

# KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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## Experts Raise Alarm Over Consumption Of Fizzy Drinks By Children

### Steep Intake Of Fizzy Drinks Causes Type-2 Diabetes, Neurodevelopmental Disorders Among Kids

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** As cold drink sales continue to soar with rising temperatures in Kashmir valley, medical experts on Thursday sounded caution that the steep intake of the sugary or carbonated beverages, besides increasing type 2 diabetes, may also contribute to cardiovascular conditions and neurodevelopment disorders among children.

Similarly, regular intake of fast food that is high in saturated fat, according to experts, elevates blood sugar levels, promotes fat storage and increases the risk of diabetes and heart disease, depression and digestive issues among all age groups.

People hooked to aerated drinks containing harmful ingredients including phosphoric acid, caffeine, sugar and aspartame may end up



gaining unhealthy weight that eventually causes diabetes.

Fizzy beverages like Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Thums-Up, and Mountain Dew have become quite popular over the years in India including Kashmir and that those addicted to these aerated drinks invite a lot of diseases to attack their body.

Noted influenza expert and president Doctors Association of Kashmir (DAK), Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan attributed growing aggression and neurodevelopment disorders and obesity

among children with excessive intake of soft drinks, containing harmful chemicals.

Dr Hassan also said the regular consumption of fast-food including noodles, French fries, chicken nuggets, momos contribute to obesity and increases risk of diabetes besides raising high cholesterol levels among individuals.

"Children have become more addicted to aerated drinks in Kashmir but **More on P10**

## Sharma Sworn-In As J&K Election Commissioner

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office to the newly appointed State Election Commissioner (SEC) Braj Raj Sharma here on Thursday.

Sharma was sworn in as the SEC for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir at a ceremony held Thursday at the Raj Bhawan. He made and subscribed to the oath of office before the LG.

Sharma was last week appointed the SEC. He will hold the position of SEC till the age of 65.

The post of the SEC fell vacant on February 1, 2023 after K K Sharma completed his term.

A 1984 batch IAS (retired) officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre, Sharma served as the chief secretary in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir before proceeding on deputation to the central government. Sharma served as Chief Secretary of J-K from 2015 to 2017.

In October 2019, two months after Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status was revoked, the government appointed Sharma as the chairman of the Staff Selection **More on P10**

## Army Gets New Vehicles For High-Altitude Terrains

Agencies

**Jammu:** After replacing the vintage gypsy with specifically customized indigenous Tata Safari, Indian Army has inducted first batch of new 4x4 vehicles Toyota Hilux Mountain off-Road Vehicles (MRVs) and Mahindra Scorpio light utility vehicles (LUVs) to enhance mobility in difficult terrains and high altitude areas of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh.

Official sources said that after sustained testing of over two months under controlled conditions, Northern Command of the Indian Army has received the first batch of Toyota Hilux.

"Hilux was put through over 2 months of extensive and rigorous evaluation by the Northern

Command of the Indian Army. The Hilux successfully performed in extreme weather and rough terrains - ranging from an altitude of 13000ft to sub-zero temperatures," officials said.

This development came a week after Mahindra and Mahindra delivered an unknown number of its iconic Scorpio with army-specific customization to the army, against the order of 1,470 units.

"Army also inducted the first batch of an unknown number of Scorpios, Mahindra said in a social media post in mid-July," officials said, adding, "Mahindra received an order for 1,470 Scorpios from the Indian Army in January."

Olive Green colour, Army-spec Scorpio **More on P10**



## Agha Shahid Ali's Poetry Removed From KU Curriculum

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** The authorities have removed award-winning memoir of Basharat Peer and Agha Shahid Ali's poetry collection from the M.A English curriculum of the University of Kashmir and Cluster University.

Taking exception of what has been claimed 'teaching resistance literature' at the Kashmir University and Cluster University; the J&K administration has directed the two varsity administrations to immediately delete Peer's memoir 'The Curfewed Night' and poetry collection of distinguished Kashmiri-American poet Agha Shahid Ali from M.A English curriculum. KU Vice-Chancellor,

**6 YES THE CURFEWED NIGHT AND ANOTHER COLLECTION OF POETRY HAVE BEEN DELETED** from M.A English and that the decision was taken in accordance with the new education policy of J&K. The matter is being looked at from various other angles as well" - Nilofar Khan, KU VC

Professor Nilofar Khan while confirming the development, said since new education policy has been introduced in J&K Union Territory, administration as per the guidelines of new policy has decided to delete the literature being taught at the post-graduation level at the varsity.

"Yes the Curfewed Night and another collection of poetry have been deleted from M.A English **More on P10**



A boy pushing an LPG cylinder with his foot through a long wooden bridge in the interiors of Dal Lake on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## 8 Teachers Chargesheeted In Fake Degree Case

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu on Thursday filed a chargesheet against 8 Physical Education teachers and an agent in Rajouri for securing jobs on fake certificates.

According to a statement, the charge sheet was filed in case FIR No. 19/2018 U/S 420,465,467,468,471 201 120-B RPC P/S EOW Crime Branch Jammu for arranging fake degrees and using them for securing higher grades in the Department.

The statement reads that 489 page challan has been produced against 8 teachers and the agent through whom they procured Fake Bachelors Degrees in Physical Education in the Name of Global Open

University Nagaland.

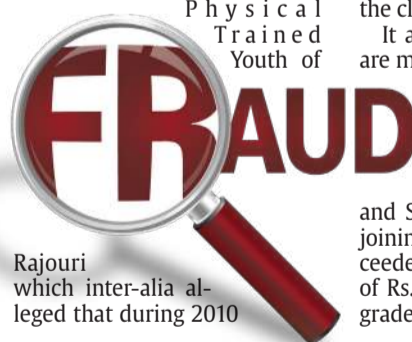
"08 accused teachers and the agent include Shaista Akhter, Gulzar Hussain, Parveen Akhter, Kuldeep Singh, Jamil Hussain, Attamjeet Singh, Raghbir Chander, Neelam Kumari Sharma and the agent Mohd Shabir."

It reads that the case owes its origin to a written complaint lodged by the unemployed Physical Trained Youth of

about 130 appointments were made in

Rajouri by Secretary SSRB Srinagar and most of the candidates were having C.P.ED i.e. Certificate in Physical Education. "The B.P.ED Certificates were managed by the teachers from the Global Open University Nagaland, whereas they never physically joined the University to attend the classes for BP Ed."

It added that likewise, there are many other physical education teachers who managed B.P.Ed degrees, through Agents and produced the same before District Youth Services and Sports Officer at the time joining their duties and succeeded in getting grade pay of Rs. 2800 instead of Rs 2400 grade pay. **More on P10**



Rajouri which inter-alia alleged that during 2010

## 3 Chargesheeted For Grabbing 25 Kanal State Land

**T**he Crime Branch of police on Thursday filed a chargesheet against three people for encroaching upon 25 kanal state land in Kunzer area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch produced the charge-report before the Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Tangmarg against Mohammad Najeeb Goni of Srinagar and Ghulam Mohammad Bhat and Mohammad Ashraf Wani, both residents of Baramulla, in a case FIR No. 28/2018 U/Ss 420, 447-A & 120-B **More on P10**

## Put All Efforts To Ensure Terror-Free J&K: DGP

Asks Police, Army; CRPF To Launch Planned Manhunt To Track Down Terrorists

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Amid a spike in militant attacks in South Kashmir, the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday asked police and central forces to launch planned manhunt in suspected places to track down the terrorists, and directed for putting in all efforts to ensure "terror free" Jammu and Kashmir.

The DGP passed these directions while chairing a high level meeting of Police, Army and CRPF officers and reviewed the security scenario of South Kashmir as also security arrangements with regard to on-going Amarnath Yatra, a police spokesperson said.

Singh was accompanied by Special DG CID R.R Swain, ADGP CRPF Nalin Prabhat, ADGP Armed S. J. M. Gillani, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar and IG KOS CRPF G.K Verma.

Addressing the meeting, the DGP directed the officers to reassess the strategy in combating the anti-peace elements to



ensure safety and security of the people. He stressed on the importance of further developing intelligence networks and sharing the inputs to preempt any untoward incident.

Stressing on joint night domination and foot patrolling, the DGP directed for launching planned manhunt in suspected places to "track down the terrorists".

Emphasizing on the need for increased vigil and enhanced proactive actions to further peace and stability, the DGP stressed on **More on P10**

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

#### Banihal Highway Reopens For Traffic

**T**raffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway resumed on Thursday after a day-long closure due to landslides and mudslides in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said. Heavy rains had triggered landslides and mudslides at multiple places blocking the highway in Ramban and Udhampur districts. The highway is through for two-way traffic and all stranded vehicles have been cleared, they said. Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta **More on P10**

#### Man Held For Rifle Snatching Bid

**P**olice on Thursday arrested a man on charges of trying to snatch a weapon from a policeman in South Kashmir's Shopian district. Quoting a senior police officer, a local news agency KNO reported that a person attempted to snatch a weapon from SOG personnel near the camp at Imamsahib on Thursday evening. However, with the quick action, the officer said, the snatcher was arrested on the spot. Senior Superintendent of **More on P10**

#### Self-Styled Journo Held Over Terror Links

**A** self-styled journalist was on Thursday arrested for allegedly receiving funds for terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir, police here said. "A self-styled journalist Muzamil Zahoor Malik of Indergam Pattan (was) arrested for terror funding. He received terror funds in his bank account made on forged documents/fake identity," Srinagar Police said on Twitter. The police said a case under various sections of the Unlawful Activities **More on P10**

#### NIA Raids Multiple Places In Kashmir

**T**he National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday carried out raids at several places in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a terror-related case, officials said. The raids were conducted in the Baramulla, Pulwama and Shopian districts of the Kashmir valley, they said. During the raids, the NIA sleuths were accompanied by the Jammu and Kashmir police and CRPF personnel. According to officials, the raids are a part **More on P10**

#### Arms, Ammo Recovered Along LoC

**S**ecurity forces recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, the Army said here on Thursday. "In a Joint Operation launched today by #IndianArmy, @JmuKmrPolice and Int agencies along the LOC at Bankhot in Tangdhar Sector, Kupwara, a huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered," Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said on Twitter. **More on P10**

#### IUST Announces Summer Break From Today

**T**he Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on Thursday announced summer vacations from July 21 to July 30. "It is for information of all concerned that the summer vacation will be observed in the University and in associated colleges from 21-07-2023 till 30-07-2023. However, examinations, outside internships and other similar necessary academic activities shall be conducted as per schedule," reads an order issued by the management on Thursday. "The Deans/Directors/Heads, **More on P10**



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KASHMIR OBSERVER 2

Srinagar | Friday | 21-07-2023

# 'Parents Who Talk To Infants More Boost Their Brain Development'

ANI

A team led by a neurodevelopment researcher from the University of Texas at Dallas has uncovered some of the most compelling evidence to date showing parents who talk to their newborns more boost their brain development.

Using MRI and audio recordings, the researchers demonstrated how caregiver speech is related to newborn brain development in ways that support long-term language development. The work was published in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience's print issue in June and online on April 11. Dr. Meghan Swanson, an assistant professor of psychology in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, is the report's principal author.

"This paper is a step toward understanding why children who hear more words go on to have better language skills and what process facilitates that mechanism," Swanson said. "Ours is one of two new papers that are the first to show links between caregiver speech and how the brain's white matter develops."

White matter in the

brain facilitates communication between various gray matter regions, where information processing takes place in the brain.

The research included 52 infants from the Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS), a National Institutes of Health-funded Autism Center of Excellence project involving eight universities in the U.S. and Canada and clinical sites in Seattle, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Home language recordings were collected when children were 9 months old and again six months later, and MRIs were performed at 3 months old and 6 months old, and at ages 1 and 2.

"This timing of home recordings was chosen because it straddles the emergence of words," Swanson said. "We wanted to capture both this prelinguistic, babbling time frame, as well as a point after or near the emergence of talking." It's long been known that an infant's home environment—especially the quality of caregiver speech—directly influences language acquisition, but the mechanisms behind this are unclear. Swanson's team imaged several areas of the brain's white matter, focusing on developing neurological pathways.

"The arcuate fasciculus is the fiber tract that everyone in neurobiology courses learns is essential to producing and understanding language, but that finding is based on adult brains," Swanson said. "In these children, we looked at other potentially meaningful fiber tracts as well, including the uncinate fasciculus, which has been linked to learning and memory." The researchers used the images to measure fractional anisotropy (FA). This metric for the freedom or restriction of water movement in the brain is used as a proxy for the progress of white matter development.

"As a fiber tract matures, water movement becomes more restricted, and the brain's structure becomes more coherent," Swanson said. "Because babies aren't born with highly specialized brains, one might expect that networks that support a given cognitive skill start out more diffuse and then become more specialized." Swanson's team found that infants who heard more words had lower FA values, indicating that the structure of their white matter was slower to develop. The children went on to have better linguistic performance when they began to talk.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Department Of Health & Medical Education**  
**Government Dental College & Hospital**  
SHIREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR  
PHONE NO: 0194 - 2504701, 0194 - 2504702.  
FAX NO: 0194 - 2504703.  
WEBSITE: www.gdcsrinagar.org EMAIL: gdcsrinagar@gmail.com

### ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Online application forms from the eligible candidates who are domicile of Union Territory of J&K are invited for the tenure post of Registrar/Tutors in the below mentioned discipline of this College as per the relevant rules in vogue for a period of one (1) year in the first instance further extendable on year to year basis upto maximum of three (3) years subject to Satisfactory work and conduct certificate from the concerned HOD:-

S.No	Name of specialty	Name of the Post	No. of post
1.	Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics	Tutor	01 (One)
1.	Oral Medicine & Radiology	Tutor	01 (One)
1.	Periodontics	Registrar	01 (One)
1.	Public Health Dentistry	Tutor	01 (One)

The application process shall be completed/submitted in the online mode only. In this regard, applicants are directed to visit the official website of this Institution (www.gdcsrinagar.org) for submission of their application forms. The applicants are advised to upload the following documents duly self-attested. The applicants are also advised to upload the fee receipt after depositing fee in any J&K Bank Branch. The applicants can apply online upto 11-08-2023 (03:00PM). The link will be available from 22-07-2023 to 11-08-2023 upto 03:00PM.

#### List of documents to be uploaded:

- BDS Degree Certificate.
- Marks certificate of all the BDS Examinations.
- Internship completion certificate of BDS.
- MDS Degree certificate.
- Valid Dental Council Registration Certificate with updated renewal.
- Adhaar Card & Pan Card Mandatory as per Dental Council of India (DCI).
- Academic Honours :-  
I. Best outgoing student in each year in University Professional Examination (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th).  
a) Overall 1st position/Overall 2nd position/Overall 3rd position.  
II. Distinction in any subject in University Professional Examination.  
III. Subject:  
a) 1st position/ 2nd position/ 3rd position in University Professional Examination.  
IV. Paper presentation in National / International Conferences.  
V. Poster presentation in National / International Conferences.  
VI. Best poster award.  
VII. Best poster award.  
VIII. Best video presentation (if any)
- Best video presentation (if any)
- Submittal of Academic Honours (S. No. 7) kindly upload self attested PDF scanned copies of the below mentioned while submitting the online forms. Additional documents required to be uploaded in support of S. No 7 sec. IV, V, VI, VII, VIII as below:  
I. Certificate of attendance of Conference.  
II. Certificate of conference Registration (Pay receipt).  
III. Acceptance letter (Paper/Poster) from the Organizing committee.  
IV. Letter from concerned Head of the Department during PG Period/for the period he/she has work under his/her control wherever, applicable.  
V. The Scientific Brochure of the conference in which the name of the applicant is mentioned.  
VI. Photograph receiving certificate of presentation (Paper/Poster)  
VII. A copy of presentation/poster presented in National/International Conference.  
VIII. Certificate for the best video presentation (Subject to submission of Pen Drive of the same)  
IX. Any other documents in support of the claim.  
X. In respect of S. No. 7 sec VIII the video of the presentation be submitted in the office on a pen drive before/on the last date of submission of online application form
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Domicile Proof.
- The application form should be accompanied with an undertaking having stamps of proper value duly attested by the Notary declaring that the documents uploaded by the candidate are genuine and he/she has not done working as Registrar/Demonstrator/Tutor after their Post Graduation in the discipline in any Institution as recognized/approved by Dental Council of India within or outside the UT.
- Recent passport size photograph, signature and Thumb should be uploaded at the appropriate place in the application form.
- The requisite fee for Registrar Post is Rs. 700/-

#### Note:-

The selection will be made as per Government Order No. 282-JK(HME) of 2023 dated: 04-04-2023 followed by Government Order No. 283-JK(HME) of 2023 dated: 04-04-2023.

#### CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY:-

- The online form of the candidates shall be accepted provisionally subject to verification.
- The in-service doctors shall be allowed to participate in the selection process only with the prior permission of the Administrative Department as per the policy/guidelines issued by the Govt. vide Order No. 164-ME of 2012 dated 02.03.2012 followed by Govt. Order No. 474-HME of 2014 dated: 11-08-2014 & Circular No. 58-JK (HME) of 2022 dated: 18-11-2022.
- The in-service applicant has to forward his/her application form through proper channel.
- In-service candidate if selected shall be on deputation for three (3) years as per SRO-75 dated 15-04-1993.
- The non-service applicant shall be engaged on academic arrangement basis as per terms and conditions of S.O 364 dated: 27-11-2020.
- The appointee shall be entitled the salary as applicable under S.O-364 dated 27-11-2020.
- The Maximum age for non-service applicants at the time of submission of application should be 50 years.
- The applicant should have completed BDS/MDS from the Institution recognized by the Dental Council of India (DCI).
- Those doctors who have already completed their tenure/working as Registrar/Tutor/Demonstrator after their Post Graduation in the discipline in any institution as recognized/approved by Dental Council of India within or outside the UT need not to apply and their application forms shall not be considered. However, this restriction shall not be applicable in respect of such doctors who have done their Registrarship /Tutorship/Demonstratorship in the discipline prior to the passing of their post-graduation.
- The applicants who have earlier been appointed as Registrar/ Demonstrator/Tutor in any discipline in the institution as recognised/approved by Dental Council of India, but have not completed their tenure for one reason or the other shall not be considered.
- The candidates shall abide by all the instructions issued by the Administrative Department as well as Dental Council of India from time to time in this regard.

Sd/-  
[Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Farooq],  
Principal/Dean  
No:-GDC/Estt./File-54/Efile-6/2021-02/5177-92  
DIPK-5487/23 Dated:- 20-07-2023.

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ASYM DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM

Stop Female Foeticide.....Save Girl Child

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Tel:01951-359988

### Short Term Quotation for Lab Diagnostics

On behalf of Lt Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, sealed quotations are invited from manufacturers , authorized distributors for supply and fixing of fully automatic Biochemistry Analyzer,Urine Analyzer,Immunoassay/hormone analyser on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models /Reagent Rental basis (Specifications with terms and conditions can be had from office of the undersigned on all working days from 10AM to 4PM , which should reach the office of the u/s by or before 28-07-2023 upto 1PM.

The quotations complete in all respects along with necessary documents should be dropped personally in the tender box kept for the purpose in the office of Medical Superintendent District Hospital Budgam by or before 28-07-2023 upto 1pm.The quotations shall be opened on the same day at 2pm. The supplier or their representatives who wish to be present at the time of quotation opening shall therefore present themselves in the office chamber of Medical Superintendent District Hospital Budgam .

NO:DHB/1035-38  
DIPK-5476/23 Dated:20-07-2023

Medical Superintendent  
ASYM District Hospital Budgam

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8th pass certificate somewhere. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Middle School Saidapora Bala Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Joozi Jan D/o Mohammad Rafiq Mir  
R/o Check Saidapora Payeen Shopian  
fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I am applying for the death certificate of Uttam Singh Wazir s/o Late Hari Singh R/o Magarmal bagh Srinagar who passed away on (26th Oct-1968.If anybody has any objection he/she may contact the concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.No objection shall not be entertained thereafter.  
Mandeep Singh ,  
Mobile No. 7006421843  
nj

### From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

- Haleema W/o Late Bashir Ahmad Teli
  - Asmat Zahra Daughter D/o Late Bashir Ahmad Teli
  - Zubair Hussain S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Teli
- All residents of Chak Bagh Saderbal Hazratbal Sgr  
V/S

- Mohd Akbar Teli S/o Mohammad Sabdar Teli
  - Mst Rehti W/o Mohammad Akbar Teli
  - Nisar Hussain Teli S/o Mohammad Akbar Teli
- All residents of Chak Bagh Saderbal Hazratbal Sgr

In the matter of  
Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)

#### Notice to public at Large

Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 22,06,069 as debits and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Bashir Ahmad Teli S/o Mohammad Akbar Teli R/o Chak Bagh Saderbal Hazratbal Sgr who died on 02-03-2023. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 12-08-2023

Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drop of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 12-08-2023. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same

In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.  
Given under my hand and seal of this court on  
Jawad Ahmad  
Principal District Judge, Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my service records as Feroz Ahmad Reshi while the correct spelling is Feroze Ahmad Reshi which needs to be corrected. If any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the IRP,24th BN Sui. Udhham Pur. within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Feroze Ahmad Reshi S/o Mohammad Yousuf Reshi  
R/o Raban Tehsil Zainapora Shopian  
Belt No 541/IRP-24th BN PID. NO 094612  
fko

### BARAMULLA CENTRAL CO-OPRATIVE BANL LTD.

Head Office: Baramulla Kashmir

No. BCCB/HO/SARFEAS/2123

APPENDIX-IV

POSSESSION NOTICE

(Rate-8(1))

(For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Nodal Ofcmer of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Branch Diver under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFEASI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued Demand Notices dated: 13-03-2023, calling upon the Borrower Shri Tanveer Ahmad Khan S/O: Gh Ahmad Khan R/o : Diver Lolab District Kupwara to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs.7,50,418-00 (Rupees Seven lac fifty thousand four hundred eighteen only) as on 09-03-2023, and interest thereon within sixty days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The said borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/ guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical/ symbolic possession of the mortgaged property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the security interest enforcement) rule 2002 on dated.11-07-2023. The said Borrower Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Head Office Baramulla, for an amount Rs.7,50,418-00 (Rupees Seven lac fifty thousand four hundred eighteen only) as on 09-03- 2023 and further interest thereon together with incidental expenscs, costs, charges less repayment. Description of the mortgaged immovable property Registered mortgage of land measuring 14 marlas along with residential house under survey No-2125, Khasra No-45 and Khata No-121 situated at Diver Lolab District Kupwara

Nodal officer  
Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Ltd.

### Office Of The Halqa Panchayat Dangerpora

This is to certify that Ali Mohammad Para deceased on 30-10-1978 in CHC/HOME/ PHC/ SDH/  
Sex : mail  
date of death 30-10-1978  
Cause of death Natural  
Father's name: Gh. Ahmad Para  
Name Of Mother :  
Resident of village : Nooripora  
Tehsil : Pattan District : Baramulla  
Gram Dangerpora  
Block : Khore Sherabad  
bmg  
Panchayat Secretary

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir

### Jal Shakti Department

Office Of Executtive Engineer, PHE  
Mechanical Rural Division, Srinagar, Kashmir.

#### Corrigendum- I

For E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 25 of 07/2023 DT: - 07-07-2023 issued vide this office No:-PHE/ MRD/TS/1220-24 DT: - 07-07-2023 and published vide No: 2023\_PHE\_220201\_1 is hereby extended due to poor response. The new closing and opening dates are as under:

S.NO.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Closing date	25-07-2023	11:00 AM
2.	Bid opening date	25-07-2023	11:45 AM

No: PHE/MRD/1574-78  
DIPK-5443/23 Dated: 20 -07-2023

Executive Engineer,  
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,  
Srinagar.





Desecration of Holy Qur'an

## Swedish Embassy In Iraq Torched, Envoy Expelled

Agencies

The Iraqi government expelled the Swedish ambassador and recalled its diplomatic staff from Stockholm on 20 July over the Nordic nation's "repeated permission for the burning of the holy Quran, insulting Islamic sanctities and the burning of the Iraqi flag."

Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani "instructed the Swedish ambassador in Baghdad to leave Iraqi territory," his office said in a statement.

The decision followed a warning Baghdad issued to Sweden saying it would sever diplomatic relations if another Quran-burning incident were to take place.

Hours earlier, the Swedish embassy in Baghdad was set on fire by supporters of popular Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

According to a statement by the office of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani,

Baghdad "informed the Swedish government ... that any recurrence of the incident involving the burning of the Holy Quran on Swedish soil would necessitate severing diplomatic relations."

The embassy storming came in protest against a Swedish police decision to approve a public demonstration outside of the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm on Thursday, where demonstrators plan to burn a copy of the Quran and the Iraqi flag.

The Iraqi statement also strongly condemned the embassy storming as "a serious security breach requiring immediate action" and says Sudan held an emergency meeting over the matter, adding that individuals have been arrested and will be transferred to the Iraqi judiciary.

Sweden's Foreign Minister, Tobias Billstrom, said that all embassy staff were safe but that Baghdad "failed in its duty to protect the embassy."

## Pakistan Court Acquits PM Shehbaz, Family In Money Laundering Case

Press Trust of India

An accountability court in Pakistan acquitted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his family members on Thursday in a multi-million-dollar money laundering case after the anti-corruption agency failed to provide any solid evidence against them.

"An Accountability Court acquitted Prime Minister Shehbaz, his wife Nusrat, his son Hamza and daughter Javaria in the PKR 7 billion money laundering case filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in 2020," a court official told PTI.

The official said the court acquitted the premier and his family members after the NAB failed to provide any solid evidence against the suspects regarding the laundering of millions of dollars abroad, especially to the United Kingdom.

The official further said the court, however, declared another daughter of the premier, Rabia Imran, a proclaimed offender and issued her an arrest warrant. Rabia had left for the UK since she was named in the case.

The corruption case was filed by the NAB in 2020 during the tenure of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. The Sharif family termed the case a political victimisation.



court of the Federal Investigation Agency also acquitted Shehbaz in the PKR 16 billion money laundering case. On July 10, his son, Suleman Shahbaz, was also acquitted in the same case.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan alleged that former Pakistan Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and the military establishment had rescued the Sharif family from conviction in corruption cases against them.

"Bajwa sahib has rescued the Sharif family from conviction in cases and he has committed a big crime," Ahsan said. He said the cases against Prime Minister Shehbaz, his elder brother former premier Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz Sharif were open-and-shut and their conviction was evident but they were rescued by the top man.

The ousted prime minister Khan had already declared that the Sharif family is given relief in court cases under a deal with the powerful military establishment.

## MANIPUR SHOCKER

# SC Takes Suo-motu Cognisance, Wants Action

Says, 'If Government Doesn't Act, We Will'



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday said it is "deeply disturbed" by the video of two women in Manipur being paraded naked.

Termining it "simply unacceptable", a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud

directed the Centre and the state government to take immediate steps and apprise the apex court on what action has been taken.

"We will give a little time to the government to act otherwise we will take action if nothing is happening on the ground," the bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra, said.

Tension mounted in the hills of Manipur after a May 4 video surfaced on Wednesday showing two women from one of the warring communities being paraded naked by a few men from the other side.

## From Parliament To Supreme Court, Outrage Over Women Paraded Naked In Manipur; PM Says 140 Crore Indians Shamed

Press Trust of India

The assault and humiliation of two women paraded naked in a Manipur village in May sparked nationwide outrage on Thursday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the incident had shamed 140 crore Indians and the Supreme Court termining it "simply unacceptable".

As the two women were catapulted to the centre stage of national attention with a 26-second video of the May 4 mob violence in Manipur's Senapati district going viral, opposition parties joined in the debate and disrupted Parliament proceedings. Police in the northeast state arrested one of the main accused who is prominently seen in the clip and alleged to be the mastermind.

Officials said several police teams had been formed immediately after the video of the incident surfaced on Wednesday and the first arrest in the case was made in Thoubal district. A case of abduction, gangrape and murder against unidentified armed persons has been registered.

The law, stressed the prime minister, will act with its full might and no guilty will be spared.

"My heart is full of pain and anger," Modi told reporters in his first remarks on the ethnic violence in the northeast state amid criticism by opposition parties for not speaking.

"What has happened to



these daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven," he said ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament. The incident has insulted the entire country and the 140 crore Indians are feeling ashamed, the prime minister said.

He also requested all chief ministers to further strengthen law and order mechanism in their states.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said a thorough investigation is underway into the incident over two months ago and strict action, including possible capital punishment, will follow.

"My hearts go out to the two women who were subjected to a deeply disrespectful and inhumane act, as shown in the distressing video that surfaced yesterday... Let it be known, there is absolutely no place for such heinous acts in our society," he tweeted.

The anguish found echo in the Supreme Court where a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud took cognisance of the video and asked the Centre and Manipur government to take immediate action.

"We are very deeply disturbed by the videos which have emerged yesterday about the way those two women were paraded in Manipur," said the bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra.

"I think it is time that the government really steps in and takes action because this is simply unacceptable," the CJ said, adding, "We will give a little time to the government to act, otherwise we will take action if nothing is happening on the ground." Justice Chandrachud said using women as an instrument to perpetrate violence in an area of communal strife is "deeply disturbing" and this is "simply unacceptable".

He also termed it the "grossest" Constitutional and human rights violation. The CJ added that the court is conscious of the fact that the video is of May 4 but that makes no difference.



## Russia, China Kick Off Joint Military Drills In Sea Of Japan

Agencies

China and Russia have begun joint naval and air drills in the Sea of Japan aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two countries' navies and maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement on Thursday that the four-day joint exercises, dubbed "Northern/Interaction-2023", will be held from July 20-23 as scheduled, "in accordance with the international military cooperation plan."

The statement said the two countries' naval forces will practice conducting joint anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and naval combat maneuvers.

They will carry out sea and air convoys of ships, protect and defend groups of ships when moored in an unprotected estuary, and ensure the security of communications in the waters and airspace of the Sea of Japan, it added.

According to the ministry, joint artillery firing is also planned during the Russian-

Chinese drill.

The Russian Navy, it went on, will be represented during the drills by several vessels from the Pacific Fleet, including the ASW destroyers Admiral Tributs and Admiral Pan-teleyev, and the corvettes Aldar Tsydenzhapov and Gremychy, as well as auxiliary ships.

More than 30 aircraft, including bombers, are reportedly taking part from the two sides. Observers say the joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan are apparently aimed at keeping the United States and Japan in check.

The latest drills come as the two countries have pledged to deepen military cooperation.

China and Russia have agreed to expand trade, energy and political relations amid the West's increasingly adversarial approach over the war in Ukraine.

Washington has become more vigilant about the relations between Beijing and Moscow ever since Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin struck a "no limits" partnership in February 2022.

## Advance Bookings In Ayodhya Hotels Ahead Of Ram Temple Consecration

Press Trust of India

AYODHYA (UP): With the date of the consecration ceremony of Lord Rama's idol at Ram Janmabhoomi drawing near, the city hotels in this Uttar Pradesh

convened a meeting of hotel owners of Ayodhya in preparation and instructed them to decorate their hotels to give a warm welcome to their guests during the consecration ceremony.



district are seeing a rush among travel agents and devotees to book rooms in advance.

While it is being speculated that the ceremony may be held between 15 January to 24 January, the exact date of the function is yet to become officially clear.

Hoteliers and resort owners in the city are expecting a massive influx of devotees to witness the historic event with several of them claiming that parties are trying to book rooms for 10 to 12 days to ensure that they do not miss out on the historic event at the last moment.

Taking note of the expected rush for the ceremony, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Gaurav Dayal on Wednesday

"We are regularly receiving calls from Delhi, Bombay and other metro cities from people who want to book our rooms for a full fortnight," managing director of Ayodhya's oldest hotel Shan-E-Awadh, Sharad Kapoor said.

"We are ready to welcome the devotees, but I am keeping at least 40 per cent of the rooms in the hotel reserved as the senior police and administration officials prefer to stay at my hotel because we have been cooperating with them since the beginning of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement," Kapoor said, adding that he anticipates a huge influx of dignitaries along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## NEWS MAKERS

## Woman From US Jailed In Dubai For 'Screaming In Public'

Agencies

A Houston-area woman was jailed in Dubai because she yelled in public, according to her family and friends.

"She is in jail for one reason and one reason alone, she raised her voice," community activist Quanell X told Houston TV station KRIV. "In that country, a female is not even allowed to raise her voice. If she raises her voice, it's punishable by jail time."

Tierra Young Allen was detained in the United Arab Emirates after she yelled back at a "very aggressive individual, a young man there, who was screaming at her," her mother, Tina Baxter, told KRIV.

Allen was visiting Dubai when she was involved in a crash with a friend's rental car.

Allen reportedly went to the rental car company to retrieve her ID, credit card and other items but was told she could only get her property back if she paid an undisclosed fee.

That's when the screaming exchange took place, leading to Allen's detention, her mother told KRIV.

Allen's passport was taken, and she's been placed under a travel ban, her mother said.

It's been very emotional," Baxter said. "There are some days I stay up all night crying."

The community activist said he reached out to the American consulate in Dubai. And Allen has an attorney there.

But the 29-year-old American, who is a truck driver with a social media presence, is facing the possibility of a conviction for screaming in public.

## Ahmedabad Court Rejects Discharge Plea Of Teesta Setalvad In 2002 Riots Case



Press Trust of India

A sessions court in Ahmedabad on Thursday rejected activist Teesta Setalvad's discharge plea in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence related to the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Additional sessions judge A R Patel rejected Setalvad's plea. The Gujarat government had opposed her application saying that she abused the trust of the riots victims and implicated innocent persons.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court had granted bail to Setalvad in the same case after the Gujarat High Court denied her relief.

## Pakistani Passport Ranked World's Fourth Weakest: Report

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been ranked as having the fourth weakest passport in the world on an index compiled by a global citizenship and residence advisory company.

Among 227 countries assessed on the index compiled by Henley & Partners, the country stands at the 100th position, which has been determined based on the number of destinations Pakistani residents can visit without needing a visa.

Earlier this year, the nation of over 220 million was listed among the five countries with the lowest-ranked passports by the London-based advisory firm.

Pakistanis had access to 35 countries with an on-arrival visa facility until January this year, which has now come down to 33, Geo News reported.

Singapore leads the index with the most-coveted passport in the



world, pushing Japan, which had topped the list for the last five years, to the third position shared with South Korea, Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg and Sweden, granting their citizens access to 189 destinations without a prior visa, it said.

Singaporeans, on the other hand, can visit at least 193 destinations visa-free around the world out of the total 227.

While Asia has conventionally dominated the rankings in the index, Europe is coming back, with Germany, Italy, and Spain rising to the second spot, offering visa-free

access to 190 destinations.

Once leading the index, the United States of America is witnessing a dip in their rankings. However, Britain has shown improvement, moving up to fourth place, while the US ranking has dropped to eighth with access to 183 visa-free destinations.

The Henley Passport Index, which ranks 199 passports based on International Air Transport Association (IATA) data, is regularly updated to reflect changes in visa policies.

The average number of visa-free destinations, over the years, for travellers has nearly doubled from 58 in 2006 to 109.

"The general trend over the history of the 18-year-old ranking has been towards greater travel freedom, with the average number of destinations travellers are able to access visa-free nearly doubling from 58 in 2006 to 109 in 2023," a statement by Henley & Partners read.

## J&K BJP Objects To Oppn Alliance's Name INDIA

To File Complaints With Police; NC Says Move 'Laughable'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Objecting to the opposition alliance's name, INDIA, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Thursday said it would file complaints with the police in every district of the Union territory.

Twenty-six opposition parties met in Bengaluru earlier this week and formed an alliance -- Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) -- to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur alleged that the people of the country have been "cheated" in the garb of forming a grand alliance.

They had formed alliances in 2014 and 2019 as well but the BJP still won the elections and Narendra Modi became the prime minister, he said.

He said that some parties in the opposition alliance such as the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) do not have any representation in Parliament. "In the name of the grand alliance, people have been cheated," Thakur told PTI here.

Thakur said they object to the name of the alliance.

"No party or alliance has the right to name their organisation after the nation. It clearly seems that it is a well thought-out conspiracy of the Congress... This alliance is not going to work as all these parties have different policies, agendas and voices," he said.

"We are planning to lodge an FIR in every district of Kashmir

(against the opposition parties naming their alliance INDIA)," he said.

The National Conference (NC), which is a part of the opposition alliance, said the BJP's move was "laughable".

"This is laughable. It is an opposition alliance and they have named it such. It is an acronym and they have named it very smartly," NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said.

He said the party was not surprised over the BJP's move as the national party is on a "weak footing".

"The BJP is facing things they were not facing a year ago. They are on a weak footing, that is why you will have such kind of things coming from BJP now. I am not surprised that this thing has happened," Dar said.

PDP spokesperson Najmus Saqib said if the BJP lodges complaints with the police against the opposition alliance, it would be a "binding force" for all the opposition political parties.

"This FIR will not weaken the alliance, but it will only strengthen them. It will act as a glue for all the political parties," he said.

Saqib said the BJP is "rattled" because of the sort of moral high-ground they take on nationalism, while the whole country knows that they had "absolutely no role in the freedom struggle of India".

"When the BJP is seeing the opposition openly taking that space and openly challenging the BJP on the nationalism front, I think they are rattled. And now you see the questions - they are divided, how will the seats be shared, etc," he said.

The PDP spokesman said the whole of the country is getting together and is united against the "divisive communal forces".

## J&K To Achieve Milestones Of 'Zero Poverty' & 'Housing For All' Till 2024: CS

Also Directs For Making SDG Dashboard Live In The Month Of August

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the concluding day of the workshop organised by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department for administration, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta remarked that J&K is well on track to achieve the milestones of 'Zero Poverty' and 'Housing for All' by the year 2024.

Dr Mehta was speaking about the theme of 'Systems, Processes & Use of Technology for SDG Implementation' also attended by Anurag Goel, Former Secretary, Corporate Affairs, Gol and SDG Advisor, UNDP; various Administrative Secretaries and other UNDP Experts.

In his address, the Chief Secretary made out that the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global framework for making the required all-round progress. He stated that as discussed the process of budgeting in line with the SDGs has proved beneficial for many of the States/UTs here and J&K too is alive to this practice for achieving the desired goals.

He recalled that the UT intends to cover about 1.9 lakh houses under PMAY and these are enough to saturate the housing needs of all the houseless persons.

He also said that in many of the parameters the UT is well ahead of the National average and in future is going to be one



among the model States/UTs in the country. He emphasized on enhancing the capacity of individuals and institutions so that they are able to reorient their thinking to meet SDG targets.

He stated that J&K aims at implementing SDG 2.0 as its objective with a defined roadmap and optimal timelines. He advised for having a clear idea about where to see ourselves after 6 months, 1 year or a decade from here. He also directed for making SDG portal live by next month for the UT which would give real time data for targeted interventions.

On the occasion he thanked Mr Goel for sharing his ideas and expertise with the officers to sensitize them about the future challenges to be faced by the Government. He asked him to help J&K in drawing way forward in light of its strengths and opportunities.

In his address Mr Goel called SDG a vehicle for attaining future-ready governance. He remarked that building insti-

tutional capacity should be focus of the administration. He observed that the partnership with UNDP can be valuable in creating future-ready J&K.

In his presentation, he dwelt upon effective systems, processes and technologies that can help in faster implementation of SDGs. He asked for creating awareness about technology which he said is not based on IT tools alone but future technologies in sync with changing times.

He asked for establishment of SDG coordination centre for accelerating and monitoring the implementation at the highest level.

A number of presentations were made by the UNDP experts, Administrative Secretaries of Planning, Education, Health, Industries and other Departments about their achievements and the roadmaps for future. All of them also discussed further strengthening of implementation of SDGs in the UT.



## Sara Ali Khan Pays Obeisance At Amarnath Cave Shrine

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Actor Sara Ali Khan undertook the Amarnath Yatra to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said on Thursday.

Sara, daughter of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, undertook the yatra from the Baltal axis, they said.

On Wednesday, the 27-year-old actor visited the Sonamarg resort on the way to Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and enjoyed the breathtaking views

at the Thajwas glacier.

Sara clicked pictures with local children and also had tea at a temporary shelter. She later shared the photos of her visit on Instagram.

"When the soul is content and the hamstrings are sore. Bakri se phir bacchon se ki dosti. And then we had the chai I adore (sic)," she wrote in the caption.

The officials said the "Zara Hatke Zara Bachke" actor also visited the Martand sun temple in south Kashmir's Anantnag district before embarking on the yatra.

## 6500 Pilgrims Leaves For Amarnath Shrine

JAMMU: Amid tight security, a fresh batch of over 6,500 pilgrims left the base camp here on Thursday for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

While 3,746 pilgrims, who are headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 165 vehicles, another convoy of 97 vehicles carrying 2,777 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp.

Another batch of 4,900 pilgrims, which had a night

halt at Chanderkot in Ramban district due to closure of Jammu-Srinagar national highway, left this morning for Amarnath, officials said.

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

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

## Indian Mountaineers Create History, Scale Mt Brammah-I In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A group of Indian mountaineers created history by scaling Mt Brammah-I, standing at a formidable 6,416 metres, in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, an official said on Thursday.

The challenging peak, known for its technical difficulty, has been a long-standing aspiration in the community since it was first scaled by British mountaineer Chris Bonnington about five decades ago.

Brammah-I is a mountain massif in the Himalayas, east of Kishtwar town and near the border with Himachal Pradesh. It comprises four peaks -- Brammah-I, Flat Top, Brammah-II and Arjuna -- from west to east. Brammah-II is the highest of the group.

The official said the nine-member team from West Bengal-based Sonarpur Aarohi Club, including skilled and eminent mountaineers, successfully scaled Mt Brammah-I on Tuesday.

"This remarkable achievement marks the first Indian team to conquer the summit, making history in the world of mountaineering," the official said, adding that the route followed to conquer the summit was a new discovery as well.

After meticulous planning and cooperation from the Kishtwar district administration, various government bodies and the Army, the expedition commenced on July 16. However, adverse weather conditions, including whiteout and heavy snowfall, forced the

team to abandon their initial summit attempt, the official said.

During this, a Sherpa member of the group fell approximately 70 metres. However, he survived with bruises, cuts, shock and snow blindness while searching for the summit route, the official added.

The team made the courageous decision to wait for his recovery and launch another attempt to scale the summit within 30 hours.

The team set out once again on July 17 midnight and, at approximately 10.30 am on July 18, it achieved the goal -- successfully summiting Mt Brammah-I.

The official said the team recorded the summit height at 6,426 metres, which differed slightly from the map's mentioned elevation of 6,416 metres, based on four device readings.

Nine climbing members and five Sherpas accomplished the summit, while three members coordinated the activities from the base camp, the official said.

Deputy Commissioner (Kishtwar) Devansh Yadav congratulated the team for the accomplishment and expressed enthusiasm about the development boosting tourist potential and tourism in the hilly district.

"This achievement will open up new avenues for future adventure tourism in the Kishtwar Himalayas," Yadav said, encouraging adventure seekers and mountaineers to explore the uncharted heights of the region.

He also assured a conducive environment and necessary support for their endeavours.

## J&K Parties Term Manipur Incident Shameful

Say PM's Remarks Too Little, Too Late

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The parading naked of two women in Manipur is shameful, painful and horrific, political parties in Jammu and Kashmir said on Thursday, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on the incident were too little, too late.

Tension mounted in the hills of Manipur after the May 4 video surfaced on Wednesday showing two women from one of the warring communities in the northeastern state being paraded naked by a mob from the other side. Manipur Police on Thursday arrested one of the main accused seen in the video.

National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said the video of the incident that surfaced online brought shame to humanity.

"The video that went viral from Manipur is not only shameful but also painful. It brings great shame to humanity," Sadiq told PTI.

He said it was "hurting" that the BJP and the Manipur government took more than two months to even react to the horrific incident.

"For 24 hours, the chief minister did not react and he was so naive to say that he did not know about it till today morning," he said.

Asked about the prime minister's remarks on Manipur ahead of the Parliament's Monsoon session, the NC spokesperson said the issue should not be politicised.

"It should not be about the governments, it should be about humanity. I think this country should believe in the

rule of law and I think the government of India should have reacted early. Manipur (issue) has been going on for long time, it's time for the violence there to end and genuine concerns of the people be addressed," Sadiq said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the incident of women being paraded naked in Manipur has shamed 140 crore Indians, asserting that law will act with its full might and no guilty will be spared.

"Today, when I am standing by this temple of democracy my heart is full of pain and anger," he told reporters in his remarks at Parliament complex before the start of Monsoon session and amid his criticism by opposition parties for not speaking on the ethnic violence in the BJP-ruled north east state.

PDP spokesperson Najmus Saqib said the PM's remarks were too little, too late as the government did not utter a word for the last two months.

"It is too little, too late. For the last two months, they have not uttered a word. There was no action, no one has been held responsible," he said.

Saqib said Modi did not speak about the issue for the last two months.

"He did not even utter one word about Manipur and that vividly tells us about the priorities of the PM. They were so much focused on election like in Karnataka, they didn't even take a single meeting about Manipur, so these are the double standards."

Saqib said the government has been claiming day in and

day out that there are no incidents of violence or communal violence across India, and they boast of a safe law and order situation, but there has been a breakdown of law and order in Manipur.

"Horrendous and horrific images are coming out of Manipur. If this does not move the government, I don't know what will? Specially, on top of that, when you come to know that government has been sitting on this video for the last two months and no action has been taken against the perpetrators," he said.

The PDP spokesperson said if this kind of "de-stabilisation and breakdown of law and order" would have happened in other opposition-led states, "I think they would have imposed presidential rule long back".

"If the same thing would have happened in Kashmir, they would have imposed Presidential rule, Governor rule, dispatched the government, dissolved the assembly. But, nothing of that sort will happen because they are ruling Manipur and it us under their watch that Manipur state of India is burning.

"Will they downgrade it to UT, will they abrogate Article 371 of Manipur? The whole of India is looking at the government to see their reaction," he said.

"There is a complete breakdown of law and order, there is complete anarchy. The whole India is asking one simple question, will there be accountability for what is happening in Manipur? Who will resign? Who will take responsibility of what is happening?" Saqib asked.

## CUK's Religious Studies Deptt Holds Lecture On 'Sikhs Of Kashmir: Advent And Contribution'

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organized an extension lecture on "Sikhs of Kashmir: Advent and Contribution," which was delivered by Prof. Himat Singh, eminent academician and former professor of philosophy at Punjabi University, Patiala.

Prof. Himat Singh, spoke about the origin of Sikh community in Kashmir and described their contribu-

tion as "macro contribution of a micro community." He talked about spiritual and transcendental dispositions rooted in the religion and focused on the humane and spiritual side of Islam and Sikhism. He said that Kashmiris are one of those rare human beings who have a capability to connect to the Universal soul. Prof. Singh spoke on the essentialist teachings of Guru Nanak and his visit to Kashmir, Ladakh and Afghanistan. He emphasized on cultivating

the fundamental religious virtues in order to move beyond the historical grudges and suspicion.

Earlier, Asst Prof. Dr. Harpal Singh, introduced the speaker to the audience and highlighted his contribution in academics. The speech was followed by a question-answer session. The lecture was attended by the post-graduate students, research scholars and the faculty. Deptt Coordinator, Dr. M. Zafar, also spoke on the occasion.

## Abducted Girl Recovered, 2 Accused Held: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla on Thursday claimed to have recovered an abducted girl and arrested two accused persons involved in the commission of crime. On 01-07-2023, Police Post Palhallan received a written complaint from one person (name withheld) stating therein that his daughter aged about 19 years was missing from home since 30/06/2023, a police spokesman said in a statement.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 222/2023 under relevant sections of law was

registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation was initiated.

"During the course of investigation, it came to the fore that some unknown persons have abducted the said missing girl. During further investigation, officers with the help of technical evidences learnt that the accused persons along with victim had left UT of J&K for New Delhi," police said.

Acting promptly, police said that a team was constituted, who accordingly went to New Delhi, where from the abducted girl was recovered and the accused persons have also been arrested.

## Chairman DDC Budgam Assesses Road For Muharram Procession

Addresses Khul Blockage In Daffpora

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan on Thursday visited Daffpora Budgam to assess the road conditions for the upcoming Muharram procession and to address the blockage of Khul in the area.

Accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DDC Council and Executive Engineers of Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Irrigation departments, the Chairman conducted an on-site inspection to evaluate the condition of the road, ensuring its suitability and safety for the upcoming religious procession of Muharram.

Furthermore, during the visit, Nazir Ahmad Khan also took

immediate action to address the issue of the Khul blockage, a vital waterway in the area. The concerned authorities were directed to initiate necessary measures promptly to resolve the blockage and restore the smooth flow of water to benefit the local community.

The Chairman DDC emphasized the importance of ensuring seamless arrangements for religious events while also acknowledging the significance of maintaining essential infrastructure to meet the needs of the people in Daffpora, Budgam.

He extended his gratitude to the local community and administrative officials for their cooperation during the visit and urged everyone to work collectively for the betterment of the region.

## I-Day Celebrations Matter Of National Pride: Dr. Abid Rasheed

Reviews Preparations Of Culture Deptt For Independence Day 2023



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary Culture and Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah on Thursday held a comprehensive review of the preparations and arrangements made by the department for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations at Civil Secretariat here.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Dr. Abid highlighted the this day is a matter of national pride for all of us and holds a special place in the hearts of every citizen, symbolizing the unyielding spirit and unity that have defined our great nation.

During the review meeting, the Secretary underscored on the importance of creating an

inclusive and memorable event that would resonate with people of all ages and backgrounds. He impressed upon the officers to meticulously focus on all the aspects of these celebrations well in advance.

Emphasising on the patriotic importance of this day, Dr. Abid impressed upon the officers that the performances of cultural academy as well as their artists should portray patriotic fervor and the level of these performances should commensurate with the standard of this National day. He asked the officers to shortlist the artists well in advance for the celebrations besides line departmental requisitions for various purposes should also be addressed beforehand.

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## Warming Planet

Many countries across the world are issuing warnings in the wake of unprecedented wave of scorching heat. From the United States to Europe, Japan, and China, record-breaking temperatures are exacerbating concerns about global warming and its consequences. Italy, in particular, is bracing for historic highs. The European Space Agency has even warned that temperatures on the islands of Sicily and Sardinia could reach as high as 48 degrees Celsius, potentially breaking records for the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Europe.

In China, the weather has been characterized by intense heatwaves and heavy rains, resulting in significant challenges for affected areas. India, on the contrary, is contending with relentless monsoon rains, which have already claimed the lives of at least 90 people. The Yamuna River in New Delhi has reached a record high, which has threatened low-lying neighborhoods in the city. India is no stranger to the devastating impact of monsoon rains, which often lead to floods and landslides across the country. With climate change exacerbating weather patterns, extreme rainfall events are becoming more frequent and intense.

While it is challenging to attribute individual weather events to climate change, scientists emphasize that global warming, linked to reliance on fossil fuels, is contributing to the multiplication and intensification of heatwaves worldwide. These recent heatwaves follow the news that June 2023 was the hottest June on record globally, as reported by the EU's climate monitoring service. The severity of the current heatwaves serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to address the underlying causes of climate change.

In Kashmir, the spring and summer has largely been very pleasant. The latter part of winter, however, saw a sudden spike in temperature. March also witnessed above average temperature for many days. But since then the weather has stabilized. In between, brief rain spells have brought down the temperature. That said, it hardly detracts from the concern about the creeping climate change. And Kashmir Valley has also been adversely affected. According to reports and some surveys, many natural streams in various parts of the Valley have run dry in recent years. And the reason for this is the steady depletion of the glaciers. This has not only reduced the discharge in the rivers and streams but also made many water bodies extinct, affecting the irrigation in the Valley. However, such disturbing changes aren't specific to Kashmir only. This is becoming a worldwide phenomenon. There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to preempt the catastrophe.

### OTHER OPINION

## Implementation of National Education Policy 2020

### A Case Study of IIM Jammu

BS Sahay and Jabir Ali

Education has always been a prime focus in policy-making due to its importance in achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. India is committed under Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". The key principle of the National Education Policy of 2020 is to develop good human beings capable of rational thought and action, possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination, with sound ethical moorings and values, aimed at producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens. To achieve this vision, IIM Jammu constantly encourages experiential and blended learning, applied research, and global exposure. The Institute is striving to embrace innovative practices in teaching and research to generate a positive and constructive impact on all its stakeholders and society at large.

Implementing NEP 2020 requires significant changes in academic, logistics, and financial commitments from all stakeholders. In its 7 years of operation, the Indian Institute of Management Jammu has taken several steps to improve its quality and relevance and now runs five long-duration programs, several short duration training programs for executives, faculty members, and students and has collaborations with national and international institutions of repute and are in the process of developing strategic plan titled Vision 2030 which shall incorporate the growth of the institution along with the processes.

IIM Jammu focuses on holistic and multidisciplinary learning across all the courses offered by the institute. Mandatory preparatory courses in all programs are conducted to impart academic foundation on Business Communication, Financial Accounting, Quantitative Techniques and IT and Analytics. These modules provide a common grounding for the students irrespective of their educational backgrounds. After completion of the core courses across the programs, sufficient elective courses are provided to the students. The electives are from various areas of specialization and will be announced on a year-to-year basis depending upon the functional areas. Students can choose courses from different areas considering the requirement of the industry and their career prospects.

The author is Director, IIM Jammu and Professor IIM Jammu respectively

# Climate Heat On Health

Policy must prepare for the climate-change fallout on human health—from proliferation of disease vectors to increased risks of zoonotic transmission

K Srinath Reddy

“Extreme weather events like torrential rain and floods disrupt health services, while epidemic outbreaks divert attention from other health needs. We must combine measures for mitigation and adaptation if we have to limit the harm to health from climate change

June 2023 was declared as the hottest June ever and the first week of July was identified as the hottest week recorded in human history. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) attributed this to continuing climate change compounded by the early advent of an El Nino weather pattern. As record temperatures were recorded, the WMO warned of “potentially devastating impacts on ecosystems and the environment” and said, “This is worrying news for the planet.” North India and north-eastern US experienced flooding from torrential rainfall, while southern parts of both countries and much of Europe sizzled in heat waves. As the pendulum of extreme weather events swings wildly in the ticking clock of climate change, it is not just ‘global warming’ that we see but ‘global harming’ too.

Climate change endangers human health and wellbeing through many adverse effects, which will be especially harsh on the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Heat results in water and electrolyte loss from the body, dangerous to all but much more so to young children and the elderly. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke, circulatory failure, and death are effects of escalating severity. Brain strokes can result in paralysis or death. Heart attacks too are precipitated by heat stress. The kidneys can be damaged and can fail. Lung disease is exacerbated as hot air damages the lung tissues and the risk of pulmonary embolism increases as blood clots formed in leg veins dislodge and reach the lungs. Congenital cataracts and severe vision damage in older adults are reported adverse ocular effects of rising temperatures.

As the weather gets warmer, insect vectors of viral, bacterial, and parasitic transmission proliferate. Mosquitos, which spread malaria, dengue and chikungunya, can breed at higher altitudes and for longer periods of the year, increasing their territorial span and stretching the calendar of these infections. As floods contaminate drinking water sources and droughts limit the availability of potable water, waterborne infections will increase. Cholera is a dreaded threat during floods. Typhoid infections increase by 5-10% for every 1°C rise in temperature. Deforestation, a cause of climate change, also opens the road for zoonotic pathogen transmission.

Global warming triggers and prolongs wildfires in forests. Inhalation of chemicals and their smoke results in inflammation, increased oxidative stress, blood clotting, abnormalities of blood lipid and sugar profiles, gene mutations, raised blood pressure, heart attacks, and strokes. Particulate matter (PM 2.5), ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and polycyclic aromatic compounds increase the risk of cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, while benzene and formaldehyde exposure leads to cancers.

Fossil fuel combustion is a common cause of climate change and air pollution. As the carbon dioxide dome created by such combustion descends closer to the earth's surface, pollutants are trapped closer to the ground and their density increases in the air we breathe. Wildfires contribute to air pollution, which injures heart, blood vessels, lungs, and brain. While people at all ages are affected, air pollution's effects on pregnancy outcomes and child development heighten concerns about the intergenerational impact of climate change.

Mental health is also affected

dioxide levels in the atmosphere and soil degradation. The protein, zinc, and iron content of staples will be reduced. A study from Columbia University's Data Sciences Center, published in 2018, projected that unchecked climate change can result in the India of 2050 having 49.6 million new zinc deficient people, 38.2 million new protein deficient people, while 106.1 million children and 396 million women would become iron deficient. A switch to climate resilient crops, like millets and sorghum, would reduce that danger. At higher temperatures, arsenic levels in rice increase.



by climate change. As global warming and extreme weather events increase, mental health is affected by anxiety, anger, fear, or depression. Displacement and forced migration (of climate refugees) also undermine mental health. Worry, even at present, about what the future might hold as a consequence of climate change has been identified as a specific mental health disorder (solastalgia).

Deviations from temperature and precipitation patterns have been correlated with a significant rise in conflict. A study published in 2014 reported that a 1°C rise in temperature increased the frequency of interpersonal conflict by 2.4%, while intergroup conflict increased by 11.3%. As water insecurity, food insecurity, and displacement increase, conflicts will escalate.

Climate change poses a serious threat to nutrition, health, and wellbeing via its effects on agriculture and food systems. Global warming affects the quantity of crop yields and their nutrient quality. Both staples and non-staples are affected. Even now, in most parts of south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, rice and wheat are grown at the highest limits of their temperature tolerance. For every 1°C further rise in the temperature, there would be a 10% fall in their production in these regions. Nutrient-rich crops will be more susceptible to droughts, pests, diseases, and temperature fluctuations. Fruits and vegetables will ripen and rot early. The shortage of water and fodder for cattle will affect dairy production.

The nutrient quality of crops will decrease due to higher carbon

We need climate-smart agriculture too. Why should a health-harming, water- and pesticide-intensive crop like tobacco be grown extensively on arable land, instead of nutrient-rich crops? Should millions of litres of drinking water be used to produce sugar-sweetened commercial beverages? Ultra-processed packaged foods not only divert fresh produce from healthy diets but also add to global warming by having long supply chains, which burn up fossil fuels.

As sea levels rise with global warming, coastal agriculture will be damaged. The increasing salinity of water has affected agriculture and fishing in Sunderbans. Across India's coastline of over 7,000 km, fish yield is being affected by climate change. It has been reported that the marine fish catch has fallen since 1996 at an annual rate of 1.22 metric tonnes. Ocean warming will impact fish diversity, distribution, abundance, and phenology.

Extreme weather events like torrential rain and floods disrupt health services, while epidemic outbreaks divert attention from other health needs. We must combine measures for mitigation and adaptation if we have to limit the harm to health from climate change. Hastened energy transition from fossil fuels to renewables must be coupled with heat action plans and investment in climate-resilient food and health systems.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express



OBSERVER MAIL

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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## English Trivia

DURING the 16th and 17th centuries, both Queen Elizabeth and William Shakespeare were instrumental in influencing the English language's path of progress. Significantly, the Bible was one of the major translated and printed books to circulate during their time, which brought the church's language to the commoner. During their period, Latin was still considered a language of the educated and the crème de la crème, and therefore, numerous texts needed to be translated from Latin into English to reach out to a mass audience. In

fact, some words came straight from Latin, such as, focus, lens, nausea, and genius, while words like horrid, frugal, arbit, atmosphere were altered. Interestingly, suffixes 'ize' and 'ism' were also added to the English language during their period.

If one person who changed and took the English language to dizzying heights, it was unquestionably Shakespeare. His works contributed significantly to the standardization of the grammar, spelling and vocabulary of this beautiful language. Through his immense ability to create original words, Shakespeare is said to

have invented some 2,000 words. Few examples: eyeballs, homicide, brittle, lonely, gloomy, and majestic. Further, Shakespeare coined some phrases that are still in use today. They are: 'out of thin air', 'as luck would have it', and 'fool's paradise.' Prior to and during Shakespeare's time, the grammar and rules of English were not standardized. But once Shakespeare's plays became popular, they helped contribute to the standardization of the English language, with many Shakespearean words and phrases becoming embedded in the language, particularly through

projects, such as Samuel Johnson's A Dictionary of the English Language which quoted Shakespeare more than any other writer.

As for the growth of English in India, the British East India Company introduced the English language in our country in the 17th century. As a result of British colonialism, English was considered the governing language, and is still in vogue due to India's heterogeneous languages. And today, India has approximately 125 million English speakers!

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Mindful Fridays

## RAISING RESILIENT ADOLESCENTS

# PARENTING STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING MODERN CHALLENGES



Wasim Kakroo

Parenting is a complex and ever-evolving journey, and one of its most challenging stages is raising adolescents. Adolescence is a period of rapid physical, emotional, and cognitive development, marked by significant changes in behavior and attitude. In today's fast-paced and technology-driven world, parenting adolescents comes with its own unique set of challenges. In this article we will explore some of the key challenges faced by parents in current times and provide insights into how to navigate them effectively.

### 1. Communication Barriers:

Effective communication is paramount in parenting adolescents, yet modern challenges have made it more complex. The rise of technology and social media has created a digital divide, hindering parents' ability to connect with their children. Teenagers are often immersed in their online networks, making it difficult for parents to establish open and meaningful communication channels. Additionally, the fast-paced lifestyle and hectic schedules of both parents and teenagers limit the quality time they can spend together.

To tackle these obstacles, parents must prioritize creating dedicated moments for conversation with their adolescents. Setting aside specific times for family discussions fosters an environment where teenagers feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and concerns. Active listening is equally crucial, as it shows empathy and understanding, encouraging open dialogue.

Furthermore, bridging the digital gap is essential. Rather than dismissing technology, parents should embrace it and familiarize themselves with social media platforms. This not only enables parents to understand their children's online experiences better but also allows them to engage in topics that interest their teenagers. By showing interest in their digital world, parents can build stronger connections with their children.

### 2. Peer Pressure and Influences:

Adolescence, as a pivotal stage of development, is marked by the increasing importance of peer influence. In the modern era, today's adolescents are faced with a constant stream of peer pressure, not only in the physical world but also in the virtual realm of social media. Online platforms propagate an idealized and often unrealistic version of life, creating a breeding ground for feelings of inadequacy and the dreaded fear of missing out (FOMO). As adolescents attempt to fit into these unrealistic standards, their self-esteem and mental health can be profoundly affected.

To support adolescents during this challenging period, parents must equip themselves with knowledge about the online world and its potential impact. Engaging in open conversations with their children about the influ-

**TO FOSTER HEALTHY GROWTH, PARENTS MUST ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE BY ALLOWING their teenagers to make decisions within reasonable boundaries. This entails giving them opportunities to handle responsibilities and consequences, thereby nurturing a sense of self-reliance and accountability. Nonetheless, granting autonomy does not imply relinquishing parental involvement entirely**

ence of social media on self-esteem and mental well-being can prove invaluable. Parents can provide guidance on distinguishing between the virtual facade and reality, teaching their children to prioritize authenticity over superficiality.

Fostering a strong sense of self-identity is crucial in helping adolescents withstand the pressures of their social circles. By encouraging their interests and passions, parents can instill confidence and self-assurance, making it less likely for them to succumb to peer pressure simply to gain approval.

Moreover, parents can emphasize the value of forming positive friendships that support their child's growth and well-being. Such friendships can provide a buffer against negative peer pressure and create a safe space for self-expression without fear of judgment.

Lastly, educating adolescents about making informed choices is paramount. Parents should empower their children with critical thinking skills, enabling them to assess the consequences of their decisions and resist impulsive behaviors driven by peer pressure.

### 3. Mental Health and Well-being:

In recent times, the mental health and well-being of adolescents have emerged as pressing concerns. The modern landscape presents a myriad of challenges for young minds, including heightened academic pressures, the weight of societal expectations, and the complexities of navigating personal relationships. As parents, it is imperative to recognize and prioritize the importance of mental health in our children's lives.

To build a nurturing environment, fostering open conversations about emotions is crucial. Encouraging adolescents to express their feelings freely without judgment allows them to process their emotions effectively and develop emotional intelligence. Additionally, creating a space where they feel comfortable discussing their struggles and fears can strengthen the parent-child bond,

providing much-needed support during difficult times.

Seeking professional help is another essential aspect of safeguarding their mental health. If signs of persistent stress, anxiety, or depression manifest, consulting with a mental health professional can lead to timely intervention and proper guidance. These professionals can offer specialized support and coping mechanisms tailored to the individual needs of each adolescent.

Promoting self-care practices is equally important in bolstering resilience and well-being. Encouraging regular physical exercise not only contributes to physical health but also positively impacts mental well-being by releasing endorphins, the "feel-good" hormones. Introducing mindfulness techniques such as meditation and deep breathing can aid in managing stress and anxiety, fostering a sense of inner calm and balance.

Moreover, ensuring adequate sleep is crucial as it directly affects mood, cognitive function, and emotional stability. Establishing healthy sleep habits helps adolescents better manage their daily challenges and emotional responses.

### 4. Technology Overload and Digital Addiction:

The digital revolution has undoubtedly revolutionized our lives, enabling us to connect with others worldwide, access vast information, and streamline various tasks. However, alongside these undeniable benefits, a darker side has emerged – the prevalence of technology overload and digital addiction.

Among the most affected are adolescents, who are particularly vulnerable to the allure of digital devices, online gaming, and social media platforms. Prolonged screen time can lead to physical health issues such as eye strain, sleep disturbances, and sedentary lifestyles, contributing to a decline in overall well-being. Moreover, the constant exposure to unrealistic standards and cyberbullying in the virtual world can negatively impact their mental health, leading to anxiety, depression, and

decreased self-esteem.

To combat these challenges, parents play a pivotal role in fostering a healthy digital environment for their children. Setting clear boundaries and guidelines around technology use is essential to ensure that adolescents strike a balance between virtual and real-world activities. Encouraging outdoor play, face-to-face interactions, and hobbies that don't involve screens can promote a healthier lifestyle. Equally important is for parents to serve as role models by exemplifying responsible digital habits themselves, as children often emulate their parents' behavior.

### 5. Balancing Autonomy and Guidance:

During the tumultuous phase of adolescence, teenagers undergo significant changes as they grapple with the desire for autonomy and independence. This period is crucial for their personal development, as they seek to define their identities and carve out their paths in life. However, amidst these pursuits, adolescents still require the guidance and support of their parents. Striking the right balance between granting freedom and providing guidance can be a perplexing challenge for parents.

To foster healthy growth, parents must encourage independence by allowing their teenagers to make decisions within reasonable boundaries. This entails giving them opportunities to handle responsibilities and consequences, thereby nurturing a sense of self-reliance and accountability. Nonetheless, granting autonomy does not imply relinquishing parental involvement entirely.

Open and effective communication plays a pivotal role in maintaining a strong parent-adolescent relationship. Parents should create an environment where teenagers feel comfortable expressing their thoughts, concerns, and aspirations. By actively listening and respecting their perspectives, parents can better understand their teenagers' needs and support them in making well-informed decisions.

Furthermore, parents should set clear expectations, outlining the values and principles that guide their family. These boundaries provide a framework for adolescents to navigate their choices responsibly. Instead of imposing rules rigidly, parents can collaboratively discuss the reasons behind these guidelines, reinforcing a sense of mutual understanding and trust.

While offering freedom and independence, parents must be prepared to step in with guidance when necessary. Teenagers may encounter complex situations where they need assistance in making sound judgments. By being available as a source of wisdom and experience, parents can help their teenagers navigate through challenging dilemmas and learn from their experiences.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

# Hearing Aids May Lower Cognitive Decline In Older Adults With Dementia Risk: Lancet

Press Trust Of India

Hearing aids may protect against cognitive decline in older adults at greater risk of dementia, according to a study published on Tuesday in The Lancet journal.

The findings are based on the first randomised controlled trial (RCT) of its kind involving nearly 1,000 older adults from multiple locations across the US.

"These results provide compelling evidence that treating hearing loss is a powerful tool to protect cognitive function in later life, and possibly, over the long term, delay a dementia diagnosis," said Professor Frank Lin of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health, US.

"But any cognitive benefits of treating age-related hearing loss are likely to vary depending on an individuals' risk of cognitive decline," said Lin.

Age-related hearing loss is extremely common, affecting two-thirds of adults aged over 60 globally, the researchers said.

However, less than 1 in 10 individuals with hearing loss in low- and middle-income countries, and fewer than 3 in 10 in

high-income countries, currently use hearing aids, they said.

Untreated hearing loss is associated with greater cognitive decline and was estimated by the 2020 Lancet Commission on Dementia to contribute to around 8 per cent of dementia cases worldwide -- equivalent to 8 lakh of the nearly 10 million new cases of dementia diagnosed every year.

Previous observational research suggests that treating hearing loss may protect against cognitive decline and dementia, the researchers said.

However, these studies may be biased because individuals who have the means and choose to get their hearing loss treated may be healthier and at lower risk of cognitive decline than those who don't, they said.

As a result, the effectiveness of hearing aid use on reducing cognitive decline in cognitively-healthy older adults with hearing loss remained unclear.

To provide more robust evidence, the latest study included 977 adults aged 70-84 years with untreated hearing loss who were free from substantial cognitive impairment in four communities across the US.

Participants were recruited from two populations at each site: older adults participating in a longstanding observational study of cardiovascular health (Atheroscle-



rosis Risk in Communities [ARIC] study), and new volunteers from the same communities who were generally healthier than participants from ARIC.

Participants were randomised to either a hearing intervention (audiological counselling and hearing aids) or the control intervention involving more generalised

counselling on healthy ageing and were followed-up twice a year over 3 years.

The primary analysis of the results, combining both the ARIC and volunteer cohorts, found that the hearing intervention did not reduce cognitive decline over time with no significant difference in cognitive change between those receiving the hear-

ing intervention and the health education control over 3 years.

However, in the ARIC cohort, 3-year cognitive change was 48 per cent lower in the hearing intervention group than the control group.

In contrast, in the healthy volunteer cohort (who had fewer risk factors for cognitive decline and a much slower rate of cognitive decline), 3-year cognitive change did not differ significantly between the hearing intervention and control groups.

No significant adverse events were reported in either group.

"Although our primary analysis of the combined ARIC and health volunteer cohorts did not find a difference in cognitive decline for those using hearing aids, when we did sensitivity analyses to test its robustness there was clear evidence indicating a significant benefit for older adults in the ARIC cohort who had more risk factors for cognitive decline," Lin said.

"Despite similar levels of hearing at the start of the study, it's likely that volunteers in the healthier cohort experienced slower rates of cognitive change than ARIC participants because they tended to be younger, had fewer risk factors for cognitive decline, and had better initial cognitive scores," he added.

## Anti-Ageing Function Of Human Cell Protein Discovered

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have found an anti-ageing function in a protein deep within human cells.

The protein, ATFS-1, controlled the fine balance between creation of new and repair of damaged mitochondria, the part of cell responsible for producing energy, the researchers at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), The University of Queensland, Australia, discovered.

"Mitochondrial dysfunction lies at the core of many human diseases, including common age-related diseases such as dementia and Parkinson's," said associate

professor at QBI, Steven Zurryn.

While the energy produced by the mitochondria powers biological functions, the toxic by-products of this process contribute to the ageing process of the cell.

"Our finding could have exciting implications for healthy ageing and for people with inherited mitochondrial diseases.

"In conditions of stress, when mitochondrial DNA has been damaged, the ATFS-1 protein prioritises repair which promotes cellular health and longevity," said Zurryn.

As an analogy, Zurryn likened the relationship to a race car needing a pitstop.

"ATFS-1 makes the call that a pitstop is needed for the cell when mitochondria need repairs.

"We studied ATFS-1 in C. elegans, or round worms, and saw that enhancing its function promoted cellular health, meaning the worms became more agile for longer.

"They didn't live longer, but they were healthier as they aged," said Zurryn.

Understanding how cells promote repair is an important step towards identifying possible interventions to prevent mitochondrial damage, the authors said in the study published in the journal Nature Cell Biology said.

"Our goal is to prolong the tissue and organ functions that typically decline during ageing by understanding how deteriorating mitochondria contribute to this process," said Michael Dai, QBI.



### WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

#### Early Intervention

- Critical care ambulances are equipped with advanced medical equipment and trained medical professionals who can provide early intervention to patients during transit. This early intervention can help to stabilize patients and prevent their condition from deteriorating, thereby reducing the risk of mortality and morbidity.

#### Timely Transportation

- Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.

#### Reduced Complications

- Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

#### Better Coordination

- Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

#### Improved Accessibility:

Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



**9484100200/ 01942310018**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer  
Special Sub Division Gurez**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
E-NIT No. 26/REW/2023-24/EE/SSDG/3133-43/E-tendering/Dated:-19-07-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at (Dawar B) Block Gurez	34.47	1100	120 days	68940	(Capex Budget 2023-24)	BEE/AAV

Position of AAA: Accorded  
Position of funds Available  
Project Authority:-District Administration

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	19-07-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 20-07-2023 (10:00 AM) To 26-07-2023 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 20-07-2023 (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 26-07-2023 (04:00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	27-07-2023 (02:00 PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez Major Head 0515-Rev:Misc [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dtd 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan/CDR/FDR should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez (Tender receiving Authority).
- All bidders have to pay 2% of advertised cost of the work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract value as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP.
- Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238-FD 021 Dated: 07-09-2021
- Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District Development Commissioner BANDIPORA No Objection Certificate/ Bio Data for e-Tender Note: The below details are required for e-tendering participation in Panchayat (Annexure A)
- Instruction to bidder (ITB)
  - All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.
    - All bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with.
    - Cell No. and Correspondence Address.
    - All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan/2% of Adv Cost. in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez
    - All Bidders shall upload PAN CARD.
    - All Bidders shall upload Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS Portal.
    - NIT issued in the month of July 2023 the bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the latest quarter i.e. April-June 2023/ latest month i.e. June 2023.
    - All bidders shall upload verification certificate from concerned Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card. Letter No:- Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Kashmir's :-18484-516 Dated:-21-11-2020 and No:- BS/812-44 Dated 06-04-2021.
  - The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement a/s laid down in NIT
  - All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-5456/23 DATED: 20-07-2023  
Executive Engineer  
Special Sub Division Gurez

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Municipal Committee  
Bijbehara**

Phone: 01932234817 MC Bijbehara Email: executiveofficermcb@gmail.com

Subject: Physical and financial closure of subcomponent IHHL of SBM 1.0 at Municipal Committee, Bijbehara.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas Swachh Bharat Mission was launched to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage in all States/ Union Territories including Union Territory of J&K under the initiative of SBM 1.0. The general populace of town Bijbehara were facilitated for construction of Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL) both insanitary as well as sanitary.

Whereas Municipal Committee, Bijbehara under the same initiative have facilitated for construction of 510 Individual House Hold Latrines and due payment as per the SBM guidelines have been disbursed well in time. Through the medium of this notice the general public of Town Bijbehara are informed to communicate any pending claim / grievances / concerns on exclusion /inclusions/demands within a period of seven days from the issuance of this notice. After the due date is over no claim shall be entertained and sub component of SBM 1.0 namely IHHL shall be closed physically/ financially with respect to Municipal Committee, Bijbehara.

Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Bijbehara.

No:MC/Bij/23/1218-21  
DIPK-NB-2115/23 Dated. 20/07/2023



## Weak Loans Of Banks To Fall To 3-3.5% Of Gross Advances By March 2025: S&P

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** S&P Global Ratings on Thursday projected Indian banking sector's weak loans will decline to 3-3.5 per cent of gross advances by March 31, 2025 as structural improvements and good economic prospects would support the resilience of financial institutions.

In its mid-year global bank outlook, S&P said India's



economic growth prospects should remain strong over the medium term, with GDP expanding 6-7.1 per cent annually in fiscal years 2024-2026.

India to remain the fastest-growing economy in Asia-Pacific, and the fastest-growing large economy globally, it said.

"We project the banking sector's weak loans will decline to

3-3.5 per cent of gross loans by March 31, 2025 on the back of structural improvement, including healthy corporate balance sheets, tighter underwriting standards, and improved risk-management practices," S&P Primary Credit Analyst Deepali Seth Chhabria said.

S&P also said that stronger balance sheets and higher demand should boost bank loan growth, but deposit growth would lag.

"The small and midsize enterprise sector and low-income households are vulnerable to rising interest rates and high inflation. But we believe that interest rates in India are unlikely to rise materially. This should limit the risk for the country's banking industry," Chhabria said.

S&P further said that slower global growth and external demand will weigh on economic activity and could fuel further inflation. "However, given that India is domestically oriented, we expect the economic growth to be less affected. We assume the impact on the banking sector will also be modest.

## Govt Rolls Out Credit Guarantee Scheme For MSMEs In Livestock Sector



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying on Thursday said it is implementing a credit guarantee scheme to facilitate inflow of fund to MSMEs engaged in livestock sector.

The department, which is under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, is implementing the Credit Guarantee Scheme under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF).

The scheme is aimed to strengthen credit delivery system and facilitate smooth flow of credit to the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in livestock sector without hassles of collateral security.

"For operationalising the scheme, the department has established a Credit Guarantee fund Trust of Rs 750 crore, which will provide credit guarantee coverage up to 25 per cent of the credit facilities extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions," an official statement said.

The credit guarantee scheme facilitates access to finance for un-served and under-served livestock sector, making avail-

ability of financial assistance from lenders to mainly first-generation entrepreneurs and underprivileged section of society, who lack collateral security for supporting their ventures.

"The main objective of the Credit Guarantee Scheme is that the lender should give importance to project viability and secure the credit facility purely on the basis primary security of the assets financed," it added.

The establishment of credit guarantee fund trust was approved under a Rs 15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for incentivising investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSMEs, Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies.

The investment is to establish (i) the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure, (ii) meat processing and value addition infrastructure, (iii) Animal Feed Plant, (iv) Breed Improvement technology and Breed Multiplication Farm, (v) Animal Waste to Wealth Management (Agri Waste Management), and (vi) Setting up of Veterinary Vaccine and Drugs Manufacturing facilities.

## JKTPO Team Meets Invest India, ITPO To Foster Investments And Trade Opportunities In J&K



Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** A delegation from Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), led by its Managing Director, Khalid Jahangir held extensive meetings with Invest India and Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) to explore investment opportunities and strengthen trade ties in the region.

The delegation congratulated Nirvuti Rai, for the new role as MD & CEO of Invest India, and sought her support in projecting Jammu & Kashmir's potential as a prime investment destination.

Further, the visit was followed by detailed discussions regarding investment prospects in focus sectors such as Tourism, IT/ITES, Food Processing, Aayush, One District One Product (ODOP), Lo-

gistics, etc with the Sectoral Teams of Invest India. There was productive sharing of knowledge and ideas, aimed facilitate investment in areas of strength and importance for J&K. The collaboration aims to attract investments that will fuel economic development and generate employment opportunities in the region.

The JKTPO team also engaged with ITPO to study the revenue and organizational model, with a focus on finalizing plans for a Mega trade fair to be held in Srinagar in last week of September. The trade fair aims to provide a platform for exhibitors from across India and J&K to showcase their exquisite products and explore trade opportunities. On the same lines JKTPO shall be organizing the second version of mega trade fair in Jammu

and will further be a flagship event of Industries & Commerce Department which will be organised annually.

The meeting at ITPO was attended by General Managers of different wings, Dy. General Managers, and Senior Managers of ITPO, emphasizing the commitment of both organizations to create a conducive environment for trade in Jammu & Kashmir.

The JKTPO team expressed their enthusiasm about the fruitful discussions and the potential outcomes of these meetings. The decisions and discussions will lead to positive impact on successful roll out of the Mega trade fair, which is expected to bolster trade opportunities, promote local products, and attract investments for the overall economic growth and prosperity of the region.

## Horticulture Deptt Organizes Awareness/ Capacity Building Programme On HADP

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Directorate of Horticulture, Rajbagh Srinagar, Thursday organized a highly informative and impactful Awareness/Capacity Building Programme on the "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)".

The event aimed to equip officers of the Directorate and field officers of the Department of Horticulture, including Chief Horticulture Officer, DLMS, and Horticulture Development Officers, with valuable insights into effectively implementing the HADP for the benefit of farmers and the agriculture sector.

The programme was presided over by the Director Horticulture Kashmir, Mr. G. R. Mir.

During the programme, experts from the Department of Horticulture delivered comprehensive presentations, shedding light on various critical aspects



of implementing the "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)". Participants were provided with valuable knowledge and best practices to ensure the successful execution of the programme.

Director Horticulture emphasized the need to achieve the set targets for the current year under the HADP. He stressed that the success of the programme would lead to significant improvements in agricultural practices and boost the socio-economic condition of farmers in the region.

Furthermore, Director

Horticulture emphasized that all officers must adhere to the implementation guidelines of HADP in both letter and spirit. It is crucial to maintain transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the implementation process to maximize the positive impact on the agricultural community.

The Awareness/Capacity Building Programme received enthusiastic participation from the officers, reflecting their commitment to advancing the horticulture sector in the region and their dedication to the welfare of farmers.

## Govt Bans Exports Of Non-Basmati White Rice To Boost Domestic Supply, Help Control Price

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Thursday banned exports of non-basmati white rice to boost domestic supply and keep retail prices under check during the upcoming festive season.

There would be no change in export policy of par-boiled non-basmati rice and basmati rice, which forms the bulk of exports, the food ministry said in a statement.

Non-basmati white rice constitutes about 25 per cent of total rice exported from the country.

"Export policy of non-basmati white rice (semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed)...is amended from free to prohibited," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

"Export policy of Non Basmati White Rice amended to ensure adequate domestic availability at reasonable prices," the ministry said, adding, the move is aimed to ensure lower prices and adequate availability in the upcoming festival season.

In order to ensure adequate availability of non-basmati white rice in the domestic market and to allay the rise in local prices, the government has amended the export policy from 'Free with export duty of 20%' to 'Prohibited' with immediate effect.

"The domestic prices of rice are on an increasing trend. The retail prices have increased by 11.5 per cent over a year and 3 per cent over the past month," the statement said.

Export duty of 20 per cent on non-basmati white rice was imposed on September 8, 2022



to lower the price as well as ensure availability in the domestic market.

However, the export of this variety increased to 42.12 lakh tonnes in September-March period of the 2022-23 from 33.66 lakh tonnes during September-March period of the previous fiscal.

In the first quarter of the current fiscal, about 15.54 lakh tonnes of white rice was exported against only 11.55 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, which means an increase by 35 per cent.

"This sharp increase in exports can be ascribed to high international prices due to geopolitical scenario, El Nino sentiments and extreme climatic conditions in other rice producing countries, etc.," the statement said.

The prohibition on export of non-basmati white rice will lead to lowering of prices for the consumers in the country.

However, there is no change in export policy of non-basmati rice (par boiled rice) and basmati rice, which forms the bulk of rice exports.

"This will ensure that the farmers continue to get the benefit of remunerative prices in the international market," it added. As per the commerce ministry data, India's total exports of basmati rice stood at USD 4.8 billion in 2022-23, while in volume terms it was at 45.6 lakh tonnes.

## Markets Settle At Fresh Highs; Nifty Stares At 20K



Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Extending winning momentum to the sixth day, equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty scaled fresh record high levels on Thursday, driven by unabated foreign capital inflows and intense buying in banking and FMCG stocks.

A recovery in the rupee added to the momentum, forex traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 474.46 points or 0.71 per cent to settle at its fresh all-time closing high of 67,571.90.

The benchmark recovered all its early lost ground during the afternoon trade. During the day, it rallied 521.73 points or 0.77 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 67,619.17.

The NSE Nifty is on the verge of breaching the psychologically crucial 20,000 mark and closed a few points shy of the

level. Rising for the sixth straight session, the NSE flagship climbed 146 points or 0.74 per cent to end at its record closing high of 19,979.15. During the session, it soared 158.7 points or 0.80 per cent to reach its fresh record high of 19,991.85.

In the last six sessions, the BSE benchmark has jumped 2,178 points or 3.33 per cent, and the Nifty rallied 594.85 points or 3.06 per cent.

"Unlocking of value by heavyweights (like RIL & ITC) is apprising the main indices. The anticipation of good Q1 results from Banks, is providing an extra boost to drive to new highs. Mixed cues from global peers are not disturbing the mood of the domestic market as FIIs inflows stay put to the prospects of the Indian economy," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

## Sebi Moots Measures To Monitor Exposure Of Clearing Corporations

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday proposed measures for monitoring the exposure of Clearing Corporations (CCs) to various entities and mitigate the risks.

It has been suggested that any type of exposure of CC should be appropriately monitored and managed. Besides, such exposures should be diversified.

Issuing the proposals, Sebi mentioned about the critical role played by a CC in the securities market ecosystem and that it is exposed to concentration risk.

"... it is important to protect the CC from the risks associated with such entities to which the CC is exposed to and ensure that such exposures of CC are adequately diversified," Sebi said in a consultation paper.

The regulator has comments from the public on the proposals till August 10. For the purpose of monitoring, Sebi has recommended that CCs should consider several types of exposures.

They include CCs' own funds invested with banks, Core Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF) corpus deployed with

banks, CCs' balances with the bank in its capacity as a clearing bank, and Fixed Deposits (FDs) and bank guarantees lien marked to CCs.

Other exposures include equity shares, mutual funds and debt instruments pledged or re-pledged with CCs, and CCs' similar exposure through their subsidiaries.

With regard to selection of banks, Sebi proposed that CCs should devise well-defined criteria for selection of banks, which needs to be based on parameters such as net worth (Rs 500 crore), capital adequacy, creditworthiness considering long term credit rating of the bank as part of their internal policy.

"CCs shall closely and continuously monitor such parameters and other material events or news surrounding such banks in order to take appropriate steps for mitigating the risks that may arise on account of any significant event," Sebi said.

Further, the watchdog has suggested that the overall daily exposure of a CC, including exposure through its subsidiaries, to a single bank should not exceed 20 percent of the total exposure.

## Govt Says 37 Passengers Placed In 'No Fly List' This Year Till Jul 15

**NEW DELHI:** The civil aviation ministry on Thursday said 37 passengers have been placed in the 'No Fly List' this year till July 15, and the action was taken mainly for not wearing masks or for not obeying the instructions of crew members.

In recent times, there has been an increase in the number of incidents involving unruly air passengers.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh told the Lok Sabha that a total of 63 passengers were placed in the 'No Fly List' during the year 2022 for varying periods as recommended by an airline's internal committee.

"In 2023, 37 passengers have been placed in 'No Fly List' upto 15.07.2023. The majority of the passengers placed in 'No Fly List' were for violation related to not wearing masks or not obeying the instructions of the crew members," he said in a written reply. To a query on whether the government plans to widen the ambit of the powers of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to tackle such incidents, the minister replied in the negative.

## FMCG Sector Seeing Gradual Volume Growth In Q1: HUL CFO

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** FMCG industry is witnessing a gradual volume growth led by urban market with rural also turning positive in the first quarter of the fiscal after witnessing an over double-digit decline in the past, Hindustan Unilever Ltd CFO Ritesh Tiwari said on Thursday.

Commodities prices have remained stable and inflation continues to moderate thereby leading to resurgence of small and regional players many of whom had vacated the market during peak of inflation, he said during an earnings call.

"With most commodities remaining stable in the quarter, inflation continues to moderate. Consequently, we are seeing a gradual recovery in market volume growth. FMCG market volumes grew in mid single digit led by urban," Tiwari said.

He further said, "Rural market volumes which at one point in

time were declining in double digits have just been positive in this quarter."

However, these growths have come on the back of decline in volumes in the past.

"If you look at market growth on a two-year CAGR basis, total volume growth is still marginally negative," Tiwari said.

With softening of inflation, he said competitive intensity in the market is increasing.

"Media deployment which saw a steep reduction during high inflationary period has started normalising and it's almost bound to 2019 levels. We are also witnessing resurgence of small and regional players, many of whom had vacated the market during the peak of inflation," Tiwari said.

On the outlook, he said the near term operating environment continues to be volatile with weather-related risk.

He said the progress of monsoon needs to be closely

watched along with any impact of El Nino on agricultural activities and rural demand.

"We expect market volumes to recover gradually due to high levels of cumulative inflation and the fact that consumption habits typically recover with a lag," he added.

When asked about the impact of the floods in different parts of the country, Tiwari said, "This is more of a phenomenon of July and September quarter...Our operations are safe, our people are safe and that is always the first focus area."

Further, he said that the impact of the floods or other things will be known in the next quarter.

In terms of product pricing, he said, "If commodities remain where they are, we expect our price growth to be near flat or marginally negative. With inflation moderating the competitive intensity is likely to go further."

## US working with India on co-producing extended-range artillery and infantry vehicles to address threats posed by China: Senior Pentagon official

Washington, Jul 20 (PTI) The US is working with India on proposals to co-produce extended-range artillery and infantry vehicles to meet its operational requirements along its border with China and address its "coercion and harassment", a top Pentagon official said on Thursday.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over-three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh.

This is part of the unprecedented steps being undertaken by the Biden administration to enable its allies and partners to contribute to deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region, said Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, in prepared opening remarks for his Congressional hearing on China.

The hearing is taking place at a time when relations between the US and China have been hit badly amid disputes over human rights, access to technology, China's territorial claims in the South China and East China seas and threats against self-governing Taiwan.

Pentagon, he said, is supporting Japan's efforts to acquire counter-strike capabilities, working with Australia as it develops an indigenous capacity to manufacture guided weapons and explosive ordnance, implementing a new inaugural technology initiative with India focused on co-development and

co-production of major defence platforms and working with Southeast Asian countries to acquire asymmetric capabilities suited to combatting China's coercion and harassment, and more.

"Most recently with India, we concretised our commitment to co-produce jet engines and strengthen cutting-edge technology and defence industrial cooperation during Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi's state visit," Ratner said.

"We are also working with Indian counterparts on proposals to co-produce extended-range artillery and infantry vehicles to address India's operational requirements along its border with the People's Republic of China," Ratner said before the House Select Committee on China.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over-three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

India has made it very clear to China that until there is peace and tranquillity in border areas, the relationship between the two countries cannot progress.

## Dr. Singla Reviews Arrangements Of Ongoing Amarnath Yatra



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Panchtarni: Secretary Revenue and Nodal Officer for Amarnath Yatra via Pahalgam Axis, Dr Piyush Singla on Thursday held a virtual meeting with DC Anantnag, Dr Syed Fakruddin Hamid and other government officials stationed at Panchtarni campsite to review arrangements for ongoing of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023 to ensure convenient and smooth conduct of Holy Yatra.

During the meeting, the Nodal Officer expressed satisfaction with the conduct of yatra so far and appreciated the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, highlighting their unwavering commitment to ensure safety and comfort of the pilgrims. He also lauded the District Administration for their efforts towards ensuring a safe Yatra.

Dr Singla further said, "As the Amarnath Yatra progresses, we remain committed to closely monitoring the arrangements and addressing any challenges

that may arise promptly. The collective determination of the authorities and stakeholders involved underscores their dedication to make this year's Amarnath Yatra a resounding success." He added that Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and the Shrine Board are meticulously overseeing all the arrangements.

The Nodal Officer during the meeting also appreciated 'Yatra Mitra' team for their relentless support and assistance in facilitating the smooth and clean pilgrimage journey for the devotees, and contributing significantly to this year's Yatra's overall success.

During the meeting, Camp Director, Panchtarni, Thakur Sher Singh briefed the meeting about the current arrangements put in place to cater to the needs of the pilgrims, ensuring their comfort and well-being throughout the Yatra.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag assured wholehearted support from the district administration to facilitate

the Yatra and maintain a harmonious environment for all pilgrims. He said to ensure a fulfilling and comfortable pilgrimage, continuous monitoring of Yatra related activities including security, travel and sanitation is being undertaken.

Pertinently, 'Yatra Mitra' is an initiative of Camp Director Panchtarni and was launched during SANJY 2022, for providing a round the clock helping hand in shifting of patients from Camp site to the Base Hospital, evacuation of patients from Base Hospital to Helipad for shifting to other hospital through helicopter, guidance to the yatis to their desired destinations, and promotion of cleanliness.

The meeting among others was attended by Additional Camp Directors, Nodal Officer Sanitation, Incharge Base Hospital, Panchtarni, Commandant ITBP, Asst Commandant, BSF besides Union Presidents of Dandiwalas, Pitthoowalas, and Panywalas also participated in the meeting.

## UP: Four booked over 'triple talaq' to woman, subjecting her to 'nikah halala'

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Jul 20 (PTI) An FIR has been registered against four people over alleged "triple talaq" thrice to a woman in a span of 12 years and subjecting her to "nikah halala" here, police said on Thursday.

The four included the woman's husband, her mother-in-law and two other relatives, they said.

The woman, in her complaint to the police, alleged that her husband gave her instant divorce by pronouncing "talaq" thrice for not meeting the dowry demand of Rs 1 lakh, police said, adding it happened after two years of their marriage.

The husband then forced her to have "nikah halala" with her brother-in-law, they said.

'Nikah halala' refers to a process wherein a Muslim woman can re-marry her first husband after her second husband, whom she had married, gives her divorce after consummation. However, if the intention was that the woman will marry a second man and get divorce from him only to re-marry the first husband, then

it is a sin, according to Islamic principles.

The woman told the police that her second husband, the brother-in-law, too gave her instant divorce, only to re-marry the first husband.

On July 4 this year, the first husband again gave her 'triple talaq', police said.

When her parents intervened, her first husband threatened them with dire consequences, they said.

On the complaint of the woman, an FIR under Indian Penal Code sections 376D (gangrape), 498A (harassment of a woman to meet an unlawful demand), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (causing intentional insult), 506 (criminal intimidation) and section 3 and 4 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act was lodged on Wednesday and investigation is on, Additional Superintendent of Police Nepal Singh said.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 declares the instant divorce granted by pronouncement of 'talaq' three times as void and illegal.

## MD NHIDCL inspects Z-Morh, Zojila tunnel projects Reviews progress of ongoing works

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: Managing Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Chanchal Kumar on Thursday visited Z-Morh and Zojila Road Tunnel Projects here and took comprehensive review on the progress of ongoing works on these projects.

Besides visiting the project sites, he also chaired review meetings at the site offices and took stock of progress all the components of these projects in detail. While reviewing the progress of Z-Morh project, the MD was informed that 77 percent work has been completed. He also interacted with Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority during the visit.

The MD directed the NHIDCL officers to beautify the muck dumping areas near Sonamarg to maintain the beautiful landscapes of this famous tourist place.

Pertinently, Z-Morh project comprises of 6.5km tunnel

with a parallel escape tunnel and a 5.5 km approach road. After completion, it will provide an all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg.

Similarly, while reviewing Zojila project, the MD was informed that 35 percent of works have been completed as on date. He was also apprised that this project comprises of 13.153 km main tunnel and 17.814 km approach road, scheduled to be completed in the month of September 2026.

During the visit, he appreciated the efforts of ground team for constructing such projects of national importance in harsh climatic conditions. He also directed all the stakeholders of both the projects to complete the projects on scheduled timelines.

Interacting with NHIDCL officers on the occasion, the MD said that both the projects once completed, will entirely transform the socio-economic aspect of the area by promoting tourism.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Experts Raise Alarm

Kids and soft drinks are simply a bad match. Besides neurodevelopmental conditions, intake of sugary fluids may lead to childhood obesity, cardiovascular issues, obesity and Type-2 diabetes among children. It can also impact their bone health," the DAK president told Kashmir Observer.

Not only junk food, but Valley's traditional street-food like Nadir Monji, Monji Gaad, Til Karra containing high saturated fat, is also harmful for health. These can raise bad cholesterol levels in blood, which can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, he added.

Hassan advised parents to encourage natural orange juice, coconut water, lemon water and fruit juices rather than making their kids addicted to harmful fizzy drinks, causing multiple health issues.

According to Dr Sheikh Umer, a leading pediatrician, soft drinks cause multiple health issues among children.

"Soft drinks provide empty calories that can suppress the appetite, which leads children to eat less of the foods they need," he told Kashmir Observer.

When contacted, a senior officer of Food Safety Department Kashmir, Hamidullah Dar told Kashmir Observer that the department organises awareness camps in schools so as to make children realize the ill effects of soft drinks and junk food.

Dar said it is for the federal government and not the UT administration to issue guidelines to soft drinks companies to put warning labels on bottles.

"We admit that soft drinks contain harmful chemicals and preservatives which are injurious to the children as well as adults," Dar said, adding "I suggest that parents have a lead role to play in this direction as children copy the food and drinking habits from them," he added.

### Sharma Sworn-In

Commission (SSC). He was re-employed by the Centre for two years after his superannuation on April 30, 2020.

### Leopard Mauls

The incident created panic among the villagers, who demanded authorities to trap the leopard to avoid any such incident in the future, a local news agency KNO reported.

### Army Gets

gets 4X4 a black plastic panel on either side of the windshield just above the vertically stacked tail-lights. It is likely done to minimise the damage to the exterior. On the inside, the army-spec Mahindra Scorpio features grey and black interiors, and gets a touchscreens infotainment and climate control. There could be some additional features for the army-spec model, but certain details are not yet known.

Army's Northern Command confirmed the development and shared a post on tweet.

"The Hilux, known for its toughness, durability, reliability, and offroading capabilities with its powerful engine and 4x4 drive coupled with enhanced safety features will boost the operational readiness and modernise the fleet of the Indian Army," the Northern Command said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, as per spokesperson of Toyota, the army specific Hilux features four-wheel drive as well as a low-range transmission with front and rear electronic differential locks for increased off road capability. It has a 29° approach angle and a 26° departure angle. The Hilux also features a 700 mm water-wading capacity.

Sharing his views, Mr. V. Wiseline Sigamani, General Manager - Strategic Business Unit (North), said "We are thrilled to deliver the Hilux, marking a significant milestone, fulfilling our first-ever Hilux order to the Indian Army. We are truly honoured and proud with this opportunity. The Hilux that offers unique off-roading characteristics, coupled with enhanced safety features, makes it the most ideal vehicle for the army purposes and cater to their special purposes.

The senior leadership and users of Hilux said, "We are happy to receive the first fleet of Toyota Hilux, which measures up to the requirements of the Indian Army. We acknowledge TKM's support to customise the Hilux, passing through our stringent road tests with its strong off-roading strengths and extreme performance under stringent weather, difficult terrain conditions, which is key to our requirements. We look forward to utilising these fleet of Hilux for the purposes meant."

In the past, the Indian Army has procured the Tata Xenon pick up, the Tata Safari Storme and the Maruti Suzuki Gypsy - the latter being the favourite of the armed forces for almost two decades.

In May 2018, Tata Motors had showcased the

army-spec three-door Tata Safari Storme with a soft top. However, the vehicle could not enter service in the armed forces. In March 2022, we had reported that the Indian Army was looking to replace 35,000 units of the Gypsy SUV in a phased manner, and the Scorpio was also considered—(KNO)

### Agha Shahid Ali's

and that the decision was taken in accordance with the new education policy of J&K. The matter is being looked at from various other angles as well," Nilofer told Kashmir Observer.

Sources at Kashmir University, however said the administration has directed the varsity authorities to stop teaching this type of literature as the same "propagates secessionist ideology" in the federally governed territory.

Both Cluster University and KU have complied with the directions and CU has even removed Agha Shahid Ali's poetry from its website too.

### 8 Teachers Chargesheeted

"During the course of investigation, statements of complainants were recorded, obtained record from the concerned Department, Fake BP. Ed degrees were seized and it was found that the accused candidates were appointed as Physical Education teachers in Rajouri on the CP. Ed basis, however they later produced BP. Ed certificates before the competent authority and succeeded in getting the higher grade pay of Rs 2800 to which they were not entitled to." It further reads that the seized record reveals that 08 accused have managed fake BP.ED certificates with the help of the agent.

### 3 Chargesheeted For

RPC registered at police station Crime Branch Kashmir, an official spokesperson said. The chargesheet, he said, was filed against the trio for their alleged involvement in the illegal encroachment of State land situated at Dhoiwan village in Kunzer.

Giving more details of the case, the spokesperson said that Crime Branch Kashmir received a complaint alleging that Goni in connivance with land brokers Ghulam Mohammad Bhat and Mohammad Ashraf Wani had unlawfully trespassed and encroached upon state land measuring approximately 25 kanal at village Dhoiwan.

Goni, he said, had also erected sign boards and stone blocks over the land.

"The complaint prima facie disclosed commission of criminal acts by the accused persons. Accordingly, the instant case was registered in Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir in the year 2018 and investigation started," he said.

The spokesperson said that the evidence collected during investigation of the case has established that the accused persons hatched a criminal conspiracy and unlawfully trespassed and encroached upon a parcel of state land.

"They had fenced the said parcel of land and had also erected sign boards and placed numerous stone blocks thereby illegally and fraudulently converting/demarcating the said parcel of State land into plots so that the same could be offered for sale to private buyers," he said.

"Criminal culpability of the accused individuals for commission of offences punishable under Sections 420, 447-A & 120-B RPC has been proved," he added.

The charge-report, he said, of the instant case has accordingly been presented in the Court for judicial determination.

### Put All Efforts

regular updates on the situation and directed the officers to initiate strict actions against people involved in anti-peace activities.

He also directed the officers to strengthen security arrangements and to undertake all necessary steps to ensure anti-peace elements don't get any chance to disturb the tranquility.

"Stressing to remain more vigilant against support networks who are helping terrorists to carry out their nefarious designs, the DGP directed for putting in all efforts to ensure terror free Jammu and Kashmir. The DGP also highlighted the necessity of gaining furthermore trust and cooperation of the people as a crucial part of counter-terror operations," the spokesperson said. With regard to Amarnath Yatra, the DGP directed the officers to ensure that all the arrangements are meticulously followed to ensure incident free Yatra.

He emphasized on best possible arrangements to ensure overall safety and smooth conduct of the yatra. He directed the officers to continue their hard work for the successful completion of the yatra.

According to the spokesperson, emerging challenges and their counter measures were

also threadbare discussed during the meeting. Besides, he said, detailed discussion regarding the terror crimes in the valley was held and the officers present in the meeting gave suggestions regarding anti-militancy operations and for strengthening peace further in J&K.

"The officers apprised the DGP regarding the area domination in Anantnag as also in other districts of South Kashmir. The DGP was informed that security forces are deployed at strategic locations. He was also briefed about the anti-terror security grid of South Kashmir," the spokesperson said.

Among other officers of police, army and CRPF, Brig A.S Pundir of 2 Sector RR, DIG South Kashmir Rayees Mohammad Bhat, DIG CRPF OPS Anantnag K.S Daswal, DIG OPS (SKOR) CRPF Alok Avasthy also attended the meeting.

### Banihal Highway

took stock of the situation at the highway and underscored the need for taking strict action against slow moving vehicles and overloaded trucks.

He asked executing agencies to handover the second tube of the Ramban flyover by August 15 and the Banihal bypass by the end of this year.

### Man Held For

Police (SSP) Shopian confirmed the incident and said that a case is being registered to take up further investigation into the matter.

### Self-Styled Journo

(Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal Code has been registered and an investigation is underway. Five accused have already been arrested in the case, the police added.

### NIA Raids Multiple

of the federal agency's probe into a terror-related case.

### Arms, Ammo

The Army said two AK rifles, six pistols, four hand grenades and other war-like stores were recovered during the search operation.

### IUST Announces

Principals/Incharge Heads/Coordinators may ensure that Departments/Colleges/Centres are open during summer vacations for administrative work," it adds



## Srinagar Premier League: 2 Matches Played

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches were played on Thursday in the ongoing 2023 Srinagar Premier Football League at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

In the first game, FC1 locked horns with Galaxt FC at 3:00 PM. FC1 took an early lead in the first half, before adding another to make it 2-0 and give fans a taste of what was to come. FC1 added four more goals to make 6-0 at half time.

The team started the second

half in same fashion and added two more goals. Galaxy then pegged one back to make it 8-1, but FC1 managed to keep scoring. The match ended 10-1 in FC1's favour.

STFC Natipora took on Kashmir Maharaja FC in the second match of the day at 5:30 PM. STFC took an early lead in the first half, before adding another to make it 2-0. Kashmir Maharaja scored one to make the scoreline 2-1 at half time.

STFC managed to hold on to their slender lead till full time.

## YSS Anantnag Qualifies For Departmental Final



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) is organising an Inter District Provincial Level Cricket Tournament for its staff of Kashmir Province.

The first semifinal of the tourney was played between host District Anantnag and Kulgam at Bhijbehra.

After winning the toss Kulgam decided to bat first and were all out for 119 in the allotted 20 overs. Sheeraz Ahmad Wani played a brilliant knock of

71 runs in 51 balls for Kulgam. For Anantnag, Shabir Ahmad clinched 3 crucial wickets in 04 overs by conceding just 13 runs and Javid Ahmad claimed 02 wickets in 04 overs by conceding 27 runs.

Chasing this target, Anantnag won the match by 6 wickets in just 17.3 overs. In this run chase, Ashiq Bhat scored 32 runs (not out), Shahid Peer scored 31 runs (not out) and Rayees Ahmad contributed 24 runs.

Anantnag will now lock horns in final match to clinch the title.

## Police Memorial Cricket Tourney Begins In Bandipora

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais along with the SSP Bandipora, Lakshay Sharma, on Thursday inaugurated the Police Martyrs Memorial Cricket Tournament at SK Sports Stadium here.

As many as 18 teams from across the district are participating in the tournament.

This cricket event is being organized by the District Police Bandipora in collaboration with the Cricket Association Bandipora.

The opening ceremony of the tournament marked the presence of esteemed guests, local dignitaries, cricket enthusiasts, and members of the bereaved

families of fallen police martyrs. Speaking on the occasion, the DC expressed his profound gratitude to the district police and Cricket Association Bandipora for organizing such a significant event that honors the sacrifices of our courageous police force.

Among others, Faisal Ali was also present on the occasion.

## WI v IND: WI Opt To Field In 2nd Test



Press Trust of India

**PORT OF SPAIN:** West Indies won the toss and elected to bowl against India in the second and final Test, here on Thursday.

For India, Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar will be making his Test debut in place of injured Shardul Thakur.

"Shardul has pulled up a niggle — a groin issue, it brings Mukesh on for a debut," India

captain Rohit Sharma said. Kirk McKenzie will make his debut for West Indies, replacing Raymon Reifer. India have an unassailable lead of 1-0 having won the first Test in Dominica by an innings and 141 runs.

India were 121/0 after 26 overs, with both Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma scoring half centuries.

Teams: India: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rohit Sharma (c),

Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Jaydev Unadkat, Mukesh Kumar, Mohammed Siraj. West Indies: Kraigg Brathwaite(c), Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Kirk McKenzie, Jermaine Blackwood, Alick Athanaze, Joshua Da Silva (wk), Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kemar Roach, Jomel Warrican, Shan-non Gabriel.

## Ashes: Zak Crawley Shines As England Reach 239/2 At Tea

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Zak Crawley's attacking century and Moeen Ali's fifty dominated the second session of Day 2 of the Fourth match of the Ashes series here at Old Trafford Cricket Ground on Thursday with England consolidating their position in the match. At Tea, England were 239/2 with Zak Crawley 132\* and Joe Root 44\* in the middle.

Resuming from 61/1, Moeen Ali and Zak Crawley played an attacking game. They quickly added 100 runs to the board in 23 overs. Crawley and Moeen brought up the 100-run partnership after Crawley took a single off Pat Cummins' first ball in the 24th over.

Crawley reached to fifty-run mark by hitting a six to Head's bowling. Moeen brought his



half-century in the 25th over. Moeen Ali was dismissed by Mitchell Starc at 54 as he was caught at the midwicket. Crawley continued his attacking game hitting regular boundaries. He clinched his century with a four in Starc bowling.

England reached to 200-run mark in 36 overs.

Brief scores: Australia 317 (Marnus Labuschagne 51, Mitchell Marsh 51, Chris Woakes 5-62) vs England 239/2 (Zak Crawley 132\*, Moeen Ali 54, Mitchell Starc 1-18). (ANI)

## Pakistan Defeat Sri Lanka By 4 Wickets In 1st Test Match

Agencies

**GALLE:** Pakistan has joined India at the top of the ICC World Test Championship standings with a comprehensive four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the first Test in Galle on Thursday. The victory target of 131 was a mere formality for Pakistan, despite the fact Sri Lanka managed to claim three wickets on the final morning as the runs were successfully chased down prior to lunch.

Imam-ul-Haq (50\*) and Agha Salman (6\*) remained unbeaten as the match came to an end as Pakistan made a perfect start to their new World Test Championship campaign. The victory sees



Pakistan join India at the top of the World Test Championship standings with a 100 per cent win-percentage after one match apiece in the new cycle.

Pakistan will be looking to maintain their unbeaten record when the second

Test against Sri Lanka commences in Colombo on Monday. Babar's side missed out on qualifying for the recent World Test Championship Final (2021-23), with Australia defeating India in the decider at The Oval last month. (ANI)



## Protest Against Asian Games Trials Exemption Reaches IOA

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Many junior wrestlers, their parents and coaches reached the IOA headquarters here on Thursday, demanding the withdrawal of exemption granted to Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia from the Asian Games trials, a day after their protest in Haryana's Hisar.

Around 150 people, including family members of the wrestlers, are seeking a meeting with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P T Usha and ad-hoc panel chief Bhupender Singh Bajwa.

"All we want is a meeting

with IOA top brass. We will not accept any biased decision. This is wrong. We are here to request the panel to withdraw exemption granted to Bajrang and Vinesh," Vikas Bhardhwaj, the coach of promising Antim Panghal, told PTL.

The reigning U-20 world champion Panghal and U-23 Asian champion Sujeet Kalkal had slammed the ad-hoc committee's decision as unjust and unfair and asserted that they are capable of beating Bajrang and Vinesh if they are pitted against them in the trials.

The duo were, however, not present at the IOA Bhawan.

## Fernandes Replaces Maguire As New Man Utd Captain

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Portuguese midfielder Bruno Fernandes has been named as the new captain of Manchester United, the Premier League club said on Thursday. The 28-year-old will replace defender Harry Maguire, who was stripped of the team captaincy by manager Erik ten Hag after the England international failed to secure a place in the first team.

Fernandes, who has 64 goals and 54 assists in 185 games for the club in all competitions, captained in the absence of Maguire, who spent much of last season on the bench or injured. The defender has been linked in British media reports with a move away from the club.

United next travel to the



United States, where they will face Arsenal, Wrexham, Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund in friendly matches ahead of the new campaign. United will be back in action in next season's Champions League after failing to qualify for the tournament in the 2021-22 campaign.

## NZ Upset Norway In Women's World Cup Opener



Agencies

**AUCKLAND:** Hannah Wilkinson's second-half goal gave New Zealand a shock 1-0 win over former champions Norway at Eden Park on Thursday as the co-hosts kicked off the Women's World Cup in style by claiming their first ever victory at the global soccer showpiece.

The Football Ferns had failed to win a game at their five previous World Cup appearances but Wilkinson fired home from close range from Jacqui Hand's pinpoint cross in the 48th minute to give them a lead they

would not relinquish. Norway, champions in 1995, were disappointing and disjoined and rarely looked as if they would get back on level terms. Their best chance came from Tuva Hansen's right-footed effort, which ricocheted back off the crossbar in the 81st minute. New Zealand's Ria Percival had the chance to put the game out of reach in the 90th minute but her penalty hit the crossbar, setting up a nervy finish.

Norway threw players forward in search of an equaliser but the stout Ferns' defence held firm.

## The Next Chapter Of Lionel Messi's Career Begins Friday At 18,000-Seat DRV PNK Stadium

Agencies

**FORT LAUDERDALE:** The seats at DRV PNK Stadium filled up quickly with fans eager to get a glimpse at Inter Miami's new superstar.

Lionel Messi — arguably the greatest soccer player ever — stood on a runway in the middle of the field looking out at his new home.

"Thank you Miami," Messi said to the crowd. "I'm happy to be here with you all."

The next chapter of the 36-year-old's storied career will begin here. Not at Camp Nou in Barcelona or Parc des Princes in Paris. At Inter Miami's DRV PNK Stadium — a cozy venue in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, decorated with the team's pink and black colors.

Messi will make his Inter Miami debut Friday against Cruz

Azul in the League's Cup. Coach Tata Martino told ESPN on Wednesday that he hasn't decided if Messi and fellow Inter Miami newcomer Sergio Busquets will start, or how long they will play.

When the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner announced in June that he would join Inter Miami, the club — which is only in its fourth season — had to rush to add renovations to the stadium to accommodate the added attention.

Inter Miami for now plays home matches at the 18,000-seat stadium about 45 minutes north of the site in Miami where the team wants to build a permanent complex. DRV PNK Stadium was built on the previously named Lockhart Stadium, which was originally designed for high school sports. It sits across the street from Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, where Messi and his



family arrived last week.

Silver bleachers were added last week to the northeast and southeast corners, increasing capacity by about 3,000 seats. That will still leave it well short of the nearly 100,000 seats at Camp Nou, where Messi rose to international stardom.

Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham can relate to the adjustment of coming from overseas to play in MLS.

Average MLS attendance this season is just under 23,000. Inter Miami is averaging 16,482. In June, Messi suited up for Argentina in an exhibition match against Australia in Beijing in front of more than 50,000 people.

In the weeks after Messi's announcement, some speculated that the team could move its home matches to the 65,000-seat Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, home of

the NFL's Dolphins and a venue for the 2026 World Cup. Such is the case for many MLS teams.

Atlanta United FC and Charlotte FC share their home venues with the NFL's Panthers and Falcons. Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta holds around 70,000 for NFL games and 45,000 for soccer games. Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte has 74,000 seats. Charlotte FC's first ever home game last year set an MLS attendance mark of 74,479, which could easily be the amount of people who show up to watch Messi play for his new MLS team.

A match between the Galaxy and the Los Angeles Football Club recently saw an MLS record crowd of 82,110 at the Rose Bowl.

It wouldn't be surprising for 70,000 people to show up to see Messi's first MLS game.

## Google Explores AI Tools For Journalists, In Talks With Publishers

Agenceis

**LONDON:** Google is exploring using artificial intelligence tools to write news articles and is in talks with news organizations to use the tools to assist journalists, a company spokesperson said late on Wednesday.

The spokesperson did not name the publishers, but the New York Times reported that Google has held discussions with the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal-owner News Corp. and even the New York Times, among others.

These AI tools could assist journalists with options for headlines or different writing styles, for instance, in a way that "enhances their work and productivity," the Google spokesperson said, adding it was in the "earliest stages of exploring ideas."

"Quite simply these tools are not intended to, and cannot, replace the essential role journalists have in reporting, creating, and fact-checking their articles," the spokesperson said.

Arab News contacted a Google spokesperson to inquire whether the new tool supports Arabic or is currently only available in English.

However, some executives who saw Google's pitch described it as unsettling, the NYT said, adding the executives asked not to be identified. The AI tool that was pitched is called Genesis internally at Google, the NYT said, citing people familiar with the matter.

The NYT reported that some testers of Genesis expressed skepticism about the finished product, saying that the tool seemed to disregard the journalistic process that goes into writing accurate, digestible pieces.

A News Corp. spokesperson declined to comment on the NYT report or the AI tool, but said, "We have an excellent relationship with Google, and we appreciate (Google CEO) Sundar Pichai's long-term commitment to journalism."

The NYT and Washington Post did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment outside regular working hours.

The news comes days after the Associated Press said it would partner with ChatGPT-owner OpenAI to explore the use of generative AI in news, a deal that could set the precedent for similar partnerships between the industries.

Earlier this month, London-based Arabic newspaper Elaph released an AI-generated news anchor, the first in a series of features that the outlet said will help it transition to the digital age.

Some outlets are already using generative AI for their content, but news publications have been slow to adopt the tech over concerns about its tendency to generate factually incorrect information, as well as challenges in differentiating between content produced by humans and computer programs.



**QUITE SIMPLY THESE TOOLS ARE NOT INTENDED TO, AND CANNOT,** replace the essential role journalists have in reporting, creating, and fact-checking their articles."

## Chinese Ghost Town Of Mansions Reclaimed By Farmers



**SHENYANG, China:** Cattle wander between the concrete shells of half-finished mansions in northeastern China, some of the only occupants of a luxury complex whose crumbling verandas and overgrown arches are stark symbols of a housing market crippled by its own excess.

Property giant Greenland Group broke ground on the development nestled in the hills around Shenyang, an industrial city of 9 million, in 2010 – when the real estate sector's lightning growth was in full swing.

But around two years later, the State Guest Mansions project – lavishly planned as 260 European-style villas complete with swanky facilities for visitors of the provincial government – was abandoned.

Local farmers now plow land that was envisaged as manicured gardens for the wealthy and politically connected, while feral dogs patrol crudely built poultry pens and double garages crammed with hay bales and farm equipment.

The reasons for the project's failure remain unclear, though locals have their suspicions.

"Frankly, it was because of official corruption," a farmer named Guo told AFP as he dug for edible weeds beneath a

creaking 10-meter-high metal fence screening the development from a nearby highway.

"They cut off the funding and cracked down on uncontrolled developments, so it was left half-finished," the swarthy 45-year-old said, as other people carried off buckets of water from the complex's artificial lake.

A person who answered the phone at a regional Greenland Group office said they would pass a request for comment to a superior, but the company did not engage any further.

Since coming to power in 2012, Chinese President Xi Jinping has waged a sweeping crackdown on corruption in the ruling Communist Party and fostered a social aversion to conspicuous wealth.

"These (homes) would have sold for millions – but the rich haven't even bought one of them," said Guo.

"They weren't built for ordinary people."

The wider Chinese property sector continued to boom until the end of the decade. But the government clamped down on excessive borrowing and rampant speculation in 2020, leaving several developers grappling with massive debt and flagging demand.

As a result, ghost towns like the one in Shenyang – known as "rotten-tail" homes in Chinese – now pockmark urban landscapes across the country.

Central government data on their number is not publicly available, but a report by a research group affiliated with an official association in Shanghai said just under four percent of housing projects nationwide had been left half-built as of June 2022.

This is equivalent to 231 million square meters of real estate. Inside the former sales center at State Guest Mansions, graffiti on the flaking walls suggests farmers are not the only visitors.

Interest in the ghost towns is thriving as intrepid urban explorers visit derelict districts and post their findings online. "This place is great for exploring, so I like to hang around here... and film a few clips," said a black-clad drone flier as he rested on the marble floor beneath a vast, tarnished chandelier.

Around him, gloomy alcoves stored haphazard stacks of dust-caked furniture in styles that evoked France's Palace of Versailles.

"Everything here has been left abandoned," the man said, declining to give his name. "It all feels quite creepy."

## Meta rolls out WhatsApp on Wear OS smartwatches

Agenceis

Meta (formerly Facebook) on Wednesday announced that WhatsApp is now available on Google Wear OS smartwatches, that was first teased at Google I/O conference.

Meta CEO and Founder Zuckerberg announced the first WhatsApp smartwatch app is now available on Wear OS, starting from Wednesday.

Now Wear OS users can start new conversations, reply to messages, and take calls from their wrist. Available on watches that run Wear OS 3, users will no longer need their phone with them to stay connected, and can

respond to friends and family using their voice, emojis, quick replies or text.

"We look forward to bringing WhatsApp to even more devices in the future," said the company.

The users will also be able to respond with voice messages, emoji, regular text, and quick replies. If they have an LTE-capable Wear OS 3 watch, they will even be able to respond to messages without the smartphone nearby.

According to reports, releasing the Wear OS app now builds momentum for Samsung 'Galaxy Unpacked' event next week, apart from making Wear OS more appealing to billions of WhatsApp active users.

## Scientists Unveil Method To Power Devices Using Air Humidity!

Agenceis

A groundbreaking discovery in the field of renewable energy has brought us one step closer to harnessing electricity from the air we breathe. Researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst have successfully developed a technology called hygroelectricity, which can generate electricity from nothing but humid air. This concept, first explored by famed physicist Nikola Tesla, has been the subject of scientific inquiry for decades. Now, thanks to recent advancements, it seems that this dream of obtaining power from thin air could become a reality.

The journey to discovering the potential of hygroelectricity began when a humidity sensor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst surprisingly started generating electrical signals without being plugged into a power source. Intrigued by this phenomenon, researchers led by Jun Yao decided to delve deeper into the possibilities of harnessing electricity from air humidity.

The discovery of hygroelectricity marks a significant step forward in the pursuit of clean and renewable energy sources. By tapping into the vast reservoir of energy provided by air humidity, scientists may have unlocked a solution that could power our devices sustainably and continuously. As research continues, the dream of generating electricity from thin air, once envisioned by Nikola Tesla, could finally become a reality, paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future.

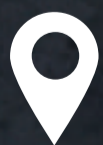
How it Works: The key to harvesting electricity from humid air lies in a tiny device comprising two electrodes and a thin layer of material filled with nanopores. These nanopores, each less than 100 nanometers in diameter, allow water molecules from the air to pass through the device. As these molecules move from an upper chamber to a lower chamber, they interact with the edges of the nanopores, leading to a build-up of electric charge imbalances between the chambers. This process effectively transforms the device into a miniature battery, generating continuous electricity.

Researchers liken the device to a small-scale, man-made cloud. Just as clouds create electrical charges and give rise to lightning bolts during storms, this revolutionary device converts air humidity into usable electricity. The potential applications are vast, ranging from powering miniature computers and sensors to providing sustainable energy sources for remote locations.

# Bun Maska



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