

### 3 Militants Held After LoC Firefight: Army

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** The Army on Wednesday foiled an infiltration attempt with the arrest of three militants along with a huge consignment of arms and narcotics along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A defence spokesman said the militants, who were also in possession of a 10 kg powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED), were arrested after an exchange of fire near the border fence when they were attempting to sneak into this side. An Army personnel and one of the militants were injured in the firing.

"In a joint operation by Army along with police, likely three-four militants were intercepted on LoC in Poonch sector while attempting to cross the fence on the night of May 30 and 31, taking advantage of bad weather and heavy rains," Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said in a statement.

After tracking the movement at about 1.30 am, the spokesperson said an Army ambush, on challenging them, was fired upon and in the retaliatory firefight some militants have been hit.

"The area is cordoned and search operation is in progress. Blood trails have been found. Three militants with some weapons, war-like stores including one IED and **More on P10**

## Centre Okays 2 Lakh Houses To J&K Under PMAY Scheme

LG Sinha Thanks PM, Union Minister For Fulfilling Dreams Of Lakhs Of Families



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Giriraj Singh for allotment of additional 1,99,550 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna-Gramin (PMAY-G) for Jammu and Kashmir.

"Extremely grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji & Union Minister @MoRD\_Gol, Hon'ble Shri @girirajsinghji Ji for allotting PMAY(G) target of additional

1,99,550 houses in favour of J&K UT, which will be a momentous step towards achieving the objective of Housing for All," Sinha said in a Tweet.

The LG's reaction came after the Union Ministry of Rural Development allotted nearly 2 lakh houses under PMAY-G to J&K to saturate the AwaasPlus permanent Waiting List during the year 2023-24.

The newly targeted houses shall be sanctioned by the Rural Development Department by 30 June, 2023. The massive allocation for J&K, under flagship scheme, is also the highest

across all UTs in India.

Sinha expressed gratitude to PM Modi and RDD Minister Giriraj Singh for giving top priority to the Union Territory of J&K and fulfilling the dreams of lakhs of families.

The Lt Governor further said that the UT government is committed to fulfill the promises for the welfare of the underprivileged and the dreams of poor families to have their own houses.

"The massive allocation under PMAY (G) will ensure rapid development of rural J&K," he added. Overall scheme covers 3.85 lakhs **More on P10**

### Govt Committed To Empower Citizens Of J&K: LG

Directs DCs To Ensure Early Disposal Of Grievances, Non-Discretionary Approach Towards Decision-Making

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Reiterating his government's commitment to empower the citizens and making the administrative setup more accountable and responsive, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Wednesday that active participation of all sections of society in socio-economic development and commitment towards the people's well-being is top priority of the administration.

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with citizens during the "LG's Mulaqaat- Live Public Grievance Hearing", at the Civil Secretariat here

on Wednesday.

He addressed the grievances filed on JKIGRAMS and directed the Senior officers and DCs to ensure time-bound delivery of key public services such as health, education & social welfare.

"Administrative machinery in J&K has been made more responsive and efficient in meeting the needs of the masses. Number of grievances registered on JKIGRAMS and the overwhelming percentage of redressal is a sign of responsive administration," Sinha said.

He directed the administration to ensure early disposal of **More on P10**

### NIA Raids 3 Locations In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out searches at three locations in Kashmir in connection with its ongoing crackdown on the newly floated militant outfits, an official said.

The daylong raids and searches were conducted in Srinagar and Budgam districts, during which incriminating literature and several digital devices were seized, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The spokesperson said the raids were conducted at the residential premises of sympathisers and cadres, hybrid militants and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) linked to newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of proscribed Pakistan-backed militant outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr and Al-Qaeda.

The searches were part of the ongoing investigations into the activities of the recently formed terrorist groups including The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers and People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), the spokesperson said.

A total of 51 **More on P10**

### BJP Leader Booked For Thrashing Youth, Harassment

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** Police on Wednesday filed an FIR against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and district development council (DDC) Srinagar member Aijaz Hussain Rather for allegedly assaulting a youth, besides harassing his family in Balhama area on the outskirts of Srinagar city.

The case against Rather, Member of Haj Committee of India, was registered a day after a family from Balhama assembled at Srinagar's Press Enclave and staged a protest against alleged highhandedness by the DDC member.

Rather, the former National vice president of the party's youth wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) has been accused by the family of assaulting a male member and harassing others. He has also

been accused of misusing his personal security guards in "unleashing a reign of terror" in Balhama and its adjoining areas.

The video of the family's protest at Press Enclave on late Tuesday night went viral on micro-blogging sites like Facebook and Twitter evoking sharp criticism from the netizens.

"On the basis of complaint lodged by Nazim Hussain Bhat & Imdad Ali Mir, FIR no 51/2023 u/s 323.341 of IPC dated 30.05.2023 registered in Panthachowk PS against DDC member Aijaz Hussain Rather on offences of wrongful restraint & voluntarily causing hurt," Srinagar police posted on its official Twitter handle.

Srinagar Mayor, Junaaid Azim Mattu, had alleged Rather had assaulted a civilian from Balhama area of the city.

"A reign of **More on P10**

### Relentless Rains Lash Kashmir; Met Office Forecasts More



A boatman covers himself with a polythene made jacket during heavy rainfall around Srinagar's Dal Lake on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Rain lashed Kashmir on Tuesday, resulting in a drop in the temperature, even as the meteorological department has forecast wet weather over the next two days in the Valley, officials said on Wednesday.

Kashmir over the past few days experienced active western disturbance which brought light to moderate rain in most of the places and snowfall in the higher reaches in some areas, they said.

Thunder, lightning and hailstorm accompanied by dusty winds also occurred at some places, they added.

Deputy director, MeT, Mukhtair Ahmad, said the weather is likely to remain cloudy with the possibility of fairly widespread rainfall over the next two days.

There are chances of light snowfall in the higher reaches at some places, he added. Hailstorms, thunder-lightning and gusty winds may also happen, Ahmad said. **More on P10**

**THE WEATHER IS LIKELY TO REMAIN CLOUDY** with the possibility of fairly widespread rainfall over the next two days. There are chances of light snowfall in the higher reaches at some places.

### 200 Vehicles Stranded On Banihal Highway

The Jammu-Srinagar national highway and Mughal road were shut for traffic on Wednesday following landslides and mudslides triggered by heavy rains in Ramban and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Over 200 vehicles have been stranded at various stretches of the highway, they said. The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with **More on P10**

### Man Handed 10 Years' Jail For Raping Minor Girl

M Ahmad

**Srinagar:** A court here on Wednesday sentenced a man to ten years rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor girl in Soura area of Srinagar in 2012.

Taking into account aggravating circumstances, the Court of 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Srinagar, Renu Dogra Gupta, also imposed fine of Rs 25,000 to the convict, Irshad Ahmad of Malik of Ahlan Gadwak Kokernag, at present Anchar Soura, for the commission of the offence under section 376 RPC.

"In case of default in payment of fine, the accused shall further undergo simple imprisonment for a period of 6 months," the court said, and

ordered him to be lodged in Central Jail Srinagar to serve the sentence. However, the court said, the custody undergone by the convict during investigation, inquiry and trial of the case, shall be set off against the sentence of imprisonment.

Earlier, Additional Public Prosecutor Farooq Ahmad Malik sought punishment of life imprisonment, "keeping in view his brutal act."

He said that the minor girl of less than 14 years was raped by the convict, resulting into her pregnancy without showing any kind of humanity or without any kind of mercy towards her. He contended that the minor girl was gagged by the convict and threatened against disclosing **More on P10**

### Courts Must Not Use 'Magnifying Glass' While Scanning Tenders: HC

M Ahmad

**Srinagar:** Courts must not use a "magnifying glass" while scanning the tenders and make every small mistake appear like a "big blunder", the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said the writ courts must refrain from interfering in contractual matters involving technical issues that lie outside the domain of Courts.

"...Courts being a guardian of fundamental rights are duty bound to interfere when there is a clear-cut case of

arbitrariness or mala fides or bias or irrationality being perpetuated," the court said, adding, "However, especially in case involving tenders, Courts must recognise their limited technical expertise and

must not use a magnifying glass while scanning the tenders and make every small mistake appear like a big blunder." Therefore, in matters concerning contracts, the courts must give "fair play in the joints to the government", it said.

"Another aspect which must be borne in mind before judicial interference is done in matters **More on P10**

### PM Grieved Over Jammu Bus Accident

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday expressed grief over the loss of lives due to the bus accident in Jammu and Kashmir. The PM has announced an ex-gratia from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the victims. The Prime Minister's office tweeted; "Expressing grief on the bus accident in Jammu and Kashmir, PM @narendramodi has announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF for the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000."

### Chairperson J&K Haj Committee Calls On LG

Safina Baig, Chairperson J&K Haj Committee along with members of J&K Haj Committee on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, here. Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, and Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, also attended the meeting, an official spokesperson said. He said that the Chairperson and members of the Haj Committee discussed the arrangements put in place for the Haj pilgrims of Jammu Kashmir. **More on P10**

### Timing In Srinagar Schools Changed

The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) on Wednesday ordered change in the school timing within the municipality limits of Srinagar from June-01. DSEK in a communique has said, "Consequent upon the approval conveyed by the Administrative Department, all government and private recognized schools within the municipal limits of Srinagar city shall observe school timings from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM from June-01."

### Shafaat Yehya Is Nodal Officer For PMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Wednesday appointed Shafaat Yehya, Joint Director (Budgets) as nodal officer for the project monitoring unit (PMU) in the Finance department. According to an order, Shafaat Yehya has been nominated as nodal officer of the PMU. The administrative council headed by LG Manoj Sinha had last month approved creation of the PMU for maintenance, up-gradation and modifications of IT enabled systems being **More on P10**

### Man Slips Into Ganderbal Canal, Dies

An elderly person died after he slipped into the canal in this central Kashmir district on Wednesday. Bashir Ahmad Wani was crossing a temporary bridge and slipped into the Power House Canal, an official said. He said the man was on his way back home when he fell into the canal. Soon after the incident, police reached the spot and took cognizance of the incident. Meanwhile, the body was handed over to the family for last rites, the official said, adding **More on P10**

### Teen Girl Crushed To Death

A teenage girl on Wednesday was killed in a hit-and-run accident in Pattan town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. 19-year-old Insha Jan of Palhalan village was mowed down by an unknown vehicle near TCP Palhalan on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway, reports said. The girl succumbed to her injuries while being shifted to Trauma Hospital Pattan. Meanwhile, Police have registered a case and started a manhunt to nab the driver.

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# Eating junk food linked with reduced deep sleep quality: Study

**N**EW DELHI: Consuming an unhealthy diet is associated with a lower quality of deep sleep, according to a small-scale study.

Deep sleep, the third stage of sleep, repairs and restores necessary functions such as memory, muscle growth, and immunity.

Researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden analysed how junk food affects sleep. Healthy participants consumed an unhealthy as well as a healthier diet in a randomised order.

The study, recently published in the journal Obesity, shows that after eating junk food, the quality of the participants' deep sleep deteriorated, compared with those who followed the healthier diet.

"Both poor diet and poor sleep increase the risk of several public health conditions," said Jonathan Cedernaes, Associate Professor at Uppsala University.

A total of 15 healthy normal-weight young men participated in two sessions of the study. Participants were first screened for aspects such as their sleep habits, which had to be normal and within the recommended range of seven to nine hours per night.

The participants were randomly given both a healthier diet and an unhealthy diet. The two diets contained the same number of calories,



adjusted to each individual's daily requirements. Among other things, the unhealthy diet contained a higher content of sugar and saturated fat and more processed food items.

Each diet was consumed for a week, while the participants' sleep, activity and meal schedules were monitored at an individual level.

"What we saw was that the participants slept for the same amount of time when they consumed the two diets. This was the case both while they were following the diets, as well as after they had switched to another,

identical diet," said Cedernaes.

The researchers looked at slow-wave activity, a measure that can reflect how restorative deep sleep is.

"Intriguingly, we saw that deep sleep exhibited less slow-wave activity when the participants had eaten junk food, compared with consumption of healthier food," Cedernaes said.

This effect lasted into the second night, once participants switched to an identical diet. Essentially, the unhealthy diet resulted in shallower deep sleep, the scientist said. Similar changes in sleep occur with ageing and

in conditions such as insomnia, the researchers said.

It can be hypothesised, from a sleep perspective, that greater importance should potentially be attached to diet in such conditions, they added.

“

**What we saw was that the participants slept for the same amount of time when they consumed the two diets. This was the case both while they were following the diets, as well as after they had switched to another, identical diet**

## Office of the District Soil Conservation Officer, Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Anantnag/Kulgam

E-TENDER NOTICE of  
NIT No: 01 of 2023-24 Dated:- 27-5-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government / Central Government Organizations for the following work:

S.No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Amount in rupees)	Earnest Money (Amount in rupees)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Amount in rupees)	Time of Completion (Days)	Receiving / Opening Authority
1	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Khudchai Nallah Gowran Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.42/K	12.666	25300	B,C&D	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
2	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Javnard Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.97/K	18.408	36800	B&C	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
3	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Breng Raithan Nallah Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.73/K	6.503	13000	C&D	200	30	Tender Opening Authority
4	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Pathribal Guridraman Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.52/K	12.666	25300	B,C&D	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
5	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Bindoo Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.66/V	8.38	16700	C&D	200	30	Tender Opening Authority
6	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Brisnoo Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.105/K	8.81	17600	C&D	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
7	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Dragdon Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.16/L	8.81	17600	C&D	200	30	Tender Opening Authority
8	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Khalshi Nallah Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.62/V	9.03	18000	C&D	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
9	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Gogaldar Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.17/L	9.914	19800	C&D	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
10	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Check Nallah Dooru Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.18/V	33.056	66000	A&B	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
11	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Nallah Treswan Gretnal Dooru Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.46/V	14.333	28700	B,C&D	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
12	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Thanda Paja Nallah Dooru Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.1/V	22.071	44100	C&B	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
13	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Ranagkadal Garimunda Dooru Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.9/aV	9.873	19600	C&D	500	30	Tender Opening Authority
14	Laying of Crates and Gully Plugging Biological structures (Cribs) at Lessu Anantnag in Forest Compptt.No.37/bK	4.469	8900	D	200	30	Tender Opening Authority

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)  
Position of funds: Partially available  
Position of AA/TS: Accorded

Publishing Date	29.5.2023
Download Start Date	29.5.2023
Bid Submission Start Date	30.5.2023 from 11.00 A.M
Bid Submission End Date	19.6.2023 upto 2.00 P.M
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	19.6.2023 at 4.30 P.M (in the Office of District Soil and Water Conservation Officer Anantnag).

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 19.6.2023 at 4.30 P.M in the office of District Soil and Water Conservation Officer Anantnag). In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bids must be uploaded along with cost of tender document as shown against the work in the shape of Scanned copy e-challan / copy of receipt from treasury favouring Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam by crediting the requisite charges to the MH 0406 – FOREST (Revenue). Scanned copy of the earnest money / bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam shall also need to be uploaded.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per IT Act, bidders can get Digital Signature Certificate from approved vendor.
- The Bidders have to submit their financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical /hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to positively upload scanned copies of below mentioned documents for Technical Bid. Earnest Money for 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR only  
GST Registration Certificate with latest return of GSTR-3B  
Registration Card with latest renewal  
Verification certificate of Registration Card.  
e-challan / copy of receipt from treasury as cost of Tender Document.
- In case bid of the lowest bidder found un-balanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 7 Days after opening of price bids, as per following breakup:

S.No.	Percentage of un-balanced cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% and up to 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and up to 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and up to 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30% below	20%

- Security Deposit as defective liability period ( DLP ) @ 10% shall be deducted from all the works bills and deposited to MH 8443 (Public Works Deposits) which will be released just after the Defective liability period (DLP) of the work is over.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (Technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the e-NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The accepting authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The contractor shall arrange all construction materials for the above said works from genuine source accompanied by its test check report for key material and quality of materials shall have to be verified / passed by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer and Officers of the Department up to their satisfaction before start of work / its utilization.
- The serviceable material retrieved from the site of work if any shall have to be used in the fresh construction by the contractor and the unserviceable material will have to be disposed-off to an authorized dumping site for which no additional payment shall be made to the contractor.
- All other terms and conditions as per PWD Form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document shall be binding on the contractor.
- The original documents, when submitted by L-1 for the cost of tender papers/document, EMD specified in the tender notice should be same as uploaded on-line (scanned copies) other-wise the allotment will not be issued.
- In order to qualify, only L-1 bidder shall provide copies of documents as defined below:-  
i) Photocopies of Registration Card duly renewed for the financial year 2022-23.  
ii) Photocopy of GST No.  
iii) Photocopy of PAN Card.  
iv) Treasury Receipt/ e-Challan as per amount mentioned in the N.I.T pledged to Assistant Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam".

No: DSCO/ANG/KUL/E-Tender/2023-24/65-70  
**DIPK-2536/23 Dated 31-5-2023**

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District Soil & Water Conservation Officer,  
Department of Soil and Water Conservation  
Anantnag/Kulgam

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate for my wards namely Dawar Mohammad ( DOB: 14-02-2019 ) & Sibtain Ali ( DOB 21-11-221 ). If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Sherabad Khore Tehsil Singhpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Kifayat Hussain**  
F/o : Dawar Mohammad & Sibtain Ali  
R/o Budibugh **bmj**

### From office of the Advocate Mudasir Gulzar vakil

In the case of:  
Mohammad Sidiq Chaku  
S/o Abdul Ahad Chaku  
R/O Rainawari at persent Naseem Bagh srinagar  
(Caveator)  
V/S  
(Non caveator)  
In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C  
The caveators has reasons to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before a Court of Law on the ground of distorted facts/ misrepresentation or cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at his back/exparte against the caveator and in such eventuality the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order. Hence this caveat.  
nj Sd/- Advocate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Particulars in my Domicile Certificate has been wrongly written as Mahmood Banu D/o Gh Qadir Naikoo while my correct particular s are Mahmooda Banu W/o Gh Nabi Malik which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Concerned Tehsildar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Mahmooda Banu  
W/o Gh Nabi Malik  
R/o Pinjoora Shopian **fko**

### Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS AT SRINAGAR

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC  
CNR: JKSG03-016446-2023 Date of filing 31.04.2023

Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh S/o Sona Ullah Sheikh R/o Gouripora  
Sanat Nagar, Srinagar Applicant  
Versus  
Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar Non-Applciant  
WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Arwaa Binti Ishfaq D/o Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh R/o Gouripora Sanat Nagar, Srinagar has born on 15-10-2021 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the birth particulars of Arwaa Binti Ishfaq in the concerned register of births and deaths.  
Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.  
Dated, this 31th day of May 2023.  
Sd/-

### اثر نیت پھیلان

عنوان:- درخواست غلام احمد ولد عبدالستار سائیکہ موضع پھیلان نسبت اجرائی نیلگیر تھسڈیلکٹ  
بچن وارخان جائزہ پھیلو تھی والد

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فریدہ نیگم 30 سال گھریلو کام دختر موتانی  
سیدہ نیگم 35 سال گھریلو کام دختر موتانی

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## Curtailment In Timing, Leads To Loss Of 71 School Hours In Srinagar Since March

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Students in Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K UT have suffered loss of 71 school hours due to curtailment in timings during the past three months.

Following the reopening of schools after winter vacations in February, the School Education Department announced school timing across Kashmir division from March-01 wherein it has shortened one hour for those institutions falling within the municipality limits of Srinagar.

From March 01 to May 31, the School timing within the limits of Srinagar Municipal Corporation was

9:00 am to 2:00 pm, a departure from normal school timing in the city. The normal school timing in the city is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The shortening of school timing meant a loss of one hour daily for thousands of children studying in private as well as government institutions in the city.

There were a total 71 working days from March 01 to May 31. This means students in Srinagar suffered an academic loss of 71 hours due to revision of school timing on Feb 28.

Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Alok Kumar said the department would look into the matter. "We are assessing it," he said.

## On Anti-Tobacco Day, DLSA Srinagar Conducts Door to Door Campaign

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the eve of Anti-Tobacco Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar today conducted a door to door campaign aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of Tobacco consumption and educating citizens about the health hazards of smoking and other forms of Tobacco use.

The door to door campaign was conducted by PLV's of DLSA Srinagar under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Srinagar, Jawad Ahmad.

The Chairman DLSA emphasized the need for more awareness campaigns

to combat the growing problem of Tobacco consumption in the society. He further stated that Tobacco consumption is a serious health hazard that needs to be addressed at all levels.

With these campaigns we are trying to reach out to as many people as possible with the message of quitting Tobacco and leading a healthy lifestyle, he added.

Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Jahangir Bakshi expressed his hope that these small though effective initiatives will serve as a wakeup call for all Tobacco users to quit Tobacco and join hands with us against the use of Tobacco by working together.

## JKTPO Organized ONDC Onboarding Drive In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce and under the supervision of Managing Director JKTPO today organized a successful onboarding drive on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network at JKEDI, Pampore. This initiative, in collaboration with ONDC Seller Partner MyStore, aims to facilitate the onboarding of local

sellers, artisans, retailers, small merchants, and traders onto the ONDC platform to gain access to a vast digital marketplace.

More than 75 local entrepreneurs participated in the drive and 30 were registered on-spot from various sectors viz Handloom & Handicrafts, Agro and Food, manufacturing sector, etc.

JKTPO is continuously organizing such activities including onboarding on e-commerce platforms to enable local entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products across the world.



Two persons taking cover under a plastic sheet walking along Hari Singh High Street in Srinagar amid intermittent rainfall on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Batamalloo Murder Case Solved, Accused Arrested: SP South

Police To Press For Accused To Be Tried As Adult Under JJ Act

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday arrested a juvenile in connection with the murder of a 45-years-old man, whose body was found lying in a pool of blood from a deserted lane in Batamalloo area of Srinagar last evening.

Victim, identified as Ajaz Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Rasool Bhat of Muminabad Batamalloo was stabbed to death outside his residence on Tuesday, police said.

A formal case FIR No 67/23 was registered at Batamalloo police station under section 302 IPC in this regard and investigation was set into motion. The father of a 13 years old girl, according to locals, was a wallpaper installer.

Srinagar police solved the blind murder case within 12 hours and arrested a juvenile, in connection with the murder, which is believed to be the outcome of personal animosity.

A police spokesman in a tweet said taking the gravity of the crime into consideration, a petition will be filed in the court under section 15 of the Juvenile Justice Act to treat the accused as an adult.

"One Juvenile (Name withheld) arrested for murder in broad daylight in Batamallo yesterday. He was having a romantic interest with the daughter of the victim. As he is above 16 Yrs & offence is heinous, a petition will be filed in the Hon'ble court to treat him as adult as per sec 15 of JJ act 2015,"police said in a tweet.

Superintendent of Police (SP) South Srinagar, Gaurav Sikarwar while addressing media, said the accused involved in the

commission of crime has been arrested, while a knife which was used to carry out the murder has also been recovered.

He said after strenuous efforts, police finally zeroed in on the main accused, who he said confessed to his crime. SP South said the murder took place after

scene, found a pool of blood. Several suspects were rounded-up by the police for questioning after obtaining CCTV footage and bringing other technical methods into use," he added.

Sikarwar said questioning of suspects led to the identification of the main accused, who



The accused had a motive to seek revenge from the deceased who was opposing his affairs with his daughter. The accused had purchased a knife from a local market five months ago and was waiting for the right moment to carry out the offense

the accused entered into heated arguments with the deceased for objecting to his affairs.

SP said the accused in a fit of rage stabbed Bhat with a sharp-edged weapon, resulting in his on the spot death. The accused, SP said, stabbed the deceased multiple times in his neck before fleeing from the scene.

"Investigation was started as soon as the case FIR No 67/2023 under section 302 IPC was registered at police station Batamaloo. The team investigating the incident upon visiting the crime

confessed to his crime, revealing that the opposition by the deceased to his affairs forced him to attack and kill the victim.

"The accused had a motive to seek revenge from the deceased who was opposing his affairs with his daughter. The accused had purchased a knife from a local market five months ago and was waiting for the right moment to carry out the offense," SP South said, adding the accused, after finding the deceased alone, seized an opportunity to take revenge.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- 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 )

<div><div><div>HIJRI</div><div>CALENDAR</div><div>11 Zil-Qadah</div><div>1444</div></div></div>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3:39
	ZUHR	12:28
	ASR	5:27
	Magrib	7:40
ISHA	9:19	

## This Day In History

- 1922- Over 50,000 Fascists gather for a meeting in Bologna where Mussolini warns that he will lead a full-scale revolt against a government favoring 'anti-Fascist reaction'
- 1927- Peace Bridge between US & Canada opens
- 1941- British troops occupy Baghdad, Iraq
- 1943- Germany shoots down a civilian flight from Lisbon to London, all die
- 1947- Photosensitive glass developed
- 1948- Israel & Arabs agree to a cease fire
- 1949- 1st magazine on microfilm offered to subscribers (Newsweek)
- 1949-Microfilm copies of "Newsweek" magazine 1st offered
- 1970- Soyuz 9 launched into Earth orbit for 18 days
- 1972 - Iraq nationalizes Iraq Petroleum Company's (IPC) concession owned by British Petroleum,
- 1974 - Arab oil ministers decide to end most restrictions on exports of oil to the United States but continue embargo against the Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, and Rhodesia
- 1976 - Great Britain and Iceland end the "cod war"
- 1978 - The first international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty are filed
- 1993 Connie Chung joins Dan Rather as anchors of CBS Evening News
- 1993 - Guatemala president Jorge Serrano overthrown by army
- 1998 - European Central Bank is founded in Brussels to define and execute the European Union's monetary policy
- 2000 - The Patent Law Treaty (PLT) is signed.
- 2009 - Air France Flight 447 crashes into the Atlantic

## From KO Archives

## All Project Info To Go Public From Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To bring transparency in the execution of development, schemes, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has made it mandatory for all the departments to display information about works conspicuously from Friday.

The departments have been asked to display at prominent places at district, tehsil and block levels soon on painted walls or erected boards the detailed information indicating the name of the scheme, executing agency, estimated cost and date of commencement and completion of schemes for information of the general public.

Speaking to the district, tehsil and block level officers of Ladakh at two separate meetings at Leh and Kargil Thursday, Chief Minister said that while the monitoring of physical and financial progress of works by the officers is essential, the public based mechanism is also vital to make the monitoring fool-proof.


Azad said that government functionaries hold the key to progress, as such, ought to render service to the best of their capacity. "Not only public representatives but government functionaries are equally answerable to people", he said and called for coordinated approach in mitigating the difficulties of Public.

Azad said that the liberal funding from the centre has enabled us to expand the orbit of progress and development in the state. "Presently, massive infrastructure development in education, health, drinking water supply, irrigation, power, road communication and other sectors is in full swing. History has provided us golden opportunity to develop. We have to take best advantage and march towards the goal of prosperity", he added.

Over Rs. 15000 crore worth of development projects especially in power development, road connectivity, public health engineering, education and other sectors have been formulated with the central funding targeted to be completed in next three years, Chief Minister said, adding that administration should be fully pre-pared to shoulder this responsibility.

In order to sensitize the administration and gear it up to be able to spend huge amounts judiciously and complete projects in fixed timeframe, fast track personal interactive meetings with the officers at various levels in the districts have been held, Azad said.

(Kashmir Observer, 01 June, 2007)



J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department (IAPMD)  
Zonal Office Central, Srinagar  
M A Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
T : +91 (0)194 248 2658 ; F : +91 (0)194 245 2659  
E : iapmd.kmr@jkbankmail.com

**Possession Notice**  
Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Basharat Ahmad Bhat, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 30.03.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely M/S Shah Gani Arts Emporium (Prop. Mohammad Tahir Sofi) and Ghulam Nabi Sofi to repay an amount of Rs.1,24,55,592.30 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Four Lacs Fifty Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two and Thirty Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 30-03-2022 in the accounts of the Borrowers, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said Borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said Borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgaged properties described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

The said Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said properties in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said properties will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Ltd. for the amount in aggregating to Rs.1,26,44,280.06 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Six Lacs Forty Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty and paise Six Only Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.05.2023.

The Borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the said Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.


Dated: 30.05.2023  
Place: Srinagar

(Mohammad Yahya Banday)  
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1018/23

dated: 31-05-2023



J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department (IAPMD)  
Zonal Office Central, Srinagar  
M A Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
T : +91 (0)194 248 2658 ; F : +91 (0)194 245 2659  
E : iapmd.kmr@jkbankmail.com

**Possession Notice**  
Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Asif Raoul Kanue as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited of Security under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 30.08.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/s Dream Land Builders (Sole Proprietorship concern) Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir S/o Lal Mohammad Mir R/o Divar Lolab A/P Gallibabad Shalteng Srinagar, Kashmir to repay an amount of Rs.4,85,54,339.26/- (Rupees Four Crore Eighty Five Lac Fifty Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine & Paise Twenty Six Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.07.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with of the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized in officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May of the year 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs.5,28,75,781.52/- (Rupees Five Crore Twenty Eight Lacs Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One & Paise Fifty Two Only) together with future interest thereon from 31.05.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Dated: 30.05.2023  
Place: Srinagar

(Mohammad Yahya Banday)  
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1017/23

dated: 31-05-2023



## 40 Medical Colleges Lose Recognition, 100 More Face Similar Action: Sources

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Around 40 medical colleges across the country have lost recognition over the past two months allegedly for not following standards set by the National Medical Commission (NMC), official sources said.

About 100 more medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Assam, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry and West Bengal may also face similar action, they said on Tuesday.

The colleges were not found to be complying with the set norms and several lapses related to CCTV cameras, Aadhaar-linked biometric attendance procedures and faculty rolls were found during inspections carried out by the Commission, an official source said.

According to government data, the number of medical colleges has increased significantly since 2014. There is an increase of 69 per cent in the medical colleges from 387 before 2014 to 654 as of now, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar had told the Rajya Sabha in February.

Further, there is an increase of 94 per cent in MBBS seats from 51,348 before 2014 to 99,763 as of now and an increase of 107 per cent in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 64,559 as of now.

To increase the number of doctors in the country, the



government has increased the number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats, she had said.

The measures and steps taken by the government to increase the number of medical seats in the country include a centrally-sponsored scheme for establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals, under which 94 new medical colleges are already functional out of 157 approved.

Reacting to the derecognition of medical colleges, experts from the medical field said the NMC is largely relying on the Aadhaar-enabled biometric attendance system for which it considers only the faculty which are on duty during daytime from 8 am to 2 pm.

"But the working hours of doctors are not fixed. They have to work in emergency and in night shifts also. So the NMC's rigidity with the working hours has created this issue. Such micro-management of medical colleges is not practical and the NMC needs to be flexible to such issues," an expert said.

## 5 Palestinian Fighters Killed In Lebanon Blast Blamed On Israel



AGENCIES

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC) has blamed Israel for the killing of five of its members in a blast in eastern Lebanon, near the Syrian border.

Anwar Raja, a PFLP-GC official, said an Israeli strike on Wednesday hit positions in the Lebanese town of Qusaya. He said 10 people were wounded, of which two were in critical condition.

However, unnamed Israeli sources told news agencies that Israel was not involved in the attack. No official comment came from Israel, nor from the Lebanese army or the Iran-backed Hezbollah group.

There were conflicting reports from Lebanese and Palestinian sources that the blast was a result of an old rocket going off in an arms depot or mines exploding while they were being moved.

Another PFLP-GC official, Lebanon-based Abu Wael Issam,

said his group will retaliate "at the suitable time". He added the strike would not deter his group from "escalating the fight against the Israeli enemy".

The group has positions along the Lebanon-Syria border as well as a military presence in both countries. It has carried out attacks against Israel in the past.

It has been rare for Israel to carry out air strikes on Lebanon in recent years. However, Israel launched raids in southern Lebanon in April, a day after dozens rockets were fired at Israel, wounding two Syrian workers and causing some property damage.

The Israeli military said at the time it targeted installations of Hamas in southern Lebanon.

The PFLP-GC is a left-wing group that broke off from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1968 and has backed the Syrian government. Its forces have fought alongside government troops in the war in Syria.

## UAE Withdraws From US-Led Maritime Coalition

AGENCIES

The United Arab Emirates has withdrawn from a United States-led maritime coalition after an extensive evaluation of its security needs, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs says.

"As a result of our ongoing evaluation of effective security cooperation with all partners, two months ago, the UAE withdrew its participation in the Combined Maritime Forces," the ministry said on Wednesday in a statement quoted by state news agency WAM.

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"As a result of our ongoing evaluation of effective security cooperation with all partners, two months ago, the UAE withdrew its participation in the Combined Maritime Forces," the ministry said on Wednesday in a statement quoted by state news agency WAM.

**IRANIAN THREAT**  
Earlier in May, the US said it would bolster its "defensive posture" in the Gulf as Washington accused Tehran of carrying out increased attacks on commercial shipping.

Iran seized two international oil tankers in late April and early May in the Strait of Hormuz, including the Niowi, which had been travelling



from Dubai towards the UAE port of Fujairah.

Iranian officials said one of the tankers collided with an Iranian vessel and tried to flee while the other was taken into Iranian territorial waters by judicial order following a legal complaint.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the Emirati decision to withdraw came in frustration at the perceived US failure to respond to Iranian threats.

Citing US and Gulf officials, the US newspaper reported the UAE was disappointed and had demanded the US take stronger action to deter Iran after these recent incidents.

But the UAE denied in its statement that the newspaper's report was accurate, saying it was a "mischaracterisation" of conversations between the two countries.

But Kristian Ulrichsen, fellow for the Middle East at Rice University's Baker Institute for

Public Policy, told Al Jazeera that the UAE's move was a sign of Abu Dhabi's disappointment with Washington.

"The UAE withdrawal would appear to be consistent with the frustration expressed in Abu Dhabi at the perceived lack of willingness of the US to actively protect its partners and re-establish credible deterrence in the Gulf, however unfair that might be in reality," he told Al Jazeera.

Andreas Krieg, an associate professor at the Defence Studies Department of King's College London, said UAE-US relations were going through "a bit of a rough patch" with Abu Dhabi seeing the US as "consistently" failing to live up to its role as a security guarantor in the region.

Krieg said this perception has pushed regional players to diversify their security partnerships and fill voids themselves where they can, he told Al Jazeera.

**IRANIAN OFFICIALS SAID ONE** of the tankers collided with an Iranian vessel and tried to flee while the other was taken into Iranian territorial waters by judicial order following a legal complaint.

## Wrestlers Return To Their Homes In Haryana, Did Not Speak In Haridwar Due To 'Silence Vow'

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The "shell-shocked" protesting wrestlers, except Sakshi Malik, have returned to their homes in Haryana, and did not speak with the waiting media in Haridwar due to a silence vow, a member of the protest group said on Wednesday.

The grapplers had resumed their agitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on April 23 at Jantar Mantar and stayed there till May 28, the day they were detained by the Delhi Police during their march towards the new Parliament building.

Immediately after their detention, the police cleared the protest site and made it clear that wrestlers will not be allowed back to the Jantar Mantar.

The police action against the wrestlers drew criticism



from different quarters.

On Tuesday, they threatened to immerse their medals into the holy river Ganga but the farmer leaders stopped them from taking the extreme step.

"They were crying since morning. It is not easy to throw away even a medal won at district level and they were ready to throw away those big international medals. They were shell-shocked, not a word was coming out of their mouths," said a member of the protesting group.

"They had taken a silence vow for Tuesday and that's why they did not speak with anyone in Haridwar. All have returned to their respective homes but Sakshi is still in Delhi," he added.

While the wrestlers did not address the media, they were seen having discussions among themselves, whispering in each other's ears.

The mood was sombre when the wrestlers arrived at the famous Har ki Pauri with their medals as they wept and were being consoled by their family members.

## NEWS MAKERS

### "Will Hang Myself Even If A Single Charge Proven": Wrestling Body Chief

Press Trust of India

**BARABANKI:** Outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing sexual harassment charges levelled by female wrestlers,

on Wednesday said he will hang himself even if a single allegation is proved against him.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP also said all wrestlers are like his children and he will not blame them as his blood and sweat have also gone into their success.

"I am once again saying that if even if a single allegation is proved against me, I will hang myself," Singh said while addressing a programme at the Mahadeva auditorium in the Ramnagar area here.

"It has been four months since they (wrestlers) want me to be hanged, but the government is not hanging me. So they were going to

immerse their medals in the Ganga. Brij Bhushan will not be hanged by throwing medals in the Ganga. If you have proof, give it to the court and if the court hangs me, I will accept it," the member of Parliament from Kaiserganj said.

He said he will not blame the wrestlers as his blood and sweat have also gone into their success.

"All the players are like my children. Until a few days ago, they used to call me the god of wrestling. When I took over as the wrestling federation chief, India was ranked 20th in the world. Today, after my hard work, India's name is included among the five best wrestling teams in the world."

"I have lived wrestling day and night. Five of the seven Olympic medals (in wrestling) came to India during my tenure. The allegations levelled against me are baseless," the outgoing WFI chief said.



### IIT Bombay Student's Death: Chargesheet Mentions Grades, Depression

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** A chargesheet filed by Mumbai police in connection with the alleged suicide of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) student Darshan Solanki stated that he had sought help from someone for improving his academic performance and also mentioned depression.

The special investigation team of police on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against Arman Khatri, a fellow student, who had allegedly threatened Solanki over a religious comment. Khatri, arrested for allegedly abetting suicide, is currently out on bail.

Solanki, a first-year student of B Tech (Chemical) course hailing from Ahmedabad, allegedly jumped to death from the seventh floor of a hostel building on IITB campus in suburban Powai on February 12, 2023, a day after the semester exams ended.

Three weeks later, the SIT found a one-line note from Solanki's room saying "Arman has killed me".

Police had said earlier that Khatri allegedly threatened to kill Darshan



with a paper cutter after the latter had spoken offensively about religion.

The investigators recorded the statements of 55 witnesses including students and professors, the chargesheet said. Most of the student witnesses lived on the same floor of the hostel as Solanki.

Referring to certain phone chats between Solanki and Khatri, police said it was clear that Darshan was apologizing for the alleged communal remark he had made.

Some witnesses spoke about Darshan shivering when Arman threatened him and others trying to comfort him, the chargesheet said.

Solanki had told some witnesses that Khatri was influential and would not spare him, the chargesheet claimed.

### Lucknow Family Booked For Demanding Rs 30 Crore As Dowry

IANs

**LUCKNOW:** The daughter of a prominent businessman in Lucknow has lodged a complaint with the police that her husband, mother-in-law and brother-in-law had been torturing her and demanding a dowry of Rs 30 crore.

DCP Central Zone, Aparna Rajat Kaushik, said an FIR had been registered on the complaint of the victim.

The victim has alleged that she was being harassed for more dowry even though her parents gave costly gifts and organised a grand wedding in 2010.

"They used to taunt me saying it was of no use marrying into such a prominent family as they got only simple dowry," she alleged and added that she was beaten up for opposing them.

The victim said she was forced to ask her maternal uncle to arrange a contract for her husband and she did it to save her marriage.

"My maternal uncle arranged a contract for my husband who earned



Rs 4 crore though the business. But they did not stop beating me. One day my mother-in-law slapped me and dragged me by my hair while my husband pushed me down on the ground," the victim alleged.

The police said the matter is being investigated.



## DAK Seeks Blanket Ban On Tobacco Products In Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** On world no tobacco day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday has sought blanket ban on all tobacco products in Kashmir.

"Ban on tobacco products would prevent cancer that has reached to epidemic proportions in the valley," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said according to union health ministry figures, Jammu and Kashmir has reported an estimated 51,577 cancer cases in last four years with lung cancer most prominent due to high rates of smoking.

"Research has shown that smoking is linked to about 90 percent of lung cancer cases," he said adding that after lung cancer, foodpipe, stomach and colon are the other types of cancer that have been found to have high prevalence in Kashmir and smoking is a big factor.

The DAK President said not only does smoking cause cancer, but it also increases the

risk of dying from heart attack and stroke, the two leading causes of death and disability in the valley.

"Smoking is a gateway for drug abuse which has reached to unprecedented levels in Kashmir," he added.

Dr Nisar said JK is emerging as the smoking capital of North India as JK's cigarette consumption is almost double the



According to Global Tobacco Survey 20.8 percent of JK people smoke, against the national average of 10.7 percent.

"The prime reason for increased use of tobacco in Kashmir is its availability," he said adding that "cigarettes and other tobacco products are freely available in Kashmir and can be purchased by anyone, whatever the age."

## Police Raid Premises Of Drug Peddlers In Samba, Recover Rs 3L



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Police on Wednesday conducted raids on the premises of suspected drug peddlers at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district and recovered around Rs 3 lakh cash, officials said.

Nine mobile phones were also recovered from a hideout of a heroin supplier at infamous 'Chitta' hotspot in Balol Khad in the Bari Brahmana area, they said.

Police teams conducted raids at suspected hideouts of heroin suppliers in the presence of the executive magistrate. During the course of searches, police detected a pit and found Rs 3 lakh there, the officials said.

Three heroin suppliers, including two women, were booked in this connection, they said.

As many as 42 narco-suppliers, including five women, have been arrested in the past four months here, the officials said.

## J&K To Surrender 600 Works Of School Education Dept

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir government is surrendering more than 600 works approved under different schemes in the school education sector.

Official documents reveal that government of J&K has proposed to surrender more than 600 civil works approved by the Government of India in 2018-19 and 2019-20, but couldn't be taken up for execution due to a host of reasons.

"J&K UT is also proposing to surrender more than 600 different types of not taken up works of 2018-19 & 2019-20 during current PAB amounting to Rs 67 crore," reads minutes of the meeting of project approval Board (PAB) for the

Jammu & Kashmir under Samagra Shiksha scheme for the financial year 2023-2024.

The meeting of the project approval board (PAB) for considering the annual work plan & budget (AWP&B) under Samagra Shiksha for Jammu & Kashmir was held on May 03, 2023 under the chairpersonship of secretary (School Education & Literacy), Union Ministry of Education.

In 2021, the Centre had asked the J & K government to submit a proposal for surrendering civil works which were approved under the SSA and RMSA schemes, but couldn't be taken up for execution till 2019-20.

In the PAB meeting held this year, the J&K government submitted that about 800 civil

works including girls hostels, KGBVs, school buildings have been completed in 2022-23 and construction of about 3300 works are at different stages and shall be completed in the next six months.

"2538 works have been completed out of sanctioned works. The expenditure under the civil work component for the current year remained Rs160 crore (including spill-over works), which is quite high as compared to previous years," a record note of the PAB meeting reveals.

The Samagra Shiksha scheme was unveiled by the Centre after subsuming Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) schemes—(KNO)

## PDP Protests Against Selective Killings By Militants In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The PDP on Wednesday staged a protest here against selective killings by terrorists in Kashmir, saying such incidents highlight the alleged failure of the government to ensure safety of the minority community members.

The protest by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) activists outside their Gandhi Nagar party headquarters came two days after terrorists gunned down 27-year-old circus worker Deepu Kumar, a resident of Udhampur district, in the Janglat Mandi area of Anantnag district.

Condemning the killing of Kumar, the PDP leaders demanded Rs 25 lakh compensa-

tion and a government job to his poor family.

"Selective killings at regular intervals shows the failure of the authorities to ensure safety of the helpless people working to earn their livelihood in Kashmir," PDP additional general secretary Sukhvinder Singh said.

He said the "BJP-controlled administration" has failed on all fronts and the latest incident exposed its tall claims of normalcy in the valley.

"This is not an isolated case, selective killings of innocent people are going unabated in Kashmir and those at the helm of the affairs are claiming that situation is normal," the PDP leader said, adding targeted

killing just after the conclusion of much-touted G-20 meet is an eye opener for the administration.

"Instead of taking effective steps to ensure the safety of common citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP-controlled administration is shamelessly busy in photo sessions just to fool the people outside J-K," another party leader Rajinder Manhas said.

Demanding adequate compensation to the family of Kumar, PDP spokesperson Varinder Singh Sonu regretted that higher-ups of the administration have no time to visit the poor family of the deceased who was cremated in his home town on Tuesday.

## J&K BJP To Launch Public Campaign To Highlight Govt's Achievements

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Wednesday said it will launch month-long 'Maha Jan Samparak Abhiyan' in June across the Union Territory to highlight the achievements of the central government in the past nine years.

It said party leaders and workers will reach out to peo-

ple to draw their attention to various programmes, schemes, decisions of the BJP government under "SabKa Saath, Sab Ka Vikas, Sab Ka Vishvas" as preached by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"From June 1-30, the BJP will launch Maha Jan Samparak Abhiyan in the entire country as well as in Jammu and Kashmir. We will reach out to every

household under the campaign," J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina told reporters here.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji will address BJP workers at booth levels on June 23 in connection with the martyrdom of Shama Prasad Mukherjee," he said.

Raina said 'Yoga Divas' will be organised at all tehsils in Jammu and Kashmir on June 21.

## CS Stresses On Online Issuance Of 'Life Certificate' By June 15



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday stressed on making the issuance of 'Life Certificate' online and bringing all other eligible services under the Auto-appeal system by 15th of June.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while launching new online services of H&UDD pertaining to applying for obtaining license by Architects and Draftsmen in Municipal Corporations of Jammu/Srinagar and all the Municipalities across J&K.

On the occasion Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, IT, Commissioner, JMC; CEO, JaKeGA; Scientists from NIC besides other concerned officers were present either physically or virtually through video conferencing from Jammu.

The Chief Secretary lauded the efforts of the IT Department and local chapter of NIC for development of all these services in-house with their own expertise and resources.

He said that the performance of the Department is excellent with more to be done in the days ahead.

He advised the concerned to further expedite the auto appeal feature on the national platform of Serviceplus. He asked them to onboard at least 100 services on this portal by next week and all the eligible services under the Auto-appeal system by 15th of next month.

He also directed for all incorporating of all required improvement relating to the departmental websites by upgrading their content and utility besides making them compliant with the standards set under National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA). He asked them to improve their ratings by bringing all the services and portals at par with their guidelines so that our score reaches the optimum range of 1 within this time period.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT, PrernaPuri informed the meeting that by launching these 6 services of H&UDD today the number of online services offered by the UT reached

to 480 today. She apprised that all these services have been linked with payment and SMS gateways for ease of applicants.

She further added that soon more services would be made online as these have been identified for development and in coming weeks the number of such services is going to touch 500 mark here.

During the meeting the Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress made in development of services like online FIR registration, online billing of water connections besides other services.

He enjoined upon the officers that by offering services online and bringing them into the ambit of Auto-appeal system is not only ensuring their timely delivery but weeding out of corruption and malpractices from government offices. He observed that with the system of auto-escalation under PSGA in place both the quality and delivery of services to public would improve a lot as is reflected from the statistics of services brought under this prudent system during the past year or so.

## J&K Gets Approval For 12 More DNB Seats

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As a significant step towards strengthening the public healthcare scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, 12 more seats have been sanctioned by National Board of Examinations in Medical Science (NBEMS) under DNB for the public institutions of the Union Territory.

These seats shall be in addition to the earlier granted 270 DNB seats.

As per detailed breakup, Srinagar Hospital received approval for 2 seats in Orthopedics; GMC Rajouri for 2 seats in Paediatrics; DH Poonch for 2 seats in Surgery, DH Reasi 2 seats in General Medicine and Department of Anesthesiology GMC Baramulla given accreditation for starting DNB courses with intake of 4 PGs, 2 primary DNB and 2 Secondary DNB seats per year.

Secretary Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department, Bhupinder Kumar, congratulated the entire health and medical education department for this achievement. He expressed happiness over the fact that even far-flung facilities like DH Poonch and DH Reasi have been able to start Post Graduate Courses in these hospitals.

Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director, NHM J&K, while giving details about the development, said that implementation of DNB courses at the district level in J&K has been termed as a best practice in the Country.

Under the DNB programme in the UT, a total of 270 seats were granted to the accredited departments during session 2022 and start of 2023.

## PHDCCI Delegation Calls On LG



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, here on Wednesday.

The delegation, comprising of Alok B. Shriram, former President PHDCCI; Col Saubh Sanyal, Secretary General & CEO PHDCCI; A.P. Vicky Shaw, Chair PHDCCI-Kashmir

and Iqbal Fayaz Jan, Deputy Director PHDCCI J&K, apprised the Lt Governor on a range of issues relating to industry, trade, commerce and MSMEs in the region and lauded the Lt Governor-led UT Government for successful conduct of G20 Meeting in Srinagar.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegation assured them that all their issues and demands would be addressed on merit.

## Doda Admin Moves 439 Teachers To Rationalize Staff In Govt Schools

Observer News Service

**DODA:** Setting in motion the process of rationalization of teaching staff, District Administration Doda has identified 439 teachers across the district, whose services can have more usage at some teacher scarce government Schools.

The teachers will be transferred to schools where they are fewer in number based on the public feedback received during Block Diwas and other public outreach programmes of the administration.

The teacher-pupil ratio and availability of subject specific teachers was worked out by the department before the rationalisation of the teaching staff to provide quality education in the government schools across the district.

A special Committee headed by Additional District Development Commissioner Doda Pran Singh has put in extraordinary efforts to rationalise the staff as per the educational needs of the students in every Government School of the district.

It is pertinent to mention here that the administration has already made subject experts and best study material available on the ADHBUT Doda portal (Online Classes and Study material) for the convenience of the students. The administration is striving to make the educational standard of the students of this District at par with other parts of the country and make them able to compete and succeed in every field, said the DDC while briefing on the rationalisation process.

## District Admin Conducts Block Diwas At Gagren In Shopian

ADC Listens To Developmental, Welfare Issues & Grievances, Demands Of People



Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** In order to listen to developmental and welfare issues, and redress the grievances of people at their doorsteps, the District Administration Shopian on Wednesday held a weekly Block Diwas programme at Gagren, Shopian.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Yar Ali Khan presided over the outreach programme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of people from various spheres of life belonging to areas including Devpora, Saidpora, Reshinagri, etc.

During the programme, various issues of developmental and welfare nature were put forth by PRI members, public representatives and people for redressal.

Issues of public importance including renovation of water bodies, macadamisation/ construction of roads, better provision of electricity and water supply and various other issues were put across by people for resolution.

ADC gave a patient hearing to demands raised by people and directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt and speedy redressal of issues and demands of people. Officers present on the spot also responded to various queries and issues raised by the people.

While interacting with the people, the ADC sought feedback from people on various issues especially sanction of Animal/ Sheep husbandry units and provision of farm machinery/ equipment from agriculture/ horticulture.

He also sought feedback from people on the functioning of AWCS, pension schemes and other welfare and agro-based, employment generation schemes.

Various officers on the occasion sensitised people on benefits, eligibility criteria of different schemes available with them and asked people to avail benefits under different schemes especially pension, Insurance schemes and employment generation schemes including bee-keeping, mushroom, dairying, sheep, employment department schemes etc.

'Illicit Drug Abuse among Youth'

## Essay Competition Held At GDC Kupwara

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** An essay competition on illicit drug abuse among youth was on Wednesday organized by the Innovation and Incubation Cell (IIC), Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), National Service Scheme (NSS) units, and Seminars and Debate Committee of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Kupwara.

The aim of the competition was to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and encourage students to contribute to the discourse on this important issue. The event witnessed active participation from more than 20 students, and three winners were declared based on their essay submissions.

After careful evaluation of the essays, the jury members declared

1st Position to Sabreena Shakeel (5th semester), 2nd Position to Tahmeena Javaid (2nd semester) and 3rd Position to Toiba Masoodi (2nd semester). The winners were given 1000, 700 and 500 cash prizes and all participants were given participation certificates. The event was supervised by Principal GDC Kupwara Prof. Mohd Shafi Lone.

The event was coordinated by the faculty members, Coordinator ICC - Dr. Hilal Ahmad Mir; Coordinator IQAC - Prof. Irfan Ali; Programme Officer NSS - Dr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh; Programme Officer NSS, Dr. Shazia Lone; Convener Seminars and Debate Committee, Dr. Ali Mohd Pir; Dr. Naveed Ah (HOD English) (Jury Member); Dr. Mohd Jafar (HOD Botany) (Jury Member) and Dr. Shazia (Jury Member).



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 01-06-2023

A Dangerous  
Escalation

The drone attack on Moscow high-rises on Tuesday marks a dangerous escalation in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin's accusation that Kyiv seeks to "frighten" Russians reflects the Kremlin's attempt to deflect attention from its own aggressive actions and shift blame onto Ukraine. However, it is clear that the intensification of hostilities is a direct consequence of the bitter nature of the conflict in Ukraine..

The attacks in Moscow, though causing only minor damage and no serious injuries, have shaken the perception of invulnerability among ordinary Russians. The Kremlin has long maintained that the conflict in Ukraine does not pose a threat to its own citizens, but the drone attacks have shattered this narrative.

President Putin has claimed that the attacks were a response to a Russian strike on Ukraine's army intelligence headquarters. The use of drones to target residential areas in Moscow demonstrates a deliberate intent to sow fear and uncertainty among the Russian population.

The Russian defense ministry's report that eight drones were used in the attack, with five downed and three disabled, highlights the effectiveness of Moscow's air defense. However, this success should not overshadow the fact that drones breached the country's airspace and struck civilian areas.

The United States, in response to the attacks, reiterated its commitment to supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity but clarified that it does not endorse attacks inside Russia. The State Department's statement emphasizes the focus on providing Ukraine with the necessary equipment and training to reclaim its sovereign territory, rather than engaging in offensive actions.

The drone attacks in Moscow and the retaliatory strikes in Kyiv demonstrate the perilous turn that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has taken. It is imperative for diplomatic efforts to be intensified, and for both sides to prioritize dialogue.

Now in its second year, the war in Ukraine continues to rage. Neither Russia nor Ukraine seem to have a clear edge on the ground. If anything, this shows that both sides are fighting to ensure the defeat of the other side. There is little effort for a negotiated settlement. Meanwhile, the human tragedy is unfolding in Ukraine on a vast scale in terms of the deaths of civilians. The war has rallied western nations and many other countries from around the world behind Ukraine. This could drag the war endlessly. While it is nobody's case to countenance the invasion of a sovereign smaller country by its powerful neighbour, the solution to the evolving fraught situation can be resolved if the US-led West and Russia sit down and work towards addressing each other's grievances and fears.

OTHER OPINION

Confusing Airwaves

Auctions have become a sort of buzzword when it comes to the allocation of spectrum of any kind in the communications world. Take, for example, the commotion over the methodology of allocating airwaves for satellite communication services or to enterprises for constructing private 5G networks. In both these cases, there is a vocal section arguing against auctions, only to be countered by another equally vocal section asserting that any allocation without an auction amounts to violating the Supreme Court judgment of 2012. There is no denying that auctions are the most transparent manner to allocate natural resources in the absence of any other methodology that is fair and in line with the principles of natural justice. This was also the essence of the Supreme Court judgement in 2012.

Spectrum auctions in the country began in 2010 following allegations of corruption and loss of revenue to the exchequer when the UPA government granted 122 telecom licences in 2008 at prices that were fixed in 2001. Since the demand for spectrum at that time was much higher than its availability (the number of operators in each area was 10-12), such allocation was seen to be highly arbitrary and the Supreme Court rightfully cancelled them in 2012. However, with the number of operators shrinking to just three after 2016, and the amount of spectrum increasing, sticking to auctions in each case doesn't make sense. For instance, the auctions of 2016 and 2021 saw the sale of only 40% of the spectrum and that too at the reserve price set by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai). This proved that price discovery, which is the key objective of auctions, was not being met. The 5G auctions held in 2022 saw 71% of the spectrum being sold and were a huge success compared to the previous two. However, with the exception of one area, again all spectrum was sold at the reserve price.

The success of the 2022 auction was because Trai had lowered the reserve price by around 39% across bands, by changing the methodology of determining the base price. Past auction prices were not used as a benchmark for setting a fresh base price if the entire spectrum on sale in a given band didn't get sold. The message is clear: auctions are no longer held because too many players are chasing a commodity that is in short supply, so a price discovery mechanism is needed. In fact, the situation today is the opposite. Since the reserve price is fixed by the Trai according to a formula, and everything is sold at that very price, it is not very different from administrative allocation.

Financial Express

Optics And Politics  
At Hiroshima



M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits abroad are carefully choreographed events, given their optics domestically. Perhaps, this is even more so today as general elections loom ahead and in Hiroshima, Modi was taking the stage after the crushing defeat in the Karnataka election, which was as much political for the ruling BJP as personal for Modi himself.

But the optics were great. President Biden who is a past master in the art of flattery stooped to conquer Modi, even seeking an autograph and remarking that he envied the latter's "popularity".

It must be one of the paradoxes of our disjointed times that Hiroshima, a sleepy, southwestern coastal city, was handpicked as the setting for the G7 summit for its symbolism to "send out a strong message" against nuclear weapons. But it is a reminder too the United States is still the only country that ever used the atomic bomb as a weapon, when it dropped "Little Boy" on Hiroshima in 1945 — quite unnecessarily as historians since concluded — killing an estimated 140,000 people and turning the theory of nuclear warfare into a terrifying reality.

Hiroshima was turned on its head to censure Russia and China. Innuendos were galore at the G7 summit packed with world leaders who preach one thing and practice something entirely different. The UK PM Rishi Sunak flew into Hiroshima after supplying depleted uranium munitions to Kiev, which soon exploded in the central Ukrainian city of Khmelnytsky, leading to a significant increase in gamma radiation levels that could contaminate the earth in surrounding areas for decades.

The G7 was dripping with doublespeak. The erstwhile colonial powers waxed eloquently about "economic coercion" but craftily excluded South Africa as special invitee and instead chose Comoros. Why Comoros? Because, Comoros' most significant international relationship is with the erstwhile colonial power France, which will guarantee its good behaviour at Hiroshima.

To be sure, the cynical spectacle at Hiroshima couldn't have escaped Modi's attention. His "undiplomatic" remarks at the Working session 9 of the G7 Summit — on the ludicrous reality of the UN being a mere "talking shop"; the imperative need for respect for the UN Charter, International Law and sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; the unilateral attempts to change the status quo and so on would have made western leaders present in his audience squirm with embarrassment.

Even if that was not Modi's intention, what he stated — commas, semi-colons and full stops included — actually epitomised the US' continued illegal occupation of one-third of the territory of Syria, which was, by the way, one of the original members of the UN since 24th October 1945. The G7 presents a pathetic spectacle, indeed.

However, it was Modi's meeting with Ukraine's president Zelensky that brought out his outstanding techniques of communication. Even the insipid MEA readout written in staccato English brings out the flavour of their brief conversation.

Modi made three key points: one, for him, Ukraine war is not a political or economic issue but "an issue of humanity, of human values." Two, India supports dialogue and diplomacy "to find a way forward" and is willing to lend a hand in conflict resolution. Three, India will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine.

We don't know how Zelensky handled this tricky conversation. Perhaps, he actually limited himself to brief Modi "on the current situation in Ukraine." Modi's remarks message that he stuck to India's neutrality and neatly side-stepped the tendentious issues concerning the genesis of the Ukraine crisis or the complexities of Russia's confrontation with the West, leave alone the core issue of NATO's expansion into Ukraine (which Zelensky inherited) and the country's loss of sovereignty.

Instead, Modi took to high ground and harped on the human suffering due to the war and stressed the primacy of "dialogue and diplomacy". We may never know whether this would have caused uneasiness in Zelensky's

great opportunity was lost for Modi to hold the hands of Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and pool their intellectual resources — two giants who champion the Global South. But then, Washington may have queered the pitch by derailing Zelensky's appointment with Lula. (Zelensky failed to show up.)

Modi travelled to Hiroshima with an eye on his upcoming state visit to the US (June 21-24.) Besides, there have been signals from the Biden Administration lately that a kinder look at India's pleas for technology transfer may be possible.

Western pressures will continue on Modi government to give up its neutrality on Ukraine. The European Union has lately waded into the topic formally. (See my article EU calls out India on Russia sanctions.) But trust India to push back. The surest sign of it is Modi's reversion to "hug diplomacy," the appeal of EAM Jaishankar's abrasive style to BJP's "core constituency" in the social media notwithstanding

The heart of the matter is that the strategic ties that bind India and Russia signify a mutually beneficial partnership that is fully in conformity with international law and imbued with a "win-win" spirit and mutual trust and confidence in a volatile international climate of which Ukraine is only a symptom.

The objective reality is that the India-Rus-

It must be one of the paradoxes of our disjointed times that Hiroshima, a sleepy, southwestern coastal city, was handpicked as the setting for the G7 summit for its symbolism to "send out a strong message" against nuclear weapons. But it is a reminder too the United States is still the only country that ever used the atomic bomb as a weapon

mind, although finger pointing wouldn't have been Modi's intention.

Ironically, but for a series of blunders on the part of Zelensky, the war wouldn't have erupted or escalated to the current level of violence — his rejection of the Minsk agreements that provided for provincial autonomy to the Donbass within a federal union; his obduracy to pursue a military solution to Donbass' alienation; his retraction from the Istanbul deal in late March last year within weeks of Russian intervention due to the back seat driving by the US and UK who had their own agenda to force regime change in Moscow.

Modi, perhaps, got carried away to stake his personal prestige in a conflict resolution in Ukraine. Clearly, there is no light at the end of the tunnel. Neither will Biden accept the spectre of military defeat and Ukrainian state's meltdown nor will Russia compromise on what it considers sees to be an existential war.

The government shouldn't be delusional about an enchanting prospect of India leading the West and Russia the door that never really opened in the post-cold war era into a rose garden. It simply isn't there. Neither has India the credentials nor the clout to be a peacemaker.

What is really disheartening is that a

sia energy cooperation, which is an eyesore for the West, may even deepen, given the mutual interest. Bloomberg reported in the weekend that oil trade apart, in April, China and India also accounted for more than two-thirds of Russia's coal exports to Asia and that set to further increase in the coming weeks due to the emergence of El Nino, a recurring warm climate pattern that could cause droughts in the region.

According to a study in the prestigious journal Science, this year's El Nino is expected to develop between May and July and is likely to be especially strong. Bloomberg quoted an expert opinion:

"The worst place to be right now amid these searing temperatures is South Asia... When you can't even take care of your people's basic needs, it's very hard to care too much about international affairs... [South Asians] are asking themselves: would I rather risk falling afoul of the US or forgo steep discounts on energy?"

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 India Punchline



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Demonetisation 2.0, Done Well

As it is cautious and has a long exchange deadline demonetisation version 2.0 is procedurally correct. It is not accompanied by any major policy objective or goal announcement. For goalless individuals or initiatives,

this is a good move. The procedure involved in exchange of 2000 rupee note is not elusive. Because most citizens ostensibly do not have the 2000 rupee note, which remains legal tender, they can easily dispose of it by spending it rather than depositing it

in banks. Within a certain limit, one can also easily change a portion of it at different banks. So, like many ordinary citizens, governments, and institutions, the 2,000 note will die with a lot of hope but little achievement, most likely because it worked with

the wrong people and for the wrong cause. Most people will gladly let it go a few romantic and collectors will keep some mementos, and in a few months, we will forget about its brief six year existence.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K



# MINIMALISM

## How To Live With Less

Firdoos Wani

Eat and drink but waste not by extravagance, certainly Allah likes not those who waste by extravagance » [Quran 7:31]

Verily, the spendthrifts are brothers of the Shayatin,{17: 27}

Minimalism is a lifestyle and design philosophy that emphasizes simplicity, decluttering, and the removal of unnecessary elements. It is a way of living with intention, focusing on what truly adds value and meaning to one's life while eliminating excess possessions, distractions, and commitments.

In the context of lifestyle, minimalism encourages individuals to reduce their consumption, simplify their living spaces, and prioritize experiences over material possessions. It involves decluttering and organizing belongings, only keeping what is essential and brings joy or serves a practical purpose. By eliminating excess, minimalism aims to create a sense of calm, promote mindfulness, and free up time and resources for what truly matters.

In design, minimalism is characterized by clean lines, simplicity, and a focus on functionality. Minimalist design often features neutral colors, open spaces, and a limited color palette. It seeks to remove any unnecessary embellishments or decorative elements, emphasizing the essential aspects of the design. Minimalism extends beyond physical possessions and design choices. It can also apply to other areas of life, such as commitments, relationships, and digital clutter. By simplifying and streamlining various aspects of life, minimalism aims to create a sense of clarity, reduce stress, and increase overall well-being.

It's important to note that minimalism can be interpreted and practiced differently by individuals. Some people may embrace an extreme form of minimalism, owning very few possessions and living with minimal belongings, while others may adopt a more moderate approach that suits their lifestyle and preferences. Ultimately, minimalism is about finding balance and consciously choosing what adds value and meaning to one's life.



What Islam says about minimalism?

Islam, the religion of peace and blessings, is strongly associated with minimalism. Our religion encourages its followers to become cautious about their belongings and every instance of life. Living in moderation and simplicity are the basic guidelines of Islam because religion is all about guidance; ours teaches us to live a simple, meaningful life without going extravagant.

How to live with less? Do not compare

Comparison with others, how much they earn, what they consume, etc. These thoughts are not encouraged in Islamic teachings. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) always taught his companions not to compare their lives with that of others. Instead, Islam and modern studies prove that the key to contentment is focusing on those who

own lesser things than us. When we feel attached to the material world, Islam expects us to shift our focus on individuals who are ore devoted to Allah, even if they do not earn a lot.

Let's understand that nobody is born equal or perfect. Everyone is unique, and our lives are different from that of others. The more we learn to avoid comparing ourselves to others, the easier life becomes.

Detach from impulsive buying

Humans are naturally wired to seek happiness by buying things. We feel sad, and the next moment our shopping spree starts. Instead of finding reasons for our discontentment, we prioritize our purchasing behaviors. This act, in return, adds no value to our already dissatisfied thoughts. Hence we must learn to understand that worldly desires do not reduce our spiritual desires, and thus the cycle will continue.

Focus on hereafter

Our beloved religion, Islam, doesn't restrict spending for our basic needs or luxury. There is no harm in earning a Halal livelihood for our family and ourselves. However, Islam guides us in attaining Zuhd by prioritizing our life after death and Allah's pleasure. When a Muslim strives to achieve Allah's closeness and leave his matters to The Lord, then our problems or matters become too insignificant to worry about. Those matters for which we seek Allah's help turn out more successful and more superficial. By focusing on our actual world, the hereafter, we can prevent ourselves from the worldly traps of this shiny life. Learning to hand over every matter, every life decision, business deal – everything and seek The Almighty's favor becomes a turning point in our life. Indeed, He is the best guide and protector. Minimalism is a lifestyle and philosophy

that emphasizes simplicity and the intentional reduction of possessions and distractions. It is not inherently tied to any specific religion, including Islam. However, the principles of minimalism can be applied by individuals from various religious backgrounds, including Muslims, as a means of living a more deliberate and purposeful life.

In Islam, the focus is primarily on spiritual well-being, mindfulness, and detachment from material possessions. Islamic teachings encourage moderation, gratitude, and the avoidance of excess and extravagance. Muslims are encouraged to use their wealth and possessions responsibly and to be mindful of the impact their lifestyle choices have on themselves, their communities, and the environment. In this context, minimalism can align with Islamic values by promoting simplicity, contentment, and detachment from materialism. By embracing minimalism, Muslims can focus more on their spiritual growth and connecting with their Creator, rather than being preoccupied with accumulating worldly possessions. However, it is important to note that minimalism should not be pursued as an end in itself or as a strict rule, but rather as a means to achieve a balanced and purposeful life. Each individual's interpretation and application of minimalism may vary, and it should be approached in a way that is consistent with one's personal circumstances, cultural context, and religious beliefs. Ultimately, it is up to each Muslim to reflect on their own understanding of Islam and how minimalism can complement their spiritual journey within the bounds of Islamic teachings.

Postscript: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to eat one third of his fill. His stomach would always be one third empty and one third would be water and one third would be the actual food. So that is Prophet's minimalism in terms of consumption of food.

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

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# Are We Getting Hooked To Pocket-Sized Wisdom?

Asha Iyer Kumar

A few days ago, a friend of mine sought a suggestion from me about writing a book on Confucius explaining the Chinese sage's philosophy to Gen Zs. I didn't ask why Gen Zs alone when every one of us across all age groups could use some Confucianism in these times of utter confusion, but I offered him some practical advice – break it down and make it bitesize. I said it considering not just the profound nature of the subject and my friend's intellectual powers, but the fact that no one has the time or proclivity to consume big chunks of knowledge anymore.

Folks need fast knowledge and faster results now. Five habits to keep or kick; 7 cool tips; 8 best methods; 10 easy ways – the list offering quick-fixes for problems and predicaments of every sort is endless and it makes me cynical. What a cakewalk life has become now with advice and solutions available on a scroll on anything from difficult pregnancies to losing excess weight to making a windfall gain to handling toxic people in life! Given this, we should not be cribbing anymore about the intricacies of life and its intransigence, for help is literally at hand. Pick up the phone and find new ways to set things across the board right.

Advertisement

I am tempted to go gung-ho at the manner in which the Internet has become a digital version of the philosopher's stone, ready to remedy every conceivable problem in life with a few steps, but I balk at the thought of how it dilutes life and takes an offhanded ap-



proach to its many details. I am divided in my opinion about this. I am unable to decide if we must applaud the deft ways in which we decipher life now or worry that we are beginning to oversimplify things that need more serious consideration and study than what we are offering and receiving on the Internet.

The digital world has revolutionised the way we disseminate and consume information, but at the same time it has also distorted our view of things. Most of what is ladled out to us is driven by marketing needs to catch audience at-

tention and I do not deny that the changing dynamics of modern, technology-propelled business makes generalisation of universal problems inevitable. As employees and entrepreneurs, we all have something to sell; we all have to find buyers for it; we all know how consumers' attention spans are shrinking, and we need to act expeditiously to grab their eyeballs. These are part of our survival blueprint.

On the other side, as common people, we are all grappling with sundry problems each day and are looking for quick

resolution. So, if someone proffers instant antidotes to all our daily dilemmas, we lap it up without questioning what it does to our knowledge base and mind space. Having said that, the pace at which we are being steamrolled by instant remedies these days makes me think that it is time for us to take stock of its pros and cons. When someone offers to teach us something that took them 10 years to learn in only three minutes, it is time for us to pause and think about what's on the platter.

Are the on-the-spot answers to our

predicaments making us suckers for ineffective solutions and superficial knowledge? How much of the online content should we consume and with what seriousness? Is the knowledge that is lavished on us in little sachets across the Internet giving us an overdose of information and clogging our brains? Or is it truly leading us to new revelations and deeper understanding of life concepts?

Content creators are working overtime to bail us out of our issues, and we are grateful to them for it. Their 'tips and steps' help us identify our problems, determine our dilemmas; simplify hard concepts; provide impetus and offer guidelines, all in a jiffy. But they have also whetted our appetite for instant gratification. We fail to realise that the dearth of details in the bonsai methods of problem-solving makes them incapable of offering sustainable solutions. Moreover, all that they say may not be accurate or equally apply to everyone.

The way things are progressing (or regressing, depending on how we look at it), it won't be long before we start popping energy pills instead of eating meals. One may argue that it is a viable option to preclude long cooking and eating processes and would save time in a world of hustles. But then again, there is a difference between a capsule and a full course meal. One settles our hunger, the other satiates our stomach and soul. Which one would we prefer?

Asha Iyer Kumar is a Dubai-based author and Children's Writing Coach.



# New Low-Cost Smartphone Attachment To Monitor Blood Pressure At Fingertip

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have developed a simple, low-cost clip that uses a smartphone's camera and flash to monitor blood pressure at the user's fingertip. The clip developed by researchers at the University of California (UC) San Diego, US, works with a custom smartphone app and currently costs about 80 cents (5.6 rupees) to make.

The researchers estimate that the cost could be as low as 10 cents (0.7 rupees) apiece when manufactured at scale.

The technology, described in the journal Scientific Reports, could help make regular blood pressure monitoring easy, affordable and accessible to people in resource-poor communities, they said.

It could benefit older adults and pregnant women, for example, in managing conditions such as hypertension, according to the researchers.

"We have created an inexpensive solution to lower the barrier to blood pressure monitoring," said study first author Yinan Xuan, a Ph.D. student at UC San Diego.

"Because of their low cost, these clips could be handed out to anyone



who needs them but cannot go to a clinic regularly," said study senior author Edward Wang, a professor at UC San Diego and director of the Digital Health Lab.

Another key advantage of the clip is that it does not need to be cali-

brated to a cuff, the researchers said.

"This is what distinguishes our device from other blood pressure monitors," said Wang.

Other cuffless systems being developed for smartwatches and smartphones, he explained, require obtain-

ing a separate set of measurements with a cuff so that their models can be tuned to fit these measurements.

"Our is a calibration-free system, meaning you can just use our device without touching another blood pressure monitor to get a

Our is a calibration-free system, meaning you can just use our device without touching another blood pressure monitor to get a trustworthy blood pressure reading

trustworthy blood pressure reading," Wang said.

To measure blood pressure, the user simply presses on the clip with a fingertip. A custom smartphone app guides the user on how hard and long to press during the measurement.

The clip is a 3D-printed plastic attachment that fits over a smartphone's camera and flash. It features an optical design similar to that of a pinhole camera. When the user presses on the clip, the smartphone's flash lights up the fingertip.

That light is then projected through a pinhole-sized channel to the camera as an image of a red circle. A spring inside the clip allows the user to press with different levels of force.

The harder the user presses, the bigger the red circle appears on the camera.

The smartphone app extracts two main pieces of information from the red circle. By looking at the size of the circle, the app can measure the amount of pressure that the user's fingertip applies.

By looking at the brightness of the circle, the app can measure the volume of blood going in and out of the fingertip.

An algorithm converts this information into systolic and diastolic blood pressure readings.

The researchers tested the clip on 24 volunteers from the UC San Diego Medical Center. Results were comparable to those taken by a blood pressure cuff.

"Using a standard blood pressure cuff can be awkward to put on correctly, and this solution has the potential to make it easier for older adults to self-monitor blood pressure," said study co-author Alison Moore, from UC San Diego School of Medicine.

## Alexa Can No Longer Talk Like Amitabh Bachchan

IANS

Amazon has confirmed the discontinuation of the celebrity voices feature on Alexa, meaning voices of celebrities like megastar Amitabh Bachchan, American actor Samuel L. Jackson, American former professional basketball player Shaquille O'Neal, among others, will no longer be available to purchase.

The feature is going away globally, plus Amazon will discontinue support for celebrity voices on Alexa-powered devices in the coming days.

While purchasing Bachchan's



voice on Alexa, the page stated, "This skill is no longer available for purchase. Customers who previously purchased this experience will continue to have access for one year from the date of purchase".

On purchasing Jackson's voice on Alexa, the page mentioned that the personality voice for Alexa is no longer available for purchase,

and the customers who previously purchased the experience may continue to use the skill until April 30, 2023, by saying "Hey Samuel".

Jackson was the first voice to be introduced and could tell users jokes and stories or answer questions.

The celebrity voices, which debuted in 2019, make use of Amazon's neural text-to-speech model, which employs machine learning and is intended to sound more lifelike. Rather than using pre-recorded responses, the model generates voices with entertaining personalities.

In 2020, the feature came to India, and Bachchan became the first celebrity voice for Alexa in the country.

### Office of the Child Development Project officer Mission Poshan Zainageer

Corrigendum

The Post of Sahayika (AWH) for AW Center figuring at S. No (04) namely:-

Name of Panchayat Halqa	Panch Ward No.	Name of AW Center
Bohripora	Ward No. 01	Ganaie Mohalla Bohripora

advertised via communication No:- CDPO/Zgr/Esstt/2023/94-106 dated: 29-05-2023. Shall be treated as cancelled ab-initio for advertisement purpose, till further orders.

No:-CDPO/CDPO/Zgr/Esstt/23/ 117-23  
DIPK-2562/23 Dated:- 31-05-2023.

Child Dev. Project officer  
Mission Poshan Zainageer

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Planning and Publicity Division. Short Term TENDER

e-NIT NO: - 05 OF 2023-24 DATED: -29/05/2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K/Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document	TIME OF COMPLETION
1.	i) Providing and fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing in 4 strands (4400 Rft) with Wooden (Robinia) Fence Posts in Comptt.75/NH Dedikote, Kupwara (District Kupwara) [3.03 Lacs]	6.73	Rs.13460/-	"C" & "D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor/ JKFC Contractor	Rs.300/=	150 Calendar Days
	ii) Pit planting (under planting of Medicinal Plants in pits of size 30cmx30cmx25cm (44000 Nos) in Comptt.75/NH Dedikote, Kupwara (District Kupwara)[3.70 lacs]					

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

Scheme:- CAPEX

Position of Funds:- Budgeted

Position of AA/TS:- Accorded

Receiving/ Opening Authority:- Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date:-	30-05-2023
Download Start Date :-	31-05-2023 from 12:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:-	31-05-2023 from 12:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:-	19-06-2023 upto 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	20-06-2023 at 11:30 AM (in the office of the DFO Planning & Publicity Division, at Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar).
Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be opened online after evaluation of technical bids received

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must be accompanied with Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest in favour of DFO Planning & Publicity Division, Forest Complex, at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- Bids uploaded must be accompanied with earnest money deposit (EMD) @02% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to DFO Planning and Publicity Division, Srinagar.
- The successful Bidder shall furnish a Performance Security in the form of CDR or BG from any Scheduled Bank for an amount not less than 3% (three percent) of the original Contract value. No formal Allotment orders shall be issued till requisite performance security is submitted. Failure of the successful Bidder to furnish the required performance security shall be a ground for the annulment of the award of the Contract and his debarment for participation in future departmental tendering. Performance Security has to be submitted within 7 days of issue of the Letter of intent from the competent authority
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [jktenders.gov.in](https://jktenders.gov.in)
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Department/ JKFC duly renewed for the current year 2023-24, PAN, Valid GST Registration, CDR/FDR (EMD), Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department before issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The successful bidder have to produce hard copies of original CDR/FDR and Govt. Treasury receipt after opening Technical/ Financial bid.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- If any Tenderer faces any difficulty in uploading the Tender, he can contact the Office of the DFO Planning & Publicity Division, Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh Srinagar during Office hours as he can be facilitated.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per detailed tender document.

For further details, terms and conditions log on [\[www.jktenders.gov.in\]](https://www.jktenders.gov.in)

No:-DFO/P&P/173/E-Tender/Capex-2023-24/NIT-05/280-84

DIPK-2551/23 Dated:- 31/05/2023

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest officer,  
Planning & Publicity Division,  
Srinagar.

## WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

### Early Intervention

- Critical care ambulances are equipped with advanced medical equipment and trained medical professionals who can provide early intervention to patients during transit. This early intervention can help to stabilize patients and prevent their condition from deteriorating, thereby reducing the risk of mortality and morbidity.

### Timely Transportation

- Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.

### Reduced Complications

- Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

### Better Coordination

- Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

### Improved Accessibility:

Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



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## Twitter Now Worth One-Third Of What Elon Musk Paid For It: Report



Associated Press

**WASHINGTON:** Twitter may now be worth one-third of what Elon Musk paid for the social media platform just seven months ago.

Financial services company Fidelity has reduced the market value of its equity stake in Twitter for a third time, now putting it at USD 6.55 billion. That's down from the nearly USD 20 billion Fidelity valued its stake at in October.

It is unclear how Fidelity came up with its valuation figures, but as a public company it's required to provide investors with updates on its holdings. Because Twitter is a private company now called X Holdings Corp., information about its finances can't be verified.

Musk took control of Twitter in October, after a protracted legal battle and months of uncertainty. The CEO of Tesla, who also owns SpaceX, bought Twitter for USD 44 billion.

The billionaire financed the purchase with funds including loans from a group of banks. Musk has said the USD 44 billion price tag for Twitter was too high but that the company had great potential.

By April Musk was telling the BBC that running Twitter has been "quite painful" but that the social media company is now roughly breaking even after he acquired it late last year. Musk predicted at the time that Twitter could become "cash flow positive" in the current quarter "if current trends continue".

## In China, Elon Musk Talks 'Intelligent Networked Vehicles'

Agencies

**BEIJING:** Tesla CEO Elon Musk has met top ministers in China to discuss the development of electric and "intelligent networked" vehicles as well as the expansion of the carmaker's operations in the communist nation.

The mercurial American tycoon, one of the world's richest men, is on his first trip to China in more than three years. He met Commerce Minister Wang Wentao on Wednesday and praised "the vitality and potential of China's development", according to a ministry readout.

Musk "expressed full confidence in the China market and was willing to continue deepening mutually beneficial co-operation", the ministry said. "China-US relations are not a zero-sum game," it quoted Musk as saying.

China accounts for half of the world's electric vehicle sales and is the site of Tesla's first factory outside the United States.

Tesla opened the first wholly foreign-owned car factory in China in 2019 after Beijing eased ownership restrictions to increase competition and speed up industry development.

In another meeting, Musk "exchanged views on the development of new energy vehicles and intelligent networked vehicles" with Industry Minister Jin Zhuanglong, his ministry said on its website.

The statement cited Musk as saying Tesla was willing to expand its business in China and

"opposes decoupling", a reference to fears the world may split into multiple markets with incompatible products.

Musk also is the majority owner of the social media platform Twitter, access to which is blocked in China by the ruling Communist Party's internet filters.

Revive investor interest Musk joined a series of CEOs from global companies, including Apple Inc, who have met with cabinet officials or Premier Li Qiang, China's top economic official, during visits to the world's second largest economy this year after the lifting of pandemic controls that blocked most travel into the country.

The Communist Party is trying to revive investor interest in China's slowing economy and reassure companies rattled by anti-monopoly and data-security crackdowns, raids on consulting firms, and US-Chinese political and military tensions.

On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Qin Gang told Musk that China will "unswervingly promote high-level opening-up" and create a "market-oriented, law-based and internationalised business environment", according to a government statement.

"China's development is an opportunity for the world," it said.

Li delivered a similar message of reassurance in meetings in March with CEOs Tim Cook of Apple, Albert Bourla of Pfizer, Jakob Stausholm of Rio Tinto and Toshiaki Higashihara of Hitachi.

## India's GDP Expands 6.1% In Q4, 7.2% In FY23

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's economy grew by 6.1 per cent in the January-March quarter of 2022-23, pushing the annual growth rate to 7.2 per cent on account of better performance by agriculture, manufacturing, mining and construction sectors, official data showed on Wednesday.

The growth propelled the Indian Economy to USD 3.3 trillion and set the stage for achieving USD five trillion target in the next few years.

In the previous 2021-22 fiscal, the economy grew by 9.1 per cent.

China has registered an economic growth of 4.5 per cent in the first three months of 2023.

The economic expansion was recorded at 6.1 per cent during the March 2023 quarter, while it was 4.5 per cent in October-December and 6.2 per cent in July-September 2022.

The growth was 13.1 per cent in April-June 2022, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The GDP had grown by four per cent in the January-March quarter of 2021-22.

The NSO, in its second advance estimate released in February, had projected the GDP growth for 2022-23 at seven per cent.

According to the NSO data, the real GDP prices in 2022-23 are estimated to attain a level of Rs 160.06 lakh crore



against the first revised estimates of GDP of Rs 149.26 lakh crore for 2021-22.

"The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7.2 per cent as compared to 9.1 per cent in 2021-22," it stated.

Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of Rs 272.41 lakh crore (USD 3.3 trillion), as against Rs 234.71 lakh crore (USD 2.8 trillion) in 2021-22, showing a growth rate of 16.1 per cent, it added.

The GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q4 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 43.62 lakh crore against Rs 41.12 lakh crore in Q4 2021-22, showing a growth of 6.1 per cent.

The GDP at Current Prices in Q4 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 71.82 lakh crore compared to Rs 65.05 lakh crore in Q4 2021-22, a growth of 10.4 per cent.

Gross value added (GVA) growth during the fiscal end-

ing March 2023 was 7 per cent against an 8.8 per cent growth in the preceding year.

The GVA growth in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 4.5 per cent in the March 2023 quarter against 0.6 per cent a year ago.

GVA growth in mining was 4.3 per cent in the fourth quarter compared to 2.3 per cent in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. Construction grew 10.4 per cent in the quarter, up from 4.9 per cent in the corresponding period of 2021-22.

The agriculture sector growth accelerated to 5.5 per cent from 4.1 per cent.

The electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services segment grew 6.9 per cent during the fourth quarter from 6.7 per cent in the year-ago period.

GVA growth in the services sector -- trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting -- was 9.1 per cent in

## Centre's Fiscal Deficit Narrows To 6.4% Of GDP In FY23

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre's fiscal deficit narrowed to 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 from 6.71 per cent in FY22, as anticipated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget in February this year.

In the Union Budget, the government aimed to further bring down the fiscal deficit -- a key indicator of borrowing -- during the current financial year 2023-24 to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for 2022-23, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was Rs 17,33,131 crore (provisional), marginally down from the amount projected in the Revised Estimates (RE) in the Budget.

CGA said the government received Rs 24.56 lakh crore (101 per cent of corresponding RE 2022-23 of total receipts) during 2022-23.

It comprised Rs 20.97 lakh crore tax revenue (Net to Centre), Rs 2.86 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and Rs 72,187 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

Non-debt capital receipts consist of the recovery of loans and miscellaneous capital receipts.

About Rs 9.48 lakh crore has been transferred to state governments as devo-

lution of taxes by the central government, which is Rs 50,015 crore higher than the previous year (2021-22).

The CGA data further revealed that the Centre's total expenditure was Rs 41.89 crore (100 per cent of corresponding RE 2022-23), out of which Rs 34.52 lakh crore was on the revenue account and Rs 7.36 lakh crore on the capital account.

Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 9.28 lakh crore was on account of interest payments and Rs 5.31 lakh crore towards major subsidies.

As per CGA, the revenue deficit for the fiscal ending March 2023 was 3.9 per cent of GDP while the effective revenue deficit worked out to be 2.8 per cent of GDP.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist and Head - Research and Outreach, Icra, said the government was able to restrict its FY2023 fiscal deficit at Rs 17.3 lakh crore, a shade below the FY2023 RE, with higher than estimated revenue receipts and a small undershooting in revenue expenditure, offsetting the disinvestment miss and a healthier than expected capex.

"In FY2023, the government's net tax revenues reported a healthy growth of 15.2 per cent, amidst a 17.8 per cent contraction in non-tax revenues, 7.8 per cent increase in revenue expenditure, and a robust 24.2 per cent expansion in capex," she said.



## Go First Extends Flight Cancellations Till June 4

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** As uncertainties continue over its future course, crisis-hit Go First on Tuesday announced extending cancellation of flights till June 4.

Go First stopped flying on May 3 and the latest announcement means that the budget carrier will remain grounded for one month.

This is the eighth time that the carrier has extended the cancellation of flights since the first announcement was made on May 2 when the services were cancelled for three days till May 5. "We regret to inform that due to operational reasons, Go First flights scheduled till 04th June 2023 have been cancelled," the airline said in a tweet.

According to the tweet, a full refund will be issued to the original mode of payment shortly.

"As you are aware, the company has filed an application for immediate resolution and revival of operations. We will be able to resume bookings shortly," it added.

The carrier is undergoing insolvency resolution process and last week, aviation regulator DGCA asked it to submit a revival plan within 30 days.

On Monday, senior executives of the airline held discussions with senior DGCA officials on the revival plan.

The budget carrier, filed a petition for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings on May 2, citing its inability to carry out operations due to the non-delivery of engines by the US engine maker Pratt & Whitney. The plea was admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on May 10.

## India Can Look For Another Year Of Solid Economic Performance: CEA

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Enthused by higher than expected GDP number in the fourth quarter of FY23, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday said India can look for another year of solid economic performance.

India's economy grew by 6.1 per cent in the January-March quarter of 2022-23, pushing the annual growth rate to 7.2 per cent on account of better performance by agriculture, manufacturing, mining and construction sectors.

Briefing media on the quarterly number, the CEA said the risk to the projected 6.5 per cent GDP number is evenly balanced and there is a good chance of this number being exceeded in the current fiscal.

"So, we are very pleased to have been able to present a story of sustained economic momentum combined with macroeconomic, financial and fiscal stability, and we look forward to another year of solid economic performance by India," he said.

Last week, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said the growth for 2022-23 is expected to be more than the advance estimate of 7 per cent.

As per the second advance estimate released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in February, the economy was estimated to grow at 7 per cent in 2022-23 against 8.7 per cent in the preceding fiscal.

## Civil Aviation Ministry Comes Out With Draft Aircraft Bill

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The civil aviation ministry has come out with a draft bill for putting in place a simplified approach for regulations pertaining to the aviation sector.

The Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023, has been prepared after reviewing the existing Aircraft Act, 1934.

As per the preamble of the Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023, it aims to have an Act to make better provisions for regulation and control of the design, manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of aircraft and for connected matters.

The bill has been issued by the ministry for public consultations for a period of 30 days, according to a communication dated May 30.

"The existing Aircraft Act, 1934 has been reviewed and accordingly a bill providing for regulating provisions in a simplified manner, identifying existing redundancies and to provide for provisions to meet the current needs for regulation of civil aviation in a simplified language..." the ministry said.

According to the preamble, it is expedient to make better provisions for regulation and control of the design, manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of aircraft and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, and to remove the redundancies in the Aircraft Act, 1934.

## JK Horticulture Planning & Marketing Organizes Day Long Meet On CA Storage Logistics

'Holistic measures to be taken to establish CA Storage capacity commensurate with production'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Planning and Marketing department Wednesday organized a one day meet on CA Storage Logistics here at SKICC.

The meet was attended by all stakeholders from government departments, banks and financial institutions, industry representative bodies, fruit associations and potential investors in this sector from within and outside J&K.

The aim of the day long event was to strengthen coordination among all stakeholders and efficiently move forward in bridging gap in the infrastructural requirements for CA storage in J&K.

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, Shabnam Kamili, who was also chief guest on the occasion, said that the government is keen to promote private investments in setting up logistics facilities by providing incentives and simplifying the regulatory environment.

She said that it will enable the development of high-class logistics infrastructure in J&K and create new business opportunities and in the long run enable the farmer to reap maximum

benefits out of his produce.

She informed that the Meet was organized to bring all stakeholders at one platform and to devise a roadmap which shall result in expeditious, hassle-free and conducive environment for establishing the CA storage logistics at suitable locations in the entire J&K.

Vikas Sharma, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K, informed that J&K is the leading producer of apples in the country with large varietal spectrum and harvest ranging from July till November, besides having a unique position in the global market.

"To ensure availability of quality apples throughout the year and provide best returns to producers, we endeavour to augment our CA storage capacity in a big way", he maintained.

He further shared that, currently, we have around two lakh MT of installed CA storage capacity in J&K and to meet the requirements of CA Storage, we shall be hand-holding and facilitating potential investors from within and outside the UT.

Director Industries and Commerce, Kashmir brought out a detailed account of Industrial policy, Procedures and Schemes of the government.

## JKEDI To Act As Bridge Between Industry & Students: Director



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** The Director, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Wednesday presided over an interaction program organized by Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar.

The event aimed to foster a strong connection between the industry and students, with JKEDI playing a pivotal role as the bridge.

The interaction program witnessed an active participation of students and faculty members. It provided a platform for students to engage directly with experts, enabling them to gain valuable insights into the professional world and its requirements. The event also served as an opportunity for JKEDI to understand the aspirations and potential of the talented youth in J&K.

Speaking at the program, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director, JKEDI emphasized the Institute's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship and fostering employability skills among the youth of the region.

"JKEDI is playing a crucial role in bridging the gap between the industry and students. We will guide you and inform you about various Government Initiatives of Startup policy, incubation facilities and

various entrepreneurship related initiatives", he said.

"Our Institute has been actively working towards fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem in J&K. By connecting students with industry professionals, the Institute seeks to inspire and support budding entrepreneurs, encouraging them to explore innovative business ideas and venture into new domains," he added.

The Director expressed gratitude to the Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar, for hosting the interactive program and providing a platform for this fruitful engagement. He also extended his appreciation to all the Faculty members and student participants for their active involvement in the event.

"Such programs promote the discovery of new synergies and provide a platform and access to relevant knowledge which leads to competitive advantage. This will help the students to develop higher-level thinking, oral communication, self-management, and leadership skills," said Mohammad Shafi Bhat, Principal, Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar.

Hakim Mohammad Ilyas, In-charge Incubation and Entrepreneurship Cell, Faculty members Sabina Nazir and Masrat Farooq among others were present on the occasion.

## Sensex, Nifty Trip Over Profit Taking In Banking, Energy Shares

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty cut short their four-day gaining streak and closed lower by half a per cent on Wednesday due to profit-taking in banking, energy and metal stocks amid weak trends in global markets.

Snapping its four-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 346.89 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 62,622.24. During the day, it tumbled 568.11 points or 0.90 per cent to 62,401.02. The NSE Nifty declined 99.45 points or 0.53 per cent to end at 18,534.40.

In the four-day rally to Tuesday, Sensex advanced by 1,195 points or 2 per cent while Nifty rose by 348 points or 2.26 per cent.

"Markets witnessed profit-taking and shed over half a per cent, tracking mixed cues. After the initial downturn, the Nifty index traded with a negative bias for most of the session however a marginal rebound in the final hours trimmed some losses," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Global headwinds, especially from the US markets, are causing intermediate volatility however the positional up trend is still intact, Mishra said.

From the Sensex pack, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, HDFC, HDFC Bank, NTPC, Tata Steel and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards on Wednesday.



# OTT Platforms To Carry Anti-Tobacco Warnings; Health Ministry Amends Rules

**New Delhi:** India became the first country on Wednesday to make it mandatory for OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers as seen in movies screened in theatres and television programmes.

The Union health ministry notified the amendments in the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004 on the World No Tobacco Day.

According to the notification, the publishers of online curated content displaying tobacco products or their use will be required to display anti-tobacco health spots of a minimum of 30 seconds each at the beginning and middle of a programme.

The over-the-top (OTT) platforms shall also be required to exhibit an anti-tobacco health warning as a prominent static message at the bottom of the screen when tobacco products or their use are displayed during a programme.

Also, an audio-visual disclaimer of a minimum of 20 seconds on the ill-effects of tobacco use will have to be displayed at the beginning and middle of a programme, a source said.

"The anti-tobacco health warning message as specified in clause (b) of sub-rule (1) shall



be legible and readable, with font in black colour on white background and with the warnings 'tobacco causes cancer' or 'tobacco kills'," the notification stated.

Besides, the anti-tobacco health warning messages, health spots and audio-visual disclaimers will have to be in the same language as the one used in the online curated content.

The display of tobacco products or their use in online curated content shall not extend to the display of brands of cigarettes or other tobacco products or any form of tobacco product placement and display of

tobacco products or their use in promotional materials.

According to a senior ministry official, the decision was taken following several meetings with the information and broadcasting ministry and other stakeholders.

"If the publisher of online curated content fails to comply with the provisions of sub-rules (1) to (5), an inter-ministerial committee consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology shall take action suo motu or on a complaint, and

after identifying the publisher of online curated content, issue notice giving reasonable opportunity to explain such failure and make appropriate modifications in the content," the notification said.

The expression "online curated content" means any curated catalogue of audio-visual content, other than news and current affairs content, which is owned by, licensed to or contracted to be transmitted by a publisher of online curated content, and made available on demand, including but not limited through subscription, over internet or computer networks, and includes films, audio visual programmes, television programmes, serials, series and other such content.

At an event organised at the health ministry, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya expressed concern over the rising tobacco consumption among the young generation.

He appealed to people to break free from the shackles of tobacco and embrace a healthier lifestyle.

"It is time to create wide awareness among youth and the nation regarding the seriously debilitating and harmful effects of tobacco consumption,"

Mandaviya said.

He mooted the idea of a "lok bhagidari" campaign on mission mode through a "jan abhiyan" (people's movement).

Enlisting the measures taken by India to free people from tobacco addiction and prevent tobacco use, Mandaviya highlighted that the OTT guidelines will go a long way to dissuade tobacco consumption.

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director, WHO-South East Asia Region, said, "Congratulations India on becoming the first country in the world to regulate anti-tobacco warning on OTT platforms. Today's move demonstrates India's unstinted commitment to protect the health of people from the harmful effects of tobacco. I commend the country's strong leadership and all stakeholders for this landmark step."

Bhavna Mukhopadhyay, chief executive, Voluntary Health Association of India, said the country has set an example in protecting young people from exposure to tobacco use and depiction of smoking scenes in the entertainment media. She said India has become a global leader by closing the regulatory gap in OTT media by extending the rules to such platforms.

## BJP Can Be Defeated If Opposition Is 'Aligned Properly': Rahul Gandhi

**Press Trust of India**

**Santa Clara (US):** The ruling BJP can be defeated if the Opposition is "aligned properly" and the Congress party is working towards it and it is "coming along very nicely", Rahul Gandhi has told Indian Americans here, citing his party's emphatic victory in the recent assembly elections in Karnataka.

Responding to questions from the moderator and the audiences at an event at the Silicon Valley Campus of the University of California in Santa Cruz on Tuesday, Gandhi said he can clearly see "vulnerabilities" in the BJP.

"As a political entrepreneur, I can clearly see vulnerabilities in the BJP... The BJP can be defeated if the Opposition is aligned properly," he said.

"If you look at the Karnataka elections, the general sense is that the Congress Party fought the BJP and defeated the BJP. But what is not well understood is the mechanics that we used," he said.

The Congress party used a completely different approach to fighting an election and building a narrative, Gandhi said, adding that elements of what happened in Karnataka came out of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

In the May 10 elections to the

224-member Karnataka Assembly, the Congress won 135 seats, while incumbent BJP and the former prime minister H D Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular) got 66 and 19, respectively. Gandhi said in the Karnataka elections, the BJP spent 10 times more money than the Congress party. He said the country needed an alternative vision to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in addition to having a united Opposition in the 2024 general elections.

"On the matter of opposition unity, we are working towards it and it is coming along very nicely. But I think in order to defeat the BJP, you need more than just opposition unity. Just opposition unity, in my opinion, is not going to be enough to do the job. I think you need an alternative vision to the BJP," he said.

"Part of Bharat Jodo Yatra was the first step in proposing such a vision. It's the vision that all opposition parties are aligned with. No opposition party would disagree with the idea of the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra (Unite India March) was a Gandhi-led mass movement aimed at uniting India. The yatra began on September 7 from Kanyakumari, passed through 12 states and culminated in Jammu and Kashmir on January 31.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 3 Militants Held

narcotics have been apprehended. One Indian Army soldier was injured in the ensuing fight and has been evacuated," Lt Col Anand said.

The injured militant has been shifted to a civil hospital under police custody.

Officials said the incident took place at forward Karmara village in Gulpur sector after troops guarding the border picked up suspicious movement and challenged the persons which led to a gunfight.

The officials identified the arrested accused as Mohd Farooq (26), who received a bullet injury in his leg, Mohd Riaz (23) and Mohd Zubair (22), all residents of Karmara.

They are believed to have received the arms and narcotic consignment from across the border and were trying to smuggle it into this side when they were intercepted by the troops, the officials said.

The seizure made from the arrested persons included an AK assault rifle, two pistols, six grenades, a 10-kg IED which was planted inside a pressure cooker and 20 packets of suspected heroin worth over Rs 100 crore.

The IED was later neutralised by the experts of the bomb disposal squad, the officials said.

The search operation in the area was still going on when last reports were received, the officials said.

### Centre Okays

(both SECC & AwaasPlus beneficiaries in the UT. Since the inception of the programme and in alignment to the objective of the programme, i.e 'Housing for All', Union Territory government has sanctioned 1.98 lakh houses under SECC and Awaas+ categories and has completed 1.34 lakh houses till date.

### Govt Committed

grievances, non-discretionary approach towards decision-making and to build a competitive governance model at local level.

"Districts must adopt collaborative approach across levels of governance for both grievance redressal and public service delivery," he added.

The LG also impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners to monitor and improve performance of departments and enhance collaboration among different stakeholders for better citizen-centric governance.

He further emphasized on making effective use of technological interventions in ensuring quality grievance disposal and promptness in

public service delivery.

"e-Governance and rapid technological advancement has helped with new and innovative grievance redressal mechanism and service delivery monitoring tools for the benefits of welfare measures to seamlessly reach the last man in the queue," Sinha said.

He also reiterated the UT Government's commitment to empowering the citizens and making the administrative setup more accountable and responsive towards the needs and concerns of the common man.

"Active participation of all sections of society in socio-economic development and commitment towards the people's well-being is top priority of the administration," he added.

During the program, the LG addressed a number of grievances and directed the officials to take necessary action.

Responding to the complaint regarding illegal mining in nallah Romshi in Karimabad, Pulwama, the LG directed the Deputy Commissioner for stringent actions as per the law to ensure there is no illegal mining.

Similarly, on the issue of encroachment on the land belonging to a School in Mendhar, Sinha passed explicit directions to the concerned Deputy Commissioner to remove the encroachment from the said premises.

### NIA Raids

locations across Jammu and Kashmir have been searched in recent days in connection with a militant conspiracy case registered suo moto by the NIA on June 21 last year.

The case relates to hatching of a conspiracy, both physical and in cyberspace, and plans by the proscribed militant organisations to unleash militant attacks in the union territory with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms, the spokesperson said.

According to the NIA, the plans are part of a larger conspiracy to carry out acts of militancy and violence, by radicalising local youth and mobilising overground workers, to disturb the peace and communal harmony of Jammu and Kashmir.

Cadres and workers of the newly formed organisations have been found to be involved in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances and arms and ammunition, the spokesperson said, adding they are spreading activities relating to militancy, violence and subversion in J&K.

"Investigations have further revealed that Pakistan-based operatives are using drones to deliver arms and ammunition, explosives,

narcotics to their operatives and cadres in the valley. These operatives are using social media to connect with the cadres and workers in India," the spokesperson said.

### BJP Leader Booked

TERROR has been unleashed on the people of Balhama, Srinagar by the incumbent DDC Member belonging to @BJP4India! This is the second assault on a civilian by him in less than a month! Even WOMEN are being assaulted now under FULL security cover," Mattu alleged in a tweet.

However, the BJP leader contested the allegations and said that the videos have been uploaded on social media with a malafide intention to defame him.

He alleged that the people who staged a protest on Tuesday night were actually land grabbers.

### Govt Shifts Nine

of Sub-Registrar, Ghagwal, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

According to the order, Shokat Hayat Matoo, JKAS, Tehsildar, Bhaderwah, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Chatroo, against an available vacancy. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Chatroo, in addition to his own duties.

Seema Parihar, JKAS, Deputy Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, R.S. Pura, vice Mr. Ram Lal Sharma, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. She shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, R.S. Pura, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Tariq Ahmad Malik, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Khansahib, vice Syed Ahmad Kataria, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Khansahib, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Rajesh Kumar, JKAS, Personnel Officer in the Directorate of School Education, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Vijaypur, against an available vacancy, while Nagesh Singh, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jammu (North), against an available vacancy, reads the order issued by Amit Vermani, Additional Secretary to the government.

### Relentless Rains

From June 2-6, the weather is likely to stay mainly dry, he said.

The deputy director said the wet weather has led to decrease in the temperature by several degrees across the valley.

The maximum temperature in Srinagar on Wednesday was 15.3 degrees Celsius, 11 degrees below the normal.

The minimum temperature will remain around 10 to 12 degrees Celsius, but the maximum temperature will be lower than three to five degrees than the normal for this time of the season over the next few days, Ahmad said.

### 200 Vehicles

rest of the country, was blocked by mudslides and shooting stones.

The highway has been closed till further clearance, SSP, Ramban, Mohita Sharma said in a tweet.

Heavy rains triggered a major landslide on Mughal road near Ratta Chamb bridge, blocking traffic movement, officials said.

The men and machines are working to clear the landslide, they said.

### Man Handed

the same to anyone. He said that the convict deserves "no mercy as he has not shown any mercy on the minor helpless girl."

On the other hand, counsel representing Irshad Ahmad argued that that convict is 40 years and is the sole bread earner for his family including his wife and two minor children and due to his conviction they will be put to starvation.

As per the prosecution, police received a complaint from the girl's father that he took his daughter for check after she complained of abdominal pain and upon tests by the doctors she was certified to be pregnant.

Upon enquiry by him and his wife, the minor girl disclosed that the person who resides in their neighborhood as tenant, Irshad Ahmad, raped her several times, the prosecution said based on the statement by the complainant.

After receiving the report, the prosecution said, a case (FIR No 33/2012) for the commission of offence punishable under Section 376 RPC was registered in police Station Saura and the investigation started. During investigation, it said, the victim girl's age certificate was obtained and she was found to be less than 14 years old.

Subsequently, the accused was arrested and on the basis of the facts and evidence collected,

it said, a charge sheet under Section 376 RPC was filed on 23 June 2012. Subsequently the trial ensued and culminated in conviction of the accused.

### Courts Must

concerning tenders is the financial implication on the public exchequer that the State may have to meet with if the Court directs afresh tender notice," the court said, adding, "To say the least, it would not be in public interest to set at naught the entire tender process at the stage when the contract is well underway."

The court made the observations while dismissing a petition challenging Chief Engineer, PW (R&B) Department Jammu's corrigendum regarding tendering process for allotment of the contract works for Construction of road from Batangian to Ghai Katha via Jamia Maid Dhanidhar Tehsil Surankote Poonch, Construction of road from Kanl Narooni to Nagalgali and Construction of road from Hafeez Morh

### Chairperson J&K

"The Divisional Commissioner apprised the Lt Governor on the elaborate preparations including logistics and other facilities for smooth conduct of Haj pilgrimage," he added

The first batch of Haj pilgrims will be flagged off on June 7th from Srinagar International Airport.

Meanwhile, office bearers of Temples & Shrines Prabandhak Committee, Tral and Navdal Tirath Committee also called on LG at Raj Bhawan, today.

According to the spokesperson, the members of the delegation headed by Dr Ramesh Bhat put forth various issues concerning rejuvenation and upkeep of the Navdal Tirath Sthan.

"The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues projected during the interaction," he added.

### Shafaat Yehya

implemented in the Finance Department which include BEAMS, JKPaysys, PROOF, EMPOWERMENT portal, E-Audit portal, Mera Vetan, GRAS, GPF system, DBT, PFMS and E-Billing System etc.

The PMU would also look after affairs of the Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Corporation (JKIDC).

### Man Slips Into

that an investigation has been taken in this regard—(KNO)

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

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## DYSS Organises Sports Activities Across Kashmir



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) organised various sporting events across Kashmir Valley on Wednesday.

DYSS organised a trekking expedition in Bandipora, which saw enthusiastic participation from 130 students hailing from different schools of Zone Bandipora.

The trekking expedition commenced from the ZPEO Office Bandipora and traversed through the picturesque Surinder Forest Belt. The event was officially flagged off by Gh MohiUd Din Dar, the esteemed Zonal Physical Education Officer Bandipora.

DYSS also organised different sports activities in connection with G-20 Presidency of India in three districts of Central Kashmir: Ganderbal, Srinagar and Budgam.

District Ganderbal organised Inter-Zone District Level Football competition in the age group of Boys U-19 years at MM Stadium Ganderbal on Wednesday. The event witnessed a total participation of 53 students from all the zones of the district. The final match of the competition was played between Zone Ganderbal and Zone Tullamulla in which Zone Ganderbal won

5-0. DYSSO Ganderbal Sheikh Shafiqat Iqbal graced the occasion with his presence.

Moreover, Zone Tullamulla conducted an Inter School Zonal Level Competition in the discipline of Table Tennis for Boys U-14 and U-17 years at BHSS Wakura in which a total of 32 student players from different schools of the zone participated. DYSS Budgam under the guidance and supervision of Balbir Singh Sodi (DYSSO Budgam) organised Cycle Race at Zone Budgam for AAG from SIDCO Housing Colony Ompora to Airport Wall. The said event was flagged off by PEM Momtaza Bano.

Zone Magam also organized a Cycle Race for U-17 Boys from Wata Magam to Pethi Kanihama and back. The event was flagged off by ZPEO Magam Mr. GH. Nabi Shah.

DYSSO Srinagar organised a captivating Nature Walk for Boys/Girls students of the district as part of its annual calendar of sports activities. Despite intermittent rains, a total of 40 enthusiastic students participated in the walk eagerly exploring the rich flora and fauna of the beautiful Dachigam National Park. The walk was flagged off by Director DYSS Subash C Chibber in presence of JD YSS Waseem Raja and DYSSO Srinagar Gh. Hassan Lone.

## Farooq Memorial Taekwondo C'ship Begins In Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The opening ceremony of the two-day long Farooq Memorial Open Taekwondo Championships was held on Wednesday 31st May 2023 at Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, here.

The championship was held under the emblem of My Youth My Pride and was organised by J&K Taekwondo Association (Regd) under the aegis of Taekwondo Federation of India, in the memory of Late Farooq Ahmed (Founder of Taekwondo in Kashmir). There was no entry fee in the event. Sound System and refreshment for the athletes was sponsored by Indian Army (Chinar Corps).

The competition was comprised of all age divisions with

inclusion of the youngest age division (Pee Wee). The first day witnessed a massive combative skill show between the Senior and Junior Athlete's in both male and female categories. More than 700 players participated in different weight categories from all districts of J&K.

The opening ceremony was addressed by Subash Chander Chibber (Director DYSS) as Chief Guest along with Rouf Ahmed Bhat (Sports Promoter and Under Secretary to Govt.), Ishfaq Ahmed (Former International Football Player and Coach) as Guest of Honour and Special Guest were Hilal Ahmed and Shafiq Ahmed.

All the medallists will represent J&K in the forthcoming LG Cup All India Taekwondo Championships 2023.

## WTC Final: Indian Bowlers Focus On Building Workload

Press Trust of India

**PORTSMOUTH:** The Indian cricket team is focussing on building workload for the bowlers, who had an extensive run in the IPL, ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia starting on June 7 at The Oval.

In the bowling department, while the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Akshar Patel, Jaydev Unadkat and Umesh Yadav were part of the first batch to travel to England, pace spearhead Mohammad Shami's departure was delayed as the IPL final in Ahmedabad last Sunday was moved to the reserve day after incessant rain.

The middle-order mainstay Virat Kohli was also among the players who left in the first batch along with the Rahul Dravid-led coaching staff. Kohli joined the camp on Monday along with Cheteshwar Pujara, who linked up with the squad in England as he was busy playing County Championship for Sussex.

The Indian team is expected to have a few practice sessions at the Arundel Castle Cricket Club in Sussex ahead of the big final.

"The preparation has been good so far. The initial bit was to ease into the practice session but the last two sessions have been pretty happy — I think we pushed them a little bit. Just adding a little bit of workload for the bowlers, just



kind of preparing them for the Test match," said India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey in a video released by the BCCI.

"(We are) happy with the conditions, I think it is a lovely ground, (it is) kind of what you can expect. The weather is holding up, it has been sunny, a little windy, a little chill but something that we have to get used to (when) playing in England," he said.

India's fielding coach T Dilip said the focus will be on close-in catching since the running part of the fitness drill was covered in the IPL.

"The players have been coming from an IPL so a key thing for us to take care of was the workload, how much they have run, how much they have taken care. "What we understood and got out of that is

things (like) ground fielding have been covered in the IPL, so the focus here was more on the volume of catching, especially when you are talking about close-in catching, the slip catching and the flat catches. These are the catches that we tend to increase the volume (of)," he said.

Mhambrey said while the bowlers will get some rest in days leading up to the WTC final, the group is determined to extract the maximum benefits from the training sessions. "We have two more sessions now, we want to build up especially with the bowlers in a couple of sessions. One day before the Test match, all of us have an easier option, the bowlers' option is they take an off and maybe one or two sessions before that.

## ICC Top Brass Seeks PCB Assurances On Sending Team To India For ODI WC

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman and CEO are in Lahore to seek guarantees from the PCB that it will not push for implementing a hybrid model for its matches in the ODI World Cup in India later this year.

Insiders confirmed to PTI that ICC chairman Greg Barclay and CEO Geoff Allardice have specifically come to Lahore to get some assurances from the Pakistan Cricket Board on the national team's participation in the World Cup in October-November.

The development comes after PCB chief Najam Sethi made it clear that the team will not travel for the World Cup in India if the Rohit Sharma led side doesn't visit Pakistan for the preceding Asia Cup. "The ICC and World Cup hosts, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are concerned with the hybrid model being pushed by Najam Sethi who heads the cricket management committee of the PCB.

"Although the hybrid model has been suggested by Sethi for the Asia Cup which precedes the ICC event, the concern remains that once accepted for



the regional event the PCB might also then ask the ICC to implement it for the World Cup when it comes to Pakistan playing in India," he explained.

Sethi has already indicated that if the Pakistan government doesn't give clearance or has security concerns about sending the team to India, PCB could ask the ICC to hold Pakistan's matches at a neutral venue.

"Naturally neither the ICC nor the BCCI want such a situation since Pakistan's unequal participation in matches in India would guarantee the success of Indo-Pakistan matches and also the tournament itself." Another source said this was the primary reason why BCCI secretary Jay Shah was still reluctant to ac-

cept the hybrid model for the Asia Cup and support having three or four matches of the tournament in Pakistan and the remaining games in UAE or Sri Lanka.

Pakistan are the hosts of the Asia Cup and Sethi has said repeatedly that if the tournament is moved to one neutral country from Pakistan, it will not take part in the competition.

He has also hinted that if Pakistan didn't get to host some Asia Cup matches it could have an adverse bearing on the World Cup as well.

"The ICC officials are trying to work as a bridge between the PCB and BCCI and resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to the Asia Cup and World Cup."

## India Asks Protesting Wrestlers To Wait For Police Probe Outcome

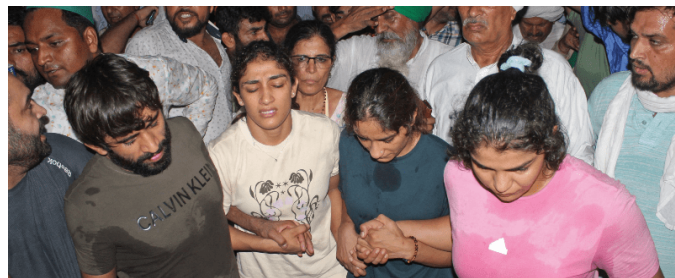
Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** India's sports minister on Wednesday urged wrestling champions who have staged protests accusing their federation chief of sexual harassment to await the outcome of investigations into the allegations before deciding their next course of action. Minister Anurag Thakur said the national capital's police is investigating the case, following directions from the Supreme Court. He asked the wrestlers to have faith in the probe.

Thakur was speaking a day after Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik

demanding action against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has denied allegations of sexually harassing female athletes. "Dear players, wait for and have faith in the Delhi Police's investigation. It has registered the FIR on the Supreme Court's direction," Thakur told reporters, referring to the complaint registered by police.

He added that while the investigation was proceeding it would not be appropriate to take any action that could hurt any other sport or players. A member of parliament for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party,



and Asian Games champion Vinesh Phogat said they would toss their medals into the river Ganga as part of their demand for the arrest of their federation chief. A prominent farmers' leader convinced them to call off that action, promising a solution within five days.

The athletes had been camping in New Delhi since April 23

Singh has been stripped of his administrative powers.

He protested his innocence again on Wednesday. "I am once again saying that even if a single allegation is proved against me, I will hang myself," Singh said at a public event in his home state of Uttar Pradesh according to a Press Trust of India report on the Times of India website.

## Kosovo Seeks IOC Disciplinary Action Against Djokovic

Agencies

**PARIS:** Kosovo Olympic authorities have asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to open disciplinary proceedings against Novak Djokovic, accusing the Serbian of stirring up political tension by saying "Kosovo is the heart of Serbia" at the French Open. Djokovic wrote the message on a camera lens following his first-round win on Monday, the same day that 30 NATO peacekeeping troops were hurt in clashes with Serb protesters in the Kosovo town of Zecan -

"Novak Djokovic has yet again promoted the Serbian nationalists' propaganda and used the sport platform to do so," Ismet Krasniqi, president of Kosovo's Olympic Committee (KOK), said in a statement. "The further post-match statements made by such a public figure without any feeling of remorse, directly result in raising the level of tension and violence between the two countries," he added, urging the IOC to investigate by opening disciplinary proceedings against Djokovic.

The IOC did not immediately



where Djokovic's father grew up. Serbian authorities said 52 protesters were wounded in the clashes. The violence erupted after ethnic Albanian mayors took office in northern Kosovo's Serb-majority area following elections that were boycotted by the Serbs. World number three Djokovic later said he was against any kind of conflict but defended his statement.

respond to a request for comment on the call by the KOK, which came a day after Kosovo's tennis federation accused Djokovic, 36, of using his status as a well-known personality to stir tensions. French Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera, whose country will host the summer Olympics in Paris next year, said Djokovic's message was "not appropriate, clearly".

## A Mix Of Beckham & Gazza, Man City's Grealish Emerging As The Face Of English Football

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Armed with the boyish charm and marketability of David Beckham and the skills and playfulness of Paul Gascoigne, Jack Grealish has a potent mix that has seen him quickly emerge as the face of English football.

Now that he is starting to add trophies to his growing list of endorsement deals that already include Gucci and Puma, the possibilities appear endless for the Manchester City winger who is the most expensive English football player of all time.

Grealish — he of the bulging calf muscles and swept-back hair — was already hot property in the English game before a 2021 move from Aston Villa to City for 100 million pounds (then \$139 million) that took his appeal to a new level.

Nearing the end of his second season at City, the 27-year-old Grealish has finally established himself as a key part of a Premier League-winning team that is seeking to clinch the second leg of a treble of major titles this season by beating Manchester

United in the FA Cup final on Saturday.

He is far more than a football player these days, though. "People like Jack Grealish are the new sports lifestyle icons," Alan Seymour, a sports academic and author in business and marketing, told The Associated Press. "As he's matured and got more attuned to what is required of him as a footballer, on the field and off the field, it's why he is right up there with the very best sports personalities for marketability, not only in football but away from football."

Elements of the wild-child image that shadowed him in the early years of his career remain.

At the height of the lockdown amid the pandemic, Grealish was found slurring his words after crashing his car in a residential estate and was later banned from driving for nine months. Then there were those images of him playing a prominent role in City's Premier League title celebrations last year, when he was seen swigging a beer and — bleary-eyed and with a croaky voice — aiming a dig at Newcastle



midfielder Miguel Almiron that gained plenty of air time.

Grealish unashamedly accepts that's who he is. He recently said he might have been a nightclub promoter if he wasn't a football player and that he'd always be prone to the kind of excesses that mean he embodies the spirit of a regular football fan.

But the loveable, charming part of Grealish's personality is

inescapable. It shines through in every interview he does — he pinches himself that he is a football professional, playing against the likes of Real Madrid in the Champions League — and in his public friendship with a young City fan named Finley, who has cerebral palsy. He's a popular member of the City squad, striking up a particularly close relationship with superstar striker Erling

Haaland off the field.

"I feel so much more confident in this team," said Grealish, who was left out of many of City's big games last season while he adapted to the demands of manager Pep Guardiola. "I feel fitter and back to what I know, what I can do. This is why City bought me and I have so much to offer."

Big brands think so, too. He is an ambassador for fash-

ion house Gucci and for Bose audio equipment, and this year signed a boot deal with Puma that's reportedly the most lucrative by a British player, worth about 10 million pounds per season over the next five years.

He has 7 million followers on Instagram and 4.2 million on TikTok. The British press are even starting to liken Grealish and his girlfriend, fashion model Sasha Attwood, to David and Victoria Beckham, and the way Grealish wears a handband — boyband-style — to manage his floppy hair furthers the comparisons with Beckham, even if their playing style is very different.

"He has boyish charm and likeability, that impish, roguish element to him," Seymour said. "If I put it into marketing speak, you have a point of difference and point of parity — his point of difference is his appeal."

"The synergy (with Beckham) is clearly there," he added. "But a sportsperson always says I don't want to be compared to, I want to be the new, 'I am.' I think Jack Grealish will always go out of his way

to point that out. He is putting himself out there and that is what sponsors look for."

The comparisons with Gascoigne, the mercurial central midfielder who helped England to the semifinals of the 1990 World Cup and the 1996 European Championship, come in the way Grealish carries the ball with such pace and directness that he is constantly one of the most-fouled players in the Premier League. Grealish knows he needs to score more goals and have more assists to be rated as one of the world's best attackers, but his technique and first touch is up there with the game's finest players.

Guardiola values, in particular, the control Grealish brings to the team from his spot on the left of the team's front three and that — plus his work rate — is why he is now a first-choice pick for the biggest games.

Like the FA Cup final on Saturday and the Champions League final against Inter Milan the following weekend.

"We still have some massive games left," Grealish said, "and we feel unstoppable."



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