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## **India Attaches Special Importance To SCO: Amit Shah**

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: India attaches special importance to the Cooperation Shanghai Organization (SCO) in promoting dialogue on multidimensional 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 S Security, E - Economic Cooperation, Connectivity, U - Unity, R - Respect For Sovereignty and Integrity and E **Environment Protection.** 

Under the leadership of Modi, India attaches special importance to the SCO in promoting dialogue on the subject relating to multidimensional 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



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May this Eid brings joy, peace, and prosperity.



Dr. Shagil Khan

Dr. Sadaf **Niaz Shah** 

Dr. Sumera **Majeed Zargar**  Dr. Shazia Shafi

Dr. Atif Ali Mir

Dr. Samir Sud

Dr. Danish Iqbal

Dr. Kinsuk

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Dr. Athar **Fayaz Shah** 

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## KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Friday | 21-04-2023

**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

\*\*\*-0-\*\*\*

#### **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-PHED/ RWSD/ Corrs. / 587 - 611

DIPK-605/23 Dated: - 20.04.2023.

(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

Janinio & Kashinii Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works.						
S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Bid Security	Class	Cost of Tender	Time of
		(Rs. in Lakh)	(EMD) INR	of Contractor	Document (Rs)	Completion
			(Rs.)			
01	Providing/Fixing of Devri Stones for Gazebo surrounding	7.028	(Rs.) 14000	"C & D" Class	300	10 days
	area at ZIG MODE Gulmarg			Civil contractor		

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

Budgeted |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.Q.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen.

downouded not the wester. Www.jkenders.gov.in.					
Publishing Date:	20-04-2023				
Download Start Date :	20-04-2023from 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.				

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: https://jktenders.gov.in

2. 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.

5. 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/Fduly 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 Inf

The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. 10. 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

NO: - DFO/TNG/Acctts. /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

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/

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Vide Chief Engineer Letter No. 5934-35 dated 31-03-2023 The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, book of quantities (BoO) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website 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 1st 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	27/04/2023 11 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer I&FC Division Sumbal (Jal Shakti Department)					
	online						

The rates are inclusive of all charges, taxes & wages of Driver (complete) but excluding POL. Consumables like Jubricants, 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.

2. Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders has been dispensed with as per Govt. order No. OM No. A/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 Iyear 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 not 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 releasedThe 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 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

nand the work shall be offered to 2nd lowest bilder at the rate offered by 1st lowest bilder.

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 patter. The Definition 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

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 Dated: 20/04/2023

**Executive Engineer** 

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

**Press Trust Of India** 

tmospheric 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 ussion 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



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 misof 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 re-



THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067

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

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SI. No	Name of Post	Pay Matrix Level	No of post (s)	Category	Method of Recruitment
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2	Accountant	Level - 06	03		Deputation
3	Assistant	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.nihfw.org. Completed application in all respect should reach Deputy Director (Admn.), NIHFW at the above address on or before 30th April, 2023.

CBC 17153/12/0002/2324

#### From the office of the **Advocate Mudasir Gulzar** In the case of:

Mohammad younis sheikh S/o mohammad ismail sheikh R/o Bishember nagar srinagai

(caveator) (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, ap-

Public at large

plication 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.

ازعدالت چیف جوڈ پیٹل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر بااجلاس راجامحمر تشلیم شفیقه دخر غلام محمد ڈارسا کنہ بلال کالونی صورہ رجسٹرار بڑھس اینڈ ڈیسٹھس الیں۔ایم \_سی سرینگر درخواست بمراداندراج کرنے تاریخ فوتگی آزاں غلام محمد تاریخ فوتگی 2004-12-20 اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندحه عنوان الصدر مين سائل /سائله نے عدالت بذامين ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بخرض اندارج کرنے تاریخ فوتگی دائر کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کوبذربعہ اشتہار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسائله منظور ہونے میں 2023-01-01 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر چف جود سن سرید بااجلاس راجا محمد تشلیم رجرار رسس ایندد تصر الیں۔ایم۔سیسرینگر (مُسول)

درخواست بمراداندراج کرنے تاریخ فو تگی ازاں بٹ محمر شفیع تاریخ فو تگی 2018-04-06 اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندحه عنوان الصدر مين سائل اسائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفي بغرض اندارج کرنے تاریخ فوتگی دائر کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کوبذریعیاشتہار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسائله منظور ہونے میں کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آ کر مورخ202-05-01 تک پیش کرے۔بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذر مااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تح ريالصدر 2023-04-20

ازعدالت سپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ کپنجرنکس شمیر پُروینس سرینگر سائل اسائله: منظوراحد بث **بنام** رجشرار برتھس اینڈ ڈیتھس درخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ وفات تاريخُ وفات 23-08-2016 معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں سائل / سائلہ نے عدالت مذامیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفي بغرض اندارج تاريخ وفات على محمه بت ولدغلام رسول بث ساكنه شہیر گنج سرینگر مورخہ 2023-01-28 پیش کی ہے۔لہٰذاعوام الناس کو بذر بعداشتها مطلع کیاجا تا ہے کنسبت درخواست کوئی عذر بااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندریندرہ یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔بعدگز رنے معیاد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت بذامیں 2023-05-02 کومقررہے۔ تح رالصد2023-04-20 لینجر نکس سرینگر ازعدالت سپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ کیننج نکس تشمیر پُروینس سرینگر

سائل اسائله: برویز خشرو بشیر ب**نام** کرجشرار برخفس اینڈ ڈ<sup>ی ت</sup>فس رخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ وفات نام:مولوی بشیراحمه تاريخ وفات: 1989-07-70 عامله مندحة عنوان الصدر میں سائل / سائلہ نے عدالت بذامیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفى بغرض اندارج تاريخ وفات مولوى بشيرولدمولوي حفيظ اللدساكينه جاودان راجباغ سرینگر مورخه 2023-03-15 پیش کی ہے۔لہذاعوام لناس کوبذر بعداشتهار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہو نے کی صورت میں اینے عذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندریندرہ یوم عدالت میں آ کرپیش کرے۔بعدگز رنے معیاد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ 🏿 أينده عدالت بذامين 2023-04-26 كومقرر ہے۔

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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# **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 counterterror 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 Bhimber 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.

personnel of the Five Rashtriya Rifles Unit deployed for counterterrorist operations in this area | More on P10

#### **Army Imparts Weapon Training To VDC Members**

he 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 and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Thursd 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: 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 Iammu and Kashmir, Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said here on Thursday.

"No evidence or any witness was received from any part of I&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 Raheemiya 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 Hami, 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

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 noth-

ing 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. Deputy 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.

Director Meteorological department, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer that | More on P10

**Waqf Cancels Eid Prayers At Historic Eidgah** 

he 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**

he 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





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.

#### **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&KPCC (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&KPCC 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 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 Iniuries In Canine Attack**

n 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".

În 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

#### **Four JKAS Officers Transferred**

he 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**

man was arrested by the Cyber police here I 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**

S H O

ukhnandan 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**

K E S

T A

he 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**

ulip 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**

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

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 UK-based Kirandeen 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

Despite being sighted in several CCTV footage and photos with changed appearances at ·luding 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

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 Bajrangi.

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 Courtappointed 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 Bajrangi.

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 acquit-ted 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

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

## 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

Ahigh-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 fourbillion-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 counterstrike 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-

**Elon Musk's SpaceX Rocket** 

**Explodes Minutes After Launch** 



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 longrange 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 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."

#### **Buddha's Teachings Offer Solution To Global Problems: PM Modi Press Trust of India** the Prime Minister said, add-

**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 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 oth-

ers," 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 uddha'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),

ing that the world will have to think about the poor and countries lacking resources. Inspired by the teachings of Lord Buddha, India is tak-

ing 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, in-

cluding Turkiye after it was

hit by an earthquake, to say

that it has treated every human being's pain as its own. 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.

#### **NEWS MAKERS**

## **Bilawal Bhutto To Attend SCO Meeting In India**

**Agencies** 

Dakistan 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 inperson.

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 Jaishe-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 Beijingbased 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 spe-

cies 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.

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

**Press Trust of India** 

Elon Musk's company was aiming to send the nearly 400foot (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 en-

gines weren't working on the 33-engine rocket as it climbed from the launch pad, reaching as high as 24 miles (39 kilome-

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.

Throngs of 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,

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.

> and rich tourists are already

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.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Friday | 21-04-2023

### **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,

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Regional Trans-

port Officer Srinagar has

penalized parents of two

boys and also suspended

registration of a two-wheel-

er involved in creating

nuisance, attacking and ha-

rassing a family on road in

Parimpora area of Srinagar

rate order, RTO Kashmir

has penalized parents of

two boys for Rs 5.000 each

for being involved in a hei-

nous crime and creating

Kashmir has penalized Hi-

lal Mehraj of Mir Mansoor

Colony Srinagar and Ab-

dul Hamid Bazaz of Ramp-

ora Chattabal for allowing their juvenile sons to drive

two-wheelers without pos-

under section 180 of MVA,

1988, a penalty of Rs. 5000

each is imposed upon Hi-

"In exercise of powers

sessing a valid license.

As per the order, RTO

nuisance on the road.

According to a sepa-

on March 27 this year.

Parimpora Road Rage

**RTO Realizes Rs 5000 Fine** 

**Suspends Vehicle Registration** 

From Parents Of 2 Boys.

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 wellknown 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 presummer 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.

lal Mehraj and Abdul Ha-

mid Bazaz, owners of the

vehicle used in offence,

for causing and permitting

vehicle No: JK01AS-7723

is hereby suspended with

immediate effect, with the

direction to surrender the

original Registration cer-

mir said the action has been

taken so that it would act as

a deterrent for others and

such incidents are prevent-

ed from happening in the

future. Notably, on March

27 Srinagar police had arrested 9 persons for harass-

ing and attacking a fam-

ily on the road in Srinagar.

Video of the incident had

also gone viral on different

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Srinagar, 190 001 J&K

social media platforms.

Meanwhile, RTO Kash-

tificate in this office.



A mehandi arists 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** 

rinagar: 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, DrArun 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 Proiect, Residency Road, Maulana Azad Road, Gupkar Junction, Boulevard Footpath, Nishat Garden precinct, Northern Foreshore Road including cycle track, Shalimar Canal and DargahHaz-

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

The VC, LC&MA apprised the Chief Secretary that the EOI is being floated by I & FC and Tourism Departments shortly. He further revealed that the activities identified for water sports include Wa-



cluding sanitation, cleaning, traffic management etc.

Reviewing the progress of Dal Lake cleansing at Nishat precinct, the Chief Secretary directed the VC, LC&MA to expedite the Houseboat sewerage connections

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

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

**Observer News Service** 

his vehicle to be driven Srinagar: The Enforcement squad by a person who did not of Food Civil Supplies & Consumpossess a valid driving lier Affairs Department under the cense," reads the order. supervision of Assistant Director It also added in exer-Enforcement Fayaz Ahmad Shah cise of powers under seclaunched a massive drive within tion 53 of MVA, 1988, the the vicinity of Srinagar City parregistration certificate of

ticularly at Sariabala, Jawahar Nagar, Dalgate, Sonwar, Nishat, Hazratbal, Zakura, Eidgah, Khanyar, 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

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

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

Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir

#### Office Ofthe Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)Mechanical Division (North) Sopore NOTICEINVITINGTENDER

e-NITNo. 04of2023-24,dated: 19-04-2023
Forand on behalf of Lt. Governor of UTof J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)MechanicalDivision (North)Sopore,invitese-tendersfromreputedandresource ful Bidders/Firms/Companies/JointVentures/Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or range of the firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or range of the firm and Financier of the firm astate Government for "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipment at various water supply schemes of JalShakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore". The bidding process shall be completed online on https://jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Covers and the process of the process of

ı	mena, deneral remisand conditions and reclinical specifications and cover 2 nd shall consist of Financial bid of Hermate basis, in the prescribed book.							
I	S.No.	Description of work	Tender document	Earnest money	Estimatedcost (Rs in Lacs)	Bid		
ı			Fee (In Rs.)	-		validity(Days)		
ı	1.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-me-	Rs 500.00	Upload "Bid Security Decla-	As devised against each	180Days		
I		chanical equipment at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti		ration" duly notarized	item of work in Form I			
I		(PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore		_	of SBD			
ı		. , , ,						

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).



1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in The pre-bid meeting will be heldintheofficechamberoftheExecutive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.

The whole bidding process shall be completed on line on tender portal https://jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can down load the biddocument from the complete download the complete dowmthetenderportalandcansubmittheirbidsbyuploadingthemon the tender portal.

The valid bids received shall be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Bids must be accompanied bybidsecurityandcostofTenderDocumentand shall be payable at Srinagar.

Bid Security declaration duly notarizedshall be uploaded separately against each work instead of EMD (as annexed in SBD). However, to ensure mance of the contract, Performance Security is to be obtained from the successful bidder.

The cost of tender documents should be inform 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 moneyinshape of CDR/FDR/BGandotherrelevantdocu $ments shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as \verb|L1afteropening| of financial cover.$ 

The bidshall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bid der/tender er with drawshis bid/tender before the said-new from the last date of submission of bids. If any bid der/tender er with drawshis bid/tender before the said-new from the last date of submission of bids. If any bid der/tender er with drawshis bid/tender before the said-new from the last date of submission of bids. If any bid der/tender er with drawshis bid/tender before the said-new from the last date of submission of bids. If any bid der/tender er with drawshis bid/tender before the said-new from the last date of submission of bids. If any bid der/tender er with drawshis bid/tender er with drawshis bid/tendperiodormakesanymodificationsinthetermsandconditionsofthebid, the saidearnest money shall standforfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive. Other details can be seen in he bidding documents from the website https://jktenders.gov.in

Queries by email if any, should bemadeat phe.mdns@gmail.com

No: PHE/MDNS/DB/274-86 Dated:20 -04-2023 DIPK-601/23

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T:+91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F:+91 (0)194 248 1928; E:info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com DIPK-NB-332/23 DATED: 20-04-2023

Cross Selling Department,
Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road
Srinagar. 190 001 J&K

Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP)

GROUP ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE COVER TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF J&K UT

PFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining

he minimum requirements can be downloaded from and

BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://jkbank.abcprocure.com w.e.f. April 20, 2023,

**16.00 Hrs.** Tender Document can also be downloaded

from Bank's Official Website 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

Executive Engineer. Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

**AIRPORTS** 

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### **RAILWAYS**

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132

PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 4:25 **ZUHR** 12:31 **ASR** 5:14 7:10 Magrib 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
- 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 Mon®dovi
- 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
- 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 fol@lowing 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

ANILA - 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

"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 flex-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 Af-

ghanistan 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 loca-

tion 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)

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Friday | 21-04-2023

## Waiting For The Day

s 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 OPINON

# 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 synonymity and equivalence of the selfidentified 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.

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

he 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

#### Sadaqa and Zakat as Acts of Worship

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

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-

**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

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

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 Podcas

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

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 darknesses 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, manmade materials and landscapes, with snippets of nature granted in between. Many of us find 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

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-

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 de-

manded 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 proach 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 com-

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

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 go

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 IK 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 ven-

dors, he added.

## **DC Kupwara Hosts Iftar Party For Students**

**Observer News Service** 

KUPWARA: In a unique and humanitarian guesture, an Iftar party for the students of Bal Ashram Handwara and Nari- Niketan 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.



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

# **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 ad-

ministration 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. Kaise 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 fourminute 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

"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

"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.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

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 un-

der 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 re-

spective 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. Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry Departments were also told to ensure tag-

ging of each Animal. The meeting was attended ister Development Package.

by Director Animal Husbandry, Director Tribal Affairs, Director Sheep Husbandry, ADC Jammu, ACG 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 Min-

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 defama-

tion 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 off late has given rise to

questions". Look at the Article 370 petitions, they are pending for several

years without a hear-

ing, 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 misrule 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**

**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 Jam-

mu Division apart from the list issued by DSEI 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 DSEK said that the move is aimed for internal

"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

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	<b>Head Assistant</b>	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	<b>Senior Assistant</b>	22.12.2020	Promoted as HA		
9		Javaid Ahmad Rather	Senior Assistant	22.12 2020	Promoted as HA		
10.		Shabir Ahmad Shah(RBA)	<b>Senior Assistant</b>	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.		Afifa Gam	<b>Senior Assistant</b>	01.01.2023	Promoted as HA		
,	No:JSD/Estt/2492-527Kashmir (Er. Sanjeev Malhotra) Dated: 19.04.2023 Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Department						

Dated, 19.04.2025							ingineer, Jai Shaku PHE Departinent	
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 Promo- tion as Junior Assistant	Date of Promo- tion as Senior Assistant	Date of Promo- tion as Head Assistant	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Section Officer			
					<b>Head Assistants</b>			
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	Abbass Ahmad Gilkar	Head Assistant	04.03.1963	08.01.1980	30.05.1984	01.01.2012	01.01.2023	
6	Afifa Gani	Head Assistant	02.05.1966	02.05.1984	06 11.1986	01.01.2012	01.01.2023	

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

#### **Pulwama Admin Tightens Noose Around Erring Traders, Imposes Fine** of Pulwama district during rates approved, keep shops violations at trade and other

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

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 regula-

tion 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

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 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/Sanitation & Provide quality of meat to the Consumers mandated as per the Food Safety & Stan-

dards Act-2006.

DIPK-581-23

DT: 20-04-2023

## **Apple Opens First Store** In Delhi; CEO Tim Cook **Welcomes Customers**



**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Apple chief executive Tim Cook on Thursday welcomed customers at the company's first store opened in the national capital.

Located at Select Citywalk Mall in Delhi, the barricade for Apple Saket features a unique design that takes inspiration from Delhi's many gates. However, the Saket store is smaller than the Apple store opened in Jio World Drive at Bandra Kurla Complex on Tuesday.

The Apple Saket store in Delhi is half the size of the Mumbai store where the company will pay a portion of total sales from the store as rent or Rs 40 lakh per month, whichever is higher, according to sources.

The company has more than 70 highly skilled retail team members at Saket store, who has come from 18 states of India and collectively speak more than 15 languages.

Cook during his visit met Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the iPhone manufacturer is looking to invest more in the nents supplier base in India.

world's second-largest smartphone market.

According to government sources, the iPhone maker is likely to double the employment base at its contract manufacturers in India to around 2 lakh soon.

Cook, on his first trip to India in seven years, opened Apple's first official retail store in the country in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Cook had last visited India in 2016 when the tech giant was just beginning to scale up operations in the country.

Looking to replicate what China did to Apple's business in the last 15 years, the tech giant is eyeing India's massive market with an expanding middle class to power sales growth, and potentially make it a home base for the production of millions of

Apple devices. Cook during his visit met Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar. As per the sources, Cook has sought government support to widen its compo-

# **J&K Govt To Introduce New Variety Of NPS-5 Mushroom In Sep**

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: and Kashmir's agriculture department will introduce a high resistance and better shelf-life NPS-5 variety of mushrooms for commercial farming in September this year after successful field trials of the cultivation of this variety.

"Our second strain is NPS-5 (a variety of mushrooms). We are making its master culture. The seeds will be distributed to farmers by September this vear (for commercial farming in Jammu and Kashmir)," K K Sharma, Director of the Department of Agriculture, told PTI.

He said that the trials were successful. "It is not affected by low water, high water situations and high concentration of carbon dioxide. It possesses non-browning characteristics. It has a better shelf life".

Elaborating on the better shelflife of mushroom variety, Sharma said the majority of mushrooms in the market turn stale if it is not sold for a day or two.

"However, its (new variety) quality is maintained. Due to its quality, its market value will increase and it will generate more revenue," he added.

The department is working on several fronts for ensuring



sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

"When a mushroom gets brown in colour during shelf life, its market value gets depleted and causes losses for farmers and its market. This isn't the case with a new variety," Sharma added.

The new strains, which were added to mushroom cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir, will benefit farmers on a large scale. "Its cap remains intact and doesn't get brown. It will benefit farmers as well as consumers," he said.

After much research, the new strain has been produced by the Directorate of Mushroom Research (ICAR), Solan, Sharma

the growth of the mushroom said, adding, "They have provided us with the strains and we have to introduce it to the market in Jammu and Kashmir".

Sharma informed that the temperature and humidity are maintained in laboratories for the production of this mushroom variety. "We are also making 4 types of seeds of milky mushrooms, dingri, button and shiitake, a Japanese mushroom. We have crossed a target of 100 quintals of seed this month.'

The cultivation trial was carried out on sawdust of broad leaves in polypropylene bags as per the guidelines of the Directorate of Mushroom Research

## **FCIK Demands For Consolidation Of Existing Industrial Base**

Discusses NCSS-2021 with visiting DPIIT team

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has urged upon the central government to consolidate existing industrial base in Jammu and Kashmir along with its ambitious expansion plans for industrial development under the "New Central Sector Scheme" (NCSS) launched in 2021 with an outlay of 28400 Crores over a period of time.

This was conveyed by FCIK representatives to the Director Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Dr. Kajal and her team of officers in a meeting held at Sanat Ghar Srinagar. The FCIK was led by members of Advisory Committee Shakeel Qalander and Mohammad Ashraf Mir with participation of Presidents of various industrial estates including Lassipora, Khunmoh, Rangreth, Zainakote, Shalteng, Sanat Nagar, Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Zakura, Ganderbal, Silk Park Zakura and other contituents.

FCIK representatives conveyed that the desired transformation in industrial development could only take place by following the principals of natural growth which envisages for consolidation of the existing industrial base before spreading out for expansion. While hailing the NCSS for enhanced industrial development, they said that the plan also required bringing about a change in the working atmosphere and system in order to facilitate existing and prospective entrepreneurs with flawless services.

Recalling the central industrial scheme of 2002 launched by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the FCIK representatives regretted that the scheme could not bring any substantial change owing to inherent deficiencies in it. They said that the whole scheme spread over more than a decade could only attract investment of about 3000 crores mostly in two districts of 22 districts of the erstwhile state of J&K. They said that NCSS-2021 may, God forbid, meet the fate. if the problems of existing enterprises were not addressed to put these back on track for boosting existing and prospective investor's confidence. They informed the visiting team that whole lot of existing units was presently in complete distress and working on meager capacities much below their break even apart from that a large number of units had already

## **EPFO Adds 13.96 Lakh Net New Members In Feb**

**NEW DELHI:** Retirement fund body EPFO has recorded a net addition of 13.96 lakh new subscribers in February 2023. The provisional payroll data of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation released on Thursday highlighted that EPFO has added 13.96 lakh net members in February 2023.

Out of 13.96 lakh members added during the month, around 7.38 lakh new members have come under the ambit of EPFO for the first time, a labour ministry statement said. Among the newly joined members, it stated, the highest enrolment is registered in the age group of 18-21 lowed by the age group of 22-25 years with 1.91 lakh members.

The age group of 18-25 years constitutes 55.37 per cent of the total new members during the month. This indicates that the majority of the members joining the organised sector workforce of the country are first-time job seekers. The data also highlights that approximately 10.15 lakh members re-joined EPFO membership, which rose by 8.59 per cent compared to the last year.

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lakh members. The age group of 18-25 years constitutes 55.37 per cent of the total new members during the month. This indicates that the majority of the members joining the organised sector workforce of the country are first-time job seekers. The data also highlights that approximately 10.15 lakh members re-joined EPFO membership, which rose by 8.59 per cent compared to the last year.

## **Equity Markets Settle With Marginal Gains In Highly Volatile Trade**

**Press Trust Of India** 

MUMBAI- Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended with marginal gains on Thursday after falling in the past three days, helped by fag-end buying in energy, telecom and utility stocks.

Investors remained cautious amid renewed foreign fund outflows and prevailing risk-off sentiments ahead of US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, traders said.

In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 64.55 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 59,632.35. During the day, it hit a high of 59,836.79 and a low of 59,489.98.

The broader NSF went up by 5.70 points or 0.03 per cent to finish at 17,624.45.

"Markets ended the 3-day losing streak on selective buying in financials, telecom and utility stocks. The market had run up sharply over the past week or so, but with FIIs turning sellers in the last few sessions and global central banks signalling more hawkish bets going ahead, traders are maintaining a cautious stance," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research capital goods (0.58 per cent).



(Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. Among the Sensex firms, Asian Paints, NTPC, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, ITC, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the biggest winners.

Hindustan Unileve sys, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge ended marginally lower by 0.03 per cent, while smallcap index

climbed 0.10 per cent. Among indices, services jumped 0.89 per cent, utilities climbed 0.85 per cent, telecommunication (0.81 per cent), power (0.74 per cent), industrials (0.63 per cent),

Realty, FMCG, metal, commodities, energy, IT and oil & gas were the laggards.

"Markets traded lackluster

for yet another session and ended almost unchanged on the weekly expiry day. Most sectors traded in sync however a decline in pharma. FMCG and meta weighing on sentiment. And, we had a similar trend on the broader front wherein both midcap and smallcap closed flat," said Ajit Mishra, VP -Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In Asian markets, Japan and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory, while Seoul and Shanghai ended lower.

European markets were trading in the negative zone. The US markets had ended mostly lower on Wednesday.

## Kashmiri Entrepreneur **Nominated For Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List 2023**

**Press Trust Of India** 

NEW DELHI: Jibran Gulzar, the founder of Gatoes, a hyperlocal startup based in Jammu and Kashmir, has been nominated for the prestigious Forbes 30 Under 30 list for Asia in 2023. This marks a historic moment, as Jibran becomes the first person from Jammu and Kashmir to be nominated for this coveted list.

Forbes 30 Under 30 is an annual list that recognizes the most promising young entrepreneurs, leaders, and game changers across various industries in considered a significant achievement in the business world.

Jibran's nomination is a testament to his vision, dedication, and hard work in building Gatoes into a successful startup despite the challenges he faced in a region plagued with political instability and poor internet connectivity.

Jibran Gulzar who is 24 years old and an alumnus of Chandigarh University, has also become the first person from any university in Punjab to be nominated for the Forbes list. His inclusion in the 30 Under 30 list has brought attention to his remarkable journey as an entrepreneur and how he has been able to overcome several challenges to



make Gatoes a success story.

In a statement, Jibran expressed his gratitude for the nomination, saying, "I am deeply honored and humbled to be nominated for Forbes 30 Under 30. This recognition is Asia. The list is highly regarded, a testament to the hard work and being nominated for it is and commitment of the entire Catoes team, who worked tire lessly to make this possible. We are proud to represent Jammu and Kashmir on a global stage and hope to inspire more young entrepreneurs in the region to follow their dreams.'

Jibran 's journey to success has been remarkable. Despite facing numerous obstacles, including lack of high-speed internet and low technological adoption in the region, It became the first startup to reach multi-million dollar revenue and also became the highest downloaded app of J&K. The startup has onboarded over 1850 merchant partners and completed over 10 lakh deliveries in the valley alone.

## JKTPO, Invest India (DPIIT) Organises **Organic Certification Program For Saffron Growers**

**Observer News Service** 

KISHTWAR: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) under the guidance of Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Prashant Goyal and under supervision of Managing Director JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, organised the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) Awareness Drive for organic certification of Saffron, ODOP product of Kishtwar District in collaboration with Invest India (One District One Product) team, DPIIT, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry at District office complex here.

The workshop organised with the vision to provide training and certification to farmers who are already pursuing organic farming but don't have the necessary certification for their products authenticity.



This workshop is one of the initiatives of JKTPO for the promotion of ODOP products in Jammu and Kashmir which includes conduction of Buyer Seller meets, participation in national and international trade fairs/ exhibitions and capacity building programs. The drive will increase the export potential of saffron as organic certified products have huge international market.

National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) under Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India involves accreditation of Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming and marketing etc. The NPOP standards for production and accreditation system have been recognized by European Commission and Switzerland for unprocessed plant products as equivalent to their country standards. With these recognitions, Indian organic products duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India are accepted by the importing countries.

## Celebrate Akshaya Tritiya With Tanishq's 'Stunning Every **Ear' Collection**

7anishQ

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** Gold has riveted various cultures around the world and it signifies auspiciousness, grandeur and purity. On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya,

Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the house of Tata. has launched a collection with a wide array of exquisite modern earrings across gold and

diamonds called 'Stunning Every Ear'. With this new launch, the brand has expanded the designs and variety of earrings offering something for every woman's style. Each pair of earrings has a story to tell and a personality of its own making it a perfect match for all. The new collection offers a wide range of beautifully crafted earrings, designed to suit every taste, style, attire and occasion. The collection features elegant studs, contemporary drop earrings, classy climbers, traditional jhumkas and much more. Each piece is crafted with utmost precision and attention to detail, comprising of

extensive designs and craftsmanship in 18Kt and 22Kt gold.

This Akshaya Tritiya, glow with prosperity and elegance with mesmerizing earring designs from Tan-

ishq along with irresistible offers ahead of the festivity. Tanishq is running a 20% off\* on making charges of gold jewellery and diamond jewellery value from 14th to 24th April, 2023

Ring in a new dawn of abundance this Akshaya Tritiya with Tanishq' exciting new collection Stunning Every Ear. Tanishq is offering an exciting offer wherein customers can unlock the old gold sitting in their locker and own stunning designs without spending extra by exchanging your old gold bought from any jeweler and get 100%\* exchange value.

With a range of designs and styles to choose from, customers can find the perfect pair of earrings to complement their attire and make a statement at any event. Visit a Tanishq store near you and avail the benefits of Gold Rate Protection.

## **Cumulative Impact Of** Monetary Policy Actions Still **Unfolding: RBI Guv**

**Press Trust Of India** 

MUMBAI: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, in the rate-setting panel meeting earlier this mittee (MPC) meeting held durmonth. opined

that the cumulative impact of the monetary policy actions over the last one year is still unfolding and needs to be monitored closely, as per the MPC min-

utes released on Thursday.

Das, along with the five other members of the Monetary Policy Committee, voted for a pause in rate hike earlier this month.

The central bank, which effected six back-to-back hikes in the key short-term lending rate (repo) since May 2022 to check high inflation, decided to take a pause early this month. The cumulative rate hike since May 2022 is 250 basis points.

"The cumulative impact of our monetary policy actions RBI.

over the last one year is still unfolding and needs to be monitored closely," Das said during the last Monetary Policy Comng April 3-6.

Inflation 2023-24 is projected to soften, but the disinflation towards the target is likely to be slow and protracted. The projected in-

flation in Q4:2023-24 at 5.2 per cent would still be well above the target, he noted.

"Therefore, at this juncture, we have to persevere with our focus on bringing about a durable moderation in inflation and at the same time give ourselves some time to monitor the impact of our past actions.

Das said, "I am, therefore, of the view that we do a tactical pause in this meeting of the MPC", as per the minutes of the MPC meeting released by the

# SC Collegium Recommends New Chief Justices For 5 High Courts

**Press Trust Of India** 

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Wednesday recommended the appointment of chief justices of five high courts including Justice Augustine George Masih for the Rajasthan HC.

The four other high courts for which the Collegium, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K M Joseph, proposed new chief justices are: Madras HC, Kerala HC, Bombay HC, Himachal Pradesh HC.

Justice S V Gangapurwala, the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay, has been proposed to be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Madras High

The Collegium noted that the office of the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan HC fell vacant recently due to the elevation of Justice Pankaj Mithal to the Supreme Court, and proposed the name of Punjab & Haryana HC judge Justice Augustine George Masih

as the next CJ of Rajasthan HC.

It said that Justice Masih was appointed as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 10, 2008 and he has acquired experience of dispensing iustice in a High Court having jurisdiction over two states.

He is the senior most puisne judge in his parent HC which presently has no representation among the Chief Justices of the

High Courts, the Collegium said.
"Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that he is suitable in all respects for being appointed as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

of Procedure, consultation has been held with the consultee Judges with a view to ascertain the suitability of Mr Justice Augustine George Masih for appointment as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. The consultee-Judge/s have concurred with the proposed appointment," the Collegium said.

"In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Justice Augustine George Masih be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court," it said.

The Collegium has also recommended the name of Andhra Pradesh High Court judge Justice S V Bhatti as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.

The Collegium

noted that the of the office Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala is going to fall vacant soon, consequent upon the retirement of Justice S Manikumar and Justice Bhatti is

the senior-most Judge. "His experience as a senior puisne Judge in two High Courts would be useful for him in dispensing justice as Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala. Presently, there is no judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh serving as Chief Justice.

"Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that Mr Justice S V Bhatti is fit and suitable in all respects to be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala," it said.

The Collegium said in terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, consultation has been held with the consultee-Judges with a view to ascertain the suitability of Justice Bhatti for appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

"The consultee-Judges have concurred with the proposed appointment of Mr Justice S V Bhatti. In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Mr Justice S V Bhatti be appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala," it

The Collegium has also recommended the name of Justice Ramesh D Dhanuka for appointment as the

> Chief Justice of the Bombay High It noted that the office of the

Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay has been lying vacant for quite some time after

the elevation of Justice Dipankar Datta to the Supreme

Justice Ramesh D Dhanuka was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Bombay on January 23, 2012 and is due to demit office on May 30, 2023.

"The Collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice S V Gangapurwala, the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. Justice Ramesh D Dhanuka, who is next in order of seniority in the High Court of Bombay, will have a tenure of little over a month.

"He has served the High Court

of Bombay with distinction since his appointment. Over the last 11 years, he has acquired sufficient experience on the judicial and administrative side as a puisne judge of the High Court," the Collegium said.

In view of the fact that Justice Dhanuka has a short tenure, in terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the Collegium resolved to recommend his appointment as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay.

The Collegium has recommended the name of Justice M S Ramachandra Rao as the chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court. Justice Rao was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on June 29, 2012.

"On the bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh he opted for Telangana as his parent High Court. He is functioning on transfer as a judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana since 12 October 2021. He is the senior-most among puisne judges originating from the High Court for the State of Telangana.

"The State of Telangana has no representation among Chief Justices of the High Courts. Justice M S Ramachandra Rao has acquired experience of dispensing justice in two High Courts. Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that he is suitable in all respects for being appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh," the Collegium said.

In a separate resolution, the Collegium also reiterated its earlier proposal to transfer the acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court T Raja to Rajasthan High

# **Centre Directs States To Set** Up 100 Food Streets; To Grant Rs 1 Crore As Aid Per Street

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has written to the states and Union Territories to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country.

The initiative is being taken up as a pilot project to create an example for other such streets to come up across the country to ensure safe and hygienic food practices.

The project aims to encourage safe and healthy practices among food businesses and community members, thus reducing foodborne illnesses and improving overall health outcomes, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement.

In a letter to the states, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi highlighted that "easy access to safe and hygienic food is vital for the good health of citizens".

"Safe food practices not only promote the 'eat right campaign' and food safety but will improve hygiene credibility of local food businesses, boost local employment, tourism and, in turn, the economy. It also leads to a cleaner and greener environment," the letters stated.

Street foods have traditionally been an integral part of Indian society and are present all across the country. They represent the rich local tradition of cuisine, the statement said.

These not only provide a daily diet at affordable prices Health Mission in the 60:40

to millions but also direct employment to a large number of people while supporting the tourism industry, it added.

However, it noted that safety and hygiene remain a matter of concern at street food outlets and hubs.

With rapid urbanisation, while these hubs have led to easy access to food, it has aggravated food contamination and associated health issues due to unhygienic and unsafe practices.

This initiative will be implemented through the National Health Mission in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will lend technical support, the statement said.

Financial assistance to the states and Union Territories in the form of Rs 1 crore per food street or district will be provided to fill the critical gaps, it added.

The assistance will be provided under the National or 90:10 ratio on the condition that standard branding of these food streets will be done following FSSAI guidelines.

Municipal corporations, development authorities and district collectors at the state level will take major initiatives to ensure convergence in terms of financial resources and physical infrastructure.

Various other initiatives such as training of food handlers and independent thirdparty audits have been taken to enhance safety standards.

Schemes such as Support to Urban Street Vendors, a component of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission, have also been taken up.

In addition, the states and Union Territories can also conduct training programmes for street vendors to orient them on food safety, hygiene maintenance and waste disposal.

#### CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

#### **5 Army Jawans**

have unfortunately lost their lives in the incident, it said.

The Army said another soldier was seriously injured and he was evacuated immediately to the Army hospital at Rajouri.

The Army said operations are underway to catch the perpetrators.

In an initial statement, the Army said the five personnel were killed after their vehicle caught fire, adding further details are being ascertained.

Visuals showed semi-burnt bodies of the soldiers lying on the road beside the burning truck. It was not immediately clear how many soldiers were there in the vehicle when it caught fire.

Local people and some army personnel were seen extinguishing the fire.

Army and police rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area and put halt on the vehicular traffic on the highway, the sources said.

Pertinently, the audacious broad daylight attack comes a week after Home Minister, Amit Shah chaired a high level meeting in New Delhi and reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Line of Control and International Border.

In the meeting that was attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, I&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, J&K Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, Shah had also reviewed the preparation of G-20 Meeting which is scheduled to be held in Srinagar in May, 2023 and asked all agencies to work in a coordinated manner for successful conduct of the event.

#### **Army Imparts**

by SP, Nowshera, Rafi Girion, imparted training to Village Defence Committee (VDC) members on Wednesday, they added.

The VDC members, equipped with .303 rifles, have been tasked to provide an extra security cover in rural areas along the LoC in the district. They have been asked to stay on alert amid a terror threat to target hamlets similar to the Dhangri village attack in January, where seven civillians lost their lives, the officials

Dozens of VDC members from different border villages of the sub division participated in the workshop and improved their skills in target shooting and weapon handling and cleaning techniques, they said.

Army and police officers also interacted with the participants and addressed them on their role in enhancing the security cover. The members also raised suggestions for better security apparatus, the officials said.

#### **Shawwal Moon**

Abdur Hameed Nayeemi, Maulana Younus and Abdur Rehman Ashrafi from Qazigund. From Jammu Ulema who were part of the consensus include Mufti Nazir Ahmed, Mufti Shabir Ahmed Noori, Qari Ali Hussain, Haji Muhammad Shafi Nasri, Mufti Liaquat Ali Rajouri, Master Ashraf from Kathua, Maulana Muzaffar Hussian Rizvi from Jammu, Maulana Shafi Rizvi from Samba, Mufti Muhammad Igbal from Poonch, Hafiz Syed Yasir from Udhampur, Bashir Ahmed Qadri from Reasi and Haji Muhammad Tariq from Jammu.

### **Admin Rules Out**

there will be a significant improvement in

weather from Saturday.

## **Highway Reopens**

leading to the closure of the strategic thoroughfare. According to the officials, clearance was taken up which was completed around 10

#### Waqf Cancels

be offered at the Eidgah for the first time in

However, when reporters here asked her about it, Andrabi replied, "It is difficult because of the weather."

The Wagf Board chairmen said the congregational prayers would be offered at the Hazratbal shrine, which houses a relic of Prophet Mohammad

Andrabi visited the shrine overlooking the famous Dal Lake, and reviewed the preparations for the prayers. Eid will be celebrated on Friday or Saturday subject to the appearance of the crescent.

"We have come to the dargah. The weather has been erratic for the last few days, but we have faith in God, and we hope the weather will improve. I have taken a review of the preparations for the Eid prayers. The Waqf Board has done preparations and tents have been placed here and elsewhere so that Eid prayers are offered smoothly at all mosques and shrines and in a joyful atmosphere," she said.

The Waqf chairperson said if the weather permits, prayers will be offered outside the Hazratbal shrine, "but, if there are rains, then it will be offered inside the shrine"

Andrabi said the meteorological department has forecast improvement in the weather from

#### **8 Districts Put**

Ramban, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts in the next 24 hours, the disaster management authority officials said.

Avalanche with 'medium' danger level is likely to occur above 2,800 metres over the Ganderbal district, they said. People in these districts have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing to avalanche-prone areas till further orders, they added. Many areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir received fresh snowfall while the plains were lashed by rain over the past three days.

#### **NGT Seeks Report**

coordination and compliance."

The bench, also comprising Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said the report also has to mention the steps taken to prevent such dumping and manage solid and bio-medical waste in the area.

The matter has been posted to July 12 for further proceedings. According to the petition, the dumping of

waste polluted the river, a source of drinking water, and the authorities concerned failed to take remedial action despite representations.

#### Centre Asks Local

for Elimination of Stray Troubles, it said. The 2023 rules which were notified by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on March 10, supersedes the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules of 2001 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960.

As per new rules, the ministry said that the

Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme for sterilization and immunization of stray dogs is to be carried out by the respective local bodies. One of the requirements under the rule is

that the ABC Programme needs to be carried out by organisations recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) specifically for this purpose, it said. The list of such organizations will be made

available on the website of the Board, which will also be updated from time to time, it said, adding that cruelty involved in carrying out of ABC programme needs to be addressed. "Therefore, the local bodies are requested

to implement the rules in letter and spirit and not to permit any organizations to carry out ABC programmes which are not recognized by AWBI and approved for ABC programme or otherwise elaborated in the rules," it added.

The ministry said the rules also provide guidelines on how to deal with human and stray dog conflicts without relocating dogs in

By effective implementation of these rules, the ABC can be conducted by the local bodies which will help in reducing the stray dog population addressing the animal welfare issues, it

#### **Boy Sustains**

Awantipora area and attacked a minor boy and injured him near his home on Tuesday. He has been identified as Harris Khursheed Mir (08) son of Khursheed Ahmad a resident of Awantipora area of Pulwama district. Harris was shifted to nearby hospital for treatment from where he was referred to SMHS Srinagar for advanced treatment, he said.

Meanwhile, a doctor from Surgery Unit Head at SMHS Srinagar said that Harris was badly mauled by a dog leaving his different organs damaged.

He was so badly and deeply bitten that his lung and other vital organs were also injured, however, he is undergoing treatment and currently his condition is stable, he said.

#### J&K HC Ouashes

State and in the same breath had said that the activities of the detenu are prejudicial to the maintenance of public order (sic)," Justice Nargal said, adding the authorities had used disturbance of the public order as well as maintenance of security on grounds of detention with a "wavering mind and uncertainty without any basis".

The judge cited a 1980 order of the Supreme Court in which the top court stated that expressions "law and order", "public order" and security of the State" are distinct concepts, though not always separate. Every breach of peace may amount to distur-

bance of law and order but does not amount to disturbance of public order and every public disorder may not prejudicially affect the "security of the State", the order quoted the 1980 judgement of Supreme court.

Quashing another PSA order of Amir Ali Bhat, the judge said "It can safely be concluded...that the failure on the part of the detaining authority to supply the material relied upon at the time of passing the detention order against the detenu renders the detention order illegal and unsustainable in the eye of law."

The court said the detaining authority used the grounds of detention with a "wavering mind and uncertainty and accordingly, the impugned order gets vitiated and is held

Besides this, the contradictory statements of the detaining authority clearly proves "beyond any shadow of doubt" that the authority has not applied its mind before arriving at subjective satisfaction to detain Bhat in accordance with the law laid down by the Supreme Court.

In the case of Peerzada Shah Fahad alias Fahad Shah, the judge said that on careful analysis of the record, it is evident that the dossier has not been provided to the detenu and added "the non-supplying of the dossier is one of the main lacunae in the detention of the detenu" and it vitiates the detention order and cannot sustain the test of law and is liable to be quashed.

Perusal of the detention record further re veals that the person who executed the document has not sworn in affidavit on that behalf and as such, the procedural requirement as envisaged under law has not been followed by the respondents, the judge said while quashing the order.

The court also cancelled the PSA order of Naseer Ahmad Dar on similar grounds.

The judge, while passing these five orders separately on April 17, asked the authorities to release them forthwith in case they were not required in any other case.

#### **Four JKAS Officers**

Industries and Commerce (Development),

Kashmir, against an available vacancy. Dilshada Akhter, Deputy Director, Tribal Affairs, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as General Manager, DIC, Anantnag, against an available vacancy.

Similarly, Nighat Alam, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as General Manager, DIC, Baramulla, against an available vacancy.

"Mohammad Muneer Ahmed Bhat, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as General Manager, DIC, Bandipore, against an available vacancy," reads the order issued by Amit Verma, Additional Secretary to the government.

In a separate order, Mehmood Ahmad Shah, Director, Handloom and Handicrafts, Kashmir has been assigned to hold the post of Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, till Saloni Rai, IAS, remains on leave.

#### Man Held For Posting

Jammu for detailed investigation to ensure justice to the victim girl and her family, who got deeply harassed and depressed due to "heinous criminal act" of the accused.

The mobile phone of Kala was seized for further analysis, while Police is working on the involvement of the other accused persons in making the obscene photographs viral, the officer said.

## **Ex-Minister, Powerlifter**

various matters pertaining to promotion of sports and implementation of Sports Policy in J&K," he added.

#### NC Dissolves Media,

party have been dissolved with immediate

effect," he said. "The party is currently in the process of restructuring the media and communication wing, including identifying new media panellists for the party. Until the new arrangements are made, all existing spokespersons will cease to exist," he said.

However, the party's provincial spokesper-

son, Kashmir, Ifra Jan will continue to manage

the Social Media cell temporarily, the order The party also said the office of the chief

spokesperson will continue to function normally.

#### **Tulip Garden**

Floriculture officer Shayiq Rasool said that Tulip Garden witnessed an overwhelming response from the visitors, especially during the

He said with the end of the Tulip Bloom season, the authorities have decided to close the garder for general public from tomorrow—(KNO)

#### **Mudslide Blocks**

The Sub-District Magistrate (SDM) Kangan, Tehsildar Gund and other officials visited the spot to take stock of the situation, the official

He said the road is currently being cleared and the traffic on the Srinagar-Sonamarg road is expected to resume soon. Till then, the traffic has been rerouted via Zirpora road, he added.

A significant landslide occurred in the same area on February 19 which caused extensive

#### damage to multiple homes—(KNO)

**India Attaches** with all member countries, he said.

Shah said each and every life, family and their livelihood are priceless and all possible efforts should be made to protect it.

He said India's approach to early warning

system is people-centric and we want to en-

sure that our forecasting and warning system is not just scientifically advanced but it is also communicated in a manner that is understandable, usable and actionable by common people. The home minister said there was a time when cyclonic storms in India used to cause huge loss of life and property, but, India has

its efforts, due to which the damage caused by cyclones has been reduced, which is being appreciated by the whole world today. He said India has taken several important

made 'community empowerment' the basis of

initiatives of international cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction. He said the India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) today has 39

members from across the world. The CDRI is working with member countries to ensure that all investments in infrastructure is made in a manner that it makes our infrastructure resilient to disasters, thereby securing not just our present but also our future. Along with this, CDRI is placing particular emphasis on some

of the most vulnerable regions of the world, such

as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).

Also, on India's initiative, a Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction has been constituted at the G20, and the first meeting of this group was held recently in Gandhinagar in Gujarat, he said. The home minister said the 'Tsunami Early Warning System' for the Indian Ocean Rim Countries established by the Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS) serves not just India but nearly two dozen other countries. Along with this, he said, India has hosted joint bilateral exercises with SAARC, BIMSTEC, and SCO countries.



## **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 matchup.

Downtown Heroes' Tripuraborn forward Parvaj Bĥuiya scored the game's decisive goal in 64th minute to send the team into jubilation. The Srinagarbased 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 Parray, 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 backto-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

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

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 applecart 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

## **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

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

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 perforculture, 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 be-

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

Prabhsimran Singh, who came in as an impact player for PBKS, scored 46 runs, while wicketkeeper-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

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 Champions League or cup we would have certainly had a better position in the standings, but we have to play like Inter in every Inter got a boost when Lau-

taro 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

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

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

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

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.

factors to study the impact

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 heataction plans designed and implemented according to the Delhi government's vulnerability assessment do

not include HI estimations,

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 abovenormal maximum temperatures for most parts of the country from April to June, except parts of the northwest 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, abovenormal rainfall in March kept temperatures in check.

# Stargazers Witness Dazzling Solar Eclipse In Australia

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 ob-

scured 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) an-

nounced today.

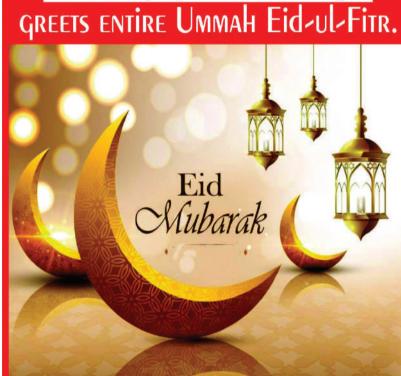
Candidates can apply for the exam till May 5. The application deadline earlier was April 19.

"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

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

# THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR **BANK OFFICERS ASSOCIATION** UNIT-KASHMIR (Affiliated to AIBOA) Samad Complex, M.A Link Road Srinagar





جس نے لوگوں کاشکرا دانہ کیا اس نے اللہ کاشکر بھی ادانہ کیا۔ (حدیث شریف)

اظار الشكروميد مبارك

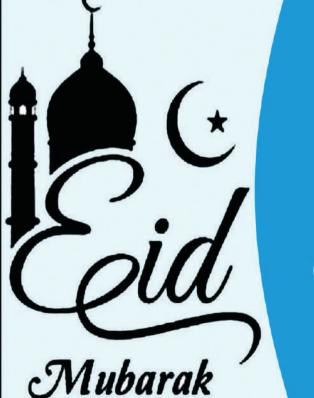
كينسرسوسائتي آف تشميراييخ كرم فرماؤل كوبالخضوص اورتمام اہل اسلام كوبالعموم دل كي عمیق گہرائیوں سے عید مبارک پیش کرتی ہے۔عید کے اس متبرک قومی پرہم اسلامی وراخلاقی ذمه داری کوملحوظ نظرر کھکر عوام الناس کا تہددل سے شکر بیادا کرتے ہیں 💆 ﷺ جنہوں نے سوسائٹی کو بھر بور مالی ومعاونت بالخصوص اس ماہ مقدس میں کر کے ہماری ا دنی کوششوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کی ہے۔اللہ تعالیٰ سے دست بہ ذیا ہیں کہ آپ کے عطیات اورصد قات کواینی بارگاہ میں قبول فر مائے اور اپنی بے پناہ رحمتوں اور بخششول سےنوازیں (آمین) ہم مستقبل میں بھی تعاون کے طلبگار ہیں تا کہ ہم سب ملکرریاست جموں وکشمیرکو کینسر جیسی ملک بیاری سے پاک کریں۔ شائع کردہ: کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

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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.