

## Dubai Cheaper Than Srinagar, Soaring Airfares Cause Decline In Bookings 'Visitors Find Dubai, Other Destinations Economical As Compared To Valley'

### Agenceis

**Srinagar:** Several tourism stakeholders have expressed concern over the soaring air prices which they say have dampened the tourist inflow with the arrival of the peak season.

The tourism stakeholders said they are facing a massive decline and cancellations of fresh bookings.

Many tourists aspiring to visit the valley have cancelled their plans due to skyrocketing airfares, said Nisar Shah, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Alliance. "None of



their fresh queries are maturing and all our potential clients are turning down the travel programme due to

skyrocketing airfares," he said.

A group of eight people from Mumbai had planned a visit to Kashmir

with my agency but due to the "extremely high price" of air tickets, they changed the destination. The air tickets for each individual cost them around Rs 40,000 for the two-way trip, so they dropped the plan, he said.

Shah said the halting of operations by Go First airlines has also added to their woes. Those who had booked tickets in advance are yet to get alternatives while the air prices are soaring with every passing day, he said.

Earlier in the week, Go First airlines in a tweet informed that their flight operations will remain cancelled till May

19, 2023, citing operational reasons.

Following this, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) directed the cash-strapped airline Go First to stop the sale of tickets with immediate effect, asking the airline to issue refunds to passengers against cancelled flights.

In a tweet Go First airline said, "Due to operational reasons, Go First flights until 19th May 2023 are cancelled. We apologise for the inconvenience caused and request customers to visit <https://bit.ly/42ab9la> for more info. For any queries or [More on P6](#)

## Bridge Dividing Kashmir Gives Tourism Potential To Uri

### Press Trust Of India

**Uri:** Like a bridge over troubled water, the Kaman Sethu stretches from India to Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PoK), giving the town of Uri tourism potential and offering visitors a chance to come face to face with contemporary history and the heroes who made it happen.

The small town of Uri, about 70 km from Srinagar, has long been in the line of enemy fire with soldiers controlling access to the 220-ft Kaman Bridge that connects Kashmir Valley to PoK, just across the small river treated as the Line of Control between India and Pakistan.

But with tourists being able to walk up to the bridge, also called Aman Sethu (Bridge of Peace), things have changed.

Tourists, say locals, started coming to the town after the Bollywood film "Uri", based on India's surgical strike after an attack by four Jaish-e-Mohammed militants in September 2018 left 18 soldiers dead. The situation was tense at the time and the film was shot in Serbia.

The change since is visible. The number of visitors have been steadily rising since the bridge opened for tourists at the end of March. About 3,000 people visit each day and there is a view from the other side too.

Civilians on the other side can be seen taking selfies against the bridge under the strict vigil of Pakistani army snipers.

The gates were locked after India suspended the bus service between two parts of Kashmir in February 2019 when 40 CRPF jawans were killed in a suicide attack by JeM in Pulwama.

Locals employed at the tourist facilitation centre, set up with the help of the army, greet tourists eager to visit the Kaman post, about 18 km from the main town.

"There are many scenic spots on the way with breathtaking landscapes that enthrall tourists. We hope the move by the Indian Army to open the bridge will go a long way in boosting the economy of this area," said Imran Ashraf, who [More on P6](#)

## G20 Will Be Held In Peaceful Manner: ADGP



### Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Amid militant threats emerging ahead of the crucial G20 meeting, the top cop of the Kashmir Valley took a surprise round of the city during the night to check the preparedness of the police force and said night-and-day domination by security forces would be ensured to make the prestigious programme a grand success.

Passing through the lanes and bylanes of the interior city, Additional Director General of Police (Kashmir Range) Vijay Kumar reached a checkpoint at Panthachowk, an area always bustling with traffic as it forms part of the National Highway connecting the Valley with the rest of the country.

Kumar, who was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Balwal, found out about the difficulties of the personnel besides guiding them in performing their job in pressing circumstances.

"This is a high-pressure job but, in the end, we have to be 100 per cent alert. Any failure can prove costly," Kumar told the police personnel on duty.

Talking to PTI Video, Kumar said the police force is completely geared up to meet any challenge.

"Generally, we have a naka (checkpoint) for 365 days but whenever an important event happens, every one of us is on the roads to ensure that people sleep peacefully.

"The number of checkpoints has definitely [More on P6](#)

## Srinagar Markets To Soon Resemble Those In Metro Cities: LG

### Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The markets in Srinagar will soon resemble the ones in metro cities, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday after inaugurating the Polo View Market, redeveloped under the Smart City project.

"The Polo View Market has been redesigned under the Smart City project. The electric wires and telecom fiber have all been laid underground. The market can be kept open even during the night," Sinha told reporters.

The shopping centre -- known for handicrafts and handloom products -- has been transformed into a premium pedestrian market by Srinagar Smart City Limited.

Sinha said the locals face some difficulties wherever infrastructure projects are taken up but the traders cooperated with the authorities.

"I express gratitude to the traders who cooperated. I am sure it will increase the business here," he said.

This is just a start and in the days to come, the Smart City project will develop many such markets at Residency Road, Lal Chowk and the old



KO Photo / Abid Bhat

city area, the Lt Governor said.

"The endeavour to make Srinagar look like Delhi or Chandigarh or other big cities is on. The people who have come here would have felt that they were in Delhi or Mumbai and not in Srinagar. You will get to see many more markets like this in the coming days," Sinha said.

"Polo View in the heart of

Srinagar has been transformed into pedestrian-oriented high street that will attract more footfall, increase in retail sale, improve experience of visitors and it will make the area more liveable," he added.

Meanwhile, the LG also inaugurated two other more SSCL and 25 Urban Local bodies (ULB) projects on Friday.

Besides the Polo View

market, the LG dedicated renovated Abi Guzar Shiv temple to the people and besides Smart Advanced Traffic Management vehicles have been included in the fleet for Srinagar Smart City.

Of the Urban Local bodies (ULB) projects dedicated to the public today, 16 are development projects in 11 ULBs and 9 Solid Waste [More on P6](#)

## HC Notice To J&K Govt On Imposition of Property Tax

Petitioner Says It's Also Against 'Doctrine Of Federalism'

### M AHMAD

**Srinagar:** The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued notice to Centre and J&K government on a petition challenging as "unconstitutional" and against "Doctrine of Federalism" the imposition of Property Tax in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hearing the petition filed by one Hanan Moumin Feroz Khan, a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul has asked Union of India through Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice, Secretary, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, and J&K government through Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, to file their reply to the petition within four weeks.

The petitioner, a resident of Lal Bazar Srinagar, has submitted that enactment of Jammu & Kashmir

Reorganisation Act, 2019 changed the constitutional status of J&K from a state to a Union Territory and hence ensued the process of "overhauling" the administrative and legislative structures of the erstwhile State.

Accordingly, he says, by virtue of Reorganization Third Order, 2020 dated 5 October 2020 issued MHA, Section 84(1), Section 86, Section 88, Section 89, Section 90, Section 95, Section 132, Section 133 and Section 143A, of the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 were substituted by repeal with the incorporation of few new sub-



provisions and consequent notifications issued vide S.O 49 dated 12 February 2021 and S.O 86 dated 21 February 2023 by J&K government, whereof "Property Tax" was/is implemented within the Municipal Jurisdiction of Srinagar city.

The petitioner submits that the amendments or repeal carried out in the J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 were violative of Article 14, 21, 246, 265, 300A, Schedule VII, Doctrine of Federalism-- which means the demarcation/ distribution of the legislative powers of Union Legislature and the Legislatures of States and Union Territories as enshrined under the Article 246 of the Constitution of India-- and other express provisions of Constitution of India.

Therefore, the petitioner has sought the court's indulgence for [More on P6](#)

## J&K HC Stays Judgment On 2022 VDG Scheme

### Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Friday stayed a judgment, pending outcome of appeal, with regard to the new village defence guards scheme announced last year by the Centre as part of efforts to tackle militant activities in the Union Territory. The scheme came into effect on August 15 last year and replaced a 1995 scheme of the Jammu and Kashmir government.

However, the new village defence guards (VDG) scheme was challenged in the high court and petitions were filed, mostly by special police officers (SPOs) heading these groups whose honorarium was reduced from Rs 18,000 to Rs 4,500.

On April 6, a single-judge bench had quashed the 2022 scheme and directed authorities to treat Special Police

Officers (SPOs) as having been appointed under the village defence committee of 1995 with all powers and privileges of SPOs under the Police Act.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and justice Rahul Bharti stayed the single-judge bench's verdict.

"Keeping in mind all the factors and circumstances and legal issues of seminal importance involved, in the context of a security sensitive part of the country and weighing the rival contentions, we are of the opinion that interest of justice would be better served if the impugned judgment and connected writ petitions, is stayed in terms of its operation during the pendency of this letters patent appeal," the division bench said.

Pronouncing a 27-page judgment after hearing Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, [More on P6](#)



## Brand Ambassadors of Kashmir

Delegates attending the G20 event here later this month will act as brand ambassadors for Jammu and Kashmir and its tourism at the global level, boosting local businesses, an official said on Friday. The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting will be held in Srinagar from May 21-23. Tourism Secretary Syed Abid Rashid Shah said, "The G20 event is a great opportunity for Jammu and Kashmir and its tourism -- directly and indirectly -- as well for the other connected sectors like handicrafts, handloom, hospitality and trade." [More on P6](#)

## Gulmarg All Set To Host G-20 Events

Srinagar International tourist resort Gulmarg of Baramulla is all set to welcome tourism delegates from the G-20 nations in the last week of May 2023, an official spokesperson said Friday. In this regard, he said, the District Administration Baramulla is finalizing all the related arrangements, and the district is undergoing a major makeover amid a stringent security plan for the high-profile event.

"It is worth mentioning here that the grand event will have a large impact in the history of Baramulla district and there will be no curbs anywhere while schools, colleges and the markets will remain open," the spokesperson said. He said that the traffic on [More on P6](#)

## Power Shutdown Next Week

The electricity supply will remain affected in parts of the Valley on Saturday due to pruning of trees by the power development department (PDD) workforce, an official spokesperson said Friday. He said that the power supply to Receiving Station Badamibagh, Sonwar, Panthachowk, Tanganar WWS, Govt Press, Lasjan and DPS shall remain affected to facilitate pruning of trees laying in the vicinity of 33 Kv Pampore- Badamibagh line on May 16 and 20 [More on P6](#)

## Man Injured In Bear Attack

A middle-aged man was attacked and injured on Friday by a black bear in Drugmulla area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. 50-year-old Tufail Ahmad Chechi was grazing his cattle near Marbal colony in Drugmulla on Friday morning when a bear appeared there and attacked him, reports said. A resident of Rajouri Chechi was removed by the locals to sub-district hospital (SDH) Kupwara for treatment. His condition is said to be stable. [More on P6](#)

## 4 Children Hurt In Cooker Blast

Four children were injured after a pressure cooker exploded during a family function in the Lati area of Udhampur district on Friday. Quoting an official, KNO reported that a pressure cooker exploded in Sira village of Lati Tehsil during a family function. He said that in the incident four children were seriously injured and were rushed to district hospital Udhampur. The official added that two among them have been referred to [More on P6](#)

## Leh Highway Reopens After 4 Days

The Srinagar-Leh highway, which was blocked due to multiple avalanches at Zojilla Pass, has been restored for traffic after four days on Friday. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported the highway was blocked after multiple avalanches that occurred on May 08. He said that now traffic has been restored, after four days, and people are advised to travel with precautions in order to avoid any untoward incident. [More on P6](#)

## Measles Outbreak In Kupwara Village

The authorities in north Kashmir's Kupwara district Friday deputed its teams to Farkin village after cases of measles virus were reported from the hamlet. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease caused by a virus. The virus infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body. Measles is a human disease and is not [More on P6](#)

## SIU Raids Multiple Spots In Banihal

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) along with Ramban Police carried out raids at multiple locations in the areas of Banihal and Ramssoo falling under the jurisdiction of subdivision Banihal on Friday. These raids were conducted to tighten the noose around those inimical elements who always try to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a police spokesman said. In run up to upcoming G20 meeting at Srinagar, he said, [More on P6](#)





# How To Move Without Legs Or Wings: Helping Trees Migrate To New Regions

Artificial Seed Transfer And Planting Can Accelerate The Natural Migration Process

## The Conversation

While it is true that individual trees are immobile, as a species they can actually move and migrate as well as birds do! However, this takes place over a much different time frame.

This is what we will explore in this article, the first in our new summer series. As researchers in forest ecophysiology, we study basic tree physical functions and relate them to broader ecological dynamics. Rapid climate change is challenging the sustainability of forest ecosystems in many ways. To deal with the new problems associated with climate change, we need new tools: assisted tree migration is one of these.

And to inspire us, this excerpt from a song by Quebec poet Gilles Vigneault:

Let's get the definitions out of the way first: assisted migration refers to the human-assisted movement of species in response to climate change. We usually associate the term migration' with the movement of people or the seasonal flights of birds.

We don't typically think about forest migration, however, and it may even seem weird to associate these two terms. After all, trees are typically rooted to the ground and don't move. Or do they?

Tree migration occurs through seed dispersal, and the germination and establishment of new seedlings. After some time, these seedlings will start producing new seeds and contribute to this slow geographical expansion.

Migration strategies may differ among tree species. For example, maple samaras are wind-carried seeds that can travel faster and further than the acorns of an oak tree, limited by their heavy weight. However, new seedlings require years, often decades to grow and produce seeds that can migrate further than their parents.

This movement, which takes place over



a period of centuries generally too slow for our conception of time can become limiting in the face of rapid human-induced changes in climate systems.

Current climate change is quickly modifying environmental conditions. No natural warming event in the past has occurred at a comparable rate. Such rapid changes are putting great pressure on forest ecosystems, particularly by modifying habitat conditions.

The migration speeds of the vast majority of tree species are slower than the shift of favourable habitats. This means that their migration to new favourable habitats (e.g. cold regions in the north becoming warmer) will not compensate for the loss of habitats in other areas (e.g. warm regions in the south becoming drier).

This mismatch between changing habitat conditions and natural tree migration entails a loss of forest vigour. A decline is predicted for many tree species, which may in turn jeopardize local forest ecosystems.

We are being called upon to find strategies to help forests adapt to new climatic conditions. This motivates researchers and

forest managers to consider new approaches to solving this problem, including assisted migration.

Artificial seed transfer and planting can accelerate the natural migration process and help overcome geographical barriers, such as mountain ranges or large water surfaces. Assisted migration could therefore be used to help maintain functional forest ecosystems in the future.

This is not only important for the conservation of species, but also for the maintenance of all the services forests provide, from wood production to carbon sequestration from the atmosphere.

In general, short-distance relocation is easier to achieve, while longer-distance migration requires careful planning. Since the latter presents higher ecological risks, it is generally only considered for the conservation of endangered species.

But enough theory, let's move on to concrete examples.

The sugar maple (Acer saccharum) is an iconic tree species in Canada. As climate change intensifies, sugar maples in the southern por-

tion of the range are suffering from increased competition from trees that are more tolerant to warmer, drier conditions, such as American beech (Fagus grandifolia).

At the same time, researchers have found that areas near the northern limit of maple's range are becoming increasingly suitable for this species. In this case, assisted migration could help northern forests adapt faster to new conditions, and provide valuable services such as maple syrup production. So why not just go ahead with the technique?

In 2019, the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi (UQAC) established an experimental sugar maple plantation at the northern edge of its range, in the Saguenay region of Quebec. The experiment is being conducted in partnership with a local family farm, which has chosen to dedicate part of its land to scientific research and the vision of a productive sugar bush for future generations.

The plantation, counting 500 young trees issued from several populations in Quebec and the United States, will celebrate its fourth year of life in the spring of 2024. In a few decades, excellent maple syrup may be produced here, in addition to all the valuable scientific data collected up to that point.

Similar studies have been conducted by the DREAM-Quebec research network, a project of the Quebec government (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests), the US Forest Service and Laval University. The experiments consist of mixed plantations of a dozen tree species, located in the Portneuf region of Quebec and in Wisconsin in the United States.

Here, the effects of factors such as microclimate, herbivore browsing and plant competition on tree establishment and growth can be tested. In addition, the performance of trees from southern populations adapted to conditions similar to the predicted future climate can be compared with that of local populations.

## Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

Fax No/ Tell No: 01933-260226  
 Email.rnbdivisonshopian@gmail.com

### CORRIGENDUM

It is notified for the information of all concerned that due to single tender response for the work advertised vide this office NIT No. 01/ 467-76/ SPN/ RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 19-04-2023 figuring at S. No: 2 is hereby

Extended as

1	Bid Submission End Date	16-05-2023 up to 2:00 PM
2	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17-05-2023 at 12.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

Instead of

1	Bid Submission End Date	11-05-2023 up to 2:00 PM
2	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12-05-2023 at 12.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

No: NIT/1154-59  
 DIPK-1443/23  
 Dt: 12-05-2023

sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 R&B Division Shopian

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to Typo error my name has been wrongly written in my online Application Form for PG as Maryama Akhter D/o #X20; Gulam Rasool Ganie while my correct name is Maryama Akhter D/o Ghulgam Rasool Ganie which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office for the Cluster University Of Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Maryama Akhter  
 D/o Ghulgam Rasool Ganie

BMG

## PUBLIC NOTICE

That I Taj Kour W/O Late Tilok Singh R/O Shutrashahi Batmaloo, Srinagar, a Hindu, made this Will-deed voluntarily while in a sound state of mind, executing this Will-deed in favour of my Son namely Narinder Singh S/O Late Tilok Singh to a property consisting of "Three Storeyed Residential House tin roofing alongwith the land measuring 03 marla underneath and appurtenant thereto of Estate Shutrashahi Batmaloo, Srinagar. In this regard, I have handed over the possession of the aforesaid property to my Son Narinder Singh who is taking care of me in my old age. Hence my son being obedient to me I am signing this will-deed. It is therefore, informed that in case of anybody is having an objection regarding the above titled will-deed, he or she may file his or her response within two weeks before the competent authority and after lapse of two weeks no objections shall be entertained..

NJ

## از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

باجلاس راجا محمد سلیم

رجسٹرار برٹس اینڈ ڈچس اینس Davinder Singh S/o Karan Singh R/o Jawalpora Budgam A/P Shalla pora Allochi Bagh Srinagar

درخواست برادر اندراج کرنے تاریخ فونگی آڑاں

تاریخ پیدائش 08-06-2020 Ab Ganl Kumar

اشتہار برادر آگاہی بر خاص دعاء

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسلئے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ فونگی دائر کیا ہے۔ لہذا اقوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسلئے منظور ہونے میں 14-05-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معاو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصد 08-05-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میو جیل سرینگر nj

## اشتہار عام

از عدالت سب جج پیش مو جیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

باجلاس محترم احسان ملک

رجسٹرار برٹس اینڈ ڈچس اینس Abhishek Kampasi (سائل/سائلہ) بنام ایس بی سرینگر (میسول)

درخواست بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش

Abhishek Kampasi نام: 13/11/1985

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسلئے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بشمول بیان حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش Tej Kumar Abhishek Kampasi 2/3 Bridge Bana Mohalla /srinagar

Kampasi سائلہ P/A H No 105, sector4, Near Oriental Bank of Commerce Trikuta Nagar 4-53 Jammu

05-11-2022 میں پیش کیا ہے۔ لہذا اقوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو یا اعتراض ہوئے کی صورت میں اپنے عذر یا اعتراض

اشتہار کے سامنے پیدائش کی تاریخ 17-05-2023 کو پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معاو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہدائیں مودود

تحریر الصد 29/4/2023

سب جج پیش مو جیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam

NIT No. 08/2023-24/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/1115-35 Dtd 11-05-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Provision of Additional requirement for Indoor stadium Kulgam	18.33	800	36660	25 days	Bee & Cee only	District Capex 2023-24 (Area Development Sector PRI)	District Development Commissioner Kulgam

Position of AAA: Accorded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental webs ite [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	-05-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 11-05-2023 (10:00AM) To 18-05-2023 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 11-05-2023 (10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 18-05-2023 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	19-05-2023 (11:00AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Demand Draft/ Treasury Challan / Receipt credited to MH 0059-Rev:Misc: and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kulgam (tender receiving authority). -Refer Govt: order No: O.M. No. A/24(2017)-651 Dated:- 07-06-2018. However the Date of uploaded e-Challan/ treasury Receipt /CDR/FDR must be in between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

2. Earnest Monty (2% of the Advertised cost) from all the bidders in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering and 3% performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG by the Successful Bidder). The same shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period of the work. The EMD 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security) vide Chief Engineer (R&B) Kashmir, Srinagar's Circular No: CE/RBK/HD/32857-72 dated 01-01-2022

3. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

3.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

3.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

3.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

3.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2 & 3.1.

3.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/ TIN/Demand Draft with the bid and all documents be submitted physically to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kulgam before date of opening of bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

4. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

5. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ Receipt credited to MH 0059-Rev:Misc: must be uploaded with the bid.

6. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

7. All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form)

No 1136-38  
 DIPK-1477/23  
 Dtd 12-05-2023

sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 (R&B) Division Kulgam

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
 E-NIT No. 14 of 2023-24/1306-15 dated 11/05/2023/CHADOORA

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of LT. Governor of J&K UT invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. cost of Bitumen and GST) (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees )	Earnest money CDR/ FDR/BG (Rs)	Time of	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1	Improvement/Upgradation of Srinagar Charisharief road balance portion from km 8th to 18th by way of P/L of 75mm thick Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Semidense bituminous concrete with 6 mm thick seal coat in patches/ stretches (Machine Mix to be laid with paver).	49.23	1100	98460	20	C&T	A/B

Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir  
 Position of AAA: Accorded  
 Position of funds: Available

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11/05/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/05/2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	12/05/2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	22/05/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23/05/2023 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

Note:- The Bidders shall mention the name of the advertised work/ reference to NIT & S. No. on the EMD / Bid security (CDR/FDR/BG) while submitting the bidding documents, in order to avoid using the same multiple times for multiple works.

4. All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ excluding GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

5. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

6. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

i) Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website [www.jktenders.gov](http://www.jktenders.gov) to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

ii) In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.

iii) Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.

iv) Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

v) Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

No: 1306-15

DIPK-1444/23

Dated: 12/05/2023

Executive Engineer  
 R&B Division Chadoora





## SMC Demolishes Several Illegal Shops In Nowshera

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Friday demolished several shops being illegally raised by a retired revenue official in the Nowshera area on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Officials said that a team led by a concerned ward officer rushed to

Nowshera after receiving information that several shops were being constructed illegally on the land owned by a retired Patwari.

The SMC team demolished the walls and warned of strict action if the construction work was started without seeking permission from the authorities.

## 15 Days Training Program On Millet-Based Products Concluded

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To celebrate the International year of Millets and get benefitted out of it, a fifteen-day training program on development of millet-based products organized by Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) concluded successfully here at Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Rajbagh today.

The training program was organized by JKRLM in association with Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network (GIAN). A total of 12 SHG members have undergone the said training program.

The training was imparted to the participant by Chef Yaseen and his team of expert Master Chefs of Institute of Hotel Management Rajbagh.

While interacting with the SHG members Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur highlighted the importance of Millet as staple diet and said JKRLM is not only promoting cultivation of Millets but also skilling the SHG members on preparation of different recipes amongst the SHG members. Slowly but steadily, people will re-adopt the Millet in their diets.

She said that in addition to promoting healthy eating, the training program aimed to raise

awareness about the environmental benefits of millets. Millets require much less water and fertilizer than other grains, making them a more sustainable option for farmers and the environment.

Speaking on the occasion Mission Director Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, Indu Kanwal Chib said that as the year 2023, is being celebrated as International year of Millets as staple diet, we at JKRLM wish to involve more and more women into our farm livelihood vertical as Krishi Sakshies and Mahila Kissan.

During the training program the members were imparted training on innovative recipes in Millet based products apart from learning about the nutritional benefits of Millets, she added.

She thanked Principal IHM, Shabir Ahmad for facilitating such a training program & making this training program a success.

It is to mention here that Millets are small-grained, nutrient-rich cereals that have been a staple food for millions of people around the world for centuries. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in millets as a sustainable and healthy alternative to rice and wheat, and many innovative millet-based products have been developed.



With exciting launch of hot air balloon on Friday, J&K administration started adventure activities ahead of the G20 meeting slated on May 22, 23 in Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Measures For Restoration Of Heritage Temple At Tulsi Bagh Assessed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today undertook a visit to Narayan Temple in Tulsi Bagh area of the District to assess the spot position of the Temple for its Restoration, Revival, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, Deputy Director, Culture Department, Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildars South and other Officers of concerned Departments.

On the occasion, the DC along

with Officers took onsite inspection of the required upgradation, renovation, and repair works and asked the concerned Officers to prepare a DPR regarding the same by May 14, 2023 so that works related to Restoration, Revival, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage of the Temple are taken up at the earliest.

The DC also asked them to incorporate the works related to the upgradation and augmentation of the drainage system of the temple in the ongoing drainage network project to overcome the water logging issue at the premises of the religious place.

The DC also asked for submit-

ting a proposal for landscaping at the premises besides face-lifting of the main entrance and pathway to the Temple.

The DC also asked to prepare a DPR for Khatamband Ceiling inside the Temple with visible impact while maintaining Architecture and Heritage of the Kashmir Valley. He further asked them to incorporate all necessary repairs and face lifting works in the project to give an aesthetic look to the temple.

During the visit, the members of the Managing Body of the Temple apprised the DC about the renovation measures required to be taken up.

## Prof Sudhakar Yedla Is New Director NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prof. (Dr.) Sudhakar Yedla on Friday assumed charge as Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, replacing Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal who completed his tenure last week.

Prof. Yedla was received by Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari and Asst. Registrar Director's Office and Legal, Mohammad Hazik at Srinagar International Airport. He was accompanied by his family.

Immediately after assuming

the charge, Prof. Yedla held a meeting with administrative staff of NIT Srinagar. It was attended by Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari and other senior administrative officers.

It was followed by another meeting with all Deans, Heads of Departments and Heads of Centres of the Institute.

In his first address, Prof. Yedla acknowledged the remarkable legacy of NIT Srinagar. Throughout its history, this institution has been a beacon of knowledge, a haven for intellectual curiosity, and a catalyst for positive change, he said.

"Today, as I step into this role, I am fully aware of this responsibility and the immense potential that lies within our NIT Srinagar's walls. My vision for NIT Srinagar is to make it one of leading Institutes in the entire country," he said.

Prof. Yedla said nothing can be achieved without the support of administrative staff, faculty, colleagues and students. It is collective effort and we all have to make NIT Srinagar as one of the best institutes of this country, he said.

## “International Nurses Day” Observed In Srinagar



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with “International Nurses Day” a program was held at Arsh Institute of Health Science and Technology, Khonmoh under the theme of “Our Nurses, Our Future” to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale pioneer of Modern Nursing.

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said the “International Nurses Day” provides us an opportunity to recognize the contributions of Nurses around the world, who work tirelessly to provide quality healthcare services to patients. He also lauded nursing workforce for their dedication and significant contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic and other exigent situations.

While highlighting the significance of the theme of International Nurses Day 2023, “Our Nurses, Our

Future” the DC said that the Nurses have a great responsibility in day to day patient care setup. He further said that the day also reminds us to honor Nurses and acknowledge their contributions to improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities around the world.

On the occasion, the DC also appreciated the Arsh Institute of Health Science and Technology, Khonmoh Srinagar for converting the Institution into an Isolation Unit with all facilities during the COVID-19 outbreak.

CMD, Arsh Institute of Health and Technology, Mohammad Anwar Khan also spoke on the occasion and emphasized on the fact that Nursing has evolved into a profession with wealth of Skills and professional knowledge.

During the program, culture programs were also presented on the theme by the participants.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner felicitated the students who bagged the 1st position in University Examination and distributed prizes among them.

### ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in)

#### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Islamic University of Science and Technology invites Short term tender from class A ISP/Telecom Companies operating in UT of J&K possessing a valid Category A ISP License from DoT, Govt. of India, for providing the Internet Leased Line Services at IUST of the order of STM-1 (155.5 Mbps) Last mile to be provided by the service provider should be only on fiber at IUST campus. Necessary fiber equipment will be provided by the service provider at IUST campus without any additional cost. The internet service shall be regulated by an SLA with 99.5% availability, latency less than 50 ms with 100% throughput. The Tender document shall be submitted in the office of Director-IT&SS by or before **22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023** up to 2:00 PM. Delivery / Installation shall have to be completed by the service provider within 10 days from the date of raising the PO. The university reserves the right to accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Any attempt of negotiation on the part of tenderer to influence by any means will render the quotations liable for exclusion from consideration.

The complete document shall be made available at the university website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in).

No.: IUST/DIT/23/145  
Dated: 11-05-2023

Sd/-  
Director DIT&SS

DIPK-NB-663/23      dated: 12-05-2023

### ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in)

#### NOTICE

The **Convocation, 2023** of Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) Awantipora Kashmir is scheduled to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 2023. The students who have qualified for award of Gold Medal and Certificate of Merit issued vide notice No. IUST/CoE/Final-List/23/729 dated 03-05-2023 (List available on University website) are informed to register themselves for attending the convocation, by or before **18<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023**. The link for registration shall be available on the University website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in) from **13<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023**.

Further, the PhD Scholars (as per list available on University website) who desire to attend the convocation are also advised to register themselves for award of degree certificates within scheduled date on the link available on University website.

Convocation Registration fee: **Rs. 1000/- (Refundable)**

No. IUST/CoE/convocation/23/768  
Dated: 12-05-2023

Sd/-  
Controller of Examinations

DIPK-NB-661/23      dated: 12-5-2023

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

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### RAILWAYS

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



#### HIGHWAY STATUS



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

### HIJRI CALENDAR

22 Shawwal  
1444

### PRAYERS

FAJR	3:56
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:21
Magrib	7:26
ISHA	8:59

## This Day In History

- 535- St Agapitus I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1110- Crusaders march into Beirut causing a bloodbath
- 1643- Battle of Grantham: English parliamentary armies beat royalists
- 1643- Heavy earthquake strikes Santiago Chile; kills 1/3 of population
- 1648- Construction of the Red Fort at Delhi is completed.
- 1779- War of Bavarian Succession ends
- 1830- Republic of Ecuador is founded, with Juan Jose Flores as president
- 1835- 1st foreign embassy in Hawaii forms
- 1846- US declares war on Mexico, 2 months after fighting begins
- 1861- Queen Victoria announces Britain's position of neutrality
- 1861- The Great Comet of 1861 is discovered by John Tebbutt of Windsor, New South Wales, Australia.
- 1865-Battle of Palmito Ranch, near Brownsville, Texas: final engagement of the American Civil War, Private John Jefferson Williams of B Company, 34th Regiment Indiana Infantry is last man killed
- 1884- Institute for Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE) forms in New York
- 1890- Lord Salisbury offers Helgoland to Germany in exchange for Zanzibar, Uganda & Equatoria
- 1913- 1st four-engined aircraft built and flown (Igor Sikorsky, Russia)
- 1915-US Secretary of State Bryan sends a note to Germany demanding that Germany disavow the attacks on the Lusitania and make immediate reparations; however, the note is written only to 'pacify exited public opinion', according to Bryan
- 1916- 1st observance of Indian (Native American) Day
- 1918- 1st US airmail stamps issued (24 cents)
- 1927 "Black Friday" on Berlin Stock Exchange
- 1934- -Great dustbowl storm sweeps across US prairies

## From KO Archives

### Drunk CRPF Jawan 'Escapes' From Kotbhalwal Jail

*Shoots at Two Govt Employees, Goes Absconding*

Jammu- Two government employees were injured when a Central Reserve Police Force personnel posted in highly guarded Koth Bhalwal jail- opened fire on them with his service weapon in Purkhoo area, here this morning.

The assailant reportedly fled with the official weapon and four magazines from Kot Bhalwal jail before attacking the government employees. Though police and CRPF have launched a massive man hunt for his arrest he was said to be absconding till the last report came in.

Sources quoting, eyewitnesses said that Constable Dhokuo Dhmingel from Manipur of 26 Battalion was on guard duty when he went out of control and entered into verbal dual with his seniors at around midnight today.

"Dhmingel was dead drunk and all of a sudden he started teasing his senior officers", sources said adding, "The jawan fired few shots in air and later ran away with his official weapon and four magazines".

On reaching Purkho area along Jammu-Poonch road the accused entered into the premises of reservoir-cum-overhead water tank and demanded some cash from the employees of PHE posted on duty on gun-point.

It was reliably learnt that one of the employees Sham Lal gave him Rs 50 but it did not satisfied the dunked jawan. "He opened the nozzle of his gun injuring the PHE employees", sources said.

They injured were identified as Sukhdev Singh Daily-wager and Sham Lal Pump operator, bot employees of the PHE. They were rushed to Government Medical College Hospital Jammu, where their condition was stated to be critical.

The accused trooper; ran away with the gun from the spot and disappeared from the area. A massive man hunt was immediately launched by police and CRPF to track down the jawan but no breakthrough made till filing of this report.

(Kashmir Observer, 13 May, 2007)



# Smart City Project

## Do We Really Need Bicycle and Pedestrian Tracks?

Dr. Ubaid Illahi

“  
Transportation researchers have come to the consensus that traffic-related problems are primarily due to car-oriented policies. Car-oriented policies prioritize the need of cars over other modes of transportation and the need of the community as a whole. These policies often prioritize the construction of highways, flyovers, the availability of parking, and the convenience of driving cars over the development of public transportation, walking, and cycling infrastructure

WHILE everyone these days talks about the Srinagar Smart City Project, most of the conversations I have had are negative, especially related to the transportation infrastructure. Although the Smart City mission covers a broad spectrum of issues, in this article, I will confine my arguments and discussion to transportation alone.

Cars are amazing but traffic is a mess! Right? Can infrastructure like more roads, widened roads, flyovers, underpasses, and multilevel parking solve all these issues?

To understand this from a scientific perspective, we need to understand the game between demand and supply. Here, demand refers to the growth of vehicles (cars) and supply refers to all the infrastructure that cars need from parking spaces to road width to intersection designs and so on. If we can maintain optimality between these two, the problem is resolved. But the issue is that car growth is exponential and providing infrastructure at a similar pace is not possible. Let me quote a silly example so that we can understand it better. No matter how big your house is, it has a capacity. What if you flood it with stuff at an exponential pace? Very soon, you will have to either expand the house or think of a new one. Let us assume you even have all the resources to do that. But is it sustainable? Certainly not! What it means is that providing car infrastructure is only an expensive short-term solution to traffic congestion, leaving other issues aside.

Are these problems new? Are there any options that would move more people while occupying less road space and being sustainable?

In recent years, Srinagar has been witnessing some serious traffic-related problems, with congestion being at the top of the list. The good news is that these problems are not new to the world. Owing to the growth of cities and urbanization, countries in the west have already faced it two to three decades back. As more and more people began driving cars, roads became crowded and traffic jams became more common. Traffic congestion is horrible as it not only wastes a huge amount of time, fuel and money but also leads to increased air pollution, frustration, and reduced productivity. All these issues have serious health consequences, including respiratory, cardiac, and even psychiatric problems.

Transportation researchers have come to the consensus that traffic-relat-



ed problems are primarily due to car-oriented policies. Car-oriented policies prioritize the need of cars over other modes of transportation and the need of the community as a whole. These policies often prioritize the construction of highways, flyovers, the availability of parking, and the convenience of driving cars over the development of public transportation, walking, and cycling infrastructure. Researchers have concluded that people-oriented policies that prioritize the needs of the community holistically, focussing on accessibility, safety, and environmental sustainability is what can save us from massive adverse impacts of traffic. It does not mean banning cars right away. What it means is that cars cannot be the only mode of transport given sheer importance. Other modes need equitable road space, if not more. In fact, the modes that are less polluting and environment friendly should be given preference.

**What did they (the West) do about it?**

Having faced these pressing issues, following are some of the examples that reflect their (West) course of action:

1) Amsterdam (Netherlands) has long been a leader in promoting cycling as a primary mode of transportation. The city has invested in extensive cycling infrastructure, including dedicated bike lanes, bike parking facilities, and traffic signals that prioritize cyclists. As a result, cycling now accounts for over 60% of all trips within the city.

2) Copenhagen (Denmark) has also prioritized cycling as a primary mode of transportation. The city has invested

heavily in cycling infrastructure, including a network of bike lanes and bicycle tracks, and has implemented traffic-calming measures to make streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians. These efforts have resulted in cycling accounting for over 50% of all trips within the city.

3) Bogota (Colombia) is known for its extensive public transportation system, including a rapid bus transit system called TransMilenio. The city has also implemented a number of measures to reduce car use, including car-free days, pedestrian-only zones, and a bike-sharing system called Ciclovía. These efforts have helped to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution within the city.

4) Barcelona (Spain) has implemented a number of policies to reduce car use and promote sustainable transportation options. The city has introduced a bike-sharing system, expanded pedestrian zones, and implemented traffic-calming measures to make streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians. Barcelona has also introduced a “superblock” model, which involves closing off several city blocks to through traffic and prioritizing public space for pedestrians and cyclists.

What’s more, a study of over 18,000 commuters in the UK found that cycling to work was associated with lower levels of stress and greater feelings of well-being compared to driving cars. Regular cycling has been associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and premature death. In fact, a study of over 260,000 participants in the UK found that regular cycling was associated with a 41% lower risk of premature death than non-cyclists. Addition-

ally, outdoor cycling has been found to improve overall well-being, happiness, and enjoyment more than indoor cycling or other forms of exercise, according to a study of over 1,000 adults in the US. Research papers are flooded with many such examples. It would be unfair not to mention here a famous quote by H.G. Wells:

“Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race.”

These are few examples signifying how cities can reform their policies to prioritize sustainable transportation options and reduce the dominance of cars. But why did their policies suppress car dominance? Research has proved that by investing in public transportation, cycling infrastructure, and pedestrian-friendly streets, these cities have been able to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions while improving the quality of life for their residents. While you are reading this, I am sure you must be thinking of weather, distance, and social symbols. Of course, cycling is not for commuting longer distances and who would prefer it in rain and snow! But how often does it rain and snow across the year in Srinagar? Do you have similar thoughts on motorbikes? The weather being a deterrent to cycling is only true for a very small period considering the climate of Srinagar, in particular. The only deterrent remains the social symbol associated with it. Being a researcher myself, I strongly believe that if government officers, educational institutions and sports fraternity lead this movement of green mobility in the city, it will have an amazing impact on the behaviour and attitudes of the public. I conclude this article by leaving some questions for you to ponder. They (the West) have understood and acknowledged it. When will we? Can we learn from them? Can we leapfrog or repeat those mistakes? The answers to these questions will decide what future we are looking for in the people and city of so-called paradise!

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

*Dr. Ubaid Illahi holds a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering & Planning from NIT Srinagar and is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland*

## India’s Skilling Challenge

India’s current problem in higher education is a severe shortage of qualified faculty, organisational capital, and regulatory capacity.

Nirvikar Singh

WHEN US treasury secretary Janet Yellen visited India late last year, on a mission to deepen economic and strategic ties between the two countries, her Indian counterpart, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, highlighted “skilling at scale” as one of India’s major challenges. Studies by the National Skill Development Corporation and the National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship merely confirm what is well known—India has a serious skill deficit. In this year’s Budget, several new government initiatives were announced for skills and training. And in April, in Washington, DC, the FM gave the same message, saying, “We are now focusing very much on skilling people, each according to their level.... Businesses and private sector entrepreneurs are also tied into it so that there is a link between the kind of training businesses want and actually those who are getting the training.”

This all sounds very promising, and it may indeed be that Indian policy making and implementation are finally getting to grips with what may be the country’s largest obstacle to attaining the levels of economic growth required by its demographics. But there is another side to the picture of a government push for imparting skills at scale.

Also in April, a news story noted the problem of worthless degrees being offered by new private colleges that are popping up everywhere to take advantage of those desperately seeking both skills and credentials that might land them a decent job. The news story referred to a study (India Skills Report, 2022) produced by a talent assessment firm, in partnership with private sector, government and international organisations. The report itself offers standard analyses of changes in the kinds of skills that are needed, as well as an optimistic spin on new skilling initiatives, but the largest lesson of the report is that half of India’s young jobseekers lack the skills for employability. In this context, the mushrooming of institutions offering poor quality education only makes things worse.

In principle, fraudulent educational institutions can face legal repercussions, and sometimes do, but this is often too little and too late for those who are duped. One problem, of course, is that the Indian accreditation system for colleges is not comprehensive and is widely known to be a guide for prospective students. A deeper problem is that India has not expanded higher education in a rational manner. Of course, public education at lower levels has been most seriously underfunded, which has repercussions for those seeking a college education—they may not even have the preparation they should go to that level. But much of public higher education has subsidised the upper middle class, making it difficult to fund

expansion. Private colleges are a relatively new phenomenon in India, and they, too face many constraints to expansion.

Recently, the Indian government has started to allow foreign universities more room to operate in India. But this is the likes of Oxford, Stanford and Yale—they will do nothing to solve India’s skilling challenge. They will not be operating in India’s smaller cities and towns, serving students who cannot even get admission to good domestic colleges, public or private. On the other hand, there are easily over 300 universities and colleges in the US and the UK alone, which could provide decent educations to the tens of millions of desperate young Indians. Many of these colleges are facing shortages of students themselves, as their domestic demographics change in the opposite direction to India’s. And they are producing domestic surpluses of doctorates in many fields. But why would they be different than existing domestic fraudsters or mediocrities?

The key features that India needs to develop in its higher education system are competition, reputation and effective regulation. Take the US, for example. There are reasonably strong regional accreditation organisations, to which every reputed college or university belongs. In some cases, the institution is strong enough not to need this accreditation, but not getting it would be a negative signal. India needs to import this system wholesale—a consortium of universities and colleges

that will compete in India, but also operate within their now-globalised regulatory framework. They will compete for faculty globally, bring in organisational expertise and modern curricula, and find their own niches. They have existing reputations, both in the market and under their domestic regulatory umbrellas, which they will want to protect.

India’s current problem in higher education is a severe shortage of qualified faculty, organisational capital, and regulatory capacity. There is no way to develop all of these quickly enough through a purely domestic effort. All three of these have to be imported at scale, in order to jumpstart “skilling at scale.” Doing anything quickly runs the risk of making mistakes. But India has also filled universities in the US, the UK and elsewhere with its best and brightest. They may not be in a position to return to India, but they can provide the expertise to examine potential entrants, and even oversee the first steps towards entry. Enormous time and thought has been given to FDI in sectors such as retailing, but hardly any to one of India’s most important shortages, in the education sector. It is time to change that, and quickly.

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



# How Clinical Psychologists Can Help Save Your Marriage

Wasim Kakroo

Marriage is considered one of the most important events in one's life, but it can also be one of the most challenging experiences, especially if there are issues that arise within the relationship. It is not uncommon for couples to experience problems in their marriage that may lead to feelings of dissatisfaction, resentment, or even a desire for divorce. When such issues arise, it is important for couples to seek the help of a trained professional, such as a clinical psychologist. In this article, I will explore the role of clinical psychologists in handling marital issues but first I will discuss why most of the people in our part of the world may prefer to bring on board their relatives, neighbors, or other community members to help handle marital discord but not prefer to seek help from a clinical psychologist.

## The Cultural Preference for Bringing On Board Relatives, Neighbors, or Other Community Members

In our part of the world, it is common for close family members to bring on board their relatives from extended family such as uncles and aunts, neighbors, panchs and sarpanchs, police, and lawyers to help handle marital discord. However, they may not prefer to bring clinical psychologists onboard. There are several reasons why this may be the case.

One reason for this preference may be the stigma associated with mental health issues. In many cultures, mental health issues are still stigmatized, and seeking the help of a mental health professional may be seen as a sign of weakness or a lack of faith in one's ability to handle problems on their own. As a result, some people may prefer to seek help from their immediate community rather than from a trained professional.

Another reason why people in our part of the world may prefer to bring on board relatives, neighbors, or other community members to help handle marital issues is the belief that these individuals have a better understanding of their culture and traditions. It is believed that these individuals may be better equipped to understand the nuances of the couple's relationship and may be better able to provide culturally appropriate advice and guidance.

There may also be financial considerations that play a role in the preference for seeking help from relatives or community members rather than clinical psychologists. In some cases, seeking the help of a trained professional may be seen

as a luxury that is only available to those who can afford it. As a result, some people may opt to seek help from their immediate community as it may be more cost-effective or free of charge.

Another factor that may contribute to the preference for seeking help from relatives or community members is the trust factor. In many cultures, there is a strong emphasis on family and community ties. People may feel more comfortable seeking help from those they trust, such as their relatives, neighbors, or community members, as they may be more willing to keep their problems confidential and may be more invested in finding a solution that works for everyone involved.

## The Importance of Seeking Help from Clinical Psychologists

While seeking help from relatives or community members may have some advantages, it is important to remember that clinical psychologists are trained professionals with specialized expertise in helping individuals, couples, and families address mental health issues, including marital discord. Seeking the help



IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD, IT IS COMMON FOR CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS TO BRING ON BOARD THEIR RELATIVES FROM EXTENDED FAMILY SUCH AS UNCLES AND AUNTS, NEIGHBORS, PANCHS AND SARPANCHS, POLICE, and lawyers to help handle marital discord. However, they may not prefer to bring clinical psychologists onboard. There are several reasons why this may be the case.

of a clinical psychologist can provide several benefits that may not be available when seeking help from relatives or community members.

## Following are some of the benefits of seeking help from a clinical psychologist:

1. Clinical psychologists can provide a safe and confidential space for couples to discuss their issues without fear of judgment or stigma. Unlike relatives or community members, clinical psychologists are bound by ethical and legal guidelines that require them to maintain confidentiality and respect their clients' privacy.

2. Clinical psychologists are trained professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders. They are trained to help individuals,

couples, and families address a wide range of issues related to mental health and well-being. When it comes to marital issues, clinical psychologists can help couples identify and address the underlying issues that may be causing problems in the relationship.

3. Clinical psychologists can provide couples with evidence-based interventions and strategies that have been proven to be effective in helping couples resolve their issues. Unlike relatives or community members who may rely on personal experiences or cultural traditions, clinical psychologists have access to a wide range of research and techniques that can be tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual couple.

4. Clinical psychologists can provide couples with an objective and unbiased perspective on their issues. Relatives or community members may have their own biases and preconceived notions that can influence the advice and guidance they provide. Clinical psychologists, on the other hand, are trained to be objective and non-judgmental in their approach, allowing couples to explore their issues without feeling pressured or influenced by outside forces.

5. One of the key roles of clinical psychologists in handling marital issues is to help couples communicate effectively. Communication is the foundation of any healthy relationship, and clinical psychologists can help couples learn how to communicate in a way that is respectful, constructive, and productive. Through therapy sessions, couples can learn how to listen to one another, express their thoughts and feelings in a non-threatening manner, and work together to find solutions to the problems they are facing.

6. Another important role of clinical psychologists in handling marital issues is to help couples manage their emotions. It is common for couples to experience strong emotions when they are dealing with marital issues, such as anger, sadness, or fear. Clinical psychologists can help couples learn how to manage these emotions in a healthy and constructive way, rather than allowing them to spiral out of control and cause further damage to the relationship.

7. Clinical psychologists can also help couples develop strategies for conflict resolution. Conflict is a normal part of any relationship, but it is important for couples to learn how to resolve conflicts in a healthy and constructive way. Through therapy sessions, clinical psychologists can help couples develop strategies for managing conflict and finding mutually beneficial solutions to the problems they are facing.

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## The process of marital counseling in nutshell:

1. **Assessment and Diagnosis:** Clinical psychologists first assess and diagnose the nature and severity of marital discord. They conduct interviews, use standardized psychological tests, and observe

couples' interactions to identify the underlying issues that contribute to the discord. They also evaluate each partner's psychological functioning to determine if there are any underlying mental health issues that may be contributing to the discord.

2. **Therapy:** Clinical psychologists use various therapeutic approaches to help couples resolve their conflicts and improve their relationship. They provide couples with tools and strategies to enhance communication, strengthen emotional bonds, and increase intimacy. They may use behavioral, cognitive-behavioral, psychodynamic, or other evidence-based therapies to help couples to identify and address the root causes of their discord.

3. **Mediation:** In some cases, clinical psychologists may act as mediators to facilitate communication between couples. They help couples to express their concerns, needs, and feelings in a safe and supportive environment. They also help couples to negotiate and find mutually agreeable solutions to their conflicts. Mediation can be particularly useful in cases where couples have difficulty communicating effectively or where there is a high level of conflict.

4. **Education:** Clinical psychologists provide couples with education and information about healthy communication, conflict resolution, and relationship skills. They help couples to develop a better understanding of each other's needs and expectations and provide them with strategies to improve their communication and emotional connection. Education can be particularly useful for couples who have not had prior experience in managing relationship issues.

5. **Referral:** In cases where there are underlying mental health issues that require specialized treatment, clinical psychologists may refer couples to other mental health professionals such as psychiatrists. They may also refer couples to support groups or other community resources to help them cope with the stress of marital discord.

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# Signs That You're An Extraordinary Altruist

Veronika Tait

We've likely all experienced the kindness of a stranger, but what can we learn from the minority of true heroes that help others at a substantial personal cost?

Before she was a neuroscience researcher, Abigail Marsh was in a nearly fatal car mishap. While attempting to dodge a darting dog along an eight-lane freeway, her vehicle began to fishtail. Before she knew it, she had spun into the fast lane of the oncoming traffic. When the car stopped and she got her bearings, it wouldn't turn on. The car was stuck on a part of the road not visible to drivers until they swerved around the corner. She knew it was only a matter of time until another driver failed to notice her in time.

As she began to panic, a man approached her passenger window and offered assistance. Despite the potential danger, the stranger got into her car and managed to start it, driving them both to safety. Had the man not intervened, Marsh might not have survived to share her story.

What caused the man to pull over and help? And would we do the same had we passed Marsh that winter midnight? Many people in our lives are kind, generous, and full of wisdom. But would they be classified as an Altruist with a capital A?

Altruists are people who do good for others without any thought of how it may benefit them. They simply care about the welfare of others—no strings attached. Marsh tells us,

The world is absolutely bursting with people who have committed



moving acts of altruism. They volunteer to help needy animals or children or the mentally ill. They donate money to strangers in faraway cities or countries. They open up their veins to give their blood to the sick or injured. They remove garments from their own bodies to clothe impoverished people in their communities—sometimes in real time. (p. 105)

Marsh considers these acts ordinary. It's not uncommon for us humans to be generous toward one another. After all, we've evolved to engage in reciprocal altruism. Our early ancestors who helped others in hopes that they would return the fa-

vor were more likely to survive and reproduce. We've also evolved to practice kin altruism, which makes it more likely for our offspring to survive and carry on our bloodline.

But how do we make sense of heroic acts toward complete strangers? Especially ones who have no way of ever paying us back? Marsh describes this type of altruism as extraordinary. Would you make the cut?

## Signs that you could be an extraordinary altruist include these:

- You've done something exceptional for someone you didn't

know. To meet Marsh's definition of an extraordinary altruist, you would need to have committed a generous act for someone where

1. The recipient was someone unrelated to you and unknown to you at the time you decided to act.
2. The behavior required a personal risk or cost to you.
3. The act wasn't something you were required or expected to do.

Marsh decided to study a tiny fraction of the US population—people who had donated a kidney anonymously to a stranger. This unique group certainly qualifies as having demonstrated extraordinary altruism. The following are some characteristics of extraordinary altruists:

• **You don't believe humans can be truly evil.** You may have assumed that extraordinary altruists show higher levels of empathy or religiosity compared to typical populations—but little evidence has been found to support these differences. Interestingly, Amormino et al. (2022) did find that altruists scored lower on the Belief in Pure Evil scale compared to controls. This included items such as, "Some people are just pure evil" and "Evil people harm others for the joy of it." The researchers found that even after "controlling for empathy and religiosity, for every one-unit decrease in belief in pure evil, the odds of classification as an altruistic donor increased by 31%" (p. 2).

• **You're good at detecting others' fear.** Researchers have found that altruists have larger and more active amygdalae compared to control samples. The amygdala is an almond-shaped structure in the limbic system that aids in emotion processing, especially in detecting fear and threat. It may be that the better we can recognize fear in others, the more equipped we are to act and alleviate their distress.

• **You don't see yourself as special.** Altruists don't see themselves as anything but ordinary. While altruists score lower on beliefs in pure evil, they were no different than controls to believe that humans can be purely good. Many of us would likely classify anonymous kidney donors as the select few who qualify as all good, yet altruists see no distinction between themselves and others. Perhaps it is this last characteristic that truly makes them unique. Altruists don't view the world in terms of "us versus them." There is no othering, nor hierarchies. There are no lines separating groups by deservingness. What sets extraordinary altruists apart is their ability to recognize the inherent value in all people and to act on that recognition, even at personal cost.

As the study of human nature progresses, it's important to keep an open mind. Altruism has largely been examined through limited data sets, such as the population of kidney donors who were few and not randomly selected. Yet, Marsh's story serves as a powerful reminder that acts of extraordinary altruism can have a profound impact on the lives of others. While we may not have the opportunity or ability to donate a kidney anonymously, there are still many ways we can prioritize the welfare of others.

Even though I don't consider myself an exceptional altruist, I'm learning. I envision a world filled with exceptional altruists, and the thought is exhilarating. Each small act of kindness can lead us on the path to remarkable heroism.



# MHA prepares new 'Model Prisons Act' to replace pre-independence era law

## Press trust of India

New Delhi: A new 'Model Prisons Act 2023' that will replace the 130-year-old pre-independence era law has been prepared by the Centre to address lacunae in the existing law and focus more on reformation and rehabilitation of inmates, the Union home ministry said on Friday.

Among the salient features of the model Act are provisions of punishment for prisoners and jail sta? for use of prohibited items like mobile phones etc. in jails and providing for legal aid to prisoners, provision of parole, furlough and premature release etc. to incentivise good conduct, the ministry of home affairs

(MHA) said in a statement.

Prisons in the country and 'persons detained therein' are a State subject and the existing law in this context, the Prisons Act of 1894 is a pre-independence era Act and is almost 130 years old, it said.

Two other related laws are quite old--The Prisoners Act, 1900 and The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950.

The home ministry found there were "several lacunae" in the existing Prisons Act and there was "conspicuous omission" of the correctional focus in the existing Act. The ministry, hence, directed the Bureau of Police Research and Development, a Union

government think tank on policing subjects, to review the laws and prepare a new draft.

"The (existing) Act mainly focuses on keeping the criminals in custody and enforcement of discipline and order in prisons. There is no provision for reform and rehabilitation of prisoners in the existing Act," it said.

The home ministry said a comprehensive 'Model Prisons Act, 2023' was finalised with the objective of holistically providing guidance and addressing the gaps in the existing Prisons Act including the use of technology in prison management, making provisions for grant of parole, furlough, remission to prisoners to encourage good conduct,

special provision for women/transgender inmates, physical and mental well-being of prisoners and focus on the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates.

The model Act, it said, may serve as a "guiding document" for the states, and for adoption in their jurisdiction.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and decisive guidance of Union home minister Amit Shah, a decision was taken to review and revise colonial-era outdated Prison Act, in tune with contemporary modern day needs and correctional ideology."

"The Ministry of Home Affairs assigned the task of revision

of the Prisons Act, 1894 to the BPRD. The Bureau, after holding wide ranging discussions with state prison authorities, correctional experts etc. prepared a draft," the ministry said in the statement.

Along with The Prisons Act, 1894, The Prisoners Act, 1900 and The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950 have also been reviewed by the MHA and relevant provisions of these Acts have been "assimilated" in the 'Model Prisons Act, 2023', it said.

State governments and Union Territory administrations can benefit from the Model Prisons Act, 2023 by adopting it in their jurisdictions, with such modifications which they may

consider necessary, and repeal the existing three Acts in their jurisdictions, the MHA said.

Some of the focus areas of the model Act provide for security assessment and segregation of prisoners, individual sentence planning; grievance redressal, prison development board, attitudinal change towards prisoners and provision of separate accommodation for women prisoners, transgender, etc.

The model Act also talks about provision for use of technology in prison administration with a view to bring transparency in prison administration, provision for video conferencing with courts, scientific and technological interventions in prisons, etc.

Among other stress areas are provision of punishment for prisoners and jail sta? for use of prohibited items like mobile phones etc. in jails, allocation regarding establishment and management of high security jail, open jail (open and semi open), etc. and provision for protecting the society from the criminal activities of hardened criminals and habitual offenders, etc.

The model Act also has provisions for legal aid to prisoners, provision of parole, furlough and premature release etc. to incentivise good conduct and focus on vocational training and skill development of prisoners and their reintegration into the society, the MHA said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Dubai Cheaper Than

concerns, please feel free to contact us."

Attributing the decline in fresh tourist booking to "soaring" airfares, the Chairman of the Kashmir Houseboats Owners Association--KHOA, Manzoor Pakthoon said that despite already existing issues with tourist bookings, they are now witnessing a huge decline in fresh bookings. He said that aspiring visitors find Dubai or other destinations economical as compared to the Kashmir Valley.

The tourism stakeholders said they have been demanding a cap on airfares for a long time now. Despite our pleas and repeated representations on the issue, nothing positive has happened to address our concern, he said.

Meanwhile, many netizens on social media highlighted the issue of skyrocketing prices of air tickets.

It is pertinent to mention that a parliamentary standing committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture in 2021 in its report stated that the airfares to J&K during peak season go equivalent to those on foreign destinations as a result of which people prefer visiting foreign countries--(KNO)

### Bridge Dividing Kashmir

mans the facilitation centre.

After checking for documents, including a pass from the local police station, visitors head to the Khalin-Da-Khas Nalla, the river flowing between the two sides of Kashmir.

"We inform tourists about the dos and don'ts before they embark on their journey to the famous bridge. Many Uri residents also make the trip because they haven't seen it." According to Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla, who heads the Army's XV Corps, the decision to give the general public access to the bridge was taken so "people should know where our heroes gave their today for our tomorrow".

Aujla was the one who opened the lock and walked on the bridge, from end to end. A path near the bridge, named Veerpath, has busts of Indian war heroes.

"After all, I have every right to walk on every inch of my territory," Aujla said after his walk on the bridge. It had been damaged during an earthquake in 2005 when a mountain on the Pakistani side caved in and rebuilt by engineers of the Indian Army.

Three local guides, dressed in black and white, greet people and recount the history of the area, particularly the 1947-48 war through the heroes who played stellar roles.

Civilian heroes commemorated near the bridge include Zuma Mohamed, a civil porter of the 4th battalion of Kumaon regiment who was awarded the Vir Chakra for his service during the war, and Maqbool Sherwani, a National Conference worker who had helped stave off an attack by giving wrong directions to the raiders from Pakistan and stopped them from moving towards Srinagar.

Besides, there are busts of Maj Somnath Sharma, who was awarded the highest military honour, Param Vir Chakra, for his service to the nation in the war, and Brig Rajinder Singh and Lt Col Dewan Ranjit Rai who were awarded the Mahavir Chakra.

A huge 'Akhand Bharat Varsh' painting, carved out of stones showing Afghanistan, Pakistan as one, faces Pakistan army posts located across the LoC.

The army has also created an artificial bunker with toy guns and bullet proof vests for children.

As the buzz slowly builds up, Mehak Khursheed is among those who walked the bridge. She is a resident of Salamabad, somewhere between Uri and the Kaman post.

"We had heard a lot of stories about Zuma Mohammed and Maqbool Sherwani. But today after seeing their busts, my heart fills with pride that our local heroes have been honoured by the army." She is looking forward to more jobs and economic prosperity.

"Many hotels will open up and restaurants will come up. I am keeping my fingers crossed and hope that this becomes one of the favourite tourist destinations," she said.

According to Fayaz Ahmed, a village sarpanch, opening up of the Kaman post is the first stepping stone to success of the area. "Now I hope that other areas in the region which include some religious places will be thrown open for the public." The Kaman Sethu in this corner of Kashmir Valley was obviously not on the radar when Simon and Garfunkel wrote their popular song. But this bridge, it certainly is a "bridge over troubled water".

### Srinagar Markets

Management facilities in 10 ULBs.

These projects, the LG said, will significantly boost urban infrastructure and give an impetus to ease of living.

"The holistic approach in developing urban infrastructure is focused on Individual's well-being, new avenues and opportunities for the people for more diversified incomes, improved service delivery, mobility, cleanliness and to achieve the objectives of sustainable urban development," the LG said.

He also highlighted the steps taken to fulfill the aspirations of all 40 ULBs of Kashmir Division.

"We have put people at the centre of cities and the projects both development and solid waste management, are offering unprecedented opportunities to improve the lives of millions of urban residents," he said.

"The newly inaugurated projects are the testimony to our commitment to improve the urban environment," he added.

Speaking on the development journey of J&K over the past few years, the LG expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the unparalleled growth of the UT.

"Today, economic development is gaining new momentum, pace of completion of projects has increased 9 times and every section of the society is feeling empowered," he said, adding "Citizens are now co-constructing policies so that infrastructure projects are developed as per needs of the people,"

The LG also called upon the elected representatives of the ULBs and the common people to work shoulder to shoulder with the administration in the mission to rejuvenate the cities and make them more vibrant, efficient, clean and sustainable.

"Infrastructure should become a strong base to improve the quality of life of every citizen. We must ensure that infrastructure development meets the needs of the 21st century and reflect the priceless heritage & traditions of our cities," he said.

"Infrastructure should become a strong base to improve the quality of life of every citizen. We must ensure that infrastructure development meets the needs of the 21st century and reflect the priceless heritage & traditions of our cities," he said.

He further emphasized on encouraging maximum public participation in beautification of cities and swachhata campaigns.

Bicycle sharing facilities for different locations in the city was also inaugurated on the occasion by the LG. (With PTI inputs)

**G20 Will Be**

increased and many of my senior officers are moving around the city in the last 15 days. Today, I have come out myself to boost their morale and stand next to my jawans on the road," Kumar said.

He said patrolling is part of maintaining night domination of the areas and helps in countering any threat of a militants sneaking

into the city from South Kashmir.

He accepted that there is a threat from militant groups in view of the forthcoming G20 meeting.

"Obviously, the threat is there but what are we here for? Let us not forget the motto of J-K Police that says 'A saga of sacrifice and courage'. Nothing untoward will happen," Kumar said.

Kashmir will host the third G20 tourism working group meeting from May 22 to 24. The first working group meeting on tourism was held at the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat in February and the second one in West Bengal's Siliguri in April.

This is the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Kumar also went into the interiors of the Nowgam area in Srinagar where the threat, mainly from the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed group, has been higher. He met the police and CRPF personnel posted there and took stock of the situation.

During his visit to the area, Kumar pointed to an under-construction building and directed the officers to post a sniper there to ensure that the eventuality of a suicide attack is averted.

The Valley's top police officer also pointed out that women cops were also present in the likelihood that female passengers need to be searched.

"We are religiously following all the Standard Operating Procedures and are hopeful that the event will pass off peacefully," Kumar said.

He also said some preventive arrests of over-ground workers and suspects were made as a precautionary measure.

### Brand Ambassadors

The delegates will act as ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir across the world as a global tourist destination, Shah added.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating hot-air balloon, cycling and trekking activities at Zabarwan Park, Shah said such activities will act as added attractions for tourists.

The launch of such adventure activities is a prelude to the main G20 event, the tourism secretary said.

Shah said a cyclothon in which most of the participants are from government schools has also been started, adding that such events will be scaled up in the future so that tourists and locals enjoy adventure tourism in the Union Territory.

### Gulmarg All Set

all routes will ply normally and to facilitate the foreign delegates, a proper traffic advisory will be issued in advance.

Welcome boards and signages were erected in Gulmarg. The road to Gulmarg from Srinagar, the Narbal-Gulmarg stretch, is being given a new look.

To enhance the aesthetic value of the existing structures, the spokesperson said, footpaths and medians have been developed, traffic roads are being furnished, hoardings are installed and government buildings and commercial building walls are being painted in the district.

Meanwhile, all the developmental and beautification works are being supervised by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar, he said.

Sehrish, he said, has asserted that the stage is set and all preparations are in the final stage.

"Dr Sehrish exhorted the departments to push for a double shift of working in all the existing works in a time bound manner. She emphasized on greater coordination and synergy

among line departments for timely completion of developmental activities in Baramulla," the spokesperson said.

Moreover, he said, the the DDC issued instructions to concerned authorities for grass cutting along roads, routes, footpaths, closing manholes with lids, colour iron grills, making water fountains functional, smooth operation of streets lights, removing of debris and construction material from roads so that the establishments get charm and to boost aesthetics.

**HC Notice To J&K**

the protection and enforcement of fundamental, constitutional, legal and statutory rights as vested by law and constitution in the matter of "occupation, possession, exercise and enjoyment" of his right to property.

### J&K HC Stays

who was appearing for the government, and a battery of lawyers representing the petitioners, the court listed the matter for June 7.

"In assessing the balance of convenience, we have also kept in mind that the issues raised in the appeal in the context of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, which is still not out of the woods in the context of its security issues and problems, have a direct bearing on the scheme of 2022 getting non starter and any uncertainty which may be caused in the implementation of the impugned judgment ought to be avoided," the order read.

The court said it is equally conscious that these issues ought to be resolved at the earliest, stressing on the need to notify and hear all the parties.

It said the appellants are assailing through this appeal a common judgment of april 6 passed by the single-judge bench, adjudicating 19 petitions involving 2,396 writ petitioners who are seeking stay on operation of the judgment pending final adjudication of the present letters patent appeal.

The court said the VDG scheme is meant to be an exercise in building an attitude of self help in security matters amongst the local population. The aim is also to supplement the ongoing efforts of the security forces in dealing with militancy, acts of subversion and trans-border movements, it said.

"It is a manifestation of the will of the people to actively participate in the efforts to thwart the threat being posed to national security and integrity. The identification of men comprising these groups, support to them and the level of their motivation would be of utmost importance," it said.

"In the ultimate analysis, the success of the scheme would depend on the quality of men who would form these groups and the will behind these men," the court observed.

The division bench said the core policy purpose of founding the new scheme of 2022, by all implication and inferences, stayed the same as that of the 1995 scheme, but certain structural and operational amendments or alterations with respect to VDGs have been brought into play.

While the old scheme comprised and consisted of SPOs and other members, bearing a strength of 15 in each group, under the 2022 scheme, a VDG is envisaged to have a maximum intake number of 15, bracketed in two categories, it said.

**Power Shutdown**

from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the spokesperson said, in order to facilitate pruning of trees laying in the vicinity of 33 Kv lines the power supply to receiving stations Tikker, Kursan, Sogam, Khumriyal, Drugmulla, Machil and Hyhama shall remain

affected on May 16, 20 and 23 from 10 am to 4 pm; receiving stations Pattan, Palhalan and Hamray shall remain affected on May 15, 18 and 22 from 10 am to 4 pm; receiving stations Shadipora and Singpora shall remain affected on May 18 and 23 from 10 am to 4 pm; receiving stations Sangrama, Wagoora, Kreeeri and Hardichloo shall remain affected on May 16, 20 and 24 from 10 am to 4 pm and receiving stations Delina and Jetty shall remain affected on May 17, 20 and 22 from 10am to 4 pm;

**Man Injured**

Meanwhile, a wildlife department team has rushed its team to the spot to catch the beast.

**4 Children Hurt**

GMC Jammu for further treatment.

**Leh Highway**

Meanwhile, the J&K Traffic police on its official Twitter handle said, "Traffic released on SSG road after clearance avalanche. People are advised to follow lane discipline."

**Measles Outbreak**

known to occur in animals. Measles vaccination resulted in a 73% drop in measles deaths between 2000 and 2018 worldwide, as per WHO.

Official sources said that early Friday a few cases of measles were reported in Farkin village, which falls under Kralpora Medical Block.

They said that the medical team along with doctors were deputed to the village to ensure the safety of the rest of the population, adding that all the safety measures are being ensured.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kupwara Dr. Mohammad Ramzan said that some cases of measles have been reported in Farkin village.

He said that the medical team has been deputed. "As of now, I am told that there are about 4 to 5 cases. The medical team is there already and more about the situation will be known once they access the situation," he said.

The CMO also said that the immediate response is to ascertain the condition of the patients. "Anyone with a severe condition receives the treatment. The patient suffers from some rashes and takes just 3 to 4 days to recover," he said.

He added that all the patients have to be isolated as a precautionary measure--(KNO)

### SIU Raids Multiple

Jammu and Kashmir Police is leaving no stone unturned to defeat all the nefarious designs of ANEs and make this event a grand success

He further said that it is in this connection that Ramban police has raised its ante against these militant sympathisers and the enemies of peace.

Seven different houses belonging to OGWs, relatives of Pak settled militants and militant sympathisers were raided today where digital incriminating material was recovered as well, the spokesperson said.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

In school records the name of my son has been wrongly writte as Safil Yaqoob while his correct name is Saifullah which needs to be corrected. if anybody having any objection may contact Govt Upper Primary School Haind Sitapora Shopian within seven days . after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Yaqoob Mir  
F/o Mir Saifullah R/o Batapora Nildong Shopian

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

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST



## DDC Chairperson, KCCI Team Calls On LG



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Safina Baig, DDC Chairperson, Baramulla and a delegation of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Friday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

The DDC Chairperson discussed with the LG various issues of public importance and development of the district, an official spokesperson said. Safina, he said, also raised the issue concerning the cost of Haj pilgrimage this year.

The spokesperson said that a delegation of KCCI led by its President Javid Ahmad Tenga also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him about various issues concerning the business community.

The LG, he said, assured the members of the delegation that the issues projected by them would be looked into meticulously for their early redressal.

Later, the spokesperson

said, Pritam Singh, Founder President, Peepal Saves People Foundation Trust called on the LG at Raj Bhawan Jammu and apprised him about the peepal sapling plantation drive and other environmental initiatives of his organisation.

"Renowned Broadcaster and Director (Retd.) All India Radio Jammu Vijay Kumar Sambyal, popularly known as Rangeley Thakur in the field of music, submitted a memorandum of demands regarding promotion of art & music in the UT. He also expressed his gratitude towards the UT administration for giving due attention to the field of Arts," he said.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also released a book titled "Words Whispered in the Dark" authored by Ms Bindya Raina Tikoo.

"The Lt Governor congratulated the author on the occasion and wished her success in the future endeavours," he added.

## Pakistan Situation Will Not Impact J&K: BJP

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The situation in Pakistan will not have any impact on Jammu and Kashmir, the J-K BJP said on Friday after some regional political parties expressed concern about the state of the affairs in the neighbouring nation and its ramifications.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti have expressed worries about the "dangerous" situation in Pakistan, claiming it will affect India.

Widespread protests broke out across Pakistan after the arrest of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan by the paramilitary Rangers, prompting the deployment of the army as well as in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

"Whatever the situation is in Pakistan, it will not have any impact on the situation of Jammu and Kashmir. Whatever Pakistan has done in the last 30 years, it will fall into its own pit," BJP general secretary organisation, Jammu and Kashmir, Ashok Koul, said.

He also told reporters that the regional parties in the Union Territory are worried about Pakistan and had made statements that the worsening situation there would have an adverse impact on Jammu and Kashmir.

"They are just harping on their old tunes, as far as India's stand on the relationship with Pakistan is concerned, it is as it was that unless they stop supporting militant activities, India cannot think about having dialogue with them," Koul said.

On exit poll surveys for the Karnataka assembly elections giving an edge to the Congress

over the BJP, Koul said winning or losing an election will not have any impact on his party. "Wherever elections are conducted, someone wins and someone loses. But, we believe that the BJP will come out as the number one party in Karnataka," he said.

In the past, like in the cases of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the BJP leader said, it has been seen that exit poll surveys showed something but it did not happen.

"We believe in our work and determination, and we will come out as victorious. Winning or losing elections will not have any impact on the BJP," he said.

To a question about the delay in assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Koul said the situation in the Union Territory is comparatively better than it was before the abrogation of article 370 in 2019.

He said that as far as assembly polls are concerned, the BJP is always ready for an election. "Those who are levelling allegations against the BJP, they are themselves losing ground, as you can see day in and day out people are changing parties," Koul said.

"I have heard that the J-K's chief electoral officer is preparing for panchayat and local body elections and maybe, assembly elections will be conducted along with these polls as the whole Election Commission machinery is busy with the preparations. The assembly elections will be announced anytime," he claimed.

Koul said it cannot be said when assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, but it could be held along with the panchayat polls or the parliamentary elections or even before.

## DC Shopian Reviews Preparedness Of Mughal Road Opening

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb on Friday conducted an extensive tour of Mughal Road up to Peer Ki Gali stretch wherein he inspected ongoing slide clearance and developmental works.

During the tour, the DC enquired about the feasibility of opening of Mughal Road for regular traffic movement.

Notably, early opening of Mughal Road was high on demand of local people as it eases the movement of vehicles and significantly reduces the travel time compared to Jammu Srinagar National Highway. However, due to a long span of bad weather conditions, intermittent rainfall/snowfall, sliding along the vital road, the road had remained closed.

The DC directed the Ex. Engineer Mughal Road to speed up the work by deploying more men and machinery so that it can be made through for traffic.

## Woman Turns Passion For Gaming Into Income Stream

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Reetu Salathia (44) took up online gaming during the Covid period in 2020 after being introduced to the virtual world by her son. Now, the Jammu-based homemaker earns Rs 1.50 lakh a year streaming games online, carving out for herself an independent source of income.

Known as "Blackbird" in the gaming community, Salathia boasts close to four lakh followers on Rooter, a gaming platform. While she has been passionate about video games from her childhood, she has now taken gaming seriously and looks at it as a means to be independent.

"I am not highly educated. I have passed Class 12. I loved gaming. From the beginning, I wanted to earn for myself. When my son told (taught) me about livestreaming (of games), I started to do it. I am also earning for myself," she



told PTI.

Looking at her passion, the Salathias dedicated one room in the family home in Jammu's Netrikoti area for her gaming activities.

Having started with "Candy Crush", Salathia slowly progressed to "Battlegrounds Mobile India". She tries one and all the games that her partners insist on playing.

"I started with 'Candy Crush'. Then I started online

gaming Slowly and steadily, I learnt it by continuously playing the games. I can play any game," she said.

While Salathia is known by her "Blackbird" handle in the gaming community, her partners -- most of whom are children -- call her "Muma". "The biggest compliment for me was that children asked me whether they could call me 'mother'. It was an emotional moment for me,"

she said.

Salathia, who has since launched her gaming channel on YouTube, said her family supported her throughout.

"The reaction of my family was very positive. I am very happy to play with youngsters," she said.

Her son Gaurav Singh said, "We never thought she would get such love from the people."

Balancing all her work, Salathia finds time to play three to four hours every day and earns more than Rs 1.50 lakh per year.

"She manages it perfectly. She dedicates time at home, to the dogs and the family and also to the game. She manages it perfectly," said Divyanshi, a relative of Salathia.

Her husband Ajeet Singh Salathia said they fully support her passion for gaming. "Gaurav was playing first. He taught her. She left him behind by having nearly four lakh followers," he said.

## 'Financial Irregularities'

## BGSBU Sacks Tainted Officials As Rajbhawan Orders Probe

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant development, the authorities at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) sacked two officials in a week's time after the Office of Lieutenant Governor, J&K, ordered probe into the alleged large-scale financial irregularities in the varsity, especially in the whopping Rs 12 Crore TEQIP project.

The probe has been ordered as a special audit report of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir pertaining to Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, earlier pointed out large-scale financial irregularities in the centrally-sponsored Rs 12 crore TEQIP-III project, besides several other financial matters.

In wake of this, the Registrar BGSBU in an order issued on Friday has stated that the process of Special Audit regarding allegations of Financial Misappropriations, besides verification and audit of Service Books including Pay-Fixation of Permanent, Regular, Superannuated, Deputationist employees including that of Suneet Gupta has been initiated by the University "in pursuance to instructions received from Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat".

"All the concerned sections are therefore required to keep the relevant data available for perusal of the special audit team," the order reads.

The probe has been launched days after the authorities at BGSBU relieved a retired official of the University after outcry over his continuation as Dean Academic Affairs (contractual) in the University.

The Registrar BGSBU in his order stated that the outgoing retired official Iqbal Parwez opted to get relieved from the affairs of the University.

"On his own request Prof.



Iqbal Parwez, Dean Academic Affairs (Contractual) is hereby relieved from the services of the BGSBU University with immediate effect," the order reads.

As per the order Iqbal Parwez shall be required to properly handover the record pertaining to charges he was looking after.

Sources said the retired official was handling the TEQIP project and was told to put in his papers after teachers resumed their strike this week seeking his removal. Notably no official can continue on any administrative position after attaining age of 65. The BGSBU official had attained the age of 70.

As already reported, the Vice Chancellor BGSBU earlier stripped the official of all administrative and financial powers, amid the weeklong strike launched by the teaching faculty of the university.

Prof. Parwez Iqbal retired as Dean Academic Affairs of the varsity in 2018 but he was re-engaged as Dean academic affairs, much to the annoyance of the University faculty.

Meanwhile in another fresh order, the BGSBU authorities have shifted Suneet Gupta to Camp office Jammu.

"The Vice Chancellor has been pleased to approve transfer and posting of Sh. Suneet Gupta Joint Registrar to Camp Office Jammu. Consequently, he is relieved of the additional assignment of OSD (Nursing Colleges)," the order reads.

Earlier, Suneet Gupta was removed as special secretary to VC following allegations of favouritism and corruption.

"In pursuance to instructions received from Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, the process of Special Audit regarding allegations of Financial Misappropriations, besides verification/ audit of Service Books including Pay-Fixation of Permanent/ Regular/ Superannuated / Deputationist employees including that of Mr. Suneet Gupta has been initiated by the University," the Registrar's new order has stated.

Notably, the Teaching Association of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) has already called for an indefinite strike over allegations of bungling and the demand for career progression. The strike has been initiated by the university's teachers, who claim that the institution established in the name of the famous saint Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah is going through a tough phase.

The Vice-Chancellor of BGSBU however has claimed that an inquiry into allegations of financial bungling before his tenure had already been ordered by the office of the Chancellor through the Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department.

Meanwhile, teachers of BGSBU welcomed the decision to sack "tainted officials" and said that will work hand in hand with VC to weed out all corrupt elements.

## Work On Delayed 4-Lane Jammu-Akhnoor Highway Back On Track

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The much-awaited Jammu-Akhnoor four-laning road project, sanctioned by the Union Government in 2015, is back on the rails after missing several deadlines.

Jammu-Akhnoor highway is a stretch of national highway 144-A, which connects the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch with Jammu and is also a very important defence road.

"Almost all the hindrances have been cleared and the construction work has gained pace from 2021 to 2023. We have made the road stretch up to 4.4 kilometres under phase-1 and hope the work of other' phases may be completed by 2025 February and March", General Manager, National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Col Surajpal Singh Sagwan told PTI.

The NHIDCL, a company under the Ministry of Roads and Highways, is executing the

Jammu-Akhnoor road widening project costing Rs 1,345 crores, which has been divided into four Packages.

The flyover under Package II has been fully functional and more than 72 per cent of work on the 20-kilometre-long stretch under Package III has been completed, Package I work on a 0.8 km long stretch from Bhagwati Nagar Chowk (4th Tawi Bridge) to Canal Head in Jammu city is also under progress.

"The work was assigned during 2018 but, got started in 2019. Earlier the work was delayed due to the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 as the state was converted to UT the work was delayed due to a lack of materials and land acquisition. It was further delayed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and land acquisition and other issues where many houses and structures had to be demolished", GM said.

People hope that company will meet the deadline and

make this fully stretch operational. They say that several patches of the road are in very bad shape due to a delay in on-going work.

Sandeep Khajuria, a local resident, said that the project should be completed within the time frame.

"We also want express highway should be made but within the time given to us by the Government. Akhnoor highway was supposed to be made this year but it's not completed yet. We have to face a lot of problems due to this but we are waiting for good things to happen soon", he said.

Another local resident Ratan Langhe said that this road touches the border and this road is important for people especially patients while shifting them from Akhnoor, Poonch, Rajouri etc. "It is very important for our border security", he said

Once completed, the highway will cut travel time between Jammu and Akhnoor by half.



## Met Predicts Rains, Thunderstorm In J&K From Today

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Mainly dry weather has been forecast during the next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir and rain and thunderstorms from the weekend.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that on April 13-14, rain, thunderstorm and lightning likely was expected at a few places of Kashmir and Jammu region during late afternoon or evening.

He said from May 15-16, a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm was expected at isolated places while there is possibility of light rain/thunderstorm at isolated to scattered places on May 17-19.

However, he said, there is no forecast of any major rainfall for next one week.

Regarding the seasonal scenario, he said, deficit rainfall has been observed over Kupwara, Shopian, Budgam and Kathua districts during 1 March to May 11.

As regards the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 8.7°C against 6.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 6.0°C against 6.9°C on

the previous night and it was below normal by 3.2°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 2.6°C against 1.0°C on previous night and it was 2.5°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 5.7°C against 4.7°C as on the previous night and it was 3.9°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 8.3°C against 7.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 7.0°C against 5.5°C on previous night and it was above normal by 1.5°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 20.5°C against 17.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.2°C (below normal by 2.7°C), Batote 14.7°C (0.9°C above normal), Katra 18.2°C (1.8°C below normal) and Bhaderwah 9.0°C (below normal by 0.5°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 0.4°C, he added.

## Administrative Districts, Tribunals Allocated Among HC Judges

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh has allocated administrative districts, tribunals and authorities in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh among Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

According to an order issued in supersession of all previous orders regarding it, Justice Tashi Rabstan has been allocated District Srinagar, MACT Srinagar, Special Tribunal, Srinagar, One Man Forest Authority and District Leh.

Justice Atul Sreedharan has been allocated District Jammu, MACT Jammu, Special Tribunal, Jammu, Labour Court, Industrial Tribunal, and Sales Tax Appellate Authority.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar has been allocated District Kathua and District Baramulla, Justice Sindhu Sharma District Udhampur and District Budgam, Justice Rajnesh Oswal District Poonch and District Pulwama, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul District Anantnag and District Doda, Justice Sanjay Dhar District Samba and District Kulgam, Justice Puneet Gupta District Ramban and District Kargil, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani District Ganderbal, Justice Mohan Lal District Kishtwar, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary District Reasi, Justice Rahul Bharti District Rajouri, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi District Bandipora, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal District Kupwara and Justice Rajesh Sekhri District Shopian.

## 2,500 Mobile Toilets To Be Set Up For Amarnath Yatra

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Over 2,500 mobile toilets will be set up for the Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, with most on the two routes to reach the cave shrine located at a height of 3,880 metres in the Himalayas, officials said.

Scheduled to begin on July 1, the 62-day-long yatra this year could see more pilgrims, they said and added that in total, 1,500 personnel will be manning the toilets from Lakhampur in Kathua district to the shrine.

"Over 940 toilets will be set up at the Baltal axis and 1,345 toilets at the Pahlagam axis," an official said and added that 1,370 personnel, including sanitation workers and supervisors, will be deployed for managing these toilets. The officials said that an additional 120 toilets will be set up at the Yatri Niwas and at other locations in Jammu city. Lakhampur, which is the entry point to Jammu and Kashmir, will also have more toilets this time, they said. Tenders for installation of the mobile toilets have been floated, the official said. Deputy commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Ramban, Anantnag, Srinagar and Ganderbal districts have



been asked to share details on requirement of toilets, the officials said.

Engineers of the Jal Shakti department will also be involved during the installation of toilets to ensure that there is no shortage of water during the yatra. The Jammu and Kashmir administration will also prepare a contingency plan to accommodate 7,500 pilgrims in Kathua district in case of inclement weather or any other emergency, the officials said.

For smooth issuance of RFID tags to registered pilgrims, the administration has increased the number of counters at different locations to control the rush at the Jammu Base camp, they said.

Steps for scientific disposal of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes, including plastic waste, will also be taken, they said.





## Director YSS Inspects Sports Projects Across Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) J&K Subash C Chhibber on Friday visited various areas of Srinagar city to take a first-hand view of different projects being carried out to develop modern sports infrastructure by the department.

He was accompanied by Joint Director Kashmir (JDK) YSS Waseem Raja. The Director YSS passed on some on spot directions for speeding up the pace

of executions. He stressed that during the execution of various working projects Guidelines issued by the Administrative Department should be adhered in letter and spirit.

He also directed the concerned to take up work of construction purely as per the approved DPRs.

Dir YSS hoped that the sports infrastructure being developed would provide a lot of opportunities to the young blood to hone their skills and sports talent in the most professional manner.

## District Carrom Championship Concludes In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** A two-day long District Carrom Championship concluded in Ganderbal on Friday in which more than 100 participants comprising boys and girls of the district Ganderbal.

Dawar Rashid Assistant General Secretary presided over the function as chief guest. Rahil Shafi Incharge Sports Hall, Sehpora Ganderbal and other members of the association were present during the closing ceremony function of the event.

The event was organised by the district unit of the Jammu & Kashmir Carrom Association under the aegis of J&K Carrom Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

"J&K is going to organise district level tournaments in the every district of the J&K UT," said General Secretary Mudasar Khan of the association.

In senior category, Mumin



Fayaz were emerged as winner, while 2nd place went to Rumin and Ramees secured 3rd place.

In Junior Boys section, Salman was the winner, while Aasif came 2nd and Mumin was 3rd.

In the Junior Girls, Arizoo was declared as winner, while Iqra came 2nd and Tabasum was 3rd.

## IPL 2023: DC Take On PBKS In Battle For Survival



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** All but out of play-off reckoning, Delhi Capitals will expect a more purposeful approach from its Indian batting unit as it plays for pride against Punjab Kings in a 12th round IPL match, here on Saturday.

With four wins in 11 games, DC are staring at an unceremonious exit as winning the next three matches will only take them to 14 points, which might not be enough to earn them a place in the top four, leaving their fate in the hands of other teams.

The specialist Indian batters have hardly contributed and it has all been about either skipper David Warner, keeper-batter Phil Salt or all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, who have given the team some momentum with willow.

The likes of Manish Pandey, Rupal Patel and Aman Hakim Khan have lacked the killer punch as they have not been able to change their game according to the match situation.

Skipper Warner, who looked good during the first half of the season, has struggled in the last five innings with single digit

scores in three of them.

Salt sizzled with two whirlwind innings but he also was dismissed cheaply in three matches, including two ducks.

Marsh exploded once against Sunrisers Hyderabad with the bat but couldn't do much in the rest. However, the Australian has chipped in with regular wickets in the last three games.

The bowlers have fared better with spin duo of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav bowling a good line, while pacers Ishant Sharma and Khaleel Ahmed getting wickets most times.

The absence of speedster Anrich Nortje, who had to return home due to personal reasons, however, was felt in the last match.

Punjab Kings, with 10 points from 11 games, too are looking at a must-win game, following back-to-back defeats against Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders respectively.

PBKS have blown hot and cold this season. In the last two matches, their bowlers have failed to defend totals as MI and KKR out-batted them.

Punjab had a chance to get into top 3 in their last game but it was Rinku Singh, who

slammed a four in the last delivery to dent Punjab's hopes as they entered the must-win zone with three games to go.

Shikhar Dhawan remains their best batter and has done the job at the top but the same can't be said about his opening partner Prabhsimran Singh. Bhanuka Rajapaksa's return from injury was marked by a three-ball duck and his form will be important. The ever-improving Jitesh Sharma and all-rounder Liam Livingstone produced some sensational hitting to get them to good scores.

In the bowling attack, Arshdeep Singh has been their key bowler but he along with Nathan Ellis and Sam Curran have leaked runs off late. The absence of a quality off-spinner has hurt their cause.

Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar has lacked consistency, while Liam Livingstone too just has two wickets to show in five games. Left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar too has taken just 5 wickets in 10 games but he had done well, taking a wicket for four runs against KKR but he was given just one over.

Match Starts at 7:30 pm IST.

## If India Doesn't Come To Pakistan, We'll Not Go To India For WC: PCB Chief Najam Sethi

Press Trust of India

**PROVO:** Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Najam Sethi on Friday made it clear that Pakistan will travel to India for the ODI World Cup only if the Rohit Sharma-led team is allowed to play the upcoming Asia Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy in his country.

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) recently rejected the "hybrid model", which the former journalist feels is the only feasible solution until India and Pakistan start playing each other in their respective nations.

Sethi also said that if India comes to Pakistan, their national team will have no issues playing in any Indian city, including Ahmedabad.

Excerpts from an exclusive interview with the PTI:

**Q: What is the status of Asia Cup and what is ACC's reaction to your proposed Hybrid Model?**

A: In the current scenario, we have made it clear that let's play four matches in Pakistan and we will play the rest of the games at neutral venue which we can mutually agree upon. The Asian Cricket Council can take two decisions. Either they can say 'Okay, let's go ahead and issue the schedule' according to my proposal or they can say 'No, we want to play all the matches at neutral venue'.

If they take the first position, everything will be sorted out and we will get cracking. If they take the second position, then I am afraid we won't participate in Asia Cup. That is the current position. We are waiting for response from Mr Jay Shah and other colleagues.

**Q: Does it make sense for Pakistan to stay in ACC if they don't play Asia Cup?**

A: That is for Asian Cricket Council to consider. The next



turn for Asian Cricket Council presidency belongs to PCB. That's our turn. So we are very keen to stay in Asian Cricket Council. Let me go beyond that. There can't be any ACC without Pakistan. The two most important members who bring revenue to ACC are India and Pakistan. It's their matches that bring 80 percent of the broadcast rights. If Pakistan doesn't play Asia Cup, then the broadcaster, that is Star, is going to have problems.

The 45 or 46 million dollars that are supposed to come for the series (Asia Cup) is mostly going to come from these matches and the way Asia Cup is structured, Pakistan and India play two matches minimum and if they qualify for final, there is a third match.

That's why India and Pakistan are both critical to the cup and to the council. Therefore it must be mentioned that in Bahrain at last ACC meeting, I had presented the hybrid model to save the Asia Cup as India had refused to play in Pakistan, which is the host country, that's where the problem arose. I had said, one solution is I will find neutral venue for India games.

The BCB president had then said, option of Pakistan not playing Asia Cup is ruled out. If India comes to Pakistan, the crowds will be hospitable but if India doesn't come and gives no rational reason for not coming to Pakistan, when the whole world is coming to Pakistan, then this is the solution I have in mind. We will play India at a neutral venue but rest of the countries must come and play their matches in Pakistan.

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