions in as many weeks under coach Thomas Tuchel, who has only two wins from six games in all competitions.

# 90% of India, Entire Delhi In 'Danger Zone' Of Heatwave Impacts: Study

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Heatwaves in India are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, with over 90 percent of the country in the "extremely cautious" or "danger zone" of their impacts, according to a new study.

The study, conducted by Ramit Debnath and colleagues at the University of Cambridge, also revealed that Delhi is particularly vulnerable to severe heatwave impacts, though its recent state action plan for climate change does not reflect this.

It suggested that heatwaves have impeded India's progress towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more significantly than previously thought, and that the current assessment metrics may not fully capture the impacts of heatwaves linked to climate change on the country.

Heatwaves claimed more than 17,000 lives in 50 years in India, according to a paper authored by M Rajeevan, former secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences, along with scientists Kamaljit Ray, S S Ray, R K Giri and A P Dimri.

The paper published in 2021 said there were 706 heatwave incidents in the country from 1971-2019.

Thirteen people died from heatstroke at a Maharashtra government award function in Navi Mumbai on Sunday, making it one of the highest death tolls from a single heatwave-related event in the country's history.

To assess India's climate



vulnerability and the potential impact of climate change on SDG progress, researchers at the University of Cambridge conducted an analytical evaluation of the country's heat index with its climate vulnerability index. The heat index (HI) is a measure of how hot it feels to the human body, taking into account both temperature and humidity. The climate vulnerability index (CVI) is a composite index that uses various indicators to account for socioeconomic, livelihood, and biophysical factors to study the impact of heatwave.

The researchers accessed a publicly available dataset on state-level climate vulnerability indicators from the government's National Data and Analytics Platform to classify severity categories.

They then compared India's progress in SDGs over 20 years (2001-2021) with extreme weather-related mortality from 2001-2021.

The study showed that more than 90 percent of India

is in the "extremely cautious" or "danger" range of heatwave impacts through HI, otherwise considered "low" or "moderate" vulnerability through CVI. States that were categorized as "low" in CVI rankings were found to be in "danger" HI categories, indicating that heatwaves put more people at extreme climate risk across India than estimated by CVI.

The authors concluded that the use of CVI may underestimate the actual burden of climate change concerning heat, and suggested that India should consider reassessing its climate vulnerabilities to meet the SDGs.

They warned that if India fails to address the impact of heatwaves immediately, it could slow progress towards achieving sustainable development goals.

The study also highlighted that the current heat-action plans designed and implemented according to the Delhi government's vulnerability assessment do not include HI estimations,

which is concerning since even the "low" climate-vulnerable areas in Delhi are at high heatwave risks. The high intensity of development in Central, East, West, and North-East districts can further elevate the HI risks through heat island formation, it said. The authors said some of the critical variables in Delhi that will aggravate heat-related vulnerabilities include concentration of slum population and overcrowding in high HI areas, lack of access to basic amenities like electricity, water and sanitation, non-availability of immediate healthcare and health insurance, poor condition of housing and dirty cooking fuel (biomass, kerosene and coal). The threshold for a heatwave is met when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas, and at least 30 degrees Celsius in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius.

Earlier this month, the India Meteorological Department predicted above-normal maximum temperatures for most parts of the country from April to June, except parts of the north-west and the peninsular regions.

Above-normal heatwave days are expected in most parts of central, east, and northwest India during this period. In 2023, India experienced its hottest February since record-keeping began in 1901. However, above-normal rainfall in March kept temperatures in check.

# Stargazers Witness Dazzling Solar Eclipse In Australia

Perth, Australia: Professional astronomers and amateur cosmologists flocked to a remote part of Western Australia Thursday to witness a total solar eclipse, with the moon blocking out the sun for 58 seconds.

Stargazers in Exmouth, on Australia's northwest tip, parked their caravans, pitched telescopes and donned protective glasses to watch the moon seemingly creep across the sun's surface before the totality.

"Many people become addicted to that minute or so of eerie otherworldliness" John Lattanzio of the Astronomical Society of Australia said. The totality occurred at 11:29:48 local time -- bringing darkness and a spectral calm, according to witnesses.

Less than a minute later, the dusty outback was again bathed in light.

While fun and perhaps moving for spectators, the eclipse gave scientists a chance to observe the sun's corona, which is usually obscured by its bright rays.

Witnessing a similar eclipse once helped Albert Einstein hypothesise that



light can bend.

This time round residents in West Papua and East Timor will also be able to witness the totality.

A continent away in Syd-

ney, the eclipse was only partial, with less than 20 percent of the sun blocked by the moon.

But the city's residents can take some solace.

On July 22, 2028, its five million residents will experience their own total solar eclipse -- one of five scheduled to occur over Australia in the next 15 years.

## Entrance Test CUET-PG To Be Held From June 5-12: National Testing Agency


**New Delhi:** The Common University Entrance Test-PG for admission to postgraduate programmes in universities across the country will be conducted from June 5-12, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced today.

Candidates can apply for the exam till May 5. The application deadline earlier was April 19.

"Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-PG will be conducted on June 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Candidates are advised to regularly visit the NTA website for the latest updates regarding the examination," a senior official said.

While the University Grants Commission (UGC) has mandated all central universities to use CUET for undergraduate admission, it has been kept optional for postgraduate admissions. A total of 180 universities, including Central, state and private ones, have come on board to conduct their postgraduate admissions through CUET-PG. Unlike CUET-UG, the PG test will be conducted in two shifts per day. The UGC has decided to conduct the undergraduate exam in three shifts from this year.


"For appearing in the CUET-PG, 2023, there is no age limit for the candidates. The candidates who have passed the bachelor degree and equivalent examination or appearing in 2023 irrespective of their age can appear in CUET-PG 2023



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جس نے لوگوں کا شکر ادا نہ کیا اس نے اللہ کا شکر بھی ادا نہ کیا۔ (حدیث شریف)

## اظہار تشکر و عید مبارک


کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر اپنے کرم فرماؤں کو بالخصوص اور تمام اہل اسلام کو بالعموم دل کی عمیق گہرائیوں سے عید مبارک پیش کرتی ہے۔ عید کے اس متبرک قومی پرہم اسلامی اور اخلاقی ذمہ داری کو ملحوظ نظر رکھ کر عوام الناس کا تہہ دل سے شکر یہ ادا کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے سوسائٹی کو بھرپور مالی و معاونت بالخصوص اس ماہ مقدس میں کر کے ہماری ادنیٰ کوششوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کی ہے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دست بڑھنا ہے کہ آپ کے عطیات اور صدقات کو اپنی بارگاہ میں قبول فرمائے اور اپنی بے پناہ رحمتوں اور بخششوں سے نوازیں (آمین)

ہم مستقبل میں بھی تعاون کے طلبگار ہیں تاکہ ہم سب ملکر ریاست جموں و کشمیر کو کینسر جیسی ہلک بیماری سے پاک کریں۔

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## Happy Eid-ul-Fitr!

Heartiest greetings to our esteemed customers in particular and to all Muslim Community in general on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.