

## ROSHNI SCAM

# 3 IAS Officers Among Six Persons To Face Trial

M Ahmad

**Srinagar:** A CBI court here has framed charges against three IAS officers and as many other accused persons including a beneficiary in the much publicised Roshni land scam.

Those who have to face trial include IAS officers Basharat Ahmad Dhar, Mehboob Iqbal and Ejaz Iqbal besides the other accused, Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, Akram Khan and Sajad Parvez.

The charges were framed by Special Judge CBI Srinagar, SC Katal in a case (FIR No 26/2015) which was initially registered by the Vigilance Organization Kashmir, now Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Kashmir.

Subsequently, the case was transferred to CBI for investigation on the directions of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh in a Public Interest Litigation filed in Jammu.

Accordingly, CBI registered the case on 20 November 2020 for offences under penal



code's Sections 120-B (criminal Conspiracy), 420 (cheating) and Section 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act.

According to CBI, in 2007 ownership rights of State land measuring 7 kanals and 7 marlas in Nursingh Garh site Shaheed Gunj were vested in favour of Sajjad Parvaiz (alleged beneficiary) at the rate of Rs 45 lakh per kanal by empowerment committee in its meeting held on 28 April 2007.

The "beneficiary" Parvez was

not legal occupant in terms of Section 2(e) of State Land (Vesting of Ownership Rights to the Occupants) Act (Roshni Act) as he was only authorized agent of lessee, Ashok Sharma and Bipin Sharma by virtue of special power of attorney, as per the CBI.

"The evidence assembled by the investigation agency on its face value reveals that the accused officers in league with accused beneficiary abused their official position and bestowed

undue benefit by vesting ownership rights of prime State land", the court said, after hearing the parties.

At this stage, the court said, it cannot be said that there is no sufficient ground for proceeding against the accused persons and discharge is the only remedy.

"Hence, the prima facie case is made out for framing the charge under Section 120-B/ RPC read with Section 5(1)(d)/5(2) of J&K PC Act against six accused and they have been charge-sheeted accordingly", the court said. However it dropped the offence under Section 420, underlining that the same is not made out. The court has put up the case on August 5 for reading over charge to the accused persons.

The Jammu and Kashmir state lands (vesting of ownership to the occupants) act was enacted in the year 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources **More on P10**

## 4 Foreign Terrorists Killed In Poonch: Army

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Four heavily-armed foreign terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, the Army said, asserting that the successful operation scuttled possible strikes in the region.

The killing of four militants comes a day after security forces foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Krishna Ghati Sector of Poonch on the intervening night of July 16 and 17. Earlier in the day, Additional **More on P10**

## SHO Attached Over Shopian Militant Attack

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Five days after militants attacked and injured three migrant workers in South Kashmir's Shopian district, police on Tuesday attached Station House Officer (SHO), Shopian to Range Police Headquarter (RPHQ) Anantnag, pending an inquiry.

"In view of the incident occurred on 13.7.2023 at about 2030 hours at Gagren Shopian, Inspector Gh Jeelani Bhat (AWP) (SHO P/S Shopian) PID No ARP-109258, is attached to RPHQ Anantnag pending **More on P10**

## 38 NDA allies meet in Delhi 'Time-Tested Alliance,' Says PM Modi



Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Leaders of 38 parties joined a meeting of the BJP-led NDA here on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the bloc is a time-tested alliance that seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations.

Prime Minister Modi was welcomed by BJP president J P Nadda, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief

Minister Eknath Shinde, former Tamil Nadu chief minister and AIADMK leader K Palaniswami and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The meeting coincides with the mega opposition conclave in Bengaluru and is seen as a show of strength by the ruling party.

Prime Minister Modi said the coming together of NDA allies is a matter of "immense joy".

He tweeted, "It is a matter of immense **More on P10**

## United Oppn Forms 'INDIA' To Fight BJP

The opposition meeting in Bengaluru ended on Tuesday with sources saying it has been decided by all 26 parties to collectively contest against the BJP-led NDA under the banner of the "Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (India)". The 26 opposition parties have decided to give a new name to their alliance, which will be known as Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (India), Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said.

"The war is now between India and NDA, **More on P10**

**THE EVIDENCE ASSEMBLED BY THE INVESTIGATION** agency on its face value reveals that the accused officers in league with accused beneficiary abused their official position and bestowed undue benefit by vesting ownership rights of prime State land."

## First Batch Of Haj Pilgrims From J&K Returns



Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** The first batch of 316 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir returned from the annual Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, a spokesperson said.

Divisional Commissioner (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and other senior civil and police officials received the pilgrims at Srinagar International Airport.

Upon their arrival, Bidhuri greeted the pilgrims on performing Haj and for the successful culmination of their "holy journey".

During his interaction with the pilgrims, the divisional commissioner enquired about the arrangements made for their smooth and peaceful pilgrimage.

He also took stock of the arrangements **More on P10**

## 3 More Kashmir Districts To Get Cinema Halls: LG

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Three new cinemas will come up in Bandipora, Ganderbal and Kulgam districts of Jammu and Kashmir in September, taking the total number of districts in the valley to have film theatres to seven, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday.

"Cinema halls are opening in small cities also after 30 years. Some days back, a cinema hall opened in Baramulla. They were started in Pulwama and Shopian last year," Sinha said while addressing a function in Srinagar.

"In the last week of September, cinema halls will be dedicated to the public in Bandipora, Ganderbal, and



Kulgam districts," he added.

There was an attempt by the neighbouring country and an ecosystem of few people to kill

the dreams and aspirations of the lakhs of people in J-K over the last many years, he said.

"But, I can say **More on P10**

## 'Artists Are Real Treasure, Pride Of The Country'

Describing artists as real treasure and pride of the country, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Tuesday that music, dance, and theater are not merely art forms but keys that open all the locks of vast existence and tremendous possibilities of life. "Artists are the real treasure and pride of the country, and the wealth they possess cannot be equated with any material wealth. In different art forms, one **More on P10**

## Landslide Kills Two Labourers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu:** Two labourers were killed and six others injured after a landslide hit an under-construction building in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Tuesday, officials said.

A group of labourers were busy in construction work at Kallar near vegetable market in Udhampur town when they came under the landslide around 11.45 am, a police official said.

He said a rescue operation was launched immediately and six labourers were rescued in an injured condition and

shifted to hospital.

Bodies of two labourers were recovered by a joint rescue team of police, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) after several hours of search, the official said while identifying one of the deceased as Anirudh Kumar, a resident of Madhya Pradesh.

The identity of the other deceased is being ascertained, the official said.

Earlier, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Joginder Singh Jasrotia who inspected the scene said nine labourers were **More on P10**

## KARGIL HILL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

### NC-Congress Announce Pre-Poll Alliance 'Both Parties Won't Support Any Independent Candidate, Will Work Out Seat-Sharing Arrangement After Consultations'

Agencies

**Srinagar:** In a major political development in Ladakh, National Conference and Congress on Tuesday announced a pre-poll alliance for the upcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil elections likely to be held in August-September.

Addressing a joint press conference, senior NC and Congress

leaders of Kargil district today announced a pre-poll pact for the Hill Council elections. "The seat-sharing arrangement will be worked out after consulting senior leaders of both the parties in constituencies," said Asgar Karbalie, working president of Ladakh unit of Congress.

Karbalie said that both the parties have decided against supporting any independent candidate and will field candidates

only on their party tickets.

"We don't want that independent candidates should become a tool for BJP," he said, adding that pre-poll arrangement would convert into post-poll alliance and there would be a 50:50 power sharing formula between both the parties in the council.

Speaking on the occasion, senior NC leader Qamar Ali Akhoo said both the parties have decided **More on P10**

## 4 Militant Associates Held In Budgam

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit from Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Azhar Ahmad Mir, Irfan Ahmad Sofi and Abrar Ahmad Malik were arrested by a joint team of police and army's 62 RR from Beerwah area of the district, a police spokesperson said. He said that incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession. "All the recovered

## Over 6000 Pilgrims Leave For Amarnath

A fresh batch of 6,225 pilgrims left the base camp here on Tuesday for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas. The pilgrims left in a convoy of 217 vehicles amid tight security. While 3,714 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 131 vehicles for the valley, another convoy of 86 vehicles carrying 2,511 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp. With this, a total of 99,738 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30 when the first **More on P10**

## Oil Tanker Crushes Man To Death

A man died after being hit by an oil-tanker in Nussu-Badragund area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a speedy tanker hit the man near Nussu-Badragund today and he died on the spot. He identified him as Rahul Kumar son of Mahinder Kumar of Rajasthan. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

## Ex-MP, Public Delegations Call On LG

Choudhary Talib Hussain, Former Member Parliament and Vice Chairman J&K Haj Committee called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday. G H Mir, Senior Vice President, J&K Apni Party met the Lt Governor and discussed arrangements for Muharram. Earlier, a delegation of All Minority Employees Association of Kashmir called on the Lt Governor and put forth their concerning issues. A delegation of Bakerwal **More on P10**

## Shopkeeper Held For Selling Fuel Illegally

Police on Tuesday arrested a shopkeeper from Palhallan area of Baramulla district for his involvement in the unauthorized sale of petroleum products at exorbitant rates. Mohammad Yaqoob Sheikh of Tantraypora village was arrested after police found that he was involved in selling petroleum products on exorbitant rates at his shop in Palhallan area of the district, a police spokesperson said. During search, he said, 400 liters of petrol and diesel **More on P10**

## Man Detained After Hideout Busted

Security forces have busted a militant hideout and nabbed a person during their search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, official sources said on Tuesday. Three grenades and other materials have been seized from the hideout, they said. The search operation was being conducted by the Army and the special operations group in the Kala Jhula forest area. Security was beefed up in Poonch town vehicles plying **More on P10**

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





## پیغام محرم

محرم الحرام 1445 کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے۔ یہ ماہ نواسر رسول ﷺ حضرت امام حسین علیہ السلام کی اس عظیم الشان قربانی کی یاد دلاتا ہے جو آپ نے حق و صداقت کے لئے پیش کی۔ امام عالی مقام نے خرافات، بدعات، ظلم و بربریت، شعاوردین کی خلاف ورزی اور یزیدی فاشزم کے خلاف آواز بلند کی اور نظام یزیدی جو ظلم و تشدد پر استوار تھا کے سامنے سرخم کرنے سے انکار کر دیا اور نظام الہی کا پرچم بلند کر کے یزید پلید کے تمام ارادوں کو زمین پر بوس کر دیا۔ امام عالی مقام نے دین حق کے لئے اپنی اور اپنے اہل و عیال اصحاب و انصار کی قربانی دے کر عالم بشریت کو پیغام دیا کہ ندائے حق کے خاطر مرد و عورت کی طرح میدان کارزار میں قدم رکھیں اور سب سے بلائی ہوئی دیوار کے مانند محافظ شریعت بن جائیں۔ امام عالی مقام حضرت امام حسین علیہ السلام اور ان کے جانشینوں کی شہادت قبول کر کے بھی قیامت تک کے لئے زندہ ہو گئے۔ اور ایک نمونہ بن گئے جو ہم سے یہی تقاضا کرتے ہیں کہ ظالم کے سامنے سینہ سپر ہو جاؤ۔

صدیوں سے دنیا بھر میں محرم الحرام میں عزاداری کے بڑے بڑے اجتماعات منعقد ہوتے ہیں اور دنیا کے تمام ممالک حتیٰ کہ غیر مسلم اکثریتی ممالک میں عزاداری کی مجلسیں برپا ہوتی ہیں اور جلوس ہائے عزائم آدھرتے ہیں۔ اور ان جلوسوں و جلوسوں کو بڑی ادب و احترام کی نگاہ سے دیکھا جاتا ہے لیکن افسوس اس بات کا ہے کہ گذشتہ ۳۳ سالوں سے کشمیر میں عزاداری کے دو بڑے جلوسوں پر بلاوجہ پابندی عائد ہے۔ اور ہر سال پر امن عزاداروں پر لاکھوں روپے کی جرمانہ دہی کی توہین ہے۔ انہیں بند کیا جاتا ہے۔ جو افسوسناک عمل ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ مذہبی آزادی کی توہین ہے۔ ہم گورنر نظامیہ سے اپیل کرتے ہیں کہ اس سال ان دونوں جلوسوں پر پابندی ہٹانے کے احکامات جاری کریں۔



مولانا سبط محمد شہیرتی

## The J&K Board Of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
 Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Merit List/Result for admission to B.Sc. Nursing/ B.Sc. Paramedical / B.Sc. Technology Courses-2023, after conduct of the Common Entrance Test by the J&K BOPEE at Srinagar/Jammu on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

Reference: i). Notification No. 023-BOPEE of 2023 dated 18-04-2023.  
 ii). Notice No.007-BOPEE of 2023 dated 06-05-2023.  
 iii). Notification No. 031-BOPEE of 2023 dated 30-05-2023.

Notification No: 040-BOPEE of 2023  
 Dated: 15-07-2023

The Provisional Merit List /Result of all the candidates, who had appeared in the Common Entrance Test conducted by the J&K BOPEE in pursuance to above referred Notifications / Notices for admission to the B.Sc. Nursing/ B.Sc. Paramedical / B.Sc. Technology Courses-2023 at Government / Private Colleges of UT of J&K is hereby notified as per the Annexure-A to this Notification.

The Board had received certain representations regarding the wrong answers of few questions within the prescribed dates as mentioned in the guidelines referred in Notification No. 031-BOPEE of 2023 dated 30-05-2023. These representations were examined and the answers were got re-examined afresh from the subject experts, and based on the feedback, the revised answer were prepared which are annexed as Annexure-B to this Notification. Therefore, the result of candidates has accordingly been prepared as per the revised Key which is annexed as Annexure-A to this Notification.

In case two or more candidates have obtained the same marks in the Entrance Test, the Inter-se-Merit/ Tie of such candidates have to be resolved as per provision defined at Page No. 35, Point No.13 of e-Information Brochure which is also available on the official website of Board (www.jkbopee.gov.in).

As per provisions defined at Point No.03, Page No.11 of e-Information Brochure, the candidate(s), who have any objection against his/her result, if any, shall have to submit a written representation(s) along with a payment receipt of Rs.1000/- to be paid through POS Machine at the BOPEE Offices Srinagar/Jammu for the purpose of re-totalling of marks. The representation(s) in this regard shall be received upto three working days of uploading of this Notification on the BOPEE website by the Board after the declaration of result. No representation shall be entertained after the expiry of the prescribed date/time.

The counseling schedule for admission to B.Sc. Nursing/ B.Sc. Paramedical / B.Sc. Technology Course shall be notified separately as and when decided by the Board.

The candidates are advised to visit the official website of Board (www.jkbopee.gov.in) for daily updates.

The Annexures-A& B shall only remain available on the official website of the Board  
 www.jkbopee.gov.in  
 E & OE

Sd/-

Controller of Examinations,  
 J&K, BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-09/2023

DIPK-NB-2055/23 Dated: 18-07-2023

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from TAQVEEN ASHRAF LONE to TAQVEEN ASHRAF. In future, I will be known as TAQVEEN ASHRAF. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport office Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

TAQVEEN ASHRAF. inf

### Office Of The Halqa Panchayat Archanderhama

The is to certify that Zainab Mushtaq was born on 17-03-2018 at home  
 Sex: male  
 Father's name: Mushtaq Ahmad Rather  
 Name Of Mother: Mubeena Begum  
 Resident of village: Archanderhama  
 Tehsil: Singhpora District: Baramullah  
 Gram Panchayat: Archanderhama  
 Block: Khore Sherabad  
 Panchayat Secretary

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the father's name of my ward has been wrongly mentioned as Shahnaaz Rahim instead of Sheikh Shenez Rahim Now I want to apply for its correction. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.  
 Name: Sheikh Shenez Rahim  
 F/o Sheikh Umair  
 R/o Bakhyana Tangdhar Kupwara nj

### In the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class/Munisiff Sumbal

In the case of  
 Maqsood Ahmad Dar  
 S/O Ab Rahman Dar R/o Sarie Dangerpora Distt: Bandipor (BDO Ganastan)  
 VS  
 Registrar of Births & Deaths BDO Ganastan

ii in the matter of: Registration of date of Birth/ date of Death (BDO Ganastan)  
 Present MS. Bazila Bashir JO CODE. JK00262  
 Publication for the General Public

Whereas the above titled application has been filled by the applicant for issuance of DOB/DOD Certificate of **Ab Rahman Dar S/o Abli Dar R/o Sarie Dangerpora Distt Bandipor** As such by virtue of 'this publication it is to inform to the general public that if any person/person's has/ have any objections regarding the issuance of such certificate of the sad person(s), he/she / they shall file the objection personally or through their duly authorized persons before this court within a period of 7 days from the date of this order. After expiry of the sad period no objections will be entertained.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the day  
 17-07-2023

Judicial Magistrate  
 1st Class Sumbal Sonawari

fko

### Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District Judge At Srinagar

In the case of  
 1) Javid Ahmad Bhat  
 2) Riyaz Ahmad Bhat sons of late Gulam Qadir Bhat  
 3) Abdul Hamid Bhat S/o late Gulam Mohammad Bhat  
 all residents of Aggha Hamam Habba Kadal srinagar  
 (Caveator)

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

### From the office of Advocate Gulam Jeelani Ahmad

In the case of  
 1) Fahmeda wife of Mushtaq Ahmad Shah  
 2) Tabasum D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Shah  
 3) Owais Mushtaq s/o Mushtaq Ahmad Shah  
 R/o Shahi Mohalla owanta bhawan srinagar  
 (Caveator)

VS  
 PUBLIC AT LARGE  
 In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

### In the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class/Munisiff Sumbal

In the case of  
 Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Khaliq Bhat R/o Asham Distt Bandipora  
 (Applicant )

VS  
 Registrar of Births & Deaths BDO Sumbal  
 ii in the matter of: Registration of date of Birth/ date of Death (BDO Sumbal)  
 Present MS. Bazila Bashir JO CODE. JK00262  
 Publication for the General Public

Whereas the above titled application has been filled by the applicant for issuance of DOB/DOD Certificate of **Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Khaliq Bhat R/o Asham Bandipora** As such by virtue of 'this publication it is to inform to the general public that if any person/person's has/ have any objections regarding the issuance of such certificate of the sad person(s), he/she / they shall file the objection personally or through their duly authorized persons before this court within a period of 7 days from the date of this order. After expiry of the sad period no objections will be entertained.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the day  
 18-07-2023

Judicial Magistrate  
 1st Class Sumbal Sonawari

fko

### از عدالت سبج میونسپل جمشڑیٹ سرینگر

با اجلاس مہرین مشتاق  
 محمد امین بھٹ  
 محمد امین بھٹ س/و حبیب اللہ بھٹ  
 R/o Chandapora Near Jamia Masjid  
 مورخہ 10-07-2023  
 کوئی نظر اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے اعتراضات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر ہی پم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی نظر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں 22-07-2023 کو مختصر ہے۔  
 سبج میونسپل جمشڑیٹ سرینگر nj

### از عدالت سبج میونسپل جمشڑیٹ سرینگر

با اجلاس مہرین مشتاق  
 محمد امین بھٹ  
 محمد امین بھٹ س/و حبیب اللہ بھٹ  
 R/o Natipora Srinagar  
 مورخہ 10-07-2023  
 کوئی نظر اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے اعتراضات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر ہی پم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی نظر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں 24-07-2023 کو مختصر ہے۔  
 سبج میونسپل جمشڑیٹ سرینگر nj

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir (6th Call) Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
 EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender Fresh NIT No.53 of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No.5497-5502  
 Dated: 18.07.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an Percentage age basis (as applicable) 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)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (Rs.38480/-)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement/Upgradation of link at Ahanger Mohalla to Filtration Plant Gutilbagh under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically/Manually).	19.24	Rs.800/=	Rs.38480/-	05 Days	C&T	AAY with HMPO/ (CEE/BEE) Class Civil with Registered MoU with HMPO

Project Authority: R&B Department  
 Position of AAA: Accorded  
 Position of funds: Available  
 1. 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:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18/07/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18/07/2023 from 4.30 PM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	18/07/2023 from 4.30 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	24/07/2023 from 4.00PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	24/07/2023 from 4.05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

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

2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% 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 5% 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 Division Ganderbal (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.in 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% EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal, 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: -The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery 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 submit 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 PAN Card

. Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS portal

a) Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. January-March 2023/Qualifying Month i.e. May 2023.

b) Bidders are advised to quote Rate without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority.

c) The rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes excluding GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority upto completion of the work unless otherwise specified.

o In case the contractor/agency doesn't own/possesses Hot mix plant, it shall submit a MOU on notarised affidavit with any registered HPMD on conditions of providing of machine mixed material as mentioned in the NIT/SBD/ BOQ and in compliance to all the desired tests and checks required as per the guidelines or on the directions of engineer in charge.

o The HPMD with whom there is an MOU shall not be participant in the same tender and under the circumstances both participants shall be disqualified.

o In case work isn't started on the scheduled date as communicated by engineer in charge, the department shall put the work for fresh tenders without any notice keeping in view the limited season for macadamisation.

d) Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. January-March 2023/Qualifying Month i.e. May-2023.

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 2021-22.

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/Trailers, and shall be placed in such a way that the manufacturing laying/spreading and rolling temperatures are kept within the specified limits.

No:5497-5502  
 DIPK-5343/23  
 Dated:18-07-2023

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 R&B Division Ganderbal



## Wildlife Dept Installs Camera Traps, Cage To Catch Leopard In Badamwari

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Following the reports of a leopard having been sighted near Badamwari Park late last evening, the wildlife department on Tuesday installed sensor-based camera traps and a cage in the area, said officials.

A senior wildlife official said although they had not any impressions about the presence of animal in the area, however they have exercised caution and have installed traps and a cage.

"Although there have been no such impressions or footprints visible about the presence of an animal in the area, a team was sent there, and we have installed the sensor-based camera traps and cages in the area," the official said.

He said other than evidence from a boy, a student of ninth standard, who claimed to have witnessed a leopard last evening, they have not witnessed anything 'concrete' on the ground about the presence or movement of animal in the area.

"No foot impression, no marks, no fecal matter, and no other evidence is on the ground, but as a precaution, we have set up a trapping procedure and that will remain there as per the situation", he added.

Notably, after reports of a leopard sighting near In Badamwari Park on Monday evening, Srinagar police asked the locals of the area to remain indoors and not venture out unnecessarily.



Boy takes bath in a swimming pool amidst scorching heat in Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Muharram Preparations Begins In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Preparations for Muharram-ul-Haram have started with people hoisting black banners and flags in Srinagar to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Muharram marks the arrival of the New Year in Islamic lunar calendar. The tenth day of Muharram is called Ashura and Muslims commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and along with his 72 companions in the battle of Karbala. Big black banners with quotes of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) were hoisted at several places in the city.

The banners are mostly seen on the road stretch from Saida Kadal to Zadibal and Downtown and uptown Srinagar.

The Imambargahs, which are congregation halls for Shia commemoration ceremonies, are also being covered with black sheets and banners. The main Muharram commemorations are held in Imambargah's where Kashmiri Marsiyas, elegiac poems written to commemorate Imam Hussain and his companions, are recited.

Also, scholars deliver sermons to highlight the significance of the Ashura uprising. Ashura is the tenth day of Muharram when Imam Hussein and his 72 companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala, in southern Iraq 40 centuries ago.

## Muharram Gives Message Of Universal Perseverance, Sacrifice: Farooq Abdullah

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said that the holy month of Muharram, which also marks the first month of Islamic calendar, gives the universal messages of peace, harmony, perseverance and piety to humankind.

In his message at the very onset of the revered month of Muharram ul Haram, Dr. Farooq said, "At the very onset of the holy month, which marks the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Aaali Mukam (AS), I urge the younger generation to learn from the incomparable qualities that were in the personality of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). The month is of great historical importance as it was during this month that the grand-son of Prophet of Islam (PBUH), Hazrat Imam Husain (AS) sacrificed his life, along with his family members and associates for the sake of the cardinal principles laid down by Holy messenger of Islam (PBUH)."

Party's Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, senior leaders Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Aga Syed Mehmood have impressed upon the divisional administration to ensure all effective arrangements & civic amenities for devotees at all Imam Bargahs.

While mourning ceremonies are held in different areas with

sizable Shia population, the two major processions in the capital city Srinagar on the eighth of Muharram and its tenth day known as Ashura, were banned by the authorities in 1990. Despite repeated pleas by the religious and political bodies to lift the ban, the authorities remain unmoved.

## Gulab Bagh's Darya Din Colony Demands Repair Of Neglected Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The road at Darya Din Colony in the Gulab Bagh area of Srinagar is in shambles, with residents accusing the authorities of failing to complete the long-pending repair work for the

last nine months. The residents said the authorities dug the drainage system nine months ago but have neglected the road since then without conducting proper dusting and macadamization.

"We are facing severe problems as nearly 100 households

reside here. During rainfall, it becomes impossible for us to leave our houses," they said.

"At school times, we have to pick and drop our children at the main road because the school buses and vans refuse to enter our lane due to the deplorable road condition," the residents said

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

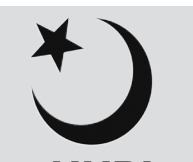
**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
30 Zil-Hajj  
**1444**

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	3:53
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:34
Magrib	7:44
ISHA	9:20

## This Day In History

- 1850 - Airship Elizabeth leaves in storm for Fire Island, crashes (42 die)
- 1860 - 1st railroad reaches Kansas
- 1863 - Battle of Buffington's Island (St George Creek), Ohio
- 1864 - Third Battle of Winchester, VA (Stephenson's Depot)
- 1870 - France declares war on Prussia; Franco-Prussian war begins
- 1912 - A meteorite of estimated 190kg mass explodes over Holbrook in Navajo County, Arizona, causing approximately 16,000 pieces of debris to rain down on the town
- 1918 - World War I: German armies retreat across Marne River in France
- 1963 - NASA civilian Test pilot Joe Walker in X-15 reaches 105 km
- 1967 - US launches Explorer 35 for lunar orbit (800/7400 km)
- 1969 - Apollo 11 goes into Moon orbit
- 1974 - Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 14 lands back on earth
- 1975 - Apollo & Soyuz linked in orbit for 2 days, separate
- 1979 - 2 supertankers collide off Tobago-260,000 tons of oil spill
- 1989 - United Airlines DC-10 crashes at Sioux City Iowa, kills 112
- 1994 - Bomb explosion in Alas Airlines at Colon Panama, 21 killed
- 2001 - Michael Brunet discovers the skull of Sahelanthropus tchadensis in the Djurab Desert, Chad. One of the oldest known species in the human family tree, 6-7 million years ago years old.
- 2015 - World Health Organization puts world's Ebola death toll at 11,284
- 2017 - US scientists calculate total amount plastic ever produced - 8.3 million tonnes, equal to weight of 1 billion elephants.

## From KO Archives

### Baramulla Boat Tragedy Minister Greeted With Stones In Village

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Local MLA and minister for tourism, Muhammad Dilawar Mir, was attacked with stones when he arrived in Ladura, Baramulla, on Friday to visit the families of Wednesday's boat tragedy victims.

After taking a recess in a supporter's house, the minister finally managed to reach the victim's home, offer fateha and pay condolence to the bereaved family.

Mir, who represents the Rafiabad assembly segment, was visiting the area to pay condolence to the families who had lost their loved ones on Thursday, when locals retrieved the body of another victim, Firdous Ahmad Dar, from the Jhelum. Dar was one of the six people killed when a boat capsized in the river on Wednesday.

Reports said that the minister reached Ladura chowk just as a large number of people were in the streets after taking Dar's body to his family.

The already emotionally-charged crowd raised slogans against Mir and the government, and a group of youth attacked the minister's car with stones. Unable to come out of his vehicle, Mir took a U-turn and made for the home of a supporter.

The minister and his entourage escaped unhurt in the attack. The locals said that the army and the police, assisted by residents, had resumed the search for missing victims on Friday morning, but gave up only after two hours, leaving the difficult task to villagers.

They alleged that the administration was using dilatory tactics in recovering bodies from the Jhelum, which had added to the anguish of the victims' families. The locals contested reports that the police or the army had recovered three bodies yesterday, saying that the victims were found solely due to the tireless efforts of the local villagers.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 July, 2007)

JSD-NGK013/2/2022-CS /247198/2023  
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**Jal Shakti Department**  
J&K Civil Secretariat, Srinagar

Subject: Selection list of candidates for the post of "Jr. Engineer (Civil)" in Jal Shakti Department, advertised vide Notification No. 01 of 2021, Item No. 001-Operating of Wait list thereof,

Ref: i. No. SSB/Sel/Secy/UT/03/2022/5678-83 dated 04.08.2022 from J&K Services Selection Board.  
ii. Notification under endorsement No. JKSSB-ADM/134/2022-03 (7094289) dated: 19.06.2023.

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to the selection and recommendations made by the J&K Services Selection Board vide communication No. SSB/Sel/Secy/UT/03/2022/5678-83 dated 04.08.2022, consequent upon cancellation of one selected candidate under OM/HCL/33 category, the below mentioned candidate as per notified details, who has been recommended/ existing in the wait list next in order of merit issued vide notification No. 01 of 2021 under item No. 001 for the post of Jr. Engineer (Civil), UT Cadre is hereby informed through the medium of this notice to submit his Email Address and Mobile No. before the nominated Nodal Officer i.e Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Shigon, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar (email. ID ajazds5273@gmail.com) for registration on EVS portal (Employee Verification System) within a period of 21 days positively from the date of issuance of this notice in terms of Circular instructions issued by the General Administration Department vide No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022 under endorsement No. GAD-MTG0RBIV/79/2021-09-GAD dated 20.05.2022:

Dvs No.	Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Father Name	Address/District	Sel/Wait S.No.	Category
83	KMR	Manzoor Ahmad Tantry	Gh Nabi Tantry	Pattan Baramulla	10/wait	OM

If the candidate fails to submit his e-mail Address and Mobile Number within the stipulated time period of 21 days, it shall be presumed that he is not willing to opt the appointment in Jal Shakti Department, and shall forego his right to appoint without any further notice.

Yours Faithfully  
(Rehmatullah)  
Under Secretary to the Government  
Jal Shakti Department

No..JSD-NGK013/2/2022 DIPP-5321/23 Dated: 18-07.2023

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.  
Zonal Office, Budgam  
Industrial Complex Zainakote, Srinagar, J&K, 190012.  
Tel: 0194-2497735, Ext.:218  
Email: amid.zoktwo@jkbmail.com

**J&K Bank**  
Serving To Empower

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

**NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLE**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower in particular that the below mentioned vehicle, hypothecated to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Charar-i-sharief, physical possession whereof has been taken by the BANK, will be sold through public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" and "NO COMPLAINT BASIS" on 17.08.2023 for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch Charar-i-sharief from below mentioned borrower. The description of the vehicle & other particulars are mentioned herein below:

Particulars of the Borrower	Ms. Firdousa Zahid wife of Zahid Hussain Jan resident of Gulshan Abad, Charar-i-sharief, Budgam.
Description of the Hypothecated vehicle	Maruti S-Cross 1.6 Alpha; Engine No. 7383871 Chassis No. MA3FNJJ1S00134601 Registration No. JK04E 4362 Year & Month of Manufacture: July, 2016
Reserve Price	Rs.5,50,000.00
EMD	Rs.55,000.00

The bid document/format containing full details of the hypothecated vehicle and all the terms & conditions can be obtained from and submitted at J&K Bank Ltd. IAPM Department, Zonal Office Budgam, HMT, Zainakote, and Srinagar, UT of J&K 190012. The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted by or before 16.08.2023 upto 4:00 PM. The Public auction will be held at J&K Bank Ltd. Zonal Office Budgam, HMT, Zainakote, and Srinagar, UT of J&K 190012 on 17.08.2023 at 11.30 AM. The contact details of the bank officials are: Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Khan (Incharge IAPM Zonal Office Budgam) Mobile No. 9149443300 & Mr. Aijaz-ur-Rehman (Branch Head Chararisharief) Mobile No. 9469430238/7006921787.

Sd/-  
Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Khan  
In charge IAPM,  
Zonal Office Budgam  
J&K Bank Ltd.

Place: Srinagar  
Dated: 14/07/2023  
Ref. No. JKB/IAPMD/ZOB/2023-24

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L6510JK19385GC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPP-NB-2049/23 dated: 18-07-2023



## Yamuna Water Level In Delhi Drops Below Danger Mark



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The water level of the Yamuna River in Delhi today dropped below the danger mark of 205.33 metre by 8 pm, the Central Water Commission's data showed.

The water level showed a slight rise on Monday due to rains in the catchment areas upstream of the national capital.

According to the CWC's flood-monitoring portal, the water level is expected to drop to 205.15 metre by 7 am tomorrow.

The Wazirabad water treatment plant, where operations were hit due to inundation of a pump house, has also started working at full capacity, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

A Delhi Jal Board (DJB) official said the water supply in the city is near normal.

"There is a shortage of only 10-12 million gallons of water per day (MGD) due to inundation of some tube wells in the river floodplains at Palla," he said.

The DJB extracts around 30 MGD from tube wells installed in the Palla floodplains.

The river has been reced-

ing gradually after peaking at 208.66 metre last Thursday. However, a minor fluctuation in the water level cannot be ruled out due to rain in the upper reaches. The inundation of a pump house at Wazirabad due to the swollen Yamuna impeded operations at the Wazirabad, the Chandrawal and the Okhla water treatment plants, leading to a 25 per cent drop in the water supply.

The Okhla plant began operating on Friday, and the one in Chandrawal on Sunday.

"The Wazirabad Water treatment plant has also started working at full capacity. Now all WTPs are working at full capacity. DJB worked very hard. Thank you DJB!" tweeted Mr Kejriwal. Parts of the city have been grappling with waterlogging and flooding issues for a week now.

Initially, a downpour caused intense waterlogging on July 8 and July 9, with the city receiving 125 per cent of its monthly rainfall quota in just two days.

Subsequently, heavy rains in the upper catchment areas, including in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana, led to the Yamuna swelling to record levels.

## Un: World Must Prepare For More Intense Heatwaves

Agencies

**GENEVA:** The world should get ready to face increasingly intense heatwaves, the United Nations warned on Tuesday, as countries across the Northern Hemisphere reeled from soaring temperatures.

Health authorities have sounded the alarm from North America to Europe and Asia, urging people to stay hydrated and shelter from the burning sun, in a stark reminder of the effects of global warming.

"These events will continue to grow in intensity, and the world needs to prepare for more intense heatwaves," John Nairn, a senior extreme heat adviser at the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO), told reporters.

Heatwaves are among the deadliest natural hazards, with hundreds of thousands of people dying from preventable heat-related causes each year.

Nairn warned the health risk was growing rapidly, amid burgeoning urbanization, higher temperature extremes and aging populations. In the short term, he said the recently-declared El Nino — a warming climate pattern that occurs every two to seven years — "is only expected to amplify the occurrence and intensity of extreme heat events."

But regardless of El Nino, the trend is clear, Nairn said, pointing out that the number



of simultaneous heatwaves in the Northern Hemisphere had swelled six-fold since the 1980s.

"This trend shows no signs of decreasing," he said, warning of heatwaves' "quite serious impacts on human health and livelihoods."

Europe, the world's fastest-warming continent, was bracing for the peak of the current heatwave to hit Italy's Sicily and Sardinia islands, amid forecasts of a high of 48 degrees Celsius (118 degrees Fahrenheit).

The WMO said it was monitoring to see if the current European temperature record of 48.8C recorded on Sicily in 2021 might be smashed.

Even more concerning than maximum day temperatures was the high overnight minimum temperatures, Nairn said.

"Repeated high night-time

temperatures are particularly dangerous for human health, because the body is unable to recover from sustained heat," he said.

"This leads to increased cases of heart attacks and death."

There is currently no clear definition of what constitutes a heatwave, but the WMO said it was in the process of developing an overarching categorization of heatwave intensity, in a bid to "standardise impact forecasts and warnings worldwide."

Experts say human-induced climate change is exacerbating heatwaves, bringing higher temperatures and also slowing down and "parking" hot weather systems over locations for longer periods of time.

Asked what should be done to counter this, Nairn said the message was "simple": "Stop carbon fuels; just electrify everything."

## Majority Of Students In 14-17 Age Group Not Aware Vaping, E-Cigarettes Banned: Survey

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Ninety-six per cent of students in the age group of 14-17 years who took part in a survey do not know that vapes and similar electronic devices are banned in India, while 89 per cent of them are unaware of their harmful effects, according to a study.

The survey findings came amid the Union Health Ministry sending notices to 15 websites selling e-cigarettes, which are banned in India, directing them to stop advertisement and sale of the products.

The study titled "Ideas for an Addiction-Free India" was conducted by the Think Change Forum (TCF), an independent think tank which recently conducted the survey in covering 1,007 students in public schools in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru.

The survey finds that an overwhelming majority of 96 per cent of the children surveyed were not aware that vaping and similar electronic devices are banned in India.

A staggering 89 per cent of children in the age group of 14 to 17 years in grades 9 to 12 are unaware of the harmful effects associated with 'vaping' and simi-



lar electronic devices, it finds.

Among those who were not aware of the harmful effects of vaping, 52 per cent perceived vaping as "completely harmless" and viewed it as a cool and fashionable activity.

Another 37 per cent considered it "moderately harmful" but lacked understanding about the nature of the harm. Only 11 per cent of the children correctly identified vaping and other electronic devices as harmful, the study found.

Speaking about the survey results, Sushant Kalra, Parenting Coach and TEDx Speaker said, "It is deeply troubling to see such a high percentage of children unaware of the harmful effects of vaping. This ignorance makes children in the age groups of 14 to 17 years 'highly prone' to taking up vaping or other types of electronic device delivering addictive substances."

## In 'Biggest' Military Contract In Turkey's History, Saudi Arabia Buys Turkish Drones

Agencies

**Saudi Arabia** has signed an agreement with Turkey to buy drones from Ankara in the "biggest" military contract in Turkish history as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan struggles to absorb foreign investment to revive the country's ailing economy.

The agreement was finalized in the Saudi port city of Jeddah on Tuesday, a day after Erdogan, accompanied by an entourage of some 200 businesspeople, arrived in Saudi Arabia on his first leg of a Persian Gulf tour.

Media reports said Erdogan and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attended the signing ceremony for the drones deal between Turkish defense firm Baykar and the Saudi defense ministry.

Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud said in a tweet on Tuesday that Riyadh would acquire the drones "with the aim of enhancing the readiness of the kingdom's armed forces and bolstering its defense and manufacturing capabilities."

Baykar CEO Haluk Bayrak-



tar described the drones deal as the "biggest" defense and aviation export contract in Turkey's history.

"We signed a contract with the Saudi Arabian defense ministry for the Bayraktar Akinci (unmanned combat aerial vehicle) export and cooperation," he said in a Twitter post.

Erdogan is touring the Persian Gulf region and his next stops include Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Erdogan's visit comes as Turkey is facing sales and fuel tax hikes, which have

been regarded as necessary to restore the country's fiscal discipline and bring the 38-percent inflation down.

Turkey's current account deficit reached record levels this year — \$37.7bn in the first five months — and Erdogan has expressed hope that the oil and gas-rich Persian Gulf states will help plug the gap.

"This tour has two main topics: investments, and a financial dimension. We have high hopes for both," Erdogan told a news conference at an Istanbul airport before departure.

## Pakistan Government To Dissolve Parliament On August 8: Report

Press Trust of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's major ruling coalition partners have agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on August 8, a few days before the completion of its five-year term, to get extra time for general elections, according to a media report on Tuesday.

The five-year constitutional term of the incumbent National Assembly expires on August 12 at midnight — four days after the date on which both parties have reportedly agreed to dissolve the legislature.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) — the two major stakeholders in the federal government — have agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on August 8, the Geo

tional Assembly or a provincial assembly should be held within a period of 60 days immediately following the day on which the term of the Assembly is due to expire unless the Assembly has been dissolved sooner.

However, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is bound to hold the general polls within 90 days if the Assembly is dissolved before its constitutional term. The PML-N party-led Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance thinks that dissolving the National Assembly would be beneficial for it.

"Next month, our government will complete its tenure. We will leave before the completion of our tenure and an interim government will come," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said at an event recently.



News reported.

August 9 and 10 also came under discussion, but it was decided to go for August 8 to avoid any hurdle in the early dissolution of the lower house of Parliament, the report said, quoting sources.

According to the law, if the president doesn't approve the recommendation, the National Assembly stands dissolved after 48 hours — giving the government enough time to achieve its target of premature dissolution.

According to the Constitution, a general election to the Na-

The PPP led by Bilawal Zardari-Bhutto had earlier proposed that the National Assembly should be dissolved ahead of its constitutional term. Meanwhile, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the date of dissolution of the National Assembly has not been decided yet.

"The date (of dissolution) will be decided in consultation with the PDM and other allied parties. The decision on the date of dissolution of the National Assembly will be officially announced," she wrote on her official Twitter handle.

## Aircraft Carrying Sonia Gandhi And Rahul Makes Emergency Landing At Bhopal Airport



Press Trust of India

**BHOPAL:** An aircraft with Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on board made an emergency landing at Bhopal airport on Tuesday evening, a police officer said.

The plane made an emergency landing at the Bhopal airport, Bhopal police commissioner Harinarayan Chari Mishra told PTI.

However, details like the

reason behind the emergency landing of the aircraft and destination are not available.

Mishra said the aircraft is likely to take off for onward journey at around 9.30 pm.

Sonia Gandhi and Rahul attended the meeting of opposition parties in Bengaluru a few hours back. "We are on the way to the airport after getting information about the emergency landing," senior Congress leader Shoba Oza said.

### NEWS MAKERS

## China's Foreign Minister Goes Missing Amid Reports of Affair with Journalist

Agencies

**T**he mystery three-week absence of China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang, considered a rising star of Chinese politics, is fueling concerns over shrinking access to information in the world's second-largest economy.

Qin's absence comes on the heels of a rapid rise in elite Chinese politics that saw him serve for less than two years as US ambassador, before being elevated to the post of foreign minister in December.

In that role, he's kept a busy schedule. The 57-year-old's longest previous absence was just eight days over the Lunar New Year Holiday, according to government records.

Now, the former envoy hasn't been seen in public since June 25, when he met with visiting officials from Sri Lanka, Russia, and Vietnam. Qin has since vanished from



state media and comments about him have been excised from readouts of Foreign Ministry briefings.

His 23-day absence has seen Qin skip major diplomatic engagements, such as an international gathering of foreign ministers in Indonesia last week.

On Monday, President Xi Jinping was joined by Qin's predecessor Wang Yi and deputy foreign minister Ma Zhaoxu when he met former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte in Beijing. A day later, US climate envoy John Kerry

was received by Wang.

The vacuum of information around Qin's status comes as China faces growing scrutiny over its lack of transparency. The world's second-largest economy has limited access to corporate data, court documents, academic journals and raided expert networks serving businesses, hampering investors' ability to assess the economy.

With major diplomatic events including the United Nations General Assembly and a Group of Twenty summit on the horizon in September, China has less than two months to clarify who is now its top representative on the world stage.

"There's something everyone is talking about but can't be talked about publicly," Hu Xijin, former editor-in-chief of the state-run Global Times newspaper, wrote on Weibo over the weekend, without

referencing Qin's situation. "There needs to be a balance between keeping the operations running and respecting the public's right to information."

"Disclosing information would help improve official credibility and convey confidence to the private sector," he added.

'Physical Condition' China's Foreign Ministry was first asked to address Qin's absence on July 7, after a Politico report cited possible health issues for the last-minute postponement of a planned meeting with European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell. The ministry said it had "not heard about that" issue.

Four days later, officials said Qin would skip Association of Southeast Asian Nations meetings in Jakarta due to a "physical condition," without elaborating.

## Man Arrested From Punjab For Cheating Jeweller Of Gold Worth ₹6 Crore

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** A 42-year-old man was arrested for allegedly duping a Punjab-based jeweller of 10 kilogrammes of gold worth ₹6 crore, police said today.

The arrested accused has been identified as Sushil Kumar, a resident of Ludhiana in Punjab, they said.

Two people allegedly posed as GST inspectors and took away a consignment of gold being taken from Delhi to the victim's store in Ludhiana, the police said.

A case was registered at Rani Bagh police station on Saturday on the complaint of Ravinder Kumar. In his complaint, the victim said he purchases gold from Delhi to make jewellery and sells those in the local markets of Ludhiana, a senior officer said.

On July 10, he sent his driver Balraj and employee Rajan Bawa with the requisite GST bills to



take the delivery of a consignment from Karol Bagh here. They took the delivery around 9.00 pm and left for Ludhiana in their car, the officer said.

Around 9.30 pm, when they reached Haryana Matri Bhawan, their vehicle was stopped by another car. Two unidentified people got down from the car and introduced themselves as "inspectors" Satbir Singh and Ravi Kumar from the "central GST department", the officer said.

The "inspectors" told the pair that they had information about unauthorised gold in the car. They also asked the pair to produce the bill for the gold.

When Mr. Bawa called Ravinder Kumar, the victim informed one of the "inspectors" that the bills were with him, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Harendra Singh said.

The two "inspectors" then seized the gold and told driver Balraj to meet them at their office, Mr. Singh said.

The complainant reached Delhi the following day and visited the office where he found that the two "inspectors" who had seized the gold were impersonators, the police said.

His employee Mr. Bawa also cut off contact from July 11, they added.

During the investigation, the police scanned around 100 CCTV cameras and found that the car used to commit the crime was going towards Punjab. Bawa was also in contact with someone who was waiting at a dhaba in Murthal, Sonapat, at the time of the incident, Mr. Singh said.





## Embracing AI To Bring Efficiency In Working Of Govt Offices: CS

Launches Painting & Photo Competitions As Part Of 'Digital J&K' Initiative

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday launched 'JK Saransh', a first of its kind Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool for document summarization developed by the Information Technology Department of the UT.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary complimented the Department for embarking on the path of adopting modern technology and tools to bring in efficiency and accountability into the government processes. He asked them to work towards adopting the tools that aids in identifying the habitual miscreants in different departments working against larger public interests.

Dr Mehta even advised the local NIC to generate reports highlighting the performance of different government departments onboard on e-office. He called for pinpointing different users whose disposal of files is poor or whose take-off on the software is negligible. He made out that such an attitude on part of any government officer/official is unacceptable and should be viewed seriously.

He advised creating mass awareness about the services offered online particularly in rural areas. He asked for holding such informative sessions during morning assemblies in schools and workshops in higher educational institutions to train around 10 lakh youth in making good use of these

online platforms.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also launched a 'painting and photo caption' competition as part of the 'Digital J&K' campaign. Both these competitions are aimed at creating awareness about the Digital initiatives rolled out by government. The link for registration by interested persons would be available online on JKMyGov application to be reached out at the URL <http://jk.mygov.in>.

Talking about these initiatives the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri stated that it would offer an opportunity to people to showcase their talent and creativity while capturing the captivating essence of Digital J&K.

She revealed that the participants stand a chance to win prizes also. The top five winners of the selected best entries shall be awarded cash prizes and a certificate of appreciation by the Department. The prize amount for 1st Prize is ₹10,000, ₹5,000 for 2nd position holder, and ₹3,000 for an award for winner at 3rd position. In addition two Consolation Prizes of ₹2,000 each would also be given in each category, she informed.

The timeline of the Contest has been fixed for 24 days till 11th of August, 2023, as was learnt during this meeting.

Those who were present on this occasion includes Principal Secretary, Education; IT Consultant for UT; SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers of the Department.

## LG Calls For Identifying, Bridging Gaps In School Edu Sector

Says New IT Towers Coming Up In J&K Will Create More Jobs, Fuel Tech Growth



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Tuesday that there is a need to systematically identify and to bridge the gaps in the school education sector in terms of infrastructure, skill development at par with global standards.

The LG made these remarks while chairing a review-cum-consultation meeting on cyber security, capacity building of knowledge based industries and reforms in school education sector, at Raj Bhawan here on Tuesday.

The deliberation with officers of Industries & Commerce, Department of Information Technology and domain experts focussed on latest technological advancements, establishment of a Centre of excellence for cyber security and introducing academic courses on Artificial Intelligence, Coding, Big Data etc.

"New IT Towers meticulously designed for growth of the Information Technology

industry will soon come up in J&K and it will create more jobs and fuel tech growth. Content creation and sharing with students on latest skills, awareness on IT jobs and opportunities for startups will propel the IT industry and will make J&K the hub of Information and Communication Technology," the LG said.

Discussing the reforms in school education, he said that there is a need to systematically identify and to bridge the gaps in the School Education sector in terms of Infrastructure, Skill development at par with Global standards.

Sinha also emphasised on improving the learning outcome, use of technology, focus on Emotional quotient (EQ) and Intelligence Quotient (IQ) to make learning a joyful activity.

"School education department, school management and education planners, domain experts should work together for quality education. Our prime objective is to be at par with the best schools in

the country in terms of well-equipped laboratories and faculties," he said.

The LG directed the school education department to introduce the reform in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions on a pilot basis in selected schools.

He also suggested the creation of a database of alumni from IIT and IIM, who would subsequently adopt students from different schools for handholding and guidance.

Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary School Education Department; Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner /Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Ms Prerna Puri, Commissioner Secretary, IT Department; Sanjay Gaden, J&K IT Consultant and Vish Narayanan, IIT BHU Alumni & Startup Investor attended the meeting and shared their valuable inputs for the formulation of strategies in their respective sectors.

## Neither With BJP Nor With Oppn, We Are With New Delhi: Bukhari

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari has said that his party is not aligned with the BJP or opposition and stressed that its commitment is to New Delhi and the interest of Jammu and Kashmir.

Being a border region, Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to be disconnected from the Union government, he said.



Bukhari said, "We have to stand with New Delhi. That is in the national interest. That is in the interest of my people."

While two major parties of Jammu and Kashmir -- the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) -- have sided with the other opposition parties, Apni Party has identified itself as politically neutral.

"We are with New Delhi. We are neither with BJP nor with the opposition. We are neither with those parties who have gone to Bengaluru nor with the other (BJP-led NDA).

"As far as the Apni Party is concerned, we stand with Delhi. Tomorrow, you can also presume that we can be with the party that rules in Delhi. However, there is the least possibility of that party (Congress coming to power at the Centre)," Bukhari told PTI in a video interview here.

Asked about his party's potential alliances, he reiterated that Apni Party will support whoever is in power at the Centre.

"We stand by our commitment to New Delhi. Anybody who sits in New Delhi tomorrow, we are with him. Jammu and Kashmir is a border region and it cannot afford to take cudgels with the Centre," he said.

"Any political party which has to govern Jammu and Kashmir needs the Centre's support. That is the truth. Whichever party is at the Centre, Jammu and Kashmir will depend on them," the Apni Party president said.

Regarding the opposition parties attempting to forge a grand coalition in the run-up to the 2022 Assembly election, Bukhari said, "It is good for democracy."

"India's strength is in its democracy and it is good for democracy," he said.

Asked about the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Bukhari said that the region has achieved a level of normalcy similar to any other state in the country.

"People decided on August 5 (the day of abrogation of Article 370 in 2019) that they want peace. That is why even one per cent did not die," he said.

## 600 Street Lights To Illuminate Budgam Town

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Tuesday initiated the installation of 600 street lights mega project for Budgam town at Old Bus Stand Budgam.

He said that the installation would enhance the lighting system and illumination of main town Budgam.

The DC said that the street lights project was approved under the KLC funds utilization, after a need was felt regarding proper street lighting facilities in the main town. Later, DC also initiated the drainage construction project at Humhama Chowk under Humahma-Mir-gund integrated road project.

He said that drainage works shall be carried out at all identified spots along Humhama-Budgam route for smooth wash out of drainage waters.

Akshay said that the District Administration is committed to the beautification and development of all areas of the district.

Among others, ADDC Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak; JD Planning, Executive Engineers of KPDC Budgam, R&B, Executive Officers of Municipal Committee and other concerned were present on the occasion.

## Rohingyas Demand Release From 'Holding Centre' In Kathua, Clash With Police

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Lodged at a "holding centre" here for the past over two years, over 200 Rohingyas from Myanmar on Tuesday held a protest and clashed with guards inside Hiranagar sub-jail demanding their release, official sources said.

However, a senior police officer dismissed the protest as "normal", saying they are holding protests for the past one month for their release from the centre.

A total of 271 Rohingyas, including 74 women and 70 children, are lodged at the sub-jail that was notified as a "holding centre" on March 5, 2021, for lodging illegal immigrants.

The official said the protest inside the holding centre broke out when a woman fell sick in the morning.

"Senior police and jail officials rushed to the scene and the situation is under control," he added.

The sources said police used mild force to disperse the protesters who reached near the main gate of the facility.

Rohingyas went on an indefinite hunger strike against their lodgment at the centre in May but called off their pro-



test after they were persuaded by senior police and jail officials that the matter has been taken up with the Centre, and whenever the orders are received, they will be released or deported to their country of origin.

Most of the detained foreigners were found living illegally in Jammu during a special verification drive.

The Rohingyas are a Bengali-dialect speaking Muslim minority in Myanmar. Following persecution in their country, many of them entered India illegally through Bangladesh and took shelter in Jammu and

other parts of the country.

Many political parties and social organisations in Jammu have been urging the Centre for the deportation of Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals, alleging that their presence is a "conspiracy to alter the demographic character" in the region and a "threat to peace".

More than 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir, where their population has increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016, according to government data.

## DDC Chairperson Visits Remote Villages Of Budgam

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan on Tuesday undertook a visit to the far-flung villages of Hufroo, Loolipora, Darwan, Nengroo Colony, and Chararipora in the Chadoora and Char i Sharief areas.

This visit was aimed at understanding the issues faced by the local communities and exploring avenues for comprehensive development in these regions.

The visit was marked by the presence of officials, including the Block Development Council (BDC) Nagam and Pakharpora, members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and noted activist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat. Their involvement underscored the commitment to ensuring effective imple-

mentation of developmental schemes.

During the extensive tour, Chairman DDC Budgam empathetically listened to the grievances, concerns and aspirations of the residents of Hufroo, Loolipora, Darwan, Nengroo Colony and Chararipora villages.

Moreover, one of the highlights was the visit to the newly constructed high school building at Chalyan Chootinara. Chairman DDC Budgam expressed his appreciation for this significant development, recognizing the vital role of education in empowering the youth and uplifting the overall socio-economic status of the region. He pledged to continue supporting initiatives that enhance educational infrastructure in the district.

Chairperson Khan reaffirmed the DDC's dedication to equitable development, promising the implementation of projects that positively impact the lives of the citizens residing in the remotest corners of Budgam. He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts between the government and local representatives to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and efficient utilization of resources.

The visit concluded on a promising note, with the assurance from Chairman DDC Budgam that the issues raised during the meetings would be taken up with relevant authorities for prompt redressal. The collective resolve to work towards a prosperous and harmonious society was evident throughout the interactions, reinforcing the spirit of democracy and participatory governance.

ROTATIONAL TRANSFER OF OFFICERS ON SENSITIVE POSTS

## J&K Govt Seeks Details After MHA Directive

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In an exercise aimed at ensuring rotational transfer of officers working on sensitive posts, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has asked the departments to submit details of officers working on such posts beyond three years for submitting them to the Union Home Ministry.

In a communique, accessed by a local news agency KNO, the General Administration Department (GAD) has written to the administrative secretaries to submit complete details of all employees posted/ deputed/ attached who are occupying sensitive posts beyond three years so that the same is furnished to the Government of India for further action in the matter.

As per desired format, the

government has to submit details of all such officers along with its remarks on them.

The details are being collected to identify sensitive posts and ensure the rotation of officers manning them within the prescribed time limit.

"Identification of sensitive posts and rotational transfer of officials holding sensitive posts is one of the tools for effective implementation of preventive vigilance mechanism," the Central Vigilance Commission had said in its 2022 order.

The rotational transfers are being done to avoid developing vested interest by staffers holding sensitive posts. The overstay and continuous posting afford scope for indulging in corrupt practices, developing vested interest etc. which may not be in the interest of a department.

## Sopore Man Suffers Heart Attack After Returning From Hajj

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A 70-year old man suffered a massive cardiac arrest in Sopore locality of north Kashmir's Baramulla district soon after he returned from the Hajj pilgrimage after which he was shifted to JVC hospital Bemia wherefrom he was taken to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a Ghulam Mohammed Gojree of Hygam Sopore suffered a massive car-

diac arrest soon after he reached home after performing Hajj.

He said that he was taken to JVC Bemia where doctors shifted him to SKIMS Soura.

"There was a miscommunication about my father's health at JVC Bemia. My father was shifted to SKIMS, where he is being treated. He is stable," said Gojree's son, Ghulam Hassan.

On Tuesday, first batch of 630 pilgrims arrived in Kashmir after perform annual Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

## UP Priest Walks Over 700 Kms To Reach Amarnath Shrine

Press Trust Of India

**PULWAMA:** A priest from Uttar Pradesh walked over 700 kilometres to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

Rahul Sharma, a resident of Badhoo village in Saharanpur district, said he will visit Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on his way back home.

He started his journey on May 30 and reached the cave shrine on July 11.

Sharma said he also paid obeisance at the revered Mata Vaishnodevi shrine in Jammu region before embarking on the arduous trek to the cave shrine via the Pahalgam route of the yatra.

"I first went to Mata Vaishnodevi and from there to Amarnath cave shrine. I started the

yatra from the Pahalgam side," Sharma, while walking and carrying the tricolour, told PTI here.

It takes two days to reach the cave shrine via the route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Sharma, however, took the Baltal axis, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, to come back from the cave shrine.

He has now set out to walk to the other Lord Shiva temple -- Kedarnath - in Uttarakhand.

"It was my wish to walk carrying the national flag. I wanted to see that people say the situation in Kashmir is bad, but I did not feel anything like that. The situation is good," Sharma said.

He said he found the locals very supportive.

"The locals of Kashmir lent a huge support. J-K Police also supported me, escorted me, along with CRPF," he added.

## Man Dies After Coming Under Sand Mound

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A 47-year-old man died after coming under a sand mound in Rajwar area of Handwara in North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday afternoon.

Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that one Ghulam Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Hassan Mir, resident of Chaki Sarmarg was alongwith

several other labourers when a sand mound caved in trapping him inside at Golipora Rajwar.

"The onlookers after strenuous efforts rescued and took him to District Hospital Handwara where he was however declared as brought dead on arrival", they said.

Confirming it, a police official said that they have taken cognisance of the incident.

### BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE SGR.

IN THE CASE OF: 1. Manzoor Ahmad Bagdadi  
S/o Late Ghulam Qadir Bagdadi  
2. Mst Amina  
W/o Late Ghulam Qadir Bagdadi  
All residents of Nishat Srinagar  
.....(Caveators)

VERSUS  
Public at large  
.....(Non - Caveator)

IN THE MATTER OF: Caveat Application.  
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

- The Caveator submit as under:
- That the Caveators are the resident of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, as such, have every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Honble court for the protection & safeguard of their legal rights and interests there of hence this petition.
  - That the Caveators are the joint owner of property situated at Ranger Masjid NaidKadal Srinagar.
  - That the some unknown persons are unnecessarily causing interference into the peaceful possession of Caveators.
  - That the Caveators have every apprehension that the non Caveator may file a civil suit against the Caveators before this Hon'ble court with respect to the above mentioned joint property.
  - That the Caveators may be given opportunity of being heard before passing any order or direction and no order / direction be passed in ex-parte which will prejudice the rights of the Caveator.

In the premises, it is, therefore, prayed that Honble court may be pleased that before passing any order or direction the Caveators or their counsel may be given opportunity of being heard and no order / direction may be passed in ex-parte, the same would be in the ends of justice.

Dated:- 18-07-2023  
CAVEATOR THROUGH COUNSEL.  
(Advocate Hamid Shafi Hakim)



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Wednesday | 19-07-2023

## Militancy In Jammu

**F**our militants were killed in the Sindhara area of Poonch district in a joint operation conducted by the Indian Army, Rashtriya Rifles, and Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel on Tuesday. The encounter, named "Operation Trinetra II," began around 11:30 pm on Monday after security forces acted on specific intelligence inputs. Using drones and night surveillance equipment, the forces initially engaged in a gunfight with the militants. This incident follows another operation on Monday when two militants were killed while attempting to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch.

Unlike the dwindling militant presence in the Kashmir Valley, Jammu has become the new hotspot for militancy. The dense forests have become a haven for militants, making it challenging for security forces to track them down. The reduced presence of security forces in Jammu, resulting from the ceasefire with Pakistan and redeployment to Ladakh, has created a void that militants seem to be exploiting.

While violence escalates in Jammu, the overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir Valley remains relatively stable. The Valley has witnessed a significant decline in the number of militants, primarily due to over 500 militant casualties, most of them local youth over the past four years. However, despite this drop, militants continue to target soft targets, including civilians, minorities, and even security personnel visiting their homes.

This recent surge in violence in Jammu has sparked concerns that it could disrupt the semblance of peace in the union territory, in the process potentially reviving a union territory that has mostly been pacified. While tourism in J&K is flourishing, the persistence of violence in Jammu could deter tourists and impact the overall tranquility in the UT.

The future remains uncertain as we ponder whether the violence in Jammu will escalate further or subside. The past two years have shown a pattern of sudden spikes followed by lulls in militancy activities. While some militants vanished into Pakistan after short-lived escalations in 2021, the situation in Jammu may be more complex, requiring a more comprehensive approach.

Operation Trinetra, a massive search operation, has been launched to track down militants in the region, but progress has been slow. If the violence continues, it suggests that the militants are determined to extend their separatist campaign to Jammu, leading to a wider arc of violence.

As the search operations continue in the region, it is essential to prioritize efforts to build trust between the security forces and the local population. Engaging with the community and addressing their concerns can help foster a more secure and stable environment.

This operation also emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach towards addressing the overall security situation in J&K. A multi-faceted strategy that combines security measures, development initiatives, and political engagement is necessary to achieve long-term peace in the region.

OTHER OPINION

## Flood feud

**T**he devastating floods across North India have renewed attention on the dynamic between climate change, urbanisation and the infrastructural lacunae that bedevil India's large cities. India is now right in the middle of the monsoon and it is only to be expected, given the topography of the hill States, that extended rains will cause landslides, landslides and pose extreme threats to life and property. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are among the States that have reported record rainfall and at least 60 deaths have been confirmed though the actual toll may be higher. However, it is the inundation of Delhi, a city that is not usually associated with rains, that has brought to national focus the disasters that lie in store.

In the terminology of the India Meteorological Department, Delhi received 'excess' and 'large excess' rain on five out of eight days, from July 3-10. On July 9, it recorded 221.4 mm of rain, more than the 209.7 mm that is the average for all of July. While this contributed to the flooding, rainfall in the last few days has dramatically reduced. And yet, large parts of the city which include iconic landmarks such as the Red Fort and the Supreme Court, continue to be flooded. Delhi's officials have attributed this to the flooding of the Yamuna in upstream States, particularly at Yamunanagar in Haryana, with the barrages in Delhi unable to effectively regulate and redirect the river's flow. This however elides the role of Delhi's infrastructural development that through the years has given short shrift to restricting construction on the Yamuna's floodplains, failed to prioritise the desilting of drains ahead of the monsoon, and scrimped on steps to avoid the large-scale concretisation of the city. Though there is the case that even upstream of Delhi, riverbed mining has meant that huge amounts of silt from Haryana block the natural flow of the river, blame games and pointing to "record rains" are unhelpful. The increased probability of spells of extreme rain, given warming trends in the Arctic as well as the Arabian Sea, means that there will be several more instances of flooding in the future. While urban flooding is far more frequent in Bengaluru, Chennai and Mumbai, Delhi should no longer consider itself immune given that its population and infrastructural needs are only going to expand. Much like the National Capital Territory evolved a joint management strategy to tackle air pollution, on realising that clean air is interdependent on action by all cities, these States must set aside their differences and evolve a joint strategy on countering future floods.

The Hindu

# The Fragile Aquatic Ecosystem of Kashmir Stands More Exposed Today

Haziq Qayoom

**T**he Lake Conservation Management Authority, Srinagar linked the recent episodic mass kill of fish at Dal Lake to "thermal stratification." When the Srinagar High Court sought a report from them, they modified the words, to include "pollution, pesticides," to try and mildly dilute the sole case of thermal stratification because of the paltry research to suggest so. They told the Court, besides the water samples, they have taken Kashmiri and Crucian Carp. It is still unclear in the report itself, whether these were the only two species found dead. And this truly would suggest that the LCMA, Srinagar does not possess any tool to monitor the real-time data.

The reason given, that is 'thermal stratification' seems to be hogwash. It may be pertinent to note that Kashmir witnessed mass kill in 2017, when the native snow trout floated bellies up at the Jhelum stretch, at and around Nawakadal. The reason for which was never truly conceded.

In 2012, the Nigeen Lake witnessed scores of fish shoring up dead. They largely included Crucian carp.

Now, the recent browraiser of the Alligator Gar-fish being found in Dal Lake is yet another blow to the fish-ecosystem of Kashmir. It exposes the failure on the part of those who are supposed to take care of the aquatic ecosystems of Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Fisheries act was amended in 2018, 114 years later since its adoption, only to emphasize the issue of native fish species conservation. The only issues pending with the Department of the Fisheries, J&K seems to be: more aquaculture. The promotion of the trout culture, while neglecting the issues covering conservation seems to have made fish a privileged food.

The species of *Glyptothorax Kashmirensis* has reduced its presence to few river pockets in Anantnag and Srinagar. If the fishers are to be believed, the *Glyptosternon reticulatum* is increasingly missing and found in select hill streams, such as in the Ajas Nallah and hill streams in Baramulla. With the brooks drying up early in summers, thanks to fast receding glaciers, the endemic *Triplophysa Kashmirensis* and *Triplophysa Marmorata*, they may be facing the imminent dangers of habitat destruction.

In the year 2010, I could catch both of these species of spooning hand in a brook that runs through the lawn of my home. I'd fall asleep to lashes they'd make in ankle deep water. They were falsely considered to cure Jaundice by locals.

Whatever the case, these fish are gone now and have reduced in numbers proportional to the environmental settings that have arisen now. Many fishermen from the Wular lake reminisce the days when they used to catch the Roput (locally), *Banganga diplostomum*, abundantly. This fish now composes little of the stock-catch. The extirpated (as a result of the Indus Water politics) Golden Mahaseer, the then state fish of the Jammu and Kashmir, is as good as irrelevant to the fisheries of Jammu and Kashmir. There's no record available to document whether this fish attracted the anglers all over the world, and if these anglers added anything to the state revenue.

Thus, the other Himalayan states such as Uttarakhand which see the rush of foreign anglers just to experience fishing, 'the tiger of the water' becomes hugely important while pressing on its importance in the native home of Kashmir waters.

Even as the government had no success to reproduce the fish artificially, in a lone attempt in 2006, it never saw the stream profiling and aqua-ranching as an option. Beforehand, the government of Jammu and Kashmir never took up the issue of fish ladder with the Indian government.

Perhaps, it should demonstrate that Indus water politics was about the water and little care was given to animal rights. This speaks of the poor rationale and structural problems which dictate policies relating fisheries, aquatic habitats, and aquatic ecosystems.

Kashmir's water bodies receive little respect and are under the constant out-



Recently discovered alligator gar, a non-native predator fish mostly found in North America, in Srinagar's Dal Lake

**“The recent browraiser of the Alligator Gar-fish being found in Dal Lake is yet another blow to the fish-ecosystem of Kashmir. It exposes the failure on the part of those who are supposed to take care of the aquatic ecosystems of Kashmir**

pour of pollutants.

After the 2014 floods, the government dug more into the Wular lake and created flood channels in the nearby wetlands. The creation of the flood channels in the wetlands was an ecologically unsustainable idea. Not only did the artificially created river-channel drink up the entirety of the wetlands' water but it also hit the subsistence fisheries. It shrunk up the areas for the moor-hens, waterfowls among other birds.

The dried up land is now a land used for construction of government buildings and petty corn-agriculture by people. This in turn puts the Wular lake to a new structural puncturing of the resident nutrient load. More micro-habitats for nelumbo, water chestnuts have dwindled and this may indicate the failing water quality parameters of our lake water bodies.

The unabated shoreline mismanagement of removing the aquatic weeds and willow-felling on the shorelines is open to doubt, especially, given the importance of vegetation for the shoreline health. These areas are occupied by the young of fish, and de-weeding would mean

a subtle change in the trophic dynamics and more pollutant fluidity, yet with the higher risk of UV-B exposure. The willow-felling which was undertaken in the insides of the Wular Lake, is debatable for the shore-lines given the phytoremediation properties of the willow, and its vast root expanse to hold on the shore-land soil.

The Wular Lake, which forms 60% of the capture-fisheries of Jammu and Kashmir, is supposed to be under three Fisheries Inspectors, yet it is overseen by only one. Moreover, the employees of the Forest and Ecology Department, overseeing the activity of Wular have reported the ambiguities and blurring of responsibility-lines.

These issues of fish environment-heckling seem to stem from unprofessionalism. Given Kashmir is synonymous with cold-water fisheries, the fact that the Directorate of ColdWater Fisheries has no lab in Kashmir should show up on the barometer of fragility of the aquatic dynamics of Kashmir.

Additionally, the obsolete eligibility rules of including general BSc Zoology applicants in government jobs concerning fisheries, even as there are B.F.Sc and M.F.Sc graduates, in hundreds, waiting to contribute, is also detrimental. Much of the scholarship and alumni of SKUAST-Kashmir is consumed by other states of India or countries abroad and it has had a lot to do with the outdated eligibility settings for both the gazetted and non-gazetted posts for the Department of Fisheries, J&K.

After its inception in 2005, not more than 10 people from the Faculty of Fisheries, SKUAST-Kashmir find themselves in the Department of Fisheries now. Yet, none of them is allocated at a gazetted position; thanks to the marred eligibility rules backed up by the even-ended syllabus set in those exams.

These eligibility rules need a thorough revision along with the upgradation of the work of the Department of Fisheries J&K in line with other states of India, such as Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, etc. Before hell breaks all loose in the face of climate change, increasing anthropogenic pollution and wetland reclamation, the Department of Fisheries should respond.

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

*The author has studied M.F.Sc from the G.B.Pant University of Agriculture and Technology*

**“Much of the scholarship and alumni of SKUAST-Kashmir is consumed by other states of India or countries abroad and it has had a lot to do with the outdated eligibility settings for both the gazetted and non-gazetted posts for the Department of Fisheries, J&K**



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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

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## Why Do Husbands Like 'No-job' Wives?

**I**n this male-dominated society, the way to keep women inside the house is by not allowing them to do jobs. The slaves of patriarchy think that if the daughter-in-law goes out of the house to do a job, if she has money in her hand, then she will not

understand anything from the family members. There is a feeling behind this that the girl will be independent. She will take decisions for herself and this will reduce her authority over him. Girls and daughters-in-law are exploited fiercely in the house by

giving them the name of respect of the house. The thinking is dominant among many men that if women do jobs then their mobility will be more, and contact will increase more. Will go out of the house and talk to men outside. They can't tolerate it. Men

feel that women will not be dependent on them if they work. She will be able to make decisions herself, but it will not work for her. That's why they don't like employed women.

Lalit Garg



# My Agonising Tale of Unfair Evaluation in Kashmir University Exams

Ummar Jamal

Preparing diligently for my upcoming semester exams, I found myself engrossed in making comprehensive notes. The ticking of the clock signaled 4 o'clock when my phone rudely interrupted my concentration. It was a call from a friend, urgently proclaiming, "The results have been released, check them!"

Hastily ending the call, I scrambled to search for my results on the university website. As I entered my roll number, my heart sank at the sight of the displayed marks. The subject I had poured my heart and soul into, Constitutional Law, yielded the lowest marks; only 46. My expectations of achieving 75 marks or above out of 80 in Constitutional Law, my favorite subject, were shattered. Disappointment gripped my friends as well, as they too were taken aback by the unexpected results.

Determined to address this injustice, I resolved to request a re-evaluation of my question paper. In accordance with the university's statutes, the results of re-evaluation were to be declared within three weeks of submitting the application. Alas, time proved to be a cruel adversary, as the three weeks turned six months, and my anxiety intensified. Throughout this arduous six-month period, I made regular visits to the Controller Examination office, incessantly reminding them of the pending results. Gaining access to the office itself was a Herculean task, as students were typically barred from entering. Nevertheless, I persisted in my pursuit of justice.

Each time I managed to gain entry, the staff assured me that the results would be published within a week, but these deadlines consistently proved to



be false promises. It was a disheartening and frustrating experience, grappling with the incessant delays and witnessing the utter disregard for students' concerns. The perpetual wait only compounded my anguish and further eroded my faith in the evaluation system.

Finally, after enduring six agonizing months, the re-evaluation results were released. To my astonishment, there was no change in my marks. The disillusionment I felt was indescribable. Resolute in my quest for truth, I returned to the Controller Examination

office, demanding an explanation. After much ado, I managed to obtain a copy of my re-evaluated question paper. As anticipated, the revised evaluation yielded a commendable 76 marks out of 80; 30 marks increment in the original. Results. Yet, to my dismay, the staff at the Controller Examination office had neglected to incorporate these revised marks into my overall results. It was a disheartening realization that had I not taken the initiative to scrutinize my papers, my marks would forever remain unjustly low in Constitutional Law. This unfortu-

nate episode serves as a stark reflection of the deplorable state of the evaluation system at Kashmir University.

Compounding the injustice is the exorbitant fee of 500 rupees charged for each paper re-evaluation. For individuals from humble backgrounds, this amount is astronomical and often unaffordable. According to the university examination statutes, if there is a 15 percent increase in marks after re-evaluation, a refund of five hundred rupees should be provided. However, this provision is shamelessly disregarded.

Students are forced to endure an ordeal, shuttling between various administrative offices in pursuit of a reimbursement that is rightfully theirs.

The plight faced by students in Kashmir University is an embodiment of systemic failure. The evaluation process, designed to uphold fairness and accuracy, has instead become a source of frustration, disappointment, and financial strain for countless aspiring individuals. Urgent measures must be taken to address these issues and restore faith in the evaluation system. Transparent protocols, timely declaration of results, and adherence to statutory provisions are imperative to rectify the current state of affairs.

As students, we deserve an evaluation system that reflects our efforts, knowledge, and potential accurately. The quest for knowledge should not be tainted by the specter of unjust results and administrative indifference. It is time for the authorities to acknowledge the inherent flaws and take swift action to reform the evaluation system, ensuring a just and equitable future for all students in Kashmir University.

The sorry state of the evaluation system in Kashmir University not only undermines the efforts and aspirations of students but also highlights the need for urgent reforms. It is imperative that the university administration addresses these grievances and ensures a transparent and efficient evaluation process, one that fosters fairness and equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds.

The author is a law student at Kashmir University and National Spokesperson of J&K students Association. Email: Umarjama1968@gmail.com.

Views expressed are the author's

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**MATTEL'S DEDICATION TO USING FEMINIST language to sell more and more plastic flotsam to women seems to me to be a poor return on our former dreams of thoroughgoing social change.**



**SHE'S HAD A WHIP-SMART HOLLYWOOD FACELIFT, BUT BARBIE STILL ISN'T MUCH OF A ROLE MODEL**

NATASHA WALTER

Crazy as this might sound, 10 years ago I honestly thought Barbie was tottering on her tiptoes, ready for a well-earned retirement. A few years earlier, my book, *Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism*, had energetically questioned why we not only assumed it was natural that girls would love dolls but also why we expected girls to turn themselves into pretty objects in turn.

My questions coincided with growing unease in society with the way the apparently innocuous doll contributed to harsh stereotypes for girls. Barbie made girls less ambitious, psychologists said, or more prone to eating disorders. Sales began to slide: "Barbie slump", the headlines had it in 2016, or "Barbie out of fashion".

But just as we started to think it was time for Barbie to be consigned to landfill, the manufacturer, Mattel, gave her a fresh look – or rather, any number of fresh looks. In response to fading enthusiasm for the doll, with her cookie-cutter skinny blonde looks, we've had a run of new Barbies. Black Barbies with natural hair, Barbies in wheelchairs, with hearing aids and vitiligo, and all sorts of role model Barbies from Jane Goodall Barbie to Clara Amfo Barbie. And now, with all the glamour that Margot Robbie, Issa Rae and Greta Gerwig can bring to the beach party, Barbie rises yet again. This time, we're told, she's empowering. This time, we're told, she's actually funny. This time, even if you hate Barbie, you'll love Barbie.

So the release of the film *Barbie* has cued a slew of commentators explaining why feminists should learn to stop worrying and love the doll. To an extent, I agree. I never banned the pink plastic ones from my children's toybox. In fact, Barbies seemed to wander into my daughter's bedroom of their own accord as gifts and hand me downs from friends and family. As research shows, playing with dolls can stimulate empathy and imagination, and I enjoyed listening to my daughter and her friends chattering away as they took the plastic people on crazy adventures.

So I don't want to overstate the pernicious influence of Barbie herself. I get that she is just a doll, and most women can take or leave her, play with her or bin her, and might even be inspired by her. Just as it isn't Instagram alone that fuels narcissism, or the Kardashians alone who enforce unrealistic body expectations, no single brand, model or social media platform should be the target for feminists' concerns about why inequality and sexism are so damn hard to shift.

In a world in which women are told they can be anything, too often they still have to be dolls as well.

But in her own little way, Barbie tells us something about the bigger impasse in which women still find ourselves. The plethora of new, aspirational Barbies, who combine cool jobs with gleaming smiles and shiny hair, serve to remind us just how hard it still is even for successful and experienced women to be valued if they don't also show doll-like qualities – prettiness, neat

wardrobe, perfect shape, youthful faces. In a world in which women are told they can be anything, too often they still have to be dolls as well.

And the reinvention of Barbie shows us all too clearly how the language of women's empowerment has been taken up on a massive scale not as a means to revolution, but as a tool to unlock further consumerism. The new film has already led to a vast wave of lucrative marketing opportunities for Mattel. "This summer, as well as dressing in Barbie apparel from Gap, Primark or Forever 21, wearing her shoes from Aldo or inline skates from Skatehut and sporting her makeup (NYX Cosmetics and others), you can also relax on a Barbie x Funboy pool float while enjoying Pinkberry's Barbie-branded frozen yoghurt... play on your pink Xbox and then brush your teeth using 'the pinkest oral beauty collection ever'," ran a Guardian article.

Because Mattel executives now feel they need to speak the language of feminism to sell more effectively to women, they do so energetically. They have reimaged Barbie as "the original girl empowerment brand" and have created something called the Barbie Dream Gap project, to "level the playing field for girls globally by giving them the resources, inspiration and support they need to believe that they can do or be anything". In practice, it means that a minuscule proportion of Mattel's profits – in 2022, \$250,000 (£190,550) out of \$394m, or less than 0.1% – is now put into projects that support girls' ambitions, such as school workshops or "mentorship conferences".

This kind of initiative is hardly unique to Mattel. Throughout the business world, executives have learned to speak about aspiration and role models and to remind young women to work on their own confidence and ambition. But while the focus is so firmly on this "dream gap", all around the world women are still falling into the reality gap. What's in that gap? Not low aspirations, but low pay, lack of childcare, drudgery, inequality.

To tackle those issues, feminists would need to be able to challenge the excesses and entrenched hierarchies of capitalism rather than embrace them. Mattel's dedication to using feminist language to sell more and more plastic flotsam to women seems to me to be a poor return on our former dreams of thoroughgoing social change.

I'm not the only one who feels this shift in feminism towards individualism and consumerism as a loss. *Living Dolls* has just been reissued, and I've been struck by some conversations I've had with younger readers, who are telling me forcefully that not only do they recognise the problems I mapped out 13 years ago, but they feel that things have only got worse for women and girls. If we still believe girls deserve a freer and more equal world, we need to stop looking to dolls to lead the way forward.

The article was originally published by The Guardian. Views expressed are the author's own



# High-Quality Sleep Helps Bolster Resilience To Depression, Anxiety: Study

ANI

According to the study, high-quality sleep and coping mechanisms, such as the ability to reframe a situation in order to see the positive side, can help to prevent poor mental health when confronted with unpleasant or stressful experiences. Chronic stress is a significant risk factor for several mental health disorders, including depression and pathological anxiety. The study looked at data from over 600 people during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which was a long and stressful period. They set out to test the hypothesis that coping mechanisms promoted positive mental health outcomes, which could be enhanced by getting enough sleep.

Emma Sullivan, PhD student from the Department of Psychology at the University of York, said: "As the COVID-19 pandemic has been a prolonged period of stress for people across the entire world, it offered us a unique context with which to address our re-



**This is the first study to investigate the ways in which positive coping strategies and sleep quality influence depression and anxiety when experiencing a real-world chronic stressor**

search questions. "This is the first study to investigate the ways in which positive coping strategies and sleep quality influence depression and anxiety when experiencing a real-world chronic stressor. We found that better sleep quality was associated with fewer symptoms of both depression and anxiety during the initial months of the

COVID-19 pandemic. "These findings highlight the importance of targeting both positive coping strategies and sleep quality when enduring periods of chronic stress." The team analysed data from the Boston College Daily Sleep and Well-being Survey where participants regularly self-reported their sleep quality and

mental well-being during the pandemic.

They also completed a baseline demographic survey to obtain information such as their age, gender and ethnicity. As well as collecting information on participants' sleep and mental well-being, the surveys also collected a wealth of additional information such as participants' alcohol consumption, their quarantine status and physical activity levels. Dr Scott Cairney, PhD supervisor on the project from the Department of Psychology at the University of York, said: "We have known for a long time that high-quality sleep is associated with better health and wellbeing outcomes, but we wanted to know whether this would change if sleep and coping strategies were put under intense and prolonged periods of stress, as it was for so many during the pandemic."

"We found that sleep plays a hugely important role in the management of chronic stress and can sustain well-being over a long period of time, reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety."

# Cancer Care Should Focus On Patients Rather Than Commerce: Lancet

Press Trust Of India

Cancer care and innovation should be focused on outcomes that matter to patients rather than the commercial bottom line, say cancer experts in a Comment published in The Lancet Oncology journal.

According to the Comment, industry's control of the research agenda has created a system that is predominantly focused on new cancer medicines at the expense of investigating new approaches to surgery, radiotherapy, palliative care, and prevention.

The authors, consisting of global oncologists and patient advocates, also establish core guidelines for the development of a new patient-centred movement in cancer care - Common Sense Oncology.

They claim that there has been a shift over the past few decades from predominantly publicly funded clinical trials designed to answer questions important to patients, to industry-funded trials which aim to achieve regulatory approval or commercial advantage.

"While many cancer treatments make a real difference in the lives of our patients, there are growing concerns that some new treatments do not help patients live longer or feel better," said Professor Christopher Booth, from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada.

The Comment also highlights how a substantial proportion of in-

dustry revenue is used for marketing campaigns aimed at influencing patients, policy-makers, and oncologists irrespective of clinical need.

The authors hope to educate and empower the next generation of oncologists to push the field to do better for patients via three key areas.

These include ensuring clinical trials use and report outcomes that matter to patients, and fostering criti-



cal thinking among oncologists to make sound clinical decisions aligned with outcomes that matter to patients. Improving patient, public, and policy-maker understanding of cancer treatment options is another area.

"Common Sense Oncology is a global initiative that prioritises people over profits and promotes shared decision-making with patients," Booth said.

"Our vision is that patients have access to cancer treatments that provide meaningful improvements in outcomes that matter - irrespective of where they live," the researcher added.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Special Sub Division Uri**  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (FRESH to NIT No.20) DATED: 18-07-2023

eNIT No.27 of 2023-24/1851-60/R&B SSD Uri e-tendering

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) incl. cost of Tar & 18% GST	Earnest Money	Cost of T/Doc.	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation of Sultandakiroad to Mangral Mohalla	21.29	Rs 42600/-	Rs 800/-	25 Days	MH 5054- C&T	AAY Class (Registered MoU with HMPO)
2	Upgradation of Dr. Mode to Bani road	27.19	Rs 54400/-	Rs 1100/-	25 Days	MH 5054- C&T	AAY Class (Registered MoU with HMPO)
3	Upgradation of Kamalkote Madian Road	27.17	Rs 54350/-	Rs 1100/-	25 Days	MH 5054- C&T	AAY Class (Registered MoU with HMPO)
4	Upgradation of Main road to lower Uroosa	24.28	Rs 48600/-	Rs 800/-	25 Days	MH 5054- C&T	AAY Class (Registered MoU with HMPO)
5	Upgradation of road Madian to Jabla via Alaphinda	31.55	Rs 63100/-	Rs 1100/-	25 Days	MH 5054- C&T	AAY Class (Registered MoU with HMPO)

Project Authority: Chief Engineer Kashmir  
Position of AAA: Accreded  
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	18.07.2023
1	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18.07.2023 to (11:00 AM) to 24.07.2023 (3:00PM)
2	Bid submission Start Date	18.07.2023 (11:00 AM)
3	Bid Submission End Date	24.07.2023 (3:00PM)
4	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	24.07.2023 (04:00 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri

- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.in 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- 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.
- Price escalation and Taxes:-
- The allotted cost shall be calculated after adding 18% GST on the quoted amount by the lowest bidder.
- 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.
- Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.
- 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 and PAN Card
- A Civil Contractor who does not own HMP and is bidding for Bitumen Macadam Works is required to upload an MoU with HMPO, from whom the material/machinery for the subject work will be procured. The Memorandum of Understanding must be registered and duly executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate, specifying clearly that failure on the part of the HMPO shall be 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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/2023-24/1851-60  
DIPK-5289/23 Dated:18-07-2023

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

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (Phe) Mechanical Division South Awantipora**  
Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com

**CANCELLATION NOTICE**

Subject: Creation of 63 KVA Electric Sub Station for Water Supply Scheme Kanchipora Lajooru under NABARD.

Reference: This Office ENIT No.: 13 of 2023-24 Dated: 13-07-2023 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/1928-44 Dated: 13/07/2023.

Due to technical fault in the detailed estimate received from the Assistant Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Sub Division Pampore, the online eNIT uploaded vide this office eNIT under reference (2023\_PHE\_221344\_1) is hereby cancelled. The inconvenience caused is regretted.

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
South Awantipora

No.: JSD/PHE/MDSA/2016-18  
DIPK-5315/23 Dated: 18/07/2023

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer, J&K Police Housing Corporation, Division Kashmir.**  
e-mail: jkphcbemina18@gmail.com : 0194-2493349.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
E-NIT No: - 15 of PHC KASHMIR DIV./2023-24 Date: 12-07-2023.

- For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tender(s) through online mode are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria indicated in this bid document for the following work(s):-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (In lacs)	Cost of tender document (in .)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in .)	Time allowed for completion of work	Class of contractor
1	Construction of Shed for D.G Set at SDH Bijbehara Anantnag (Balance Work)	8.79	1,000/=	17,580/=	45 Working Days	CEE & DEE Class.

Position of Funds : As per Budgetary Provisions.  
Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of the work, Bill of Quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in, department DGP J&K.

- Schedule of tender:

a	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-07-2023
b	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13-07-2023 from 1000 Hrs. to 24-07-2023 upto 1800 Hrs.
c	Bid submission Start Date and time	13-07-2023 from 1300 Hrs.
d	Bid Submission End Date and time	24-07-2023 upto 1800 Hrs.
e	Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids (online)	26-07-2023, 1600 Hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer J&K Police Housing Corporation, Division Kashmir

- Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents):  
Cost of tender fee indicated at Para No. 1 above has to be deposited by the bidder in the following bank account:  
Name of the account holder: Executive Engineer, Police Housing Corporation, Division Kashmir.  
Account Number: 0148040100013588.  
Name of the Bank: J&K Bank  
Branch: Gole Market Karanagar.  
IFSC : JAKAOKARRAN.
- Scanned copy of the receipt towards deposit of amount of tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):  
(i) The bidder has to submit Earnest Money as indicated at Para 1 of this tender document in the form of CDR/FDR/Demand Draft issued by a scheduled bank, drawn and pledged in favour of Executive Engineer J&K PHC Kashmir and payable at Kashmir. The bidder has to upload the scanned copy of the CDR/FDR/DD along-with other documents during submission of bid within the above mentioned period of bid submission.  
(ii) The lowest bidder will be required to deposit CDR/FDR/DD towards EMD in original in the office of Executive Engineer, J&K PHC Kashmir within 7 days of opening of financial bid.  
(iii) The EMD(s) of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned by the concerned Executive Engineer of J&K PHC Kashmir after allotment of work to the successful bidder. The Earnest Money deposited by the successful bidder will be refunded after submission of Performance Security @ 3% / Additional Performance Security @ 5% (as applicable).  
(iv) Earnest Money of the bidder(s) will be forfeited in following cases:  
(a) When the bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity on account of any reason.  
(b) On failure of the successful bidder in furnishing Performance Guarantee equivalent to 3% of the quoted cost of successful bidder (wherever required) in the form of CDR/FDR/DD or in the shape of Bank Guarantee within 07 days from the date of opening of price bids.  
(c) In case the successful bidder fails to execute the contract agreement within 15 days of issuance of letter of allotment of work.
- Pre-bid Clarification/meeting:  
(i) Prospective bidder(s) may seek clarification with respect to eligibility criteria or any other clause of bid document through email on e-mail: jkphcbemina18@gmail.com by 14-07-2023 upto 1600 hours.  
(ii) Department will make reasonable efforts to attend to queries / observations raised by prospective bidder(s); if any. In case any corrigendum in the bid document becomes a necessity, the same would be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in.  
(iii) In case prospective bidder notices any problem including any technical problem in online submission of bid documents/uploading bid documents, he/she may contact Sheikh Irfan Qadri, Designation Executive Engineer on phone No. 9419071127 or Sh. Yasir Faiz Jan, Designation Assistant Executive Engineer on Phone No. 9419006042. Also, an email to this effect may be sent on email address jkphcbemina18@gmail.com.  
(iv) A pre-bid meeting will be held in the office of Executive Engineer, PHC Division Kashmir as per following schedule:  
Date: 17-07-2023  
Time: 1600 hours.

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Police Housing Corporation,  
Division, Kashmir.

DIPK-NB-2048/23  
No: PHC/NIT-15/2023-24/EE/K-96-100 Dated: 18-07-2023.



## JKEDI's Startup Leadership Summit 2023 Propels 5 J&K Startups Towards Funding



**Empowers 2 for Scale-up, & enrolls 12 in Accelerator Program**

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Startup Leadership Summit organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has brought forth opportunities for the region's startup ecosystem in the shape of selection of 5 promising startups for funding, 2 startups for scale-up support and the enrollment of 12 startups into The India Network's Accelerator Program.

The two-day event which served as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and entrepreneurial growth was attended by visionary entrepreneurs, industry experts and investors.

During the summit, the selected startups were recognized for their exceptional potential and disruptive ideas across various sectors.

Through a rigorous pitching process, these exceptional startups stood out by presenting their compelling business plans and forward-thinking vision. These startups have been handpicked based on their innovation, potential for growth, and commitment to making a significant impact in their respective industries.

The program will provide

the selected startups with unparalleled support, guidance and resources to fuel their entrepreneurial aspirations. By nurturing their ingenuity, offering mentorship from industry stalwarts, facilitating access to funding opportunities, and creating a vibrant ecosystem, the program aims to empower these startups to flourish and succeed in their ventures.

Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat presided over the proceedings. He expressed deep admiration for the remarkable talent pool of startups and aspiring entrepreneurs who gathered at the Startup Leadership Summit, recognizing their exceptional potential and unwavering dedication to innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Their vision, passion, and commitment to making a difference in their industries are truly commendable. Through this platform, we aim to empower them with the necessary tools and knowledge to thrive and succeed as entrepreneurs. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, the J&K Government has become a strong catalyst for the growth of startups and the empowerment of entrepreneurs. We are steadfast in our commitment to continually enhance this supportive ecosystem, fostering innovation and driving entrepreneurial success in J&K," he said.

## Amul Dairy Director Rejoins Congress Five Months After Leaving For BJP

Press Trust Of India

**AHMEDABAD:** A cooperative leader and director of Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union, the country's oldest dairy union best known as Amul Dairy, returned to the Congress fold on Tuesday.

Juvansinh Chauhan, a two-term Amul director, had served the Congress for nearly two decades before joining the BJP ahead of the election of the president of the dairy in February this year.

He rejoined his former party with his supporters in the presence of Congress state president Shaktisinh Gohil at a function in the party's headquarters 'Rajiv Bhavan'.

Gohil said Mr Chauhan was unhappy with rising political interference in the dairy union by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"Gujarat takes pride in the Amul cooperative model. The then Congress government helped it grow and even helped

in running it, making it a leading cooperative in the world. Because of increasing political



interference, Mr Chauhan decided to join us along with his team," Mr Gohil told reporters.

Amul has 13 elected representatives as directors, a majority of whom are currently with the BJP which had in February this year wrested control of the union after Vipul Patel, a candidate backed by it, was elected its chairman.

Chauhan was among the four directors from Congress who had joined the BJP ahead of the election.

## SEBI To Auction 15 Properties Of 7 Companies To Recover Investors' Money

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Sebi Tuesday said it will auction 15 properties of seven companies, including Sunheaven Agro India and RaviKiran Realty India, along with that of promoters and directors on August 21 to recover money illegally collected from investors.

The other firms whose properties will be auctioned are -- Infocare Infra, Bharat Krishi Samridhi Industries Ltd, GSHP Realtech Ltd, Just-Reliable Projects India Ltd, and Newland Agro Industries Ltd.

The properties will be auctioned at a reserve price of ₹13 crore, according to a public notice issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

These assets include land parcels and a residential building located in West Bengal.

Of the 15 properties, four relate to Bharat Krishi Samridhi Industries, three each of Just-Reliable Projects India and Newland Agro Industries, two related to Sunheaven and one each of RaviKiran Realty India, Infocare Infra and GSHP Realtech.

Inviting bids for the sale of properties in the recovery proceedings against the companies and their promoters and directors, Sebi said the



auction will be conducted online on August 21 from 11 am to 1 pm.

The regulator has asked the bidders to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims, among others, before submitting their bids.

These seven companies had collected money from investors without complying with the public issue norms.

Under the norms, a firm is required to list its securities on the recognised bourse as the shares were issued to more than 50 individuals. It was also required to file a pro-

spectus, among other things.

Going by Sebi's earlier orders, Sunheaven allotted redeemable preference shares (RPS) to about 7,772 investors and mobilised ₹11.54 crore between 2009-10 and 2012-13 and RaviKiran raised funds by issuing RPS to 1,176 individuals.

Further, GSHP Realtech collected money from 535 individuals in 2012-13 by issuing Non-Convertible Redeemable Debentures (NCDs), Infocare Infra mopped up ₹98.35 lakh by allotting NCDs to 90 investors and Bharat Krishi garnered funds from the public through issuance of RPS and NCDs in 2012 and 2013.

## This Pune Farmer Has Made A Profit Of Over Rs 2 Crore Amid Tomato Crisis

Bloomberg

**PUNE:** An eight-fold surge in tomato prices is making some farmers rich, although their windfall gains may be short-lived due to a likely rise in supplies in the coming weeks.

Retail prices of tomatoes were at 178 rupees a kilogram in Delhi on Sunday, a jump of more than 700% from Jan. 1, according to data compiled by the food ministry. The national average was almost 120 rupees that day.

The hike, caused by heavy rains disrupting supplies, has hit consumer nerves, with many households temporarily forgoing tomatoes - an essential element of mainstay Indian dishes. But growers are elated.

Ishwar Gaykar said he and his wife Sonali, who grow tomatoes on 12 acres (4.9 hectares) of land near Junnar in Maharashtra, have made a profit of about 24 million rupees so far in the current season, compared with 1.5 million a year earlier.

The couple, who employ 60 to 70 daily workers to manage the fields, have emerged as one of the biggest suppliers of tomatoes in the region. Ishwar has gained celebrity status as local media outlets are lining up for interviews.

"About one and a half

months ago, tomatoes were fetching barely 2.5 rupees a kilogram," said Ishwar, who suffered a loss of about 2 million rupees in the same season of 2021. "Supply is thin, while demand remains strong."

The couple have supplied about 350 tons in recent

the situation.

The government has started selling tomatoes at subsidized rates at many locations, deploying mobile vans. It's showing some impact, but prices are still very high for consumers in a country of 1.4 billion people. Tomatoes generally cost more in the



weeks, and expect to sell another 150 tons soon, provided the weather condition doesn't deteriorate. They reap three harvests every year, with the current crop being 120 to 140 days old.

Supplies have been hit by transport disruptions following heavy monsoon rains and floods in some regions, and inflation is set to increase as other vegetables have also become more expensive. The issue has become front-page news, and is being hotly debated on social media, with consumers blaming the rain god and the authorities alike for

rainy months of July and August, but the spike has been unusual this year.

While prices are expected to fall in the coming weeks with an improvement in truck movements, growers are rejoicing in their current good fortunes.

"I have never seen my produce getting this high a rate," said Mahendra Nikam, whose tomatoes fetched as much as 130 rupees per kilogram in Surat. "Less than two months ago, farmers were literally forced to throw away tomatoes or feed the fruit-bearing plants to the cattle."

## Withdrawal Of Rs 2,000 Notes Pushes Deposit To Six-Year High Of Rs 191.6 Lakh Crore In June: Report

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes by Reserve Bank on May 19 and the subsequent near total return of the currency to the system has buoyed deposit accretion to a six-year high of Rs 191.6 lakh crore in June, according to a report.

Earlier this month, the RBI said more than three-fourths of the total 3.62 lakh crore of Rs 2,000 bank notes have come back to the system by way of deposits (over 85 per cent) and the rest as note exchanges.

According to Sanjay Agarwal, a senior director with Care Ratings, deposits witnessed a healthy on-year growth of 13 per cent to Rs 191.6 lakh crore, which is the highest in the past six years (since March 2017) in the fortnight ending June 30, partly supported by the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 currency notes and higher interest rates on deposits.

Deposits rose 13 per cent in the reporting fortnight and sequentially, it expanded by 3.2 per cent to Rs 191.6 lakh crore and in absolute terms, deposits rose by Rs 22 lakh crore in the trailing 12-month period when it had stood at Rs 185.7 lakh crore.

As a result, the spread between credit and deposits growth dropped to 326 basis points in the reporting fortnight as against 875 bps in November 2022, which was the largest. This can be attributed to a rise in deposits in the last two to three fortnights.

This has had the short-term weighted average call rate



(WACR) rising to 5.94 per cent as of June 30 from 4.3 per cent as of July 31, 2022, primarily due to the elevated policy rates. The WACR had peaked at 6.69 per cent as of May 4, 2023.

Meanwhile, credit offtake continued to remain elevated at 16.2 per cent on-year to reach Rs 143.9 lakh crore for the reporting fortnight ending June 30 driven by personal loans, NBFCs and agriculture & allied activities. In the same period last year, credit pickup was 14.5 per cent.

The outlook for credit demand continues to be positive due to rise in capital expenditure on the back of the production linked incentive scheme, and retail credit push. However, it is still expected to moderate from 15 per cent in FY23 to 13-13.5 per cent in FY24.

The credit/deposit ratio has been generally trending upward since the later part of FY22 and generally hovering above 75 per cent since December 2022. For the reporting fortnight, it stood at 75.1 per cent expanding by 210 bps on-year from July 1, 2022, due to faster growth in credit compared to deposits.

## Indian Aviation Market Has Huge Potential Waiting To Be Tapped: Top Industry Experts

Press Trust Of India

**COLOMBO:** India's aviation market has a "huge potential" waiting to be tapped, and a growing middle-class and a young population usually showing a greater propensity to travel will contribute to its growth, top experts of the industry have said.

Besides, privatisation of airports has been a "big boost for aviation", and huge investment is happening in new airports and existing airports in India, said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India.

Aggarwal of Air India, CEO of IndiGo, Pieter Elbers; CEO of SriLankan Airlines, Richard Nuttall and Country Director for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in India Amitabh Khosla, were among leaders of the aviation industry who took part in Indian Travel Congress 2023 hosted recently in Colombo, as part of the efforts to boost tourism in the cash-strapped island nation.

The industry experts concurred that the growth in the aviation sector will in turn fuel the growth in the tourism sector, both of which were badly hit globally after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, but have



shown resilience, and are recovering on the right trajectory.

"In so far as aviation is concerned, we are extremely bullish on the long-term prospects of the industry. Indian aviation is the third-largest and fastest-growing market in the world, growing at almost 10 per cent for the last decade, almost 2.5 times the global average," Aggarwal said.

He was speaking in a panel discussion on 'India Tourism Vision 2047: A Transformed Landscape of Experiences and Connections', held as part of the 67th annual convention of the TAAI (Travel Agents Association of India) -- Indian Travel Congress -- in the Sri Lankan capital from July 6-9.

"Aviation is very closely related to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and GDP per capita... We have a growing middle class, a rapidly urbanising population, and we have a very young population. We are a billion-plus population," he said.

## G20 Meeting Discusses Cryptocurrencies And Regulatory Framework For Them

Press Trust Of India

**GANDHINAGAR:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the issue of cryptocurrencies was discussed at a key G20 meeting here to make a comprehensive, cohesive and coordinated global policy and regulatory framework for these digital assets.

She said members of Group of 20 or G20, an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies, reaffirmed their commitment to enhance international economic cooperation.

Sitharaman was speaking to the media after the end of the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Gandhinagar.

At the meeting, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors pledged to prioritize the well-being of people and the planet and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing international economic cooperation, strengthening global development for all and steering

the global economy towards strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth (SSBIG), she said.

"The issue of cryptocurrency was also discussed to make a comprehensive, cohesive and coordinated global policy and regulatory framework for them," Sitharaman told reporters after the conclusion of the two-day meeting. She said India, which currently holds the presidency of G20, brought onto the table the issue of digital public infrastructure (DPI).

"The Indian presidency has brought the digital public infrastructure (DPI) agenda into the G20 discussions. Members endorsed the transformative role of DPI in rapidly advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains," she said.

On global debt vulnerabilities, G20 members actively deliberated on how to strengthen multilateral coordination to effectively address the deteriorating debt situation and facilitate coordinated debt treatment for debt-distressed countries, said the finance minister.

## India, US Notify WTO About Mutually Resolving Four Trade Disputes

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India and the US have informed the WTO that they have mutually resolved three more trade disputes, in line with the commitment made by the two countries last month.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has already issued a similar communication on July 17 with regard to one of the six disputes.

Notification for the remaining two would also come on the WTO website. The two nations have already communicated to the WTO about mutually resolving all six disputes.

In three separate notifications to the WTO, the two countries have asked the Geneva-based body to terminate these disputes.

"The parties confirm their agreement that the panel report... may not be adopted by the DSB (dispute settlement body), as through their mutually agreed solution the dispute has been terminated," one of the communications of the WTO said on

Tuesday.

The six disputes include three initiated by India and as many by the US.

These disputes are Indian complaint against the US with regard to the imposition of countervailing duties by the US on certain hot rolled carbon steel flat products from India; on September 9, 2016, India filed a case against the US pertaining to domestic content requirements and subsidies instituted by the governments of the states of Washington, California, Montana, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Michigan, Delaware and Minnesota, in the energy sector.

Another dispute filed by the US against India was related to domestic content requirements under the Jawaharlar Nehru National Solar Mission for solar cells and solar modules. In 2018, the US filed a case against India's alleged export subsidy measures.

On July 3, 2019, the US filed a dispute against New Delhi on the imposition of additional duties with respect to certain products originating in the US.

## Sensex Breaches 67,000-Mark In Intra-Day Trade

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI-** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty continued their record-breaking rally for the fourth day on Tuesday, reaching new all-time high closing levels, amid fresh foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in the US and European markets.

Robust buying in IT major Infosys also contributed to the domestic benchmark indices optimism.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 205.21 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at its new all-time closing high of 66,795.14. During the day, it jumped 417.09 points or 0.62 per cent to reach its record intra-day peak of 67,007.02. The benchmark breached the 67,000-mark for the first time ever in intra-day trade.

The NSE Nifty gained 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to end at its all-time closing high of 19,749.25. During the day, the benchmark rallied 108 points or 0.54 per cent to hit its lifetime peak of 19,819.45.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys jumped the most by 3.67 per cent.

Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, Wipro, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv and Larsen & Toubro were among the other major gainers.

State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Titan, Tata Steel, Tata Motors and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards.

"The bulls continued to lift the market to new heights, but volatility emerged in the second half due to concerns over valuation. Rapid fall in the dollar index and a slide in the US 10-year yield are supporting liquidity in emerging markets. While disappointing economic growth in China and improvement in the US market outlook are drawing attention to the Indian market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.47 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.18 per cent.

Among the indices, IT jumped 1.15 per cent, teck rallied by 1.13 per cent, power (0.57 per cent), industrials (0.27 per cent) and utilities (0.19 per cent).



## DPITT-Government of India selects IUST to Empower J&K Startups

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Awantipora: In recognition of CIED IUST's contribution in fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation among youth, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, has approved financial support of Rs 5 crore to IUST under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme to support startups in Jammu and Kashmir.

CIED IUST Foundation, registered as a Section-8 Company with eight verticals, has demonstrated a commendable track record in promoting an ecosystem of innovation and startups. It was awarded a 3.5-star ranking in 2022 by the Ministry of Education, GOI, for its efforts in this area. The IUST's CIED Foundation provides a conducive ecosystem and necessary resources to 20 startups, facilitating their growth and development.

Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor of IUST, acknowledged the pivotal importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in progress and development. He commended the entire team of CIED-IUST Foundation, led by Director Dr. Pervez Ahmad Mir, for the national recognition in promoting an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship. He stated that the scheme would be a Game-Changer for innovation and entrepreneurship culture in J&K significantly boosting the startup ecosystem, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth.

Pertinently, CIED (Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development) IUST is the first institute from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to avail this scheme which will further bolster IUST's efforts in providing an enabling environment for startups to thrive, bringing new ideas, job opportunities, and economic prosperity to the region. Furthermore, IUST plans to increase the number of supported startups considerably under the scheme and aims to provide ample opportunities for budding entrepreneurs, encouraging their growth and success.

## SC Collegium recommends names of 4 advocates as judges of high courts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday recommended the names of four advocates for appointment as judges of different high courts.

The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, proposed the name of advocate Manjusha Ajay Deshpande for appointment as a judge of the Bombay High Court, advocate Kurubarahalli Venkataramareddy Aravind as a judge of the Karnataka High Court and advocates N Senthilkumar and G Arul Murugan for appointment as judges of the Madras High Court.

It said 52-year-old Senthilkumar, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste, has a standing of over 28 years at the Bar and his appointment as a judge of the high court will enhance the representation of marginalised communities on the Bench. The Collegium also said the appointment of Murugan will facilitate greater representation of the OBCs in the higher judiciary.

The SC collegium stated that the high court collegium presided over by the then chief justice of the Bombay High Court on September 26, 2022, recommended the elevation of Deshpande.

"The chief ministers and the governors of the states of Maharashtra and Goa have concurred in the recommendation. On May 2, 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium deferred its decision on the recommendation and decided to seek a report of the acting chief justice of the High Court of Bombay in view of the issues which were flagged by the government in the file.

"In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Bombay were consulted to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the candidate proposed for elevation to the High



Court," the Collegium said.

The Collegium, also comprising justices S K Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna, said it scrutinised and evaluated the material which has been placed on record for the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of Deshpande for elevation to the high court.

"By a communication dated May 10, 2023, the acting chief justice submitted a report. The report indicates that before doing so, the acting chief justice discussed the matter with his colleagues at the Aurangabad Bench of the High Court.

"We have considered the inputs provided by the government in the file," it added.

The Collegium said in its assessment, it has found that Deshpande is a competent lawyer and has been in practice since 1991.

"The candidate is well versed in several branches of law, particularly in constitutional and service matters. She has been on the panel of the government since 2013. The

elevation of the candidate would add to the representation of women on the Bench of the High Court of Bombay particularly amongst women lawyers practising before the Bench at Aurangabad," it said.

Regarding advocate Kurubarahalli Venkataramareddy Aravind, the Collegium said the inputs in the file indicate nothing adverse to his integrity or character.

"The candidate has a standing of nearly 23 years at the Bar. He has appeared before the high court as standing counsel for various departments of the state government. He has appeared in cases resulting in 567 reported judgments.

"This, coupled with his average professional income is an indicator of his experience. There is a considerable amount of tax litigation before the Karnataka High Court. There is a need for specialised judges having domain experience in this branch of law," it said.

The collegium said Kurubarahalli Venkataramareddy Aravind is fit and suitable for appointment

as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka.

On the names of advocates N Senthilkumar and G Arul Murugan, it said their names were recommended for appointment by the collegium of the Madras High Court on August 3, 2022.

"By a communication dated June 27, 2023, the chief justice of the Madras High Court has forwarded the minutes of the High Court collegium in regard to the suitability of the two candidates. In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the Madras High Court were consulted to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the two candidates," it said.

The Collegium said Senthilkumar has a standing of over 28 years at the Bar and has been practising in constitutional, criminal, service and civil cases.

"The candidate belongs to a Scheduled Caste. His appointment as a judge of the high court will enhance the representation on the Bench to marginalised communities. Having regard to the above factors, the Collegium is of the considered opinion that Shri N Senthilkumar is suitable for elevation to the Madras High Court," it said.

On Murugan, the Collegium said he has an experience of over 24 years at the Bar and has appeared before the Madras High Court and various tribunals.

"The candidate belongs to the OBC category. His appointment as a judge will facilitate greater representation of the OBCs in appointment to the higher judiciary. Having regard to the above aspects, the Collegium is of the considered opinion that Shri G Arul Murugan is suitable for the elevation to the Madras High Court," the collegium said.

## Stone-Pelting During BJYM Protest In Jaipur

Mediapersons, Policemen Among 9 Injured

Jaipur: Nine people including two policemen and as many mediapersons were injured Tuesday in stone pelting during a protest in Jaipur by BJP youth wing leaders against the alleged gangrape of a Dalit girl in Jodhpur, police said, adding eight protesters were detained.

The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha workers organised another protest near the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) office in Ajmer against cases of recruitment exam paper leak.

BJYM national president Tejasvi Surya, who participated in the 'Yuva Aakrosh Maha Gherav Demonstration' at Ajmer, claimed "unprovoked lathi charge on our workers resulted in the hospitalization of more than 70 people. Four are seriously injured while the condition of two is critical."

Ajmer Police Circle Officer (North) Chhavi Sharma, however, said no one was injured when the police pushed back the protesters as prohibitory orders were in force in the Civil Lines area and they tried to cross the barricading by climbing over it.

She said two women constables were injured in the scuffle between the protesters who were pushed back using "mild force".

In Jaipur, meanwhile, Yuva Morcha activists demonstrated at the main gate of the Rajasthan University campus demanding justice for the Jodhpur gangrape victim.

Police said stones were pelted from inside the university campus when official stopped the protesters from blocking the JLN Road.

Gandhinagar police officer Surendra Yadav said five students, two media persons and two policemen were injured in the stone-pelting. He said that the protesters also broke the camera of a media person.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 3 IAS Officers

for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of the state land.

The act popularly called as Roshni scheme initially envisaged conferment of proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh Kanals (102750 hectares) to the occupants of which only 15.85 per cent land was approved for vesting of ownership rights.

The scheme was finally repealed by the then governor Satya Pal Malik on November 28, 2018.

### 4 Foreign Terrorists

Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh confirmed the killing of four militants in the Sindaroh top area of Surankote.

"Four foreign terrorists were neutralised in a forest area during the ongoing 'operation Trinetra II'. The presence of such heavily-armed terrorists in hinterland is indicative of attempts to destabilise the region, and if not neutralised on time, these terrorists could have carried out major terrorist-initiated incidents in coming days," Commander, 6 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, Brigadier M P Singh told reporters in Poonch.

"Operation Trinetra" was launched by the Army in the aftermath of the deadly ambush on security forces' vehicles in the Mendhar area of Poonch that left five soldiers dead on April 20.

Brig Singh, who was also flanked by Poonch Senior Superintendent of Police Vinay Sharma, said a joint operation was launched by the Army and the police in the forest area on July 16 as part of relentless operations over the past three months after getting information about movement of unidentified persons in the general area of Sindaroh.

"Accordingly, the area was cordoned off after a specific intelligence with regard to the presence of armed terrorists. Based on this, Army and Special Operations Group of Jammu Kashmir Police launched a specific cordon and search operation of this area (on July 17)," he said.

After establishing an effective cordon, the Army officer said, the troops commenced their search and approached Sindaroh village. "Four terrorists who had taken shelter in the forest near the village opened indiscriminate fire on the approaching troops. Their fire was promptly retaliated and the terrorists were pinned down."

Brig Singh said the cordon was then readjusted to deny any space to the militants to escape.

"Special Forces (of the Army) were also inducted to augment the troops. The terrorists making use of the terrain, forest foliage and inclement weather kept opening fire on the troops in a desperate attempt to break the cordon," he said.

He said the intermittent fire between militants and the search parties continued throughout the day and the night before the guns fell silent around 5.30 am.

In the morning, the officer said, a detailed search of the area was carried out which led to the recovery of the bodies of slain militants and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, which included four Chinese-make AK assault rifles and two pistols with a Pakistani marking. "This joint action by Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police has resulted in saving the lives

and contributed towards maintaining peace in the region. The relentless efforts by security forces in past few months have started giving results," he said, asserting that the operations against militants would continue with renewed vigour to make the region "terrorism-free".

The officer lauded the cooperation of the forces as well as the locals and said the people played a key role in the successful operation which speaks volumes about the love for their nation and maintaining peace.

Referring to the recent killing of militants on the LoC while attempting to sneak into this side from across the border, Brigadier Singh said, "It shows the neighbouring country (Pakistan) will not stop and make continue attempts to disturb our region. We will not stop and eliminate all terrorists who are hiding in the area."

SSP Poonch Vinay Sharma said the successful operation is the glaring example of the synergy between the Army and the police in the fight against militancy.

"The joint operation against terrorists will continue," he said.

### SHO Attached

inquiry," reads an order issued by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police south Kashmir range, Rayees Mohammad Bhat.

"This order shall have immediate effect," it adds.

On Thursday last, Anmol Kumar, Heralal Yadav and Pintu Kumar Thakur, all residents of Bihar were injured when militants entered a building in Gagran area of the town and opened fire upon them. According to police, two local militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba are believed to have carried out the attack.

Thursday's firing incident was the second such attack on non-locals in Kashmir this year.

On May 29, a non-local civilian, identified as Deepu, was shot dead by militants in the Janglaat Mandi area of south Kashmir's Anantnag District.

Deepu, a resident of Udhampur district in the Jammu region, worked at a private circus in Anantnag.

Before that, on February 26, militants shot dead a man belonging to the Kashmiri Pandit community in the Achan area of Pulwama district. The victim was identified as Sanjay Sharma (40), a resident of Achan.

This year has so far witnessed fewer such incidents compared to last year.

### 'Time-Tested

joy that our valued NDA partners from across India will be attending the meeting in Delhi today. Ours is a time-tested alliance which seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations."

Union minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde welcomed the leaders, from the BJP as well as allies, who arrived at the venue of the meeting.

This will be the first such meeting of the National Democratic Alliance during the second term of the Modi government.

It underscores the ruling party's focus on highlighting its ability to make alliances at a time when opposition parties were coming together to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

### United Oppn Forms

Narendra Modi vs India, their ideology and

India. No one is able to fight the idea of India in the history," said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

While the leaders were giving further details of the deliberations, sources said that they have signed a pact in this regard over seat sharing and creation of state-wise committees.

They discussed politics of hatred, the failures of Central government and raised their voices against the administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as per the sources.

Kharge tweeted: "I am happy that 26 parties are present in Bengaluru to work unitedly. Together, we are in government in 11 states today. The BJP did not get 303 seats by itself. It used the votes of its allies and came to power and then discarded them."

### 3 More Kashmir

today, that the citizens, the youth of J-K, have new dreams, and are helping in creating a new atmosphere. Everyone should keep in mind that art flourishes in the land of peace only. Where there is no peace, art will not flourish there," the LG said.

Sinha said J-K has touched new heights in the sector in the last four years.

"You (artists) have suffered a lot because of the situation, but now, our artists are working with new energy to bring back J-K's lost glory," he added.

"Artists can have a glimpse of existence and realise the mystic path of life," Sinha said.

He made these remarks during the inauguration of 3-day Amrit Yuva Kalotsav, organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, at Tagore Hall, here on Tuesday.

"Music, dance, theater are not merely art forms but these are the keys that open all the locks of vast existence and tremendous possibilities of life," he said.

The LG acknowledged the immense contribution of the Artists in weaving many sects, customs, religion, culture, language, social system in the garland of unity and spreading its fragrance in every corner of the world.

"The biggest feature of our culture is its continuity. Many cultures, civilizations of the world have either disappeared or with time they were weakened. However, despite all the challenges and attacks, Indian culture is not only flourishing but its roots have become stronger," he said.

At the inaugural event, Sinha shared the constant efforts being made to pass on the rich cultural legacy of India to the younger generation. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, Amrit Yuva Kalotsav reflects society's aspirations and motivates the young generation to move forward in the journey of Amrit Kaal with a new vigour, new dreams, determination and commitment to nation building.

The biggest strength of our culture is unity in diversity. In order to strengthen this diversity, to bring states, cultures, languages, artists, and youth closer to each other, Prime Minister has started the mission of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,' he said.

"I am really proud that different states of the country have come closer, geographical distances have disappeared and people are taking interest in each other's food habits, culture, language and lifestyle. The culture of different

parts of the nation together makes stronger, vibrant and incredible India," he added

Addressing the gathering, the LG opined that there has to be a fine balance between science and music, and only then the consciousness of the society will bloom, and only then the nation will be able to progress.

"The mind and consciousness of society both are born out of the art. Consciousness is deeply embedded in poetry, music and different forms of art. No matter how developed a society is, no matter to what extent artificial intelligence is influencing our lives, it will be incomplete without art," he said.

He further added that the sensibility of the artists is absolutely pure, as pure as the mind of a small child.

"When such artists rise up and start connecting hearts through programme like Amrit Yuva Kalotsav, then their generosity, their tolerance, their spirit of philanthropy, austerity, sacrifice and spiritual practice contributes in the rapid progress of the nation and no force of the world can stop the prosperity of such society," Sinha added.

He also highlighted the endeavours of the UT Administration for the revival of old Crafts of Jammu Kashmir like Namda and the initiatives taken for the training of the artisans.

The festival of music, dance and drama commemorates the 75 years of India's Independence.

Earlier in his address, the LG commended the endeavour of Sangeet Natak Akademi and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages for providing a platform to young artists from across the country to showcase their talents.

He said the young artists from different states and UTs are getting an opportunity to fill crores of souls with their performances.

### First Batch Of Haj

made for the arrival of pilgrims and instructed the officials concerned to ensure a comfortable and hassle-free movement towards their respective native places.

Over 12,000 pilgrims embarked on the pilgrimage from Jammu and Kashmir this year. Additionally, 111 women without Mahram also performed the Haj.

National Conference chief and Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah also visited the airport to receive the pilgrims.

### NC-Congress Announce

against issuing statements against each other.

"After lot of consultations, we have joined hands to fight the polls," he said.

The election schedule for Kargil Hill Council elections is likely to be announced in the first week of August while voting for all 26 seats is expected to be held in the first week of September. The Hill Council has 30 seats including four nominated seats—(KNO)

### Landslide Kills

at the scene when the landslide struck. Meanwhile, a three-member inquiry committee has been set up by ADC Jasrotia to ascertain the facts related to the incident.

He asked the committee members to submit a comprehensive report with specific recommendations for lapses, if any, within a week.

### Ex-Serviceman

the scanner of investigation.

Crime branch headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir has asked its various wings to initiate similar action against repeat and habitual offenders and also investigate their cases speedily to bring them to justice at the earliest, the spokesperson said.

### SIA Raids

Special UAPA Court Pulwama at ten different places to collect evidence relevant to ongoing investigation necessary to unearth conspiracy of minority killings in south Kashmir," it reads.

It added that among these ten locations three are residential houses of three active militants of LeT who have relevance in the under investigation case.

"While launching specific hunt for substantial evidences SIA searched various structures and houses keeping records at target places and questioned many individuals for ascertaining circumstances and evidences in the case."

It added that this has been third round of raids since the lodgement of criminal case for investigation.

"Prior to this, two rounds of searches have already been conducted by the SIA. The investigation agency has been narrowing down efforts to attain specifications and evidentiary data for the logical conclusion of the case for judicial determination," it reads.

### 4 Militant Associates

materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Beerwah and investigation has been taken up.

### Over 6000 Pilgrims

batch of devotees began the yatra. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baital in Ganderbal district on July 1.

Over 2.30 lakh devotees have paid obeisance so far.

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

### Ex- MP, Public

Community led by Reyaz Ahmad Poswal also called on the Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum of issues and demands.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegations assured them appropriate redressal of the genuine issues and demands.

### Shopkeeper Held

was recovered from his shop. "He has been shifted to PS where he remains in custody," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Pattan and investigation has been initiated.

### Man Detained

on the roads were being examined as part of the search operation.





## Inter-District Cricket Tourney For YSS Officials Held

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Inter-District Cricket Tournament for Department of Youth Sports & Services (YSS) officials continued at Islamia College here on Tuesday.

The tournament is being held at different venues in order to channelize and refresh the talent of the officials and provide them a better environment and chance to interact with each other through sports activities.

The tournament is meant for officials which will really boost and help them in implementing the latest techniques/rules among the students while preparing them for basic level tournaments in a healthy way.

On Monday, quarter final of the tournament was played between District Srinagar and District Baramulla at Islamia College Ground in Hawal.

On the opening ceremony of the match the DYSSO Srinagar emphasized the need to

strengthen the department at grass root level and play a pivotal position in the institutions and take the department to the next higher levels.

He also applauded the efforts of the Joint Director Kashmir on taking such initiatives in the department which will really encourage the moral of the officials who are part of this tournament.

In the beginning of the match, District Srinagar won the toss and choose to bat first. While batting they set a target of 192 runs in 20 overs. Adil Mushtaq REK was the highest scorer with 49 runs while as Bilal Shamus PEM secured 45 runs.

In reply, District Baramulla collapsed at 150 runs all out in 17.04 overs. Adil Sofi REK from District Srinagar was the highest wicket taker with 3 wickets.

Now, District Srinagar will open at District Bandipora in semi finals at Bandipora on 07-2023.

## District Level Tournament Concludes In Anantnag



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag on Tuesday concluded its District Level tournament in Kabaddi, Volleyball and Kho-Kho at Girls High School Dalgam here. The competitions were held for the age group of Under-14 among girls in which Zone Qazigund won Volleyball and Kho-Kho while Zone Achaal won the Kabaddi final.

In the Kabaddi tournament, Bhijbehra secured 2nd position and Qazigund settled at 3rd slot,

while Doru secured 2nd position in Volleyball and also secured the same slot in Kabaddi.

At another venue, Boys Higher Secondary School Anantnag, till the last reports the events were running smoothly for Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho for boys in the age group of Under-14 years.

At the presentation ceremony, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag Raja Yaqoob Ali was the Chief Guest and Headmaster GHS Dalgam was the Guest of Honour and gave away prizes.

## Shamsipora Premier League: JCC Win In Super Over



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Shamsipora Premier League action continued on Tuesday with two in form teams taking on each other.

Tuesday's match was played between JCC Khanpora and Power Hitters Khanpora. Winning the toss Power Hitters elected to bat first and set a

target of 123 in 18 overs. While chasing the target, JCC were bowled out at 123 and thus the match was tied.

In the Super Over, JCC set a target of 11 runs. While chasing the set target, the Power Hitters lost the match by 8 runs.

Furkan bowled a fiery super over, giving away just 3 runs and taking a wicket. He was later adjudged as man of the match.

## Ashes: Australia Recalls Hazlewood, Retains Warner



Press Trust of India

**MANCHESTER:** Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood will return to try and help them secure the Ashes series against England at Old Trafford this week with a match to spare.

Captain Pat Cummins also said on Tuesday the top five batters will remain but they were considering not playing rookie spinner Todd Murphy.

That could mean a recall of first-choice allrounder Cameron Green, who was fit after missing the third test at Headingley with a hamstring issue.

Mitch Marsh filled in for Green and hit a brilliant century to pose a selection headache for the selectors.

Australia will confirm its side at the toss on Wednesday. Even after losing at Headingley by three wickets, Australia still leads the series 2-1.

Scott Boland will make way for Hazlewood after taking no wickets in Leeds. Boland has only two wickets in the series from the opening win at Edgbaston.

Hazlewood has eight wickets after also playing in the second win at Lord's. But he was rested from Headingley to manage his workload.

Retaining the top five means David Warner will continue opening. Warner is averaging 23.5 in six innings but has contributed to opening stands of 61, 73 and 63 with Usman

Khawaja.

Australia has not gone into a test without a frontline slow bowler since January 2012 but with Nathan Lyon injured and Murphy considered more dispensable, it was considering a significant change to the balance of the side. Playing Green and Marsh will shore up the batting but diminish their options in the field. An all-seam attack will have to be complemented by Travis Head's spin.

Murphy bowled only 9.3 overs for one wicket at Headingley.

It rained in Manchester most of Tuesday and was to clear early Wednesday. But rain was forecast to return on Saturday.

## Shakeel Double Hundred Has Pakistan In Command Of 1st Test In Sri Lanka



Agencies

**GALLE:** Saud Shakeel became the first Pakistan batter to make a double hundred in Sri Lanka as the visitors took control of the first test after making 461 on Tuesday.

Behind by 149 runs on the first innings, Sri Lanka reduced that to 135 when it was 14 for no loss by stumps on day three. Shakeel was stranded on 208 not out, his second century in two tests, when Pakistan was all out after tea.

In six tests since his debut in December, he has scored a double hundred, a hundred and five half-centuries. He has a Bradmanesque average of 98.5.

Shakeel was the mainstay of Pakistan's innings by stitching valuable partnerships with the lower middle order and the tail after the top order collapsed.

At 101-5, a first-innings lead

was the last thing on Pakistan's mind, but Shakeel added 177 runs with Agha Salman to rescue his side. The partnership was a record for Pakistan for the sixth wicket against Sri Lanka, improving on the 173-run stand between Sarfaraz Ahmed and Asad Shafiq in Dubai in 2017.

With an unorthodox batting technique, Shakeel used his feet expertly to the spinners, punishing the loose balls and forcing the Sri Lankans to spread the field during his stand with Salman.

Ramesh Mendis made the breakthrough in the rain-affected morning session when he had Salman stumped for 83. Batting with the tail, Shakeel changed gears, quite content to farm the strike from the tail and the tactic worked.

After lunch, Shakeel extended the seventh-wicket stand

with Noman Ali to 52 runs. He added a match defining 94 runs with Naseem Shah for the ninth wicket. Naseem's contribution was just six runs.

Sri Lanka was sloppy in the field as Shakeel was dropped twice, on 93 by Nishan Madushka at leg gully and on 139 by Angelo Mathews at deep midwicket.

The left-handed batsman reached his double hundred cutting Dhananjaya de Silva behind square, bisecting the fielders for four.

When last man Abrar Ahmed was dismissed for 10 with the total on 461, Shakeel was unbeaten after a marathon innings lasting for 506 minutes, in which he faced 361 balls and hit 19 boundaries.

Only two overseas players — West Indies' Chris Gayle (333) and England's Joe Root (228) — have higher innings in Galle than Shakeel.



## Rashford Extends Manchester United Deal Until 2028

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** England forward Marcus Rashford has extended his contract with Manchester United until June 2028, the Premier League club said on Tuesday. Rashford, whose previous deal was set to expire in 2024, has made nearly 360 appearances for United since making his debut in 2016.

He has scored 123 goals in all competitions, 30 of them in the 2022-23 campaign, helping the club to a third-placed finish. "I joined Manchester United as a seven-year-old boy with a dream. That same passion, pride, and determination to succeed still drives me every time I have the honour of wearing the shirt," the 25-year-old told the club website.

"I've already had some amazing experiences at this incredible club, but there is still a lot more to achieve and I remain relentlessly determined to

win more trophies in the years ahead. "I can assure you that I will give everything to help the team reach the level we are capable of, and I can feel the same determination around the dressing room. I couldn't be more excited for the future under this manager."

In the 2022-23 season Rashford won the club's Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards. "Ever since he joined our Academy 18 years ago, Marcus has epitomised what it takes to succeed as a Manchester United player," said Manchester United Football Director John Murtough.

"He is a brilliant talent but also humble, dedicated and driven. "As he enters his prime years, we know there is still so much more to come from him, and we can see the hunger that Marcus feels to achieve the highest levels of success here at Manchester United."

## Bayern Sign Kim Min-jae From Napoli On 5-Year Deal

Agencies

**MUNICH:** South Korea defender Kim Min-jae has joined German side Bayern Munich on a five-year contract from Serie A champions Napoli, the Bundesliga club said on Tuesday. The German giants did not disclose the transfer fee but according to German and Italian media Bayern had paid a release clause worth 50 million euros (\$56.11 million) for the player.

"FC Bayern is a dream for every footballer," Min-jae told the club website. "I'm really looking

season and being voted the best defender in the league," Bayern CEO Jan-Christian Dreesen said. "He impresses with his physical presence, as well as his mentality and speed. We're pleased he can immediately take part fully in pre-season and firmly believe that he will also excite our fans with his style of play."

In Napoli Min-jae played 45 matches in all competitions, scoring two goals. He announced he had left the Italian side earlier on Tuesday.

"I send this message to all the Napoli fans who have shown love



forward to what's to come in Munich. It's a new beginning for me. I'll continue to develop here.

"In discussions with the club, it was made clear to me from the start how interested they are in me. My first goal is to play a lot of games. In addition, I want to win as many trophies as possible."

The 26-year-old, who joined Napoli from Turkish side Fenerbahce in July last year, was a vital part of the team that won the Scudetto for the first time in more than three decades last season.

"Kim Min-jae has developed extremely well, winning the Serie A title with Napoli last

and support. Thanks to you the Scudetto was possible after (Diego) Maradona, 33 years ago," Min-jae said in a statement on Instagram. "To my passionate club Napoli, Mister (manager Luciano) Spalletti, my team mates, and above all, to Napoli fans, I would like to express my gratitude."

"No matter where I will be or no matter where I go, I will remember Napoli and cheer for you."

Min-jae has earned 49 caps for South Korea since making his debut back in 2017. However, he was unable to participate in the last two friendlies due to military service.

## Alcaraz Needs New Rivals For A New Era

Agencies

**N**ovak Djokovic was still trying to digest the loss of his Wimbledon crown to Carlos Alcaraz when one reporter asked him whether Sunday's clash was the start of a great rivalry. The irony was not lost on Djokovic who, despite still operating at his peak, is 36-years-old and in sight of the end of his record-shredding career.

"I would hope so, for my sake," the Serb said. "He's going to be on the tour for quite some time. "I don't know how long I'll be around."

Djokovic's rivalries with Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal, not to mention Andy Murray, have captivated the sport for close to two decades, but time is against him forming another one with Alcaraz, so Sunday's five-set duel should be savoured. He played Federer 50 times, 17 of them at majors; Nadal on 59 occasions, 18 of them at majors and Murray 36 times with 10

of them at Grand Slam level.

So far he has faced the 20-year-old Alcaraz three times. Certainly the prospect of another showdown at the U.S. Open in a few weeks is exciting, but whether or not 23-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic can stretch his career long enough to battle Alcaraz on a regular basis is questionable.

"I think it's good for the sport, one and two in the world facing each other in five-hours, five-set thrillers. Couldn't be better for our sport in general, so why not?" Djokovic said. The reality, however, is that world number one Alcaraz could be left without a serious rival, certainly amongst the current Next Gen brigade who appear a long way behind the Spanish phenomenon.

"Who's going to match this kid for the next few years?" 1987 Wimbledon champion Pat Cash said after Alcaraz ended Djokovic's 34-match winning run at the



grasscourt slam. Hopefully, Alcaraz's meteoric rise will have a positive impact on those around the same age group, just as Federer and Nadal inspired Djokovic to become the player he is.

Italian Jannik Sinner, 21, beat Alcaraz at last year's Wimbledon but has reached only one Grand Slam semi-final so far, losing to Djokovic in straight sets last week. Denmark's new world number four Holger Rune, 20, has the game and personality to form a rivalry with his former junior sparring partner Alcaraz, while Italian Lorenzo Mussetti, 21, is another with the potential to step up.

But for the likes of Stefanos Tsitsipas, Daniil Medvedev, Casper Ruud and Andrey Rublev — players who were supposed to have filled the void after the 'big three' depart — they have watched Alcaraz zoom by them. Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, was outclassed by Alcaraz in the Wimbledon semi-

final, lasting less than two hours on Centre Court.

While professional sport is full of pitfalls and those suggesting Alcaraz will be sweeping titles for another decade at least, should pause for thought. Federer, Djokovic and Nadal often talk about the motivation each gave each other as the bar was pushed higher and higher.

Between them they won 65 Grand Slam titles and it has to be hoped that Alcaraz finds a couple of adversaries to share the load as tennis moves into a new era. "I think he's already taken Sinner with him and he will take Holger Rune with him, although Holger Rune maybe hasn't latched on to the idea yet," seven-time Grand Slam champion Mats Wilander told Reuters.

"Roger made Novak and Rafa think 'hey this guy is not going to give us anything, we have to go and take it from him' and I think Carlos can definitely be that guy."



## Australian Man And His Dog Rescued By Mexican Tuna Boat After Drifting 3 Months In Pacific Ocean



**Agenceis**  
**Mexico:** An Australian sailor who had been adrift at sea with his dog for three months has been rescued by a Mexican tuna boat in international waters, the fishing vessel's owner said on Monday.  
 Timothy Lyndsay Shaddock, 54, was aboard his incapacitated catamaran Aloha Toa in the Pacific some 1,200 miles from land when the crew of the boat from the Grupomar fleet spotted them, the company said in a statement.  
 The company said Shaddock and his dog Bella were in a "precarious" state when found,

lacking provisions and shelter. The tuna boat's crew gave them medical attention, food and hydration, it said.  
 Grupomar did not provide specific details on what day Shaddock was rescued or when he had started his voyage.  
 The tuna boat, captained by Oscar Meza Oregón, was expected to arrive in the Pacific coast port of Manzanillo on Tuesday with Shaddock and Bella.  
 Antonio Suárez Gutiérrez, Grupomar's founder and president, said he was proud of his crew, praising them for their humanity in saving the life of someone in trouble.

## Income Tax Department Probes UP YouTuber For Alleged Tax Evasion

**Agenceis**

New Delhi, July 18: The income tax department is investigating an Uttar Pradesh-based social media content creator on charges of alleged tax evasion on his income earned through hosting YouTube shows, official sources said Tuesday.  
 The department came across the activities of the social media influencer based in Bareilly district of the state recently, after the state police shared with it information about his financial activities. The I-T sleuths have recorded his statement and is looking into his transactions, bank accounts and the income tax returns (ITRs) filed by him in the past.  
 The man hosts a share market analysis show on YouTube for the last few years and has had some income. He claimed that



he has filed his ITRs and reflected all his earnings. It is being investigated, the sources said.  
 They said the police had searched the YouTube host as part of a separate investigation and once they shared information about his financial activities, the tax department decided to ascertain the facts.  
 The police also recovered some cash which the tax department may seize or release after investigation.  
 The probe is still on and no conclusions have been arrived at as of now, a senior I-T department officer told PTI.

The development comes weeks after the tax department searched about 10 YouTubers and other social media influencers in Kerala, mostly young artists and actors. The department has launched an investigation against a number of social media influencers and content creators on platforms like YouTube and Instagram who, it found, were not reportedly showing their income and profits commensurate with their earnings, official sources had said earlier.  
 Social media influencers and online content creators are those who have the power to address online and affect their audiences' purchasing decisions or opinions about a product, service, brand or experience, because of the influencers'/celebrities' authority, knowledge, position, or relationship with their audience.

## Pakistani citizen Seema Haider questioned by UP Police's Anti-Terrorist Squad



**Agenceis**

The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh Police on Monday questioned Pakistani citizen Seema Haider, who entered India illegally in May and is now living with her Indian partner Sachin Meena in Greater Noida, officials said.  
 The development comes a day after UP ATS arrested a suspected agent of Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in Lucknow on charges of supplying "vital information about defence establishments" to his handlers in the neighbouring

country.  
 The questioning of the Pakistani woman by the ATS also comes at a time when a little-known right-wing fringe group in Greater Noida has threatened of a protest if Haider, who illegally entered India with her four children, is not evicted from the country "within 72 hours".  
 A senior officer confirmed to PTI that Haider was being interrogated by the ATS on Monday and that local police were not involved in it. Local police are separately investigating the case and are yet to file a chargesheet, the officer said.

## Urban Birds Adapt: Magpies Use Anti-Bird Spikes To Build Nests

Some birds have been spotted using anti-bird spikes to construct their nests, turning the tables on their intended purpose. A recent study led by biologist Auke-Florian Hiemstra and his team at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, Netherlands, has shed light on this fascinating behavior, highlighting how Eurasian magpies (*Pica pica*) repurpose the sharp bird-deterrent strips to ward off other birds and safeguard their nests.



The study originated when a patient in Antwerp, Belgium, captured an image of a magpie nest adorned with over 1,500 long, sharp antibird spikes. Intrigued by this peculiar sight, the photo was sent to Hiemstra, who subsequently embarked on a quest to investigate further. The team collected the nest and dis-

covered four more similar nests across cities in the Netherlands and Scotland.  
 While carrion crows (*Corvus corone*) incorporated the spikes into the structural framework of their nests, Hiemstra believes

that magpies used the spikes as a defensive measure against other birds. Magpies, known for their relatively small size, typically construct domed roofs over their nests to protect their eggs and hatchlings from avian preda-

tors. In urban environments where spiny vegetation is scarce, magpies have adapted by using available materials such as nails, screws, and now, antibird spikes.  
 The incorporation of anti-bird spikes into magpie nests is seen as the ultimate manifestation of the Anthropocene era, where humans' creations inadvertently become part of the natural world. These spikes, originally designed to deter birds from landing on buildings, have now become a means for magpies to fortify their nests.  
 The researchers' findings have generated fascination among the scientific community, with praise for their citizen science approach. However, some experts caution that further experimentation and field observations are needed to definitively establish the purpose of the spikes in magpie nests. Zu-

zanna Jagielło, an ecologist at the University of Warsaw, believes that the current study is a starting point for deeper exploration of this phenomenon.  
 Hiemstra has already received reports of other nests incorporating anti-bird spikes, suggesting that this behavior may be more widespread than previously thought. The accumulation of more nests could provide an opportunity to investigate whether the spikes enhance the survival rates of young magpies residing in these uniquely fortified homes.  
 Despite the scientific significance of the findings, Hiemstra can't help but find humor in the situation. He describes it as "the perfect comeback of the birds," highlighting the irony of birds repurposing anti-bird defenses to protect themselves.

Quick eats for busy people

# Bun Maska

& Chai

## Turkish doner kebab

Who Says Healthy Food Can't Taste Good?

## BRING YOUR KIDS ALONG

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