

## 5.4 Magnitude Quake Hits Doda

Press Trust Of India

**Bhaderwah:** A 5.4 magnitude earthquake hit Doda district on Tuesday afternoon, forcing people in parts of Jammu and Kashmir to rush out of their homes in panic and causing damage to some buildings, officials said.

The tremors were felt across Delhi and other parts of north India, and in neighbouring Pakistan.

The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said the 5.4 magnitude earthquake struck the region at 1:33 pm. Its epicentre was in Doda.

The earthquake struck at a depth of 6 kilometres, it said.

In Doda's Bhaderwah town, a few buildings developed cracks due to the tremors. The false ceiling of a ward of the sub-district hospital collapsed.

Some of the debris fell on patients recuperating in the hospital ward, an official said.

The patients have been moved to safety and are being treated in an emergency ward of the hospital, he said.

Azim Malik, a resident of Ghata Bhaderwah, said his house was damaged due to the tremors.

"It was a strong earthquake and cracks have developed in my house," Malik told PTI.

Panic-stricken | [More on PIO](#)

## AMARNATH YATRA

# Over 60,000 Security Personnel To Be Deployed In J&K

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Over 60,000 paramilitary personnel will be deployed across Jammu and Kashmir for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra in South Kashmir, scheduled to begin from next month.

According to the government-run All India Radio (AIR), over 60,000 paramilitary personnel will be deployed from Lakhanpur, the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir to the cave shrine of Amarnath during the 62-day long pilgrimage starting July 1.

Apart from the routine deployment, the report said that sniper and sharp shooters will also be deployed at many locations while the yatra convoy will be escorted with security personnel laced with technical gadgets.



The report quoted Akashvani Jammu correspondent as saying that additional companies of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are expected to arrive in the Union Territory by this week. "The deployment will be made from June 20 along the national highway and the twin Baltal and

Pahalgam routes leading to the holy cave," the report said. It adds that personnel from ITBP, BSF, SSF, CISF are also expected to be deployed from June 20 to strengthen the security structure during the two-month pilgrimage. "The troops | [More on PIO](#)

## LG Reviews Yatra Arrangements At Pahalgam



Observer News Service

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday visited Pahalgam and reviewed the arrangements and ongoing works ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, starting from July 1st.

The LG conducted on-site inspection at Nunwan and Chandanwari Base Camps and reviewed ongoing works and logistics, lodging, health and other facilities that have been put in place for the comfort of pilgrims, an official spokesperson said. Subsequently, | [More on PIO](#)

**THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO PLANNED 'Jammu Darshan' for the pilgrims to boost tourism and attract more tourists to J&K. So far, around 3 lakh pilgrims have reportedly registered themselves online for the yatra,"**

## HM To Address Rally In Jammu On June 23

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address a grand public rally here on June 23, the death anniversary of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Ravinder Raina said.

The BJP observes June 23 as Mukherjee's 'Balidan Diwas'.

"Mega public rallies are being organised at each parliamentary constituency in Jammu and Kashmir. In the Jammu parliamentary constituency, a mega public rally will be organised in Jammu city on June 23, which will be addressed by Shah," Raina said.

Leaders and activists of the party have to devote more time to mobilise the public to attend the rallies, including the one by Amit Shah, said Raina addressing a Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan programme being held to highlight the achievements of the Narendra Modi government.

J&K BJP's general secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul said Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan has witnessed massive response from the public and has been a boost for the morale of party workers at the grassroots. People in | [More on PIO](#)

## 2 Intruders Killed At LoC: Army

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The army on Tuesday claimed to have killed two militants in an encounter along the Line of Control (LoC) in Macchal sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

On specific intelligence inputs about likely infiltration from Macchal Sector from Jammu and Kashmir police and other intelligence agencies including Military Intelligence, a joint operation was launched by army and police in Doga Nar area on the night of June 12/13 where multiple ambushes were laid along the likely routes of infiltration, an army spokesperson said Tuesday.

Around 1300 hours on Tuesday, he said, ambush teams observed two heavily armed militants crossing the LoC.

"They were engaged by ambush teams. A fire fight ensued resulting in elimination of both infiltrating terrorists. Identity of the terrorists and their tanzim affiliation is being ascertained. Two AK Series Rifles, Four Hand Grenades and | [More on PIO](#)



KO Photojournalist Abid Bhat captures a breathtaking view of sunset over Srinagar's Dal Lake, with a lone boatman rowing his Shikara back home.

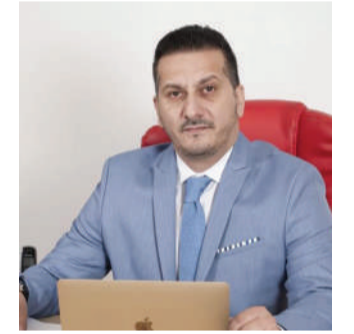
## Kashmiri Doctor To Receive People's Honour At Westminster

Observer News Service

**Srinagar-** Kashmiri origin Dr Muhammad Sohail Nasti, from Derbyshire is one of 26 remarkable individuals to be recognised at the Palace of Westminster with the prestigious British Citizen Award (BCA) in recognition of their extraordinary endeavours.

The British Citizen Award in partnership with One Stop, is now in its ninth year and recognises exceptional people who positively impact their communities throughout the country. Dubbed 'The People's Honours' - due to the fact that anyone with an OBE, CBE or KBE is ineligible to receive a BCA - this programme recognises true community heroes for their divergent endeavours and positive impact on society.

Muhammad will be recognised at the Palace of Westminster on 29th June 2023 and honoured with The British Citizen Award for International Achievement and will receive the coveted BCA Medal of Honour and invited to use the post-nominals BCAs as a legacy of his achievements.



Muhammad founded the charity Mother Helpage UK in 1994 after he lost his mother, since then it has been delivering aid and help to many across the globe. Mother Helpage UK is a non-profit international humanitarian programme that provides financial donations, materials, medical aid and volunteer workers in order to implement sustainable projects and programmes in over 20 countries.

"His vision is to achieve social and economic | [More on PIO](#)

## Relief For Students Who Missed CUET-2023

Students To Get Opportunity To Take Admission In Subjects, Colleges Of Their Choice: Principal Secretary

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The government has announced that the students, who could not appear in the recently held Common University Entrance Test (CUET) due to allotment of examination centres in distant towns and cities, shall be given an opportunity to take admission in subjects and colleges of their choice.

Principal Secretary, Education, Alok Kumar, while conveying this information, said that the CUET, as per the NEP 2020, is a standardized entrance test conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) that aims to streamline the admission process for undergraduate and postgraduate courses

being offered by Universities across the country.

This test, according to an official spokesperson, will assess the knowledge, aptitude and skills of the applicants, providing a fair and equitable evaluation platform for all the candidates. Last year, he said, more than 200 universities (including 47 central universities) participated in the CUET.

"The process will give an opportunity to the students from J&K to take admission in prestigious Universities and Colleges of the country. He added that the Higher Education Department of J&K has taken strenuous efforts for implementation of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for the academic | [More on PIO](#)

## BUFFER ZONES IN DAL LAKE

# HC Nod To Govt On Modification Of Master Plan-2023

M Ahmad

**Srinagar:** To prevent "further damage" to the ecosystem and the Dal Lake itself, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has asked the government to carry out modification of the Master Plan 2035 as regards "buffer zones" around the water body, the flagship of Kashmir tourism.

In this regard, the court asked the government to follow the due



process as contemplated under the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970.

"The Court taking cognizance of the various issues, passed a detailed order on 08.09.2022 and also keeping

in mind the Master Plan 2035 which was already published, this Court was of the view that Master Plan can be revised and modified as per the advice of the experts," said a bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi while hearing a Public Interest Litigation regarding preservation and conservation of the world famous lake.

"This Court accordingly granted liberty | [More on PIO](#)

## Seeks Report On Sudden Fish Death

The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the concerned government department to submit the report regarding the sudden death of thousands of fish in Dal Lake last month. A bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi passed the orders on an | [More on PIO](#)

## NIA Attaches Ayaz Akbar's House, Land

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday attached two more properties, belonging to an accused, in the 'Hurriyat terror funding case' in Kashmir.

The action comes a day after the agency attached 17 properties of 'militancy financier' Zahoor Ahmed Shah Watali.

The properties of Hurriyat Conference leader and aide of late Syed Ali Geelani Mohammad Akbar Khanday alias Ayaz Akbar include nine kanal land and a two-storeyed house in Srinagar. These have been attached on the orders of Special NIA Court, New Delhi, under section 33(1) of UAPA, a statement by NIA said.



"Khanday, currently in Tihar Jail facing trial in the terror funding case, was the spokesperson/ media advisor of Hurriyat Conference (C). He was raising and collecting funds from within India and abroad through various illegal channels and was using the same to sponsor and promote separatist and | [More on PIO](#)

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

### Man Booked Under PSA In Reasi

An alleged criminal was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Makbool Ahmad alias "Tian", a resident of Gran Morh, was lodged in district jail Amphalla (Jammu) in view of his repeated involvement in criminal activities, a police official said. Three separate criminal | [More on PIO](#)

### 2 Dead Militants, OGW Chargesheeted

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of police on Tuesday presented chargesheet against two dead militants and a militant associate before the National Investigative Agency (NIA) court in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. The chargesheet was presented against militant associate Sameer Ahmad Mohand of Sheerabad Tral, and two slain militants Shafat Muzfar Sofi of Tral | [More on PIO](#)

### Patwari Lands In ACB Net

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested a revenue department official for demanding and accepting a bribe from a fire victim in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. The sleuths of anti-graft body arrested Abdul Rashid Mir, Patwari halqa Arigam in Khanshab, when he was accepting a bribe of Rs 1500 as a first installment from a fire victim for | [More on PIO](#)

### LG For Mass Awareness On Blood Donation

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, in his message on World Blood Donor Day, expressed gratitude to the voluntary blood donors for their selfless service to humanity. In a message, the Lt Governor said: We are truly grateful to the voluntary blood donors for their self-less service and saving precious lives. On this day, let us rededicate | [More on PIO](#)

### 2 Cops Injured By Illegal Sand Miners

Two policemen were injured in an attack by a group of people involved in illegal sand mining in the Tawi river on the outskirts of Jammu city, officials said on Tuesday. One person has been arrested in connection with the incident which took place on Monday evening, police said. Acting on a complaint about illegal mining in the Kukdiyal area, a mining department | [More on PIO](#)

### 2 Dead In Qazigund Road Accidents

Two persons died while another one was injured in twin road accidents in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, officials said. An official said that two persons died and another one was injured near Shampora Crossing and Vessu areas of Qazigund respectively. "At Shampora crossing an unknown vehicle | [More on PIO](#)



To place an advertisement  
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Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

**Office of The Executive Engineer  
 Irrigation And Flood Control Division Srinagar**

Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119

email: [exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com](mailto:exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com)

**Expression of Interest for the operation of Parasailing Boat in the Dal Lake**

1. The Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control (Jal Shakti) Department of Kashmir intends to provide permission/licence to the interested persons/parties/agencies to undertake Recreational Business Activities in Dal Lake for a period of three (03) years (extendable up to five (05) years depending on the performance, work and conduct of the agency/individual).

2. Under the section 70 of JK Water Resources (Regulation & Management) Act, 2010 and Rule 37 of the JK Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Rules, 2011, the Chief Engineer is the Licensing Authority to grant permission for plying of Paddle Boats after obtaining consent and clearance from the Tourism & LCMA Departments and as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of J&K.

3. Interested Parties shall submit necessary prequalification documents through online mode on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) listed in this EOI for further e-price bidding. The Licence will be granted after fulfilling the pre-qualification criteria.

4. The License shall be provided by holding subsequent auction of the available slot only amongst the qualified bidders.

5. One (01) number Parasailing boats available for permission and licensing through e-bidding to be operated in Hazratbal Basin of Dal Lake.

**Pre-qualification Criteria:**  
 The interested parties shall upload the following documents on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in):  
 i) Details/Biodata of agency with Phone & E-mail.  
 ii) Applicant should be Adventure Tour Operator registered with the J&K Tourism Department.  
 iii) Details and valid documents or License of trained/technical staff available as per the safety norms for Water Bodies Goa, Ministry of Tourism, GOI.  
 iv) Qualification and consent letter of staff.  
 v) PAN card with latest ITR copy.  
 vi) Experience certificate of staff/applicant (if any).  
 vii) Character certificate of owner of the agency from competent authority (not older than six (06) months).  
 viii) Equipment details with safety arrangements.

**Documents Required for Parasailing Boat:**  
 a) Boat builder certificate (Parasailing & Rescue Boat)  
 b) Boat design certificate approved by any of the IACS members (Parasailing & Rescue Boat)  
 c) Certificate of Survey for worthiness of Parasailing & Rescue Boat (yearly)  
 d) Boat Registration Certificate from competent authority for Parasailing & Rescue Boat  
 e) Hull & Machinery Insurance (Parasailing & Rescue Boat)  
 f) Insurance of Operator and crew including support staff  
 g) Group Insurance for Guest as per the boat seating capacity  
 h) Operator & Crew valid Certificate/ License (Parasailing & Rescue Boat)  
 i) NOCS as applicable.  
 j) Safety Audit/Physical Inspection Report issued by NIWS (yearly)

**Parasailing Boat (Winch):**  
 1. Material: Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP)  
 2. Length: 9.70 m, Breath: 3.04 m, Depth: 1.40m  
 3. Seating Capacity: 12 (Guest) + 3 (Crew)  
 4. Engine: 300hp or above inboard engine  
 5. Winch working pressure - 110 bar, drum speed - 150 rpm  
 6. Winch rope -  
 (a) It shall comply with the manufacturer's specification for safe working load and number of flights after which the rope should be replaced.  
 (b) Must have a safe working load of 3000kg

**Operating Instructions:**  
 1) Parasailing operation must be carried out from specially demarcated area of the beach/lake to avoid injury or disturbance to other users.  
 2) The boat driver must have a remote control powerboat handling (PBH-R (LEVEL 3)) and Parasailing operations certification from NIWS. In addition, he must have a minimum of 30 supervised launches before handling operations independently.  
 3) Parasailing Operation can be conducted in wind speed from 6 knots to 12 knots.  
 4) The parasailing operation must be stopped whenever the wind speed exceeds 12 knot.  
 5) Water depth shall be 3 to 4 meters  
 6) Area of Operation shall be of 500 to 600 Square meters for boat manoeuvring, depending upon the characteristic of waterbody.  
 7) In addition to Driver, the boat must carry one assistant to serve as a "Lookout".  
 8) The boat driver must keep a sharp lookout for watercrafts in water to take quick evasive action.  
 9) The parasailing equipment shall be inspected and certified by NIWS or specialist on its behalf as authorised by the Government of UT of J&K.  
 10) A Rescue boat must be kept standby during parasailing operations.  
 11) The parasailing Centre must have a windssock or a hand-held wind speed meter to determine the wind velocity.  
 12) Portable Fire Extinguisher, 14 mm Polypropylene rope 30 metre.  
 13) Vessel to ply only in fair weather season and in calm and settled water condition.  
 14) Vessel to be operated only in day light hours.  
 15) Maximum number of passengers to be carried should not exceed 12. The maximum number of crew not to exceed 03. Total passengers and crew not to exceed 15 (Fifteen) persons in fair weather and calm water condition during daylight hours only.  
 16) Every person to be seated in demarcated position. In no case should all persons crowd to one side of the vessel.  
 17) The vessel shall not move under any circumstance unless all persons done lifejackets while the craft is operational.  
 18) The vessel should comply with all relevant provisions as applicable of M.S. Act, 1958 and I.V. Act, 2021 for operation of boat.  
 19) To operate within designated zones prescribed by Appropriate Authority.  
 20) The vessels operation should not hinder swimming in waters or other crafts and the vessel shall keep well clear of them.  
 21) Parasailing equipment and winch etc. shall be inspected and tested prior use every time.  
 22) Parasailing passengers should be free from medical problems such as B.P., heart problems, etc. and in no case pregnant women and children below 16 years of age be allowed to parasail.  
 23) Vessel shall in addition be provided with following  
 i. Life Jackets-15 nos. (Adults) 03 nos. (Children).  
 ii. Life buoys-02 no.  
 iii. Fire extinguisher - 02no. 5 Kg DCP.  
 iv. Fire extinguisher-01no. 9.0 Its foam.  
 v. Rescue Quits-02 nos.  
 vi. Fire buckets-02 nos.  
 vii. Communication equipment  
 viii. Dedicated rescue boat  
 ix. Medical kit with medical oxygen.  
 24) Any collision/mishap should be reported within one hour and file written statement within 24 hours to I&FC Department, LC&MA, Police and Department of Tourism.  
 25) Standard operating procedure and precautions for parasailing to be complied with at all times.  
 Non-submission of any of the online document may render the party liable to rejection.

**Note - In the previous EOI under ID 2023\_JFC\_212030\_1, dated 13 May 2023, very sparse response was received. In order to ensure better participation in the process, those agencies/individuals who intend to participate but as of now are not in possession of the registration certificate of the J&K Tourism Department are hereby given one time opportunity to participate in the process of the below proposed activities to be operated in the Dal Lake. However, the agencies that have participated in the previous EOI under ID 2023\_JFC\_212030\_1, dated 13 May 2023 need not to apply again.**

**The terms and conditions are as under -**  
 1. The minimum reserve bid has been fixed as under:

S.No	Activity	Location	Minimum Reserve Bid
1	Parasailing Boat (01 no)	Hazratbal Basin	Rs. 75,000/-

At Serial C & D of the above table, the bunch will be e-bid as one package.  
 2. In case, the agency that will qualify by offering the highest bid for any activity is not registered with J&K Tourism, the agency shall apply for Registration as Adventure Tour Operator in the qualified activity immediately, failing which his/her bid will be not be entertained. The J&K Tourism Department shall initiate the registration process on fast-track.  
 3. Commercial Operation of the activity is subject to the Registration of the activity with the J&K Tourism Department.  
 4. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount for first year at the culmination of the e-bidding process in three (03) working days and the balance amount of the approved bid shall have to be deposited before commercial operation date with the Chief Engineer, I&FC Department of Kashmir (In the form of bank draft pledged to Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Division Srinagar).  
 5. The activity shall be operational within a maximum period of two (02) months from the date of final e-Bidding.  
 6. In case, the highest bidder fails to abide the laid down conditions, the second highest bidder shall be offered the Operation and Management of the activity after deposition of the highest bid amount on the same conditions of payment and other terms and conditions.  
 7. The duration of all the contracts of the recreational business activities in the Dal Lake will be valid for a period of three (03) years, and extendable by two (02) more years (i.e. 03+01+01 years) depending on the performance, work and conduct of the agency/individual.  
 8. The bid amount would be valid for a period of one year and is subject to compounded escalation of ten percent (10%) for each successive year.  
 9. Each year, the license (permission) will be renewed after a proper safety check of equipment and of all the relevant documents.  
 10. Any amount deposited is non-refundable.  
 11. The e-price bidding will be conducted online at [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

**Uploading of Documents for all activities**  
 The interested parties shall upload the qualification documents on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) for which the end date of submission is **19 June 2023**.  
**Critical dates for all activities**

S.No	Description	Date
1	Date of start for uploading of qualification documents	19 June 2023
2	Last date of uploading of qualification documents	19 June 2023
3	Shortlisting of qualified parties	Should be notified after evaluation separately on the portal

No. IFCDS/CS/EOI-4/2219-32  
 DIPK-3392/23 Dated: 13/06/2023.  
 (Er. Bashir Ahmad)  
 Executive Engineer  
 Irrigation and Flood Control Division Srinagar.

**DIRECTORATE OF SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN**

(WINTER-NOV-APRIL) OPPOSITE GURUDWARA, NATIONAL HIGHWAY, BY PASS ROAD, CHANNI RAMA, JAMMU (SUMMER: MAY-OCT) BEHIND BONE & JOINT HOSPITAL, RAWAT PORA, BAGHAT-I-BARZULLA, SRINAGAR (PHONE: 0191-2467421/2467135), E-MAIL: JKSSA@GMAIL.COM

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**Office of the Executive Engineer  
 School Education Division-II-Kashmir**

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS  
 E-NIT NO:-27/ET/SAMAGRA/KMR/OF 06/2023  
 DATED:12/06/2023.  
 (SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

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

S No.	Name of Work	District	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) Includ. C/O Stores	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion (in days)	Date & time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract	MH of Account
01	Construction of one room over existing building at High School Batafajan.	Shopian	15.77	800.00	31540.00	120	20-06-2023	B/C	District Capex 2023-24
02	Construction of one room over existing building at High School Nowgam.	Shopian	15.77	800.00	31540.00	120	20-06-2023	B/C	District Capex 2023-24

Position of funds : Committed  
 Note:-As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-  
 A) Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e tenders is dispensed with the same and should be obtained from the bidder who is declared first lowest (L1) after opening of financial bids.  
 B) (i) All bidders have to pay 2% of Advertised Cost of the Work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Education Division-II Srinagar at the time of uploading of tender.  
 (ii) The Successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR of the Advertised cost Pledged to Executive Engineer Education Division-II Srinagar within 07 days after opening of bids which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. This will replace the EMD @ 2% of the Advertised cost uploaded by the Bidder.  
 D) The earnest money may be forfeited if:-  
 a. Any bidder /tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
 b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.  
 c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.  
 The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q). Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below.  
 NOTE:-The EMD of 2% uploaded should be as per the date of NIT, before date of NIT Bid shall be reject.

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	12/06/2023
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12/06/2023 to 19/06/2023 up to 4PM
3. Bid submission Start Date	12/06/2023
4. Bid submission End Date	19/06/2023 upto 4PM
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids(Online)	20/06/2023 at 11 AM Office of the Executive Engineer School Education Division 2nd Kashmir

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document to be deposited in the official Bank Account No:-0148040530000004 Gole Market karanagar Sgr. and the bank receipt as per the amount deposited and mentioned against the relevant work should be uploaded along with the other required documents in shape of bank receipt in favour of Bid deposit/PMDP/Document Fees Samagra Shiksha/ Executive Engineer School Education Deptt. Div 2nd. It is important to mention name of Bidder, Name of work and NIT No/S.No on the bank receipt counter file which has to be attached with the bid.  
 2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web-site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer School Education Division - 2nd Kashmir (tender receiving authority) /other competent authority to do so.  
 3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 60/120/30 days from the date of opening of financial bids.  
 4. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-  
 a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
 b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.  
 c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days after fixation of contract.  
 5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
 6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.  
 6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.  
 6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.  
 6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.  
 6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original/Photocopies of documents related to the bid are submitted physically by (L1) first lowest bidder before the date specified in para-1. Note - Scan all the documents in 100 dpi with black and white option.  
 7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.  
 8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of bank receipt in favour of Executive Engineer School Education Deptt. Div 2nd and must be uploaded with the document of the bid. The original bank receipt (cost of tender document) CDR (earnest money) and relevant bid documents to be submitted to the tender opening authority by Registered post/ Courier/ by hand before the date of submission of tender/as per time schedule specified by (L1).  
 9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as its contents.  
 10. Price escalation and all taxes - The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work Deduction on account of taxes and other services as levied by the government time to time shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per rates prevailing at the time of recovery.  
 11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)  
 All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-  
 a) Scanned Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with registered E-mail address and Mobile No. of the bidder / Firm/SHG.  
 b) Valid PAN No.  
 c) GST No. / GST acknowledgement receipt along with latest GST (3B) and GST (RI) shall be furnished in soft copies of ending previous month & quarterly respectively.  
 d) Bid Securing Declaration On e-Stamp Paper Duly notarized.  
 "The bidder has to sign a bid securing declaration that if the bidder withdraw / modify during the period validity i.e. not less than 120 (One hundred Twenty) days from the bid due date or if the bidder awarded contract and fail to sign the contract or to submit the performance security before the deadline defined in the request for the bid documents, the bidder will be suspended for the participation in the tendering process for the work, for a period of one year from the bid due date of this work. The bid securing declaration shall be submitted as per the Format appendix-I (Format for bid securing declaration)".  
 Note for Bidders Upload the Documents. S.No.01 to 06 in one pdf file.  
 Note for Bidders Upload the Documents:-  
 1. Scanned copy of EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) EMD Uploaded should be dated between the 1st day and last day of bid submission. & Tender document fee.  
 2. Scanned copy of Registration card with up to date renewal with Verification Certificate  
 3. Scanned copy of Pan Card & GST Acknowledgement /GST Return (3B) and GST (R) i.e latest clearance certificate from GST-3B & RI both the latest quarter/preceding month to the issue of NIT  
 4. Upload the e-stamp paper duly notarized Bid Securing Declaration Form.  
 5. Contractor to upload the Annexure.A.  
 6. Bill of quantities (BOQ)  
 Note:- All the Scanned Documents upload in serial wise (1 to 6).  
 The lowest Tender will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tendering portal before issuance of LOI or Allotment.  
 Note for Bidders:- 1. Submission of registered Address/e-mail/GST/PAN/Cell No contact No is must, otherwise bid of the contractor shall be rejected if contact No, correspondence address and E-Mail is not uploaded.  
 12.2. The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.  
 12.3. All the documents relating to pre-bid meeting will not be the cause of disqualification of the bid if needed in NIT  
 12.4. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.  
 12.5 It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in e-tendering website.  
 13. The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge with documentary proof if asked for it and when desired.  
 14. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list/quantity schedule, such item/items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/total contract value and no rate shall be allowed for such item/items in the allotment contract.  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer, School Education Div. 2nd Kashmir

**From The Chamber Of Advocate Mir Umar  
 J&K And Ladakh High Court Srinagar**

In the case of:  
 1. Imran Hamid Wani s/o Abdul Hamid Wani R/o Hawal Srinagar.  
 2. Bilal Ahmad Danga S/o Abdul Ahad Danga R/o Bemina Srinagar.  
 3. Mohammad Altaf Shagoo S/o Ghulam Mohammad Shagoo R/o Munwarabad Srinagar  
 4. Noor Mohammad Ahangar S/o Abdul Rehman Ahangar R/o Batamalo Srinagar

Public at large  
 ...Non Caveator

In the matter of: **Caveat petition on behalf of caveator.**

May It Please Your Honour,  
 The caveator humbly submits as under:  
 1. That the caveators are the owners and in possession of land measuring 2 Kanals and 8 Marlas falling under survey No 84 Bin situated at Rakh Guud Bemina Srinagar.  
 2. That some miscreants/ laud mafia persons are trying to grab the said laud of the caveators and the caveators apprehend that somebody may file baseless claim or suit against caveators against said property before any court of law and may get ex parte order.  
 3. That the caveators may be provided an opportunity of being heard before any order is passed against the caveators.  
 It is therefore prayed that the Hon'ble court may be pleased to provide an opportunity of being heard to the caveators before any order is passed against the caveators.  
 Caveator through counsel  
 Mir Umar advocate  
 nj

Date 13-06-2023

**From the Office of Adv Touseef  
 Mohammad Khan & Associates District  
 Court Complex Sgr.**

In the case of:  
 Mirza Ghulam Rasool Beigh S/o Mirza Ghulam Mohammad Beigh. R/o Jaffer Beigh Mohalla Hawal , srinagar  
 (Caveator)

V/S  
 Public at Large  
 (Non-caveator)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC. That the caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator(s) may file a suit or other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District Court or Special Tribunal, Srinagar on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/ order at their back/exparte against the caveator(s) and in such eventuality the caveator(s) will be put to an irreparable loss & inconvenience. It would be proper that the caveator(s) is given an opportunity of being heard by this Hon'ble Court/Tribunal before passing any order.  
 NJ

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that the mother's spelling of my ward Saad Mehboob Bhat studying in Tyndale Biscoe School in class 5th has been wrongly mentioned as Qurat ul Ain instead of correct name Qurat ul Ayn. Now I want to apply for its correction. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact the concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.  
 Mohammad Muzaffar Bhat F/o Saad Mehboob Bhat  
 R/o Tengpora Zoonimar Nowsher  
 nj

**The Jammu And Kashmir  
 Board Of School Education  
 New Campus Bemina Srinagar**

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th/11th/12th ) under Roll No. 12401549 Session: 2020-21 Year 2021 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/ Board against my Name as Wani Mudassar Ahmad Nazir Instead of Mudassar Ahmad Wani S/o Mehraj-uddin Wani



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.  
 Name: Mudassar Ahmad Wani  
 F/N: Mehraj Ud Din Wani  
 M/N Sara Bano  
 DOB : 05-11-2002  
 Residence: Pethpora Narbal  
 BMG

**انا لله وانا اليه راجعون**

**SAD DEMISE**

We inform you the sad demise of Haleema Zoja W/O Ghulam Mohammad Khan R/O Gulabbagh Hazratbal Srinagar who died on 11-06-2023. His Fateh Khawani will be observed on 14-06-2023 (Today) at her ancestral graveyard.

**Bereaved Family  
 7006220814**  
 SLKO

**از غیابت پہاں**  
 مضمون درخواست غیابت: وسم احمد انور ولد غلام حسن انور ساکن موضع تارواری پورہ  
 بضر حصول SC/OBC سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس آر آء 208  
 اشتہار: برادر آگاہی برضاً وعاماً۔  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بضر حصول SC/OBC سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے پورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل انور ذات سے تعلق رکھتی ہے سائل تارواری پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کے ابا و اجداد دھندائیں رہائش پذیر تھے۔ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آدئی
01	سارہ بیگم			
02	جوہار اختر			
04	وسیم احمد انور			
04	شوکت احمد انور			
05	بالمیس حسن			

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ معاذ کہہ کر نے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 نائب تحصیلدار  
 fkqr

## Dr Langer Delivers Lecture To JKAS Trainee Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Dr Raghav Langer, today delivered a thought provoking lecture during the Training Course for JKAS Officer Trainees at J&K IMPARD.

During the lecture, the Secretary focused on the intricate process of planning in the government, providing valuable insights into the overall development scenario of Jammu and Kashmir and its economic status.

He elaborately explained the concepts of GSDP, per capita income, sectoral contribution, budget preparation, revenue and capital receipts/expenditure, fiscal deficit, tax-GDP ratio, debt-GDP ratio and related issues to the pro-

bationers in a simple and lucid manner.

Dr Langer's expertise and in-depth knowledge deeply engaged the officer trainees, offering them a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in driving development initiatives.

Following lecture, Dr Langer also interacted with the officer trainees and discussed various issues and exchanged experience and ideas.

Dr Jahan Ara Jabeen and Dr S. Khurshid Ul Islam, the coordinators of the course, ensured smooth organization and execution of the lecture. They facilitated the officer trainees with a conducive learning environment, enabling them to gain valuable insights from Dr Langer's vast experience in governance and planning.



Two nomadic girls posing for a photograph in a makeshift arrangement on the outskirts of Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## DC Srinagar Reviews Scheme Wise Performance of RDD Sector

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to assess the scheme-wise performance of Rural Development Sector and review the implementation of the schemes under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)-II in Srinagar Panchayats, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was given a detailed appraisal about the schemes being executed under the RDD sector in all Panchayat Blocks of Srinagar District including Physical and Financial progress of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)-II, CD- Panchayats, progress of e-tendering under Area Development Program (DDC, BDC, PRI Grants),

progress of e-tendering under Aspiration Block Development Program, Aspiration Panchayat Development Scheme, Progress of MGNREGA and PMAY(G).

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Officers to prioritize implementation of all schemes and of Rural Development and lay focused thrust on expediting the works being executed under Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)-Grameen and Aspiration Block Development Program (ABDP) in all Panchayats of the District.

Stressing on accelerating the pace of all developmental works, the DC directed the implementation agencies to redouble their efforts to ensure cent percent saturation of all the deliverables under the program in all Panchayats in all 4 blocks of the District.

## Confusion Ends Over Mutton Prices Meat With Offal To Be Sold At Rs 600, Without Offal At Rs 650 Per Kg

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Mutton Dealers Union Tuesday said that there was no confusion in mutton rates as meat with offal will be sold at Rs 600 and without offal will sell at Rs 650.

General Secretary of the All Jammu and Kashmir Butchers Union, Hilal Ahmed said the notification issued by the central government will help in regulating the mutton prices in the market.

"A few months ago, we also spoke to the Division Commissioner of Kashmir about this issue. We expressed our concern over the high cost of mutton, which we were receiving at Rs 600 per kilogram from Delhi. Not only us, but others also buy mutton from there, and we will strive to ensure that prices do not rise," he said, adding the current rate as of now is Rs 650 with offal per kilogram and Rs 600 without offal.

Additionally, "I would personally like to request the general public that if anyone offers you mutton at prices higher than those already mentioned on the rate list, please



**I would personally like to request the general public that if anyone offers you mutton at prices higher than those already mentioned on the rate list, please refrain from making a purchase and boycott them**

refrain from making a purchase and boycott them," he added.

Lastly, an official from the CAPD informed KNO that they have clear directions not to regulate the prices of mutton and other livestock products at the moment.

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs instructed the authorities last week to cease regulating the prices of livestock products. Prior to the notification, the government-approved price of mutton was Rs 535 per kilogram.

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

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

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	3:33
ZUHR	12:30
ASR	5:30
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9:28

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
24 Zil-Qadah  
1444

### This Day In History

- 1917- 1st German air attack on England, 100+ killed in East London
- 1929 -Prussia & Vatican sign Concord
- 1938- Chlorophyll patented by Benjamin Grushkin
- 1940- German forces enter Paris during WWII
- 1941- Estonia loses 11,000 inhabitants as a consequence of mass deportations into Siberia
- 1942- 1st bazooka rocket gun produced Bridgeport Ct
- 1944- 1st B-29 raid against mainland Japan
- 1958- British parachutists lands on Cyprus
- 1967- USSR launches Kosmos 166 for observation of Sun from earth orbit
- 1973- US President Richard Nixon administration imposes 60-day economy-wide price freeze, superseding Special Rule No. 1 for oil companies
- 1975- USSR launches Venera 10 for Venus landing
- 1989 -Ground breaking begins in Minn on world's largest mall
- 1989- Ronald Reagan is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II (honorary knighthood)
- 1993- Japanese space probe Sakigake passes Earth
- 2001- China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan form the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- 2012 -The world's first stem-cell assisted vein transplant is undertaken by Swedish doctors on a 10 year old girl
- 2013- Hassan Rouhani is elected President of Iran
- 2013- Massive flooding occurs in northern India killing up to 10,000 people

### From KO Archives

## Militant Escape Case: Police Hunting For Ex-MLA

Observer News Service

**S**SRINAGAR - A National Conference leader and former legislator allegedly involved in facilitating a militant commander in crossing the international border to Pakistan, is absconding.

The police have conducted raids at several places to seek the ex-MLA, Gul Rafiqi, who represented the Hom-Shalibug constituency, but have failed to trace him.

The raids were conducted at Rafiqi's residence as well as at the homes of some of his relatives, the KNS said. Policemen in plain clothes scoured the MLA hostels in Jammu as well as Srinagar, but

failed to turn up any clues about the ex-legislators whereabouts. Rafiqi's mobile phone, too is not functioning for the past three days.

According to sources Rafiqi may be trying to obtain anticipatory bail.

He has disappeared despite being informed that he should present himself before the police, which is now raiding his habitual haunts and using its network of informers to track him down.

A senior police officer told the KNS that a high level investigation was on in the matter of the escape of a divisional commander of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen from the valley.

Three persons, including the Ex-MLA's then secretary, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, personal Security Officer Kewal Singh and driver Shyam are already in custody.

Rafiqi allegedly, helped the Hizb divisional commander, Mohammad Amin Baba, escape from the Valley by taking him, to Amritsar in his own official vehicle accompanied by two personal security officers.

Baba, who had reportedly managed to get a passport on fictitious Srinagar address, was allegedly escorted to Wagah border on May 2 this year where he crossed over to Pakistan

Sources said the case came to light when the police were investigating a mine-blast in Anantnag and arrested a suspect Javid Ahmad. Hizb commander Baba was also a suspect and when the police questioned Javid about him they learnt that Baba had recently crossed over to Pakistan via Amritsar. When asked about the allegations against Rafiqi, National Conference President Omar Abdullah was quoted by news agencies as having said "if there is anything against him (Rafiqi), the law will take its course. We want an impartial probe in the matter." He however said that the Mufti Sayeed government had done nothing when militants were arrested from a minister's house. "He still remains minister. Where is the justice," he questioned.

(Kashmir Observer, 14 June, 2005)

### Public Notice

I have lost my passport Bearing No L1927664 while travelling from Chanapora to Baramullah by bus somewhere on 2 June 2023. Now I want to apply for its duplicate. If anybody has any objections in this regard may contact the concerned authorities with in a period of 7 days publication of this notice. After that no objections will be entertained.

Shahid Rashid Lone  
S/O Ab Rashid Lone  
Residence 47A Khan Colony Chanapora Srinagar

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for the following works over Firozpur Division:

1	Auction catalogue No.	FZRPARCEL37
	Auction Date & Time	23.06.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
	Name of work	Contract for Leasing of parcel parcel In VP by Train No. 12414/13, 12472/71, 15652/51, 15654/53 & 15656/55
2	Auction catalogue No.	FZRPARCEL37
	Auction Date & Time	23.06.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
	Name of work	Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No SLR compartment 16788-F1, 12716-F1, 16032-F2, 16032-F1, 18102-R1, 15708-F1 & 12904-F1
3	Auction catalogue No.	EA-FZR-OH-23-9
	Auction Date & Time	23.06.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
	Name of work	Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Static Media at Rly. Stn, FZR Cantt.
	Name of work	Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through 25 LED Screens at Rly. Stn, FZR Cantt.
4	Auction catalogue No.	EA-FZR-PRK23-16
	Auction Date & Time	23.06.2023 at 12:30 Hrs
	Name of work	Allotment of Comprehensive Parking contract at Railway Station Phagwara
5	Auction catalogue No.	FZRCLOAKROOM-7
	Auction Date & Time	23.06.2023 at 12:30 Hrs
	Name of work	Allotment of Cloak room at SVD Katra Railway Station

Complete details of auction can be seen by registered bidder on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

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### Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal

Tel No. :- 0194-2416178 Email: -xen-stdgbl@nic.in, enengineer12@gmail.com

#### NOTICE INVITING BIDDER

e-NIT No.: - STD/GBL/11 of 2023-24, Dated: 13-06-2023

For "Construction Of JE'S Quarter/SBA Room At Receiving Station Saloora Under Capex Budget in Respect of STD Ganderbal

#### NOTICE INVITING BIDDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCJ Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from OEM's, Authorized Dealers & Service providers, Registered (A- Class & B Class) Civil Contractors registered with J&K Government, Central Public Works Department, Railways and other state/central governments for "e-NIT No.: - STD/GBL/11 of 2023-24, Dated: 13-06-2023 "Construction Of JE'S Quarter/SBA Room At Receiving Station Saloora Under Capex Budget in Respect of STD Ganderbal.

#### Important Dates and Events

	STD/GBL/11 of 2023-24, Dated: 13-06-2023
The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> as per schedule given below:	
A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document
B	Clarifications start date
C	Clarifications end date
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bidder fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders)
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids
I	Cost of e-Bid document
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit
K	Estimated amount
L	Status of Funds
M	Validity offer
N	Work Completion period

The tender document can be downloaded from website [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) "Corrigendum, if any, would appear only on the [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) website. Sale of physical tender document is not applicable. No price shall be submitted offline in any form. Bidder can modify his bid before last date of submission of online bid. After the last date of submission of online bid, no claim of bidder shall be entertained.

No: STD/GBL/Ts/384-92  
DIPK-NB-1259/23 Date:-13-06-2023

Executive Engineer,  
STD Ganderbal

### J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP) (A J&K Government Undertaking)

Corporate Office: Jawahar Lal Nehru Udyog Bhawan, Railhead Complex Jammu-180012/  
Sanat Ghar, Bernina, Srinagar-190018

Dated: 13/06/2023  
CORRIGENDUM I

SUBJECT: Construction of office building for Assistant Director Handloom including compound walling at Budgam

Ref.: ENIT No 12B-PeKof of 2022-23 dated 15-05-2023

Minimum bids not received; hence the above mentioned NIT is extended.

- Fresh Closing date: 20-06-2023.
- Fresh Opening date: 21-06-2023

DIPK-NB-1241/23  
DATED: 13-06-2023

Sd/  
Project Engineer SICOP

## 2 Acquitted In 2002 Gujarat Mob Attack Case



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** A sessions court in Mumbai on Tuesday acquitted two accused in the 2002 Best Bakery case of Gujarat where 14 people were killed in a mob attack.

The duo, Harshad Solanki and Mafat Gohil, were acquitted of all the charges by Additional Sessions Judge M G Deshpande.

In the first phase of the trial in the Best Bakery case, the Mumbai sessions court in February 2006 convicted nine of the 17 people accused of murder.

In 2012, the Bombay High Court acquitted five of those convicted for want of evidence but upheld the conviction of four others, who had been sentenced to life by the trial court.

On March 1, 2002, two days after the Godhra carnage, a

mob attacked Best Bakery in Vadodra, looting and burning it down and killing 14 people. The mob targeted the Muslims inside, including the Shaikh family that ran the bakery.

In 2003, as many as 19 people were acquitted after the conclusion of the trial in a local court. Later, their acquittal was confirmed by the Gujarat High Court.

One of the victims, Zahirabi Shaikh, along with an NGO, moved the Supreme Court against the judgement.

She had urged the Supreme Court that the judgments and orders passed by the trial as well as the Gujarat High Court be set aside.

Accepting the plea, the Supreme Court remanded the matter to Maharashtra and ordered a retrial and reinvestigation by the police.

## All Four Mumbai Boys Who Went Missing On Juhu Beach Found Dead



Press Trust of India

Rescuers have found the bodies of all four boys who went missing after venturing into the Arabian Sea off Mumbai's Juhu Koliwada area, an official said on Tuesday.

They were part of a group of five friends, aged between 12 and 16, who ventured into the rough sea, about half a kilometre from the shore, around 5.30 p.m. on Monday.

While one of them was rescued, the others went missing, prompting the Fire Brigade to launch a search operation with assistance from the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

The Fire Brigade suspended the search operation due to darkness and bad weather around 11 p.m. on Monday. Before that, a Navy chopper was pressed into service at 8.20 p.m.

The operation resumed in the morning, during which the missing boys were located and rushed to the civic-run Cooper Hospital, where the doctors declared them dead, said the official.

The bodies of two of the four missing boys were recovered early in the morning and the others in the afternoon, said the official. The deceased were identified as Jay Roshan Tajbariya (15), Manish Yogesh Oganaya (12), Shubham Yogesh Oganaya (15), and Dharmesh Valji Faujiya (16), he said.

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Authorities have already warned people and fishermen against venturing into the sea because of the rough conditions ahead of the landfall of cyclone 'Biparjoy' on the Gujarat coast on June 15.

## Tens Of Thousands Evacuated As Cyclone Menaces India And Pakistan

Agencies

**AHMEDABAD, INDIA:** More than 40,000 people have been evacuated across India and Pakistan as a cyclone approaches their coast, officials said Tuesday, with gales of up to 150 kilometers per hour predicted.

The cyclone - named Biparjoy, meaning "disaster" in Bengali - is making its way across the Arabian Sea and is forecast to make landfall as a "very severe cyclonic storm," government weather monitors warned.

In Pakistan's southeastern Sindh province, officials said at least 20,000 people had been evacuated from the storm's path, while across the border in India's Gujarat state, authorities said they had also helped a similar number to move.

India's Meteorological Department said the storm would hit near the Indian port of Jakhau on Thursday evening with winds surging up to 150 kilometers per hour.

"Over 20,000 people have been evacuated," said C.C. Patel, the official in charge of relief operations in Gujarat state, adding that more people would be moved throughout Tuesday.

Fishing has been suspended along the Gujarat coast where there could be waves of up to three meters (over nine feet), and the Indian Coast Guard on Monday evacuated 50 personnel from an oil drilling ship due to rough conditions.

Indian Prime Minister Nar-



endra Modi on Monday chaired meetings to review the impending cyclone, calling for officials to "take every possible measure to ensure that people living in vulnerable locations are safely evacuated."

Authorities in Gujarat have warned as many as 1.6 million people are likely to be affected in their state, and heavy winds and rains ahead of its arrival have already killed three people.

Two children were killed when a wall collapsed, and a woman was hit by a falling tree while riding a motorbike.

In Pakistan, the deputy commissioner of Badin district said between 22,000 and 23,000 people had been moved from seafloor villages.

Agha Shah Nawaz said that up to 10,000 were now living in 13 camps set up in government schools and colleges across the district.

"Initially people were reluctant to leave their places,

but we kept pursuing them," Shah Nawaz said.

Sindh's provincial information minister Sharjeel Memon put the number of evacuees there at 22,400 around midday on Tuesday.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department said winds gusting up to 120 km/h were forecast along the coast, with storm surges of up to 3.5 meters predicted.

In 2021, the same coast was hit by Cyclone Tauktae, which killed more than 150 people and caused large-scale destruction.

Cyclones in the North Atlantic or typhoons in the Northwest Pacific - are a regular and deadly menace on the coast of the northern Indian Ocean where tens of millions of people live.

Scientists have warned that storms are becoming more powerful as the world gets warmer because of climate change.

## New World Order Taking Shape In Favor Of Independent States

Agencies

Speaking at the joint meeting of the high-ranking delegations of Iran and Venezuela on Monday afternoon local time, Ebrahim Raeisi thanked the Venezuelan government and people for the warm welcome, described the relations between the two countries as strategic and clarified, "Despite the expansion of relations between Iran and Venezuela in recent years, diverse mutual capacities require the agreements of the two countries to be implemented as quickly as possible and the relations between them to be upgraded to higher levels."

Referring to the capabilities of Iran in the field of exporting technical-engineering services and processing agricultural and mineral products, the President noted, "The Iranian nation has gained valuable experiences and achievements in the field of science and technology by standing up to the domination system and overcoming the sanctions, which can be shared with Venezuela."

Referring to targeting the volume of exchanges between the two countries up to \$10 billion in the medium term, the President emphasised that this figure can be increased to \$20 billion in the next step.

Raeisi emphasised the more active shipping lines



between the two countries, expanding cooperation in industrial, mining, energy and monetary and banking issues as important in deepening and strengthening the relations between the two countries.

Stating that a new order is being formed in the world, the President said that the future of these developments will benefit the freedom-seeking and independent countries of the world.

In the joint meeting of the high-ranking delegations of the two countries, Nicolás Maduro, the President of Venezuela, praised the history of strategic relations between Tehran and Caracas and announced his determination and the members of the cabinet of this country to start a new round of efforts and measures to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the efforts of Iran and Venezuela to reduce their economic dependence on oil

revenues and thus increasing the resistance of the economy of the two countries against foreign impulses, and said, "In the new world that is being formed, imperialism is falling and the countries that have resisted the arrogance of the arrogant are on the verge of victory."

The President of Venezuela also expressed his satisfaction with the reactivation of Iranian industrial companies such as tractor manufacturing and automobile manufacturing in Venezuela and emphasised the effort to achieve the goal of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries to \$10 billion.

Stressing the necessity of establishing a direct airline between the two countries and strengthening shipping lines to increase trade between Iran and Venezuela, Maduro said, "The two countries have good capacities for cooperation in the fields of tourism, agriculture and animal husbandry."



## Saudi Ministry Provides Hajj Hotline For Islamic Rulings

Agencies

**RIYADH:** The Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs is offering a hotline to answer questions regarding Hajj rituals at the number 8002451000.

The service is available 24/7 and covers several languages, Saudi Press Agency reported on Tuesday. Inquiries will be responded to by one of several distinguished scholars working for the hotline.

## Bidens To Host Intimate Dinner For PM Modi Day Before State Dinner: Report



Press Trust of India

**WASHINGTON:** The Biden family is planning to host an intimate dinner for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 21, a day before the much-in-demand State Dinner at the White House, a senior administration official has said.

PM Modi has been invited by President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for an official state visit.

The historic visit, among other things, would include an impressive welcome ceremony on the South Lawns on June 22, which later in the night would also become the venue for the State Dinner that would be extraordinarily glittery with great entertainment, the official, familiar with the planning of the high-profile trip said.

"We will have a very substantial arrival ceremony on the White House lawn. The night before, I expect the Prime Minister and President Biden and the Biden family to have some moments of intimacy where they really have a chance to sit down together," the official told PTI.

The venue of the intimate dinner has not been disclosed. According to the White House schedule released last week, Biden is scheduled to travel to California from June 19 to 21. The Prime Minister is expected to arrive in Washington DC from New York on June 21 after attending the International Yoga Day celebrations at the United Nations headquarters.

The day of hectic activities on June 22 would conclude with a State Dinner, for which a tent is likely to be pitched on the South Lawns of the White

House to accommodate the large number of guests who have been invited for it.

The guest list is normally released on the evening of the state dinner. The attendees are expected to be the stakeholders of this relationship from across the United States and also from India.

"I think the State Dinner will be really a celebration of the US-India relations with supporters and advocates coming from India, but also around the United States. We have a saying...it's a very hot ticket. Hardly a day goes by when I haven't received requests from people to get the last tickets to the state dinner. I believe it will be a wonderful celebration," said the official.

According to the official, who spoke on conditions of anonymity, on June 23, there will be a lunch at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris and the Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"There will be a number of events while the Prime Minister is here celebrating various elements in the relationship, technology, education, and training. Basically, the Prime Minister has asked for an extremely robust schedule, and that's what we've done. We have essentially given him almost a full slate of events that, in many respects, makes clear why we think the US-India relationship is so important," said the official.

Responding to a question, the senior administration official said the details of the dinner and other activities would be released by the White House in the coming days.

## NEET 2023: Two Students Share Top Rank; Highest Number Of Qualifying Candidates From Uttar Pradesh

Agencies

Tamil Nadu's Prabanjan J and Andhra Pradesh's Bora Varun Chakravarthi have topped the medical entrance exam NEET-UG this year with 99.99 percentile scores, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Tuesday.

A total of 11.45 lakh candidates out of 20.38 lakh have qualified the exam.

Among the states, Uttar Pradesh has highest number of qualifying candidates (1.39 lakh) followed by Maharashtra (1.31 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1 lakh).

Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are the two most populous states in the country while Rajasthan also figures in the top ten in terms of population.

The NTA conducted the Na-



tional Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UG) at 4,097 centres located in 499 cities throughout the country including 14 cities outside India on May 7.

"Seven candidates were identified using unfair practices in the examination and have been dealt with as per the norms," a senior NTA official said.

The examination was conducted in 13 languages (Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil,

Telugu, and Urdu).

The examination was also conducted outside India in Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Colombo, Doha, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Lagos, Manama, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, Singapore along with Dubai and Kuwait City.

"The NTA has provided all India rank to the candidates and the admitting authorities will draw merit list based on the ranks for the seats of MBBS and BDS falling under their jurisdiction.

"When candidates apply to their state, they will mention their category as per state category list. State counselling authorities will accordingly make their merit list. The same is the case with the domicile. The NTA has no role in it," the official said.

## Air India Grounds 2 Pilots For Inviting Female Friend In Cockpit, 2nd Such Case

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Over a month after an Air India pilot was grounded for inviting his female friend into the cockpit, the airline has now initiated action against two pilots for inviting a woman into the cockpit of a Delhi-Leh flight last week.

The Air India management acted against the pilot and the co-pilot soon after receiving a complaint from the cabin crew regarding an unauthorised female passenger entering the cockpit of the AI-445 aircraft.

"A female friend of AI-445 pilot entered the cockpit without following rules, both pilots have been grounded/off-roster by Air India," a top Air India official told news agency ANI.

Responding to the incident, the Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said, "DGCA is aware of the issue and necessary action is being taken in the matter in ac-



cordance with the procedures."

"Air India formed a committee for the detail investigations," an official told news agency ANI.

There was no official response from Air India as yet.

"Air India formed a committee for the detail investi-

gations," an official told news agency ANI.

The Leh route is one of the most difficult and sensitive air routes in the country in terms of safety and security and allowing an unauthorised person in the cockpit in a commercial

aircraft is amounts to a violation of law.

"Landing at Leh airport is one of the toughest operations across country due to the high altitude mountainous terrain and sensitive too due to the presence of the country's defence forces bases. Moreover, to operate in this terrain requires a very good health record due to insufficient oxygen levels and due to this only highly skilled pilots with good health record should be deployed for Leh operations," aviation expert Vipul Saxena said.

The DGCA recently suspended the license of an Air India pilot who welcomed his female friend into the cockpit of Air India flight AI-915 on the Dubai to Delhi route on February 27.

The DGCA also imposed a fine of ₹30 lakh on the airline for allegedly not taking prompt and effective action in the cockpit violation incident.

## NEET-2023 Topper Abdul Basit Makes J&K Proud

At AIR, Pulwama youth Secures 113th Rank

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In UG National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2023 results, Abdul Basit has bagged first position from Jammu and Kashmir.

At All India Ranking (AIR), Basit has secured 113th rank.

Hailing from Chewa-Kalam village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, Basit says that the hard work and dedication are the primary keys to crack any prestigious exams.

Talking to a local news agency KNO, Basit said, "I have been preparing for NEET for four years."

"I started receiving coaching from Aakash Coaching Institutes from 9th to 12th standard," he said.

Basit says that among the three siblings, he and his elder brother are already into MBBS courses.

"My brother is already pursuing MBBS in Iran and I wish my younger brother will also show the same dedication to crack any prestigious exam to make our village and our district proud," he said.

Basit further said that his fa-

ther is working in fisheries department and he was inspired by his uncle who works in health and medical education department.

Pertinently, in 2022, the pass percentage of UG NEET qualifiers had increased by nearly 10 percent in Jammu and Kashmir corresponding to the previous year.

In NEET-2021, only 42.59 percent students from JK had qualified the exams. But this year, more than 52 percent of students have qualified for the exams.

The official figures revealed by the National Testing Agency showed that in 2022, a total of 38,140 students had registered from JK and of them 36,374 appeared and 20,005 qualified it.

Likewise, in 2021, a total of 34,615 candidates had registered from JK out of which 31,479 appeared and 14,743 qualified.

The list of 2023 was yet to be published by the NTA.

Pertinently, the National Testing Agency on Tuesday announced UG National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2023 results.

## Private Sector Supplementing Govt's Role In Improving Education: CJ

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh N Kottiswar Singh Tuesday said the private sector here helped in augmenting the government's efforts to improve the education scenario in the union territory.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating an education fair at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre here, the Chief Justice said, "Education is a vast area, where the private sector plays a very important role. I see a lot of private universities coming up and am happy that they are supplementing the role of the government."

Stressing that the foundations of the education sector were strong in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Justice Singh said proper avenues of education counselling can ensure a bright future for the students here.

Asked about the lack of proper infrastructure for the specially-abled at schools, the

chief justice said he would look into the matter.

"... I am sure the government is doing a lot. However, I would like to personally see that all that infrastructure is put in place, especially for the specially-abled children," he added.

A large number of school-leaving students and college students attended the education counselling fair.

Tamanna Ameen, a student from Kashmir Harvard School attending the fair said, "We got the opportunity to receive guidance

from various higher education institutions in every field. In addition to engineering and medicine, there is vast scope for higher learning in varied fields. More of such events should be held here."

Zainab Tariq, another student, too, said she benefitted a lot by participating in the fair.

"After completing school, students usually get confused about the career choices available. This fair was of great help as we were told about different courses and universities," she said.



## Religious, Political Leaders In Kashmir Object To '72 Hoorain'

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Decrying the negative portrayal of Muslims in the upcoming film "72 Hoorain", slated to be released next month, prominent religious and political leaders in Kashmir on Tuesday said the movie "hurts the sentiments" of the community.

Directed by Sanjay Puri Singh Chauhan and co-produced by Ashoke Pandit, the film will be released in Indian theatres on July 7. It features Pavan Malhotra and Aamir Bashir in the lead.

"It is totally controversial and hurts the sentiments of the people, especially Muslims. We are not going to accept this title. Even this film needs to be banned and those who are producing these types of films should understand that such movies are against amity and brotherhood between the communities," Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir Nasir ul Islam told PTI.

Islam said he will convene a meeting on this "very sensitive issue".

"We don't want this controversy to spread and we are going to take up this matter with the government of India. All Muslim organisations will be taken in confidence on this matter."

"My message to the producers of this movie is that they should understand that Muslims are the second largest community living in India and they have the right to live with dignity, honour, and peace, and they should be allowed to live with the same spirit," he added.



National Conference spokesman Imran Nabi Dar said while the party stood by freedom of expression, the makers of such movies should understand the difference between propaganda and freedom of expression.

"These kinds of movies paint a particular community in black. I think people in India, particularly the film certification board, need to take a call on this. They need to decide whether these movies actually help people in understanding a particular issue with all the context or is a one-sided narrative being fed to the people," Dar said.

He said the National Conference rejects any and every kind of propaganda that is directed against any community "whether it be Hindu or Muslim".

"We believe in the Constitution of India and the Constitution of India says that you cannot discriminate against a person based on his religion or his caste."

People's Democratic Party spokesman Suhail Bukhari said there have been a series of films that are not only communal but also quite dangerous and aimed at fragmenting the

society and creating hatred, particularly against the Muslim community.

"And this is in continuation to that policy. But I'm sure that recently we saw the people of Karnataka defeat such ideas. The country, at large, would not accept it," Bukhari said.

Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Darakshan Andrabi, a BJP leader, said the movies are works of fiction aimed at minting money.

"Life is not about films and writers, it is their way of doing their work and making money out of it.... In order to make things viral, the filmmakers make things in such a way," Andrabi said.

She said such films "would not affect our lives or our country. In order to understand the context of the film completely first we need to watch the film."

Ashok Kaul, BJP general secretary, said naming the film as '72 Hoorain' should not hurt the sentiments of people.

"I believe whatever is happening should not happen and exaggerating this thing should not be encouraged as well," he added.

## No Alternative To PM Modi, Will Get Thumping Majority In 2024: Union Minister

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Asserting that there is no alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the country, Union minister Ajay Bhatt confidently predicted his re-election in the 2024 General Elections here on Tuesday.

"In 2024, people of the country will re-elect him with a thumping majority and will give him an opportunity to serve the country again," Bhatt told reporters here.

Bhatt also targeted opposition parties, including the Congress, for what he said were their "hit-and-run tactics" and their avoidance of parliamentary debates on issues.

On ex-Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's claim that the Indian government threatened to shut down the company, Bhatt said it was an international

conspiracy aimed at undermining India's progress on the global stage.

"A conspiracy is going on at international level to bring India down as the country is progressing across the world," Bhatt said. The Minister of State of Defence Ministry also cited reports by Morgan Stanley and International Monetary Fund on the growth of Indian economy. Bhatt further said that there has been a significant boom in India's market despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview, Dorsey claimed Twitter was threatened with a shutdown and raids on its employees unless it complied with government orders to restrict certain accounts on the platform during the farmers' protest in 2020 and 2021.

The minister also hailed the decision to remove Article 370, saying there was tremendous development taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and urged critics of the move to visit the region and witness the "positive changes" firsthand.

"Traders are happy. Boatmen are happy. Hotels are full to the capacity. People are not getting hotels in wake of pre-booking. There is peace," he said.

"Children are aspiring to become doctors and engineers. There is competition among them for achieving higher goals. There is peace and progress, now," the minister said.

Following the revocation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has been firmly integrated into the national mainstream, and the region is experiencing the benefits of democracy and development, he said.

## Omar Dares BJP Govt To Hold Assembly Polls In J&K

Majid Nabi

**SRINAGAR:** Taking potshots at the Centre for delaying assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said on Tuesday that New Delhi lacks courage to conduct polls, as the people in the newly carved out union territory are neither pleased nor content.

Talking to the media on the sidelines of a party provincial committee meeting at party headquarters, Nawai Subh here, the NC leader questioned the ruling dispensation's delay in announcing assembly elections in J&K, saying if they could hold parliament elections, what makes them delay assembly elections.

"Why do they fear elections in J&K, why can't they muster courage because nowhere in Kashmir people are happy or satisfied and not a single department is free from crises? If they could conduct parliament elections, why do they fear holding Assembly elections? Let them hold Parliament and Assembly elections together, let's see how capable they are," Omar said.

Speaking about an upcoming film "72 Hoorain" that has sparked an outrage among the Muslims, Omar said Islam since its inception has encountered serious challenges and those having ill feelings for Muslims would not tolerate them.

"We should not lose our heart as Islam ever since its inception has encountered difficulties and will continue to face such challenges in future as well. Islam is not such a weak religion that mere releasing of a movie critical of it will have any impact on it," Omar said.

The former CM also refused to comment on evacuation of former CM's and legislators from their government accommodations, saying "I don't wish to live in a government accommodation as I left it out of my free will and consent, let you ask these questions to those who use government accommodations"

Expressing concerns over growing drug abuse in J&K, he said the government issues



statements on everything but maintains silence on one of the gravest issues having taken a huge toll on the young generation.

He said the government issues statements on tourism, investments and G20 but never bothered to comment on growing substance abuse, which he said has become a grave issue.

"This is not a political but a social issue, the future of J&K is being put in trouble and unfortunately the government seems least bothered to wake up to the menace. Crime has increased due to drug addiction, murders often take place," he added.

He said that his party will also submit a roadmap as to how to deal with the issue of substance abuse and at the same time urged the government to take concrete measures to curb the menace.

Replying to a query that centre blames Pakistan for smuggling drugs into Kashmir as a terror narco-terror strategy, Omar said he doesn't want to indulge in blame game, saying either the anti-infiltration grid on LoC is weak or there are lapses at the fence.

"Wherever drugs come from, it's being used here. If they say borders are sealed then how come drugs are being smuggled. If drugs are supplied from Punjab border, why don't they stop it on J&K border and if it really comes for the border then government should be held accountable" he said, adding we want a complete ban on use of drugs in J&K.

When asked if NC and PDP presidents are attending opposition parties meeting convened by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, he said they will be attending the meeting on the scheduled date and time.

## Lakhanpur Being Given Facelift Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Lakhanpur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab, is being given a major facelift ahead of the upcoming Amarnath pilgrimage, officials said on Tuesday.

The annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence on July 1.

Chairing a meeting to finalise the arrangements for pilgrims, Kathua Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas asked officials to expedite the work on giving a new look to Lakhanpur corridor before the pilgrimage begins.

The deputy commissioner

asked officials to ensure provisions of safe drinking water, power supply, medical facilities, toilets, lodging and langar facilities, traffic and security arrangements.

He directed different departments to work in tandem for finalising the necessary arrangements at the earliest.

Minhas called for ensuring installation of digital screens, hoardings and signages on the yatra route across the district.

He directed the civic bodies of Lakhanpur and Hiranagar to maintain proper cleanliness and focus on conducting anti-polythene drives.

## 3 Arrested After Drugs Cache Seized In Poonch, Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A large cache of drugs, including two kilograms of heroin, worth crores of rupees were seized in two separate operations in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts, police said on Tuesday.

Three suspected drug peddlers were also arrested in these operations, they said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Amritpal Singh said a police squad intercepted a private vehicle at Darhali bridge on Monday, and recovered 3.8 kg of Charas which was being smuggled into the border town from Kashmir.

The contraband was found hidden in a specially created cavity in the left window of the vehicle, he said, adding that three people travelling in the vehicle were arrested.

In a separate operation, Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch, Vinay Sharma said two kilograms of heroin was recovered from the forest area near forward Bagyalidara village in the border district on Monday.

The recovery was made on the disclosure of terror suspect Mohd Rashid, who was recently arrested under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Explosive Substances Act, the officer said.

After the recovery of the heroin, offences under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were added in the cases and further investigation is on, Sharma said.

On Sunday, police recovered cash worth Rs 7 lakh at the disclosure of another arrested accused in the case, Mohd Safer, from his house at Allapeer village.

## IUST To Hold Convocation On 24 June

Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** Islamic University of Science and Technology is organising its second Convocation on June 24, 2023 at the University Campus.

Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, who is the Chancellor of the University will preside over the function. Over three thousand students (batches 2020-2022) including 1726 graduates from School of Engineering & Technology, 474 graduates from the School of Hu-

manities and Social Sciences, 219 graduates from School of Sciences, 332 graduates from School of Business Studies, 254 graduates from School of Health Sciences and 16 PhD awards would be admitted to the award of degrees. Sinha will confer Seventy-Four students with Gold Medals, while as One Hundred Forty-Seven students will be awarded merit certificates.

Prof Kasturirangan has been invited to be the Chief Guest on the occasion.

## Our Vision Is To Develop One Database For All UT Residents: CS

All The 303 Services To Be Brought Under Auto-Appeal Till Month End

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday emphasised upon the officers of the IT Department to make it their goal to develop a master database for all purposes.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while reviewing the functioning of IT Department and the impact of online services in the efficient delivery of services to people here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary, Tribal Affairs; CEO, JaKeGA; Scientists from NIC besides other concerned officers of the IT Department.

The Chief Secretary maintained that a single database would bring a lot of ease to common masses by aiding them in not filling the similar details every time they apply for different services. He enjoined upon them to create such a mechanism after studying different models adopted by States/UTs in the country.

He also advised them to carry out a field survey to see the impact of online services on common masses. He made out that these services were aimed at rooting out corruption and bringing government at the doorsteps of people. He noted



that an objective assessment on ground should be made to gauge its real impact on ground.

The Chief Secretary also stressed on constitution of 2-tier review committees headed by Administrative Secretary, IT and other high ranking officers for monitoring the breach in time-lines in delivery of services as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). He asked them to put to notice the officers/officials found violating the timelines set under this Act for different services. He asked for making it a feature to assess the perfor-

mance of officers annually.

Dr Mehta also asked for launching a massive campaign to sensitize people about the benefits of online services. He reiterated that the campaign like 'Say Yes to Digital: No to Bribe' would encourage people to seek their rights more forcefully. He told them to start seeking the feedback of applicants about services they availed through IVRS and other interactive methods so that their point of view regarding the depth and quality of services is known.

On the occasion the Chief

Secretary also reviewed the progress made in rolling out of IT initiatives like 'Mobile Dost' App, Digital Surveillance for monitoring violations of building permissions, Digital DPRs/estimation of works, online Parivar Pehchaan Patra, use of Artificial Intelligence in assessment of official processes and performance of employees besides rolling out of much anticipated 'IT Vision-2047'.

Dr Mehta said that the time has come to assess overall preparations vis-à-vis future readiness of J&K. He observed that

the technology holds the key to create J&K happier and progressive in the times ahead.

Providing the details the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri informed the meeting that out of 303 services guaranteed under PSGA, J&K has already integrated 103 services with the Auto-appeal system. She also gave out that the additional 122 services would be integrated with this auto-escalation mechanism in the days to come. She further said that the remaining services would be taken on-board over this platform before end of the month.

She also apprised the meeting that besides the RAS the Department is soon going to offer people to give their valuable feedback through IVRS. She also revealed that the auto-appeal system would be having a dedicated dashboard to give insight about the status of timely delivery of services.

It was given out that the 'Mobile Dost' App, a reliable mobile friendly version of all the online services with additional features like services related to Tourism, travel, jobs, weather news updates etc would be launched by the end of this month so that people of J&K are able to carry government offices in their pockets in real sense.

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>  
Wednesday | 14-06-2023

## Charity For All In Need

Recently, in a heartwarming display of compassion, the people of Kashmir came together to support a young cancer patient in dire need. Sadaf Ayoub, a 25-year-old from a modest background, was diagnosed with blood cancer and faced the overwhelming burden of medical expenses. However, in less than 24 hours after her family shared their story on social media, an astonishing amount of Rs 1 crore had been donated, far surpassing their initial appeal of eighty lakh rupees.

The generosity and swift response exhibited by the people of Kashmir in this instance serve as a shining example of collective goodwill. It highlights the inherent kindness and empathy that reside within people, as they rallied together to assist a fellow human being in her time of need. The outpouring of support from both acquaintances and complete strangers demonstrates that compassion knows no boundaries and that it can transcend geographical and cultural divides.

That said, such acts of kindness shouldn't remain limited to individual cases, no matter how deserving. There is a need for us to act collectively and equitably for everyone who is in dire need of support. Over the past three decades, Kashmir has witnessed unmitigated murder and mayhem, leaving thousands dead. This has left so many families without a reliable source of income. To make their situation worse, most of them receive no institutional or social support. True, orphanages have proliferated over the years but they have insufficiently addressed only a part of the problem. So while we contribute, we must also remember the thousands of the victims of ongoing turmoil and contribute in a material way to lessen their misery.

There is a role for the government too. We need an institutional arrangement to address the massive humanitarian fallout left behind by the three decades of turmoil. But it is also true that the government has done its part over the years and still continues to perform it. It is time that society steps up to the need to offer succour in a more organized way. The incredible response to Sadaf Ayoub's plight should inspire us all to reflect on the impact we can have on the lives of others. There are so many others out there and no one knows about them. The family of Sadaf Ayoub also showed mindfulness of this fact, when they publicly appealed to people to donate to other needy people after Rs 1 crore had been deposited in their account. This should be the spirit for a community-wide action for all the people who are in need of help.

### OTHER OPINION

## The second-best

India's title drought in ICC events continued as the dust finally settled at London's Oval. Sunday's 209-run defeat against Australia in the World Test Championship final meant that India yet again finished as second best. In 2021, New Zealand had humbled Virat Kohli's men in the summit clash that concluded at Southampton. Cut to the present, it was Rohit Sharma's men who suffered a loss; cumulatively, it extended India's long gap in winning ICC silverware, with the last title being the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy. If South Africa choked in the past at vital moments, India seems to be the natural successor in doing the hard yards while always being short of breath at the finish line. This time however the hopes were centred on India's better record against Australia, both at home and away. There was a recency bias at play too as since the 2018-19 season, India always prevailed over Australia in the longer format. However, Australia with a better record in ICC events starting from winning the 1987 World Cup at Eden Gardens, proved too tough an opponent. India's pursuit of a miracle on the fifth day wilted as a poor first innings and a bowling unit struggling to strike had left Rohit's men with too steep a mountain to climb.

Having flown in from the Indian Premier League, the Indian Test squad was under-cooked. To shed the Twenty20's frenzied spirit and slip into a Test's battle of attrition proved tough. The think-tank, influenced by overcast skies and some grass on the surface, stepped in with four seamers and the lone spinner in Ravindra Jadeja, while off-spinner R. Ashwin was inexplicably overlooked. It was a selection call that went awry as the weather stayed clear and the surface offered enough for both speedsters and spinners as evident in the performances of Aussies Scott Boland and Nathan Lyon. While Steve Smith and Travis Head posted hundreds, the Indian batters flickered despite Ajinkya Rahane's fine show in the first outing. That Rohit, Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara and Rahane are all on the wrong side of the thirties has dragged in ageism and transition blues. Bowlers need runs to defend and exert pressure and it is a luxury that has largely eluded the current unit. The selectors along with coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit have to find a way. The ICC ODI World Cup later this year in India is another significant milestone and there has to be absolute clarity about team compositions be it for Tests, ODIs or T20s even if it means that hard measures have to be implemented.

The Hindu

# US-Saudi Ties Stalemate Sustains

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Saudi Arabia last week in an attempt to restore the strained relations between the two old allies. Apparently the relations have not been on the mend since the Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MbS) took over the reigns of the state

Asad Mirza

US-Saudi relations, centred for decades on energy and defence, were badly strained by the 2018 murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. What vitiated the atmosphere further was a remark made by the US President Joe Biden, who described MbS as a 'pariah'. They were further exacerbated when Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, refused to help bring down skyrocketing energy prices after Russia's attack on Ukraine in February last year.

As usual the officialese this time described the Blinken-MbS meeting as fruitful, the two leaders covered the full range of regional and bilateral issues including Saudi Arabia's support for US evacuations from Sudan, the need for political dialogue in Yemen and the potential for the normalisation of relations with Israel, in addition to the human rights issue in the kingdom. To boost bilateral relationship, Blinken also attended a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting to meet with other regional allies also.

His trip came in the backdrop of quickly shifting sand affecting alliances in the Middle East. In March this year, China-brokered a rapprochement between regional foes Saudi Arabia and Iran. Another landmark change saw Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad invited back to the Arab League last month for the first time since the start of the 12-year civil war in which his government has been backed by Russia and Iran.

There are indeed many dimensions to the age-old ties between the two allies and what they expect of each other, both have a lot of expectations from each other yet seem uncompromising over their respective stands.

As per reports the Saudis want guarantees that the US will stand with it in face of any threat from Iran, in spite of the recently shown bonhomie by the two countries by restoring diplomatic channels, in addition to increasing its nuclear capability. There are also indications that the Saudis want to be left alone on human rights issues, with no American interference. Further the Saudis have made the issue of improving ties with Israel contingent upon such demands.

This stand roughly follows the same pattern adopted by other Arab states to accept



Israel's existence: Morocco obtained US concessions on the Western Sahara; the United Arab Emirates (UAE) got better access to sophisticated US weapons; and, earlier, Egypt received massive US aid in exchange for a peace treaty with Israel.

But in view of the trust deficit, which the Saudis currently have amongst the US lawmakers and leaders, this may backfire; though the apparent reason behind this seems to be the Saudi gambit to try reaping benefits from both sides.

This bargaining model might not be the only way to approach the issue, and the Saudis could be better served by avoiding this indirect approach, which may yield uncertain results. With that in mind, the Saudis should examine the option of moving unilaterally to normalise ties with Israel.

This means that if the Saudis take the first step towards diplomatically establishing ties with Israel, it may result in a favourable response from the Americans as it will address the goodwill deficit which they currently have at the Capitol Hill, and may lead to further concessions from the Americans.

“  
Any cut in oil production leads to an increase in oil prices the world over and this pinches the American consumer the most, who has become habitual of getting the cheapest oil on earth. In reality the Saudi has dropped to number three as the leading oil exporters to the US after Canada and Mexico

In addition to the issue of being a major American defence partner in the middle eastern region, Saudis also want to be designated as a Major Defence Partner (MDP) of the USA, in addition to extending the Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty to Saudi Arabia.

There is very little chance that the US would agree to such a demand, as it would translate to a commitment to Riyadh that would legally obligate the United States to consider an attack on the kingdom as an attack on the United States, and further may not get the required support of NATO-member countries.

Though the Biden administration has pledged to work towards normalising Israel-Saudi Arabia diplomatic ties, the visit last month to Riyadh by US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan did not produce any visible breakthroughs.

In addition, the optics may give an illusion that the US is particularly disturbed over the Saudi refusal to supply more oil to the US at concessional rates. But in fact this is not the underlying reason, the main reason is that any cut in oil production leads to an increase in oil prices the world over and this pinches the American consumer the most, who has become habitual of getting the cheapest oil on earth. In reality the Saudi has dropped to number three as the leading oil exporters to the US after Canada and Mexico.

Overall, the visit seemed to be an effort from the US President to cajole America's one time ally and its current de facto ruler, who has expressed his views on the Saudi stand on improving ties with the US as a ploy to play China and US against each other, to get the maximum benefit for the kingdom. MbS thinks that the only potential in the Middle East rests with Saudi Arabia, so both the US and China would prefer to stand close to Saudi Arabia.

However, in this ploy the balance seems to be tilting more in favour of China, instead of the US, though in reality Saudi may lose a lot if it completely abandons the US in favour of China. Further in this game of one upmanship, both MbS and Joe Biden, who are poised as emotional enemies are trying to outsmart each other and get an upper hand, and in this personal tussle, respective countries take a backseat.

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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## The Tennis GOAT

Many congratulations to Novak Djokovic for creating tennis history at Roland Garros by winning a record 23rd Grand Slam title. With this win, Djokovic went past his rival Rafael Nadal's tally of 22 Slam wins, and has reinforced the claim as the "GOAT" in tennis. His opponent in the final Casper Ruud was unable to sustain the high-o-

tane tennis need to ruffle Djokovic. The record-breaking French Open win serves as yet another feather in Djokovic's cap, and is a solid proof that at 36, the Serbian great still has in him what it takes to win a Major. Djokovic has now won three French Open titles, and is the first player to win each Grand Slam at least three times. Today, if Serbia is a well-known country, it is not because of

its any historical or geographical prominence, but mainly because of the slim Serbian, who enabled his nation to attain a special place in the world map of tennis. If the barometer is any to measure and decide the 'best' or the 'greatest' in Grand Slam championships, none can argue against Djokovic's status at the moment. Meanwhile, with an astonish-

ing 65 Grand Slam titles collectively, Federer-Nadal-Djokovic, the triad of tennis legends, will go down in the history of tennis as not only the best players of their generation, but possibly the best of all time.

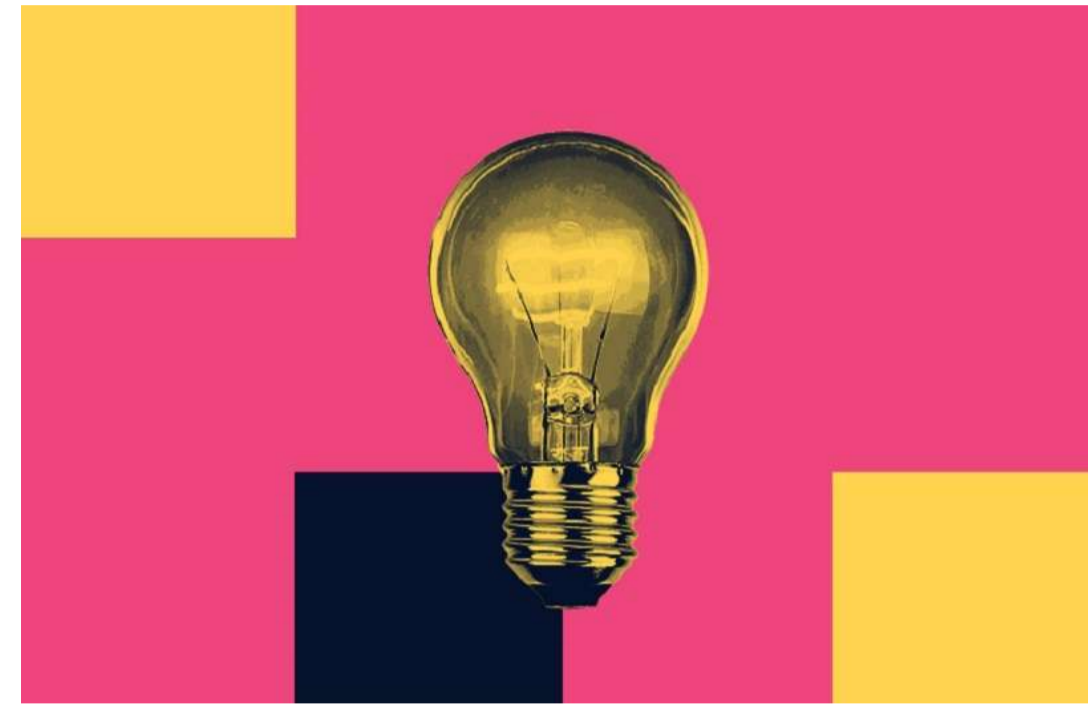
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# On Innovation: What Makes People Creative

Muzamil Farooq

Knowing what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for example, the well-known 15th-century artist and scientist? He created beautiful paintings as well as nice blueprints for various types of innovations, such as aeroplanes, long before they were built. He is regarded as one of the greatest minds that ever lived. How about Thomas Edison? Among many of his novel inventions, he invented the light bulb and the motion picture camera, both of which were implemented in various products and found to be extremely useful. What about the well-known artist Salvador Dali? He was well-known not only for his beautiful surrealist paintings, but also for his sculptures and jewellery. What do these individuals have in common? What inspires these creative geniuses? Some argue that creative geniuses are slightly insane, and that it is the madness that drives them to be creative.

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer to how effectively and imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be creative.



tent in order to be creative.

Let's take a closer look at these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of knowledge such a problem? For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on something that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on

a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of motivation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing motivation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed on because you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an activity, but you do so in exchange

for a reward. There is also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to overcome obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important aspect of creativity, failing, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is

called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This is difficult because many people live their lives like robots, as if everything is pre-programmed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For example, when we say goodbye to someone, we simply wave and say bye bye. This is something we do automatically. We don't have to consider it. This is also true for many of the things we do. We don't consider them; we just do them. While this is beneficial because it is efficient, it works against you if you want to come up with a creative solution. Being creative may be difficult if you behave like a robot. When you use automatic scripts and schemas from your head, you stop thinking too soon before you find the best solution. You also make far too many assumptions about what is going on. In some ways, it's better to think like a child, like someone who hasn't learned all of these assumptions, all of these automatic scripts and schemas, a person who sees a box and thinks it's more than just a box.

It's a fortress. It's a ship. That kind of thinking, thinking outside of the box, is exactly what it takes to create and be creative. So, let's sum it up. What inspires people to be creative? Is this insane? Perhaps for some, but for others, there are three critical elements. Having enough knowledge, being intrinsically motivated, and having creative thinking skills are all necessary for being creative. Creativity is the generation of novel and useful ideas, while innovation is the successful implementation of these ideas within a company. In other words, every innovation begins with a creative idea, and with the mentioned three elements of creativity, the good news is that everyone has the ability to be creative.

The author is a Student M.Sc. Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NIT Srinagar

## Eat what you take, take only what you can eat

Asha Iyer Kumar

An occasion in the family recently required us to throw a dinner treat. Not inclined to lavish jamborees, I looked for smaller options with only one rider. No buffet.

Every time I have attended parties people graciously invited us to, I have come back feeling distressed about the huge quantities of food that lay simmering, waiting to be scraped at the bottom. More often than not, at the time of leaving, I see most of what was laid out lined up to be dumped when the crowd dispersed. For hours after I return home, I fret at the prospect of all the uneaten food going into landfills. All these, when, as per the WFP estimates, roughly 828 million people are unsure of where their next meal is coming from and according to FAO, nearly 29 per cent of the global population faces serious levels of food insecurity. These are statistics we are either not conscious of or we deliberately gloss over for the discomfort it causes when we plan our next big gathering.

Food wastage is a casualty that happens at three levels – farm, retail and consumer. While the first two may not directly be in our individual ambit of action and will require higher level intervention and participation to resolve, the last one is within our means to control.

We may not know the exact count of hungry people in the world, but I suspect none of us will be unaware of the unpalatable truth that we are incognito partners in this humongous crime of throwing away food when millions sleep on an empty stomach every night. These are platitudes we serve our children when they leave their plates unfinished, but we conveniently tend to forget them when we organise fiestas in the name of festivity. We have made satiety seem ugly with our casual attitude to consumption and wastage.



Hence, I was categorical that no food served at our party will go to waste. There will be limited food, considering how people have turned fitness freaks for the most part and preferred to eat little. A big spread might look good on the table, but it reflects poorly on our character and attitude towards the afflictions of the less-privileged fractions of society. Wastage cannot be justified by any means, no matter what stature we hold in the society and how much we need to look affluent and generous in its eyes.

There is no denying the fact that buffets have been a hugely favoured feasting norm for a long time now, giving guests a sense of privilege and choice to satisfy their palates, and the tradition will not peter out anytime soon. Truth be told,

there is nothing more enjoyable about a stay in a star-rated hotel than the extravagant breakfast buffet that we overindulge in. Even those who are habituated to frugal daily breakfasts gorge on the spread indiscriminately. Nothing wrong with it, but if we paused for a moment and considered what our proclivity to such excesses does to the planet, to the chunks of suffering mankind and to our own moral standards, we may probably desist from doing it another time with such relish. Take this extra bit for a deterrent – about 50 per cent of food wastage comes from buffets that go uneaten.

Often what contributes to such whopping levels of frittering is an improper estimation of food needs both in terms of preparation and portioning. I recently came

across an exemplary announcement by a local restaurant that offered dishes in three different portions, like pizzas. It seemed like a conscientious effort to let the consumer make an informed order based on his appetite and not end up staring at oversized portions that he cannot polish off.

Similarly, when we sit to dine or we plan to throw a bash, let us step back a little and look at the bigger picture and get rational and realistic about our needs. Being well-heeled does not mean we are privileged to toss away what probably could feed others. Restaurants managers often don't have the liberty to give away leftovers to charity owing to food safety regulations and health concerns, and they will in all probability be cringing every day to see kilograms of food going

**WE MAY NOT KNOW THE EXACT COUNT OF HUNGRY people in the world, but I suspect none of us will be unaware of the unpalatable truth that we are incognito partners in this humongous crime of throwing away food when millions sleep on an empty stomach every night."**

in the dumps. It is a professional hazard they must face. But we, as consumers, have a choice.

We can celebrate our special days with gaiety but let us not make it look vulgar in the context of a world spiralling into a major food crisis. In the above-mentioned minimalist party I arranged, all that was left was a quarter portion of biriyani which we duly brought home. The guests were sated, and I was vindicated. A Buffet is rewarding only when it preceded by Warren, not when it is followed by wastage.

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

# 'AI Won't Gain Human-Like Cognition, Unless Connected To Real World Through Robots'

Press Trust Of India

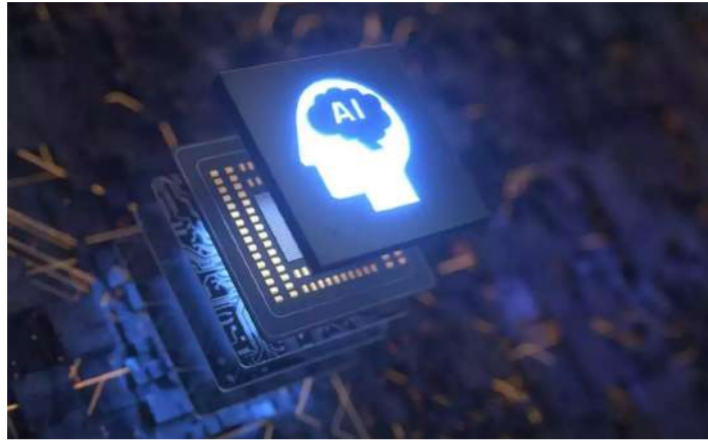
Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are unlikely to gain human-like cognition, unless they are connected to the real world through robots and designed using principles from evolution, a study has found.

Cognition is the mental process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and senses.

The research, published in the journal Science Robotics, found that AI systems will not resemble real brain processing no matter how large their neural networks or the datasets used to train them might become, if they remain disembodied.

Researchers from the University of Sheffield in the UK noted that current AI systems, such as ChatGPT, use large neural networks to solve difficult problems, such as generating intelligible written text.

These networks teach AI to process data in a way that is inspired by the human brain and also learn from their mistakes



in order to improve and become more accurate.

Although these models have similarities to the human brain, the researchers said there are also important differences, which are preventing them from gaining biological-like intelligence. Firstly, they said, real brains are embodied in a physical system - the human body - that directly senses and acts in the world.

Being embodied makes brain processes meaningful in a way that is not possible for dis-

embodied AIs, which can learn to recognise and generate complex patterns in data but lack a direct connection to the physical world, the researchers said.

Therefore such AIs have no understanding or awareness of the world around them, they said.

Secondly, human brains are made up of multiple subsystems, which are organised in a specific configuration - known as architecture - that is similar in all vertebrate animals from fish to humans, but not in AI.

The study suggests that bio-

logical intelligence - like in the human brain - has developed because of this specific architecture and how it has used its connections to the real world to overcome challenges, learn and improve throughout evolution.

This interaction between evolution and development is rarely factored into the design of AI, according to the researchers.

"ChatGPT, and other large neural network models, are exciting developments in AI which show that really hard challenges like learning the structure of human language can be solved," said Professor Tony Prescott, Professor at the University of Sheffield. "However, these types of AI systems are unlikely to advance to the point where they can fully think like a human brain if they continue to be designed using the same methods," Prescott said.

"It is much more likely that AI systems will develop human-like cognition if they are built with architectures that learn and improve in similar ways to how the human brain does, using its connections to the real world," he added.

## Helping Others Benefits Children's Emotional And Physical Health: Study

ANI

According to a recent UTHealth Houston study, children and teenagers who volunteer tend to flourish both mentally and physically.

The study, led by Kevin Lanza, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology, human genetics, and environmental sciences at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, was published recently in JAMA Network Open.

Overall, the research team found that youths

the health and well-being of U.S. children and teenagers, focusing on nearly 52,000 children and teens ages 6 to 17 who were surveyed from 2019-2020. Of those respondents, one-third of children and just over half of teens had done volunteer work in the past year.

Parents whose kids volunteered were 33% more likely to say their child was in "very good" to "excellent" health compared to parents whose kids did not volunteer. Those parents were also between 18% and 35% less likely to say their



who had volunteered in the past year were in better physical health, had a more positive outlook on life, and were less likely to have anxiety, depression, or behavioral problems compared to their peers who did not volunteer.

"These study results bring optimism that youth volunteering could be a win-win, where youth are serving society to their own benefit," said Lanza, who is based in Austin, adding, "Further, youths may be joined by household members and others while volunteering, strengthening social bonds while building community."

The positive effects of volunteering on the health and well-being of adult volunteers is well-established, and two past studies with small sample sizes have shown that teen volunteers may be in better health, and more engaged at school, than their peers. However, Lanza said the effect of volunteering on youths remained largely unknown, inspiring him to launch the study.

Lanza's team analyzed parent-reported data from a long-running national survey tracking

child had battled depression or anxiety, or had behavioral problems, in the past year.

Moreover, children and teens who did volunteer work were 66% more likely to be "flourishing" - defined based on how parents answered questions about their kids' curiosity, willingness to complete tasks, and ability to stay calm when faced with challenges.

One limitation of the study is potential response bias from parent-reported data. Furthermore, researchers noted, the study results do not answer the question of whether kids who were already healthy and flourishing were more likely to volunteer. Lanza hopes to explore the cause-and-effect relationship of volunteering on kids' health and well-being more in the future.

"There is a wealth of volunteering options for youth in different settings - parks, schools, hospitals - and with different purposes, such as environmental conservation or health promotion," he said, adding, "Volunteer experiences may help shape values and interests in youth that track into adulthood."

Office address: Padpawan Shopian  
email id: dfshopian@gmail.com  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office of the Divisional Forest Officer  
Forest Division Shopian.**

**AUCTION NOTICE**  
An open Auction of Confiscated Horses/Ponies seized at Shopian & Romshi Forest Ranges of Forest Division Shopian shall be conducted through Forest Division Shopian as per the calendar shown below:-  
At Division Office Padpawan Shopian on 17-06-2023 at 11:00 a.m

Note:-In case the auction is not conducted on fixed date and time due to any reason(s), the Auction shall be conducted on next working day.

**TERMS/ CONDITIONS**

All the persons interested in the Auction of these animals may participate in the open Auction on the following terms and conditions:-

- The intending bidders shall have to prove his /her identity before participation in the auction
- No person involved/accused in any Forest offence shall be allowed to participate in the auction. All the participants shall affirm their non-involvement in any forest offence, otherwise it shall lead to legal action against the person.
- The interested bidders shall have to deposit an amount of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) as security deposit in cash/CDR (pledged to DFO: Forest Division Shopian) before participating in the auction. The security deposit in case of unsuccessful bidders shall be returned on closure of the auction. In case of successful bidder, the security deposit amount in cash/CDR shall be adjusted towards payment of cost of auctioned Horses/Ponies.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit the entire bid amount on spot against proper receipt before taking delivery of the purchased horses on the same day. No delay in deposition of cost and delivery of Horses/Ponies shall be allowed. In case any bidder fails to deposit the entire cost or fails to take delivery of the Horses/Ponies on the same day, the auction of the particular Horses/Ponies shall be deemed as cancelled.
- The Auction committee may reject any offer without assigning any reason thereof.
- The intending bidder shall have to participate personally in the auction and no proxy or Telephonic offer /Internet based offer shall be accepted.
- No offer after the closure of auction shall be entertained under any circumstances.
- The Horses/Ponies purchased through this auction shall not be utilized for any illegal activity including any Act(s) prohibited under J&K Forest Act. The purchaser shall have to furnish an attested undertaking to this effect. In case of any violation, the purchaser shall be liable for legal action. In case the auctioned Horses/Ponies were found involved in Forest offence an amount of Rs= 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) shall be imposed as penalty/fine to the bidder. He/she shall also be debarred from participation in the auctions.
- Any other conditions that the auction committee may deem necessary shall be announced on spot before the commencement of auction.

DFO: Shopian Forest Division

No:  
DIPK-3338/23 Dated:- 13-06-2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office of the Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore**

Short term e-Tender  
NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-15 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturer/authorized distributors/ dealers/ workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender (document)	Estimated Earnest Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Time of completion	Pro-gramme Head	Technical Sanction No. & Date	AAA No. and Date
1.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical works for WSS Gangbough under Languishing program	Rs 500.00	Rs 130.5600	02% of the estimated cost of work	90 Days	Lan-guishing program	Awaited
2.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical works for WSS Gangbough under Languishing program	Rs 500.00	Rs 130.5600	02% of the estimated cost of work	90 Days	Lan-guishing program	Awaited

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 13-06-2023 (03:00 pm).

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 13-06-2023 (03:00 pm) to 19-06-2023 (6:55 pm).

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore on 20-06-2023 at 02:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day.

The complete bidding shall be online.  
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/1542-49  
DIPK-3411/23  
Dated: 13-06-2023

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

**Office Of The Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Department  
Public Health Engineering Division, Awantipora**  
e-mail : phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com / Ph :01933-247152

e-NIT No.:- 10/PHA of 2023-24 [ e-Tendering ]

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders in single cover system are invited on Percentage Basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Lac)	Cost of TD (in Rs)	EMD	Time of Completion	Class of Contract
01	Laying of PHE distribution pipe lines at Hatwara and Allochibagh. Under District Capex (PRI) 2023-24	3.50 Lac	200/-	2% of the estimated cost	15Days	DEE
02	Laying of 20mm,25mm,40mm PHE Distribution Pipe Line at Dankar Mohalla and Upper Droul Mohalla at Wuyan Bala [under Capex-PRI]	4.00 Lac	200/-	2% of the estimated cost	15 Days	DEE

Major Head of Account: Contingencies of ongoing programme.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site ([jktenders.gov.in](https://jktenders.gov.in)) as per the dates shown below:-

S.No.	Description	DD	MM	YYYY	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	13	06	2023	2:00 PM
2	Download start date	13	06	2023	2:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date	13	06	2023	2:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	19	06	2023	4:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	20	06	2023	1:00 PM

> Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".

> To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website ([jktenders.gov.in](https://jktenders.gov.in)) to acquaint vendors.

> The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.

> Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4) of the above table and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the

Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division 2 Awantipora (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)

> Bid performance security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora

> Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:-

- Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan / Government Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora (Tender Inviting Authority)
- Scanned copy of CDR/FDR of 2% value of tender cost.
- Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
- Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.
- Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.

> Besides above the bidder should also upload the following documents from "My Document" area required under "Other Important Documents" (OID)

> Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

> The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora by hand or by speed/registered post before the allotting of work or as and when demanded. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least one year.

> No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

> The bid shall be deposit in electronic format only on the web site of ([jktenders.gov.in](https://jktenders.gov.in)) till the end date mentioned in bid submission.

> The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee to be constituted by the competent authority.

> No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.

> video graphic / photographic record with geo tagging evidence before, during & after and progress reports in soft copies and hard copies for works register & office record.

> The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days only.
- The successful tenderer shall have to arrange, construct and maintain at his own cost necessary walkways, platform, ladders, stairways, water and other facilities of usual and suitable character for all operations of construction and inspection.
- As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder it is mandatory for him to enter into an agreement with the department.
- Performance guarantee equal to 3% of allotted cost in the form of CDR/FDR/Demand Draft shall be submitted before the allotment is issued which will be released after the maintenance period is over.
- In case of failure to deposit the performance guarantee 3% within stipulated period, the said tender considered as invalid and rejected without serving any notice to the bidder. The performance guarantee deposit shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- Any kind of damage which may occur in any work during the course of execution due to incessant/torrential rains /heavy snowfall/ cyclone/ flood etc. shall be the responsibility of the bidder until the work is finally handed over to the PHE Department.
- The taxes etc. shall be deducted from the bidders claim as admissible under rules.
- The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities). In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same nomenclature as it contains.
- In case the bidder does not quote rate for any item/items, the same shall be taken as free of cost for all purposes and nothing extra shall be considered for working out total contract value on this account.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of letter of intent/contract allotment as the case may be.
- Beside the performance security, security deposit 10% from each payment shall be deducted from all the running bills of contractors. Security money and performance security shall not bear any interest.
- The final payment of the work will be made only after successful completion. If any defect is found, the contractor will be bound to repair the same at his own risk & cost.
- The contractor shall be deemed to have satisfied himself before tendering as to the correctness and sufficiency of his tender for the works and of the rate quoted, which shall cover all his obligations under the contract and all matters and things necessary for the proper completion and maintenance of the works including defective liability period.
- Before submitting the tender, the tenderer will be deemed to have satisfied himself by his actual inspection of the site, climatic condition records from government and/or Indian Meteorological Department and the locality of the works that all conditions liable to be encountered during execution of the works are taken into account and that the rates quoted by the tenderer in the tender schedule are adequate and all-inclusive for the completion of works to the entire satisfaction of the Engineer in charge.
- Bidder should note that terms and conditions of the contract circulated by the authorities from time to time applicable on the contract even if not incorporated in this tender notice.
- In case of any dispute regarding the work Chief Engineer Kashmir PHE Department, Srinagar shall be the sole ARBITRATOR.
- In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates, quantities or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020.
- Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.
- All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No.25-double.

No. PHA/AWP/1167-1182  
DIPK-3368/23  
Dated:-13/06/2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Department  
PHE Division Awantipora



## Disinflation Process To Be Slow, Says RBI Governor Das

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday said the disinflation process in India will be slow.

"As per our current assessment, the disinflation process is likely to be slow and protracted with convergence to the inflation target of 4 per cent being achieved over the medium-term," Das said in his address at the Summer Meetings organised by Central Banking in London.

In remarks that came a day after official data suggested a cool-down in headline inflation to 4.25 per cent for May, Das said there have been signs of some softening in inflation in recent months, with the consumer price inflation coming down from the 7.8 per cent peak in April 2022.

He said the RBI's inflation projection for the current financial year 2023-24 is lower at 5.1 per cent, but reminded that the number will still be above the 4 per cent target. The rate-setting panel has eschewed from providing any future guidance on the timing and level of the terminal rate recognising that explicit guidance in a rate tightening cycle is inherently fraught with risks, Das said.

The RBI is mandated to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth, Das said, adding that the central bank cannot be oblivious to growth concerns,



given the high population and the necessity to reap the demographic dividend.

The RBI prioritised growth during the pandemic years even as inflation remained above the target but within the tolerance band, Das said.

The Monetary Policy Committee prioritised growth over inflation at the height of the pandemic during 2020 and 2021, given the frail economic conditions and notwithstanding intermittent inflationary pressures from supply shocks, he added.

"Proactive and coordinated response of fiscal and monetary policies nurtured a quick recovery, while various structural reforms related to banking, digitalisation, taxation, manufacturing and labour, implemented in the last few years, laid the foundation for strong and sustainable growth over the medium and long term," Das said, noting that real GDP growth bounced back after the contraction in FY21.

In FY24, the RBI is estimating real GDP growth to come at 6.5 per cent and India will remain among the fastest-growing large economies in 2023 in all likelihood, Das said.

## Net NPAs On Course To Fall To Decadal Best This Fiscal: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The banking sector is on course to report the best asset quality in over a decade this fiscal, with headline gross NPAs and net NPAs falling to 2.63 per cent and 0.83 per cent, respectively, in March 2023, according to Moody's and its arm Icra Ratings.

At the same time, the likely gross fresh NPA generation at 2 per cent will be the lowest since fiscal 2012, the agencies told reporters here Tuesday.

They also said the strong domestic demand, improving credit conditions of borrowers and strengthened solvency and funding will support further improvement in the credit quality of banks and non-banking financial institutions in spite of the challenging environment for banks globally.

The report expects the healthy profitability trend to continue, primarily driven by strong loan growth, which it sees to moderate to 11-11.7 per cent this fiscal from 15.5 per cent in fiscal 2023 and a favourable credit environment.

The trend of improving asset quality will continue with headline gross non-performing advances and net bad loans declining to their best level in over a decade, at 2.63 per cent and 0.83 per cent this fiscal from 3.96 per cent and 0.97 per cent, respectively, in fiscal 2023. At the same time, the gross fresh NPA generation rate of 2 per cent will be



the lowest level since fiscal 2012, Alka Anbarasu, an associate managing director at Moody's and Karthik Srinivasan, a senior vice-president at Icra, told reporters.

While the year-on-year credit growth is likely to moderate with higher interest rates, the incremental credit growth is expected to be Rs 15-16 lakh crore, which is poised to become the banking sector's second-highest increase on record, they said.

Explaining the rationale for their optimism, they said credit conditions have gradually improved, with a significant reduction in the banks' stock of legacy NPA over the past three years. On the other hand, corporates' financial health has also improved following a decade of deleveraging. And stress among non-bank financial institutions has also abated.

"While banks globally are facing liquidity pressures amid tighter monetary policy, outflows of excess liquidity built up during the pandemic

into more profitable investments and increased risk aversion among investors because of stress in the US banking sector, domestic banks, on the other hand, have strong funding franchises and ample liquidity to support growth in their loans in line with strong economic conditions," said Anbarasu.

Another enabler is the recapitalisation of banks following capital raisings from the equity market as well as capital infusions from the government for public sector banks. She expects the average return on tangible assets for banks to hold steady at 1-1.2 per cent over the next two years, which will support asset growth of around 15 per cent while keeping capital at current levels.

With deleveraged balance sheets, corporates' asset quality remains strong, which, coupled with the stable performance of the retail asset quality, will help to reduce fresh slippages in the asset quality of banks, said Srinivasan.

## Hiring Appetite Positive For July-Sep Quarter Amidst Layoffs: Survey



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian labour market is indicating positive sentiments for the July-September quarter of this year and businesses in the IT industry continue to report the brightest hiring outlook, a survey said on Tuesday.

According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey of nearly 3,020 employers, the labour market is indicating positive sentiments in the third quarter of 2023 despite news of layoffs and anticipated global economic slowdown.

As many as 49 per cent of employers report higher intentions for hiring, while 13 per cent do not expect to hire, leading to a seasonally adjusted net employment outlook of 36 per cent.

When compared to the same period last year, hiring sentiments have declined by 15 per cent, while there is a 6 percentage points growth when compared to the last quarter.

Globally, employers in all 41 countries anticipate a net positive hiring outlook, with Costa Rica topping the chart with a net employment outlook of 43 per cent, followed by the Netherlands (39 per cent) and Peru (38 per cent) in the second and third positions, respectively.

India was ranked at the fifth place (36 per cent) after Australia in the global list.

Most cautious outlooks were reported in Japan (14 per cent) and Taiwan (15 per cent), the survey said.

As per the survey, 84 per cent of Indian employers are recruiting for 'green jobs' or roles requiring 'green skills'.

Sector wise, companies in the IT, technology, telecom, communications and media reported hiring outlook of 47 per cent and 89 per cent of them are currently hiring for green jobs, followed by financials and real estate sector with 41 per cent outlook and 85 per cent focussed on green job hiring, the survey said.

## Bank Unions Oppose RBI's Decision To Allow Compromise Settlement For Wilful Defaulters

Press Trust Of India

Bank unions AIBOC and BAIBEA have opposed the Reserve Bank's move to allow lenders to settle loans of wilful defaulters under compromise settlement.

The RBI's recent 'framework for compromise settlements and technical write-offs' is a detrimental step that may compromise the integrity of the banking system and undermine the efforts to combat wilful defaulters effectively, unions said in a joint statement.

"As key stakeholders in the banking industry, we have always advocated for strict measures to address the issue of wilful defaulters," All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) and All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) said in a statement.

Allowing compromise settlement for accounts classified as fraud or wilful defaulters is an affront to the principles of justice and accountability, it said, adding, it not only rewards unscrupulous borrowers but also sends a distressing message to honest borrowers who strive to meet their financial obligations.

RBI in its 'Prudential



Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets' (June 7, 2019), made clear that the borrowers who have committed frauds/misfeasance/wilful default will remain ineligible for restructuring.

Now this sudden change in the framework by the RBI to grant compromise settlements to wilful defaulters came as a shocker and it will not only lead to erosion of public trust in the banking sector but also undermines the confidence of depositors, it added.

It fosters an environment where individuals and entities with the means to repay their debts choose to evade their responsibilities without

facing appropriate consequences, it said.

Such leniency serves to perpetuate a culture of non-compliance and moral hazard, leaving banks and their employees bearing the brunt of the losses, it said, adding, it is worth noting that wilful defaulters have a significant impact on the financial stability of banks and the overall economy.

By allowing them to settle their loans under the compromise, the RBI is essentially condoning their wrongful actions and placing the burden of their misdeeds on the shoulders of ordinary citizens and hardworking bank employees, it added.

## No Work-From-Home, Many Women Quit India's Largest IT Firm

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI- An end to remote work at India's largest software firm had an unintended causality - more female employees decided not to return to the office than male peers.

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. saw higher attrition among women when it called employees back to work after the pandemic. That's unusual for the IT giant, where female attrition has historically been either lower or similar to their male counterparts.

"I would think working from home during the pandemic for some women, keeping them from returning to office," Chief Human Resources Officer of TCS Milind Lakkad said in the company's annual report last week.

"It is a setback to our efforts to promote gender diversity, but we are doubling down on it."

The flexibility to work remotely in recent years has helped companies attract



and retain talent, particularly women, as they found it easier to juggle office and home duties in a hybrid environment. The shift now is making them drop out of the workforce, worsening an already low participation in workforce.

At 24%, India's female labor force participation is much lower than 61% in China, according to World Bank data. That's a risk for economic growth in the world's most populous nation, where women comprise about half of the citizens.

Women make up about 36% of TCS employees, and the company is trying to increase their representation, including in leadership roles, Lakkad said.



## Godrej Security Solutions Introduces New Innovations, Targets J&K As Key Market

The brand at the Secure 4.0 held in Srinagar, unveiled the new 'ACE Pro Green' solar powered CCTV camera

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Godrej Security Solutions, a division of Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, today held their event Secure 4.0 in Srinagar on Tuesday, unveiling the iconic brand's latest innovations in the security segment.

The brand has been committed towards continuously innovating and delivering effective solutions to meet the security needs of all their consumers. The brand has invested INR 5 Crores in R&D in institutional security and currently has a strong hold over industries like the banking, jewellery and hospitality sectors. Identifying Kashmir as a core market for home and institutional security, the brand has decided to focus in the coming years by strengthening their dealer network.

Pushkar Gokhale, Business Head, Godrej Security Solutions, spoke at the event about the brand's plans in investing in more innovations in the coming years, he said, "Over the last few years, we have witnessed a tremendous growth in the security needs across industries. As technology continuously evolves, we find it important to constantly innovate and offer holistic security solutions, not just for the end consumer at home, but for various private and public sector industries. Jammu & Kashmir has been one of our strongest emerging markets for institutional security with equal focus from both public sector undertakings

(PSU's) and private sector, witnessing positive GDP growth in the recent years."

"In order to reach-out to new segments of the market, our focus is to build a robust network of channel partners and ASPs across the state. We are confident that this innovative offering will aid the brand to successfully spearhead and play a significant role in growth across Jammu & Kashmir's fast-growing industries."

Understanding the need of the consumers and the market is a key consideration when it comes to innovating for solutions for the brand. One such example is the product unveiled at the Srinagar Secure 4.0 event, i.e. the 'Ace Pro Green' a solar powered CCTV camera.

"Over the last few years, we have witnessed the growth and demand for CCTV camera range in Jammu and Kashmir and we are expanding our CCTV product offerings in the security segment. Electricity and Data connectivity are key to modern day surveillance which requires quick deployment and remote connectivity for over the air live feed monitoring. Traditional methods of providing electricity and data connectivity would not help achieve objective of quick deployment of surveillance. Working on these pain areas, GSS is pleased to introduce ACE PRO Green CCTV camera, which uses Solar power and 4G connectivity and is effective for quick, stable and widespread surveillance in remote and difficult terrains", said. Gokhale

## Gangwal Family May Sell Rs 7,500-Cr Stake In IndiGo

Reuters

BENGALURU: The family of IndiGo's co-founder Rakesh Gangwal is likely to sell up to 8% stake in the Indian airline's parent InterGlobe Aviation Ltd worth up to Rs 7,500 crore, according to a report in a news channel, citing sources.

Rakesh Gangwal and his wife, Shobha Gangwal, hold 13.23% and 2.99%, respectively, in InterGlobe Aviation as of March 31, while their Chinkerpoo Family Trust holds a 13.5% stake, according to exchange data.

The Gangwal family will likely sell stake in block deals when the lock-in period for shares open on July 15, the report said.



Shobha Gangwal had cut her stake in the company by over 4% in February. InterGlobe Aviation and a representative for the Gangwal family did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Rakesh Gangwal resigned from the company's Board in February 2022. Shares fall over 3% Shares of the company, which are up over 19% year to date, fell as much as 3.1% after the stake sale report

## Dulloo Discusses Sponsorship Of Projects Under NABARD Funding

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review sponsorship of projects under NABARD funding.

ACS had an overview of ongoing projects under NABARD in different departments. He also held detailed discussion regarding progress achieved, so far, on various projects in agriculture and allied sectors, as well as SKUAST Jammu and Kashmir.

Dulloo also reviewed status of sponsorship of projects to NABARD for 2023-24 besides taking stock of identification of new projects to be submitted to the Finance Department.

en in the Union Territory under NABARD.

Emphasizing the importance of timely action, Dulloo urged upon the CGM NABARD to prepare a final list of projects and submit it to the finance department as soon as possible.

In a separate meeting, ACS reviewed implementation of e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) in the Union Territory. He assessed the status of registration of farmers, traders and commission agents during discussion with the concerned officers.

Regarding apple marketing, the ACS instructed the Director Horticulture (P&M) to organize a buyer-seller meet prior to the harvesting season. This proactive approach aims to maximize the benefits for stakeholders after the harvest season, he maintained.

## Majority Of Companies Planning To Recruit This Fiscal: Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI Job postings for small and midsize businesses (SMBs) have witnessed record highs in the last five months, and about 70 per cent of companies are actively planning to recruit this financial year, a report said on Tuesday.

The report by jobs and professional networking platform apna.co said it has witnessed a substantial upsurge in SMB job postings from January to May 2023, with around 300,000 jobs listed on the platform. About 70 per cent of SMBs in India are actively planning to recruit full-time professionals for key areas like business growth and expansion, HR, accounts and sales, it added. This report was based on job postings on the Apna platform from January to May in comparison

to the same period last year. In terms of cities, the report further stated that Jaipur and Lucknow exhibited a high demand for Tele-calling roles, while Bhubaneswar and Kochi sought after business development professionals. In Ahmedabad, accounts and finance expertise was highly sought after, it added. The job postings are across all levels reflecting diverse organisational needs. "We have consistently prioritised the creation of equal opportunities for everyone, and it is heartening to witness the remarkable surge in job postings across diverse sectors by SMBs, especially from cities beyond tier II.

"This trend exemplifies the rapid growth and potential of SMBs in contributing to India's 5 trillion dollar economy," apna.co-founder and CEO Nirmit Parikh stated.

Janbhagidari Campaign

## Kendriya Vidyalaya NHPC Uri Organizes One-Day Workshop, Cycle Rally

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under 'Janbhagidari campaign' one-day workshop was conducted on 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy', 'G20 in India 2023', 'National Educational Policy 2020' in the context of blended learning at Kendriya Vidyalaya NHPC Uri, here on Tuesday.

Under the jurisdiction of Baramulla district all the Heads & teachers, parents and students had attended this one-day workshop at Kendriya Vidyalaya NHPC Uri as the school had been chosen for Nodal school in entire Baramulla district for conducting the workshop.

Pradip Kumar Ray, GM, NHPC, Head of the project cum Chairman of VMC, Kendriya Vidyalaya NHPC Uri had presided over the workshop. Mr. Bhabataran Das, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya NHPC Uri, under whose able guidance and

direction, the workshop became successful and praiseworthy.

The workshop was organized as part of 'Janbhagidari' activities in connection with the G20 Fourth Education Working Group meeting to be held in Pune in connection with India's G20 Presidency.

Meanwhile, the Kendriya Vidyalaya DPS Kishtwar Organized a workshop on the G-20 program held from 1 June-15 June in Kendriya Vidyalaya DPS Kishtwar. The program focuses on the importance of foundational literacy and numeracy. This program was started under the leadership of In-charge Principal Manoj Kumar Verma.

He welcomed the chief guest chairman, VMC M.K. Kashyap, Group General Manager, Dul Hasti Power Station, Kishtwar and Senior Manager HR, Ashok Dhanwal, Teachers from Kishtwar and Parents also became the part of this elucidative programme.

## PM Distributes 70,000 Job Letters, Shows Contrast With Past Governments

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hit out at "dynastic" political parties for promoting "nepotism and corruption" in recruitment to government jobs, and said while such parties "looted" youth with their "rate cards" for various posts, his government is working to "safeguard" their bright future.

Addressing the newly-recruited government employees after distributing appointment letters to over 70,000 people, he said dynastic parties had betrayed the youth by encouraging corruption and nepotism in the recruitment process.

Recruitment process earlier used to take one to one-and-a-half years, but now it gets over in a few months transparently, he said.

"We have seen how dynastic political parties promoted nepotism and corruption in all

systems. When it came to government jobs, these parties encouraged nepotism and corruption. These dynastic parties have betrayed crores of youth," he said without naming any party.

In 2014, when our government came, transparency came and nepotism is also ending in the recruitment process, he asserted.

The Prime Minister said India is now a more stable, safer and stronger country than it was a decade ago, asserting that decisiveness has become the identity of the Indian government.

There are new employment opportunities in both the private and public sectors, he said, adding there are also self-employment opportunities with initiatives like the Mudra Yojana, Start Up India and Stand Up India.

"There has never been such confidence for our economy in the past. On the one hand,

there was a slowdown due to the pandemic and on the other hand, the supply chain was affected due to war (Ukraine). Despite all these challenges, India is taking its economy to new heights," he said.

The decisions of our government has made lakhs of opportunities available in the private sector, he said.

PM Modi said the 'Rozgar Mela' has become the new identity of the BJP and NDA governments.

"This is a very crucial period for those stepping into governmental roles as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal' has started, where the new recruits have before them the goal of making India a developed country in the next 25 years," PM Modi said.

Political corruption, malpractices in schemes, misuse of public funds, used to be the identity of previous governments, he said.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### 5.4 Magnitude

schoolchildren gathered in fields in the Baderwah valley and teachers were seen consoling a few of them who were sobbing.

Officials in Doda said they are assessing the damage caused by the earthquake.

Tremors were also felt in Chamba in Himachal Pradesh, about 150 km from Doda.

"Things in my kitchen were shaking due to the tremors," said Nandini, a resident of Shimla.

The earthquake was also felt in parts of Punjab and Haryana but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage to property.

"The tremors were mild and I felt them while I was sitting on a chair," said Baldev Chand, a resident of Chandigarh.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan and SSP, Abdul Qayoom visited Sub District Baderwah and parts of district to assess the damages caused due to the earthquake, an official spokesperson said.

He said it was informed that there were no reports of loss of life from any part of the district. However, some houses/ buildings have developed cracks due to heavy jolt of the earthquake.

"Some partial/ minor damages have been noticed in some government and Private buildings in the Tehsil. Some minor cracks were also reported in government and private buildings from Gandoh, Thathri and other areas," he said, adding that all the ADCs, SDMs, Tehsildars, and Police officers are on high alert and are in continuous touch with public.

The DC, the spokesperson said, has urged the public not to panic and stay vigilant and report to the concerned ADC, SDM, Tehsildar or Control room of the DC office in case of any eventuality.

#### 2 Intruders Killed

other War like stores were recovered," the spokesperson said.

He said the successful intelligence based operation is yet another example of close synergy between Indian Army, JKP and all agencies.

"The security forces stand steadfast to defeat the nefarious designs of inimical elements supported by our adversary to disrupt peace and harmony in Kashmir," he added.

#### Over 60,000 Security

are being deployed from Lakhampur to the Amaranth Cave Shrine not only as a security measure but also to smoothly facilitate the yatra," the report said, adding that besides hinterland, security has also been beefed up and tightened along the Line of Control and the International Border to foil any "mischievous from across the border".

Meanwhile, the UT administration has established five 'Tatkal' registration counters at prominent locations of Jammu city for Tatkal registration of the pilgrims at Vaishnavi Dham, Mahajan Sabha, Panchayat Ghar and two at Geeta Bhawan and Ram Mandir for the registration of Sadhus.

The online helicopter ticket booking will also commence this week for the yatra.

According to the AIR report, the booking for Baltal, Pahalgam and Srinagar routes will commence this week and more than four lakh pilgrims are expected to visit and pay homage at the holy cave shrine this year.

"The administration has also planned 'Jammu Darshan' for the pilgrims to boost tourism and attract more tourists to J&K. So far, around 3 lakh pilgrims have reportedly

registered themselves online for the yatra," it adds.

#### LG Reviews Yatra

he said, a meeting was held that was attended by Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Shaileendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir and Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

The LG, the spokesperson said, appreciated the elaborate arrangements put in place by all the stakeholder departments pertaining to the snow clearances of all sections of tracks, deployment of trained manpower, helipads operations, health facilities, water and power supply at transit camps and halt points, allotment of tents and shops, Disaster Management, contingency plan for accommodation, etc.

He directed the concerned departments to make all necessary services accessible to the pilgrims at railway station, airports, on travel routes and Yatra base camps.

The spokesperson said that the LG impressed upon the officials to create a strong healthcare and health emergency infrastructure with additional teams of doctors and nursing staff.

Sinha, he said, also asked them to harness the benefits of technology to deal with any emergent situation.

"Proper arrangements for regular ambulance, Heli-ambulance service and oxygen cylinders must be ensured," the LG told the officials.

He also took stock of the arrangements being made for drinking water and sanitation and facilities for sanitation workers deployed to ensure cleanliness at the Base Camps. Sinha passed explicit directions for the Camp in-charge and concerned officials for operationalization of Sheshnag and Panjtarni camp by 20th June.

"It must be ensured that the Track is through for ponies, Pithoos from Chandanwari to holy cave well before the commencement of the Yatra," he said.

He also set the deadline of 20th June for the completion of various works including snow clearance at MG Top, Panjtarni and other such areas; completion of emergency landing platform at holy cave; boundary walls, safety railing on vulnerable stretches; water supply and installation of RO in every camp.

"Power supply and illumination in every camp should be done by June 17th. Health facilities and availability of health equipments should be ensured. SoP by Health Department to be made operational at each camp," Sinha said.

He also directed the KPDC and Jal Shakti department for engaging skilled manpower and day-to-day monitoring of water and power logistics.

The LG emphasized on involvement of members of the PRIs and Civil society in successful conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

"We must learn from the challenges of last year and take comprehensive measures accordingly. All the concerned departments, CAPFs, J&K Police, Army and other stakeholders should work in close coordination for making best arrangements to ensure smooth pilgrimage. A feedback on tracks from civil administration, Security forces should also be taken," he added.

Sinha directed the officials to lay special focus on sanitation, the quality of tents, and fire extinguishers and ensure adequate gaps during the installation of tents. No unauthorised tent should be installed.

Strict enforcement of SOPs and

guidelines must be ensured near the holy cave, he added.

Instructions were also passed pertaining to the installation of LED at various locations with pre-recorded messages and information dissemination, upgradation of Signages and information boards, besides ensuring strong telecom and mobile connectivity.

#### HM To Address

large numbers should reach the rally venue, Koul added.

Meanwhile, a local news agency KNO reported the union minister, accompanied with top brass of CRPF, BSF, ITBP and other para military forces will review the security lay out plan for ensuing Amarnath Yatra, which is commencing for July 1 and culminate on August 30 Shrawan Purnima, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

"The union minister will interact with the agencies engaged to felicitate the 62-day long yatra besides taking the review of deployment virtually," highly placed MHA sources said.

The sources further added that the Home Minister likely to pay obeisance at cave shrine and review the preparations at ground before heading towards Jammu, where a public rally has been planned under party's Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan programme being held on the completion of nine years of governance under PM Narendra Modi.

"If weather permits, the Union Minister is likely to make an appearance at the cave shrine, where he performs pooja and also reviews the yatra preparations," sources said.

#### Kashmiri Doctor

justice for the most vulnerable, impoverished communities and to provide them with a sustainable future through the charity's humanitarian development and sustainability programmes", BCA said in a statement received by Kashmir Observer.

Dr Sohail Muhammad has served in several major global disasters offering humanitarian assistance on the ground. He has conducted several projects within the UK, 1420888 such as youth development, prevention of knife crime and support for the homeless. Working against extremism is his passion, and he is dedicated to his important role. As well as founding the charity, Muhammad is currently producing, and appearing in, social awareness films looking at post-Covid mental health awareness. He supports sports initiatives internationally so that young people have something meaningful to become involved with, resulting in many being prevented from falling prey to drugs, knife crime and other anti-social activities.

"This year's medalists have reminded us of how many amazing people are supporting our communities, especially during such a challenging time. At One Stop we serve many communities across the country, and we know how important voluntary work is to support those in need. We're proud to be partnering with the BCA again and to play a small part in helping each medalist to be recognised. Our congratulations go to all honourees", said Stephanie Wood, from BCA partner One Stop.

The Medal presentation will be hosted by TV presenter Matt Allwright, and attended by BCA Patrons, Dame Mary Perkins, Founder of Specsavers, and The Rt Hon Lord Dholakia. The British Citizen Award was established in 2015 to recognise exceptional individuals who work tirelessly and selflessly to make a positive impact on their communities and society.

Each medalist is presented with their BCA at the Palace of Westminster

by senior representatives from official partner One Stop, Places for People, Specsavers, Objective HR, and Uniserve who all support this unique programme. Medalists then board an Open Top Lap of Honour tour before attending a certificate presentation at the prestigious Church House to complete their recognition.

The British Citizen Award is widely viewed as the nation's way of recognising extraordinary, everyday people from all cultural backgrounds from across the country for exceptional endeavor. The Medal presentation is held twice annually, to nominate an outstanding individual from your community to be considered for The People's Honours visit [www.british-citizenawards.co.uk](http://www.british-citizenawards.co.uk).

#### Relief For Students

session 2023, following the guidelines outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and Government's commitment to inclusivity," he said.

The spokesperson said that a total of 87309 (Eighty-seven thousand three hundred nine) unique candidates have been registered from the UT of Jammu and Kashmir for the CUET (UG) 2023.

He said that the examination centres were randomly allocated based on availability of requisite infrastructure within the geographical boundaries of J&K and the exam dates were announced by the National Testing Agency. However, some students were allotted centres outside the UT of J&K.

The spokesperson said that taking cognizance of the peculiar situation and resentment against the same at the time of scheduled G-20 event in Kashmir after the intervention of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, NTA deferred the CUET (UG) examination for the students of J&K and implemented a centre reallocation process exclusively for J&K students and issued new dates for conducting the examination.

Further, he said, in order to save the travel and logistical challenges faced by students while appearing for CUET (UG) 2023 in the examination centres located outside the UT of J&K, the department augmented the requisite infrastructure in the shortest possible time.

"After a thorough examination, it has come to the notice of the department that some students from Jammu division, after reallocation of centres were still allotted centres outside the UT of J&K and had discrepancies in the examination dates in certain subject combinations," he added.

Allaying the fears of students community in this regard, the spokesperson said, the Principal Secretary HED assured that sufficient opportunity would be given to such candidates for admission in the under graduate programmes in various Degree Colleges of the UT based on their merit in the 12th class examination.

#### HC Nod To Govt

to the State to get the area of buffer zones around the Dal Lake re-examined by the State Authorities and to place a report before this Court...."

Pursuant to its order dated 8 September last year, the court observed, a Technical Committee of Experts was constituted by the State on 9 December 2022.

The Committee after due deliberations submitted a report which the court said has been accepted by the Government for initiating the statutory process and making requisite changes in the Master Plan.

"Considering the importance of the matter for preservation of the Dal Lake and to prevent further damage to the

NEET 2023

## Two students share top rank with perfect score; maximum qualifying candidates from UP

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu's Prabanjan J and Andhra Pradesh's Bora Varun Chakravarthi have topped the medical entrance exam NEET-UG this year with a perfect score of 720, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Tuesday.

A total of 11.45 lakh candidates out of 20.38 lakh have qualified the examination, up by 48 per cent from last year.

Among the states, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of qualifying candidates (1.39 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (1.31 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1 lakh).

Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are the two most populous states in the country while Rajasthan also figures in the top 10 in terms of population. Kerala and Karnataka are the two other states in the top five with over 75,000 candidates each qualifying the examination.

The maximum number of candidates in top 10 are from

Tamil Nadu, the state which has been opposing the centralised medical entrance test. In the top 50, eight candidates are from Delhi, seven from Rajasthan and six from Tamil Nadu.

Kaustav Bauri from Tamil Nadu with 716 marks is all India rank 3, while Punjab's Pranjal Aggarwal with 715 marks and through the tie-breaker method was declared all-India rank 4 and also the female topper.

According to a senior NTA official, candidates who scored identical marks are accorded ranks as per the tie-breaker rule where the candidate with higher marks in biology is ranked above the rest. In case of identical marks in biology, the same rule is applied for chemistry followed by physics. If the scores still remain identical, the elder candidate gets the higher rank.

The NTA conducted the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) at 4,097 centres in 499 cities in India and abroad on May 7.

cases.

#### 2 Dead Militants,

and Umar Nabi Teli of Ladhoo Pampore, a police spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said that the chargesheet was filed in case FIR No. 37/2022 under section 7/27 Arms Act, 307 IPC, 16 18, 19, 23, 38, 39 UAPA Act of Police Station Tral.

#### Patwari Lands

issuing a report regarding damage caused by fire to his house, an ACB spokesperson said.

Giving more details, he said, the complainant, who is living below poverty line suffered heavy loss due to fire incident, and tried to negotiate with the public servant, who agreed to accept the amount in two installments.

"The first installment of Rs1500 was to be paid today," he said, adding that the complainant before paying the bribe, approached Anti Corruption Bureau with a written complaint for taking legal action against the Patwari under relevant provisions of law.

On receipt of the instant complaint, the spokesperson said that a case FIR No. 10/2023 U/s 7 PC Act 1988 was registered in police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up.

"During the course of investigation a trap team constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant Ab. Rashid Mir, Patwari Halqa Arigam rd-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of 1500 from the complainant as first instalment of the total agreed amount of 3000 in the office of SDM Khan Sahab Budgam. He was arrested on the spot after completing all formalities," the spokesperson said, adding that further investigation into the case is going on.

#### LG For Mass

ourselves to help those needing blood and create awareness about safe blood, blood products and the importance of regular donation.

"The slogan for World Blood Donor Day, this year, is - Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share Often. There is a need to create mass awareness and encourage more people, especially the youth to come forward and voluntarily donate blood to save lives," the Lt Governor said.

#### 2 Cops Injured

team assisted by police rushed to the spot. When the police personnel tried to seize the machinery, a large number of people close to the illegal miners came to the spot and attacked them, the police said.

Two policemen suffered minor injuries in the attack. Additional police force was rushed to the spot and one person was arrested. The machines used by the illegal miners were seized, they said.

A case has been registered in the matter and a hunt is on to arrest the remaining accused, they said.

#### 2 Dead In Qazigund

hit a man identified as Kumar Sawant Singh son of Rajander Prasad of Rajasthan and he was declared dead at emergency hospital Qazigund", he said.

He said in another accident two persons were taking a rest behind a parked truck, however, after some time the truck left the area and crushed the duo under it.

"One person identified as Gulzar Ahmad Bhat resident of Adigam died on the spot while another one was injured", he added.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of both the incidents—(KNO)

cases have been registered against the accused in police station Reasi since 2022.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some



## Srinagar Premier League: 2 Matches On Schedule Today

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The 2023 Srinagar Premier League is in full flow and two more exciting matches are scheduled for today, Wednesday, June 14.

In the first match, Kashmir Avengers FC will take on Sports Council Football Academy (SCFA) at 3:00 PM. The second match of the day will witness Jhelum FC play FC1 at 7:00 PM.

The league competition saw two matches played on Tuesday. In the first match of the day, Ali Jana FC defeated Galaxy FC 3-0. The second game saw AG's Office take on JK United FC. A contentious penalty late in the second half allowed the AG's XI to seal a 1-0 victory.

The 2023 Srinagar Premier League is being organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with JKFA and JKSC.

## DYSS Holds Mega Sports Event For Tribal Population



Observer News Service

**KOKERNAG:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) on Tuesday organised a mega sports festival for tribal communities on the banks of the famous Bringi Nalah at Dandipora Vailoo here.

Joint Director Kashmir DYSS Waseem Raja graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his speech, he appreciated Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Vailoo & Bidder for organising such sports festival for the tribal communities of the district under the supervision of DYSS Office Anantnag.

Raja congratulated the participating tribal kids for showcasing their dedication towards sports activities and also highlighted the importance of sports activities for better health. He assured that YSS is committed to promote sports events for tribal population at the grass

roots level.

District Development Council (DDC) Member Breng Muneera Akhter along with DYSSO Anantnag, Zonal Physical Education Office Bidder, Incharge Media and Publicity Wing of the Department, and other senior officers and officials of the Department besides scores of people from different areas of the District were also present in the event.

Competitions of Tug of War, Kabaddi and Desi Tribal Wrestling between the young tribal population of the area along with their traditional Cross Hook Stick with full sports spirit was part of the event.

It was for the maiden time that tribal kids were experiencing Kabaddi on the synthetic mat. The event started with an oath-taking ceremony, wherein all participants and officials took an oath under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

## Inter School Sports Events Begin In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag on Tuesday kickstarted Zonal Level Inter School competitions in volleyball, kabaddi and kho-kho for U-14 and U-17 boys at Sports Stadium Anantnag.

The events were inaugurated by chairman Municipal Council Anantnag Hilal Ahmad Shah in presence of worthy DYSSO Anantnag Raja Yaqoob Ali and Manager Sports Council Anantnag, I/C Cultural Wing CEO Anantnag Akram Rahi and I/C Activities ZPEO Anantnag Sajad Ahmad Mir. Several dedicated physical masters and teachers were also



present on the occasion.

On the opening of the competitions, a pledge ceremony against drug addiction was held followed by the above mentioned competitions in which 1269 boy students from different institutions (government as well as private) participated.

## Rohit Sharma's Test Captaincy Uncertain: Sources



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** There is no imminent threat to Rohit Sharma's Test captaincy but the stylish Mumbaier will need to rake up some significant numbers in West Indies to prevent a question mark over his leadership in the traditional format.

Rohit will lead Indian in the two-Test series in the West Indies and then perhaps sit with BCCI and decide on his future in traditional format.

If those privy to developments in the Indian team are to be believed, unless Rohit himself decides to stay away from two-Test series against West Indies starting in Dominica from July 12, he will be leading the team.

However the BCCI brass and the national selection committee will be under pressure to take a tough call if he fails to notch up at least one big knock either at Dominica or at Port of

Spain during the second Test (July 20-24).

"These are baseless stuff that Rohit will be removed from captaincy. Yes, whether he will last the whole two-year WTC cycle is a big question as he would be nearly 38 when the third edition ends in 2025," a senior BCCI source in know of things told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"As of now, I believe that Shiv Sunder Das and his colleagues will have to take a call after the two Tests and looking at his batting form."

In fact, the BCCI works very differently from other sporting organisations.

In Indian board, those in power believe that you don't take decisions when the criticism reaches crescendo.

"After West Indies, we have no Tests till December-end when the team travels to South Africa. So there is enough time for selectors to

deliberate and take a decision. By then the fifth selector (new chairman) will also join the panel and a decision can be taken, he added.

Those who are aware about developments in Indian cricket know that once Virat Kohli quit Test captaincy after series defeat in South Africa, Rohit wasn't very keen to become the leader in longest format initially as he didn't know that whether his body would hold or not.

"The two top men at that time (former president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah) had to convince him to take up the role once KL Rahul failed to impress as a captain in South Africa," the source said.

Since Rohit took over Test captaincy in 2022, India played 10 Tests and he missed three --- one in England due to COVID 19 and two in Bangladesh due to split webbing.

## Australia Braced For England Storm With Ashes On The Line

Agencies

**LONDON:** England's barnstorming version of test cricket has shredded the textbook of the sport's longest format but so-called 'Bazball' faces its biggest examination yet as they seek to regain the Ashes against world champions Australia starting on Friday.

Conventional cricketing wisdom has been turned upside down by England coach Brendon 'Baz' McCullum and captain Ben Stokes in a scintillating run of 11 victories from 13 tests. Scoring at a head-spinning average of almost five runs an over under McCullum, England's risk-takers have reimagined the approach to test cricket and transformed the country's fortunes after a run of only one win from 17 tests previously.

It has bamboozled India, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan. England made a first-day record 506 runs in 75 overs in the first test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi. And against New Zealand at home last year, they made daunting fourth innings victory targets of 277, 299 and 297 look as demanding as a walk in park.

The big question, however, as the opening test looms at Edgbaston on Friday is whether England will play with the same almost reckless abandon against an Australia



side possessing arguably the best pace attack in the world. Stokes and McCullum have given no hint at reeling it in during the build-up to the most eagerly-awaited series since the classic 2005 edition won by England.

Whether Australia, who reclaimed the Ashes in 2018 with a 4-0 home win, retained them with a 2-2 draw in England in 2019 before another 4-0 home rout in 2021, try to fight fire with fire is another matter. Pat Cummins' side are not exactly shrinking violets and will begin quest for a first series win in England since 2001 full of confidence after convincingly beating India in London to win the World Test Championship.

Steve Smith, so often a thorn in England's side, scored

a century in the first innings against India and along with Marnus Labuschagne will form the bedrock of Australia's batting while Travis Head will be a handful for England's bowlers. But how their bowling unit of Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood react when faced with 'Bazball' for the first time could be the key to the outcome.

"Every Ashes series gets the juices flowing but there's added excitement this time around," former England skipper Nasser Hussain told The Metro. "That's because of the brand and style of cricket this England side are playing. There's that question we all have: can they turn up and do to Australia what they have done to every other side they've come up against?"



## Mbappe Tells PSG He Will Not Renew Contract

Agencies

**PARIS:** Kylian Mbappe has told Paris St Germain he will not take up the option of a one-year extension in his contract when it expires next June, L'Equipe reported, with the France forward adding that the club had been notified of his decision last year.

Mbappe, a World Cup winner in 2018, confirmed his decision in a letter to the club and could even be sold this summer as PSG will seek to avoid losing him for free, according to the local reports. The player would be free to negotiate and sign a pre-contract agreement with a new club from January should he decide to see out the remaining year of his deal at PSG.

In a statement sent to news agency AFP on Tuesday, Mbappe said PSG "were informed on July 15, 2022" of his decision not to extend his contract, adding that "the only aim of the letter was to confirm what had already been spoken about previously". On Tuesday, Mbappe dismissed reports saying he wanted to join Real Madrid in the close season transfer window, saying on Twitter: "I've already said that I'm going to continue next season at PSG where I'm very happy."

If Mbappe sees out the remainder of his contract, PSG risk losing him for free at the end of

the 2023-24 season. According to Swiss research group CIES Football Observatory, Mbappe is worth around 250 million euros (\$270 million). The French club, owned by Qatar Sports Investments, have already lost Lionel Messi on a free transfer after the Argentina forward left at the end of his two-year contract to join Major League Soccer's Inter Miami.

PSG have not responded to a request for comment. Mbappe was widely tipped to join Real Madrid last season but rejected a move to Spain to sign a contract extension with PSG.

The 24-year-old has long been admired by Real, who had a bid reported to be as high as 200 million euros (\$215 million) turned down in 2021. Real, who have already agreed a deal to sign England midfielder Jude Bellingham from Borussia Dortmund, could step up their interest in Mbappe following striker Karim Benzema's move to Al-Ittihad in Saudi Arabia.

Mbappe became PSG's all-time top scorer after netting 41 goals in 43 games in all competitions and helped the capital club win a record 11th French title. He was named France captain after leading them to a second straight World Cup final in December, where he netted a hat-trick against Argentina before losing on penalties.

## Brazil, Spain Join Forces To Combat Racism In Football

Agencies

**MADRID:** Brazil will play a friendly match against Spain at the Bernabeu in March next year as part of an anti-racism campaign in support of Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr, the Spanish FA (RFEF) president Luis Rubiales said on Tuesday.

Rubiales and his Brazilian FA (CBF) counterpart, Ednaldo Rodrigues, met in Madrid to launch their joint movement to combat racism under the slogan "One skin".

The agreement follows the racist insults 22-year-old Vinicius suffered in a LaLiga match at Valencia in May, the 10th such incident against the player that LaLiga has reported to prosecutors this season.

"It is important to understand that harder punishment needs to be applied in cases of racism by the football authorities," Rodrigues told a news conference.

"Fines are not enough. The clubs need to be held accountable too. CBF was the first football federation to adopt harder sanctions for cases of racism, such as the deduction of points in league standings, closure of stands or the lifetime expulsion of club members."

"We need to lead a campaign worldwide to fight against this virus that ashame everyone in football."



Last month, the CBF also launched a national campaign against racism in Brazilian league matches with the slogan "There is no game with racism". Brazil, five-time world champions, are in the region for matches against Guinea in Barcelona on Saturday and Senegal in Lisbon three days later.

The CBF worked closely with Vinicius on the details surrounding the two friendlies as it wanted to be sure the player was comfortable with the matches being held in Iberia. The Real Madrid winger supported the idea, sources said.

"There is no place for racist insults in our football," Rubiales said. "It is intolerable that such events like what happened with Valencia take place in our country."

"I feel sorry because it doesn't represent our country and who we are and tarnish our reputation worldwide. We have a problem with racism and have to fight."

## Downtown Heroes FC: Shaping Future Stars, Inspiring Change In J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Mushtaq Bashir and Hinan Manzoor, both hailing from Srinagar, share a common passion for sports since their early days, and despite challenges they harboured a deep love for their homeland and desired to make a positive impact. Mushtaq, a talented graphic designer, possessed a keen eye for creativity and innovation. He envisioned using his skills to promote sports in the community, believing it could catalyze change and unity.

Hinan, on the other hand, had pursued a career in the corporate industry after completing his MBA but never lost his enthusiasm for sports and its transformative power. Mushtaq Bashir and Hinan Manzoor's dedication to

their beloved homeland and their unwavering belief in the power of sports have not only transformed the perception of Downtown Srinagar but have also empowered the youth, instilling in them a sense of hope, unity, and purpose.

Their remarkable journey serves as an inspiration, reminding us that passion and determination can bring about meaningful change, even in the face of adversity. In 2020, Mushtaq Bashir and Hinan Manzoor took their passion for sports to new heights by starting a football club named Downtown Heroes.

Their vision was to uplift football in Srinagar and give Downtown a fresh identity. They were joined by like-minded individuals, including Irfan Shahmiri, who now serves as the club's chairman, and Qa-



isar Bhat, the Vice Chairman. Together, they embarked on a mission to bring a positive change to the local football scene, uniting the community and showcasing the talent that

resided within Downtown Srinagar. Their initiative garnered attention and support from individuals and organizations across the region. The positive impact extend-

ed beyond the playing field, fostering a sense of pride and optimism among the residents. Driven by their shared vision, they embarked on a mission to bring positive change to Downtown Srinagar. Their goal was to create an environment that fostered teamwork, discipline, and resilience while challenging the negative perceptions associated with their neighbourhood.

Established in 2020 and hailing from the old city of Srinagar, Downtown Heroes FC has emerged as one of the premier football clubs in the valley. Despite being relatively new to the professional football scene, the club has quickly risen to prominence, surpassing many clubs that have been established for decades.

Their unwavering determination and commitment to ex-

cellence have propelled them to the top, earning them a reputation as one of the leading clubs in the region. However, their story goes beyond mere success on the football field.

Downtown, the historic heart of Srinagar, has been plagued by numerous challenges over the years, from conflict and political instability to the recent rise in drug-related issues. Unfortunately, the residents of Downtown have often found themselves at the epicentre of these problems.

Recognizing the immense potential and talent that resides within the youth of Downtown and the entire valley, Downtown Heroes FC has embarked on a mission that extends beyond the boundaries of football. The primary objective is to provide a platform for the youth, particularly

those from Downtown, where they can showcase their skills and abilities on a larger stage. By doing so, the aim is to create local role models and heroes who can inspire others to choose a path away from illicit activities and embrace a more positive and constructive future.

The management believes that sports, and football in particular, have the power to transform lives and bring about positive change. Through its commitment to nurturing young talent, it aims to empower the youth of Downtown, instilling in them a sense of purpose, discipline, and ambition. By offering opportunities for growth and development, they strive to shape future stars who can make a lasting impact not only on the football field but also in their communities.



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