# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Wednesday 05 July 2023 | Srinagar | Vol: 26 | Issue: 165 | Pages: 12 | Price: ₹3

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# Valley To Get Respite From Above-Average Day Temperatures Soon: IMD

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** The Kashmir Valley has been witnessing erratic weather conditions this year as an extended period of cold is currently being followed by a sudden rise in temperature, causing discomfort to tourists and residents alike.

The weatherman has attributed the rising temperatures to a prolonged dry spell in the valley.

"We have witnessed dry spells which have resulted in rise in temperatures. In the month of July, temperature is likely to remain around 30 to 31



IN KASHMIR TEMPERATURE USUALLY REMAINS MODERATE AND PRECIPITATION HAPPENS IMMEDIATELY after 34 degree Celsius. Experts say that this is due to the effects of global warming, the melting of glaciers which leads to a rise in water levels in the water bodies as well."

degrees Celsius in the valley and 35 degrees Celsius in Jammu. It is summer here and the weather is not unusual," Director Meteorological Department Sonam Lotus told PTI.

He said while the temperature is very high, there are no heatwave conditions.

"There is a possibility of light showers on July 4 and 5. And morning showers are anticipated between July 6 to 8. But there is no forecast of heavy rainfall yet. In Ladakh, the temperature will mostly remain dry but light show-

ers can be expected at some

places. Temperatures will fluctuate but the high temperature will not persist," Lotus said.

This year the highest temperature was recorded at 35 degrees Coloius in June he added

grees Celsius in June, he added. Lotus said as the temperature is quite high, there is a possibility of localised flash floods in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir in case of heavy rainfall.

He, however, ruled out the possibility of major floods in view of the raised groundwater table in the valley caused by unseasonal rains in the month of May.

"The temperature More on P10

# Article 370 Thing Of Past, No Going Back: Shah Faesal

**Press Trust Of India** 

**Jammu:** Days ahead of a scheduled hearing of a batch of pleas related to the abrogation of Article 370 before a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, IAS officer Shah Faesal on Tuesday said the constitutional provision is a thing of the past and there is no going back.

"(Article) 370, for many Kashmiris like me, is a thing of the past. Jhelum and Ganga have merged in the great Indian Ocean for good. There is no going back. There is only marching forward." Esecal wrote on Twitter

ward," Faesal wrote on Twitter.

A 2010-batch Indian
Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Faesal was detained for
more than a year after the provisions of Article 370 were abrogated and the erstwhile state
of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Union territories in
August 2019. He resigned from
service and launched the Jammu
Kashmir People's Movement, a
political entity in January 2019

political entity, in January 2019.

The government, however,
d i d \_\_\_\_\_\_ not accept his



ARTICLE) 370, FOR MANY KASHMIRIS LIKE ME, IS A THING OF THE PAST. Jhelum and Ganga have merged in the great Indian Ocean for good. There is no going back. There is only marching forward."

resignation and Faesal, who is also a doctor, was subsequently posted to the Union Ministry of Culture. Faesal filed a petition in the Supreme Court in 2019, challenging the Centre's decision to scrap

Azad Welcomes SC Decision

emocratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on

Constitution on July 11. Nearly four years after the government abrogated the

provisions of Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the More on P10

Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's recent announcement that it will

near a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the

Article 370. In April 2022, the government accepted Faesal's application for withdrawing his resignation from service and reinstated him. The same month, Faesal filed an application in the court seeking the deletion of his name from the list of seven petitioners who had challenged the scrapping of Article 370.

Nearly four years after the government abrogated Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas challenging the decision for hearing on July 11.

The apex court will take the batch of over 20 petitions which have challenged the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision, reports said. The petitions have claimed that constitutional provisions were violated while making the decision. According to a notice published on the apex court's website on Monday, the bench will take up the pleas for passing directions, More on P10



#### Hope SC Will Expedite Hearings: Omar

ational Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday hoped that the Supreme Court will expedite the hearings in the petitions challenging the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370 and reorganise the erstwhile state into two union territories. Nearly four years after the government abrogated the provisions of Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a fivejudge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas More on P10

# J&K Bank Shares Soar All Time High In 5 Years

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank achieved another milestone on Tuesday as the shares of the bank touched five-year high, bringing cheers to the investors.

In the last financial year, the bank earned the highest-ever net annual profit of nearly Rs 1200 crore, earning laurels within and outside J&K. The bank shares have been soaring since.

On Tuesday, JKB shares touched 5 year high at 66.30 and closed at 65.55 amid high trading and the volume of trading was 3.25 crore, officials said. The bank had 17% gains in the last 5 trading esssions



the strong fundamentals and customer friendly policies of the bank," the officials said.

The bank, they said, has also decided to issue dividend to its shareholders after a gap of several years

"Investors have gained confidence in the bank and Market is responding positively to the developments and policies of the bank," they added.

According to officials, J&K Bank, a household name in Jammu and Kashmir, has 998 branches and over 1400 ATMs operating across 18 states and 4 Union Territories.

Pertinently, in last financial year, Jammu and Kashmir Bank has recorded Rs 1,197 crore as net profit for FY 2022-23 which is the highest ever annual profit," With a decade-high capi-

tal adequacy ratio of 15.39
per cent and NPAs at an
eight-year low of 6.04 per
cent, the bank also
recorded its
highestever quar-

terly profit of

#### LG Okays Priority Works For Year 2023-24

Recommendations Made In Chief Secretaries' Conference Part Of The Priorities

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** In an important decision, the Administrative Council (AC) under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday approved a comprehensive list of priority works for all departments for the financial year 2023-24.

LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, besides LG's Principal Secretary Mandeep Kumar Bhandari attended the meeting.

According to an official spokesperson, these priority works are clearly delineated deliverables and area unique initiative introduced by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir during the last financial year whereby the priority works with respect to each department were identified and timelines were defined to achieve them.

He said that the exercise of framing the detailed departmental deliverables and fixing tangible and time-bound targets; was undertaken in consultation with concerned departments and timelines were laid down on monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly basis.

"The deliverables primarily include various developmental projects, service delivery improvements, revenue generation, welfare initiatives and other core activities pertaining to each department," the spokesperson said.

During the last financial year, he said, a total of 1137 deliverables were assigned to the departments. Besides, he said, the divisional and district administrations prioritized implementation of these departmental deliverables by undertaking proper planning, assessment and gap analysis for timely action to achieve the targets set out.

"The implementation of these deliverables was monitored through a structured mechanism at the Secretariat level and achievements, both at the Secretariat and district levels and ranking was carried out on monthly basis, thereby generating a healthy competition amongst various wings of the Government," he added. More on P10

AMARNATH YATRA

# CRPF Chief Joins Pilgrims, Reviews Security

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: CRPF Director General Sujoy Lal Thaosen Tuesday accompanied a batch of pilgrims heading to the Baltal base camp for the Amarnath Yatra in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district after reviewing security arrangements at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here.

The 62-day long annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the traditional 48-km Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and shorter 14-km Baltal route on July 1.

"During visit to J&K @sthaosen, DG @crpfindia, reviewed the security arrangements made for the ongoing Sh Amarnath ji yatra . He



visited Bhagwati Nagar yatriniwas (Jammu). He also interacted with the pilgrims and took their feedback," the CRPF wrote on its official Twitter handle.

In another tweet, it said, "Continuing with his review of SANJY Moreon P10

# Govt Duty-Bound To Ensure Safety Of Marrying Couples: HC

M Ahmad

**Srinagar, July 4:** Police as well as officials of the concerned Civil Administration must ensure that the marrying individuals who are major and have chosen to become husband and wife out of their free will are protected, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said.

Disposing of a petition filed by the individuals, Anuradha and Ashwani Kumar, a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti ordered Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu to direct SHO Akhnoor to ensure that the couple was not subjected to any harassment, intimidation or threats at the hands of the their families or any other person acting at their behest.



Referring to Supreme Court's judgment in case of Lata Singh vs. State of UP and another 2006, the court observed that a direction has been set into effect for the government administration and police authorities throughout the Country to see to it that if any boy or girl who is a major undergoes inter-caste or inter-religious

marriage with a girl or boy who is also major, then the marrying individuals are not to be harassed by any one nor to be subjected to threats or acts of violence.

In case any such threat or harassment is confronted to be inflicted on the individuals then the persons responsible for holding out such threats, harassments are to be taken to task by instituting criminal proceedings by the Police against such persons and further stern action to be taken as provided by law, the court said.

"Article 144 of the Constitution of India mandates all Authorities, Civil and Judicial, in the territory of India to act in aid of the Supreme Court," Moreon P10

E S

# Floriculture Officer Held Over Labourers Suicide Bid

## EJAC Seeks Thorough Probe, Demands Exemplary Punishment To Guilty

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police have arrested an officer of Floriculture department in South Kashmir's Anantnag district for allegedly 'provoking' three daily wagers to take an extreme step of 'attempted' self immolation.

Reliable sources told Kashmir Observer that three daily wagers of the floriculture department tried self immolation on Monday, following their transfer to the tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

The incident, sources said, triggered massive protests in the area with protesters blocking the main road, and demanding

exemplary punishment to the accused officer. However a police team instantly reached the spot and assured protesters that action as per law will be taken against the guilty.

Confirming arrest of the officer, a police official said, three persons working as daily wagers at Botanical Garden Kokernag were shifted to the hospital after they attempted self immolation.

"The trio was shifted to nearby hospital for treatment and later referred to the Sub-District Hospital Kokernag, wherein condition of one of the three daily wagers is stated to be critical." he added.

He said, the More on P10

#### Two Himachal Youth Feared Drowned

wo youths hailing from
Himachal Pradesh were feared
drowned in Ranjit Sagar dam
in Kathua district of Jammu and
Kashmir on Tuesday, a police official
said. Gagan (20) and Sahil (19),
both residents of Sadar Bazar area
of Dalhousie, were taking bath
when they ventured into the deep
waters and went missing around
4.15 pm, he said. The official said
the police, along with the State
Disaster Response Force (SDRF),
launched a rescue operation to
trace out the youths

#### Two Extortionists Held In Baramulla

olice on Tuesday arrested two alleged extortionists from Baramulla district of North Kashmir. Mudasir Ahmad Wani of Sangri and Yasir Rashid Rather of Malpora Sheeri were arrested by police on the basis of a written complaint filed by Faisal Bashir of Kanlibagh alleging that the duo, claiming to be affiliated with a political party, approached his family to get his father Bashir Ahmad Saleh released from the custody against a cash payment of Rs 1 lakh, a police More on P10

#### LG Greets People On Guru Hargobind's Prakash Parv

S H O

ieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. In his message, the Lt Governor said, "On the auspicious occasion of Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, I extend my hearty greetings and best wishes to the people."
"Guru Hargobind Ji was embodiment

of sacrifice and universal

brotherhood, who taught the

humanity importance More on P10

## Lolab Youth Allegedly Ends Life

young man from North
Kashmir's Kupwara district
allegedly ended his life
by consuming some poisonous
substance, a local news agency
KNT reported Tuesday.
The incident occurred in
Kakadpati Devar hamlet of Lolab
Valley. The report further said
that the deceased youth, who
passed away at the hospital, was
in his twenties. Police have taken
cognizance of the incident and
registered a case under relevant
sections of law. More on P10

#### Jio Telecom State Head Calls On LG

hehzan Hameed, State Head, Jio Telecom called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday. Hameed apprised the Lt Governor on mobile connectivity for the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra on both Chandanwari and Baltal routes. The Lt Governor and Shehzan Hameed discussed availability of high quality infrastructure and strengthening of mobile connectivity for devotees. "It is the top priority of the administration to ensure the pilgrims have a Moreon P10

#### SIU Files Chargesheet Against OGW, Militant

he State Investigation Unit (SIU-II) Srinagar presented a chargesheet before the special designated NIA court Srinagar against a militant associate and an active militant. A police spokesman in a statement issued here said that the SIU-II Srinagar presented a chargesheet before the special designated NIA court Srinagar in a case under FIR number 02/2023 under section 8/21 NDPS Act, 302 IPC & 13, 18, 20, 38, 39, 40 UA (P) Act of Police Station Kothibagh against a militant associate More on P10

# **Early Universe Five Times Slower, Study Finds, Adds To Space Expansion Proof**

**Press Trust Of India** 

second, in the infant universe right after the Big Bang, would take five of those of the present day universe before it passed, a new research has found, unlocking one of the Einstein's expanding universe's mysteries.

"Looking back to a time when the universe was just over a billion years old, we see time appearing to flow five times slower," said lead author of the study, Geraint Lewis, University of Sydney, Australia.

"If you were there, in this infant universe, one second would seem like one second but from our position, more than 12 billion years into the future, that early time appears to drag," said Lewis.

While Einstein's general theory of relativity says that the more distant the object being observed, such as an ancient universe, the slower it runs than the present day, peering back that far in time has proved elusive.

Examining details of 190 quasars, or hyperactive supermassive black holes at the centres of early galaxies, over two decades, the astronomers rolled back the time horizon to a tenth of its current stage and confirmed

following works:

Restoration of Gutivar Kanthbagh

(Fresh to NIT No: 22/7 of 2023-24)

Position of funds Available

6.4 6.5

technical bid.

DIPK-4422/23

internal roads (Fresh to NIT No: 20/4 of

Restoration of Khanpora internal road 35.99

(Fresh to NIT No: 22/4 of 2023-24) Azadgunj Bridge to Old Town, Azadgunj 9.00 Chowk & Bus Stand (Azad Gunj to

cement Bridge via J&K Bank back side (Fresh to NIT No: 22/6 of 2023-24) Restoration of Janbazpora Binner inter-19.25

mental website www.iktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:

Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)

the Executive Engineer R&B DivisionBaramulla (tender receiving authority).

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

tion information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2022-23.

constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.

Dated: 04.07.2023

Treasury Challan/Earnest mon Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card

Date of Issue of Tender Notice

Bid submission Start Date

**Rid Submission End Date** 

that the universe appeared to speed up as it aged. The study is published in the journal Nature Astronomy.

"Thanks to Einstein, we know that time and space are intertwined and, since the dawn of time in the singularity of the Big Bang, the universe has been expanding.



"This expansion of space means that our observations of the early universe should appear to be much slower

than time flows today. "In this paper, we have established that back to about a billion years after the Big Bang," said Lewis.

Lewis and team combined the observations from quasars taken at different colours to standardise the ticking' of each quasar.

Applying statistical analysis, they found the expansion of the universe imprinted on each quasar's ticking.

"With these exquisite data, we were able to chart the tick of the quasar clocks, revealing the influence of ex-

Government of Jammu & Kashmi

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Baramulla

e-NIT No: 27/3301-10/2023-24/RnB/Bla Dated 03.07.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved

Rs 36000/- Rs 800/-

Rs 38500/- Rs 800/-

04.07.2023 to 10.07.2023 (4:00PM)

Rs 72000/-

Rs 18000/-

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the depart-

04.07.2023

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the

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

successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Govern

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.iktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders

In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Infor-

Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted. Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

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

A Civil Contractor who does not own HMP and is bidding for Bitumen Macadam Works is required to upload an MoU

The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances. The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced

Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create

with HMPO, from whom the material/machinery for the subject work will be procured. The Memorandum of Understanding must be

registered and duly executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate, specifying clearly that failure on the part of the HMPO shall be

on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

similar BOQ manually.

10 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was

participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

11.1 The allotted cost shall be calculated after adding 18% GST on the quoted amount by the lowest bidder.
 11.2 The allotted cost shall be deemed to include price escalation and all other taxes up to the completion of the work. Other Taxes and levies shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.

12 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.

13 All bidders must UPLOADthe following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification criteria.

All bidders must upload copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address. · A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.

15 Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific

supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during

month, whichever is applicable, ending quarter December-March-2023 or month April 2023.

14 Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of perfor

Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or

The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on

ment's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/

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

Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process

mation Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signatur mation Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.

6.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital certificate.

10.07.2023 (4:00PM) 11.07.2023 (11:00AM)

Rs 1100/-

Rs 600/-

and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Gove

cost of Tar & 189

18.00

Adv. Cost Earnest (Rs. In Lacs) incl. Money

panding space," Lewis said.

Astronomers have previously established this slowmotion universe back to about half the universe's age using supernovae, or massive exploding stars.

But while exceedingly bright, supernovae are difficult to observe at the immense distances needed to peer into the early uni-

S. No Name of the work

"Where supernovae act like a single flash of light, making them easier to study, quasars are more complex, like an ongoing firework display.

"What we have done is unravel this firework display, showing that quasars, too, can be used as standard markers of time for the early universe," said Lewis.

While this study confirmed Einstein's picture of an expanding universe, it contrasted earlier studies failing to identify the time dilation of distant quasars, which led to questions about quasars' cosmological nature and the idea of expanding space.

With these new data and analysis, however, we've been able to find the elusive tick of the quasars and they behave just as Einstein's relativity predicts," he said.

MH-3054-

MH-3054-

Potholes MH-3054-

Potholes

15 Days

15 Days

15 Days

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

# SKIMS Medical College-Hospital Bernina Srinagar (J&K)-190017 Phone (0) 0194-2493229 Email xencivilskimsmch@gmail.com

Office Of The Executive Engineer

**Civil Works Division** SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

N.l.T No: - SKIMS/WDB/09 of 2023

Dated: - 27.06.2023.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, E-Tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved, eligible & experienced "Civil/Sanitary Contractors" registered with PWD/CPWD /MES/RAILWAYS for the below mentioned work at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital Bernina, Srinagar.

			Cont.	lln Rs	lln Rs	Completion
1.	Restructuring, Alteration of existing MRD near Casualty Entrance at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital Bernina, Srinagar.	Rs 42.28 lacs	"AYY" & "BEE"	Rs 84,560/-	Rs 1100/-	180 Days
1. 2. 3. 4.	Major head of Account Administrative Approval Technical Sanction Funds	New Wor Accorded Accorded Approve	1			

Adv. Cost

The detailed tender documents consisting of Bill of quantities (B.O.O), set of Terms and Conditions of contract etc and other details can be seen/down loaded from website www.iktenders.gov.in from 03.07.2023 to 10.07.2023 (2.00 PM) against tender document fee deposited upto 10.07.2023 (2.00 PM) in the shape of demand draft, pledged to Chief Accounts Officer SKIMS MCH Bernina

Interested contractors/firms may submit online E-tenders for the above work upto 10.07.2023 (2.00 P.M) along with scanned copies of following documents:-

1. Proof of Tender document fee receipt deposited upto 10.07.2023 in the shape of demand draft should be pledged to Chief Accounts Officer SKIMS MCH Bernina Srinaga

2. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR as indicated above from any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged to Chief Accounts

Officer SKIMS MCH Bernina 3. N.I.T No. & the Name of work should be reflected on the back side of Demand Draft & CDR/FDR.

4. Original tender document fee receipt in the form of Demand Draft and CDR/TDR should reach the office of Executive Engineer Civil SKIMS MCH Bernina before opening of technical bid for its securitization and reference or otherwise the bids shall not be entertained. 5. Scanned copies self attested with signature/seal of Latest Documents viz-a viz Tin No., Pan Card No./GST No.

6. Scanned copies self attested with signature/seal of Latest Income tax return and GST return. Scanned copy of self attested Valid Contractor Registration Certificate issued by the competent authority should be duly renewed for the year 2023-2024.

8. Scanned copy of tender document duly signed with seal by the bidder on each page as an acceptance of the N.I.T conditions to be uploaded. 9. All the documents as mentioned from S.no:-1 to 7 are required to the necessarily uploaded within specified time or otherwise the

bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of tender issuing/accepting authority. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black & white option. 10. Tender Evaluation Committee if deems necessary may obtain hard copies of uploaded scanned documents from the bidders for verification as the case may be. The successful bidder (LI) shall however have to submit hard copies of uploaded documents includ-

ing SBD immediately after intimation made by the department in this regard.

The Technical bid shall be opened in the office of Executive Engineer Civil SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bernina, on 11.07.2023 at 11.00 A.M or on any subsequent date convenient to the Executive Engineer Civil /Tender Opening Committee

No: - SKIMS/MCH/308/933-42 DIPK-NB-1615/23 Dated: -04-07-2023

> Executive Engineer Civil Works Division SKIMS Medical College Hospital Bemina Sgr

Earnest Money Cost of T.D Time of

#### **Faculty of Agriculture Wadura Extension to Auction Notice**

In view of poor response to the Auction Notice invited vide No. Au/Foa/ Accts/2023/2663 dated 21-06-2023 for auction of fruit crop (Apple) at Faculty orchard FoA, Wadura, last date for obtaining and submission of tenders is hereby extended upto 7th of July-2023. The bids will be opened on 10th of July, 2023 at 2:00 p.m in presence of bidders who wish to remain present. All other terms and conditions contained in the tender notice will remain unchanged.

**Executive Engineer Kashmir** 

**Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.** 

**0&M Division Pulwama** 

Email: xenedpulwama@gmail.com Tel No.01933-241228

STANDARD BIDDING DOCUMENT For

Creation of 11/0.415KV, 3phase, 63KVA Substations and LT/HT improvement at different

locations falling under the jurisdiction of KPDCL O&M Sub Division Pulwama.

2. Alteration of HT Line near the house of Mushtaq Ah sheikh to Jamia masjid to Ramzan

1. Installation of LT Electric Poles at Astan Mohallah Pathan at different Spots.

(Assistant Comptroller) **Members Secretary** 

No. Au/FoA/Accts/2023/2184-93 Date: 04 - 07- 2023

#### From the office of Advocate Uzma Rashid

Advocate Highcourt J&K and Leh In the case of:

Mr Abdul Rashid Dar R/o Karfali mohalla, Kander Masjid Habba kadal

(Caveator)

VS PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back /in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

#### From The Office Of Advocate Waseem Shamas (J&K Highcourt Srinagar

Public at Large

1. Moeen Din Qadri S/O Late Saif Ud Din Qadri R/O Dulla Bagh Soura Srinagar

2. Shahzada D/O Late Saif Ud Din Qadri R/O Shahi Mohalla Awanta bawan soura Srinagai

.... Caveator

...Non-Caveator's

In the matter of: Publication for Caveat. The caveators apprend that the non-caveator may file any suit or writ or any apeal at the back of the caveators and may manage to get ex parte order, therefore the caveators submit in case of any Writ Petition/Appeal/Suit or such proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble court by the non-Caveator's against the Caveators, the Caveator's or the counsel for the Caveator's may be provided an reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing any of the order in the said Writ Petition/Appeal/ Suit or any Proceeding otherwise the Caveator's may suffer such an irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated lateron in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the court.

Caveators through counsel

#### From the office of Advocate Ghulam Jeelani

In the case of : .Jawahira Akhtar wife of Abdul Rahim Dar R/o Byepass Batamaloo Srinagar

(Caveator)

**PUBLIC AT LARGE** 

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveator have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back /in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard

#### **Public Notice**

by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

I, Mir Iftikhar Bashir S/O Mir Bashir Ahmad, R/O SDA Colony Bemina, Srinagar hereby state that my name has been mentioned as Mir Iftikar Bashir in my service records, which I want to change to Mir Iftikhar Bashir. If anybody has any objection regarding this change, he/she may contact the concerned authority within the stipulated time. MIR IFTIKHAR BASHIR

DEPARTMENT OF ENDOCRINOLOGY (SKIMS)

ازنيابت يلهالن

عنوان: اجرائی ڈیینڈنٹ سرٹفیکیٹ سجق مسانہ رفیقہ بیٹم بوجہ فو تکی شوہر

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض ڈیبینڈنٹ سرٹفیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ ہے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے كەساكلە كاشۋېرمورنى202-03-03 كوفوت بوچكا ہےساكلەكاشۋېرمحكمە بلڈنگ اينڈ لیبرویلفیر میں بحصیت مزدور کام کرتا تھا۔ متوفی کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر شتل ہے

سماتة رفيقة بيكم 55سال گھريلوكام بيوه متوفى 33سال مزدوری پسرمتوفی 22سال زرتعلیم وختر متوفی . نرة العين

20سال زرتعلیم دختر متوفی

75سال عمررسيده والده متوفى ساره بیگم كها گرکسی شخص کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خبارسات دن کے اندرا ندرآ یے عذریا عتراض ودالت هذا کودفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عذریا عتراض قابل

FKO

نائب تخصيلدا

ىنوان: ـ درخواست منجانب معراج الدين كماروعادل احمدومزمل كمار پسران عبدالاحد

مەگل

قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

كمارساكنة موجع پايهالن تخصيل پين بمراداجرائي OBC سرتفيكيث بذمره كمار

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

سعامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹفیکیٹ بذمرہ کمار پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس ہے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی کمار ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل پلہالن تخصیل پیٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور مجھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل ندکور OBC سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواں ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوارہ آمدنی 6800رویے تک ہے ۔ سر ٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث جراءکرنے میںاگر کے اگر کسی مخض کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خبارسات دن کے ندرا ندرآ پیش کریں۔بعتراض ودالت ھذا کو دفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔بعد گزرے میعاد کو پی مذر باعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

Executive Engineer **O&M Division Pulwama** 

DIPK-NB-1611/23

DATED: 04-07-2023

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Baramulla

8. Improvement of LT Network at Village Rawatpora Rakh Lajoora. e-NIT NO: 11 of 2023-24.

No. 0&M/Pul/1764-69

Tender Floating Division: Executive Engineer KPDCL O&M Division Pulwama.

3. Upgradation of Electric Infrastructure at Puchal Pulwama.

6. Installation of 63KVA Transformer at Mir Mohallah Trichal. 7. Upgradation of Electric Infrastructure at Halqa Gundipora Pulwama.

4. Installation of 63KVA Transformer at Tengpuna.

5. Installation of LT Electric Poles at Tengpuna.

1	e-bid submission start date and time	01.07.2023; (2:00 PM onwards)
2	e-bid submission end date and time	25.07.2023; (upto 09:00 AM)
3	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	25.07.2023; 01:00 PM
4	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Any convenient date after evaluation of technical bids in the office of undersigned.
5	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, 0&M Division Pulwama, Kashmir Pin Code 192301 Address near DC office Pulwama Kashmir
6	Tender Value	Rs. 31.00 Lacs
7	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) (Non-Refundable)
8	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 62000/= (Rupees Sixty Two Thousand only

# **City Mayor Visits Pantha Chowk Yatra Camp, Reviews Arrangements**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday visited Pantha Chowk Yatra Camp to review the arrangements made by the authorities for the



smooth conduct of the vatra. The Mayor inspected the camp to assess the facilities and infrastructure available. He took note of the cleanliness, sanitation, and overall maintenance of the camp, paying close attention to the arrangements made for the comfort and convenience of

During the visit, Mattu engaged in discussions with the officials present, gathering insights into the challenges faced and the measures taken to address them. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness to ensure the well-being of the yatries.

Mattu expressed his satisfaction with the efforts put forth by the authorities. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the SMC officials in making the necessary arrangements for the yatra. He also appreciated their commitment to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for the pilgrims.

Furthermore, the Mayor assured the officials of his continued support and urged them to remain vigilant in their duties. He stressed the significance of effective coordination between different departments to address any issues that may arise during the yatra.



**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday recovered two unidentified dead bodies in Srinagar.

One dead body was spotted in Doodh Ganga at Baghe-Mehtab locality in uptown Srinagar, while another

DC Srinagar Chairs

**Meeting On Road** 

**Observer News Service** 

**Sanction Committee** 

**Accident Victim Fund** 

Srinagar: In order to dis-

cuss the cases proposed for

providing ex-gratia relief

under the Jammu and Kash-

mir Road Accident Victim Fund, a meeting of Sanc-

tion Committee was held

under the Chairmanship of

Deputy Commissioner (DC)

Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz

Asad here at Meeting Hall Of

Sved Shabir Ahmad, Re-

gional Transport Officer.

Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr

Jameel Ahmad, Deputy SP

Traffic, Khushwant Singh,

Accounts Officer, DC Of-

fice, Tariq Ahmad and oth-

er concerned were present

ty Commissioner discussed

threadbare each case put

forth before the Committee and sanctioned the ex-gra-

tia relief under the Jammu

and Kashmir Road Accident

Victim Fund in favor of the

next of kin of the persons

killed or injured in road ac-

cidents in Srinagar District.

At the outset, the Depu-

Deputy

Srinagar,

the DC Office.

Additional

Commissioner

in the meeting.

dead body was spotted floating in the river Jhelum near Athwajan area of the city.

The identity of both the dead bodies is being ascertained. Police have registered separate cases in this regard and set investigations into motion



An elderly man posing for a photograph at Zaina Kadal bridge in the old city amidst intesne heat wave on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# **Boulevard Stretch From Badyari Chowk** To Nehru Park Declared "No Halt Zone"

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: In order to ensure smooth traffic flow on the Boulevard Road axis, the District Administration Srinagar has declared Badyari Chowk to Nehru Park segment of Boulevard Road as "No Halt Zone" for vehicles to implement the Decongestion Chairman Regional Trans-

port Authority (District Magistrate, Srinagar) Mohammad Aijaz Asad in an order said that Boulevard road as a whole is thronged by large number of locals and tourists, especially during the current season and frequent congestion is observed and traffic jam has become a norm around this road due to the unauthorized halt of vehicles which in turn create a blockage for the smooth vehicular passage.

The order further reads that "a number of vendors also gather on the said road stretch of the Badyari Chowk to Nehru Park as it is interspersed with a high density of houseboats, business establishments, hotel and restaurants on both sides, besides autos, taxis and private car owners park their vehicles on the main road that often leads to traffic congestion and inconvenience to the commuters and tourists.

The order further stated that the traffic congestion around this area has been constant maneuverability glitch for the inhabitants along the Boulevard road in Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan and surrounding wards/villages and numerous representations have been received

from the locals to mitigate this perpetual problem.

Accordingly, the issue has been broached at length in the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) meeting and it was unanimously agreed that necessary steps need to be taken to ensure smooth traffic flow on the boulevard road as a whole.

Now, therefore, in the interest of general public, Badyari Chowk to Nehru Park road segment on the Boulevard Road is, hereby, declared as "No Halt Zone" for vehicles of all types and with the directions that Traffic Police and Enforcement agencies including the District Police shall ensure that no vehicles are parked on roadside and no linear stops are allowed on mentioned segment of the Boulevard road.

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

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

**AIRPORTS** 

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



**RAILWAYS** 

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

PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



**PRAYERS FAJR** 3:41 **ZUHR** 12:35 **ASR** 5:35 7:50 Magrib 9:29 ISHA

### This Day In History

- 1813- War of 1812: Three weeks of British raids on Fort Schlosser, Black Rock and Plattsburgh, New York
- 1814-Americans defeat British & Canadians at
- 1830-France invades Algeria, begins a 40 year
- conquest 1865- Great Britain delegate's world 1st maximum
- 1914- Germany offers Austria war aid to fight against Russia in Serbia
- 1940- Diplomatic relations broken between Britain & Vichy government in France
- 1941- German occupiers disband political parties 1943- Liberator bombers sink U-535 in Gulf of Biskaye
- 1945- World War II: Liberation of the Philippines declared.
- 1954- B-52A bomber made its maiden flight
- 1962- Algeria gains independence after 132 years of
- 1970- Air Canada DC-8 crashes 7 miles from Toronto's airport killing 109
- Hag, seizes power 1978-Soyuz 30 spacecraft touches down in Soviet
- Kazakhstan
- 1983- France invades Algeria
  - 2003- SARS is declared "contained" by the WHO

**Danish Bashir** 

S/o Bashir Ahmad Check

R/o Nowgam Shopian

# NORTHERN RAILWAY 7/5==

**Public Notice** 

I have applied for the issuance of Fertilizer Licence under name

& style Danish Agro Chemicals Nowgam Shopian. If anybody

having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/he

objection in the office of the Chief Agricultural Officer Shopian

within a period of seven days from the date of publication of

this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained



The January Mark Service of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-12-23-24 Closing Date/Time 14.072023 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document can allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document Contractors and earnest money only through only against the Contractors. and earnest money only through only payment modes available ON IREPS portal LIKE net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

1) Provision of CCTV Surveillance System at 16 RPF/Out posts having coverage over space provided for keeping accused and interrogation purpose in Kashmir Valley over Firizpur Division. 2) Provision of 6-Quad cable in c/w Replacement of Signalling gears at 8 stations over FZR Division.

Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Single Packet System
Tender Closing Date Time	1)14/07/2023 15:00 2)17/07/2023 15:00	Date &Time of Uploading Tender	1) 22/06/2023 17:49 1) 23/06/2023 14:43
Pre-Bid Required	No	Pre-bid query DateTime	Not Applicable
Advertised Value	1) Rs.39204933/13 2) Rs.23790663/66	Tendering Section	Telecom
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Tender	Bidding Unit	Above/Below/Par
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1) Rs. 346000/- 2) Rs.269000/-	Validity of Offer ( Days)	60 days
Tender Doc cost (Rs.)	Rs.0/-	Period of Completion	1) 04 Months 2) 11 Months
Bidding Start	1) 30/06/2023		

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-12-23-24 Closing Date Time: 14-07-2023 /15.00 hrs. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2041/23

#### PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Bandipora

M/S Abdul Kabir Sumji S/O Haji Abdul Wahab Sumji

No.:EE/PMGSY/Bpr/777-80 Dated:- 03-07-2023

Subject: - Failure to resume work by on project "Upgradation and maintenance of Road LO47- Izmerg to Jalondora Stage-U (Package No. JK03-236).

#### FINAL CALL

1 Whereas "Upgradation and maintenance of Road L047-Izmerg to Jalondora Stage-U (Package No. JK03- 236). was allotted to your agency vide Superintending Engineer PMGSY Kashmir's Allotment No. SE-PMGSY/Bla/3294-99 Dated:-17-10-2018 with a completion period of 360 days. Whereas the work was started on the road in May 2019, but due to non-seriousness from

your side, the project ran into delay. Whereas the road surface was prepared upto WBM-III level for macadamization, but you abandoned the site and failed to macadamize and complete the scheme.

Whereas a number of notices were issued to you from Sub Division and Division level, directing you to resume and complete the work in all respects, but no positive response was received from your end. Also various attempts were made through telephonic communications and in-person

meetings to persuade you to resume and complete the work, but you have failed to resume the work on site.

Whereas issuing notices to you for resuming/gearing up the work at Sub Divisional level as well as Divisional level was continued till final notice was issued vide this office No.EE/PMGSY/ Bpr/1654-57 Dated:-10-10-2022.

Therefore in the interest of the completion of the road project you are given a final call to resume the work within two days from the date of dispatch of this notice failing which no more correspondence shall be made on this account and straight away blacklisting of your agency shall be initiated, and

dated: 04-07-2023

**Executive Engineer** PMGSY(JKRRDA) **Division Bandipore** 





بی خبرانتهائی د کھاورافسوس کیساتھ دی جارہی ہے کہ جان محمد گجری ولد مرحوم عبدالعزیز گجری ساکند داناواری حال اقراء کالونی متصل ٹائینی بڈس اسکول بمنہ سرینگر مورخہ 4 جولائی 2023 منگلوار بمطابق ۲۱رذی الحجہ ۱۳۳۴ھ کوانتقال کرگئے۔ اللّٰہ تعالٰی سے دعا ہے کہ مرحوم کہ کروٹ کروٹ جنت الفردوس عطا کرے۔اس سلسلے میں تعزیب پرسی صرف تین دن تک رہے گی اورکسی قتم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی نہیں ہوگی۔

عبدالرشید گجری (برادر) و دیگر اهل خانه

9622618012, 7006878400

balance work shall be put to tenders at your risk and cost. DIPK-4475/23

#### Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the District

Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama

Ph. No. 01933-241215 Fax-phone: 01933241215 **TECHNICAL SECTION** 

E-Mail ID: dshopulwama@gmail.com

Notification No: 06/2023 Dated: 03-07-2022

Subject: Establishment of sheep/ Goat units under ISDS and invitation of applicationsextension of date for submitting applications.

In view of poor response against some subcomponents / CD Blocks regarding applications invited vide this office notification No: - 03/2023 Dated 05-06-2023 issued vide No. DSHOP/ Tech/2023-24/683-700 Dated 05/06/2023 and to ensure healthy competition among applicants, the last date for submitting of applications for below mentioned activities shall be 13/07/2023 (4.00 Pm)

1. ISDS-PP Mode (Fresh Units only)

2. ISDS- Subsidy mode- 50% subsidy (20 Ewes units) 3. ISDS -Subsidy mode (Machine shearing unit)

DIPK-4451/23

dated: 04-07-2023

Sd/= District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama

- Chippewa, Ontario
- speed laws

- 1966- Saturn I rocket launched at Cape Kennedy
- 1977- Pakistan's army, led by Gen Mohammad Zia ul-

## From KO Archives

**Towering Desperation Pushes** Youth To New Heights

Jobless Electropaths Threaten to Jump Off Mobile Phone Tower

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR- To draw the attention of the government towards their plight, jobless graduates in electropathy who are on a relay hunger strike for the past two-and-a-half months today threat-ened to commit suicide by jumping off a mobile tower, while several strikers were taken into custody when they tried to set themselves ablaze. The strikers spent the day atop the tower and were still there late at night, with a couple of policemen keeping

The strikers demand that electropathy be recognized as a part of Indian Systems of Medicine and employment avenues be made avail-able to them. The government, how-ever, has been persistently refusing to recognize their degrees. The strikers, who have been camping in the press enclave here for the past two-and-a-half months, tried a novel method this morning to grab the attention of the government and to shake it out of its apathy: three of them, Rasheed Ahmad, Sajjad Ahmad, and Mushtag Ahmad, scaled the mobile phone tower near the Khidmat Press, and drapped in white shrouds and waving the banner of their

association, raised slogans against the Government. As news spread that, the unemployed graduates intended to leap off the tower as a mark of protest, scores of policemen, paramilitary personnel and news crews gathered at the scene The police established contact with the precariously perched strikers with a view to persuade them to come down, but they refused to do so unless the government gave some assurance about recognizing their qualifications and opening opportunities for their employment. One of the strikers atop the tower, Arshad Ahmad, told the CNS on mobile phone that they had been forced to take this extreme step because no one had paid heed to their

peaceful protests. Accepting that suicide was expressly forbidden by religion, the graduate said that it was the government that had forced them to take this desperate course.

Earlier, when the strikers were climbing the tower. four of their col-leagues on the ground, Abdul Qayum, Hilal Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad and Abdul Hamid, tried to set themselves on fire.

The police, however, overpowered them just in time, and shifted them to the Kothi Bagh police station. When contacted about the electropathy graduates' strike and their subsequent suicide bid, the divisional commissioner for Kashmir, Mahboob Igbal, said that the administration had been activated, and a magistrate had been assigned to keep an eye on the situation in the press enclave. He said that the strikers have held a meeting with the

secretary health, Kulbhushan Jandial, and minister for health, Mangat Ram Sharma, and that he was hopeful of an acceptable solution to the issue soon. (Kashmir Observer, 05 July, 2007)

## **Canada Assures Safety Of Indian Diplomats Amid Row Over Khalistan Posters**



**Press Trust of India** 

TORONTO: Canada has assured India of the safety of its diplomats following the circulation of Khalistani posters online which named Indian officials and termed the "promotional material" circulating ahead of a Khalistan rally "unacceptable". The statement by Canadian

Foreign Minister Melanie Joly came a day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India has asked its partner countries such as Canada, the UK and the US not to give space to "extremist Khalistani ideology" as it is "not good" for relations.

Stressing Canada's commitment to the safety of diplomats, Minister Joly highlighted the country's adherence to the Vienna Conventions.

'Canada takes its obligations under the Vienna Conventions regarding the safety of diplomats very seriously," she said in the statement on her Twitter account on Tuesday.

"Canada remains in close contact with Indian officials in light of some of the promotional material circulating online regarding a protest planned for July 8, which are unacceptable," Joly said.

Joly also emphasised that the actions of a few individuals "do not speak for an entire community or Canada.

Mr Jaishankar, when asked about reports of Khalistani

**Amidst Food Crisis** 

posters in Canada naming Indian diplomats, said the issue will be raised with the govern-

ment of that country. The "radical, extremist Khalistani ideology" is not good for India or its partner countries such as the US, Canada, the UK and Australia, he told reporters on the sidelines of a BJP out-reach campaign in New Delhi on Monday.

"We have already requested our partner countries like Canada, the US, the UK and Australia where sometimes Khalistani activities happen, not to give space to Khalistanis. Because their (Khalistanis) radical, extremist thinking is neither good for us nor for them nor our relations," the minister said.

"We will raise the issue of posters with those governments. I think it would have already been done by now as it happened two to three days earlier," Mr Jaishankar said.

Last month, India slammed Canada after visuals surfaced on social media of a tableau in Brampton that reportedly celebrated the assassination of former prime minister Indira

Canada's response to the Khalistani issue appeared to be constrained by its "vote bank compulsions" and India will have to respond if the activities impinge on its national security and integrity, Jaishankar had

# India Leading In Spirituality, **Technology And Economy, Says PM Modi**

**Press Trust of India** 

AMARAVATI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said India was marching ahead in various fields, including technology and economy even as spiritual centres are reviving in the country.

In his virtual address during the inauguration of Sai Hira Global Convention Centre at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh, PM Modi pointed out that 40 per cent of the total real-time online transactions took place in India and urged the devotees to transform the entire district of Puttaparthi (Sri Satya Sai district) into a digital economy.

Noting that climate change posed a big challenge to the entire world in 21st century, PM Modi said India has taken up initiatives like Mission LiFE in the global platform.

Affirming that the world trusts India's leadership, he said India is holding the presidency of the prestigious G-20 this year, whose theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" is drawn from the country's fundamental thinking He further said that India has the third largest startup ecosystem in the world and was competing with big countries in areas such as digital technology and 5G technology.

"On one hand spiritual centres are reviving in the country and simultaneously India is leading in economy and technology. Today, India is among the world's top five economies," he said in a video. PM Modi also lauded the

ongoing Leaders Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Global Council, terming it an effective medium to know more about India and connect with the world.

India's attractiveness is on the rise globally, he said while referring to the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21 at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, which witnessed participants from the highest number of countries.

For thousands of years Indian saints have nourished the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat', PM Modi said.

Calling for support to tree plantation and make India plastic-free, the Prime Minister highlighted 'Prem Taru', an initiative to plant 1 crore trees in the next two years.

I have come to Puttaparthi many times, but this time I could not. I have been invited to come and give blessings, but I will come to take blessings but not give, he said.

Though he may not be with them physically, PM Modi said with the help of technology 'I am with all of you'.

On the new convention

centre, PM Modi expressed confidence that it will create an experience of spirituality and splendour of modernity and said that it comprises cultural diversity, conceptual grandeur and would become a focal point for discussions.

Heaping praises on Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Prime Minister noted that the former has followers from all over the world and his devotees have connected with Prasanthi Nilayam irrespective of language and culture.

Quoting Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Telugu, the PM said: 'Seva ane rendu aksharallone ananta mina shakti imidi undi (There is limitless power in the word service).

PM Modi also recollected Sathya Sai Baba's other timeless teachings such as 'love all serve all', 'help ever, hurt never', 'less talk more work' and 'every experience is a lesson – every loss is a gain'.

"These teachings have sensitivity as well as a deep philosophy of life," he said.

PM Modi praised Sathya Sai Baba for building hospitals, schools and colleges to extend free services to people for years, especially the hi-tech heart hospital at Prasanthi Nilayam, including the Sathya Sai Central Trust partnering with the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' for providing free water to remote villages.

The PM also reminisced about a phone call he had received from the spiritual leader during the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, which offered him guidance and help.

# **Speaker Delaying Call On Disqualification: Team Uddhav To Supreme Court**



**Press Trust of India** 

NEW DELHI: The Shiv Sena (UBT) has once again knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court, seeking direction to the Maharashtra assembly speaker to expeditiously adjudicate the disqualification petitions filed against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other Sena MLAs, who had tied up with the BJP to form a new government in June 2022, in a time-bound manner.

The petition by Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MLA Sunil Prabhu who, as chief whip of the undivided Shiv Sena, had in 2022 filed the disqualification petitions against Shinde and other MLAs, alleged Speaker Rahul Narwekar is deliberately delaying the adjudication despite the May 11 verdict of the Supreme Court.

"The petitioner is constrained to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, in light of the respondent Speaker's conduct in choosing to deliberately delay the adjudication of the disqualification petitions filed by the Petitioner against the delinquent members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly," the petition, filed through advocate Nishanth Patil and Amit Anand Tiwari said.

The petition said the speaker, despite the categorical direction of the top court in its May 11 judgment that the pending disqualification petitions must be decided within a reasonable period, has chosen to not conduct a single hearing.

"The petitioner has also sent more than three subsequent representations dated May 15, 2023, May 23, 2023, and June 2, 2023, to convene a hearing in the said disqualification matters, however, the respondent Speaker in brazen disregard to his constitutional duties as a neutral arbiter, has sought to delay the adjudications of the disqualification petitions, thereby, permitting the illegal continuance of Eknath Shinde as Chief Minister, against whom the disqualification petitions are pending," it said.

Mr Prabhu, in his petition said, Therefore, it is imperative for this court to direct the Speaker, Maharashtra legislative assembly, to decide the disqualification petitions filed by the petitioner against delinquent members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly expeditiously, within a time-bound manner.'

He sought direction to the speaker to decide the disqualification petitions dated June 23, 2022, June 25, 2022, June 27, 2022, July 3, 2022, and July 5, 2022, filed by him under provisions of the 10th schedule against the MLAs loyal to Shinde expeditiously and in a time-bound manner, preferably within a period of two weeks.

In his petition, Mr Prabhu said it is a settled law that the speaker, while performing his functions under the 10th schedule, which deals with the anti-defection law, acts as a judicial tribunal, and is required to act in a fair and unbiased manner.

"The constitutional requirement of fairness enjoins upon the Speaker the obligation to decide the question of disqualification in an expeditious manner. Any unreasonable delay on the part of the Speaker in deciding the petitions for disqualification contributes to and perpetuates the constitutional sin of defection committed by the delinquent members," the petition said.

Mr Prabhu said in the present case, the delinquent MLAs against whom disqualification petitions are pending, have committed brazenly unconstitutional acts which per se invite disqualification under Paras 2(1)(a), 2(1)(b), and 2(2) of the 10th Schedule.

# **India Donates 10,000 Tonnes** Of Wheat To Afghanistan



KABUL: As Afghanistan continues to grapple with the extreme food crises, India has donated 10,000 meric tonnes of wheat to the landlocked country.

The 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat reached the Herat city of Afghanistan on Tuesday, United Nations World for Food Programme (UNWFP) said in a tweet.

"Wheat donated by the Government of #India @MEAIndia @dpa\_meato @WFP arrived in Herat where it was milled for distribution to hungry families across #Afghanistan. This wheat is part of an in-kind contribution of 10,000 metric tons from India on top of 40,000 tons in 2022," UN WFP stated in the tweet.

Last month, the Indian government sent another 20,000 metric tons of wheat to Afghanistan amid a humanitarian crisis in the country using Iran's Chabahar port, Afghanistanbased Khaama Press reported.

Earlier, another wheat assis-

was carried out through Pakistan's land border.

India shows its dedication to promoting the stability and prosperity of Afghanistan by widening the channels for aid distribution, as per Khaama

Afghanistan, under the Taliban, is facing its worst humanitarian crisis and the women of the country are denied fundamental rights. According to a World Food Programme assessment, Afghanistan is one of the nations with extreme food insecurity, with nine million people affected by severe economic difficulties and hunger.

Since the Taliban seized power in August 2021, the law and order situation in the country has only deteriorated, with the rise in cases of terrorism and blasts.

The group banned women from going to schools, and later in December last year, they banned women from going to universities and working with aid agencies.

# Raeisi At SCO: Ditching Dollar Key **To Shaping Fair International System**

**Agencies** 

ranian President Ebrahim Raeisi has warned against the dominance of the dollar in global exchanges, saying de-dollarization is a pivotal necessity to form a just international system.

Raeisi made the remarks in an address to the 23rd virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) after Iran gained full-fledge membership in the bloc.

He said cooperation among the SCO member states in the economic fields can "open a clear vision of a just regional order" to the eyes of world nations.

Based on the past decades' experience, he said, militarism and the dominance of the dollar form the bases of the Western domination system.

"Therefore any attempt to shape a fair international system requires the removal of this instrument of dominance in intra-regional relations," the Iranian president pointed out.

He noted that civilization is the greatest capacity of the SCO member countries to build unity and peace.

He stressed the importance of promoting a civilization in this "ancient" continent based on ethics, spirituality, justice, rationality, and respect for hu-



man dignity.

"The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which is a symbol of this "great family of civilizations", is now standing in a position that can establish new horizons of regional convergence and security-building cooperation," Raeisi stated.

Pointing to the desecration of the Holy Qur'an in some European countries, he emphasized the need to respect the "values and sanctities of the nations" as a "unifying principle".

The Iranian president said the desecration of the Holy Qur'an caused hatred and spread insecurity, which should be dealt with by displaying unity among civilized nations.

In a repeated and stateauthorized instance of desecration of the Muslim holy book, two men stood outside the central mosque in Stockholm on Wednesday and burned a copy of the holy book following a go-ahead given by a Swedish court.

The move was made to coincide with the Muslim festivity of Eid al-Adha, which marks the conclusion of the annual Hajj pilgrimage that is partaken by millions of Muslims from across the world.

Many Arab and Muslim countries have condemned the move.

'No double standards to terrorism'

Addressing the summit, the Indian prime minister said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization should join hands to fight terrorism and not hesitate to condemn countries that support terror.

Modi also called on leaders of the Eurasian political and security grouping to work for the welfare of Afghanistan and provide humanitarian aid to Kabul.

# **Tired Of Exam Paper** Leaks, Rajasthan To Raise **Punishment To 'Life In Jail'**

**Press Trust of India** 

**JAIPUR:** The Rajasthan government plans to bring a Bill in the next assembly session to increase the punishment for those involved in recruitment exam paper leaks from the current 10 years to life imprisonment, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said today.

In March 2022, the assembly passed a Bill providing for imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of ₹10 crore for offences such as government exam paper leaks and cheating in such recruitment tests. This came a month after the REET level-two examination held in September 2021 was cancelled due to a paper leak.

"It has been decided to bring a Bill in the upcoming assembly session to make life imprisonment the maximum punishment under the law against paper leaks," Mr Gehlot said in a tweet in Hindi today.

"In order to bring more transparency in competitive examinations in the state, the chief secretary has been directed to prepare a better process after discussing with the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), Department of Personnel (DOP), Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB) and other stakeholders," he added.

than have been targeting the Congress government over the issue of paper leaks. Assembly elections in the state are due later this year. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

Opposition parties in Rajas-

also announced that a Bill to curb cheating in recruitment examinations would be brought as well. The opposition BJP has de-

manded a CBI probe into the REET paper leak case, which at present is being investigated by the Special Operation Group of the Rajasthan Police.

#### **NEWS MAKERS**

# Pakistani Mountaineer Asif Bhatti Stranded At Nanga Parbat Due To Snow Blindness

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani mountaineer Asif Bhatti has been stranded at the 8,126-metrehigh, the ninth-highest mountain in the world, due to snow blindness, the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said on Mon-

day, Dawn reported. ACP secretary general Karrar Haidri said: "He is stuck at camp 4, at an altitude of 7,500-8,000 m, with snow blindness

and needs help." Bhatti, who is a university professor from Islamabad, was proceeding to the final summit of the peak when he got

According to Haidri, several outfits were attempting the peak and some of their members had conveyed the message that Bhatti was suffering from snow blindness. He added: "A helicopter will be needed to pick him up but for that, he will have to come down to the altitude of around

6,000-6,500 m." Bhatti, along with other

mountaineers Lt Col Dr Jabbar (r), Dr Naveed, Saad Muhammad and Faheem Pasha had departed for the expedition a few days back. "His other team members have not yet begun their final summit push," Haidri added, as per Dawn.

Separately, Karakoram Club, an organisation working for adventure tourism in Pakistan, said a group of climbers from the Karakoram Expedition in Shimshal were preparing for a rescue operation to retrieve Bhatti.

"They are currently waiting for

a helicopter to transport them to the higher camps," it added.

As per Dawn, climber Shehroze Kashif has also volunteered to become a part of the rescue mission. "I kindly request the relevant department to consider transporting me to either the base camp or even to higher camps for increased involvement," he said.

Many climbers have been attempting to summit the peak this year. On Sunday, at least 52 mountaineers, including 11 Pakistanis, scaled Nanga Parbat.

# **Focus On Studies Instead Of Filing Petitions: Supreme Court To Law Student**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court, today dismissed a PIL seeking directions to quash all provisions in the Constitution that don't use gender-neutral terms.

A bench comprising Chief justice DY Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha advised the petitioner, who is a law student, to focus on his studies instead of filing PILs.

'Why don't you study in law schools instead of filing such petitions? We have to start imposing costs. You want us to strike down provisions in the Constitution? So now we should strike down constitutional provisions since it does not say chairperson. Even a woman can be appointed to the post...Dismissed," the



bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by law student Ĥarsh Gupta.

## **SC To Hear Petition Seeking** Early Assembly Polls In J&K On Thursday: NPP Leader

**Press Trust Of India** 

IAMMU: The Supreme Court will hear on Thursday a writ petition seeking early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, National Panthers Party (NPP) leader Harsh Dev Singh said here.

Singh, a former minister and an advocate by profession, had moved the apex court for its indulgence in restoration of democratic process in the Union territory.

The writ petition pertaining to the conduct of early assembly elections in J&K has been listed for hearing by the Supreme Court on July 6 (Thursday)," Singh said in a statement here.

Quoting the "cause list" issued by the Supreme Court registry, he said the matter

would be heard by a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

On June 19, Jammu and Kashmir completed five years without an elected government. It came under governor's rule on June 19, 2018 after the BJP withdrew its support to its coalition partner PDP.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated the state into two Union territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The NPP leader said he was compelled to move the top court in view of the "uneasy silence" maintained by the Centre and the Election Commission of India over the issue of holding assembly polls in the

# **ECI Lacks Impartiality, Neutrality: Mehbooba**

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged the Election Commission of India (ECI) lacks impartiality and neutrality, and accused the ruling BJP of harming institutions of democracy

including the media. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister alleged central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and CBI are being used

to target Opposition leaders. "The election commission of India (ECI), which is supposed to be impartial and neutral, is actually not impartial or neutral. The ED is not neutral," she told PTI in a video interview.

She also lambasted the BJP for its "surgical strike and illegal strike" in Maharashtra where the NCP's Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs revolted against the party and joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government.

The Opposition faced challenges not only from the BJP but also from various government agencies such as the ED, CBI,

and the Election Commission. "They have become an agency and alliance partners of the government, so that the Opposition is browbeaten, threatened and parties are broken and aligned with them (the BJP) and new governments formed," she al-

They (the BJP) are destroying all the institutions and systems (of democracy). Media

has been totally deci-mated," she said. "This is not good for the coun-

She alleged the BJP uses money power to break parties and "purchase" legislators, all the while making tall claims about fighting corruption.

"This hypocrisy shows the BJP's corruption. This party has the most money related to corruption. They illegally benefit from this money and buy elected people and governments. They overthrow them and establish their own corrupt government. The impact of this is felt throughout the country," she said

"People electing someone through votes does not have any meaning as they (the BJP) will be buying them through money. They are hitting at the very con-

cept of democracy," she said. On the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Mehbooba claimed it has become a laboratory where the throttling of democracy began.

# Over 50,000 Devotees Visit Amarnath Cave **Shrine In 4 Days**



**Press Trust Of India** 

SRINAGAR: More than 50,000 people have visited the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas since the start of the annual pilgrimage four days ago, officials said on Tuesday.

M Anapurna, a 67-year-old woman pilgrim from Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati, died at a hospital in Sonamarg on Monday, they said, adding the cause of her death was not known yet.

An Indo-Tibetan Border Po-

lice (ITBP) officer posted on Amarnath Yatra duty died at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir died before the commencement of the pilgrimage.

Cardiac arrest -- triggered by lower oxygen concentration at high altitudes -- is one of the most common causes of fatalities among Amarnath pilgrims and security forces posted there.

On Tuesday, 13,597 people paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, the officials said, adding in the first four days of the yatra, 54,714 devotees have had 'darshan' of the naturally-formed ice-lingam in the cave shrine.

CRPF Director General S.L. Thaosen on Tuesday assessed the security arrangements for the yatra convoy along the pilgrimage route.

"CRPF DG S L Thaosen undertook a comprehensive assessment of Yatra Convoy security arrangements. He inspected Yatri camps in @KO-SCRPF and deployment on the national highway to ensure maintenance of top safety standards and preparedness," the CRPF said on Twitter.

# Over 6,500 Pilgrims Leave For Kashmir

**JAMMU:** The fifth batch of more than 6,500 Amarnath pilgrims left the Jammu city in the early hours of Tuesday for the twin base camps in Kashmir, officials said.

The 62-day annual pil-grimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on

The officials said the pilgrim footfall at the shrine is likely to cross the 50,000 mark later in the day as the yatra is progressing smoothly, with devotees from across the country thronging the base camps to have a glimpse of the naturally formed iceshivlingam and offer their prayers.

A total of 6,597 pilgrims, including 1,429 women, 160 seers and 33 children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the valley in a convoy of 253 vehicles amid tight security arrangements in the early hours of Tuesday, they said.

The officials said 4,475 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 160 vehicles for the valley at around 4.10 am, while another convoy of 93 vehicles carrying 2,122 pilgrims was the first to leave for the Baltal base camp at 3.40 am.

With this, a total of 24,162 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

## **RTI Movement Delegation Meets CIC YK Sinha**

Assured To Take Up Online RTI Filing With Govt

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement on Tuesday called on Information Commissioner Mr YK Sinha in Srinagar and apprised him about the implementation of RTI Act 2005 in J&K.

The delegation led by Chairman RTI Movement Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat impressed up CIC to ensure better implementation of RTI as there is sharp decline in filing of RTI applications from last few years

The members of RTI Movement submitted a memorandum urging upon the Chief Information Commissioner for his intervention on issues related to RTI implementation in J&K. The delegation urged upon the CIC for taking various measures for better implementation of RTI Act in J&K.

"We urged upon the CIC Mr Y K Sinha for conducting massive RTI Awareness in J&K by involving local NGO's and Theatre Groups so that they reach out to the people in remotest areas of J&K. More than 800 Central laws have been extended to J&K post abrogation of Article 370, but there is very meagre awareness about these

central laws. RTI Act 2005 is in operation in J&K for almost four years now but, the designated PIO's and appellate authorities are not properly trained to implement and enforce this law with the result there has been a sharp decline in filing of RTI applications. We requested the CIC to address these lacunas and the CIC gave full assurance to take up this issue with Government" said Dr. Raja Muzaffar

The CIC while interacting with the delegation said that he would take up issues related to filing of online RTI applications, pro active disclosure of information under Section 4 of RTI Act 2005 with authorities. Senior members of J&K RTI Movement Farooq Kuthoo, Dr Mushtaq Khan, Shafiq Mir, Rayees Wathori and others also were part of the delegation.

The Chief Information Commissioner Y K Sinha ap-Information preciated the role of J&K RTI Movement in spreading RTI awareness in J&K for last seventeen years.

"He assured the delegation that their suggestions would be considered on priority and a written communication will be made with the Government of India and Government of J&K as well" Dr Raja Muzaffar added.

# **Cong Demands Desilting** Of Jhelum River, Dal, **Wular Lakes**

**Press Trust Of India** 

SRINAGAR: The Congress on Tuesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately start work on desilting of the Jhelum River as well as the Dal and Wular lakes to prevent flooding in Srinagar. leader

Senior Congress and former minister Ghulam Ahmed Mir warned the administration that if the de-silting project of these water bodies is not undertaken immediately, the people of Srinagar "will have to bear huge losses like 2014" when floods wreaked havoc in the city.

As many as 300 people died and 25 sustained injuries in floods that battered in Srinagar," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir in September 2014.

Mir, the former Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president, said the Jhelum River and Dal and Wular lakes have enormous siltation, "but, the local administration, busy in showoffs, does not have any concern about it".

It was only in the last Congress regime that the work of desiltation was undertaken. However, since then, no practical work has been done to save the people of Kashmir from the devastations of floods, Mir said.

"It takes only a few hours of rain to trigger a flood-like situation in Kashmir, particularly

# **Govt Orders Probe Against President MC Langate For Abusing His Official Powers**

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has ordered an inquiry against the president of municipal committee Langate for "abusing" his official powers.

The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) has appointed Kafeel Ahmed Ferozi, officiating chief architect, J&K architect organisation, as the inquiry officer to probe into the conduct of Municipal Committee Langate president Shanawaz Abdullah for abusing official powers.

According to an order issued by the H&UDD, the inquiry officer shall afford an opportunity of being heard to the president concerned as a principle of natural iustice.

The order states that Muhammad Rafeeq Bhat, Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir shall be the presenting officer in the inquiry.

The inquiry officer shall submit his report within 15 days, the order further states.

The probe has been ordered under Section 26 of Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Council Act-2000, which empowers the Government to remove a president or vice-president of Municipality from his office on the ground of abuse of his powers or of habitual failure to perform his duties.

In the past two years, the Housing & Urban Development Department had ordered probes against heads of several

urban local bodies in Kashmir. In September last year, it had removed Bilal Ahmad Bhat, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora from his office on the grounds of abuse of his official powers—(KNO

# **PSC Holds Maiden Meeting To Review** Mitigation Plan Of Pakal Dul Project

**Press Trust Of India** 

IAMMU: Six months after its constitution, the Project Screening Committee (PSC) met here on Tuesday to take stock of the implementation of the mitigation and environment plan of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project in the Kishtwar district, an official said.

The PSC was constituted in December last year to contribute and oversee the implementation of environment plans aimed at mitigating the impacts of such mega projects on local people and the environment and forest health of the area to ensure sustainable development.

The plan envisages various environment and wildlife habitat improvement works worth Rs 236 crore, including Rs 100 crore corpus fund for high altitude national park in the district, the official said.

He said the prime objective of the implementation of the project is to improve the catchment areas of

Marusudra, a tributary of Chenab, on which a series of Hydroelectric projects are being constructed, including Pakal Dul, to harness the huge potential of hydroelectric power of the river.

Afforestation, soil and water conservation activities, along with developmental works, are being executed with the funding provided by the Chenab Valley Power Project (CVPP) against forest and wildlife areas affected by the construction of hydroelectric projects in these landscapes.

The mitigation plan, biodiversity conservation plan and catchment area treatment plan are the different components of the comprehensive programme approved under the overall supervision and oversight of the Supreme Court, the official said.

The maiden meeting of the PSC, chaired by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force Roshan Jaggi, discussed in detail the cumulative financial allocation under different components, which will be spent in the next couple of years in accordance with the approved project activities.

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

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

#### CORRIGENDUM

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the Dates for the works advertised Vide this Office NIT No:- 20/3149-58/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated: - 26-06-2023 figuring at S. No: 1 & 2 and NIT No:-21/3181-90/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 27-06-2023 figuring at S. No: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9 are hereby extended due to the reasons of observing holidays on eve of Eid-Ul-Adha during this week as follows

S.No.	NIT No.	Previous Dates	New Dates		
	20/21/0 E9/CDN/Dp	Bid Submission End Date:	Bid Submission End Date:		
1	20/3149-58/SPN/Rn- B/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 26-06-2023	03-07-2023	07-07-2023		
1		Date & time of opening of Bids	Date & time of opening of		
		(Online): 04-07-2023	Bids (Online): 08-07-2023		
	21/3181-90/SPN/Rn- B/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 27-06-2023	Bid Submission End Date:04-	Bid Submission End		
2		07-2023	Date:08-07-2023		
2		Date & time of opening of Bids	Date & time of opening of		
		(Online):06-07-2023	Bids (Online):10-07-2023		
No: NIT/3307-12					

Dt: 03-07-2023

DIPK-4429-23 DT: 04/07/2023

sd/-**Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian** 

# Free e-Rickshaw Service Set Up At Baltal Base Camp **To Ease Amarnath Yatris' Arduous Journey**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**BALTAL:** A Kanpur-based NGO has introduced free e-rickshaw services to make the final leg of the arduous journey of Amarnath Yatra

comfortable for the pilgrims. The e-rickshaws have been deployed to ferry pilgrims from Domail to the base camp at Baltal and

Having walked 24 km on mountainous terrain to and fro to visit the Holy Cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, pilgrims are usually exhausted by the end of their journey.

After reaching the access-control gates at Domail, they have to walk another five km to reach the park-

While ponies are available for

ing area of the Baltal base camp. The battery-operated, environment-friendly e-rickshaws, deployed by NGO, come as a relief for the pilgrims in that regard.

the purpose, the rides are chargeable. The e-rickshaw service, meanwhile, is free of cost. Kanpur-based Shiv Sewak Samiti is one of the service providers of

the e-rickshaw rides. With the e-rickshaws, the distance, which otherwise takes about an hour, is covered in less than ten minutes.

Ajit Khokar, a yatri from Sonipat,

availed the service and spoke posi-

tively about the service.

"It is my first time at Amarnath. It gets very tiring coming back from the cave, but getting the erickshaws is very helpful," Khokar told PTI here.

He said since the vehicle is battery-operated, it helps the environment as well. "Whosoever has started this service. I thank them from the bottom of my heart," the yatri added.

Five pilgrims are ferried in each ride and an e-rickshaw makes about 16-18 rides a day. "This erickshaw service is provided from Baltal to Domail. Five people are accommodated in a vehicle in a ride. The vehicle can take around 16-18 rides in a day. It is completely free services given to pilgrims

from both sides," Hrithik Kushwaha, an e-rickshaw driver who hails from Kanpur, said.

"I am very thankful for this service as this is very good for pilgrims. As when we come back after the holy pilgrimage at the cave shrine, we get very much tired. So, it is good that there is a free rickshaw service for this five km stretch," Anil, another yatri from Sonipat, said.

"The environment is also taken care of very well as any other vehicle would have created a lot of pollution," he said.

In a similar vein, another yatri Pradeep from Haryana, said the pilgrims get blisters on their feet by walking such a long distance on foot.

# Government of Jammu & Kashmir **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING SRINAGAR KASHMIR**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **JAL SHAKTI PHE DIVISION SOPORE** 

**LAND MARK IQBAL MARKET SOPORE** Phone No/Fax: 01954 - 222482 | E.Mail: phesopore@gmail.com

# CORRIGENDUM

Enlistment in the limited tender.

This office RFP reference No. 11/PHE/JSD/SPR issued under No. 3308-19, dated:26-06-2023.

Please consider online login Id nesswojandk@gmail.com and krie stsociety@

gmail. com instead of nesswoanantnag@gmail.com and kriest. society@yahoo. com previously added for the organizations National Educational Society and Social Welfare Organization and Kashmir Research Institute of Education and Solar Technology respectively.

No: 3472-81 Date:03-07-2023 DIPK-4478-23 DT: 04/07/2023

Ref:

**Executive Engineer** Jal Shakti PHE Division Sopore

# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Wednesday | 05-07-2023

# **Tourism On Upswing**

he G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar has proven to be a game-changer for the tourism sector in the region, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said at a press conference on Monday. He said that the foreign tourist arrivals have shown a notable increase since the G20 meeting, with the numbers expected to rise even further in the coming months.

The successful G-20 meeting, conducted between May 22 and May 25 this year was attended by participants from various countries and they returned home with a favorable view of the region, the LG said. He also revealed that over the first six months of this year, J&K has witnessed 15,000 foreign visitors, marking a significant increase after a prolonged period of limited growth. A large number of these tourists, according to him, are coming from South East Asian countries, signifying the increasing global appeal of the region.

Srinagar city itself has emerged as a hub for highprofile events in the country, as pointed out by the LG Sinha. The city has hosted several important events such as the one by Indian System of Medicines, Engineer's Association, Chartered Accountant Association, and even 18 Supreme Court judges participated in a meeting. This increased participation in conferences and gatherings highlights the growing recognition of Srinagar as an ideal venue for national and international events, further boosting the region's reputation, the LG said.

Last year, J&K witnessed a record over one crore tourists, contributing 7 percent to its GDP. To sustain this growth, the government has identified 300 new destinations for promotion, emphasizing green tourism, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the active participation of local communities. Such initiatives will not only enhance tourism but also contribute to the region's overall development. The rise in the number of movies filmed in J&K further signifies the region's increasing popularity and the positive impact it has on the local economy and people's lives.

Recently, the LG Sinha also set an ambitious goal of hosting two crore tourists in the UT in 2023. But the administration needs to focus on building and upgrading the infrastructure before bringing more tourists to the region. This includes improving transportation infrastructure, providing quality accommodation, ensuring basic amenities, and addressing security concerns. Only then can the UT truly capitalize on its potential as a tourism destination. Over the last three years, Kashmir Valley has been largely peaceful, paving the way for the spurt in tourism. But tourism shouldn't be the only indicator of peace and the government knows it very well. So, we need more steps to ensure the gains of the past three years are consolidated and enjoyed by all people. For example, it is about time that the central government takes steps to hold Assembly polls in the union territory.

#### OTHER OPINON

# Game of thrones

n Sunday, mere months after it split the Shiv Sena to pull down the Maha Vikas Aghadi ministry in Mumbai, the BJP shored up its own government by weaning away a significant section of the NCP. It may not be incidental that four of the nine NCP MLAs who were sworn in as cabinet ministers on Sunday face a probe either by the Enforcement Directorate or the Anti Corruption Bureau.

In the all too recent past, the BJP alleged that some of these MLAs, prominent among them Ajit Pawar, who has now been sworn in as deputy chief minister, are symbols of corrupt and dynastic politics. The next act in this cynical drama is foretold: Now that they are in the BJP, these leaders will be magically cleansed of the corruption taint. This, after all, is what has happened with several politicians from non-BJP parties in West Bengal and Assam and other states whose cases were pushed to the backburner after they joined the BJP.

The unseemly goings-on in Mumbai underline a dismal pattern — of the BJP using not so fair means to improve its numbers in states where it does not have a clear mandate, including by selectively deploying central agencies to target its political opponents. In the past few years, the BJP has deservedly invited accusations of engineering defections and splits to form governments in states including Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa, after it failed to win the election.

In Maharashtra, the BJP has been looking for ways to tighten its grip ever since the 2019 election, in which it did not win the mandate on its own. Initially, the party seemed outsmarted by NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, who stitched together an unlikely alliance — the Maha Vikas Aghadi — with long-term BJP ally, Shiv Sena, and the Congress, by offering Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray the CM's office. The BJP's attempt to force a split in the NCP by roping in Ajit Pawar ended in embarrassment. However, the party succeeded in splitting the Sena and forming a government with rebel Sena leader, Eknath Shinde, as chief minister.

The defections from the NCP now may further strengthen the hold of the Shinde-BJP government, if the Ajit Pawarled faction passes the anti-defection law test. Pawar has said that the NCP will not challenge the defections legally, but will seek endorsement in the people's court. The Maharashtra churn is likely to continue at least until the general election. The coming days will test the mettle of a host of political actors including CM Shinde and his two deputies, Ajit Pawar and Fadnavis, and Uddhav Thackeray. On test, too, will be the tactical nous and mobilisational skills of Sharad Pawar, a past master at splitting and merging parties and forging coalitions.

Indian Express

# **The New Education Revolution**

Synergy between edtech startups and offline classes is the way forward

Mushtaq Ahmed Rather

ecently, social media saw numerous posts by concerned professors from various colleges with their classes empty. This is a global phenomenon. Barely anyone turns up. The classrooms look desolate, even after covid-19 is over.

The sudden outbreak of COV-ID-19 had initially thrown the education sector out of gear due to prolonged closure of schools. No one expected such a mass scale shut down of schools. The pre-covid era usually saw minimal incorporation of technological tools in teachinglearning transactions. The concept of online classes via varied platforms during the pre-COVID era seemed to be unrealistic and unproductive partly due to least digital penetration in the rural contours of the country and the lack of technical know-how in organizing and moderating online classes by the primary stake -holders: the teachers. With every daunting challenge, unfolds a new opportunity and the same was true for the emergence of COVID-19. The epidemic of CO-VID-19 stimulated all the essential stakeholders, be it government or key private players to build digital infrastructure even in the remotest and non-penetrative network areas of the country.

Now, long after covid-19 lockdowns are over, are offline classes gone for good? No.

While online classes show promise, they cannot replace offline classes es entirely. However, offline classes cannot ignore the digital revolution as well. The collaborative approach of online and offline classes is actually the way forward and one approach cannot have an edge over the other provided the moderator and the facilitator strikes a balancing act between the two. T

his is actually where the concept of blended mode of learning or hybrid mode of learning has actually conceptualized or materialized and offers great degree of flexibility to mitigate the learning needs of the 21st century learner.

The government's digital inter-

ventions to upscale digital infrastructure such as National broadband mission, Digital India, Bharat net along with telecommunication driven digital revolution have made it possible to reach out to the sections of the student community sible to online teaching platforms either due to non-availability of smart electronic gadgets or weak network penetration. UT level administration in general and department of Education in particular have undertaken certain desired digital interventions like establishment of sophisticated ICT labs in high and higher secondary schools with round the clock high speed internet facility. In some schools, even digital tablets have been pro-



vided to individual students and teachers to keep pace and momentum with the rest of the world in the field of information and technology. The incumbent Director school education Kashmir, Tasaduq Hussain Mir has himself on pilot basis distributed mini-laptops to the students and faculty of HSS Nanil of district Anantnag and the same needs to be replicated with

other educational institutions of the division in a phased manner. Edtech is the collaborative apEdtech can assess student skills and needs in real time, leading to provocative plans to help struggling students.

The Edtech sector witnessed unprecedented growth and funding during the COVID-induced lockdown, when online education became a necessity rather than privilege. Before COVID, technology was used to supplement education. Post COVID .Edtech has become central to the education process. India's Edtech sector is one of the

It may seem scary on the part of the teacher at first, however the reality is that the teacher's role is indispensable in the process of education —with or without technology. However in the 21st century, teachers need to emolliate the role of a facilitator in helping and guiding students develop skills beyond acquisition of knowledge

proach of technology-software and/or hardware to facilitate teaching learning. Smartphones loaded with Edtech apps have now become synonymous with education. Classrooms have now moved beyond bricks and mortar to clicks and portals

The emergence and rapid adoption of Edtech is largely attributed to the fast –paced digitalization of India . Between 2010 and 2022 , the number of internet users in India has increased manifold , from 92.5 million to 932.2 million. There has been a 27 times increase in the number of smartphone users in India , from 34 million in 2010 to 947 million in 2022.

## Role of Edtech in facilitating teachers and students

Edtech facilitates both teachers and students by ensuring engaging pedagogical practices for teachers to complement their teaching. This includes a wide array of interactive smart boards, educational videos virtual and augmented reality simulations. Edtech can also facilitate the process of academic administration through automated grading, classroom management tools. Automated grading through artificial intelligence tools can ensure efficient management of time and resources. Classroom management tools help create a less chaotic more collaborative environment.

largest in the world with about 400 startups operating across its various sub-sectors.

The government of India has launched various programmes and initiatives to promote digital education, such as SWAYAM, DIKSHA and e-patshala. The recent announcement by the Finance Minister is the National Digital University (NDU), a virtual university that will offer a wide range of courses across disciplines using digital technology.

#### Striking a Balance

During the pandemic, the importance of using digital tools such as networks, platforms and educational apps was accentuated. Students are gradually acclimatizing to face-to-face learning. These elements of Edtech will find their use in education as complementary approaches. However, to ensure the holistic impact of Edtech, it is important to strike a balance between technology and traditional education methods. The integration of technology should not compromise the quality of education, but rather enhance it.

As per the latest statistical data, merely 10% of the Indian population speaks and comprehends English and 45% speak Hindi. This highlights that 45% of the Indian population is not conversant with Hindi or/and English. Therefore

Edtech platforms need to focus on content creation in vernacular languages to ensure wide reach, utility and relevance.

One of the key objectives of NEP 2020 is holistic education. Edtech outreach initiatives must ensure that the core elements of holistic education that include environmental responsibility and sustainable development at the planet level, self –reliance and patriotism at the national level, community well being at the societal level and cultivation of human values along with righteousness and empathy at the individual level are incorporated into overall instructional design of the programmes.

## Incorporation of practical work in Edtech led programmes

Edtech programmes must integrate internships/ apprenticeships as part of curriculum and program design. This will help students imbibe group dynamics, team building and interpersonal skills that are vital at the workplace. This will help them in a long way to test the knowledge and technical skills gained online on the field and thereby enhance their confidence and self-esteem when they enter the workforce.

It wouldn't be unrealistic to imagine the future where (AI) Artificial Intelligence will create individualized learning experiences for students. The AI would also be able to curate and recommend learning activities based on the student's progress, preferences and learning goals. It may seem scary on the part of the teacher at first, however the reality is that the teacher's role is indispensable in the process of education -with or without technology. However in the 21st century, teachers need to emolliate the role of a facilitator in helping and guiding students develop skills beyond acquisition of knowledge. Essentially, teachers will be responsible for nurturing students to become well-rounded individuals with a high emotional quotient (EQ), Social quotient (SQ) and intelligence quotient (IQ). The role of educational institutions will be to provide an environment that promotes peer-to-peer learning, facilitates hands-on experience, social interactions and on demand practical opportunities . Edtech will play a complementary role through techniques, products, platforms and services that will support, enrich and enhance the teaching -learning experience for students and equip them with knowledge and future skills that are vital for success in

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

The author is an educator and can be reached for feedback on aroushfatimamar15@gmail.com



OBSERVER **M** 

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# Reading a Book a Day

am writing to express my deep appreciation for the power and significance of reading and to advocate for the habit of reading at least one book per month. In an era dominated by digital distractions and fleeting content, immersing oneself in a good book can be a transformative and enriching experience. Allow me to elaborate on the numerous benefits this practice holds for individuals and society as a whole.

First and foremost, reading a book a month nurtures our intellectual growth. Books are a treasure trove of knowledge, offering us an opportunity to delve into various subjects, explore different perspectives, and expand our understanding of the world. With each book we read, we gain new insights, acquire fresh

ideas, and cultivate critical thinking skills. It is through reading that we can become more informed, wellrounded individuals capable of engaging in meaningful conversations

and making informed decisions.
Furthermore, reading stimulates our imagination and creativity. Books transport us to different times, places, and worlds, allowing our minds to wander and soar beyond the confines of our daily lives. The pages of a book can ignite our imagination, encouraging us to think beyond the status quo, fostering innovation and inspiration in our personal and professional endeavors. It is within the pages of a book that we can discover new possibilities and unlock our own creative potential.

Reading also has profound emo-

tional and psychological benefits. Books serve as a medium to explore complex human emotions, delve into the depths of our own inner lives, and empathize with characters from diverse backgrounds. They can offer solace during challenging times, provide a sense of connection when we feel isolated, and evoke a range of emotions that enrich our own emotional intelligence. In a world where mental health is a growing concern, reading offers a therapeutic escape and an opportunity for personal growth and introspection.

In addition, reading a book a month fosters better communication skills. By exposing ourselves to a wide range of writing styles, we become more adept at expressing ourselves coherently and articulately. We learn to appreciate the nuances of language, enhance our vocabulary, and develop a more refined sense of grammar and syntax. These skills extend beyond the realm of reading; they are invaluable in our daily interactions, whether it's composing an email, engaging in a conversation, or crafting a well-structured argument.

Lastly, reading a book a month helps us disconnect from the constant barrage of digital noise and find respite in a slower, more contemplative pace. In a world where social media and instant gratification are prevalent, reading provides an antidote. It allows us to savor the written word, engage in deep concentration, and find a sense of peace and tranquility.

Juveria Kh

# Colorectal Cancer in Men Understanding the Risks, Screening, and Prevention

#### Dr. Bharat Prajapati

Colorectal cancer poses a serious health threat to both men and women, but men face a higher risk of developing this disease and are more likely to experience mortality from it. Here are some factors that increase the risk of colorectal cancer in men, highlighting the importance of early screening and effective prevention strategies.

#### **Understanding the Risk Factors:**

Several factors contribute to the heightened risk of colorectal cancer in men. While some of these risk factors are beyond our control, awareness can empower us to make informed decisions and decrease the likelihood of developing this condition.

- Age: Advancing age is a significant risk factor for colorectal cancer. This disease primarily affects individuals over the age of 50, and the risk increases steadily as we grow older.
- 2. Family History: Men with a family history of colorectal cancer or certain genetic conditions, such as Lynch syndrome, face a higher risk. If you have a close relative who has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer, it is essential to inform your healthcare provider to receive appropriate screening recommendations
- 3. Lifestyle Factors: Unhealthy lifestyle choices can significantly contribute to the risk of developing colorectal cancer. Factors such as a diet high in fat and low in fibre, a sedentary lifestyle, obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking can all increase the chances of developing this disease.
- 4. Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD): Men diagnosed with chronic inflammatory bowel diseases, like ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, face an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer. Regular monitoring and close follow-up with a gastroenterologist are crucial for early detection and prevention.

#### The Importance of Screening:

Colorectal cancer often develops without presenting symptoms in its early stages, underscor-



# MEN WITH A FAMILY HISTORY OF COLORECTAL CANCER OR CERTAIN genetic conditions, such as Lynch syndrome, face a higher risk. If you have a close relative who has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

relative who has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer, it is essential to inform your healthcare provider to receive appropriate screening recommendations."

ing the importance of routine screening. Several screening options are available, including colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and stool-based tests like the Fecal occult blood test (FOBT) and Fecal immunochemical test (FIT).

 Colonoscopy: Regarded as the gold standard for detecting colorectal cancer, a colonoscopy enables direct visualization of the entire colon and rectum. It can iden-

- tify and remove precancerous polyps, thus preventing the development of cancer.
- Sigmoidoscopy: Similar to a colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy examines the lower part of the colon. Although it does not provide a complete view of the entire colon, it helps detect rectum and sigmoid colon abnormalities.
- 3. Stool-Based Tests: FOBT and FIT are non-invasive tests that detect hidden blood

in the stool, indicating the possible presence of colorectal cancer or precancerous polyps. A colonoscopy is typically recommended for further investigation if these tests yield positive results.

#### Prevention Strategies:

Men can take measures to reduce their chances of developing colorectal cancer.

- 1. Healthy Lifestyle: Adopting a healthy lifestyle is crucial. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and regular exercise can significantly lower the risk of colorectal cancer. Limiting alcohol intake and quitting smoking are also essential steps.
- 2. Regular Screenings: Routine screenings should commence at 50 for individuals at average risk. However, screenings may start earlier and be more frequent for men with higher risk factors, such as a family history or genetic predisposition. Adhering to the recommended screening guidelines can aid in early detection and treatment
- 3. Know the Symptoms: Being aware of the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer is essential. Symptoms such as persistent changes in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, unexplained weight loss, and fatigue should prompt a visit to a healthcare professional for further evaluation.

Colorectal cancer poses a significant threat to men, but one can make a substantial difference by understanding the risk factors, emphasizing early screening, and adopting preventive measures. By prioritizing a healthy lifestyle and adhering to recommended screening guidelines, one can reduce the burden of this disease and improve outcomes for men at risk.

The author is Consultant Laparoscopic and Robotic Onco Surgeon, PIPEC Surgeon, HIPEC Surgeon, HCG Cancer Center, Ahmedabad

# What Can We Do With Moon Dust?

PAUL M. SUTTER

This August, a Russian rocket is scheduled to leave Earth bound for the south polar region of the moon. It will be carrying Luna 25, a lunar lander charged with the mission of better understanding our rocky satellite's surface. NASA has a similar planned mission, scheduled to launch in November. And India's latest lunar lander, scheduled for launch in July will likely do some digging around in the dust, too.

Why the sudden surge in global interest in the surface of the moon—which might seem rather, well, uninteresting, save for a few footprints and a couple of golf balls? Billions of years of impacts have ground it into a fine, sharp-edged powder.

It turns out that the surface of the moon is full of mysteries, particularly its fine dust covering. In the lunar soil, scientists hope to find clues about the formation of our solar system and glean answers about what other worlds might be like. It is also the destination for a new generation of crewed missions and the most likely site for the first permanent off-world human outpost. So not only will we want to learn how to live with this vexing substrate, we're also going to need to learn how to build with it. In other words, we're going to have to get our hands dirty.

Or maybe, we're going to have to get our hands regolithy.

"Regolith"—coined in 1897 by geologist George P. Merrill—comes from the Greek words for "blanket" and "rock," and refers to a loose, unconsolidated covering of jumbled rocks and fine particles. We have it here on Earth in spades, though we tend to call it by different names: soil, alluvium, volcanic ash. and so on.

But on the moon, we just have ... regolith. And the moon's regolith is entirely—physically and chemically—unlike anything we know here on Earth.

over the years, we've learned a little about this strange material. We've learned from astronauts that it smells like gunpowder and that it is very sharp. We've even been able to bring some back to Earth to study. In 2020 the Chang'e 5 mission, launched by the Chinese space agency, successfully returned roughly 2 kilograms of lunar samples to



Earth. More than 50 years ago, three robotic Soviet Luna probes brought back 326 grams, and the six successful NASA Apollo missions returned 382 kilograms (which were sadly contaminated—the gritty lunar dirt cutting through the original containers, exposing them to Earth's air and moisture, permanently altering them).

Lunar regolith has its origins back when the moon's surface was full of active volcanoes a few billion years ago. Unlike on Earth, though, this rock was never subject to wind or rain, which ground down bits and pieces of rock through mechanical weathering. Instead, it has been subject to its own sort of weather: space weather, which is far harsher than anything our fertile loams are accosted with.

The majority of lunar regolith was once composed of much larger, more solid blocks. But billions of years of impacts have ground it into a fine, sharp-edged powder. Gigantic asteroids and comets have struck the moon for ages, blasting away entire craters and sending material scattering across the surface (and in some rare cases, all the way to Earth). In addition to breaking down rock, those impacts also generate enough heat to create molten pebbles that cool before they reach the surface again, embedding themselves in the regolith as microscopic glass-like beads, which were visible to the Apollo astronauts as red dust just under the surface. And besides the occasional massive impact, the moon constantly suffers bombardment from micrometeoroids, where the same process plays out at a much smaller scale, pulverizing any impacted material into fine dust.

The sun, too, plays a role. Without an atmosphere, the moon experiences temperature swings of hundreds of degrees, starting chemical reactions and shutting them off in turn. And then there are the cosmic rays, tiny charged particles barreling into the solar system at nearly the speed of light. When they strike, they leave microscopic havoc in their wake, burrowing deep into the regolith and leaving a trail of altered chemicals behind.

The end result is that lunar regolith is much more rich in metals like titanium, magnesium, calcium, and iron than typical Earth crust, but relatively lacking in silicon and oxygen, which makes lunar-based industry and farming a complex, uncertain business.

When it comes to the moon's rocky, dusty surface, we still have many more questions than answers. All of our understanding is based on the paltry samples we've been able to acquire so far (which, to be fair, represent the only samples from another world that we have returned to Earth for study) and remote observations from orbiting satellites and Earth-based telescopes.

We still don't know how cosmic rays and solar radiation interact with familiar molecules to transmute them into strange new combinations. We still don't know what the preserved record of lunar bombardments—in the form of hundreds of craters—tell us about the early days of the solar system. For that matter, we still don't know how the moon formed in the first place. Finding answers to these questions can help scientists piece together more details about how our solar system formed. It could also help us understand more about the universe beyond our orbit. The moon is a cosmic laboratory, the most easily accessible place in the solar system where we can directly study the properties of another world different from ours.

If we're going to live on the moon we're going to have to put its regolith to work for us.

And we have a lot of ground to cover. The moon has a surface area of more than 14 million square miles—about equivalent to the land area of Russia, Canada, and the United States combined. Given the gargantuan task of surveying, digging, and studying so much more of the moon's surface material, engineers and scientists have devised some clever solutions. For example, the EmberCore Flashlight, which recently won a grant from NASA's Innovative Advanced Concepts program, uses the x-rays and gamma rays naturally produced by a future rover's radioactive power source to illuminate the lunar surface, revealing valuable information about surface properties far outside the normal reach of a rover.

Ultimately, there is no replacement for human exploration though. The next generation of lunar scientists will be orders of magnitude more capable, swift, and adaptable than our landers and rovers. But they are going to have a tough time navigating the harsh realities of lunar dust.

For one, lunar regolith lacks the oxygen that's churned into Earth"s soil—but has an overabundance of heavy metals, making it a poor substrate for plant growth. Plants can technically grow in lunar regolith, but they don't exactly come out healthy. Future lunar settlers will have to make do with either large-scale hydroponics or engineer massive processing to make the regolith more oxidized and suitable for farming.

Besides that, lunar dust has been ground to an extremely fine powder, akin to talcum, after billions of years of constant solar and cosmic assault. It sticks to everything, manages to work its way through the tiniest of crevices, is surprisingly abrasive, and is generally very bad for lungs, skin, seals, and machinery.

But if we're going to live on the moon, we're going to have to not only make peace with its regolith but also put it to work for us. The moon's surface is a harsh environment, and any future human settlement will require extensive habitats. We simply won't be able to loft every floor, wall, roof, support beam, and rafter from Earth. The expenses of orbital launches will prevent that kind of large-scale deployment for generations. If we're going to build habitats, warehouses, roads, and all the various structures associated with human civilization, we're going to have to source a lot of the material much more locally.

In 1985 a geophysicist at the University of Pittsburgh, Larry A. Beyer, conceived of "Lunarcrete," a way to turn the moon's regolith into concrete. Like any concrete made on Earth, it's composed of an aggregate, water, and cement. Regolith would provide the aggregate, and there's plenty of it literally lying around the moon. Water is rather hard to come by, but it might be sitting in icy deposits in polar craters. The cement would come from calcium-rich deposits in lunar rocks. Experiments performed with Apollo samples have demonstrated the basic feasibility of the idea, but because of the lack of samples, further experimentation has stalled.

Other researchers have already sent simulated regolith to the International Space Station to study its ability to serve as a source material for 3-D printing. They hope that this work can lay the foundation for ... well, foundations of lunar colonies using the moon's rock itself, printed into a variety of useful shapes.

Although it seems far afield, we will need to take the first halting steps in understanding how to avoid the dangerous properties of extraterrestrial regolith and use it to our advantage, gaining the skills we need to venture farther into the solar system. And we are lucky to have the moon as our sandbox.

The article was originally published by Nautilus

# **Hormone Therapy May Cause Heartburn And Chest Pain, Reveals Study**

ANI

or years, scientists have debated whether hormone therapy (HT) is linked to an increased risk of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). A recent comprehensive study and meta-analysis attempt to settle the controversy, revealing a strong correlation between HT use in the past and GERD.

The results of the analysis were published online in Menopause, the journal of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS).

GERD is one of the most frequent gastrointestinal disorders. Its worldwide frequency is estimated to be around 14 per cent. Heartburn, dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), and chest discomfort are common symptoms. Risk factors have been identified as anatomical anomalies such as hiatal hernia and obesity. Several medicines, including antidepressants, anti-inflammatory drugs, and HT, have also been related to GERD in several studies, with mixed results, particularly with regard to HT.

Estrogen increases stomach acid production and is associated with higher levels of plasma nitric oxide, which is a key neurotransmitter for the relaxation of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES). Progesterone relaxes the esophageal muscles and the LES, allowing stomach acid to flow back into the esophagus, causing GERD symp-



toms. Previous research linked female sex hormones with GERD symptoms during pregnancy and with oral contraceptive use. However, the association between HT and GERD in postmenopausal women had remained unclear. A new systematic review

and meta-analysis, however, provides clarity by confirming a significant association between ever or current HT use and GERD.

Researchers conducted an online search of published randomized, controlled trials and observational studies investigat-

**GERD is one** of the most frequent gastrointestinal disorders. Its worldwide frequency is estimated to be around 14 per cent. Heartburn, dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), and chest discomfort are common symptoms. Risk factors have been identified as anatomical anomalies such as hiatal hernia and obesity

ing the association between HT and GERD. Although a total of 84 studies were originally identified, most were eliminated because of irrelevancy or because they were duplicates or associated with conference abstracts. What remained for analysis were five full-length studies that covered more than one million participants. No participants with a prior GERD diagnosis were included. All five studies reported a significant association between estrogen use and GERD, as well as between GERD and HT containing a combination of estrogen plus a progestogen. Women who received combined estrogen-progestogen therapies had a lower risk of GERD symptoms compared with HT containing estrogen alone or progestogen alone.

Additional research is suggested because of the small number of included studies. Hormone therapy has proven effective in treating many menopause symptoms. GERD risk factors should be considered when evaluating women with menopause symptoms.

Review results are published in the article "The association between menopausal hormone therapy and gastroesophageal reflux disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis." "Although additional research is needed, this study highlights the potential for the development of GERD symptoms with HT use. A review of risk factors for GERD and implementation of lifestyle strategies for prevention, such as smoking cessation, maintaining a healthy weight, and not lying down after a heavy meal, may be helpful to avoid GERD symptoms in menopausal women considering HT use," said Dr. Stephanie Faubion, NAMS medical director.

# **Apple Makes It Super Easy To** Switch From Android To iPhone

Agencies

As more and more smartphone users continue to switch from Android to the iPhone ecosystem globally, including in India, it has now become super easy to get all your contacts, photos, videos and even WhatsApp content transferred to the iOS app.

One can start the Android to iOS switching process by downloading the 'Move to iOS' app on your Android phone.

It securely transfers your contacts, messages, WhatsApp con-

tent, photos, videos, email accounts and calendars from your Android phone to your iPhone.

Before you begin, on your Android device, make sure that Wi-Fi is turned on

Plug your new iOS device and your Android device into power. Make sure that the content you're moving, including what's on your external Micro SD card, will fit on vour new iOS device.

If you want to transfer your Chrome bookmarks, update to the latest version of Chrome on your Android device.

"Using the Move to iOS app, I

transferred all my data to iPhone," says Iska K.

For Chirag B, He used to play game with glitches on Android. "Now my experience is seamless," he said after switching to an iPhone. You can also trade in your current device for credit towards a new iPhone.

"You can even cover your interest on eligible products with No Cost EMI over 3 or 6 months from most leading banks. As a special offer, get up to Rs 6,000 instant savings on selected iPhone models with eligible HDFC Bank cards," according to Apple.

dated: 01-07-2023

#### Government of Jammu & Kashmir

#### Office Of The Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh E-NIT No. 13/REW/2023-24/EE/SSDG/2187-96/E-tendering/Dated:-01-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt.

S. N	o Name of Work	Estimated	Cost of T/Doc.	Time of	Earnest Money	Major Head of	Class of
			(in Rs)	Completion	(In Rs)	Account	Contractor
		Lacs)					
1	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste manegment comminuty based at	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other
	new Coloney Badwan Block Gurez.			-			
2	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste management comminuty based at	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other
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3	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste management comminuty based at	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other
	Khopri Dawar B Block Gurez						
4	Construction of Soak pit liquid waste management comminuty based at	2.00	200	15 days	4000	LMW	DEE/Other
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4	Khopri Dawar B Block Gurez Construction of Soak pit liquid waste manegment comminuty based at						

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of funds Partially Available

Project Authority:-District Administration The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other oaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

S. No.	Particulars	Dated			
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	20100	01-07-2023		
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	03-07-2023	(10:00 AM)	
	Ĭ .	То	11-07-2023	(04:00 PM)	
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	03-07-2023	(10:00 AM)	
4	Bid Submission End Date	То	11-07-2023	(04:00 PM)	
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		12-07-2023	(05:00 PM)	
		In the office of Everuti	In the office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez		

Bids must be accompany ed with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez Major Head 0515-Rev:Misc) [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. 0.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dtd 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan/CDR/FDR should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub

All bidders have to pay 2% of advertised cost of the work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender. The 1stlowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract value as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to Executive Engi-

neer Special sub Division Gurez within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP.
4. Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238 -FD OF 2021 Dated: 07-09-2021 Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District Development Commissioner BANDIPORA No Objection Certificate/ Bio Data for e-Tender Note: The below details are required fo e-tendering participation in Pan-

All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25. DIPK-4483/23 dated: 04-07-2023

**Executive Engineer** Special Sub Division Gurez

# Office Of The Deputy Commissioner Anantnag

Preliminary Notification under Section 11 (1)

No; 23-3/ACR/Acq/Ang

Whereas, requisition (indent) for land acquisition was placed by the JKPTCL Kashmir vide no TLMD-IVI/769-71 Dated 01-10-2022 for acquisition of land for construction of 01 No of C type Tower between Location no 135 E & 136 of 220 KV Transmission Line at Village Ganie pora Nirpora Mirbazar and same was forwarded to this collectorate for acquisition under Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013.

Whereas, it appears to the Government that a total of land measuring 07 Marlas 07 Sirsie under Survey Nos 382 min & 343 min is required in the Village NiporaTehsil Anantnag District Anantnag for public purpose, namely construction of 01 No of C type Tower between Location no 135 E & 136 of 220 KV Transmission Line. Whereas a committee under rule 4 of "The Jammu and Kashmir Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisi-

tion, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Social Impact Assessment and consent) rules 2022" was constituted vide no 323-36/LA/ACR/AMS Dated 22-11-2022. Whereas committee submitted the report which reveals as under:

- a. That the indenting department was offered State /Government /Common land at various locations, however the indenting department statement stated that the tower is to be inserted at this particular location as such the State/Government/Common Land offered to indenting department was not found feasible.
- b. That the particulars of requisition submitted by the indenting department was verified and found correct.
- c. That the extent of land for acquisition is absolute bare minimum required for the project.
- d. That the requisition is consistent with the provision contained in section 10/other provisions of act. e. That there is no acquired land which has remained unutilized which may be used for said public purpose.

f. That there is no displacement or rehabilitation involved in the said project.

Whereas, the committee recommended the case for acquisition under provisions of

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 & The Jammu and Kashmir Right to Fair Compensation and

Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Social Impact Assessment and consent) rules 2022. Whereas, consent has been received from interested person under rule 21 of The amrnu and Kashmir Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Social Impact Assessment and consent) rules 2022 who has agreed to the acquisition of said project

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Village Nipora tehsil Anantnag District Anantnag, a piece of land measuring 07 Marlas 07 SIrsie under Survey Numbers 382 min & 343 mln, whose detailed description is tabulated as following,

l	S.no	Survey no	Type of title	Type of land	Area under acquisit	tion	Trees	Structures I
l					Marla	Sirsie		
l	1	382 min	Proprietary	Rural	6	8	Nil	Nil
Ĺ	2	343 min	Shamilat Sect -4	Rural	0	8	Nil	Nil
l	Total				7	7		

Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector (Assistant Commissioner Revenue. Anantnag) on any working day during the working hours. The Government authorises Tehsildar Anantnag and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

Under sub section (4) of Section 11 of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/ purchase, etc, or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before Collector.

Place: Anantnag DIPK-NB-1640/23 dated: 04-07-20023

Collector Land Acquisition Assistant Commissioner (Rev) Anantnag, Shangus, Mattan

# Office Of The Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

Fresh E-NIT No. 14/REW/2023-24/EE/SSDG/2197-2206/E-tendering/Dated:-01-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work		Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Completion		Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of . Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) under SBMG 2022-23 at Middle School Abdul- lin Guiran Block Tulail	3.00	200		6000	SBMG	DEE/Other
2	Construction of Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) under SBMG 2022-23 at Dawar Markrt Dawar A Block Gurez	3.00	200	15 days	6000	SBMG	DEE/Other

Position of AAA: Accorded Project Authority:-District Administration

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

S. No.	Particulars	Dated			
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.		01-07-2023		
2	Period of Downloading of	From	03-07-2023	(10:00 AM)	
	bidder documents				
		То	11-07-2023	(04:00 PM)	
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	03-07-2023	(10:00 AM)	
4	Bid Submission End Date	То	11-07-2023	(04:00 PM)	
б	Date and time of opening of		12-07-2023	(05:00 PM)	
	bid (online)	In the office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez			

Bids must be accompany ed with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez Major Head 0515-Rev:Misc) [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dtd 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan/CDR/FDR should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez (Tender receiving Authority)...

All bidders have to pay 2% of advertised cost of the work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender. The 1stlowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract value as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to

Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP.

4. Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238 -FD OF 2021 Dated: 07-09-2021

Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District Development Commissioner BANDIPORA No Objection Certificate/ Bio Data for e- Tender Note: The below details are required fo e-tendering participation in Panchayat (Annexure A)

All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

**Executive Engineer** DIPK-4489/23 dated: 04-07-2023 Special Sub Division Gurez

## **SpiceJet Most Unpunctual Airline; Akasa Tops On-time Ranking**



NEW DELHI: Passengers on cash-strapped SpiceJet Ltd. are experiencing the most flight disruptions in India, the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

With the busy summer travel season arriving, only 61% of SpiceJet's flights departed on time from the country's four biggest airports - Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad - in May, according to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. That's down from the already trailing figure of nearly 70% in April, the agency's data showed.

SpiceJet, which is operating about 250 flights a day, isn't alone. Air India Ltd., the nation's second-largest carrier, slid to fifth from second in the punctuality ranks, with almost twice as many flight delays in May as a month earlier. Akasa Air, launched less than a year ago, was the most on-time, though its performance also slipped.

Frequent delays underscore the challenges of the post-pandemic boom in India's intensely competitive aviation market. Travel surges during the school holidays in May and June, and carriers struggled to keep pace. Demand for some routes was higher than normal after the insolvent Go Airlines India Ltd. stopped selling tickets in May, placing a greater burden on the country's flight networks.

#### **Soaring Demand**

Domestic passenger traffic climbed 15% to 13.2 million in May from the month earlier. The airlines, meanwhile, are dealing with shortages of workers and planes after both were sidelined during the pandemic. A global issue with Pratt & Whitney engines is adding to the tension by grounding dozens of planes that normally serve the Indian market.

There is a huge pressure on airlines to expand services," said Harsh Vardhan, chairman of New Delhi-based Starair Consulting. "The traffic has suddenly come back with a vengeance. But airlines are still in the process of streamlining operations.'

The weather also isn't helping, and social media is awash with complaints.

Some 350 Air India passengers en route to New Delhi from London spent hours stranded in Jaipur at the end of June. The airline's pilot timed out after clocking the maximum work hours allowed while waiting for the Indian capital's weather to clear. A SpiceJet flight from Pune to Dubai departed 10 hours late. A school teacher in Bengaluru missed her uncle's funeral when an AirAsia India flight was delayed.

For SpiceJet, deteriorating punctuality comes hand-inhand with financial challenges. It hasn't made money for four years, losing \$40 billion over that period, and has delayed releasing its latest fiscal year results. More than two dozen of the budget carrier's aircraft were grounded at the end of May, when its market share plunged to 5.4% from 7.3% at the start of the year.

SpiceJet is "striving hard to continuously improve performance on all aspects, including our on-time performance," a spokesperson said.

#### **Hiring Surge**

It's not universally bad across India, which is experiencing fewer flight delays than other top aviation markets. Some 15% of flight departures were delayed from January through June 20, compared with 30% in the UK and 20% in the US, according to data obtained from FlightAware.

There are signs of improve-ment as airlines add staff and capacity. Market leader IndiGo, which placed a record order for 500 Airbus SE jets in June, plans to hire 5,000 workers in fiscal 2024. Air India will recruit more than 4,200 cabin crew and 900 pilots as it gears up for a fleet expansion, following its order of 470 Airbus and Boeing Co. jets. SpiceJet aims to introduce 10 additional Boeing 737 jets that it has leased by October.

# **To Further Facilitate** Tourists, Tourism Deptt Sets **Up Helpline Desk**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: In an effort to further facilitate the tourists and yatries visiting Kashmir, the Directorate of Tourism Kashmir has set up a dedicated helpline desk at the Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar

The aim of setting up the helpline desk is to redress the grievances of tourists viz a viz any service instantly and in case of any difficulty reach out to them.

The numbers of the helpline desk are 8899941010 and 8899931010. Interested tourists can also email their griev-

Day 3 Of GST Awareness Week

**Awareness Drives, Bike** 

**State Taxes Deptt On GST** 

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: On the third Day of

GST awareness week, Commis-

sioner State Taxes, Dr. Rashmi

Singh, Tuesday flagged off a drive of GST warriors from Na-

grota here who dispersed to

Udhampur and Reasi for creat-

ing massive awareness among

under the joint efforts of Ad-

ditional Commissioner, State

Taxes (Administration & En-

forcement), Jammu, Namrita

Dogra and her team includ-

ing DC enforcement Samba,

Sanjay Gupta; DC Enforce-

ment Lakhanpur, Ranjeet

Singh; Assistant Commis-

sioners, Aijaz Qaiser and

Mandeep Kour and jurisdic-

tional circle heads of Doda,

Udhampur, Reasi, Samba,

Kathua and Rajouri.

The event was organised

the people about GST.

**Rallies Organised By** 

ances at helpline.kashmirtour-

ism@gmail.com.

The Department of Tourism. it may be mentioned, has been striving to get the tourists their best experiences during their stay here and in case they get into any difficulty the same be redressed in minimum possible time.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob has appealed to the tourists to utilize the services of this dedicated helpline to get their grievances resolved in minimum time. He said the Department is committed to provide better facilities and services to tourists visiting Kashmir.

# **Chief Secretary Chairs** 10th UT-Level Bankers' **Committee Meeting**

Launches 'Swarozgar Utsav' For Providing Gainful Self-Employment Opportunities To Youth Of J&K

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: 'Sustainability of every self-employment venture has to be ensured besides its viability after proper identification of the beneficiaries' needs and skills during the campaign and all these things need to be dovetailed into a comprehensive actionable plan with a target of saturating self-employment in J&K. This was stated by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta during the launch of "Swarozgar Utsav" campaign in J&K on Tuesday while chairing the 10th meeting of Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee at Banquet Hall here

Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya; Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Man-Kaur; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Administrative Secretaries of various Departments, MD & CEO, J&K Bank (Convenor J&K UTLBC) Baldev Prakash; Chief General Manager, NABARD, Bhallamudi Sridhar; General Manager RBI Neeraj Kumar and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, Banks, departmental Heads,



insurance companies and Lead District Managers were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting, Dr A K Mehta said that UTLBC forum is essentially meant to ensure saturation in selfemployment of people and in view of J&K economy, which has opened and moved ahead, we need to keep furthering its momentum while bringing down the unemployment rate to one of the lowest in the country. Intent, commitment and understanding have to be vital components of our plans", he asserted.

He added that saturation

of self-employment is at the heart of the Governments efforts and financial sector needs to put in place an actionable mechanism to saturate self-employment in J&K.

Chief Secretary emphasized on sensitizing people through financial literacy campaigns, media campaigns, erecting hoardings, bill boards etc. At conspicuous places in all panchayats, blocks and districts of J&K about benefits of various financial inclusion, social security and government sponsored schemes so that more and more people can take advantage of these schemes.

#### SANJY-2023

# **JKRLM Establishes Stalls Enroute** The Holy Cave For Pilgrims

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: In view of Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2023, Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has established the stalls enroute the Holy cave for the pilgrims. In this connection Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib Tuesday visited the sites and took stock of the arrangements, Inspected stalls put up by various SHGs enroute the Holy cave.

The inspection aimed to ensure that the stalls were set up in a proper manner and are equipped with all the necessary facilities to cater to the needs of the yatris. During the visit, Mission Director assessed

the cleanliness, hygiene, and overall infrastructure of the stalls. She also interacted with the SHG members to understand their experiences and challenges in managing the stalls sion Director provided valuable feedback and suggestions to further improve the functioning

Speaking on the occasion, the MD said that for welcoming Shri Amaranthji Yatris, SHG made handcrafted product ranging from woolen garments, shawls, stalls, handicraft products, handloom products, saffron, dry vegetables, fruits, dry fruits like almonds, walnuts, paper machie products etc will be available for

sale at the stalls throughout the Yatra period. While praising the SHG members the MD said, "the enthusiasm and dedication displayed by the women SHGs in setting up these stalls has resulted in a wide array of offerings, leaving no stone unturned to cater to the varied

needs and preferences of the yatris'. From essential commodities to traditional handicrafts, handmade allied SHG products these SHGs have truly excelled in their preparations. Not only these women SHGs strive to serve the yatris with top-notch products and services, but they also create a warm and welcoming environment throughout the pilgrimage.



Their enthusiasm and commitment are visible in their meticulous attention to detail and the personal touch they bring to each interaceagerness to welcome the yatris are truly commendable." She maintained.

She appreciated the efforts of the SHGs in setting up and managing the stalls. She emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and hygiene to ensure the well-being of the yatris. She also assured the SHG members of the full support in addressing any challenges they may face.

Giving details the Mission Director JKRLM said that last year during Amarnathji Yatra 2022, JKRLM for the first-time operated stalls of SHG members enroute the Holy cave and occupied 27 stalls in 09 districts of J&K along the roadside enroute the Holy cave.

The 447 SHG members from 151 self help groups earned an amount of Rs 28,45,501 during the vatra period, She said.



# Tomato Soars To Rs 150 A Kg In Delhi, Household **Budgets Take A Hit**

NEW DELHI: Vegetables like potatoes, tomatoes, and onions are constants of most Indian meals but the recent surge in the prices of these staples has caused major disruptions to the monthly budgets of many

In 2016, onions brought tears to consumers' eyes, and now it is tomatoes that have turned sour.

According to recent reports, the price of tomatoes has skyrocketed from Rs 15 per kg in the first week of May to an astonishing Rs 120-150 per kg in various regions across the country.

Wholesalers say that the price of vegetables have doubled in one week and their sales have been reduced by 40 per cent.

"I am selling tomatoes at Rs 120 per kg while bottle gourd (lauki) is being sold at Rs 60 per kg. The coriander, which we usually gave as complimentary, is now at 300 per kg. Cauliflower is at Rs 160 per kg and ginger is being sold at Rs 400 per kg,' said Manoj Kumar, a wholesale dealer of vegetables in Delhi and Noida.

Meanwhile, the online vegetable selling apps have also

witnessed rates spiking and Blinkit is selling tomatoes at Rs 150 per kg, bottle gourd at Rs 61 for 400g-600g.

"English cucumber rate has spiked to Rs 62 per 500 g-600 g. Green peas is at Rs 43 per 250 gram," as per Blinkit.

The recent surge in tomato prices has been attributed to the impact of heavy rainfall on the supply chain. Vegetable vendors and wholesalers are pointing towards the rains as the primary cause behind the disruption in tomato supply, leading to a significant increase in retail prices of this crucial kitchen staple.

The abundant rainfall is likely to have adversely affected the cultivation, transportation, and overall availability of tomatoes, resulting in scarcity and a subsequent rise in prices in the retail markets.

"Customers are feeling the strain of these soaring prices, with many forced to cut back on their vegetable purchases in an attempt to manage their budgets effectively. In the national capital, the sharp increase in tomato prices can be attributed to the limited supply from states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh," said Suresh, another wholesale dealer.

# **KIA Unveils Updated Seltos; Eyes 10% Market Share In Passenger Vehicle Segment**



**Press Trust Of India** 

NEW DELHI: Kia India, on Tuesday, unveiled the updated version of its mid-sized sports utility vehicle Seltos, as it aims share in the domestic passenger vehicle (PV) segment.

The automaker, which currently has a market share of around 7 per cent in the domestic market, also aims to double its existing sales network to 600 plus outlets from over 300.

"Seltos is the product with which we entered India, and since then, the journey of Kia India and the Seltos has been almost identical. We have a segment disruptor and a segment winner in the new Seltos and are confident to take forward the strong legacy of the Brand Seltos to lead the premium RV market." Kia India managing director and CEO Tae-Jin Park said. This strategic launch is key

to the company's ambitions of attaining a 10 per cent market share soon, he added.

growth potential in the mid-SUV segment, and the new Seltos will grow the premium end of it," Park noted.

With the refreshed look, most powerful engine in the segment, and host of safety and smart features, the new Seltos inevitably will emerge as the most preferred drive for newage customers, he added.

Seltos brand currently contributes 55 per cent to Kia India's overall sales.

It is one of the biggest brands for the Kia Corporation, with one out of every ten Kia cars sold globally being a Seltos.

# J&K SPORTS COUNC



M. A STADIUM JAMMU/BAKHSHI STADIUM SRINAGAR

Email Id: jkstatesportscouncil@gmail.com

e-NITNo. 05 of 2023-24 DATE0:26-06-2013



For and on behalf of the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, e-tender are invited from the reputed manufacturers or their authorized distributors/dealers or registered suppliers/Agencies for Procurement of Sports Kits for establishment of newly 60 Khelo India Centre's of Jammu and Kashmir:-

	S.No.	Particulars	Adv. Cost	Cost of Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document
1. of no		Procurement of Sports Kits for establishment of newly 60 Khelo India Centre's of Jammu and Kashmir	Rs. 120.00 Lacs	Rs.2,40,000/-	Rs 2500/-

1		
	Date of Publishing of tender	26.06.2023 from 05.00 P.M
	Period of Downloading of documents	26.06.2023 from 05.30 P.M to 12.07.2023 upto 4.00P.M
	Bid submission start date	01.07.2023 from 10.00 A.M
	Bid submission end date (online documents)	12.07.2023 upto 4.00 P.M
Dat	Date & (time of Opening of Ride online)	13.07.2023 after 11:00 A.M or subsequent date in the office of
	Date & (time of Opening of Bids online)	Secretary I&K Sports Council Bakhshi Stadium Srinagar

The tender documents along with other Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in The Tender shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website https://jktenders.gov.in. The bidders shall have to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/GST Number/ Demand Draft/ (Tender fee)/ registration certificate duly renewed. The cost of tender documents shall be deposited in the J&K Bank bearing Account No.: 0067040100006185, IFSC Code: JAKAOStreet, Branch: H.S.H. Street. The cost of tender document is non refundable.

NO: SC/e-01/4066/3033-39 DIPK-NB-1621-23 SECRETARY, DT: 04/07/2023 Dated: 26-06-2023 **J&K Sports Council** 

#### THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL **ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS** Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: https://www.jkbopee.gov.in, Email: coejakbopee@gmail.com/jakbopee@gma Subject: Inviting of Online Application Forms for admission to the B. Pharmacy Course, 2023 in the Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of the UT

Reference:

of J&K- Conduct of the Common Entrance Test thereof. Notification No.032-BOPEE of 2023 dated 05-06-2023 of J&K BOPEE.

#### NOTICE NO. 019-BOPEE OF 2023 DATED 30-06-2023

Pursuant to the Notification No.032-BOPEE of 2023 dated 05-06-2023, Online Applications were invited from the desirous aspiring candidates for the B. Pharmacy Course for the Academic Session 2023 in various Government/Private Institutions of the UT of J&K. It has been decided to conduct the Entrance Test for the said Course tentatively on 23-07-2023 (Morning Shift) at Srinagar and Jammu centers respectively as per the choice indicated by the aspiring candidates during filling up of the Online Application Forms.

The syllabus / scheme of Entrance Test to be conducted by the Board has already been notified by the Board vide Notification No. 032-BOPEE of 2023 dated 05-06-2023 for the information of the candidates. Further all the aspiring candidates are advised to visit the official website of the Board

viz. www.jkbopee.gov.in for latest updates regarding downloading of the Admit Cards and other related information in this regard. However, it may be noted that there will be no Entrance Test for the candidates who have applied for B. Pharmacy (Lateral Entry) and their selection shall be made on the basis

of marks secured by them in the Qualifying (D-Pharmacy) Examination. The other Terms and Conditions as notified by the Board vide Notification No.032-

BOPEE of 2023 dated 05-06-2023 shall, however, remain the same.

No: BOPEE/Exam-18/2023 Dated: 30-06-2023

DIPK-NB-1628-23 DT: 04/07/2023

Sd/-

**Controller of Examinations** J&K BOPEE

# Palestinian attacker wounds 8 in Tel Aviv as Netanyahu signals West Bank operation could soon end

ACENCEIC

Jenin (West Bank), Jul 4 (AP) A Hamas militant rammed his car into a crowded Tel Aviv bus stop on Tuesday and began stabbing people, wounding eight in an attack that Palestinian armed groups said was revenge for an Israeli military offensive in the occupied West Bank. A bystander shot and killed the attacker.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated the operation in the Jenin refugee camp, one of the most intense in the territory in nearly two decades, was winding down. But he gave no details on when it would end and vowed to carry out similar operations in the future.

"At these moments we are completing the mission, and I can say that our extensive operation in Jenin is not a one-off," during a visit to a military post on the outskirts of Jenin. "We will continue as long as necessary to cut out terrorism."

Israel struck the camp, known as a bastion of Palestinian militants, early Monday in an operation it said was aimed at destroying and confiscating weapons. Palestinian health officials said 11 people have been killed and dozens wounded.

Massive military bulldozers have torn through alleyways, leaving heavy damage to roads and buildings in their wake, and thousands of residents fled the camp. Residents said electricity and water were knocked out.

The Israeli military said Tuesday afternoon that fewer than 10 targets remained in the camp and that it hoped to complete the operation within 24 hours.

The large-scale raid comes amid a more than yearlong spike in violence that has created a challenge for Netanyahu's far-right government, which is dominated by ultranationalists who have called for tougher action against Palestinian militants only to see the fighting worsen.

Over 140 Palestinians have been killed this year in the West Bank, and Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis have killed at least 25 people, including a shooting last month that killed four settlers.

With airstrikes and a large presence of ground troops, the raid bore hallmarks of Israeli military tactics during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s.

But the current violence is also different from the intense years of what was known as the second intifada, a period that claimed thousands of lives. It's more limited in scope, with Israeli military operations focused on several strongholds of Palestinian militants.

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, a hard-line settler leader, rushed to the scene of Tuesday's attack in Tel Aviv.

"We knew that terror would raise its head," he said. He praised the person who killed the attacker and called for arming more citizens with guns, as he was heckled by an angry

The attacker was identified as a 20-year-old Palestinian man from the southern West Bank city of Hebron

The Islamic militant group Hamas praised him as a "martyr fighter" and called the ramming "heroic and revenge for the military operation in Jenin." Islamic Jihad, a militant group with a large presence in Jenin, also praised the assault.

It was not immediately clear if the man was dispatched by Hamas or acted on his own.

In Jenin, rubble littered the streets, and columns of black smoke periodically rose above the skyline over the camp, which along with an adjacent town of the same name has been a flashpoint of Israeli-Palestinian

violence for years.

Jenin Mayor Nidal Al-Obeidi said that around 4,000 Palestinians, nearly one third of the camp, had fled to stay with relatives or in shelters.

Kefah Ja'ayyasah, a camp resident, said that soldiers forcibly entered her home and locked the family incide

"They took the young men of my family to the upper floor, and they left the women and children trapped in the apartment at the first floor," she said.

She claimed that soldiers would not let her bring food to the children, and blocked an ambulance crew from entering the home when she yelled for help.

"I told them that one of my relatives was sick and needed medicine before she lost consciousness," Ja'ayyasah said. She said the soldiers eventually allowed the family to leave. The Red Cross brought the family to a hospital, and from there they went to the home of a relative.

Across the West Bank, Palestinians observed a general strike to protest the Israeli raid.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Tuesday that the two-day death toll rose to 11. The Israeli military

has claimed at least 10 were militants, but did not provide details.

It had no immediate information on the latest death, a 17-year-old boy who died from wounds sustained in earlier fighting.

During Tuesday's operations, the military said it seized weapons and explosives and demolished tunnels beneath a mosque in the refugee camp. Israeli media reported that the army had arrested at least 120 suspected Palestinian militants since Monday.

Israel says that militants use civilian structures to conceal their activities. Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the military's chief spokesman, told reporters Monday that Israel used the massive military bulldozers because the roads of the camp were boobytrapped with explosives.

Palestinians say the violence is the natural outcome of 56 years of Israeli military occupation.

The Palestinian self-rule government in the West Bank and three Arab countries with normalized ties with Israel Jordan, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have condemned Israel's incursion, as did the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

At a news conference in Ankara with his Jordanian counterpart,

Turkey's new foreign minister, Hakan Fidan, called on Israeli authorities "to exercise common sense" and refrain from attacks.

In Berlin, Germany's Foreign Ministry condemned the Tel Aviv attack, but also expressed concern about the situation in the West Bank. It called on Israel to ensure the safety of civilians and maintain access for humanitarian aid.

Israel has been carrying out near daily raids in the West Bank in response to a series of deadly Palestinian attacks in early 2022. It says the raids are meant to crack down on Palestinians militants and thwart attacks.

The Palestinians say such violence is inevitable in the absence of any political process with Israel and increased West Bank settlement construction and violence by extremist settlers.

Israel says most of those killed have been militants, but stone-throwing youths protesting the incursions and people uninvolved in confrontations have also died.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek those territories for their hoped-for independent state. (AP)

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

#### **Valley To Get Respite**

has gone very high and evaporation has intensified due to hot temperature. The monsoon is likely to get active between July 5 to 7 and will help improve water stress," he added.

While the maximum temperature at most places in Kashmir is in the mid-30s, the effect of high altitude makes it feel a few degrees higher than actually is.

Sunil Kumar, a tourist from Uttar Pradesh, said, "The weather in the valley is very hot. We have come here on summer vacation from Uttar Pradesh as we anticipated the weather to be pleasant. Yesterday I went to Gulmarg as well but the temperature there, too, was very

A local named Firdous Ilahye said the temperature in the valley has breached the 35 degrees Celsius mark for the first time.

"In Kashmir temperature usually remains moderate and precipitation happens immediately after 34 degree Celsius. Experts say that this is due to the effects of global warming, the melting of glaciers which leads to a rise in water levels in the water bodies as well," he said.

A South African national, studying at a local university, said, "Normally people here are not very comfortable with this kind of weather in Kashmir. People prefer to stay at a cool place where there are lots of trees and under the shade when they are on the roads. The temperature in parks with trees is a lot better."

"I have been living in Kashmir since 2021 and I feel the temperature is quite hot and is increasing day by day," he said, adding that people were facing many difficulties as they are not used to such kind of weather.

Zehra, a city resident, said this has been one of the hottest summers she has witnessed.

"Roads are deserted and people prefer to stay at home. Schools, too, have been shut for summer vacations. It is very difficult to travel these days as well," she added.

Schools in the valley were closed from July 1 to 10 due to prevailing hot weather.

#### **LG Okays Priority**

These initiatives, the spokesperson said, not only define the quality and quantity of departmental services to be ensured in a time-bound manner, but are also aimed at enhancing efficiency and productivity through greater interdepartmental convergence and coordination.

"Considering that the initiative was a success in propelling growth and development in the Union territory through transformative action in all areas, the Government decided to continue with the exercise of assigning deliverables to all the departments, this financial year," he said.

This financial year, the spokesperson said, the list of deliverables broadly include approximately 1791 tangible targets.

"The exercise imparts clear direction to all departments regarding way forward and is unique to J&K. It merits mention here that J&K has emerged as a leader in many areas of governance and this unique initiative is bedrock of these changes," he added.

#### **Article 370**

The Supreme Court will also take the decision on the withdrawal of the petition by IAS officer Shah Faesal.

#### **Hope SC Will**

challenging the decision for hearing on July

"It is better late than never, we have been eagerly waiting for this day. The hearings will start on July 11 and we hope that they would be expedited as soon as this case is addressed in the Supreme Court and a verdict will out soon," he told reporters here, 25 kilometres from Srinagar.

The former chief minister said his party has no hopes from the BJP-led NDA government to restore the pre-August 2019 status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have been saying this from day one that whatever has been snatched from us on 5 August 2019, we should not have any hope from the present dispensation to bring that back to us.

"Our fight is long but in a peaceful manner and through democratic and constitutional ways. We want to get back whatever has been snatched from us," he added.

#### **Azad Welcomes**

erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas challenging the decision for hearing on July 11.Azad highlighted the significance of the top court's attention to these petitions, emphasising his optimism for a favourable outcome.

"After a long time, the Supreme Court has taken note of the petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370. I am hopeful about a positive outcome as I aspire for the restoration of full rights, which got annulled following the abrogation on August 5, 2019," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

Azad further emphasised the inclusive nature of Article 370, saying it benefits the people of all regions in Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

#### J&K Bank

Rs 476 crore in the last quarter.

Interestingly, since the appointment of Baldev Prakash as the MD & CEO of JKB in December 2021, the shares of the bank have shown a steady rise over these years.

He replaced RK Chhibber as the Chairman and Managing Director of J&K Bank, who had assumed the charge in June 2019.

JKB share prices were just Rs 35.80 apiece on BSE, when Prakash took over the reins of the

He has over 30 years of experience in banking in various roles at small and large size branches at SBI. He had joined SBI as a probationary officer in 1991 and was the Chief General Manager (Digital and Transaction Banking Marketing Department) at SBI, Mumbai before appointed MD & CEO of JKB.

#### CRPF Chief

(ShriAmarnathji Yatra) security arrangements amidst his visit to Baltal, @sthaosen,DG @crpfindia, accompanied the up convoy from Bhagwati nagar.

"He saw firsthand exchange of the convoy at Lamber, Banihal before proceeding ahead to Qazigund & Mirbazar camps (in south Kashmir)," it added.

#### **Govt Duty-Bound**

the court said, adding, "Bearing this constitutional sanction in perspective and the directions of the Supreme Court set into place, it is a matter of duty for the Police Officials as well as officials of the concerned Civil Administration, irrespective of hierarchical position, to ensure that marrying individuals who are major and have chosen to become husband and wife out of their free will and volition are not to fear anybody causing any harm to their life and limb."

#### Floriculture Officer

accused officer was arrested and a formal case was registered against him at the concerned police station under relevant sections

An official of the Botanical garden Kokernag told Kashmir Observer that the incident took place after the officer, despite requests by the respectable people including Sarpanch of the area, refused to revoke the transfer order and asked the trio to report at Pahalgam immediately, or else they will be terminated.

The Trio, he said sprinkled kerosene on their bodies and attempted self immolation, before the onlookers arrived at the spot and took them to the hospital for treatment.

They have been identified as Zakir Hussain Shakhsaz and Arshid Ahmad Yatoo, both residents of Bidar Kokernag and Bilal Ahmad Tantray of Watlahar Kokernag.

Meanwhile, the Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) has condemned the incident and sought thorough probe into to ascertain the cause behind taking such an extreme step by three daily wagers.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, EJAC President, Fayaz Shabnam said action must be taken against the guilty for provoking poor daily wagers for self immolation.

"We condemn the incident and demand exemplary punishment to the accused and at the same time appealed to the police to thoroughly investigate the matter to bring facts to fore," Shabnam added.

#### **Two Extortionists**

spokesperson said Tuesday.

Saleh, he said, was detained under PSA since 2022.

The spokesperson said that due to the poor financial condition, the family was unable to meet the monetary demand made by the accused.

"Meanwhile, father of the applicant got re-

leased after quash of PSA, and both the accused persons again approached them for the money. However, the family denied to pay anything and told them that they couldn't pay anything to them," he said.

However, the spokesperson said that both

the accused forced the family to pay repeatedly and visited their home, and even called on phone a number of times and warned that if they will not pay the amount, they will face serious repercussions and will get the family head re-detained.

The complainant, he said, somehow man-

keep his father unharmed. However, both the accused further gave him a deadline to pay entire amount of Rs.1 lakh.

"Accordingly, a case FIR No. 134/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in

aged Rs 10 thousand and gave them just to

relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Baramulla," the spokesperson said.

Upon receiving the complaint, he said,

Baramulla Police acted swiftly and investigated the matter.

As a result, he said, both the accused were

As a result, he said, both the accused were apprehended and subsequently were arrested for their alleged involvement in extortion.

"SSP Baramulla Shri Amod Ashok Nagpure-IPS in his message to the general public of Baramulla has advised them to reach him on mobile number 7051000999 in case any person demands bribe for any police related matter," the spokesperson added.

#### **LG Greets People**

of social justice, righteousness, compassion,

peace and harmony.

On this day, we should draw inspiration from his teachings and rededicate ourselves to the ideals of social equality and brotherhood as epitomised by Guru Hargobind Ji".

# **Jio Telecom State** comfortable journey and c

comfortable journey and communication is an important component of necessary facilities. All the stakeholders are working together with complete dedication to ensure safer and smoother Yatra," the Lt Governor said.

#### **SIU Files Chargesheet**

and an active militant.

"In its back drop, the said case was registered on 10th of January 2023 after one scooterist was stopped for checking by a police party at a checkpoint at Regal Chowk Srinagar. The police party found the person identified as Farzan Ferooz son of Ferooz Ahmed Mir resident of Frestibal Pampore transporting objectionable items with him in a blue bag on scooter and could not give any justification for carrying said items etc," police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 02/2023 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Kothibagh and investigation was set into motion.

"During the course of investigation, it was found that the said person was transporting the objectionable items i.e; Contraband Heroine, Indian currency cash Rs 9,50,000, LeT letter pad pages /matrix sheet on the instance of LeT terrorist operating from Pakistan namely Owais Ahmed Mir in order to conduct terrorist activities in UT J&K," police said.

The investigation also revealed that, one motorcycle (pulsar 200) bearing registration number JK13H-2452 was found utilising in militant activities. Accordingly, the said motorcycle was attached under section 25 UA (P) Act, police said.

During further course of investigation, the search of absconding accused person was conducted and it was found that the said accused person identified as Owais Ferroz (active militant) son of Ferooz Ahmed Mir resident of Frestibal Pampore A/P Pakistan is concealing himself in order to avoid arrest in the cases registered against him, police said.

The report in this connection has been submitted to the court for initiation of proclamation proceedings against the accused person so that proceedings under section 82 & 83 CRPC could be initiated, police said.

"The investigation of the case has been closed under section 173 CRPC however, the involvement of other accused cannot be over ruled, therefore investigation will remain continue under section 173(8) CRPC," police said.





# **BCCI Appoints Agarkar As Chairman Selection Committee**

**Agencies** 

**NEW DELHI:** Former Indian pacer Ajit Agarkar was appointed as the Chairman of Senior Men's Selection Committee by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday.

BCCI released an official statement to announce his appointment which read, "The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), consisting of Ms Sulakshana Naik, Mr Ashok Malhotra, and Mr Jatin Paranjape, interviewed applicants for the position of one selector in the Men's Selection Committee. The three-member CAC has unanimously recommended Mr Ajit Agarkar for the said position.'

The committee further recommended Agarkar for the role of Chairperson of the Men's Selection Committee based on seniority (total number of Test matches). Men's Selection Committee: Ajit Agarkar (Chairperson), Shiv Sundar Das, Subroto Banerjee, Salil Ankola, Sridharan Sharath.

Agarkar has been one of the most decorated players in the history of Indian ODI cricket as he has made over 191 appearances and picked up 288 wickets with a cost-efficient economy of 5.07. In Test format, Agarkar has

featured 26 times and bagged 58 scalps with an economy of 3.39. In the Indian Premier League (IPL), Agarkar played for Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals) and the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). He made 42 appearances and picked up 29 wickets with an economy of 8.83.

Agarkar shared some memorable moments with the bat despite his prowess with the ball. The biggest moment of his international career with the bat came in 2002 when he scored a century against England at Lord's. With this breathtaking knock, his name is now on the Lord's Honor Board.

He even went on to break the record for scoring the fastest half-century in the ODI. Agarkar smacked an unbeaten 67(27)\* while batting at number eight against Zimbabwe in 2000. He also broke Australia's pacer Dennis Lillee's record of clinching the fastest 50 wickets in the ODI format. Lillee achieved the remarkable feat in 24 matches. But Agarkar managed to break Lille's record in his 23rd ODI match.

The Indian pacer held the record for almost a decade but in 2009, Sri Lanka spinner Ajantha Mendis overtook him by reaching the milestone in his 19th ODI. (ANI)

# **Dhull Named India A Captain** For Emerging Asia Cup In SL

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Ignored for Duleep Trophy after a poor first-class season, talented Yash Dhull got a massive boost on Tuesday after being named as captain of the India A team for the Emerging Asia Cup One Day tournament in Sri Lanka from July 13 to 23.

The team comprised primarily U-23 players as requisite for the Emerging tournaments and

first-class hundred on Duleep

Dhull, the 2022 U-19 World Cup winning India captain, had a dismal second Ranji season in which he scored 270 runs in 6 games and before that another 191 runs in seven Vijay Hazare games.

However, it is understood that the senior selection committee, which doesn't only check the quantum of runs but also looks at the long-term talent and potential of a player, didn't want



Dhull's deputy would be Punjab Ranji captain Abhishek Sharma.

All the selected players have represented their senior state team in either of the three formats and a few like Prabhsimran Singh have already scored an IPL hundred.

The keeping gloves will be shared by Prabhsimran and Dhruv Jurel, who impressed as a finisher in the few opportunities he got as an 'Impact Player' for Rajasthan Royals.

One of the good picks was Delhi pace bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana, whose speed impressed one and all during IPL. He recently scored his maiden the 20-year-old Delhi Capitals batter to just drop off the radar

of national selection. Ditto for Riyan Parag of Assam, who flattered to deceive despite numerous chances given to him by Rajasthan Royals in the IPL but selectors are going purely by talent quotient.

Dhull's deputy Abhishek has been in good form both for Punjab as well as Sunrisers Hyderabad, while selectors have also rewarded domestic performers like Kerala's Nikin Jose, Haryana's Nishant Sindhu, Tamil Nadu's Pradosh Ranjan Paul and the most exciting talent of them all -- B Sai Sudharsan.

# **Ashes Dismissal Row Draws Aussie & UK PMs**



**Agencies** 

**SYDNEY:** Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese defended his country's Ashes cricket team on Tuesday, after his U.K counterpart said a dismissal during the second test was against the spirit of the

With England on 193-5 and chasing a mammoth target of 371, Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey underarmed the ball at the stumps after batsman Jonny Bairstow left his crease at the end of an over during the fifth day of the match. The dismissal triggered long and loud booing from the crowd at Lord's on Sunday and

saw Australian players verbally abused by MCC members in the stadium's usually staid Long Room.

Australia stood behind the victorious team, Albanese said on Tuesday. "Same old Aussies - always winning", Albanese said on Twitter, in a nod to a chant sung by English fans after the decision that went "Same old Aussies - always

Albanese's comment came after UK counterpart Rishi Sunak said he "simply wouldn't want to win a game in the manner Australia did," according to a spokesperson on Monday in comments reported by

Asked whether Australia's

actions were not in keeping with the spirit of cricket, the spokesperson said "Yes", the BBC reported. The Ashes series between England and Australia takes its name from a small urn that represents the death of English cricket dating from when they were first defeated on home soil by their former penal colony in 1882.

The third test kicks off in Yorkshire this week, where organisers ramped up security after protests by environmental group "Just Stop Oil" disrupted the second match. There are also concerns about how fans might behave towards Australian players over

# **Roger Federer Receives A Lengthy Standing Ovation At Wimbledon**



**Agencies** 

**WIMBLEDON:** Roger Federer received a standing ovation of 1 1/2 minutes from spectators including Princess Kate as he entered the Royal Box at Centre Court on Tuesday, when he was celebrated during a brief ceremony for his career and his men's-record eight singles championships at Wimbledon.

Wearing a cream-colored suit with his purple All England Club member's pin attached to a lapel, along with a striped shirt and polka-dot tie, the retired Federer walked to his seat and stood between his wife, Mirka, and the Princess of Wales in the special section above one of the baselines in the Grand Slam tournament's main stadium.

Federer waved and tapped his chest, repeatedly saying, "Thank you," as the applause and roars cascaded under the closed retractable roof on a

event that he once dominated. Before the start of play at Centre Court, an announcer explained that Federer was being honored for "his contributions to tennis - and, particularly, to these very special lawns." Federer, who turns 42 on Aug. 8, announced his retirement at the end of last year following a series of knee

The last match of his career was a quarterfinal loss to Hubert Hurkacz at the All Eng-

operations.

land Club in 2021. The ceremony Tuesday included a video highlight reel that showed clips of Federer playing, winning and speaking at Wimbledon, where he won the first of his 20 career Grand Slam titles in 2003. That was the start of a run of five in a row that stretched through 2007, followed by additional championships there in 2009,

2012 and 2017. Novak Djokovic, who won his first-round match on Monday, is trying to equal Federer rainy Day 2 at the grass-court this year by winning a fifth

consecutive trophy and eighth overall at Wimbledon. Martina Navratilova, who won the women's singles title nine times, holds the overall record at the tournament.

"When I stop, the tournament still lives on. The tournament is bigger than any player who's ever lived," a younger Federer said in an interview shown during the film Tuesday. "I really look forward to the day where I retire and I can come back and just have tea time, you know, on the terrace." The video was interspersed with shots of various players speaking glowingly of

Federer. "Roger is legend. He makes every shot look easy," 2022 Wimbledon runner-up Ons Iabeur said. Alex de Minaur spoke of Federer's "masterful elegance on a tennis court." Taylor Fritz called him an "inspiration," Coco Gauff used the word "icon," and current women's No. 1 Iga Swiatek labeled Federer a "really special



# **England To Host Pakistan In** 2024 Before T20 WC Defence

LONDON: England will kick off their 2024 home campaign with a Twenty20 series against Pakistan in May before the T20 World Cup, followed by test series against West Indies and Sri Lanka, the country's cricket

board (ECB) said on Tuesday. England are reigning T20 world champions after beating Pakistan in the 2022 final and will play four matches between May 22-30 before they fly to the West Indies and the United States to defend their world crown.

England then play three home tests each against West Indies in July and Sri Lanka in August-September. The English summer ends with a threematch T20 series and five oneday internationals against Australia in September.

England's women's team will also play Pakistan in May in three T20 matches and three ODIs before they welcome New Zealand for three ODIs and five T20 games.

Ollie Pope ruled out of Ashes

England batter Ollie Pope has been ruled out of the entire Ashes 2023 series after his right shoulder dislocated during the second Test match against Australia. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) released an official statement on Tuesday to announce Pope's absence in England's remaining campaign.

"Scans in London on Monday revealed the full extent of the injury and he will miss the rest of the summer campaign and will require surgery. He will work closely with the England and Surrey medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation. England will not call up a replacement for the third Ashes Test, which starts at Headingley on

Thursday," read ECB statement. Pope initially damaged his shoulder as he dived to stop the ball on day one of the Lord's Test, Pope injury further aggravated on day three after the umpires insisted that he he should take the field after batting in England's first innings.

According to ESPNcricinfo England were willing to accept sliding Pope straight down to the number 7 spot in the batting order and use a substitute fielder which is the standard process when a player is off the field for a brief period of time. But that option was not offered by match officials. Umpires's decision left England frustrated.

# **After Alleging Corruption, Afghan** Batter Usman Ghani Takes A Break

**Agencies** 

KABUL: Afghanistan cricketer Usman Ghani has decided to put a pause on his international career following his exclusion from Afghanistan's international squad. Ghani's decision came to light after he alleged that Afghanistan Cricket Board is corrupt and he will make his return to the national team after the appointment of the "right management"

"After careful consideration,

23.50 and a strike rate of 99.15, his last ODI appearance came in 2022 before he lost his place in the 50-over format. As of now, Ghani has never been considered for red-ball cricket, and following his recent exclusion from T20Is, he has now lost his place in white-ball cricket as well.

In the Afghanistan white ball set-up, the selectors decided to replace Ghani with experienced wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Shahzad who is making his return following an absence of 18 months. In terms of fulfilling



I have decided to take a break Afghanistan Cricket,' Ghani wrote on Twitter. "The corrupt leadership in the cricket board has compelled me to step back. I will continue my hard work and eagerly await the right management and selection committee to be put in place. Once that happens, I will proudly return to play for Afghanistan. Until then, I am backing myself from representing my beloved nation," Ghani concluded.

Ghani last featured for Afghanistan at the international level in March against Pakistan, bagging scores of 7 and 15. In the last two years, he has played 11 T20I innings scoring at an average of Ghani's presence in the opening slot, the selectors decided to retain Sediqullah Atal who is being looked at as a long-term prospect following his recent success.

Afghanistan's Chief selector Asadullah came forward and gave his verdict on Shehzad's inclusion in the squad and told ESPNcricinfo, "Shahzad's selection is based on domestic performance and we want to see him up there."

As of now, Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has not made any official statement regarding Ghani's comments. Afghanistan will play three ODIs and two T20Is in Bangladesh which is set to begin from Wednesday. (ANI)

# After Miserable Last Season, Pochettino Promises To Turn Things Around At Chelsea

**Agencies** 

LONDON: It's fair to say things have not gone to plan for Todd Boehly at Chelsea

Mauricio Pochettino is promising to change all that.

The Premier League club's new manager officially got down to work on Monday and in his first day in the office gave a glimpse of the ambition that likely convinced Boehly he was the man to turn Chelsea's for-

tunes around. "In the last 10, 12, 15 years, Chelsea is the greatest team in England. I know very well the Premier League and what the

culture of Chelsea means," Pochettino said. "We need to be sure that we bring what the club needs to be at the top because the history of the club is to be at the top.

Pochettino is already Boehly's third managerial appointment in what has been chaotic first year of the American businessman's co-ownership with private investment firm Clearlake

Champions League-winning manager Thomas Tuchel was fired within weeks of the start of last season and replaced with Graham Potter, who was then shown the door seven months into a five-year contract.



Interim boss Frank Lampard saw out the end of a miserable

campaign, which was Chelsea's worst ever in the Premier League and saw the club fail to qualify for Europe.

All that, despite Boehly and Clearlake overseeing a spectacular transfer spend of around \$630 million on new players.

Notably, Pochettino said there would be more arrivals this offseason, following the signings of forwards Christopher Nkunku and Nicolas Jackson for a reportedly combined fee of 87 million pounds (\$110.4 million).

"It is not closed, the squad, and the club is doing a fantastic job to finish the squad so we have the players here to work with us as soon as possible," he

said. "Together, we are going to be in a perfect situation to work and develop the way we want to apply ourselves on the pitch."

While Potter had to try to balance a bloated squad on the back of Chelsea's recruitment drive, Pochettino takes over after a slew of players have al-

ready departed. N'Golo Kante, Kalidou Koulibaly, Mateo Kovacic, Kai Havertz, Edouard Mendy and Ruben Loftus-Cheek have all gone. They are expected to be followed by Cesar Azpilicueta, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Romelu Lukaku and Hakim Ziyech.

Pochettino is in his first job since leaving Paris Saint-Ger-

main in 2022.

Having been under consideration for the Manchester United job before Erik ten Hag's appointment, he has had to wait for the right position to become

"From the beginning, the owners and sporting directors were very clear about the project and we were very excited to join them in this project," he said. "The objective is to win because football is about winning. We will have good times, create good relationships, have a nice environment and relationship with people, but the most important thing in the

# Neymar Fined \$3.33 Million For Constructing Artificial Lake At His Mansion In Brazil



Agenceis

Pazilian authorities said on Monday that soccer star Neymar was fined 16 million reais (\$3.33 million) for breaching environmental rules during the construction of his coastal mansion in southeastern Brazil.

The luxury project violated rules regarding the use and movement of freshwater sources, rock and sand, local authorities first alleged late last month and confirmed on Monday.

A spokesperson for Neymar de-

clined to comment on the matter.

His residence is located in
the town of Mangaratiba on the
southern coast of Brazil's Rio de
Janeiro state.

Mangaratiba's environmental body said in a statement on Monday that environmental infractions were made "in the construction of an artificial lake at the mansion". Besides the fine, the case will be probed by the local attorney general's office, the state civil police and environmental protection office, among other environmental control bodies

# Aid Groups Alarmed At Jenin Access Curbs, Scale Of Israeli Attack

Agenceis

id agencies have expressed serious concern at the scale of the continuing Israeli attack in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin and the restrictions placed on medical access for seriously wounded people.

"We are alarmed at the scale of air and ground operations that are taking place in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, and air strikes hitting a densely populated refugee camp," Vanessa Huguenin, a spokesperson for the UN humanitarian office, told a briefing on Tuesday.

She said three minors were among the victims. At least 10 Palestinians have been killed and dozens more wounded since early on Monday, when hundreds of soldiers, backed by air raids, stormed the camp in Israel's largest offensive on Jenin in more than 20 years.

World Health Organization spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said "first responders have been prevented from entering the [Jenin] refugee camp, including to reach persons who have been critically injured" due to restrictions put in place by Israeli forces.

The camp is home to more



than 20,000 Palestinians who are descendants of people dispossessed of their land and homes when the state of Israel was created in 1948.

Jovana Arsenijevic, operations coordinator for Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) in Jenin, told Al Jazeera her team's access on Monday had been limited due to bulldozers destroying roads leading to the camp, making it nearly impossible for ambulances to reach patients.

Patients reached on foot by MSF staff had been seriously wounded by live ammunition and shrapnel, Arsenijevic said.

"Today, most of the injuries were minor, mainly due to tear gas intoxication, however, the situation seems to be escalating again," she said on Tuesday.

Israel has claimed to be conducting targeted attacks against fighters in Jenin, which has become a symbol of Palestinian resistance, however, MSF said it was treating patients of all ages.

Mai al-Kaila, the Palestinian health minister, told Al Jazeera the humanitarian situation in lenin was dire.

"Israel's aggression against Palestinians in Jenin is made through the destruction of many infrastructures – the water and electricity network is damaged, especially inside the refugee camp," al-Kaila said. New 'Welcome' Initiative Introduces Pilgrims To Islamic Heritage, Culture



MAKKAH: The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques has launched the "Hayyakom" — meaning "Welcome" — initiative at the library of the Grand Mosque in Makkah.

The initiative aims to welcome visitors and pilgrims while also promoting cultural and educational enrichment.

It serves as a platform to acquaint visitors with Islamic heritage and the cultural history of the Kingdom. It also aims to foster a sense of spirituality and cultural consciousness among pilgrims and visitors.

The initiative is part of the directives of Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Sudais, the president of the

General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques.

Meanwhile, a group of pilgrims from China visited the Two Holy Mosques Exhibition and were briefed about features in the Grand Mosque.

Assistant Undersecretary for Field Advisory Affairs Dr. Ibrahim bin Abdul Majeed Al-Barakati said that the visit formed part of the program carried out under the slogan "From Arrival to Departure" that the presidency had prepared for this year's Hajj season.

Al-Barakati also highlighted the great efforts and pioneering role of the leadership in serving the mosques and their visitors.

