

## Work-from-Home: A Lifeline for Kashmiris Amid Job Shortages

Farzana Nisar

Roughly two calendar years ago, Muhammad Nadeem, a diligent and ambitious young man, stood on the threshold of a new chapter in his life. With his newly earned degree in hand, he was filled with a potent mix of excitement and apprehension. As he bid farewell to the familiar walls of his university, he set out on a journey to find a job that would set his career in motion. Little did he know that the job market was still

reeling from the impact of the pandemic, and a daunting job crunch awaited him.

Days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months, but Nadeem's efforts were met with disappointment. His optimism started to fade; doubts began to cloud his mind as he wondered if his years of studying had been in vain. The weight of expectations from his family burdened him further.

He applied for some government job openings through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), but the



exams kept getting delayed, or the posts were scrapped owing to different reasons. "I managed to secure interviews with private companies, but the number of job openings was few and the competition was intense," Nadeem said.

**WITH AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 23.1% IN MARCH THIS YEAR,** Jammu and Kashmir featured on the third spot of the unemployment graph as per CMIE. As a consequence, many individuals in Kashmir face underemployment, where they are unable to secure full-time positions or work in fields that match their qualifications.

"Besides, these companies required me to relocate outside the region and the remuneration offered by them was not enough to sustain a comfortable life in a different city, let alone contribute to my family's expenses back home." It was then that a friend came to his rescue with a suggestion. Aware of the limited job options in the region, the friend recommended exploring remote [More on PIO](#)

## Rains Force Closure Of Banihal Highway

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir received heavy rains on Monday, bringing respite from sweltering heat but also triggering landslides at multiple locations that blocked the key Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and other roads, officials said.

Authorities closed all schools upto class 10 in Ramban due to a threat of flash floods owing to heavy rainfall, they said.

The 250-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked due to multiple landslides and shooting stones from the hill-ock at Cafeteria Morh and Mehar in Ramban town in the wee hours of the day, the officials said.

However, the stranded vehicles were cleared around 2.30 pm after road clearance agencies managed to make it worthy of one-way traffic.

No fresh traffic was allowed either from Srinagar or Jammu on the highway this morning, the officials said.

They said the traffic on Mughal road, an alternative link connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was also suspended for several hours due to a landslide at Hari Katha near Behramgalla. [More on PIO](#)

## Schools Closed In Doda, Ramban

**A**mid heavy rains and warning of flash floods, the district administration Ramban and Doda have directed for closure of schools upto Class 10 and Class 8 respectively. "It was decided to close the schools upto Class 10 for the day as the district has been experiencing heavy rains amid imminent warning for flash floods", said a district administration Ramban official, as per news agency GNS.

"The teachers concerned have been however asked to attend their duties" [More on PIO](#)

## Waiting For Day When Permanent Peace Will Come To J&K: Rajnath

'Democratic Process in J&K Soon'; 'AFSPA Shall Be Removed After Lasting Peace'

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) had been removed from large parts of the northeast and he was waiting for "permanent peace" in Jammu and Kashmir so it could be removed from here too.

Speaking at a National Security Conclave here, the Union minister also asserted that India has changed the mindset of the whole world, including the US, on the issue of terrorism.

"Today, AFSPA has been removed from large parts of the northeast. I am waiting for the day when permanent peace will come in Jammu and Kashmir and AFSPA will be removed from here too," Singh said.

Jammu and Kashmir, he said, has suffered the brunt of terrorism for a long time and people here know how the poison of terrorism hollows out the society.

Noting that the entire



network of terrorism was operating in Jammu and Kashmir for decades, he said, "Today strict action has been taken against that network by weakening it to a great extent. We have stopped the funding of terrorism, stopped the supply of arms and drugs and along with the elimination of terrorists, the work of dismantling the network of underground workers who work

here is also going on". Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Singh said while the common people of Jammu and Kashmir were kept away from the mainstream for a long time, they also became a "hindrance" in taking action against anti-national forces. Without naming Pakistan, he said countries using terrorism as a state [More on PIO](#)

## 'Decision On Surgical Strikes Was Taken In 10 Minutes'

**I**ndia is getting more powerful and can hit terror networks on this side of the border as well as across it if the need arises, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, asserting that the world has understood the meaning of zero tolerance for terrorism through the country's actions. "Pulwama and Uri were both unfortunate incidents. The prime minister took just 10 minutes to take a decision (on carrying out surgical strikes) which shows his strong willpower. Our forces not only neutralised the terrorists on this side but also went across the border to finish them off," Singh said. Addressing a national security conclave held at the University [More on PIO](#)

## J&K Admin Represents Aspirations Of All Citizens: LG

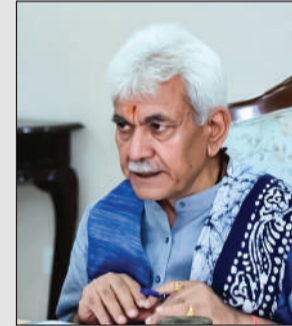
Takes Strong Note Of Fake Complaints Raised On Grievance Cell

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Stating that his government represents the aspirations of all the citizens and every section of the vibrant society, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that time-bound delivery of services, prompt and effective redressal of grievances form the core of Union Territory administration's development initiatives.

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

Interacting with the people, concerned Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police through Video Conferencing, the LG took appraisal of the action taken on the grievances received from the citizens. Sinha also directed the DCs to constructively engage with citizens, prioritize concerns of the poor and



needy and resolve all issues in a transparent manner. "For maintenance of parks and other such public properties, we also seek the participation of residents. We are committed to the goal of providing a better quality of life to our citizens and community participation would play a key role in cleanliness of parks and public spaces," he said.

**On Fake Complaints**

Taking strong note of fake complaints in Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System" [More on PIO](#)

**WITH THE ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370** (of the Constitution), our aim is to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir as swiftly as possible. We are committed to commencing the democratic process in the region at the earliest, thus fulfilling the long-standing aspirations of its people."

## AMARNATH YATRA

### Use CCTVs To Monitor Movement Of Suspects: DGP

Also Directs Officers To Use Drones, Other Tools To Monitor Security Of Pilgrims

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Just days ahead of the annual Amarnath yatra to begin, the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Monday directed security forces to use drones and other necessary tools to monitor the security of pilgrims, besides installing CCTV cameras at important locations to monitor the movement of suspects.

Singh passed these directions while chairing a joint meeting of Jammu Zone Police & the officers of central armed police forces (CAPFs) at Police Control Room Jammu. He also reviewed the security arrangements and deployment plans for the Amarnath yatra in Jammu Zone, a police spokesperson said Monday.

Addressing the meeting, he



said, the DGP emphasized on all the officers to maintain very close coordination which he said, is of utmost importance to ensure an incident free yatra. Singh, he said, directed that the sectoral officers and PCRs must have the information regarding the availability and location of special teams like Drone Units, bomb disposal squad, dog squad, quick reaction teams [More on PIO](#)

## Traders Await Buyers In Srinagar Livestock Market Ahead Of Eid-al-Azha

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Ashiq Mohammad, a trader from Rajasthan, comes here every year with sacrificial animals ahead of Eid al-Azha and heads back home after selling his livestock within days.

This year, however, what should have been the busiest time of the year for Mohammad has turned into a waiting game with high prices keeping buyers away.

"I have been coming here for five years now and business is very slow this year. People used to be very fond of buying these animals but due to soaring prices, they are not buying them like they used to," Mohammad said.

"In the past years, my livestock would sell out in two days. This year, it has been five days and the majority of animals haven't been sold yet," he said.

Some traders in the livestock market, which was swarming with sacrificial animals with colourful markings and painted



horns, said they were selling their livestock at a loss.

Mohammad Shafi from Kupwara's Handwara said he brought around 35 home-reared animals to the market, hoping to get some good returns.

"In the last two days, I have only sold around eight to 10 animals. This year business is slow. Buyers don't have enough money to buy animals and

hence they are staying away," Shafi said.

Abdul Majid, a livestock trader from the Lolab area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district said, "I brought 50 sheep from my hometown for selling here. I bought them for Rs 330 per kilogram and I am selling them for almost the same price. I am incurring losses due to this." The government [More on PIO](#)

## Death Of Tangmarg Man Due To Rash, Negligent Driving Tipper Driver Sentenced To 1 Yr Jail, Fined Rs 50K

Observer News Service

**Srinagar, June 26:** A court in Tangmarg has convicted and sentenced a man for rash and negligent driving in which a person had died eleven years ago in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

According to the prosecution, on 7 July 2012, police station Tangmarg received information from reliable sources, one person namely Bilal Ahmad Magrey was hit and critically injured by a stone near stone crusher Shrai Nallah in Tangmarg. Magrey was later taken to Tangmarg Hospital for where he expired, police said.

However, subsequently it transpired following investigation that Magrey had not died

due to any stone but passed away after being hit by a Tipper (JK05-6067), which was driven by the accused at the time of occurrence, the prosecution said.

On 14 July 2012, the prosecution said that a formal FIR (No. 90/2012) was registered under section 279, 304-A RPC in police station Tangmarg. Later the charge sheet was filed on 19-12-2012, and the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Tangmarg, Towseef Ahmad Mir, eventually today convicted and sentenced accused, Riyaz Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Khaliq Dar.

"...prosecution (have) fully established beyond any shadow of doubt that the accused person caused" [More on PIO](#)

## SHORT TAKES

### Man Held With 380 Fake Gold Biscuits

**P**olice on Monday arrested a man after recovering 380 fake gold biscuits from his possession in Khanpora area of Baramulla district. Javid Ahmad Dar was nabbed by a police party when he tried to flee from a checkpoint established at Khanpora Bridge, a police spokesperson said Monday. Dar, he said, was apprehended tactfully by the police party. "During search, 380 fake gold biscuits weighing about [More on PIO](#)

### Man Injured In Leopard Attack

**A** man was attacked and injured on Monday by a leopard in Bijhama area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Ali Sher Khan of Lachipora village was passing through the forest area of Dazna in Bijhama when a leopard appeared there and attacked him, reports said. Khan suffered multiple injuries in the surprise attack of the beast. He was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. His condition, reports said, is stated to be stable.

### NIA Searches In 4 Kashmir Districts

**T**he National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted a series of raids across four districts in Kashmir on Monday as part of its probe into an alleged conspiracy involving newly-floated offshoots of proscribed Pakistan-backed terror outfits to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir. "Twelve locations in the four districts of Kulgam, Bandipora, Shopian and Pulwama were raided as part of the crackdown. The locations were residential premises [More on PIO](#)

### DGPC Delegation Calls On LG Sinha

**A** delegation of District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Srinagar called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here on Monday. The members of the delegation including Gurmeet Singh Bali, Jaspal Singh, Ranjit Singh, Jasbir Singh Wazir and Jasbir Singh Oberoi apprised the LG on the preparations made by the DGPC to celebrate the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji at Gurudwara Chattipatshahi, an official spokesperson said. [More on PIO](#)

### Woman Killed In Cylinder Blast

**A** young woman was killed on Monday when an LPG cylinder exploded inside her house in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. 24-year-old that Zeenat Tariq, daughter of Tariq Ahmad Khan, a resident of Shatpora Haihama suffered critical injuries at her home in a gas cylinder explosion, officials told a local news agency GNS. "She was immediately shifted to SDH Kupwara for treatment from where she was referred to SMHS hospital where she succumbed" [More on PIO](#)

### Worker Dies Under Mysterious Circumstances

**A** 42-year-old man, who was working at India's First Cable Stayed Railway Anji Bridge at Harotekote area in Reasi district, died under mysterious circumstances near the Bridge site on Monday. The officials identified the deceased as Suresh Yadav, son of Bal Chander Yadav of Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, adding that the body was shifted to District Hospital Reasi for post-mortem. Meanwhile, Reasi police started an [More on PIO](#)



## Ban Imposed On Use Of Motorbikes By Students Below 18 During School Hours

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities on Monday ordered a blanket ban on use of motorbikes during school hours by students below 18 years of age in Central and North Kashmir.

According to Kashmir News Observer, Joint Director, Central and North for School Education Department said this in a communique to Chief Education Officers of Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora.

The officer said, "A large number of complaints are making rounds in media and social circles about the rash driving and stunt biking and reckless movement of two wheelers by school boys studying in different classes of government and private schools."

"The students are doing this without any objection or control from the Head of the Institutions and school managements resulting into injuries, minor accidents and loss of lives which is otherwise avoidable and needs proper counseling, advice and blanket ban in and around school premises," it reads.

The Joint Director accordingly directly the Chief Education Officers of Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora to

sensitize all the Head of the Institutions of government as well as private schools not to allow any student below the age of 18 years to use any bike or Scooty during the school hours.

"Even don't allow any student to use bike or Scooty without wearing of helmets and driving licenses issued by the competent authority," the officer informed CEOs.

It also said that the Zonal Education Officers concerned shall also be activated to conduct surprise checks in and around government and private institutions and ensure that this trend is discouraged henceforth and the safety and security of all students is given top priority with a view to maintain discipline, morality and decency in and around the schools and institutions.

"Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, SSP Traffic City and SSP Traffic Rural are also requested to intensify the surprise checking of bikes Scooty riders and intercept the minor students who don't wear helmets or don't have driving licenses and are below the age of 18 years so as to curb this menace with iron hand and ensure rule of law and rules of traffic are observed by one and all religiously," it reads. KNO



People were busy buying sacrificial animals at largest Mandi in Eidgah area of Srinagar ahead of Eid-ul-Adha (feast of sacrifice) on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Avoid Dumping Hides, Offal Of Sacrificial Animals Into Water Bodies: LC&MA

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of Eid-ul-Adha, the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LC&MA) today appealed to the general public to avoid throwing or dumping hides and offal of sacrificial animals in Dal Lake and other water bodies.

In a statement issued here, the authorities at LC&MA informed that on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha it has been observed that people throw or dump the hides and offal of such animals in Dal, Nigeen, Brari Nambal and other water bodies, thereby causing absolute choking of navigation channels.

Dal Lake is our collective asset that needs to be conserved and the same cannot be achieved without the active support and participation of the general public. In past years our water bodies at several points witnessed massive blockage due to dumping of animal hides and their offal. In respect of Dal Lake, the JK LCMA was necessitated to undertake a massive drive to remove animal hides in the past.

Being a stakeholder of water bodies, it is obligatory for all to avoid dumping of animal hides

and their internal organs into water bodies, failing which a strict action as warranted under law shall be taken against violators. Also heavy fines will be re-

la Abdullah from STP Lam to Nishat.

The rally was attended by Assistant Professor SKUAST, Naseem Geelani and 38 students

## SMC To Kick Off Cleanliness Around Mosques, Shrines In Srinagar

Srinagar: As Eid-ul-Adha draws closer, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has decided to carry out cleanliness around all major mosques and shrines in the city. It also warned of strict action against those throwing hides and offal of sacrificial animals on the roadside.

A senior official at SMC said the civic body has directed all the concerned officials to carry out cleanliness around all major places of worship in Srinagar. He said the corporation

has also made arrangements for the collection of hides and offal of sacrificial animals.

"Teams have been constituted for the collection of hides and offal of sacrificial animals. However, if anyone is found throwing them on the roadside or drains, will be dealt with as per municipal laws," he said.

The places identified for the Eid prayers will be cleaned, and for that, all elaborate arrangements have been put in place, the official said.

alized against the violations.

In a sequel, an awareness rally was carried out under the supervision of Project Officer, Watershed Management Ghaza-

of the university. At the occasion, the general public was emphasized upon to take care of water bodies and avoid them from littering.

## Fake Dentist Held In Srinagar, Clinic Sealed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police have arrested a man for allegedly "practicing" as a dentist without a proper license in the Kanikadal area in the old city on Monday, officials said.

Officials said that police, and health officials in the presence of the Magistrate sealed the fake dental clinic.

The 'fake' doctor running the clinic in the congested area failed to provide a license or proper certificate supporting his practice when police asked him to produce the same.

Sources said that a team led by SHO Shaheed Gunj Basharat Ali, and Zonal

Medical Officer Dr Shafkat in the presence of Tahsildar South Moeen Azhar Kakroo raided the clinic following information and sealed it accordingly. The man masquerading as the doctor has also been arrested. Police said that the clinic was established in a residential area at Kanikadal Srinagar.

A formal case FIR number 50/2023 under section 420 has been registered against the quack at Shaheed Gunj police station in this regard.

Tahsildar South Moeen Azhar Kakroo also confirmed that the clinic has been sealed by the police and that the imposter has been arrested (KNT).

## Int'l Day Against Use of Drugs & Trafficking

GHSS, Kothibagh Hosts Program On Drug Abuse

Observer News Service

Srinagar: International day against use of drugs and trafficking under WHO theme 2023 "Together, we can tackle world drug problem" was celebrated at Girls Higher Secondary School Kothi Bagh (GHSS) Srinagar on Monday.

GHSS, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar and "Healthy Minds", a project of Kashmiri American Society for HealthCare, Medical Education & Research and HELP Foundation J&K jointly organized the event.

The program was inaugurated by Nusrat Bukhari, Principal and Dr Asifa MO with CMO Srinagar. Team of experts from the CMO office included Dr Syed Saniya, Epidemiologist NCD, Dr Tasadiq Shafi, Epidemiologist IDSP District Srinagar and Dr Asifa Medical Officer CMO. Team of Healthy Minds counselors included Adil Nazir, Sumaira Sofi, Uzma Sami, Insha Ashraf and Uzma Zaffar, the audi-



ence included students and faculty members of the school. Highlighting alarming figures of substance abuse in J&K, speakers Adil Nazir, counselor at Healthy Minds and Dr Syed Saniya shed light

were also highlighted and appreciated by the audience. Dr Syed Riyaz Ahmed, Project Manager KASHMER highlighted brief details of various healthcare related projects done in the valley with the support and collaboration of reputed NGOs of Kashmir, HELP Foundation and Help Poor Voluntary Trust. He also advocated for various measures that educational institutions could take as a preventive strategy to help students stay away from drugs. A pledge ceremony was held by all teams and the audience affirming their efforts to tackle drug problems in the world under the theme 2023 by WHO.

**Commendable efforts put in by the Govt at various levels were also highlighted and appreciated by the audience.**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar,  
NEAR J&K BANK ZALDAGAR**

Telefax No. 0194-2952696, e-mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for this office e- NIT No. 07 of 2023-24, dated: 05.06.2023 for below mentioned work: -  
"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Vertical turbine motor of 40HP capacity to be coupled with available 05 cusec pump at Lift Irrigation Scheme Zazna-A".

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2023\_JFC\_215109\_1

**Extension Notice 1**

In view of Eid holidays coinciding with bid submission end date, the critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	03/07/2023 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	04/07/2023 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/TS/ 1189-86

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Srinagar

DIPK-4187/23 Dated: - 26-06-2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating  
Division, Srinagar**

(Phone No: 0194-2496089, www.medkmr.org, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: Outsourcing of Manpower for operation of various mechanical support services at Govt. 500 Bedded Children Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar for a period of 03 months w.e.f 01-07-2023

Ref : This office NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2023-24/23/e-tendering Dated 08.06.2023

**CANCELLATION**

In view of minimum number of bidders not qualifying for opening of cover 2nd, the above referred e-NIT is hereby cancelled and shall be issued afresh shortly.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD/TS/2494-97,  
DIPK-4165/23  
Dated: 26-06-2023

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

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

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	3:36
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5:33
Magrib	7:50
ISHA	9:31

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
08 Zil-Hajj  
1444

## This Day In History

- 1709 - Peter the Great of Russia defeats Charles XII of Sweden at the Battle of Poltava.
- 1862 - Battle at Garnett's/Golding's Farms, Virginia
- 1864 - Atlanta Campaign: Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
- 1940 - Soviet Army attacks Romania
- 1940 - USSR returns to Gregorian calendar
- 1950 - North Korean troops reach Seoul, UN asks members to aid South Korea, Harry Truman orders US Air Force & Navy into Korean conflict
- 1957 - The British Medical Research Council publishes a report suggesting a direct link between smoking and lung cancer.
- 1960 - British Somaliland becomes part of Somalia
- 1961 - Ghana imposes a total ban on exports to South Africa and South West Africa
- 1962 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A. Walker takes X-15 to 6,606 kph, 37,700 m
- 1962 - Ross Perot begins Electronic Data Systems
- 1962 - In South Africa, the General Law Amendment Act (Sabotage Act) No 76 commences, increasing the state president's power to declare organisations unlawful and to add further restrictions to banning orders
- 1973 - Uruguayan president dissolves parliament and heads a coup d'état
- 1976 - Air France Airbus hijacked in Germany to Uganda
- 1978 - Soyuz 30 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Polish) to Salyut 6 space station
- 1978 - US Seasat 1, 1st oceanographic satellite, launched into polar orbit
- 1979 - Heavyweight Muhammad Ali confirms that his 3rd retirement is final (it isn't)
- 1980 - Italian plane crashes into Tyrrhenian Sea, kills 81
- 1982 - STS-4, 4th NASA Space Shuttle mission, launches
- 1983 - NASA launches space vehicle S-205
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 7 space station
- 1994 - Aerosmith become first major band to let fans download a full new track free from the internet
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-71 (Atlantis 14), launches
- 2001 - The International Court of Justice finds against the United States in its judgement in the LaGrand Case.
- 2007 - The Brazilian Military Police invades the favelas of Complexo do Alemão in an episode which is remembered as the Complexo do Alemão massacre.

## From KO Archives

## J&K To Stop Shahtoosh Trade

Observer News Service

Srinagar: the government will stop Shahtoosh trade owing to world-wide criticism and problem being face by traders dealing in it outside, the chief minister of the State Dr Farooq Abdullah told mediapersons here today. Dr Abdullah said that though the state has its own act regulating the Shahtoosh trade, yet it has become problematic to sell it beyond the state in view of ban in the rest of the country. Even weaving of Shahtoosh invites action.

The chief minister also referred to the recent judgement of the High court on this issue. To a question Dr. Abdullah said the government is contemplating to amend the state law in this regard. He said the government is considering several proposals to rehabilitate the Shahtoosh traders of the State.

"Instead of Shahtoosh we will promote Pashmina in a big way which is State's one of the monopolized items having tremendous potential," the chief minister said, adding that exhibitions would be held at important centres to popularize Kashmiri shawls world-over.





KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Tuesday | 27-06-2023

## Cautious optimism on AFSPA

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday that the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) will be repealed from Jammu and Kashmir once peace is firmly established in the region. Speaking at a security conclave in Jammu, Singh highlighted the successful containment of insurgency in the North East and the removal of AFSPA from substantial parts of the region. While he refrained from providing a specific timeline, the minister hoped that the day will not be far when the law will be withdrawn from J&K too.

The AFSPA, enacted in 1958, grants extensive powers to the armed forces in areas declared as "disturbed." While it was introduced with the intention of maintaining security in regions grappling with militancy, it has been a subject of debate and criticism due to alleged human rights excesses committed under its purview.

In J&K, the withdrawal of the AFSPA has been a longstanding debate but ultimately it has gone nowhere as the defense ministry has shown itself disinclined to do away with it. But contrary to the official narrative, Kashmir has come a long way since 2019. The region has witnessed an incremental decline not only in militancy but also a decrease in the influx of the Pakistani militants. More than 500 militants have been killed, most of them local youth and hailing from South Kashmir. This has considerably thinned the footprint of militancy in the area helping restore some uneasy normalcy. Pakistan, believed to be forced by its ongoing economic hardships and international pressure, has cracked down on the leaders of Kashmir centric militant groups like Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

However, it is very unlikely that the demand for the withdrawal of the AFSPA from J&K will find any traction at the national level where a near political consensus exists about the continuation of the law in the region which is seen as necessary to reign in the militancy.

The law gives the army and the paramilitary forces sweeping powers to conduct their operations as "under this Act, no prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted," against the security personnel acting in good faith in the line of duty. And it is these grounds that the Valley politicians have tapped into to often fashion a political narrative for the phase-wise rollback of the law. The rationale of the defense forces is that they cannot operate freely without the AFSPA in a conflict zone like Kashmir. And the centre is least likely to overlook the opinion of the armed forces on security, more so, in a place like Kashmir. But a clear roadmap outlining the conditions and benchmarks necessary for the revocation of AFSPA would provide hope to the people of J&K and demonstrate its responsiveness to their longstanding grievances against the law.

### OTHER OPINION

## Bridging the gap

India has fared well in education, and in political empowerment, with representation of women of over 40% in local governance, thanks to efforts on the ground after the 73rd and 74th amendments. But, as the report points out, women represent only 15.1% of parliamentarians, "the highest for India since the inaugural 2006 edition." This should spur Parliament to take it to the next level by acting on the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill, which proposes to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women, and was first introduced in the House way back in 1996. To understand where things stand on women's participation in politics, consider this: Nagaland, which became a State in 1963, elected its first two women MLAs only in 2023.

On providing even access for men and women on economic participation and opportunity, India ranks near the bottom with less than 40% parity. On the one hand, there are upticks in parity in wages and income, but then shares of women in senior positions and technical roles have dropped. Another concern is India's performance in health and survival, though an improvement in sex ratio at birth has driven up parity after more than a decade of slow progress. It is imperative that girls get access to education through all levels of school and college; and they also need paid work. Women end up doing so much unpaid work at home that many do not have the time or energy to opt for paid work. Providing girls with a job-assured education will automatically improve all development indices including nutrition, and break the vicious cycle of early marriage leading to poor maternal and child health. If the pandemic revealed the fragility of life, it was infinitely harder on women, with their labour participation rates dropping, thus reducing household incomes. Often, even if they get a job, women are constrained by patriarchal and cultural norms; besides, there are serious safety concerns. The pandemic may have stalled progress to achieve gender equality by 2030, but work towards bridging the gap must go on in earnest.

The Hindu

# Unmasking The Mirage

Unemployment and its Impact on Marriages in Kashmir

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi



**Society's distorted valuation of individuals based solely on their vocations, status, and financial prowess births a cascade of afflictions: belated nuptials, fractured unions, superficial love alliances, and even the tragic epidemic of suicides**

Marriage, the opulent spiritual act of commitments, unfolds in Islam as a celestial contract adorned with profound responsibilities. Rooted in divine belief, it heralds a spiritual union, sealed under Allah's watchful gaze. Far from a mere dalliance, it breathes life into humanity's survival, bestowing purpose and nurturing the very fabric of existence. One of the profound Hadiths that sheds light on the significance of marriage states, "When a man marries, he has fulfilled half of his religion, so let him fear Allah regarding the remaining half." This profound saying underscores that marriage is not merely a worldly affair, but a deeply spiritual act that brings one closer to Allah and completes one's religious obligations. The sacred goal of becoming husband and wife surpasses the carnal realm, beckoning partners to harmonize as stalwart allies, offering unwavering support, boundless respect, and collective effort, weaving a symphony of shared endeavors. The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, illuminated the path of marriage with his divine guidance. He once said, "The most complete of believers in faith are those with the best character, and the best of you are the best to their wives." This timeless Hadith encapsulates the essence of marital harmony, emphasizing the paramount importance of virtuous behavior and kindness towards one's spouse. In the Islamic ethos, husband and wife are akin to celestial garments, interwoven with a delicate grace. Such is the momentous weight that marriage bears on life's grand tapestry that accurate counsel becomes a priceless gem for those who seek its luminous wisdom. For the divine tenets prescribe chastity, humility, honesty, compassion, kindness, loyalty, and philanthropy as foundational virtues, unveiling a path that transcends mere ritualistic fulfillment. The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, further imparted wisdom concerning timely action in the realm of marriage. He advised, "Do not delay in three things: offering the obligatory prayer when its time comes, performing the funeral prayer when the deceased's body is ready, and marrying a woman when a suitable match is found." This Hadith highlights the importance of seizing opportune moments in forging marital bonds, ensuring that the blessings of companionship, love, and familial stability are not needlessly postponed.

Society's distorted valuation of individuals based solely on their vocations, status, and financial prowess births a cascade of afflictions: belated nuptials, fractured unions, superficial love alliances, and even the tragic epidemic of suicides. The insightful study titled "Youth in India 2022," orchestrated by the erudite Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has unveiled a



Photo for representational purposes only

compelling revelation: Jammu and Kashmir has transgressed the customary bounds of matrimonial unions. Astonishingly, a staggering 29.1% of its vibrant youth remains unmarried and possesses the loftiest proportion of unwedded youth in comparison to the other states of this magnificent nation, India.

Regrettably, contemporary times have witnessed an unsettling predilection for government employees, while skilled artisans, labourers, and small traders find

burgeoning prevalence of elaborate customs woven into the fabric of nuptial ceremonies, where extravagance assumes myriad forms, such as the incorporation of novel gastronomic delights in the grandiose wazwaan or the ostentatious splendour of opulent banquet halls, demanding a fortune worth lakhs of rupees. Islam completely forbids any extravagance in all spheres of life including marriages. One should always remember the saying of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) regarded sim-

**"The sacred goal of becoming husband and wife surpasses the carnal realm, beckoning partners to harmonize as stalwart allies, offering unwavering support, boundless respect, and collective effort, weaving a symphony of shared endeavors"**

their worth forsaken. A haunting ritual of discrimination emerges, weighing the legitimacy of income sources, the halal or haram, the eligible or ineligible, casting a shadow on the essence of genuine connections. In this sombre reality, we stumble through life's intricate choices, unaware of Allah's commands and the teachings bestowed by the Holy Prophet. Let us not forget that unemployment, a transient state, neither besmirches nor defines an individual's worth. Rather, it is our collective responsibility to ensure justice prevails, upholding the rights of the jobless. We beseech Allah to illuminate our path, resurrecting the teachings we have forsaken in our pursuit of worldly gains. The pervasive phenomenon of postponed matrimony can be ascribed, in essence, to the scourge of unemployment, for myriad are the factors that obstruct individuals from embarking on the sacred journey of wedlock, be it the odious burden of dowry or the exorbitant demands of Mehr.

Furthermore, one must not overlook the culpability of the

ple marriages the best marriages "The best marriage is that upon which the least trouble and expense are bestowed" (Mishkat).

In the resplendent tapestry of Islamic matrimony, we uncover a symphony woven with divine threads, where souls entwine, hearts synchronize, and purpose intertwines. Let us embrace this celestial covenant, glistening with the brilliance of profound virtues, as we traverse the pathways of marital bliss, tethered by love, spirituality, and a shared vision. In this sacred communion, we shall find solace, harmony, and the resplendence that surpasses the transitory, emerging triumphant in the eternal embrace of Allah's grace.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The writer is a Ganderbal based columnist and is pursuing msc in biological Sciences from HNBGU Utrakhhand. He can be mailed at ehsaanamy133@gmail.com



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## Change Your Life and Personality

THERE'S no real "you". You're just a blueprint of the society in which you were born and one that made you. Your habits, hobbies, interests, religion, beliefs and actions are all mediated by society. What you are right now is not the actual you. However, there is a possibility to discover and rediscover yourself. You are the creator of your own story. However this change will hardly come overnight.

Consider this, in a village two children are born. One grows up in the village itself and another is raised in a developed country abroad. After twenty years, they both will have different personalities. The village boy will have his own set of hobbies and

dreams. On the other hand, the one raised abroad will have a different set of values mediated by a completely different society abroad. Therefore, it is obvious that you do not control your life, society does. One might mistake one's life as though luck directed it, however, things aren't that simple.

However, no matter what society has done, you can change it if you don't like your story that you are living. You can completely recreate it no matter how old and strong your story is. You have the power, because you are the author of your own life story. This is the highest power for a human being.

You have to first accept it deep within by increasing your self un-

derstanding. Research on it, analyse your past. Listen and watch struggle stories of people who then become successful all over the world. One thought can change your life. Plant your thoughts deeply in your subconscious mind through gratitude affirmations. Do this until your belief in your abilities becomes stronger.

Then the next step is to destroy your fear of people. As they say, "sabe bada rogh, kya kahenge log". If you don't remove this fear then you can't unlock your true potential or inner voice. Listen to the inner voice not the outer voice. No matter how many failures you have faced, you become closer to success from every failure. If you are so concerned about

what people are thinking, then how can you make your decisions? You will act on their expectations of you and not on your inner voice.

Life is what you make it, it's your choice. Don't compromise in life, enjoy it to the fullest. Don't make excuses. Be patient, work hard. Keep a learning attitude, an open mind and do not see through the beliefs you hold but see things as they are.

Make a commitment that no matter what your boring story was in the past and that you will live life on your own terms and conditions.

Mohsin Nazir

Addressing the traffic challenges in Jammu and Srinagar requires a multi-faceted approach, encompassing effective parking management, passenger vehicle regulations, speed enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and infrastructure development. While these measures can provide temporary relief, it is imperative to invest in long-term infrastructure development and explore innovative solutions to ensure smoother traffic flow

TRAFFIC WOES

Hilal Ahmad Dar

Recognizing the dire state of traffic management in Jammu and Srinagar, the UT administration has recently directed concerned officers to devise a comprehensive plan that addresses short-term and long-term requirements. While this initiative is a step in the right direction, it is important to critically analyse existing bottlenecks and associated factors to develop an effective strategy. In the absence of wider roads, flyovers, metro rail services, and other infrastructural developments, certain measures can be adopted to alleviate the traffic situation. This article explores some potential solutions that can contribute to easing traffic congestion in the cities.

Parking Management:

Launch a campaign against vehicles parked on roads, addressing both the manner and method of parking. Strict enforcement against vehicles causing obstruction or inconvenience should be undertaken. However, alternative parking options must be provided to vehicle owners to avoid exacerbating the problem. Encourage the development of multi-level parking facilities in congested

sengers/staff/students. This will prevent long queues of vehicles and minimize traffic congestion caused by haphazard stops. Create dedicated zones for boarding and deboarding near schools, colleges, and other busy areas to streamline the movement of passenger vehicles.

Minimum Speed Limits:

Introduce minimum speed limits to discourage crawling traffic caused by passenger vehicles engaged in boarding and deboarding activities. This will ensure a smoother flow of vehicles and prevent unnecessary traffic jams. Implement speed-monitoring devices and enforce penalties for vehicles impeding the traffic flow below the prescribed minimum speed limit.

Provision of Parking Lots:

Establish paid parking lots at short distances throughout the cities to discourage erratic and haphazard parking. This will encourage drivers to utilize designated parking spaces, reducing on-street parking congestion. Explore the feasibility of constructing parking lots near major commercial areas, tourist attractions, and public transportation hubs

roads clear for normal traffic movement and ensure unobstructed access for emergency services. Collaborate with local communities and residents to identify suitable overnight parking areas, such as unused open spaces or private parking lots, and provide them with secure parking options.

Traffic Rules Awareness:

Promote awareness of traffic rules among the general public through educational campaigns and community engagement. This will foster a culture of responsible driving and contribute to more effective traffic management. Conduct regular road safety awareness programs in schools, colleges, and workplaces to educate individuals about traffic rules, safe driving practices, and the importance of following traffic regulations.

Addressing Vehicle Registration:

Make vehicle registration conditional upon the prospective owner having sufficient space for overnight parking. Legislative measures can be considered to enforce this requirement, ensuring that vehicles are not added to the streets without adequate parking arrangements. Conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance with parking requirements and impose penalties for violations.

Time Restrictions for Heavy Vehicles:

Restrict heavy vehicles, such as loaded trucks, from plying during peak hours to minimize congestion. By regulating the movement of these vehicles, traffic flow can be improved during crucial periods. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, such as transportation companies and logistics associations, to establish designated time slots for heavy vehicle movement and enforce compliance through strict monitoring.

Increased Deployment of Traffic Personnel:

Deploy a greater number of traffic personnel on the roads to monitor and enforce traffic rules. Their visible presence will act as a deterrent to traffic violations and promote compliance among drivers. Conduct regular training programs for traffic personnel to enhance their skills and knowledge of traffic management techniques. Utilize technology, such as traffic cameras and real-time monitoring systems, to assist traffic personnel in effectively managing traffic flow.

Infrastructure Development:

Invest in the development of infrastructure to accommodate the growing vehicular population. Explore options such as widening existing roads, constructing flyovers and underpasses at congested intersections, and implementing intelligent transportation systems. Collaborate with urban planners and experts to design efficient road networks that can handle increased traffic volume and ensure smooth traffic flow.

Addressing the traffic challenges in Jammu and Srinagar requires a multi-faceted approach, encompassing effective parking management, passenger vehicle regulations, speed enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and infrastructure development. While these measures can provide temporary relief, it is imperative to invest in long-term infrastructure development and explore innovative solutions to ensure smoother traffic flow. By adopting a comprehensive and proactive approach, the UT administration can pave the way for a more efficient and organized traffic management system in Jammu and Srinagar. With proper planning, community engagement, and continuous monitoring, the abundance of vehicles can co-exist with limited roads, ensuring a safer and more sustainable transportation environment for all.

The author is a government employee



# Enhancing TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT in Jammu and Srinagar



areas to provide adequate parking space without consuming additional road space.

Deviation for Passenger Vehicles:

Implement designated stopping points for passenger vehicles to pick up and drop off pas-

to encourage commuters to park their vehicles and use alternative modes of transportation.

Overnight Parking Regulations:

Strictly prohibit overnight parking of vehicles on public roads and lanes. This will help keep

## DU'AS OF THE PROPHETS FOR THE DAY OF ARAFAH

Amaliah

The day of Arafah is one of the important days in the Islamic Calendar. It is the ninth day of the month of Dhul Hijjah and the day before Eid al-adha. On this day, pilgrims performing Hajj gather on the plain of Arafah and spend the day supplicating to Allah.

This day is also significant in Islam as it is the Day the Prophet (ﷺ) gave his farewell sermon, and the day this verse was revealed in the Qur'an:

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion." (Surah al-Ma'idah, verse 3)

There are various acts of worship Muslims are recommended to perform on this day such as fasting, supplicating (du'a) to Allah, glorifying and praising Allah and seeking His forgiveness.

The reward of fasting on the Day of Arafah: The Prophet (ﷺ) was asked about fasting the day of Arafah and he said, "It will expiate the sins of the previous and upcoming years." Then, the Prophet (ﷺ) was asked about fasting on the day of Ashura and he said, "It will expiate the sins of the past year." (Sahih Muslim 1162)

The importance of du'a on the Day of Arafah The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The best supplication is that which is made on the day of Arafah. The best of it is what was said by myself and the prophets before me: There is no God but Allah alone, without any partners, unto Him belong the dominion and all praise and He has power over all things." (Sunan al-Tirmidhi 3585)

Here are some of the du'as of the prophets mentioned in the Qur'an:

The du'a of Prophet Yunus (peace be upon him)  
قَالَ اِنَّا نَحْنُ حَيْدَرُكَ اِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِيْنَ  
Transliteration:  
Rabbi innee limaa anzalta ilayya min khairin faqeer  
"My Lord, indeed I am, for whatever good You would send down to me, in need." (Surah al-Qa-

La ilaha illaa anta subhanaka inni kuntu mina adhaalimin

"There is no God but You, glory be to You for I have certainly been among the wrongdoers. (Surah al-Anbiya, verse 87)

Prophet Yunus made this beautiful du'a whilst stuck inside a whale, and Allah (exalted is He) saved him from his situation immediately.

By sincerely repenting to Allah and glorifying Him, Yunus was saved from danger and imminent death by the mercy of Allah. The Prophet (ﷺ) also mentioned the virtue of this du'a in an authentic hadith:

Sa'd reported: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "The supplication of Jonah, Dhul Nun, when he called upon Allah inside the belly of the whale was this, 'There is no God but You, glory be to You for I have certainly been among the wrongdoers,' (21:87). Verily, a Muslim never supplicates for anything with it but that Allah will answer him." (Sunan al-Tirmidhi 3505)

By beginning your du'as with this du'a it is a way to be certain that Allah will accept your supplication!

The du'a of Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) Prophet Musa is the most mentioned prophet in the Qur'an across several surahs. Throughout his lifetime, he made several du'as which Allah preserved in the Qur'an for us to benefit from and utilise. One such du'a appears in Surah al-Qasas. Prior to making this dua, Prophet Musa helped two women feed water to their flock at a lake crowded with men. Then he returned to a place of shade and called out to Allah in desperation:

رَبِّ اِنِّي لَمَّا اَنْزَلْتَ اِلَيَّْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَكَبِّرُ  
Transliteration:  
Rabbi innee limaa anzalta ilayya min khairin faqeer  
"My Lord, indeed I am, for whatever good You would send down to me, in need." (Surah al-Qa-

as, verse 24)

Allah answered Musa's du'a immediately, blessing him with wealth and family!

Du'a for an expanded chest and easy task:  
رَبِّ اَسْرِعْ لِيْ صَدْرِيْ وَيَسِّرْ لِيْ اَمْرِيْ وَاخْلَعْ عَنِّيْ اِسْرَافِيْ  
Transliteration:  
Rabbih rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wah lul uq-datan min lisaani, yaf kahu kauli

"My Lord, expand for me my breast [with assurance] and ease for me my task and untie the knot from my tongue that they may understand my speech." (Surah Taha, Verses 25-28)

Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) made this du'a before facing the tyrannical oppressor, the Pharaoh, and Allah granted him ease and success in this task.

The du'a of Prophet Ayyub (peace be upon him) Prophet Ayyub was tested with years of illness, the loss of his wealth and children, and his du'a after enduring this for years is a beautiful example of the etiquette in which we should ask Allah for aid.

Transliteration  
Annee massaniyad-durru wa-anta arhamur-raahimeen  
"Indeed, harm has afflicted me, and You are the Most Merciful of all those who show mercy" (Surah al-Anbiya, verse 83)

Allah responded to this du'a by removing the hardship from Ayyub and restoring what he had lost.

The du'a of Adam and Hawaa (peace be upon them) After being expelled from paradise with his wife Hawaa, Adam was inspired by Allah to utter words of repentance, and Allah subsequently forgave Him. This du'a is a great example of the Mercy of Allah and His love of forgiving His slaves.

Transliteration:  
Rabbana dhalamnaa anfusana wa il-lam tag-fir lana wa tarhamna la-na-koo-nan-na mi-nal-

khasireen.

"Both cried out: 'Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You do not forgive us and do not have mercy on us, we shall surely be among the losers'" (Surah al-A'raf, verse 23)

The du'a of Prophet Nuh (peace be upon him) Prophet Nuh (peace be upon him) spent almost one thousand years calling his people to worship Allah alone, and he was met with their ridicule and mocking of him. In the preceding verses, the people of Nuh mocked him and denied him, calling him a madman, causing Nuh to call out to Allah with this du'a:

رَبِّ اِنِّي مَغْلُوْبٌ مِّنْ نَّاسٍ  
Transliteration:  
Rabbij alni maghloobun fantasir  
"My Lord, Indeed, I am overpowered, so help." (Surah al-Qamar, verse 10)

Immediately after, Allah responds by opening the skies and ending down rain, sending water from springs in the earth, and carrying Nuh and those who followed him in the arc to safety.

The du'as of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him)  
رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِيْ مَقِيْمٌ مَّقِيْمٌ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِيْ رِبِّيْمًا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِيْ رَبِّيْمًا اِنِّيْ اَفْزَعُ لِيْ وَاَوْلَادِيْ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ يَوْمَ يَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ  
Transliteration:  
Rabbij alni muqemmas salati wa min zurriyati Rabbana wa taqabbal du'a Rabbannah fir lee waliwali-dayya wa lil mumineena Yawma yaqoomul hisaab

"My Lord, make me an establisher of prayer, and [many] from my descendants. Our Lord, and accept my supplication. Our Lord, forgive me and my parents and the believers the Day the account is established" (Surah Ibrahim, verses 40-41)

The du'a of Ibrahim for Makkah  
رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا الْبَلَدَ اَمِيْنًا وَاجْعَلْنِيْ وَبَنِيَّ اَنْ يَّعْبُدُوا الصَّلَاةَ  
Transliteration:  
Rabbij alni muqemmas salati wa min zurriyati Rabbana wa taqabbal du'a Rabbannah fir lee waliwali-dayya wa lil mumineena Yawma yaqoomul hisaab

Rabbij 'al haazal balada aaminanw wajnunbee wa baniyya an na'budal asnaam

"My Lord, make this city [Makkah] secure and keep me and my sons away from worshipping idols." (Surah Ibrahim, verse 35)

After building the Kaaba, Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) made du'a for this city to be protected and for his offspring to be protected from shirk. We can use this du'a to make du'a for our own descendants to be safe from shirk and misguidance.

The du'as of Prophet Zakariya (peace be upon him)

رَبِّ اِنَّا نَحْنُ حَيْدَرُكَ اِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِيْنَ  
Transliteration  
Rabbi laa tadharnee fardanw wa Anta khairul waarithheen  
"My Lord, do not leave me alone [with no heir], while you are the best of inheritors." (Surah al-Anbiya, verse 89)

رَبِّ هَبْ لِيْ مِنْ لَدُنْكَ ذُرِّيَةً طَيِّبَةً اِنَّكَ سَمِيْعُ الدُّعَاءِ  
Transliteration:  
Rabbi hab lee mil ladunka zurriyyatan taiy-ibatun innaka samee'ud du'aaa

"My Lord, grant me from Yourself a good offspring. Indeed, You are the Hearer of supplication." (Surah Ali' Imran, verse 38)

Prophet Zakariya (peace be upon him) saw Maryam (peace be upon her) with rare, out of season fruits in her prayer area, and was inspired to name du'a for a child which was seemingly impossible. He was immediately given the good news of a baby boy, Yahya!

Many of the above du'as are du'as to either seek aid from Allah or to seek forgiveness, which are two of the most important things we should be asking Allah for, as He is the Most Forgiving and the Most Merciful. I hope these du'as are beneficial for you to utilise this Arafah!

# When Wealthy Adventurers Take Huge Risks, Who Should Foot The Bill For Rescue Attempts?

Associated Press

When millionaire Steve Fossett's plane went missing over the Nevada range in 2007, the swashbuckling adventurer had already been the subject of two prior emergency rescue operations thousands of miles apart.

And that prompted a prickly question: After a sweeping search for the wealthy risktaker ended, who should foot the bill?

In recent days, the massive hunt for a submersible vehicle lost during a north Atlantic descent to explore the wreckage of the Titanic has refocused attention on that conundrum. And with rescuers and the public fixated first on saving and then on mourning those aboard, it has again made for uneasy conversation.

"Five people have just lost their lives and to start talking about insurance, all the rescue efforts and the cost can seem pretty heartless — but the thing is, at the end of the day, there are costs," said Arun Upneja, dean of Boston University's School of Hospitality Administration and a researcher on tourism.

"There are many people who are going to say, 'Why should the society spend money on the rescue effort if (these people) are wealthy enough to be able to ... engage in these risky activities?'"

That question is gaining attention as very wealthy travelers in search of singular adventures spend big to scale peaks, sail across oceans and blast off for space.

The US Coast Guard declined Friday to provide a cost estimate for its efforts to locate the Titan, the submersible investigators say imploded not far from the world's most famous shipwreck. The five people lost included a billionaire British businessman and a father and son from one of Pakistan's most prominent families. The operator charged passengers \$250,000 each to participate in the voyage.

"We cannot attribute a monetary value to Search and Rescue cases, as the Coast Guard does not associate cost with saving a life," the agency said. While the Coast Guard's cost for the mission is likely to run into the millions of dollars, it is generally prohibited by federal law from collecting reimbursement related to any search or rescue service, said Stephen Koerting, a US attorney in Maine who specializes in maritime law.

But that does not resolve the larger issue of whether wealthy travelers or companies should bear responsibility to the public and governments for exposing themselves to such risk.

"This is one of the most difficult questions to attempt to find an answer for," said Pete Sepp, president of the National Taxpayers Union, noting scrutiny of government-funded rescues dating back to British billionaire Richard Branson's hot air balloon exploits in the 1990s.

"This should never be solely about government spending, or perhaps not even primarily about government spending, but you can't help thinking about how the limited resources of rescuers can be utilized," Sepp said.

The demand for those resources was spotlighted in 1998 when Fossett's attempt to circle the globe in a hot air balloon ended with a plunge into the ocean 500 miles off Australia. The Royal Australian Air Force dispatched a Hercules C-130 transport aircraft to find him. A French military plane dropped a 15-man life raft to Fossett before he was picked up by a passing yacht.

Critics suggested Fossett should pay the bill. He rejected the idea.

Late that same year the US Coast Guard spent more than \$130,000 to rescue Fossett and Branson after their hot air balloon dropped into the ocean off Hawaii. Branson said he would pay if the Coast Guard requested it, but the agency didn't ask.

Nine years later, after Fossett's plane



vanished over Nevada during what should have been a short flight, the state National Guard launched a months-long search that turned up the wreckage of several other decades-old crashes without finding the millionaire.

The state said the mission had cost taxpayers \$685,998, with \$200,000 covered by a private contribution. But when the administration of Gov. Jim Gibbons announced that it would seek reimbursement for the rest, Fossett's widow balked, noting she had spent \$1 million on her own private search.

"We believe the search conducted by the state of Nevada is an expense of government in performance of government action," a lawyer wrote on behalf of the Fossett estate.

Risky adventurism is hardly unique to wealthy people.

The pandemic drove a surge in visits to places like national parks, adding to the

popularity of climbing, hiking and other outdoor activities. Meanwhile, the spread of cellphones and service has left many feeling that if things go wrong, help is a call away.

Some places have laws commonly referred to as "stupid motorist laws," in which drivers are forced to foot the emergency response bill when they ignore barricades on submerged roads. Arizona has such a law, and Volusia County in Florida, home to Daytona, enacted similar legislation this week. The idea of a similar "stupid hiker law" is a regularly debated item in Arizona as well, with so many unprepared people needing to be rescued in stifling triple-digit heat.

Most officials and volunteers who run search efforts are opposed to charging for help, said Butch Farabee, a former ranger who participated in hundreds of rescue operations at the Grand Canyon and other national parks and has written several books

on the subject.

Searchers are concerned that if they did charge to rescue people "they won't call for help as soon as they should and by the time they do it's too late," Farabee said.

The tradeoff is that some might take that vital aid for granted. Farabee recounts a call in the 1980s from a lawyer who underestimated the effort needed to hike out of the Grand Canyon. The man asked for a helicopter rescue, mentioning that he had an important meeting the following day. The ranger rejected that request.

But that is not an option when the lives of adventurers, some of them quite wealthy, are at extreme risk.

At Mount Everest, it can cost tens of thousands of dollars in permit and expedition fees to climb. A handful of people die or go missing while hiking the mountain every year — prompting emergency response from local officials.

While the government of Nepal requires that climbers have rescue insurance, the scope of rescue efforts can vary widely, with Upneja estimating that some could cost "multiple dozens of thousands of dollars."

Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not respond to a message seeking comment.

On the high seas, wealthy yachtsmen seeking speed and distance records have also repeatedly required rescue when their voyages run astray.

When the yacht of Tony Bullimore, a British millionaire on a round-the-world journey, capsized 1,400 miles off the Australia Coast in 1997 it seemed he might be done for. Clinging to the inside of the hull, he ran out of fresh water and was almost out of air.

When a rescue ship arrived, he swam desperately toward the surface.

"I was starting to look back over my life and was thinking, 'Well, I've had a good life, I've done most of the things I had wanted to,'" Bullimore said afterward. "If I was picking words to describe it, it would be a miracle, an absolute miracle."

## New Cognitive Subtype Of Depression Discovered

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have described a new category of depression, labelled the cognitive biotype, characterised by patients' inability to plan ahead, display self-control, sustain focus despite distractions and suppress

inappropriate behaviour.

Accounting for 27 per cent of depressed patients and not effectively treated by commonly prescribed antidepressants targeting serotonin (SSRIs), imaging showed decreased activity in two brain regions responsible for the foremen-

tioned cognitive tasks.

The researchers at Stanford Medicine, US, said that targeting these cognitive dysfunctions with less commonly used antidepressants or other treatments may alleviate symptoms and help restore social and occupational abilities.

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

Short Term e-Tender  
NIT No: E-06of 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 manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document (Rate in Rs.)	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money (Rate in Rs)	Validity of offer	Time of completion	Programme Head	Whether Accorded/ Position of Funds	Tender ID no.
1	Mechanical work viz providing fitting of coupling, fabrication/ fitting of cooling ring and welding works to be carried out at Lift Irrigation Scheme Zehanpora, Shahkhata, Kanispora and Sheeri-I.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.504	Rs. 1008.00					2023_JFC_218493_1
2	Urgent welding work to be carried out at lift irrigation scheme Seer.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.09	Rs. 180.00					2023_JFC_218493_2
3	Repairs to 630 Amp MCCB, suction/ Delivery pipe, 02 cusec HZ Split casing pump of lift irrigation scheme Sheeri-II, Johama and Kandikhan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.304	Rs. 608.00					2023_JFC_218493_3
4	Providing and fitting of bearings to 15 Cusec V.T pump unit no.03 at lift irrigation scheme Seer.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.64	Rs. 1280.00	120 days	07 days	M&R	Within Budgetary Provisions of ARD 2023-24/AAA order no. 66-MCO of 2022-23 dated: 24-03-2023	2023_JFC_218493_4
5	Stacking of 400mm dia. MS pipes in a proper way lying at Kongambara playing ground. (Fresh)	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1.358	Rs. 2716.00			(2702)		2023_JFC_218493_5
6	Repairing of 05 cusec Kirloskar make pumping unit and other allied works at LIS Magraypora 2nd of MISD Pattan. (Fresh).	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.768	Rs. 1536.00					2023_JFC_218493_6
7	Electrical/mechanical works at Lift irrigation cum dewatering scheme Neejkhal of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1.032	Rs. 2064.00					2023_JFC_218493_7
8	Repairs Electrical/mechanical works at Lift irrigation scheme Trikbal New of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.249	Rs. 498.00					2023_JFC_218493_8
9	Repairing of 100KVA copper wound voltage stabiliser and other allied electrical works at dewatering scheme Rakhi Bowl of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.385	Rs. 770.00					2023_JFC_218493_9
10	Rewinding of 20 HP, 04-pole, 03-phase squirrel cage induction motor at lift irrigation scheme Wadipora of MISD Handwara.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.171	Rs. 342.00					2023_JFC_218493_10
11	Replacement of 125 mm dia foot valve at Lift Irrigation Scheme Khanpora and Chalpora of MISD Handwara.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.25	Rs. 500.00					2023_JFC_218493_11
12	Replacement of 150 mm dia PN 1.6 rating sluice valve and repairs to bypass arrangement of reflux valve at Lift Irrigation Scheme Gangbush 2nd of MISD Handwara.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.385	Rs. 770.00					2023_JFC_218493_12
13	Repairs/ replacements to the 07 cusec horizontal pumping unit and allied works at Lift Irrigation Scheme Vighbal II.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.38	Rs. 760.00					2023_JFC_218493_13
14	Providing, fitting and testing of C.I flexible type pump motor coupling for Lift Irrigation Scheme Hibdangpora.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.09	Rs. 180.00					2023_JFC_218493_14
15	Repairs/replacement to 100KVA HT/LT substation (33/0.44KV) at Lift Irrigation Scheme Saifkhal.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.542	Rs. 1084.00					2023_JFC_218493_15

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 24-06-2023 (05:00pm). The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-06-2023 (06:00 pm) to 03-07-2023 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. 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 at the scheduled time and venue. The complete bidding shall be online. Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla on 04-07-2023 at 01:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. MIDB/CC-02/920-29  
DIPK-421/23 Dated: 26-06-2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Baramulla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer Urbanforestry Division Srinagar

e-NIT NO: - 05 of 2023-24 DATED:- 21-06-2023

Name of Work:- Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests by carrying afforestation by means of broadcasting Seed-balls, Dibbles and Patch Sowing and all other associate operations as per site conditions in S-Park Range Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar. For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt/Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Security Deposit 2% of the Adv. Cost	Class of contractor/ Document	Cost of Tender	Time of completion
Preparation of Seed Balls and their broadcasting /dibbling/Patch Sowing in field of identified site in S-Park Range Urban Forestry Division Srinagar mechanical transport within a maximum lead of 100 Kms and headload carriage including loading and unloading upto site of work with all operations, in locations as mentioned below: <b>Seedballs:</b> 1. Co. 09,10,11 Spark = 5000 No's 2. Boninar Spark = 2000 No's 3. Basiwan Spark = 4000 No's 4. Barlabro Spark = 5000 No's <b>TOTAL = 16000 No's</b> <b>Dibbles:</b> 1. Co. 09,10,11 Spark = 5000 No's 2. Boninar Spark = 5000 No's 3. Basiwan Spark = 2000 No's <b>Total = 12000 No's</b> <b>Patch Sowing:</b> 1. Co. 09,10,11 Spark = 5000 No's 2. Boninar Spark = 2000 No's <b>Total = 7000 No's</b>	1.59	Rs.3180/-	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor, JKFDCC Contractor	Rs. 200/-	Upto December -2023 (All operations)

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

Publishing Date:-	21.06.2023
Download Start Date:-	22.06.2023 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:-	22.06.2023 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:-	03.07.2023 upto 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:-	04-07-2023 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:-	Will be opened after evaluation of technical bids

- TERMS & CONDITIONS**
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in). To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
  - Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Security Deposit in the shape of CDR Pledged to DFO Urban Forestry Division Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
  - The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e.CDR, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2023-24, PAN, Valid GSTRegistration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
  - The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
  - In case the bid of lowest / successful bidder is found unbalanced then he has to produce additional performance security of 3% in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee from scheduled bank valid till completion of contract before issuance of contract allotment by the Tender opening committee.
  - In case the bid of lowest / successful bidder is found unbalanced then he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee from scheduled bank valid till completion of work before issuance of contract allotment as per details given below:-  
1. Up to and including 15% below rate over advertised cost Nil  
2. Greater than 15% up to and including 20% below rate over advertised cost 5% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.  
3. Greater than 20% upto and including 25% below rate over advertised cost 10% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/ FDR/ Bank Guarantee.  
4. Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below rate over advertised cost 15% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.  
5. Greater than 30% below rate over advertised cost 20% in shape of CDR/ FDR/ Bank Guarantee.  
6. The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).  
7. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.  
8. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.  
9. The Release of payments will be as per the actual work done bill to be furnished by the concerned Range officer duly certified.  
10. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No- DFO/UF/D/Lease/2023-24/1332-37  
DIPK-4169/23 Dated:-26.06.2023

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Urban Forestry Division  
Srinagar



## EPFO Extends Deadline To Apply For Higher Pension Till July 11



**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** Retirement fund body EPFO has extended the deadline for filing applications to opt for a higher pension till July 11. This is the second extension of the deadline for applying for a higher pension. Earlier, it was extended from May 3, 2023, to June 26, 2023.

The last opportunity of 15 days is being given to remove any difficulty faced by the eligible pensioners/ members, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation said in a statement.

"Accordingly, the last date for submission of Applications for Validation of Option/ Joint Options by employees is extended to July 11, 2023," it added.

"Online facility has been made available by EPFO for submitting Applications for Validation of Options/Joint Options for pension on higher wages. The facility is for eligible pensioners/members in compliance with the Hon'ble

Supreme Court order dated November 04, 2022," the statement said.

"Timeline for applying for higher pension has been extended by 3 months for the employer and 15 days for the employee (member)," Raghunathan KE, Member representing Employers, Central Board of Trustees, EPFO, told PTI.

A lot of verification needs to be done as these are involving financial transactions, he added.

"We are happy and complement EPFO for three months time for employers and also 15 days for employees. EPFO once again proves to be considerate and compassionate to field issues," he said.

Any eligible pensioner/member who on account of any issue in the updation of KYC, faces difficulty in submitting an online application for validation of option / joint option, may immediately lodge such grievance on EPFI/GMS for resolution, as per the statement.

## Sensex, Nifty Settle On A Mixed Note In Volatile Trade



**Press Trust Of India**

**MUMBAI:** Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed on a mixed note in a volatile trade on Monday amid weak trends in the global markets.

While auto, IT and pharma shares advanced in a restricted trade, selling in index heavy-weight Reliance Industries, HDFC twins and Tata Consultancy Services capped the gains.

In a lacklustre trading, the 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 9.37 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 62,970, logging its third day of decline. During the day, it hit a high of 63,136.09 and a low of 62,853.67.

The NSE Nifty edged up by 25.70 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 18,691.20. It moved between 18,722.05 points and 18,646.70 in the day trade.

"The global market exhibited a negative bias as concerns regarding economic growth emerged in light of the political instability in Russia. This instability led to an increase in oil prices, driven by worries over potential supply disruptions, given Russia's status as one of the largest oil producers," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

On the domestic front, the

market experienced limited downside as the pharma and auto sectors provided support, he added.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra and HDFC were the major laggards.

On the other hand, Maruti rose the most by 1.67 per cent. Tata Motors, Titan, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India and IndusInd Bank were the top gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul ended in the green, while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday.

"Weak Asian and European cues dampened the domestic market sentiment, as benchmarks ended mixed in a range-bound session amid selective buying in key sectoral stocks. Global markets are dictating trends back home and investors don't want to be in a hurry to take long positions in times of high uncertainty," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

## S&P Retains FY24 India Growth Projection At 6 Pct, To Be Fastest Growing In Asia Pacific

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** S&P Global Ratings on Monday retained India's GDP growth forecast at 6 per cent saying it will be the fastest-growing economy among Asia Pacific nations.

The GDP growth forecast for the current and the next fiscal has been kept unchanged from the forecast made in March partly on account of domestic resilience.

"We see the fastest growth at about 6 per cent in India, Vietnam, and the Philippines," S&P Global Ratings said in its quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific.

"The medium-term growth outlook remains relatively solid. The Asian emerging market economies remain among the fastest growing ones in our global growth outlook through 2026," said Louis Kuijs, Asia-Pacific chief economist at S&P Global Ratings.

S&P said retail inflation is likely to soften to 5 per cent this fiscal from 6.7 per cent, and the RBI is expected to cut interest rates only early next year.



"In India, under the assumption of normal monsoons, we expect headline consumer inflation to soften to 5 per cent in fiscal 2024 from 6.7 per cent. Softer crude prices and tempering of demand will bring down fuel and core inflation, respectively."

"The inflation and rate hike cycles have peaked, in our opinion. But we expect the Reserve Bank of India to cut rates only in early 2024, as it wants to see consumer inflation moving to 4 per cent—the centre of its target range," Kuijs said.

S&P has lowered the growth forecast for China to 5.2 per cent from 5.5 per cent for 2023.

"For the rest of the region, we have left it broadly unchanged, in part because of domestic resilience," S&P said.

## Handicrafts, Handloom Directorate, NIFT Unveil Packaging Prototypes For Jammu Handicrafts

Initiative will enhance sales, earnings of artisans, weavers: Rohit Kansal

**Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** Union Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Director General NIFT, Rohit Kansal, and Secretary in Industry & Commerce Department, Smita Sethi Monday attended unveiling ceremony of pack-

aging prototypes and craft document for Handicrafts and Handloom products of Jammu region at JLN Udyog Bhawan Jammu.

The event was organized under the guidance of Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce.

Dr Javid Ahmed Wani, Director National Institute of Fashion Technology, Srinagar, apprised the artisans and weavers from Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts of the packaging project through a detailed comprehensive presentation.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, Dr. Vikas Gupta, MD JKTPO Khalid Jahangir and other officers of the Industries and Commerce department.

Another important aspect of the event was unveiling packaging presentation to create a benchmark having international standards and to determine the unique selling point of chosen Jammu Handicrafts and Handloom goods.

The artisans and weavers of Jammu division were enthusiastic and grateful to



the department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu for providing such suitable packaging for their handmade products.

Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Kansal appreciated the efforts of Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu and NIFT Srinagar as having professionally, designed packaging prototypes, in tune with the market-demand. It would definitely increase the sales of the products viz-a-viz wage earnings of the artisans and weavers of Jammu region, he added.

## I-T Dept Tweaks Disclosure Norms For Charitable Institutions

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** The income tax department has tweaked disclosure norms for charitable institutions claiming I-T exemption by seeking additional details.

As per amendments to the Income Tax Rules, which will come into effect from October 1, charitable institutions will have to now disclose whether the activities undertaken by them are charitable, religious or religious cum charitable.

The amendment also includes a declaration under which the charitable institution will have to give details of donations received from a person in excess of ₹2 lakh in a single day. The details to be furnished include the name of the payer, address, amount of payment and PAN (if available).

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Vishwanth Panjari said the government had

recently revamped the registration requirement applicable for charitable organisations for claiming tax exemption or obtaining an 80G certificate under the Act.

"The government has now made consequential amendments in the Income-tax Rules (Rule 2C, 11AA and 17A). The amended Rules shall be applicable from 1 October 2023 itself. Further, 'undertaking' given at the end of respective forms has also been slightly tweaked and requires an additional undertaking from the applicant," Panjari said.

Under the Income Tax law, the income of charitable institutions, religious trusts, and medical and educational institutions are exempt from tax. However, these institutions are required to seek registration from the I-T department.

## Rupee Declines 8 Paise Against Dollar Amid Geopolitical Worries

**Press Trust Of India**

**MUMBAI:** The rupee declined by 8 paise to close at 82.04 against the US dollar on Monday amid geopolitical concerns and firming crude oil prices.

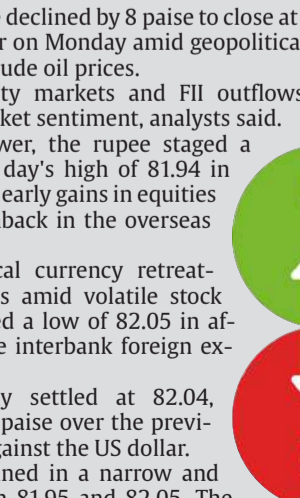
Volatility in equity markets and FII outflows also weighed on the market sentiment, analysts said.

After opening lower, the rupee staged a recovery to hit the day's high of 81.94 in morning trade amid early gains in equities and a weaker greenback in the overseas markets.

However, the local currency retreated from early highs amid volatile stock markets and touched a low of 82.05 in afternoon trade at the interbank foreign exchange market.

The rupee finally settled at 82.04, showing a loss of 8 paise over the previous close of 81.96 against the US dollar.

"The rupee remained in a narrow and tight range between 81.95 and 82.05. The capital market also traded within a limited range, providing minimal signals or triggers for the rupee. Market participants are eagerly awaiting key data releases, building permits, and CPI and Non-Farm Payrolls data in the upcoming weeks, as these indicators are closely monitored by global central banks.



## Lulu Group To Invest Rs 10,000 Crore In India Over 3 Years

**Press Trust Of India**

**HYDERABAD:** UAE-based Lulu Group will be investing Rs 10,000 crore in India on various ongoing projects over the next three years and the UAE-based conglomerate has invested over Rs 20,000 crore in the country, Lulu Chairman Yusuf Ali MA said on Monday.

Yusuf Ali also said the Lulu Group has committed about Rs 3,500 crore in investments in Telangana in the next five years in various projects including a Destination Shopping Mall (Rs 3,000 crore) and also in other cities in the state.

He also said that his aim is to provide employment to 50,000 people in India and so far his various enterprises have given over 22,000 jobs.

He said, "We have got an investment of more than Rs 20,000 crore in different areas including shopping



malls, hotels, and food processing units (in India). We will increase this."

"We have started the construction of a shopping mall in Ahmedabad. And also another one in Chennai we are coming up. A food processing plant is coming up in Noida and another one in Telangana. It is Rs 10,000 crore investments in the next three years," Yusuf Ali said when asked about the overall investments on the upcoming projects.

He further said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has liberalised NRI investment laws and according to that all investments by non-resident Indians are treated as domestic investments.

He said a five lakh sq ft Lulu Mall built with an investment of Rs 300 crore here will be inaugurated in August and an export-oriented modern integrated meat processing plant and state-of-the-art Destination Mall (2.2 million sq ft) will also come up.



## Centre Directs FCI To Conduct E-Auctions Of Wheat, Rice To Check Inflation

**ANI**

**NEW DELHI:** Chairman and Managing Director of Food Corporation of India Ashok KK Meena said that the central government has directed the agency to conduct the e-auctions of wheat and rice to check the "inflationary trends" and to control the price of such staple foodgrains.

The maximum quantity that a buyer can bid for is limited to 100 tonnes in this e-auction. To accommodate the small wheat processors and traders, the minimum quantity has been kept to 10 tonnes.

"The bidding is also limited to the local buyers by ensuring that the GST registration of the State is mapped and checked before stocks are released. These measures are taken to ensure a wider local reach for the stocks offered in a particular State," a food ministry release said.

of Rice is Rs 3100 per quintal.

The e-auction for rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) would commence on July 5, 2023.

"6 weekly e-auctions of wheat were conducted by FCI till 15.03.2023. The total quantity of 33.7 LMT wheat was offloaded and the prices of Wheat came down by 19 per cent due to this massive intervention in a span of 45 days," the release added.

In order to manage overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, the government earlier this month decided to impose stock limits on wheat for traders, wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors. The order will be applicable with immediate effect and will be applicable until March 31, 2024.

To manage the overall food security of the country as well as meet the needs of the neighbouring and other vulnerable countries amid the double whammy, India in 2022 amended the export policy of wheat by putting its export under the "prohibited" category, which is still in force.

## Sebi Comes Out With Disclosure Formats Of Governance Compliance For REITs

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** Capital markets regulator Sebi on Monday came out with disclosure formats for compliance reports on governance and annual secretarial for emerging investment vehicles -- REITs and InvITs.



These would come into force from the financial year 2023-24 onwards, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in four separate circulars.

Under the format for compliance report on governance, Sebi said infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and real estate infrastructure trusts (REITs) will have to disclose the name of the investment managers, the composition of the board of directors of the investment managers as well as the composition of committees, meetings of the board of directors, along with meetings of committees, on a quarterly basis.

In addition, the regulator has issued separate formats for the financial year that need to be submitted by the investment managers of InvITs and REITs.

For the governance report, such investment managers are required to submit a quarterly compliance report to the stock exchanges within 21 days from the end of each quarter. The report needs to be signed either by the compliance officer or the

chief executive officer of the investment manager.

With regard to the annual secretarial compliance report, Sebi said the investment manager of the InvIT and REIT will have to appoint a practising company secretary on an annual basis to examine the compliance of all applicable rules, consequent to which, the practising company secretary is required to submit a report to such investment managers.

In the format for the annual secretarial compliance report, the investment managers of the investment instruments have to disclose the compliance with the regulatory norms, deviations and observations made by the practising company secretary.

In addition, disclosures need to be made about actions taken against the InvIT and REITs, their promoters and directors either by Sebi or by stock exchanges and the action taken by the investment manager to comply with the observations made in previous reports.



## Two Matches Played In Srinagar Premier League



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The 2023 Srinagar Premier League action continued on Monday as two Round 4 matches were played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

In the first match, JK United FC took on Sports Council Football Academy at 4:30 PM.

JK United scored the first goal through Sandeep, before doubling their lead via Jitender in the 17th minute. Sandeep added the third goal in 22nd minute to end the first half 3-0 in favour of JK United.

Yasir scored the fourth goal for JK United in the 50th minute, before Parvaiz added the fifth in the 63rd minute to make the scoreline 6-0. JK United boys

added two more goals to win the match 8-0.

The second game was played at 7:00 PM between FC1 and Lonestar Kashmir FC. The highly anticipated fixture did not disappoint as both teams played competitive football. The first half ended 1-1. The final half of the match proved as exciting as the first as both teams showed their intent to score.

At 2-2, the match was heading towards a draw when FC1 player Shafiq scored the winning goal in the final minute to help FC1 take the game 3-2.

The District Football Association (DFA) Srinagar also announced on Monday that the league matches today, Tuesday, June 27, stand postponed.

## Use Amar Singh College Playground After Official Hours: Admin



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amar Singh College authorities on Monday asked local residents, clubs and other organizations wishing to use college playground to seek proper permission.

"The college has around 5000 boys and girls on its rolls in different disciplines and on a day there is a huge foot fall of students in the college. The students have to play in the college play ground as per college sports calendar," an official communique noted.

"It has been observed that outsiders enter the college sports ground during official hours from the backside of the

college which hinders our college boys and girls sports activities," it added.

"Accordingly, public in general and residents in the vicinity of Amar Singh College in particular are informed through this notice that college play ground is meant primarily for bonafide students of Amar Singh College and as such no outsider will be allowed to use the playground during official time 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM," the officials said.

"However, the residents in the vicinity, clubs and other organizations who want to play in the college playground beyond college hours and holidays can seek proper permission from college authorities," the notice concluded.

## Sports Department Felicitates Specially-Abled Student-Athlete

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** Muzamil Shakeel Beigh, a deaf and mute student hailing from the scenic village of Kralweth Kunzer in the world-famous tourist destination of Gulmarg, has successfully passed his 10th-grade examinations, securing an impressive 287 marks. Results of the exam were declared recently.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Baramulla during his

visit to Muzamil's home congratulated him for his achievement and expressed his good wishes with the brilliant student-athlete. He also passed on congratulatory message of Director of the Department Subash C Chhibber.

District Sports Officer presented Muzamil a personal sports kit as a token of acknowledging for his keen interest and remarkable achievement in academics and sports.

## 2023 WC: Mumbai, Kolkata To Host Semis



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium and the Eden Gardens in Kolkata --- both iconic venues -- have emerged as the frontrunners to host the two semifinals of the 2023 World Cup.

This means the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai -- another venue with a rich legacy -- could lose out on organising one of the biggest games of the ODI showpiece.

"Mumbai's Wankhede and Kolkata's Eden Gardens are two likely venues for the World Cup semi finals. Earlier, Chennai was also in the race, but it seems Eden is slightly ahead now," a BCCI source told PTI on Monday.

"One of the reasons could

be the November weather in Chennai where there is always chance of rain."

Twelve hosting associations were called to Mumbai on Monday to discuss the details and finalise the venues before Tuesday's official announcement.

If India qualify for the semifinals, they will play their last-four stage game in Mumbai.

The Wankhede Stadium hosted the final of the 2011 World Cup, in which a Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led India beat Sri Lanka to end a 28-year-old title drought, while the Eden Gardens played host to the summit showdown between Australia and England in the 1987 edition, in which the former country prevailed.

There will be 10 teams at this year's World Cup. As hosts,

India have qualified directly, as have Afghanistan, Australia, England, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, and South Africa through the 2020-2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Super League.

Two other teams will make it to the World Cup through the World Cup Qualifiers, which is being currently played in Zimbabwe.

Apart from former champions Sri Lanka and the West Indies, the Qualifiers also feature Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Oman, Scotland, the UAE, the USA, and hosts Zimbabwe.

At the World Cup in India, the 10 teams will play each other once in a round-robin league featuring 45 matches.

These will be followed by the semi-finals and the final.



## Jeddha To Host The 2023 Club World Cup: FIFA

Agencies

**The 2023 Club World Cup will be played in Jeddha, the home city of Saudi Arabian champion Al-Ittihad, which has signed Karim Benzema, FIFA said Monday.**

Al-Ittihad will be joined by the six continental club champions -- including Champions League winner Manchester City -- for the Dec. 12-22 tournament. It will be the last edition in that format before the 32-team version launches in 2025 in the United States.

FIFA said the 2023 tournament will be played in the King Abdullah Sport City Stadium and Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium. They hold about 62,000 and 27,000 spectators, respectively.

Benzema will be trying to retain the trophy he helped Real

Madrid win in February, beating Saudi club Al-Hilal in the final hosted by Morocco.

Al-Ittihad will open the next tournament in a first-round game against Auckland City, the Oceania champion. The winner advances to the second round, joining León of Mexico, Al-Ahly of Egypt and Urawa Red Diamonds of Japan.

Man City and the South American champion enter at the semi-final stage. The Copa Libertadores final is played on Nov. 4.

Each continental champion from 2021 through 2024, except in Oceania, also qualifies directly for the expanded tournament in 2025.

FIFA picked Saudi Arabia in February to host the 2023 Club World Cup, giving the kingdom its latest international soccer event in an aggressive push to make a bigger impact in world sports.

## Ilkay Gundogan To Join Barcelona An A Free Transfer

Agencies

**BARCELONA:** Ilkay Gundogan ended his trophy-laden seven-year stay with Manchester City by agreeing to join Barcelona on a free transfer on Monday.

The Germany midfielder's last act as a City player -- and as the team's captain -- was to lift the Champions League trophy, which completed a treble of major titles for the English club.

Now, he is heading to Spain on a two-year contract for a new experience, even though Pep Guardiola wanted to keep the 32-year-old Gundogan -- the first signing of the City manager's era from 2016.

"This club made me realize all my dreams and I will forever be thankful for this opportunity," Gundogan said. "I will carry City always in my heart. Once a blue, always a blue."

Having missed out on securing the return of Lionel Messi, Barcelona made the signing of Gundogan a priority to add



some experience to a midfield already containing youngsters Pedri González and Gavi Pérez, two of its pillars going forward, but no longer including veteran leader Sergi Busquets, who is leaving the club.

Frenkie de Jong also played an important role last season for Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández, despite efforts by the club to sell him in the offseason of 2022. Barcelona has set Gundogan's buyout clause at 400 million euros (about \$435 million).

In a statement, the Spanish champions described their latest signing as a player "who reads the game to perfection" and "one of the world's best midfielders of the last decade or so."

## Luka Modric To Stay With Real Madrid For Another Season

Agencies

**MADRID:** Real Madrid extended Luka Modric's contract on Monday, keeping the veteran midfielder for another season.

Madrid agreed to extend the contract of the 37-year-old Croatian until the end of the 2023-24 campaign, just like it did with Toni Kroos last week.

The moves allow Madrid to keep two of its most experienced players in a midfield that will be refreshed by the recent signing of 19-year-old Jude Bellingham from Borussia Dortmund.

The Spanish club also has Eduardo Camavinga, Federico Valverde,



Aurélien Tchouaméni and Dani Ceballos in the midfield. Ceballos also had his contract extended recently.

Modric will be playing his 12th season with Madrid. He has made 488 appearances with the club and won 23 titles, including five Champions Leagues and three Spanish leagues. He won the Ballon d'Or and FIFA's The Best awards for player of the year in 2018.

## Women's World Cup Guide: How To Watch, Schedule & Favourites

Agencies

**The United States will be playing for an unprecedented three-peat at this year's Women's World Cup. It won't be easy for the No. 1 team in the world.**

Co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, the quadrennial tournament for international soccer's most coveted trophy kicks off July 20 and features an expanded field of 32 teams, up from 24. There are 64 matches during the tournament.

That means more competition for the two-time defending World Cup champion U.S., which won the 2015 event in Canada and the 2019 tournament in France. The Americans have won four titles overall, most of any nation.

**WHAT'S THE WORLD CUP SCHEDULE AND WHERE IS IT LOCATED?**

The 32 teams are divided into eight groups of four teams each. Each team plays a three-game, round-robin group stage, running from July 20 to Aug. 3.

The top finishers advance to the round of 16 from Aug. 5-8. The quarterfinals are set for Aug. 11-12 and the two semifinals matches will be played Aug. 15-16. A third-place game is set for Aug. 19 in Brisbane ahead of the final in Sydney.

The final will air at 6 a.m. ET on Aug. 20 in the United States.

The broadcast schedule is complicated by the time difference. The United States is playing in Group E with Vietnam, the Netherlands and Portugal. The opening match is against Vietnam on July 22 in Auckland, which, because of the time difference, will air in the U.S. on July 21 at 9 p.m. ET.

A rematch of the 2019 final against the Netherlands is set for July 27 in Wellington, air-



ing at 9 p.m. ET on July 26 in the U.S. The last group game against Portugal is set for Aug. 1, airing at 3 a.m. ET that same day.

**HOW TO WATCH THE FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP**  
Fox holds the English-

language media rights in the United States for the Women's World Cup. Telemundo holds the Spanish-language rights.

Fox will broadcast a record 29 matches over the air on its main network and the rest of the games will be aired on FS1.

All matches will be streamed on the Fox app.

FIFA struck collective deal with the European Broadcasting Union in mid-June, ending a standoff with a broadcasters in five major European television markets. The deal guarantees the games will air in France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Britain.

**PLAYERS TO WATCH**

There are two distinct groups of players to watch at this World Cup: Veteran superstars and talented youngsters.

Canada's Christine Sinclair leads a group of veterans that includes Brazil's Marta, Australia's Sam Kerr, France's Wendie Renard and American Alex Morgan.

Sinclair, who is 40 and likely playing in her final World Cup, is international soccer's all-time leading scorer, among women or men, with 190 ca-

reer goals.

Young stars include 22-year-old U.S. forward Sophia Smith, 21-year-old Jody Brown of Jamaica and 19-year-old Melchie Dumornay of Haiti.

Smith doubled up last year as both the U.S. Soccer Player of the Year and the National Women's Soccer League's Most Valuable Player.

**TEAMS TO WATCH**

The United States is ranked No. 1 in the world in the latest FIFA rankings. The Americans are a strong team despite recent injuries, but their dominance in international play will be challenged at this World Cup.

Germany, ranked No. 2, won back-to-back World Cups in 2003 and 2007. Third-ranked Sweden knocked the United States out of the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals. Seventh-ranked Canada won the gold medal at the Tokyo Games.

Considered a contender, England has been hit by a series of injuries to top players including Beth Mead, Fran Kirby and captain Leah Williamson. All three will miss the World Cup. France switched coaches in March after a trio of players threatened to skip the tournament.

Australia can't be counted out as co-hosts. The Matildas will be boosted by Kerr, one of the world's best players.

**BETTING GUIDE**

The United States is a +240 favorite to win the World Cup, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. England is next at +380, followed by Spain at +650.

There's also a big group of teams the oddsmakers say have little chance of lifting the trophy, including Jamaica, Vietnam, Argentina, Zambia, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Morocco, Philippines, South Africa, Haiti and Panama. All are at +43,000.

## Zoos And Universities Must Work Together To Improve Conservation

Agenceis

The word zoo is complicated and can have different meanings to different people.

For some, a zoo is an organisation committed to animal well-being and wildlife conservation that offers its visitors a fun and educational experience. To others, it is a place where people pay to see exotic animals in poor conditions.

Zoos a shortening of zoological gardens can refer to both zoos and aquariums. Zoos accredited by bodies such as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria make important contributions to conservation and the recovery of endangered species.

With more than 700 million visitors receiving conservation education globally and more than USD 350 million spent on wildlife conservation, zoos are the third largest contributors to conservation initiatives after The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund.

Nonetheless, many zoos have the capacity to do more for conservation science and practice. We see this potential in the groundbreaking work of zoos with global reach including Chester Zoo, Zoos Victoria and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

The modern zoo

Zoos continue to renegotiate their social contract with the public as societal values change. Today, the modern zoo must focus not only on the well-being of its animals, but also emphasise its impact on conservation.

In Canada, the Calgary Zoo has established the Wilder Institute with a vision to become Canada's leader in wildlife conservation. The Toronto Zoo has a mission of Connecting people, animals and conservation science to fight extinction.

These, and other examples, highlight the continued shift toward investing in conservation science by zoos in Canada, with an increased focus on collaborative research.

How do zoos produce research in conservation science?

While many zoos have dedicated staff for conservation projects, collaboration with universities can help zoos increase their contribution to conservation science.

Historically, in Canada and other countries, most published research from zoos is related to veterinary sciences, not conservation. Academic institutions can provide scientific and technical expertise in conservation science, as well as access to envelopes of funding that are not available to zoos alone.

EID UL-AZHA

## Follow Govt Guidelines, Don't Share Pictures Of Slaughtered Animals, Says Jamiat to Muslims



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Prominent Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Monday urged Muslims to strictly follow government guidelines while offering sacrifice on Eid-ul-Azha and not to share pictures of slaughtered animals on social media.

Eid-ul-Azha, also called the festival of sacrifice, will be celebrated on Thursday.

Muslims across the globe offer sacrifice of animals as permitted by law in their respective countries as a symbol of the willingness and obedience to God that

Prophet Ibrahim showed in offering his son Ismael as sacrifice.

In a statement, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani said that in view of the current situation, it is important that Muslims take precautionary measures while offering the sacrifice of animals.

He urged them not to share pictures of slaughtered animals on social media.

Madani also urged Muslims to strictly follow the government guidelines while performing 'qurbani (sacrifice) and not to sacrifice prohibited animals.

He urged them to take the

administration into confidence wherever anyone tries to stop the legitimate sacrifice.

Madani also advised Muslims to take special care of cleanliness on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and stressed that animal waste should not be thrown on the roads, streets and drains, but buried in a manner that it does not raise any stench.

The Jamiat chief asserted that every possible effort should be made so that no one gets hurt by the actions of Muslims.

He also urged people to file a complaint with the local police station if there is "any kind of provocation by sectarian elements".

## Air India Pilot Says 'Duty Hour Over', Grounds Flight In Jaipur

Agenceis

The Air India pilot of an international flight from London to Delhi stopped in Jaipur and refused to take the flight further saying that his duty time was over. The passengers, who were on board had to wait for six hours and were finally sent to Delhi by road.

Due to bad weather in Delhi, three international and two domestic flights were diverted to Jaipur on Sunday. These included two flights of Air India, two of SpiceJet and one of Gulf Stream.

Air India flight AI-112 was scheduled to reach Delhi at 6:00 a.m. from London. The flight was diverted to Jaipur due to bad weather.

The second Air India flight to be diverted was going from Dubai to Delhi.

The Gulf Stream flight was going from Bahrain to Delhi. While one flight of SpiceJet was going from Pune while the other was going from Guwahati to Delhi.

The passengers of this Air India flight tweeted Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and MP Rajyavardhan Rathore.

After this, Air India replied and promised a solution soon. However, despite this, people had to suffer for more than six hours. Later Air India sent some passengers to Delhi by Volvo bus and some by cabs.

Food and other facilities were provided to them by the airport authority.



Quick eats for busy people




# Chicken Crispy Burger



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