

## Banihal Highway Closed For 3rd Day

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the third consecutive day on Monday with agencies making efforts to ensure early restoration of the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, officials said.

The highway was closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday following incessant rains that triggered multiple landslides and also severely damaged a portion of the road near Panthiyal Tunnel and Chamba-Seeri in Ramban district, leaving thousands of vehicles stranded.

"Barring the Chamba-Seeri stretch where a 60-metre strip of road was washed away, the highway is almost clear of all hurdles and is traffic-worthy," a traffic department official said.

He said the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is working round-the-clock at Chamba-Seeri and is working on an alternate alignment to ensure early restoration of the road.

"The restoration work will take some time. The stranded vehicles will be cleared on priority once the road is made motorable," the official said.

However, no fresh traffic will be allowed either from Jammu or Srinagar till the clearance of the stranded vehicles, he added.

A police spokesperson advised people to avoid travelling on the highway **More on P10**

## No Trace Of Drowned Kupwara Girl

**Kupwara:** Searches for the missing minor girl who drowned in River Pohru in Kupwara district entered the third day on Monday with rescuers finding no trace of her despite their strenuous efforts.

On July 08, three minor girls drowned in the river and two were rescued immediately by a local individual. But the search for the third is still on.

Reports said that a joint operation of SDRF J&K, Marine Commando Force, Police, Revenue, Police and locals was underway for the third consecutive day to retrieve the missing girl.

"Multiple teams have been searching at **More on P10**

# Centre Defends Abrogation, Challenges Pleas

## 'Unprecedented Era Of Peace & Progress In J&K After Article 370'

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Defending the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, the Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an "unprecedented" era of peace, progress and prosperity, with street violence, orchestrated by terrorists and secessionist networks, becoming "a thing of the past."

Referring to the "characteristic security situation" in the region, the Centre said organized stone pelting incidents connected with terrorism-separatist agenda, which were as high as 1,767 in 2018 has come down to zero in 2023 till



**A DAY BEFORE HEARING:** Centre says move brought peace, prosperity, stability after 3 decades of turmoil in J&K.

date and casualty of security personnel has shown a 65.9 per cent decline in 2022 as compared to 2018.

The Centre's affidavit will be taken up on Tuesday by a five-judge Constitution bench

headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, which is scheduled to hear a batch of petitions challenging the decision to abrogate Article 370 that had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir. **More on P10**

**IT IS SUBMITTED THAT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES,** hospitals and other public institutions are functioning efficiently without any strikes or any kind of disturbances during the last three years. The earlier practice of daily hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now."

## Art-370 Petitions Back In Supreme Court Today

Observer News Service

The Supreme Court on Tuesday will take up a batch of petitions challenging the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status by the BJP-led government over three years ago.

The five-judge Constitution Bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant will take care of the preliminar-

ies on Tuesday and issue procedural directions about filing of documents and written submissions.

The bench will also issue a date of hearing of the petitions.

The court is expected to examine whether parliament could have scrapped Article 370 without the consent of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and whether its bifurcation into two Union territories was constitutional. On Monday, the Centre filed an **More on P10**

## HM Lauds 'Acts Of Honour & Honesty' Of 2 J&K Cops

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah lauded two Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel on Monday for their "acts of honour and honesty" after they returned a bag containing Rs 80,000 in cash and other valuables to an Amarnath pilgrim, saying it was an "example of integrity".

"True heroism lies in our acts of honour and honesty that leave an indelible mark on the lives we touch. ASI Darshan Kumar and HC Satpal of the J&K Police proved this saying correct. They found a bag that contained ?80000, a mobile phone, and Yatra documents. They traced out its owner, a pilgrim, and handed it over to her. I appreciate them for being an example



of integrity," Shah said on Twitter.

On Sunday, Shah also hailed the National Defence Response Force (NDRF) for providing a safe Amarnath Yatra to every pilgrim.

"The NDRF and the SDRF have always stood tall in service to the nation and humanity despite all odds. Their role has been crucial in fulfilling our goal of **More on P10**

## Congress Should Thank PM For Removing Art- 370: Singh

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** The Congress should thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling their promise by removing Article 370, which was a temporary provision of the Constitution, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

He also said the Modi government brought grassroots democracy to Jammu and Kashmir "for the first time".

"When Syama Prasad Mookerjee suggested in the Constituent Assembly that



there should be a rethink on it (Article 370), the biggest advocates of the provision including Jawahar Lal Nehru

responded by saying 'this will erode over time'. However, Congress could not erode it due to their own political interests. Modiji has done what Congress governments should have done much earlier," Singh told reporters here.

"I think Congress should thank Modiji for fulfilling their promise and removing what was temporary," he added.

The Union minister inaugurated a seven-day exhibition highlighting the achievements of the Modi **More on P10**

## Inaugurates Multimedia Exhibition Of CBC At Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh Monday inaugurated a multimedia exhibition of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) at Srinagar. The 5-day long exhibition will be held at S.P Model Higher **More on P10**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh Monday inaugurated a multimedia exhibition of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) at Srinagar. The 5-day long exhibition will be held at S.P Model Higher **More on P10**

## Amarnath Yatra Remains Suspended

**Jammu-** The Amarnath Yatra remained suspended from Jammu for the third consecutive day on Monday due to extensive damage caused to a section of the Jammu-Srinagar Highway in Ramban, officials said.

More than 6,000 pilgrims are stranded in Jammu, particularly at the Bhagwatinagar base camp while over 5,000 are stranded at the Chanderkot base camp in Ramban district.

"The yatra remains suspended from Jammu due to bad condition of the highway. No fresh batch has been allowed to move towards Kashmir from Jammu base camp today," a senior officer told PTI.

"More pilgrims are arriving in Jammu on their onward journey to Amarnath. But most of them are being accommodated in various lodging centres," he added.

Some of the pilgrims have been accommodated at the camps in Lakhampur and Chichi Mata in Kathua and Samba districts to avoid the rush in Jammu, they said.

More than 90,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine of Amarnath, while over 40,000 devotees left Jammu for Kashmir in seven batches before the suspension of the yatra on Saturday.

Authorities said incessant rains on Saturday and Sunday caused unprecedented damage to the highway, especially a stretch in **More on P10**

## Yatri Dies Of Heart Attack

**Jammu:** A 59-year-old Amarnath Yatra pilgrim from Madhya Pradesh died of suspected heart attack in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said. Satish Suryavansham, a resident of Gwalior, complained of chest pain at Yatri Niwas Chanderkote and was attended by the doctors present there, the officials said.

After first aid, the pilgrim was referred to district hospital Ramban for specialized treatment but was declared brought dead, they said, adding he is believed to have suffered a massive heart attack resulting in his death.

More than 6,000 pilgrims are left stranded at Chanderkote Yatri Niwas since **More on P10**

## Class 11th Result Out; Girls Outshine Boys

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The girl students in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have again outperformed boys in 11th Class Annual Regular Examinations, the results of which were declared on Monday.

In total, 139431 students were enrolled for class 11th in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh, out of which 73471 (53%) students passed the exams; 73809 were male and 65609 were female. Girls have excelled again with a pass percentage of 57 against 49% of boys. The exam was conducted at 1316 centres established across the soft and hard zone areas identified in both the UTs.

Expressing his satisfaction over the entire examination process of Class 11th,

Chairperson, JKBOSE, Dr. Parikshat Singh Manhas expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha; Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Principal Secretary Education, Alok Kumar for great guidance and support throughout the conduct of examination for proper implementation of Uniform Academic Calendar.

He also congratulated all the stakeholders and expressed gratitude to the entire divisional and district level administrative machinery, National Informatics Centre, India Posts, whole team of the officers and officials of JKBOSE and all other people who have directly or indirectly contributed towards the success of this vision of government **More on P10**



A view of roaring Jhelum River captured by Kashmir Observer lensman Abid Bhat on Monday after two day incessant rainfall.

## Major Rejig in School Education Deptt 200 School Principals Shifted Under ATD-2023

Agencies

**Srinagar:** In an unprecedented move, the School Education Department Monday ordered mass transfers of senior secondary school principals and equivalent under the online Annual Transfer Drive 2023.

Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Alok Kumar ordered transfer and posting of at least 200 principals and equivalent under the online Annual Transfer Drive 2023.

Kumar said that all the transferees shall be deemed to have been relieved with the direction to immediately report to

their new place of postings.

"The DDOs concerned are directed to immediately forward the LPCs along-with service book of the transferees to their new place of postings," reads the order.

Kumar said that no leave of any kind shall be granted to any officer who is under order of transfer and failing to comply shall be treated as absence from duties.

"Orders once issued must be strictly complied with and any modification request under compelling circumstances or in exceptional cases shall be entertained by the department only after joining of the transferees at their new place of **More on P10**

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

#### Earthquake Jolts Doda

An earthquake of magnitude 4.9 hit Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district early Monday, the National Centre for Seismology said. The quake occurred at 5.38 am. There are no immediate reports of any damage, officials said. The epicentre was 10 km below the surface of the earth in Doda region. It occurred at latitude 33.15 degrees north and longitude 75.68 degrees east, the NCS said. According to officials, 12 tremors with varied intensity **More on P10**

#### Soldier Injured In Mine Blast

An Army personnel was injured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday. The soldier suffered injuries when the landmine got activated after he accidentally stepped over it during patrolling in a forward village in Kerni sector late Sunday night, the officials said. They said the injured was shifted to a military hospital and his condition was stated to be "stable". As part of an **More on P10**

#### Search Op Underway In Rajouri

A massive search operation was launched following a suspected activity near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, officials said. The operation in a vast border area in Nowshera sector was launched by the Army after the alert troops picked up suspicious movement of suspected terrorists trying to infiltrate from across the LoC, they said. They said the search operation is underway and further details are awaited.

#### Man Drowns In Shopian

A man from Kumdalan area of south Kashmir's Shopian district lost his life after he drowned in a Nallah in his locality. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the man drowned in the Nallah near his home and soon after he was rescued and shifted to a hospital. He said that he was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. He has been identified as Javid Ahmad Naikoo son of Ab Gani Naikoo resident of Kumdalan Shopian. **More on P10**

#### 4 Rescued From Flash Flood

Four people who were trapped in a flash flood in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district were rescued on Monday, officials said. Acting on the information, a team of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with police launched a rescue operation in the Ravi river in Kathua and rescued them safely, they said. The four people were engaged in fishing in the river in the Maghar area when they got trapped in flash floods, they said. **More on P10**

#### Man Arrested In Rape Case

A man was arrested for allegedly raping a woman in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Monday, police said. Sanjay Kumar alias "Sunny", a resident of Digyana area of Jammu, was recently booked for raping and blackmailing a woman, a police spokesperson said. A case was registered against Kumar about a fortnight ago and he was arrested by a police party from Bari Brahmana area, the spokesperson said. In another case, Rahul Kumar, from **More on P10**







## Amarnath Yatris Optimistic Despite Suspension Due To Rains

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Despite the third consecutive day of suspension of the Amarnath Yatra, pilgrims remain undeterred and optimistic about visiting the holy cave shrine even if it means waiting for days.

The yatra has been suspended due to extensive damage caused to a section of the Jammu-Srinagar Highway in Ramban, with more than 7,000 stranded pilgrims in Jammu, primarily at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, and an additional 5,000 stranded at the Chanderkot base camp in Ramban district.

Authorities said incessant rains on Saturday and Sunday caused unprecedented damage to the highway, especially a stretch in Ramban district, forcing its closure.

"Our spirits are high. We are willing to wait for ten more days if needed, but we refuse to return home without performing darshan of the ice-lingam of Lord Shiva at Amarnath," said Pramodh Gupta, a devotee from Punjab told PTI here.

Gupta added that despite facing challenges with accommodation and other facilities, their group of 29 is eagerly waiting for the administration's approval to resume their journey to Kashmir.

Shobha Devi from Meerut echoed similar sentiments and expressed dissatisfaction with the facilities due to the heavy influx of pilgrims from outside the country.

"We are facing various problems with accommodation. There is water shortage here and the administration should address the issue," she said.

However, Shobha added that she and her group would only return home after completing their pilgrimage.

"We will leave only after completing the yatra to Amarnath. Barfani Baba will help us fulfill our wish," she affirmed.

"Weather conditions will not deter us from going to Amarnath. We pray to Lord Shiva to improve the weather so that we can start the yatra and have Bholey Baba's darshan," said Meenakshi Verma, a devotee from Punjab.

Sunita Saini from Punjab's Jalandhar, who has been stranded in Jammu for the past five days, said, "We are waiting for the weather to clear up and the highway to reopen. We are optimistic about leaving for Amarnath."

There is a huge rush for accommodation in Jammu as most of 33 lodging places and the base camp is full to its capacity. Even the parking area of Jammu base camp is full with buses carrying pilgrims who are cooking food there.

Around 200 to 300 sadhus are also camping at the base camp's Ram temple for the past one week.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine, located at an altitude of 3,888 meters in the South Kashmir Himalayas, began on July 1. Since June 30, a total of 43,833 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp in seven batches, following the flag-off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The pilgrimage is scheduled to conclude on August 31, and so far, over 93,000 pilgrims have paid their respects at the sacred Amarnath cave shrine.

### JKLF-Hurriyat Revival Conspiracy Case

## 10 Ex-Militants Formally Arrested: Police

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Ten former militants were formally arrested on Monday in a case related to the conspiracy of reviving banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Hurriyat conference in the valley, police said.

Some more arrests are likely as the investigation in the case is in full swing, police said in a statement here.

Earlier on Sunday, the Srinagar Police in a tweet said "A search was conducted on the basis of credible info about a meeting of some ex-trts (militants) of JKLF & erstwhile separatists in a hotel in Srinagar. They were brought to Kothibagh PS for verification. Inquiry has started, prima facie it came out that they were planning to revive JKLF & Hurriyat."

Police said a case under various sections of unlawful activities (Prevention) Act and Indian Penal code already stands registered in police station Kothibagh in the heart of the city.

"The arrested persons and others were planning to revive these organisations (JKLF and Hurriyat) on the directions of Pakistan based handlers. This meeting was an overt attempt to start working for revival of these mor-

ibund organisations," police said. They said an initial investigation has also revealed that they were in touch with entities abroad, and few of them were even members of secessionist groups like Kashmir Global Council headed by Farooq Siddiqui and Raja Muzaffer of JKLF.

"Under the garb of manufactured pretext, this meeting which took place, the real agenda of the meeting was discussing strategy of revival.

"Initial investigation has also revealed that a similar preliminary meeting took place on June 13, which was attended by most of them," the statement said.

Police have identified the 10 arrested persons as Mohammad Yaseen Bhat of Nigeenbagh, Mohammad Rafiq Pahloo of Natipora, Shams-ud-din Rehmani of Lalbazar, Khurshid Ahmad Bhat of Rawalpore, Sajad Hussain Gul of Panthachowk, Firdous Ahmad Shah of Abiguzar, and Parray Hassan Firdous of Lawaypora all from Srinagar district, and Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat and Shabir Ahmad Dar of Sopore from Baramulla district, and Sohail Ahmad Mir of Peerbagh in Budgam district.

Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat is the son of former Hurriyat Conference chairman Abdul Gani Bhat.

## Theatre Festival Will Be A Ray Of Hope For Kashmiri Folk Artists: Artistes

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The seven-day theatre festival being held here will give a second wind to the fledgling folk art scene in the region which, being the grip of militancy for the past three decades, bled a lot of its cultural wealth, artistes say.

The festival that began on Monday and will see leading lights of Kashmiri theatre performing is being organised by Kashmiri cultural NGO, Vomedh (hope).

"Vomedh is a 15-year-old organisation. We have not only been working in Jammu and Kashmir but across India. In 2022, we took an initiative to promote our mother tongue by holding a Mother Tongue Day in February," Rohit Bhat of Vomedh told PTI.

"We got a huge response. This festival is part of that effort under which seven plays will be staged. We are focusing

on folk arts because our youth are walking away from folk arts," he said.

"We want our youths to connect with their mother tongue through the theatre. The new generation is ignoring its mother tongue and has adopted English and other languages," Bhat added.

He said the festival was started with the performance of two plays -- Band paether and Bakerwal paether, which involve storytelling about rural life through folk drama.

Veteran theatre and television actor from Kashmir Ayash Arif said such festivals provide a platform to the artists not only to showcase their talent but also to draw in a younger crowd interested in local culture and language.

## After Rainy Days, Dry Weather Predicted In J&K



A YOUTH LOOKING AT the swelling waters of river Jhelum in the Old city of Srinagar On Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

### Agencies

SRINAGAR: After a few days of rains which brought Kashmir Valley on the brink of floods and caused inundation in parts of Jammu region, weather department here on Monday forecast mainly dry in J&K.

"Mainly dry weather is expected but a brief spell of rain may occur at isolated places in Kashmir region towards late afternoon/evening," a meteorological department official said as per news agency GNS regarding forecast for next 24 hours.

As regards the forecast from July 11-14, he said, mainly dry weather is expected. However, he said, a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm at isolated places "can't be ruled out (>70%

chance)". Intermittent light to moderate rain has been predicted at many places of J&K with chances up to 70% from July 15-24.

Regarding the minimum temperature today, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 17.2°C against 14.9°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 14.5°C against 14.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below normal for the gateway town of the Kashmir Valley.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 10.3°C against 9.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kupwara town, he said,

the mercury settled at 15.2°C against 14.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.4°C for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 14.2°C against 13.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 9.0°C against 8.5°C on previous night and it was 2.8°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 23.8°C against 20.9°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 13.3°C, Batote 14.4, Katra 21.3°C and Baderwah 14.3°C, the official said. c

## Army Commander Reviews Preparedness In Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Monday visited forward battalion in Rajouri sector of Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the security and operational preparedness with the field commanders.

Army's Northern Command shared the information on its official Twitter handle, also posting four pictures of the army commander with the troops stationed in the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC).

"He (Lt Gen Dwivedi) interacted with troops, felicitated and complimented them for their vigilance and high level of professionalism," the army said.

The visit of the army commander came at a time when army troops were engaged in a massive search operation in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district.

The operation was launched after the alert troops picked up suspicious movement of suspected terrorists trying to infiltrate from across the LoC, officials said.

Army along with police also launched a joint search operation in Gursai top, Shahsidhar and adjoining areas in Mendhar sector in nearby Poonch district Monday morning.

Searches were also carried out at village Noorkote and Nakerkote ahead of the border fence in the jurisdiction of Poonch police station late Sunday night. However, no one was arrested during the operation which continued for several hours, the officials said.

## FATEHA KHAWANI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of Farooq Ahmed Khan, S/o Late Mohammad Akram Khan R/o Sari Bala, Srinagar, Present Address Friends colony, Zakura Crossing who passed away on 10th July, 2023. Fateha Khawani will be held on Thursday, 13th July, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Graveyard Batamalo Near Fire Services, Srinagar.

BEREAVED  
Tariq Ahmad Khan (Son), Neyaz Ahmad Khan (Son)  
CELL NO: 7006950379

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION HANDWARA KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)

Telephone No./Fax: 019455-262220, e-mail: exen.edhandwara@gmail.com

e-NIT No: 75 of 2023-24

Dated: 06-07-2023

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid Class-A Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspectorate of J&K/PDD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this document. The detail of work is as under:

S.No.	Description of work:	Adv. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	AA No. & Date	Work completion Period
1	Installation of LT Wires at Lowossa Yahama B Panchayat Halqa Yahama B Block Mawar	1.94	Rs 3900.00/=	Rs 204.00	43-DDCK of 2023 Dated: 15-06-2023	90 days

### TIME SCHEDULE

A	Date & Time of Publishing of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
B	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	06-07-2023 03:00 PM
C	Clarification start date & time	06-07-2023 03:00 PM
D	Clarification end date & time	08-07-2023 04:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	28-07-2023 04:00 PM
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time.	29-07-2023 03:00 PM
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technical-qualified bidders).	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders through email.
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara (KPDCL).

The interested bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexures forming part of this tender document.

- The Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after site visit, careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table.
- The bidders need to upload the proof/cost of e-Bid document and Earnest Money Deposit as stated in the above table through Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR respectively pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara. The scanned copy of the Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original instrument should be submitted by the L1 bidder in the office of Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara. In addition, Performance security shall be Submitted by successful Bidder L1 only pledged to the office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara. The 2% EMD of successful bidders shall be released after receipt performance security.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- The Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara will be final and binding.
- The bidders should upload Contact detail document (e.g., Address, Mobile No, e-mail ID etc.) and other document as per the SBD.
- The contractor has to get the key material, to be provided by him inspected by the PMA and or representative of the sub division and price quoted by the bidder will be inclusive of inspection expenses. No extra claim / charges will be paid. Test certificates are to be enclosed with the work done bill.
- Payments will be processed as per the availability of funds against the work done bills.
- The work has to be executed as per the approved GTP and Drawing available at <https://kpdcl.jkpcdd.net/> under "Standards and Specification".
- The contractor has to produce pre-execution, during execution & post-execution photographs (with GPS Coordinates i.e longitude & Latitude) along-with SLD of the site.
- As per the Govt. Circular No: 03-JK(PDD) of 2022, dated: 23-08-2022, all new electrical installations are to be cleared by the inspection Agency of JKPDD and contractor has to process and follow-up for same.
- The contractor has to produce the test certificates of all the material for all kind of works.
- The contractor must follow all SoPs during execution of work. Any deviation in this regard the fine can be imposed and he shall be solely responsible for any un-towards or any accident at site. Besides he shall be responsible for taking all safety matters. In addition to it, he should have group insurance of his workers working at site.
- The contractor has to get the work executed under the supervision of qualified Engineer/supervisor as per the SBD conditions.
- The Bidder needs to upload all the following documents to avoid cancellation in technical Evaluation Process:  
a. Cost of e-Bid Document, amount specified in the table (Only Treasury Challan shall be accepted).  
b. PAN Card along with latest ITR.  
c. Valid Registration Card with validity up to date.  
d. GST Registration.  
e. SBD.  
f. Earnest Money Deposit.  
g. Affidavit as per SBD  
h. Annual Financial turnover certificate

(Note:- The Bidders shall mention the e-NIT No. and name of the Firm on Treasury Challan and EMD in order to avoid using the same multiple times for different works.)

No.: EDH/1219-20  
Dated: 06-07-2023

DIPK-NB-1802-23  
DT: 10/7/2023

s/d  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division Handwara

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Tuesday | 11-07-2023

## Listen To Ladakh

Ladakh is once again in news and this time over the outside investment in the region's tourism sector. The Ladakh Tourist Trade Alliance (LTTA), a coalition of influential trade, tourism, religious, and political bodies in Leh, has passed a resolution opposing the foray in the region by tourism operators from outside. The alliance contends this is important to safeguard the fragile ecosystem, and preserve Ladakh's distinct identity as a unique tourist destination.

The LTTA resolution seeks to maintain Ladakh as a special and exclusive tourist destination where the avenues of local entrepreneur and livelihoods are protected. Kunzang emphasized the need to oppose any form of outside investment in the tourism sector, be it through hidden or declared means, directly or indirectly through local agencies. To achieve this, the resolution states that the local community and trade bodies will impose restrictions on individuals, businesses, or tourist enterprises engaging in the exploitation of Ladakh's resources.

Over the years, Ladakh has experienced significant growth in its tourism sector, attracting an increasing number of visitors. This has played a big role in bolstering the local economy. However, the region's transition to union territory status in August 2019 has increasingly confronted Ladakhis with challenges they had not foreseen. While initially celebrating this change, they now worry about the potential influx of outsiders without adequate constitutional safeguards against the settlement of non-local residents. With a small population of around 274,000 people, Ladakhis fear being overwhelmed and losing control over their economic activities.

Earlier, the Ladakh Hill Development Council (LAHDC) has demanded statehood, the extension of the sixth schedule, separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil, and the establishment of a Public Service Commission. Notably, the Apex Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have displayed rare political unity, jointly protesting and organizing strikes to advocate for their demands. Now, the LTTA, representing both districts, echoes the sentiment by opposing outside investment in tourism, driven by the shared fear of being overshadowed by outsiders in every aspect of economic activity.

As Ladakh navigates the complexities of tourism development, it is imperative to strike a balance between sustainable growth and preserving its unique identity. The concerns raised by the LTTA should be heeded, and the local administration must engage in constructive dialogue to find solutions that protect the region's cultural heritage, natural environment, and economic well-being.

### OTHER OPINION

## The first blow in Twitter-Meta battle

Whether or not the much publicised cage fight between Twitter owner Elon Musk and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg takes place, the real battle is already playing out in the digital world. After weeks of teasing users and lobbying celebrities and politicians to migrate to its "rival to Twitter", Meta has this week launched the text-based social media network Threads by Instagram (named, incidentally, after a messaging app it had launched in 2019 that folded within two years). It has not shied away from admitting that the new product is explicitly inspired by Twitter and designed to replace the original, which has been roiled by chaos since Musk's takeover in October last year. And imitation or not, with five millions users signing up within four hours of its launch, Threads seems to be poised to do what other Twitter-wannabes like Mastodon and Truth Social have been unable to do.

Do internet users, 70 per cent of whom are reportedly already on at least one Meta platform, want to give over more of their online lives to the company? The sarcasm with which Musk greeted news of Threads' launch — "I'm sure Earth can't wait to be exclusively under Zuck's thumb with no other options" — echoed concerns that others have already raised. Alarm bells are also ringing about the amount of information that Threads will have access to, compared to even Instagram. Notably, the platform is not available in the European Union because of strict privacy laws.

When the Musk vs Zuckerberg cage match was proposed, the former had said he will be deploying a move that he calls "the walrus" which involves lying on top of an opponent and "doing nothing". Outside the ring, Zuck has landed the first blow on his rival. Will Twitter's heft be enough to pull off its owner's favourite move?

The Indian Express

# Are We Prepared for Floods?

Have World Bank's flood mitigation funds been spent properly post 2014 floods? The Govt must carry out a detailed audit for the same



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The rainfall on Friday and Saturday brought back terrible memories of the September 2014 floods as the water level went up in Jhelum and other rivers and streams.

It rained hardly two days and our rivers and streams flooded with water. Had the rainfall continued Srinagar would have been inundated along with other places. Our link roads and residential colonies are already waterlogged in many areas, Srinagar as well as other districts.

Earlier it would take about a week worth of rainfall for some places to get inundated with rain water. But this has changed for the worse now. Even after it rains for merely one hour, we see busy junctions like Lal Chowk, Jahangir Chowk, Batmaloo and Bemina flooded with water.

Has our Government thought why are we witnessing such changes? Is our Government prepared to counter a possible flood threat in the coming months?

#### Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project

After the devastating floods of September 2014 when Srinagar city remained flooded for almost a month, the Government of India requested assistance from the World Bank.

An emergency project "Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project" was started in J&K which was to primarily focus on restoring critical infrastructure using international best practice on resilient infrastructure. As J&K is prone to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, the infrastructure under this project was supposed to be designed with upgraded resilient features and included contingency planning for future disaster events.

The projects were also supposed to support the recovery and were supposed to increase disaster resilience in project areas. Additionally, they were to increase the capacity of the project implementing entities to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency.

However, after 8 years of the devastating floods and funding having been allocated by the World Bank, it seems things are not moving in the right direction. With the recurrent flooding of our roads and blocking of drainage channels with rain water, it seems things are not moving in a good direction vis a vis implementing these twin projects in Srinagar and Jammu.

#### Urban Flood Management

Under the Urban Flood Management programme, the World Bank provided around 50 million US dollars (Rs 300 Crores) to the J & K Govt through the Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project. To execute the words, an amount of Rs 103 Crores were provided to Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for the construction of 49 storm water pumping stations in Srinagar to prevent waterlogging and flooding in low lying areas.

Out of the 49 pumping stations, four pump stations were upgraded by the city drainage division of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) at Natipora, Barzulla, Bul Bul Bagh and Magray Pora. The work here has already been completed.

But are these water pumping stations really pumping out storm water? No.

These pump stations are flushing liquid waste including human excreta into the Doodh Ganga. This is an open violation of the Water (prevention & control of pollution) Act 1974 and the same was brought into the notice of National Green Tribunal (NGT) few years back by this author and the NGT penalised the J&K Govt with Rs 3 crores out of which SMC has paid Rs 1 crore penalty already last year.

Section 24 (b) of the Water Act 1074 reads: "No person shall knowingly cause or permit to enter into any stream any other matter which may tend, either directly or in combination with similar matters, to impede the proper flow of the water of the stream in a manner leading or likely

to Barzulla and the same water was being lifted by PHE Jal Shakti at Kralpora and supplied to a population of 8 lakh people in Srinagar's uptown area.

The PCC, on the direction of the High Court, conducted a detailed survey of Doodh Ganga stream from Sogam village in Chadoora to Barzulla area of Srinagar two years back. According to a survey reports, a lot of water pollution was found in Doodh Ganga.

The PIL in J&K High Court was closed down as the matter was being heard by NGT now.

The 13 pump stations have now already been blacklisted by the Pollution Control Committee but they continue to be constructed and are pumping out all the waste into Doodh Ganga.



Since June 2020, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation started implementing the World Bank funded scheme for the upgradation of 49 drainage stations located in Srinagar city. Out of these, 13 pump stations are located on Doodh Ganga which have been upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crores each. More than 52 crore rupees have been spent on these so called water pumping stations but they actually pump filth and waste into the Doodh Ganga in violation of Water Act 1974

to lead to a substantial aggravation of pollution due to other causes or of its consequences."

By wrongfully using the World Bank money, the authorities at helm have not only caused environmental pollution but have also cheated and misled the World Bank and flood threat around Doodh Ganga continues to remain unaddressed.

The J&K Pollution Control Committee has already identified 13 drainage stations from Chana-pora to Barzulla as the main sources of water pollution in Doodh Ganga, which on paper, showed that these stations were set up to mitigate the flood water in these areas.

Since June 2020, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation started implementing the World Bank funded scheme for the upgradation of 49 drainage stations located in Srinagar city. Out of these, 13 pump stations are located on Doodh Ganga which have been upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crores each. More than 52 crore rupees have been spent on these so called water pumping stations but they actually pump filth and waste into the Doodh Ganga in violation of Water Act 1974.

#### PCCs report to High Court

As per the report submitted by the J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) before J&K High Court in the matter of PIL on Doodh Ganga, the PCC had exposed how fecal matter and sewerage was entering into Doodh Ganga between Chadoora town

#### Immediate Concerns

The continuous landfilling of Jhelum basin around Pampore will lead to a major disaster. The construction of Qazigund Baramulla rail line and now the under construction Srinagar Semi Ring Road is choking the flood plains of Jhelum around Gallander, Kandizal, Pohro, Khanda, Suthsoo and surrounding areas. The flood waters of Jhelum have less space to move out. Same is the case with Bemina, Narbal and Hokersar areas where wetlands have been choked due to urbanisation. The drainage system in Srinagar is also obstructed by plastic waste. The constant Clay Mining in Karewas is increasing silt accumulation in small streams and nallahs during rains which causes flood threat. The illegal riverbed mining has weakened embankments of most of our rivers and during floods these embankments can be washed away easily.

The flood threat is looming. The authorities have to be alert. In addition, a detailed audit be undertaken about the utilization of funds that were given to J&K post 2014 floods.

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



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

#### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

## Don't Trample Over Newspapers

For Muslims, Islam is not just a religion but a complete way of life, encompassing all aspects, including spirituality, morality, social conduct, and personal well-being.

I would like to appeal to all to kindly pay attention to the way we handle newspapers, as they often contain the name of Allah. It is important that we treat them with utmost respect and refrain from using them as trash or throwing them away carelessly.

Such actions are considered major sins and a form of blasphemy. Newspapers serve as a valuable source of information, sharing news,

opinions, and various other articles. They play a significant role in our society by keeping us informed and enabling us to make informed decisions. However, we must also recognize that these newspapers often include verses from the Quran, Allah's name, or other religious references.

To show our reverence for the name of Allah & Islamic Scriptures, we should take appropriate steps to handle newspapers respectfully. Here are a few suggestions on how we can do so:

Store or recycle: If you have newspapers that are no longer needed, consider keeping them in a designated place or recycling them prop-

erly. By doing this, we ensure that the name of Allah is not mishandled or thrown away carelessly.

Avoid inappropriate use: It is crucial to refrain from using newspapers for purposes that are disrespectful, such as wrapping perishable items, lining pet cages, or using them as cleaning materials. Instead, opt for alternative materials that are more suitable for these purposes.

Educate others: Spread awareness among your family, friends, and community members about the importance of handling newspapers with care. Encourage them to adopt respectful practices when dealing with printed materials that contain

religious references.

By taking these small yet significant steps, we demonstrate our respect for Allah's name and honour the religious significance attached to it. Let us strive to preserve the dignity of printed materials that contain religious content and set an example for others to follow.

Remember, it is through our actions that we manifest our faith and uphold the values that we hold dear. May Allah guide us all and bless us with understanding and wisdom.

Irfan Ahmad Zargar  
iifinice@gmail.com

# Balanced Economic Ties Vital for Both U.S. and China

The recent visit of Janet Yellen to Beijing has raised hopes that it may pave the way for two rival global nations to come together for economic reasons, as it plays out to be in favour of both

Asad Mirza

Last week, the U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen went on a four-day diplomatic trip to China, where she met with top Chinese economic officials, including Premier Li Qiang, former Vice Premier Liu He, and former People's Bank of China Gov. Zhou Xiaochuan.

This is Yellen's first visit to Beijing as Washington's chief financial officer, yet many economists worry the United States' and China's competing interests may make the trip fruitless at best - and downright hostile at worst. But that is not how the Chinese government and media, both, have played the visit.

In contrast to the earlier visits of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken flowing to China for bilateral talks - months after his February trip was cancelled due to evidence of a Chinese spy balloon over U.S. territory. And U.S. President Joe Biden met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Bali, Indonesia, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit last year, where they discussed international debt relief and economic priorities. Yellen's visit to China is being played-up rather kindly by the Chinese media.

Yellen is considered a politician with a 'Dovish' image in China due to her pragmatic style as an economist, which has helped her to have friendly working relations with top Chinese officials. The manner in which her visit was referred to by the Chinese Premier Li Qiang also demonstrates that Chinese have high hopes from this visit and wants Yellen to take the message back with her for President Joe Biden that: There will be no winners in trade wars and an economic "decoupling" is futile.

The comments, which were made by Premier Li, however have been very uplifting as usually Chinese leadership refrains from making such comments. Li said, "Yesterday, the moment you arrived at our airport and left the plane, we saw a rainbow, I think it can apply to the US-China relationship too: after experiencing a round of winds and rains, we surely can see a rainbow."

Li further said Chinese enterprises must observe the world economy and look for-



US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (L) shakes hands with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng during a meeting

ward and cannot just look at the water under their feet on rainy days. He said this practice could also be applied to the Sino-U.S. relations.

Earlier, in May, G-7 leaders met in Japan and agreed that their members should "de-risk" from China. Beijing said there is no difference between "de-risking" and "decoupling" as both will lead to the departure of foreign firms from China. In contrast, Yellen preferred to describe the United States' strategy as "diversification." And hopes to emphasise Economic Cooperation—Not Decoupling with Beijing.

Just last week, China announced new restrictions on the export of gallium and germanium, two key metals necessary to produce vital semiconductor chips. And last week, the Biden administration considered placing additional limits on the sale

of high-end chips used to develop artificial intelligence - an emerging industry the two powerhouses have raced to control.

Still, Yellen hopes to strengthen key Biden administration policies while also reassuring Beijing that the United States' actions aren't meant to harm the Chinese. That means emphasising cooperation and supply chain diversification instead of economic decoupling, demanding greater transparency from China's new espionage law, addressing unfair market barriers against U.S. firms, and discouraging Beijing from supplying Russia with lethal aid in its war against Ukraine - something China continues to deny doing.

China's concerns, however, centre more on past U.S. actions. Specifically, top Chinese officials want to counter tough trade tariffs imposed during the Trump administration as well as sanctions against Chinese companies.

Yellen faces a tough challenge, for she has to convince Beijing that the slew of "de-risking" measures Washington, and some of its allies, have been taking are not intended to contain China or decouple the two economies. Her job is all the more difficult because all the wrong moves targeting China have been initiated by the United States.

Yellen's is perhaps the only voice of reason amid the belligerent anti-China din in Washington, currently. She has termed the tariffs that the US has imposed on China, as "taxes on consumers" and warned, "decoupling could be disastrous".

During the visit, Yellen also focussed on Climate Change financing. She said that previous cooperation on climate change between the U.S. and China had made possible global breakthroughs such as the 2015 Paris Agreement, adding that both governments

wanted to support emerging markets and developing countries as they strive to meet their climate goals.

China, surprisingly classified as a developing country by the United Nations, has long said it was the responsibility of developed nations to help poor countries pay to address climate change. But Beijing says it could contribute to "loss and damage" due to climate change on a voluntary basis.

Given their scale of economies, cooperation between the U.S. and China is considered vital to international efforts to avert the worst impacts of climate change. Yellen said financing for such initiatives should be coordinated efficiently and effectively, adding that Beijing's support for existing multilateral climate institutions like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Climate Investment Funds, alongside Washington and others, could boost their impact.

China is welcome to join the United States in contributing to a round of fund pledging for the GCF in September, a U.S. Treasury official said. For that fund replenishment, President Joe Biden has said the U.S. would provide a further \$1 billion.

Chinese newspaper China Daily described the visit as coming at a critical time for U.S.-China ties, and therefore technically it is a test of whether she can take the decade-long good working relations she has built with her "old friends" in China forward and allay, if not altogether eliminate, the increasing distrust between the world's two largest economies.

In reality, both China and the US need to and have the capability to increase economic exchanges and cooperation. In today's global village, no one country can prosper and sustain its economy in isolation. Both the U.S. and China understand this, so rhetoric apart, some balancing of economic ties is vital for both and Yellen's visit might have set the course in the right direction, for economic benefit of both.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator.*

## Turn off Your Mind

Alexander Sweetman

Martin turns off the light to fall asleep, but his mind quickly springs into action. Racing thoughts about work deadlines, his overdue car service, and his father's recent surgery occupy his mind.

As he struggles to fall asleep, the hours start to creep by. He becomes frustrated about how he will cope tomorrow. This is a pattern Martin has struggled with for many years.

But what's going on when your mind is racing at night? And how do you make it stop?

### It can happen to anyone

In bed, with no other visual or sound cues to occupy the mind, many people start to have racing thoughts that keep them awake. This can happen at the start of the night, or when they awake in the night.

The good news is there are effective ways to reduce these racing thoughts, and to help get some sleep. To do this, let's take a step back and talk about insomnia.

### What is insomnia?

If you are like Martin, you're not alone. Right now, up to six in every ten people have regular insomnia symptoms. One in ten have had these symptoms for months or years.

Insomnia includes trouble falling asleep at the start of the night, waking up during the night, and feelings of daytime fatigue, concentration difficulties, lethargy or poor mood.

Just like Martin, many people with insomnia find as soon as they get into bed, they feel alert and wide awake. So what's going on?

The more time we spend in bed doing things other than sleep, the more our brain and body start to learn that bed is a place for these non-sleep activities.

These activities don't just include worrying. They can be using a mobile phone, watching TV, eating, working, arguing, smoking or playing with pets.

Gradually, our brains can learn that bed is a place for these other activities instead of



rest and sleep. Over time the simple act of getting into bed can become a trigger to feel more alert and awake. This is called "conditioned insomnia".

Here are six ways to spend less time awake in bed with racing thoughts.

### 1. Re-learn to associate bed with sleep

Stimulus control therapy can help re-build the relationship between bed and sleep.

Follow these simple steps every night of the week: only use your bed for sleep and intimacy. All other activities should occur out of bed, preferably in another room only go to bed if you are feeling sleepy (when your eyes are heavy and you could easily fall asleep). If you are not feeling sleepy, delay getting into bed. Use this time to do something relaxing in another room if you are still awake after about 15 minutes in bed, get out of bed and go to another room. Do something else relaxing until you are feeling sleepy again, such as reading a book, listen-

ing to the radio, catching up on some chores or doing a crossword puzzle. Avoid anything too stimulating such as work or computer gaming repeat the above two steps until you are asleep within about 15 minutes. This can take several cycles of getting in and out of bed. But during this time, you body's natural need for sleep will increase, and you will eventually fall asleep within 15 minutes of getting into bed get out of bed at the same time each morning, no matter how much you slept the night before avoid long daytime naps, which can make it harder to fall asleep that night.

Over several nights, this therapy builds the relationship between bed and sleep, and reduces the relationship between bed and feeling alert and having racing thoughts.

### 2. Distract yourself with fond thoughts

Negative thoughts in bed or worrying about the consequences of losing sleep can make us feel more alert, worried, and make

it more difficult to sleep.

So try something called "cognitive re-focusing". Try to replay a fond memory, movie, or TV show in your mind, to distract yourself from these negative thoughts.

Ideally, this will be a memory you can recall very clearly, and one that causes neutral or slightly positive feelings. Memories that are overly positive or negative might cause an increase in alertness and mental activity.

### 3. Relax into sleep

Relaxation therapy for insomnia aims to reduce alertness and improve sleep.

One way is to progressively tense and relax muscle groups throughout your body, known as guided progressive muscle relaxation therapy.

You could also try breathing exercises, soothing music, visual imagery or other relaxation exercises that feel right for you.

Part of relaxing into sleep is avoiding doing work in the late evening or screen-based

activities right before bed. Give yourself a "buffer zone", to allow yourself time to start relaxing before getting into bed.

### 4. Worry earlier in the day

Schedule some "worry time" earlier in the day, so these thoughts don't happen at night. It can also help to write down some of the things that worry you.

If you start to worry about things during the night, you can remind yourself you have already written them down, and they are waiting for you to work through during your scheduled "worry time" the next day.

### 5. Know waking in the night is normal

Knowing that brief awakenings from sleep are completely normal, and not a sign of ill health, may help.

Sleep occurs in different "cycles" during the night. Each cycle lasts for about 90 minutes, and includes different stages of light, deep, and dreaming (REM) sleep.

Most of our deep sleep occurs in the first half of the night, and most of our light sleep in the second half.

Everyone experiences brief awakenings from sleep, but most people don't remember these the next morning.

### 6. What if these don't work?

If these don't work, the most effective next step is "cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia" or CBT-i.

This non-drug therapy targets the underlying causes of insomnia, and leads to long-lasting improvements in sleep, mental health and daytime function.

You can do a self-guided online program, or access it via your GP or a psychologist. More details, including links to online programs, are available via the Sleep Health Foundation. We are providing free access to online CBT-i through a research study. To find out more, contact me.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*

# 'Infectious Disease Control Should Shift Focus From Young To Older Children And Adolescents'

Press Trust Of India

Three million children and adolescents die from infectious diseases every year, equivalent to one death every 10 seconds, with India, Nigeria and Pakistan sharing the highest disease burden, according to a new study published in The Lancet journal.

Infectious diseases were found to have caused more than half of such deaths in low to middle-income countries, compared with 6 per cent in high-income countries, the study led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Australia, and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, US, said.

Looking across 204 countries between 1990 and 2019 from birth to 24 years of age, the study found infectious disease control measures to have largely focused on children aged under five, with scarce attention given to young people between five and 24 years old.

Noting this demographic shift in disease burden, the study, thus, called for global disease control efforts to have a greater focus on older children



and adolescents.

Diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria accounted for two-thirds of infectious diseases and death in this demographic, while HIV and tuberculosis were found to be the leading causes among older adolescents.

The shift in disease burden to older children and adolescents, the study said, was largely driven by the considerable infection control efforts targeting children under five years in low-

income countries and slower progress made across the older age groups.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recent epidemics of Zika virus, Ebola and severe acute respiratory syndrome, the research would have important implications for global policy, financing, resource allocation and health systems, said Peter Murdoch Children's professor Peter Azzopardi.

He said it underscored the

urgent need to take stock of infectious disease control.

More adolescents than younger children have been affected by these emergent diseases, challenging the almost exclusive focus on younger children within existing infectious disease control, the study said.

"The findings highlight the need for health systems, particularly in low-income countries, to continue to build capacity and scale up trusted interventions like immunisation programs.

"But there must also be investment in broader approaches that address social barriers such as adolescent males with HIV having better access to health care," said Azzopardi.

The COVID-19 pandemic rightly focussed global attention on infectious diseases, said Susan Sawyer, Murdoch Children's professor.

"This study reminds us of the importance of addressing the emerging, as well as the established, infectious diseases, especially in those aged 5-24 years who have too often been neglected by policy and programming," she said.

# New Process That Repairs Damaged Hearing Cells Discovered

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have found how cells that allow us to hear can repair themselves after being damaged, an advance that could boost efforts to treat and prevent hearing loss.

"Hair cells" found in the inner ear are important both for the ability to hear and for a sense of balance. They are known as hair cells because they are covered in hair-like structures that serve as mechanical antennas for sound detection. The study, published in the journal eLife, shows the delicate hearing cells

can repair themselves from damage caused by loud noises or other forms of stress.

For many years, research has focused on regeneration of sensory hair cells. Although those efforts continue, it is equally important to better understand the mechanisms that govern repair and maintenance of the cells.

"By gaining a deeper understanding of these inherent repair processes, we can uncover strategies to fortify them effectively," said Jung-Bum Shin, from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, US.

Future approaches may use drugs to stimulate cell repair, he said.

"When replacement of hair cells proves challenging, the focus shifts towards repairing them instead. This dual strategy of regeneration and repair holds strong potential in advancing treatments for hearing loss and associated conditions," Shin said. Hair cells are naturally fragile. They must be delicate so they can sense sound, but they must also withstand the continuous mechanical stress inherent in their working. Prolonged exposure to loud noise harms hair cells in a variety of ways, and one of those is by damaging the cores of the cells themselves.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Special Sub Division Uri**

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

eNIT No.23 of 2023-24/1612-21/R&B SSD Uri e-tendering DATED: 10-07-2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of T/Doc.	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of road from Bela to Tushnag	17.98	Rs 36000/-	Rs 800/-	25 Days	PRI Grants	BEE CEE
2	Construction of culvert on Mir Mohalla road near health & wellness centre on Main road W No. 3 & 4 (Block Noorkhah, Panchayat zehanpora)	4.00	Rs 8000/-	Rs 200/-	15 Days	PRI Grants	DEE

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Baramulla  
Position of AAA: Accorded  
Position of funds Available

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

S.No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10.07.2023
1	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10.07.2023 to (11:00 AM) to 15.07.2023 (3:00PM)
2	Bid submission Start Date	10.07.2023 (11:00 AM)
3	Bid Submission End Date	15.07.2023 (3:00PM)
4	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15.07.2023 (04:00 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date with NIT No. & sr. No.) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

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

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

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. 6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process. 6.2 In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate. 6.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted. 6.4 Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

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

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

7 The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances. 8 The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced 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 Special Sub Division Uri, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

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

10 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from 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 Price escalation and Taxes:-

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 UPLoad the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

- 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.
- Treasury Challan/Earnest money
- Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card
- A Civil Contractor who does not own HMP and is bidding for Bitumen Macadam Works is required to upload an MoU with HMP, 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 HMP shall be deemed failure on the part of the bidder, and vice versa
- Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable, ending 03/2022.
- 14 Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2022-23.
- 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 technical evaluation.
- 16 The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.
- The location of the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality, from which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean, tarpaulin covered vehicles/Tipper, and shall be placed in such a way that the manufacturing laying/spreading and rolling temperatures are kept within the specified limits.

No.:SSDU/2023-24/1612-21  
DIPK-4799/23 Dated: 10-07-2023

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Special Sub-Division, Uri.

**Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara**  
**Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC)**

Telephone No./Fax: 019455-262220, e-mail: exen.edhandwara@gmail.com

e-NIT No:87 of 2023-24 Dated: 06-07-2023

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid Class-A Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspectorate of J&K PDD/Relevant issuing authority/registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this document. The detail of work is as under:

S.No.	Description of work:	Adv. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	AA No. & Date	Work completion Period
1	Installation of 63KVA Transformer at Ward No.03 04 Supernaghama Panchayat Halqa	3.88	Rs 7760.00/=	Rs 208.00	43-DDCK of 2023 Dated: 15-06-2023	90 days

**Time Schedule**

A	Date & Time of Publishing of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
B	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	07-07-2023 03:00 PM
C	Clarification start date & time	07-07-2023 03:00 PM
D	Clarification end date & time	10-07-2023 04:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	31-07-2023 04:00 PM
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time.	01-08-2023 01:00 PM
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders).	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders through email.
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara (KPDC).

The interested bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexures forming part of this tender document.

1. The Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after site visit, careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table.

3. The bidders need to upload the proof/cost of e-Bid document and Earnest Money Deposit as stated in the above table through Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR respectively pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara. The scanned copy of the Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original instrument should be submitted by the L1 bidder in the office of Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara. In addition, Performance security shall be Submitted by successful Bidder L1 only pledged to the office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara. The 2% EMD of successful bidders shall be released after receipt performance security.

4. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

5. The Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Executive Engineer Electric Division Handwara will be final and binding.

6. The bidders should upload Contact detail document (e.g., Address, Mobile No, e-mail ID etc.) and other document as per the SBD.

7. The contractor has to get the key material, to be provided by him inspected by the PMA and or representative of the sub division and price quoted by the bidder will be inclusive of inspection expenses. No extra claim / charges will be paid. Test certificates are to be enclosed with the work done bill.

8. Payments will be processed as per the availability of funds against the work done bills.

9. The work has to be executed as per the approved GTP and Drawing available at <https://kpdcl.jkpdcl.net/under> "Standards and Specification".

10. The contractor has to produce pre-execution, during execution & post-execution photographs (with GPS Coordinates i.e longitude & Latitude) along with SLD of the site.

11. As per the Govt. Circular No: 03-JK(PDD) of 2022, dated: 23-08-2022, all new electrical installations are to be cleared by the inspection Agency of JK PDD and contractor has to process and follow-up for same.

12. The contractor has to produce the test certificates of all the material for all kind of works.

13. The contractor must follow all SoPs during execution of work. Any deviation in this regard the fine can be imposed and he shall be solely responsible for any untowards or any accident at site. Besides he shall be responsible for taking all safety majors. In addition to it, he should have group insurance of his workers working at site.

14. The contractor has to get the work executed under the supervision of qualified Engineer/supervisor as per the SBD conditions.

15. The Bidder needs to upload all the following documents to avoid cancellation in technical Evaluation Process:

- Cost of e-Bid Document, amount specified in the table (Only Treasury Challan shall be accepted).
- PAN Card along with latest ITR.
- Valid Registration Card with validity up to date.
- GST Registration.
- SBD.
- Earnest Money Deposit.
- Experience / Executed work certificate issued by not less than the Executive Engineer and experience has to as per the clause A5 of QRC of SBD
- Affidavit as per SBD
- Annual Financial turnover certificate issued by CA of last three years

(Note: - The Bidders shall mention the e-NIT No. and name of the Firm on Treasury Challan and EMD in order to avoid using the same multiple times for different works.)

No.: EDH/1255-57  
DIPK-NB-1833/23 Dated: 10-07-2023

S/d  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division Handwara



## J&K Bank Wins Award For Best Performance In CASA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has been felicitated for The Best Performance in CASA-India (1st Runner up in Small Bank Category) at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2022. The event saw participation of scores of Banks from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Myanmar.



Reviewer for these Awards.

Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in Calcutta, is proactive in BFSI segment across BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). There are seven member countries in the BIMSTEC organization- five being from South Asia i.e., Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka and two from Southeast Asia i.e., Myanmar and Thailand.

Bank's Branch Manager Goa received the award at a grand function organized by Indian Chamber of Commerce in Goa on 8th July 2023.

Speaking on the development, Bank's MD&CEO Baldev Prakash described the award as acknowledgement of Bank's efforts to consolidate the fundamentals of the Bank through a prestigious international platform.

Notably, PwC India (Price-waterhouseCoopers), Indian chapter of one of the biggest multinational professional services network, was the Process

## Setback For India's Chip Plan

# Foxconn Dumps ₹1.5 Lakh Cr Vedanta Deal

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Foxconn on Monday said it has decided to pull out of semiconductor joint venture with Indian conglomerate Vedanta, according to a statement.

Foxconn said it is "working to remove the Foxconn name from what now is a fully-owned entity of Vedanta".

"Foxconn has no connection to the entity and efforts to keep its original name will cause confusion for future stakeholders," Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) said.

Foxconn, the global contract electronics maker, and Vedanta had inked an agreement last year to build semiconductor and display production plants in Gujarat entailing an investment of about Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

In a statement on Monday Foxconn said: "In order to explore more diverse development opportunities, according to mutual agreement, Foxconn has determined it will not move forward on the joint venture with Vedanta."



The statement said that for over a year Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) and Vedanta have worked hard to bring a great semiconductor idea to reality. It has been a fruitful experience that can position both companies strongly going forward.

"Foxconn is confident about the direction of India's semiconductor development. We will continue to strongly support the government's 'Make In India' ambitions and establish a diversity of local partnerships that meet the needs of stakeholders," it said.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeew Chandrasekhar said that

## J&K Bank Customer's MLLS Claim Settled, Family Feels Relieved



Observer News Service

Irfan Ali Zargar.

Expressing gratitude to the Bank and its Insurance partner MetLife, Ms Veerta described settlement of claim as a big relief for the family amid tough times.

Speaking on the occasion, Imtiaz Ahmad Bhat, Bank's Zonal Head highlighted the need and significance of getting loans insured. "A small but wise and timely decision to get the loans covered through various risk mitigating insurance

SRINAGAR: In a major sigh of relief to the family members of Late Joginder Paul, a J&K Bank customer of TP Baramulla branch, deceased claim of Rs.22.63 Lacs pertaining to his Met Loan & Life Suraksha was settled, thereby absolving the family of any financial burden that would have otherwise been an obligation for them on account of unpaid loan amount.

The nominee Ms. Veerta was handed over the Symbolic / Dummy claim Cheque by Imtiaz Ahmad Bhat, Bank's Zonal Head Baramulla in presence of Cluster Head Baramulla Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar and Zonal Head Credit Life PNB MetLife

options that the Bank's insurance partners offer, proves of immense relief in unfortunate circumstances of untimely death of the insured person", he said, adding, "for the sake of your family's future, it is better to act wisely today."

## Heavy Rains Further Push Up Tomato Prices Up To Rs 200 Per Kg; Other Veggies Also Get Costlier

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Retail price of tomato has touched up to Rs 200 per kilogram in some parts of the country, including Delhi, as incessant rains disrupted supplies, traders said and added that the rates of other vegetables have also firmed up.

Heavy rainfall in producing areas has led to waterlogging leading to the damage of tomato crop and other perishable vegetables grown below the soil especially onion, and ginger, they said.

As per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, the all-India average retail price of tomato was ruling at 104.38 per kg on Monday, with maximum price quoted was Rs 200 per kg in Swai Madhopur and minimum was Rs 31 per kg in Churu in Rajasthan.

Among metros, retail price of tomato was quoted highest at Rs 149 per kg in Kolkata, followed by Rs 135 per kg



in Mumbai, Rs 123 per kg in Chennai and Rs 100 per kg in Delhi, the data showed.

The retail price of tomato and other vegetables varies depending on the quality and the location where they are sold.

"There has been further disruption in the supply of tomato in Delhi because of the heavy

rains in the last two days. If heavy rains continue, it looks unlikely the prices will ease soon." Azadpur tomato association president and member of Azadpur Mandi Ashok Kaushik told PTI.

The wholesale price of tomato was ruling at Rs 100-160 per kg at Azadpur mandi on Monday. The current demand is being met from Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, he added.

Kaushik also mentioned that every year prices of most vegetables firm up during the monsoon season because some crops get damaged due to waterlogging.

"I purchased at Rs 160 per kg at Azadpur wholesale market and retailing at Rs 170 per kg. Some other vendors are selling at even up to Rs 200 per kg in Delhi," said Jyotish Jha, local retail vendor in Pashchim Vihar.

## Anantnag Based Mushkbudji FPO Gets Import Export Licence

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Sagam Mushkbudji Farmers Producers Company Limited, an FPO promoted in Sagam Area of Anantnag under NABARDs PODF Scheme has got an import Export License.

The FPO, which was incorporated as Farmers Producers Company in July 2019 with the aim to promote the scented variety of rice and help its marketing and sale across the country has become the first FPO in J&K to get the export licence.

"With this Mushkbudji farmers will now have access to global markets and this will fetch them a very good price", said Rouf Zargar, District Development Manager NABARD. The corporates and bulk buyers are looking for do business with FPOs instead of individual farmers. Only the FPOs have the ability to trade the commodities in bulk as there are hundreds of farmers linked to an FPO with minimum interference from the middlemen.

The Mushkbudji rice has also been listed among the 09 products of JK and Leh to get GI tagging, Zargar added.



The FPO has received focused attention from the Agriculture department since its formation by way of benefits under the various FPO specific schemes of the Agriculture department. Besides, the district administration is in the process of allotting land to FPO for establishment of rice mill in Sagam area.

The FPO currently has the membership of more than 200 Mushkbudji farmers, who sell the major portion of their produce directly through the FPO. The FPO also participated in the recent Gulf Investment summit in Srinagar and evinced interest of various investors from UAE and other countries.

## India Overtakes China As Most Attractive Emerging Market For Investing

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India has overtaken China as the most attractive emerging market for investing, according to 85 sovereign wealth funds and 57 central banks representing USD 21 trillion in assets.

India is increasingly viewed positively for its improved business and political stability, favourable demographics, regulatory initiatives, and a friendly environment for sovereign investors, according to a report by global investment management firm Invesco.

The report titled 'Invesco Global Sovereign Asset Management Study' included views from 142 chief investment officers, heads of asset classes along with senior portfolio strategists from 85 sovereign wealth funds and 57 central banks.

Amid persistent high inflation and real interest rates, investors are recalibrating portfolios. Sovereign wealth funds, it said,

favour fixed income and private debt, while Emerging Markets (EMs) with solid demographics, political stability, and proactive regulation, particularly India, have emerged as prime investment destinations.

"Among the Emerging Markets, India has piqued sovereign investors' interest, overtaking China," it said. India, it said, exemplifies the attributes sought by sovereign investors. "India has now overtaken China as the most attractive Emerging Market for investing in Emerging Market debt."

A development sovereign fund based in the Middle East noted, "We don't have enough exposure to India or China. However, India is a better story now in terms of business and political stability. Demographics are growing fast, and they also have interesting companies, good regulation initiatives, and a very friendly environment for sovereign investors."

## Hyundai Launches Entry-Level SUV Exter At 6 Lakhs. It's A Tata Punch Rival

Reuters

**NEW DELHI:** Hyundai Motor Co on Monday launched a small sport-utility vehicle (SUV) in India aimed at young car buyers, a move analysts said is an attempt to reclaim share from rivals that have gained ground with new car models.

The Exter SUV will be priced from 5.99 lakh (\$7,300) for the entry-level model to 9.99 lakh for the top-end variant, going head-on against domestic rival Tata Motors' Punch SUV.

The vehicle will plug a gap for Hyundai in the entry-level SUV segment and widen its portfolio in India - a market which is of "strategic significance" for the South Korean carmaker, its country CEO Unsoo Kim said during the launch.



With the launch of Ex-

ter, Hyundai Motor India has become a full range SUV manufacturer." Kim said, adding it had spent 9.5 billion rupees on developing the car.

India's importance for Hyundai, the world's third-largest automaker by sales with its affiliate Kia Corp, is increasing as it scales back its presence in China and was forced to exit Russia.

Car buyers in India are flocking to SUVs, driving

up sales to record levels in the post-COVID buying boom. Hyundai's rival Maruti Suzuki last week launched a premium seven-seater to woo upmarket buyers.

The Exter is equipped with features such as a voice-enabled electric sunroof, dashboard camera to take selfies, and wireless smartphone charger, often seen in bigger car models.

Hyundai has in recent years launched large and

mid-size SUVs like the Alcazar and Creta, sending its sales in India to a record high of more than 567,000 units last fiscal year.

Still, its market share fell below 15% from a 2019-2020 peak of 17.5%, industry data showed, with rivals Tata and Mahindra & Mahindra speeding ahead with new launches.

The Exter could help it reclaim some lost share, said Ravi Bhatia, president for India at automotive consultancy JATO Dynamics.

"Any new launch will bring buyers to the showroom," Bhatia said, adding that Hyundai will need to ensure the Exter does not cannibalise sales of its other small, entry-level cars.

"To really boost its share, Hyundai needs a product strategy that includes cars in higher segments as well, which is where the market is growing," said Bhatia.

## Go First Resolution Professional Invites EoIs

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Resolution Professional (RP) of Go First on Monday invited expressions of interest (EoI) for the grounded airline.

The deadline to submit the EoIs is August 9, 2023, while the final list of eligible prospective resolution applicants (RPAs) will be declared on August 19, Go First RP, Shailendra Ajmera, said in a public notice.

The last date for submission of objections to the provisional list is August 24, according to the notice.



On May 2, the city-based airline filed for initiating voluntary insolvency proceedings at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), citing huge revenue losses, owing to the non-supply of aircraft engines by US engines maker Pratt & Whitney.

The court admitted the plea on May 10.

Go First stopped flight operations from May 3 amid a financial crunch caused by grounding of more than half of its fleet due to non-availability of Pratt & Whitney engines.

The airline has about 4,200 employees, according to the notice. It clocked a revenue of Rs 4,183 crore from operations in the financial year ended March 2022, according to the public notice.

Go First has liabilities worth Rs 11,463 crore in its balance sheet, according to the airline.

In early June, the Go First Committee of Credi-

tors (CoC) comprising Central Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, and Deutsche Bank, was put in place to expedite the sale process.

The airline late last month submitted a CoC-approved revival plan to the aviation safety watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), seeking its go-ahead.

The DGCA ordered a special safety audit by a team of its experts, which was carried out across its facilities in Mumbai and Delhi from July 4-6, prior to taking a call on allowing resumption of flight operations.

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT JAIL BARAMULLA

TELE-FAX: 01952-234524

E-mail: spjailbla@gmail.com

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICINES FOR DISTRICT JAIL BARAMULLA FOR THE YEAR 2023-24.

E-NIT No:- 01 of 2023

Dated:- 08-07-2023

Note:- All the Bidding process will be done on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

The online e-tenders are invited, for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir U/T, from authorized distributors/dealers having Medical licenses issued by competent authority and registered with the Sales Tax Department for supply of Medicines for District Jail Baramulla for the year 2023-24. The intending tenderer/s shall have to attach earnest money to the tune of Rs,100000/= in the shape of CDR/FDR from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank to be pledged to the Superintendent District Jail Baramulla, the same will be released after rate contract in respect of successful bidder expires.

1. The detailed documents, criteria and other terms and conditions can be seen I downloaded from the Government website [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:

Sl No	Date of issue of tender notice	10.07.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	10.07.2023
3	Bid submission start date.	12.07.2023
4	Bid submission end date.	21.07.2023
5	Deadline for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD) including all the soft copy documents.	21.07.2023
6	Date and time of opening of Bids (online).	22.07.2023
7	Cost of tender documents (Non-refundable)	Rs,500/=

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents of Rs, 500/= in the shape of demand draft in favour Superintendent District Jail Baramulla.

3. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in),  
4. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid duly seal and signature. Besides original/photo copies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically by hand/registered/courier before the date specified in para-1.

6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid and submit the hard copies of all the uploaded documents duly attested under the hand and seal of the tenderer. No documents which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises,

7. The earnest money-in favour of unsuccessful/No-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of hard copies, failure of submission of tender documents fee by the bidder using the site shall entitle him for blacklisting,

8. The intending bidder must have experience of supplies at least five years the medicine to any Government and Semi Government department. The certificate of which should also be uploaded while submitting the bid.

9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

Note:- All terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the detailed e-NIT issued for the supplies.

NO:-Accts/393-98

Dated:- 08/07/2023

DIPK-4785-23  
DT: 10/7/2023

Superintendent  
District Jail Baramulla





## LG Interacts With Indian Wushu Team Bound For Asian Games

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with Indian Wushu team athletes and their coaches bound for 19th Asian Games, at Raj Bhavan, on Monday. The LG conveyed his best wishes and blessings of entire J&K to the players, attending

training camp at Srinagar. "I am confident that our contingent will win laurels and make the country proud," the LG said. The Wushu players are attending the National Coaching camp in Srinagar organised by Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports after which they will leave for China on August 5, 2023.

## Trekking Expeditions Flagged Off To Promote Adventure Tourism



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq, on Monday flagged off a series of trekking expeditions, marking a significant step in promoting adventure tourism in Kashmir. The expeditions were flagged off from the Tourist Reception Center (TRC), commencing journeys along the breathtaking alpine trails of Kashmir. The selected alpine trails for these expeditions include the renowned Kashmir Great Lakes Trek, Tarsar Marsar Trek, as well as Gurez and Boadpathri. These expeditions aim to provide tourists with an unparalleled adventure experience amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Kashmir.

Director Yaqoob Farooq emphasized the significance of adventure tourism in enriching the overall tourist experience in Kashmir. He stated that the adventure tourism is our main focus, and we are dedicated to ensure that tourists explore and indulge in thrilling activities while enjoying the natural beauty of Kashmir. The expeditions comprise a diverse group of professionals and tourists from across India. Highlighting the ongoing initiatives, Director Tourism mentioned that J&K Tourism is actively promoting 75 new trekking routes. Efforts are also underway to popularize aero adventures, providing visitors with a variety of exhilarating options to explore the region.

## Inter Block Open T20 Cricket Tourney Begins In Pulwama



Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom inaugurated the District Level Inter Block Open T20 Cricket Tournament on Monday at Sports Stadium here. The tournament has been organised by District Administration Pulwama in collaboration with the Department of Youth Service & Sports (DYS&S) Pulwama. Teams from all 11 Blocks of the district are participating in the tournament and the inaugural match was played between team Shadimarg and team Pampore.

On the occasion, Dr. Basharat interacted with the players and appreciated them for taking part in sports activities. He also hailed the services of DYS&S in providing opportunities to the local youth to spend their energies in productive works. He said the government has taken keen interest to provide best sports facilities to the youth of Kashmir and several playgrounds have been developed in at least every Panchayat besides constructing an indoor stadium at Rajpora and renovating and improving infra at Pulwama Stadium.

## WI v IND: Pace Attack Faces Transition Test



Press Trust of India

**DOMINICA:** The unparalleled success of India's Test team on away tours over the past decade was largely because of its all-weather pace attack but the same can't be said about the fast bowling resources available for the two-Test series against the West Indies. Transition is inevitable in any team, but considering the uncertain future of injured star Jasprit Bumrah and the absence of Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav from the Tests in the Caribbean, it has been hastened in India's case. Virat Kohli made a conscious effort to field five bowlers in his tenure as captain and the results that followed made his unit arguably the best Indian team of all time. India's pace attack became the envy of the world. However, after back-to-back defeats in the World Test

Championship final, it is a good time to plan for the future. The skilful Shami might last another WTC cycle but the recent form of 35-year-old Umesh Yadav doesn't inspire a lot of confidence. The team would love to have the services of Bumrah but his body might not be able to take the rigours of multiple formats when he returns to action. Veteran Ishant Sharma, who was part of the feared pace attack that brought glory to India, has already been phased out and the lack of India A tours over the past couple of years has left the team management with few options. Mohammed Siraj, who has been India's most potent pacer of late, will lead the pace attack in the West Indies after playing 19 Tests. Should the team look at 31-year-old Jaydev Unadkat, who made a comeback after 12 years in Bangladesh last year, as a long-term option?

The other fast bowling options include injury-prone pacer Navdeep Saini, who is making a comeback after featuring in the iconic series in Australia in early 2021, and uncapped Mukesh Kumar, who will be fighting out with the former for a place in the playing XI. Another pacer who could have been tried in the Caribbean was Prasidh Krishna but he is undergoing a long rehab like Bumrah following a surgery after a stress fracture. The 24-year-old Shivam Mavi, who has done well in Duleep Trophy, is the only one who has age on his side but he is not part of the squad. India, who have not lost a Test series to the West Indies since 2002, are expected to steamroll their opponents this time as well but a much tougher examination awaits them in South Africa later this year.



## Sen Wins Canada Open Title, Beats All England Champion

Press Trust of India

**CALGARY:** Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen dished out a badminton masterpiece to notch up his second BWF Super 500 title with a straight-game win over Li Shi Feng of China in the final of the Canada Open. The 21-year-old Indian, who had claimed his maiden Super 500 title at the 2022 India Open, mixed incredible speed and power to outshine reigning All England champion Feng 21-18 22-20 in a thrilling summit clash here on Sunday. "Coming into the Olympic qualification year, it was tough as things didn't go my way. So this win will be a big boost to my confidence," Sen told PTI after the win. "I had to dig deep in some matches, the conditions were different and getting used to it was important," the ace shuttler said. This was Sen's first title since claiming his maiden gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in August last year. He is also the second singles player from the country to win a title this year, following HS Prannoy's victory at Malaysia Masters in May.

Sen gave ample display of his temperament as he saved four game points in the second game to grab a championship point and sealed it on the very first opportunity with a smash. He then collapsed on the ground in relief and happiness after an intense match. "It has been an amazing week for me. I got better as the event progressed, I got used to the conditions and played a good tactical game yesterday and today, so I am happy with my performance," Sen said. "In the second game, it was quite difficult for me to predict anything as I was trailing all the way, so I just wanted to cover the lead. The key thing was to be stay patient and in the end, everything worked well." The two players played some extraordinary rallies, filled with fast-paced exchanges at the net, and it was Sen who kept things tight to notch up his fifth win in seven meetings against the Chinese. This win will be a much-needed boost for Sen, who had slipped to world No. 19 after struggling to find his form early in the season.

## We Will Continue The Way We Play, Asserts Stokes

Press Trust of India

**LEEDS:** England will "play cricket that gets a result, our way", said their inspirational captain Ben Stokes, strengthening the team's commitment to stick to the hotly-debated 'Bazball' approach. England beat Australia by three wickets to win the third Test at Headingley on Sunday and cut the deficit to 1-2 in the five-match Ashes series, having lost the first two games. "We've kept the series alive and we just have to park everything from this week, but continue the way we play," Stokes said. "I said last week we find ourselves in the perfect position

The thing about cricket is no-one has the perfect answer to everything. Everything will be assessed on the outcome. That will always be the case. No-one ever has the perfect answer for how it should be played. "We can be better in certain areas, and that's all we can do, keep trying to be better and better and as clear as we possibly can as a team. People always seem to have an answer after the fact. I don't think anyone will ever crack it; that's why it's such a great game." The famous rivalry will resume with the fourth Test at Old Trafford on July 19. After suffering heartbreaks

## PCB Chief To Push For Pakistan's WC Matches At Neutral Venues In ICC Meeting

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) acting chairman Zaka Ashraf will push for the country's ODI World Cup matches at neutral venues at the ICC meetings in Durban this week, the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Sports), Ahsan Mazari, has said. "Zaka Ashraf will bring up the issue of why can't Pakistan's matches in the World Cup be played at neutral venues when the Indian team can't travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup," he said. India has refused to play its Asia Cup matches in Pakistan owing to geopolitical tensions, and after months of speculation around the continental tournament, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced that the event will be staged in a hybrid model with four games in Pakistan and nine in Sri Lanka from August 31 to September 17. However, the PCB recently conveyed to the ICC and the BCCI that the national team's participation in the World Cup is subject to government clearance due to the tense relations between the two countries. Ashraf and the PCB chief operating officer, Salman Taseer



are in Durban to attend the ICC meetings where they are expected to discuss India's refusal to send its team to Pakistan citing security reasons. Mazari also claimed that, like him, some other members of the special committee, formed by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to recommend whether the national team should travel to India for the World Cup, also felt in their personal capacities that it was time Pakistan took a strong stance on India refusing to tour the country. Sharif had formed a high-level committee, headed by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, to decide on the national cricket team's participation in the World Cup in India. "I want our World Cup matches at neutral venues if



India doesn't want to send its team to Pakistan for Asia Cup. If they have security problems in Pakistan according to the Indian board, then we can also question the security situation in India," said Mazari. Before Ashraf was named chairman of a new cricket management committee by the government to run the PCB affairs, his predecessor Najam Sethi had negotiated the deal with the ACC members, including BCCI, that Pakistan should be allowed to host 4-5 Asia Cup matches at home while rest could be held in Sri Lanka under the hybrid model. A PCB source also said that Sethi had prepared a strong case for the ICC to increase Pakistan's revenue share in the new financial model for member countries.

with the way we play cricket. "It doesn't change. After the Lord's game and before this game, before the game in Manchester, we just have to do exactly the same thing: play cricket that gets a result, our way." Stokes was happy with England's approach here, but insisted his teams needs to improve. "I still think we can be better. at Edgbaston and Lord's, Stokes said his team was "over the moon" following the win in another "down-to-the-wire game". "If you look at the first two games in terms of how tight they were, getting over the line in another tight game can mentally help... knowing that it's another close game but we've got over the line in this one.

## De Gea's Man United Exit Paves The Way For Ten Hag's Tactical Transformation

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Replacing David de Gea won't be easy. No Premier League goalkeeper kept more clean sheets last season than De Gea, who announced his departure on Saturday, and in 12 years at Manchester United he was named the club's player of the year on four occasions. He leaves United as a legend, having been part of its last league title-winning team and lifting four major trophies with the club. But his exit also paves the way for a transition that many fans feel is long overdue. At his best, De Gea was a match-winning shot-stopper with the agility and speed of reaction to pull off astounding saves. In recent years, however, he has looked like a player out of his time as soccer has demanded more from keepers, with Manchester City and Liverpool two standout examples

of how the position has been transformed. England's two most dominant teams of the past five years have exploited the ball-playing qualities of their keepers. Ederson, at City, and Alisson, at Liverpool, look as comfortable with the ball at their feet as they do with their hands. Their composure in possession and the precision of their passing adds another dimension to their teams. They are effectively an 11th outfield player at times and it can feel like their teams have an extra man in defense with their ability to step out of goal and double up as a sweeper when required. Their long-range passing can be a valuable weapon in attack, but it is more their prowess in building out from the back that is fundamental to the style of soccer played by City's Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp.



United has not had that option with De Gea in goal and increasingly there has been a sense that it has held the team back in attempts to modernize its play. Can it be a coincidence that the two best teams in English soccer have built their success on ball-playing keepers? Of course it is not the only way to achieve success. But it helps.

Guardiola shocked City fans when displacing the club's two-time league title-winning keeper and then-England No.1, Joe Hart, almost as soon as he took over at Etihad Stadium. Hart was an icon. But Guardiola had different ideas of what he wanted from a keeper and the ball-playing Claudio Bravo was signed from Barce-

lona before Ederson was eventually brought in from Benfica. It was seen as controversial at the time and Guardiola was even derided when Bravo made some high-profile blunders in his first season. But to a coach who has repeatedly looked to innovate soccer, getting the right keeper was pivotal to his plans at City. Likewise Klopp at Liverpool. He made Alisson the most expensive keeper in the world when signing him from Roma for \$84.5 million in 2018. He has gone on to win the Premier League, Champions League, Club World Cup, FA Cup and League Cup as Liverpool has gone head-to-head with City. While United has had its success with De Gea, its style of soccer has not come close to reaching the heights of City or Liverpool. Under former managers Jose Mourinho and Ole Gun-

nar Solskjaer the demands on De Gea's footwork were not so intense. But Erik ten Hag has made it clear that he wants his keeper to be involved in the play and United's evolution under the Dutch manager has felt stifled as a result of De Gea's limitations. The 4-0 rout by Brentford in only Ten Hag's second game in charge showcased the problems he would encounter by trying to impose his brand of soccer on players unused to his methods. De Gea's distribution put his teammates under pressure, with even the usually composed Christian Eriksen guilty of losing his head as United was overrun. While a compromise was found and De Gea played his part in a largely encouraging campaign that saw United qualify for the Champions League and win the League Cup, his departure gives Ten

Hag the chance to bring in a keeper that could prove transformational to his team. Inter Milan's Andre Onana is the favorite to come in. Ten Hag knows him well, having coached Onana when in charge of Ajax. Notably, Onana's footwork was repeatedly cited by Guardiola as one of Inter's key strengths ahead of the Champions League final, which City won 1-0. The 27-year-old Onana's distribution and ability to step out his area to receive the ball were on show in that final as he justified Guardiola's praise. They are qualities Ten Hag knows well and may soon get to benefit from again. United went into this off-season with a top class striker as its priority in the transfer market. But just like City and Liverpool found in the recent past, a goalkeeper could be every bit as important.



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