

## Is Art-370 Being Equated To Basic Structure Of Constitution, Asks SC

'Is There No Mechanism To Abrogate Article 370 Even When Everyone In J&K Wants It?'

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Is there no mechanism to abrogate Article 370 even when the people of Jammu and Kashmir want it, the Supreme Court asked on Thursday and wondered if the now repealed provision can't be touched will it not amount to creating a "new category" beyond the basic structure of the Constitution.

Hearing for the second day a clutch of petitions challenging the Centre's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution that accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud wanted to know how the provision could be revoked in the absence of a constituent assembly.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul,



Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for National Conference leader Mohd Akbar Lone, there are only two highly debatable issues -- whether Article 370 acquired a permanent status with the cessation of the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir and whether the procedure adopted

for its abrogation was valid.

Sibal submitted there was an understanding between the Constitution framers and then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir Hari Singh who, while in favour of independence of his state, signed the instrument of accession to India due to the trouble caused by Pakistani infiltrators, under which Article 370 was

**YOU CAN'T INTRODUCE A BILL IN PARLIAMENT AT 11 AM and pass a resolution without anyone knowing about it."**

inserted and no process can now be followed to abrogate it.

"The Constitution is a live document and it is not static. Can you say that there is no mechanism to change it (Article 370) even when everyone wants to change it? Then you are saying that this can't be changed even if all of Kashmir wants it," Justice Kaul told Sibal.

Supplementing the views of Justice Kaul, the CJ asked Sibal, can Parliament, having powers under Article 368 to amend the

Constitution, not change or abrogate Article 370.

"You are saying that there is a provision of the Constitution which lies even beyond the amending powers of the Constitution. So, if we accept your submission, we will be creating a new category apart from the basic structure of the Constitution," Justice Chandrachud said.

Article 368 says, Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and Procedure therefor: (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament may in exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in this article.

In the landmark Kesavananda Bharati verdict of 1973, the top court had propounded the basic structure **More on P10**

## 'No Double Standards' A Terrorist Has To Be Called A Terrorist: LG



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

**Says Time Ripe For Holding Panchayat Polls In J&K**

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that double standards won't do and that a terrorist has to be called a terrorist come what may. He also said time is ripe for holding Panchayat elections in J&K.

Addressing a gathering at HMT on the city outskirts after inaugurating a series of projects, the LG said that terrorism has ruined J&K in the past.

"Some people admit that terrorism, violence and separatism destroyed Kashmir's economy and left the common man handicapped. They still hesitate to call a terrorist a terrorist. These are the people who created an atmosphere of terror in J&K," Sinha said.

"Double standards won't do. A terrorist **More on P10**

## PDP Plans Rally On 4th Year Of Art-370 Abrogation

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday said it plans to hold a public rally on August 5 on the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, and invited "like-minded" parties to join. Speaking to reporters at the party headquarters here, PDP leader Mohammad Iqbal Tramboob said the BJP has announced to organise a marathon here to celebrate the abrogation of Article 370, for which the district administration has given them permission. "The PDP plans to hold a public programme on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at Sher-e-Kashmir Park **More on P10**

## Lal Chowk's Iconic Clock Tower Gets Facelift

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Clock Tower, popularly known as Ghanta Ghar, at Srinagar's historic Lal Chowk is getting a major makeover under the Srinagar Smart City Project.

Locals feel the refurbished city square, named after the iconic Red Square in Moscow, will add to the city's hangout options. The business community of Lal Chowk claims it has suffered immensely over the past seven months due to the maintenance work, yet hopes in the end it will be all worth the trouble.

"For the past seven to eight months, renovation has been going on. Although we are suffering tremendously, we hope to see better **More on P10**

## Affidavit Attested By Notary Valid In Court Proceedings: HC

Advocates Need For Vesting In-charge Of Jails With Powers Of Oath Commissioners

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that an affidavit attested by a Notary Public can be relied upon in proceedings before it.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar also underscored need for vesting in-charge of the jails with powers of Oath Commissioners by the High Court so that the affidavits which are intended to be used by the prisoners before the Courts are attested by the officers.

"An affidavit intended for use in the High Court may be sworn before any Court or

Magistrate, a Notary, an Oath Commissioner appointed by the High Court, or any other officer appointed by any other Court which the State Government has generally or specifically empowered in this behalf," a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said while hearing a petition in which preliminary objection was raised with regard to maintainability of the petition on the ground that the affidavit of the petitioner in support of the writ petition has not been attested and sworn in accordance with the law, inasmuch as the affidavit **More on P10**

## CJ Orders Disposal Of Old Cases

Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh has ordered disposing of 20-year-old or above cases before it with urgency in order to reduce the pendency of old cases in the J&K and Ladakh High Court.

"In order to weed out the infructuous cases, at first instance the Advocates are requested to furnish the list of infructuous cases which are 20 years old and are above," reads an order issued by the Registrar General on the instructions of the Chief Justice.

"The 20 years and above old cases listed **More on P10**

## India Snubs Pakistan Talks Only After Normal Ties: MEA

AGENCEIS

**New Delhi:** India on Thursday said an environment free of terror and hostilities is imperative for normal ties with Pakistan, days after Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his willingness to hold talks with New Delhi.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India wants normal ties with all neighbouring countries including Pakistan and it is incumbent upon that country to create the environment.

He was responding to queries relating to comments by Sharif.

"We want normal ties with all the neighbouring countries including Pakistan, but for that an environment free of terror and hostilities is imperative," he said. (PTI)

## Pays Obeisance At Damdama Sahib Gurdwara

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today paid obeisance at Damdama Sahib Gurdwara and dedicated the newly rebuilt complex to the devotees. The sacred Gurdwara was in dilapidated condition and it was undertaken for reconstruction by Srinagar Smart City Limited in consultation with the management committee. "Reconstruction of **More on P10**

**THE SYSTEM WAS SET UP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN J&K** to ensure governance at the grassroots level. I believe time has come when we should have Panchayat polls so that people reap the benefits of governance at their door steps right at their door steps once again."

## 'Terror Funding' Case HC To Hear NIA Plea To Virtually Produce Yasin Malik

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court on Thursday listed for hearing on August 7 a plea for virtual production of separatist leader Yasin Malik from jail in connection with the NIA's plea seeking death penalty for him in a militant funding case.

The application by the jail superintendent was adjourned after a bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anish Dayal, which was scheduled to hear the request, did not assemble.

The high court had on May 29 issued warrants for production of Malik, who is presently serving life term in the case in Tihar Jail, on August 9 when the NIA's plea for enhancement of sentence is listed for hearing.

In the application seeking modification of the order, the jail authorities said Malik was a "very high risk prisoner" and it was imperative to not

physically produce him in court to maintain public order and safety.

It also said that as per an order passed by the Home Ministry, Malik cannot be "moved from Tihar Jail" and shall not be taken out of jurisdiction of the national capital.

"Respondent/Convict Yasin Malik has been lodged in Tihar Jail, New Delhi under the category of very high risk prisoners and thus, the present application is in relation to a heavy security issue. Therefore, it is imperative that the respondent/convict Yasin Malik is not physically produced before this Hon'ble Court in order to maintain public order and safety," the application said.

Recently, the jailed separatist leader arrived in the Supreme Court in connection with a kidnapping case against him, prompting the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta **More on P10**

## J&K Chose India Because Of Gandhi: Farooq

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Jammu and Kashmir stayed with India because Mahatma Gandhi said it was a country for all, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Thursday as he, joined by several other opposition leaders, demanded early holding of assembly elections in the Union territory.

At an event held in the national capital on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the veteran leader stressed that Article 370 was a temporary article because a plebiscite was supposed to happen in Jammu and Kashmir, which was never held.

The event was attended by Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, former



Jammu and Kashmir MLA Yusuf Tarigami, Kargil politician Sajjad Hussain Kargili, DMK MP Kanimozhi, NCP's Supriya Sule, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and RJD MP Manoj Jha, who endorsed the demand for polls to be held at the earliest.

Last assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in November-December 2014, when the **More on P10**

## Prescription Mandatory To Buy Psychotropic Drugs

Chemists Ordered To Install CCTV Cameras To Keep Tab On Sale Of Narcotic Drugs

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Taking strong note of unlawful sale and misuse of H and H1 sedatives in the Valley, the Department of Drug and Food Control J&K has issued an order asking all the chemists not to sell psychotropic drugs without valid prescription from qualified doctors.

The department has also asked the chemists to install CCTV cameras in their establishments and keep a tab on the sale of psychotropic drugs, especially minors.

The decision, official sources said, was taken as part of the ongoing drive against

illegal sale and misuse of psychotropic drugs in the Valley, including Srinagar.

The authorities have asked all medical shop owners (chemists) not to sell medicines or syringes to children without a valid prescription from qualified doctors. Officials said the decision to install CCTV cameras is aimed at nabbing the chemist indulging in the illegal activity.

Confirming the development, State Drug Controller, Dr Lotika Khajuria told Kashmir Observer that the move is aimed at containing rampant drug abuse in the Union Territory.

She said **More on P10**

## US Backs Direct Dialogue Between India, Pak

Press Trust Of India

**Washington:** The US supports direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on issues of concern, a senior Biden administration official has said.

There has been continued strain in ties between India and Pakistan on a number of issues including Islamabad's continued support to cross-border terrorism and the Kashmir issue.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement. India has also asserted **More on P10**

### Militant Associate Detained Under PSA

A militant associate was detained on Thursday under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, police said. The detained associate, Abdul Karim Butt, is the brother of hardcore A++ category militant and Hizbul Mujahideen commander Jahangir Saroori, they said. Police said Butt was put behind bars in order to safeguard public peace and national security. Kishtwar Senior Superintendent of Police Khalil Poswal said **More on P10**

### Soldier Among Two Fear Drowned

An army man was among two feared drowned after they slipped and fell into the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Thursday, officials sources said. Rohit Singh, 25, an army man, and 24-year old Sunil Kumar slipped into river when they were washing hands after cremating a relative in Durga Nagar area, they said. SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom said police rushed to spot and along with locals and teams of SDRF launched a rescue operation which is still on.

### SIA Conducts Raids In Poonch

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Thursday conducted raids at two places in connection with a narco-terrorism case in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, official sources said. The raids were conducted in Gursia and Balakote areas of the district, they said. According to officials, the case relates to notorious drug peddler Rafiq Lala, who was arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA) early this year. The SIA had taken his remand on July 1 for questioning **More on**

### Govt Official Lands In ACB Net

The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Thursday nabbed a government official for accepting bribe from a man for listing his case sooner at the court of Tehsildar in Khag area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. The anti-graft body received a written complaint from a man alleging that Senior Assistant/ In-Charge Nazir Tehsil Office Khag, Fayaz Ahmad Shora, was demanding a bribe for listing his case of property dispute sooner in the court **More on P10**

### Missing Soldier Recovered: Police

An Army jawan who was reported missing from Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir last week has been recovered, police said on Thursday. Javaid Ahmad Wani, posted in Ladakh, went missing on Saturday from his native Kulgam district while he was on leave. "Missing Army jawan has been recovered by Kulgam Police. Joint interrogation will start shortly after medical checkup. Further details shall follow," Additional Director General of Police **More on P10**

### Cabinet Secy Rajiv Gauba Gets 1-Yr Extension

The Centre on Thursday relaxed key rules to give a one-year extension to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba beyond August 30, 2023, according to a Personnel Ministry order. With the completion of this third extension, he will become the longest serving cabinet secretary of the country. Till now, B D Pande had been the longest serving cabinet secretary from November 2, 1972, to March 31, 1977. Gauba, a former Union home secretary, was in 2019 appointed to the country's top bureaucratic post for **More on P10**

## SHORT TAKES





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Srinagar | Friday | 04-08-2023

## Meta Designing Prototypes For Chatbots That Can Have Humanlike Discussions With Its Users

### Agencies

Meta Platforms is preparing to launch a range of artificial intelligence (AI) powered chatbots that exhibit different personalities as soon as September, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday.

Meta has been designing prototypes for chatbots that can have humanlike discussions with its users, as the company attempts to boost its engagement with its social media platforms, according to the report, cit-

ing people with knowledge of the plans.

The Menlo Park, California-based social media giant is even exploring a chatbot that speaks like Abraham Lincoln and another that advises on travel options in the style of a surfer, the report added. The purpose of these chatbots will be to provide a new search function as well as offer recommendations.

The report comes as Meta executives are focusing on boosting retention on its new text-based app Threads, after the app lost

more than half of its users in the weeks following its launch on July 5.

Meta declined to comment on the FT report, when contacted by Reuters.

The Facebook parent reported a strong rise in advertising revenue in its earnings last week, forecasting third-quarter revenue above market expectations.

The company has been climbing back from a bruising 2022, buoyed by hype around emerging AI technology and an austerity drive in which it has shed around 21,000 employees since last fall.

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

### Office Of The Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri

email: urihydraulic@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
FRESH e\_NIT\_No. 25/Hyd/Uri\_of\_2023-24, Dated: 02/08/2023

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)	TENDER-ID
1.	Construction of FP work by way of providing crate work near land of Abdul Gani Dar and others at Salamabad Dachina Nallah	1.52	3040/-	15-days	DEE	2711-M&R	200	2023_IFC_224698_1
2.	Laying and fitting of pipe network to Pateo Gugradan/Takudara WSS Khunjdi Khodi Nambla	14.75	29500/-	20-days	BEE/CEE/DEE	Languishing Programme	600	2023_IFC_224698_2

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 from:-

1.	Publishing Date	03/08/2023 from 01:00PM
2.	Download Date Start	03/08/2023 from 01:00PM
3.	Tender Submission date Start	03/08/2023 from 01:00PM
4.	Tender Submission date Ends	09/08/2023 up to 04:00 PM
5.	Date of Opening	10/08/2023 at 12:00PM, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri (H.Q. Chandanwari)

- Tenders must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri, payable at Treasury Office. (Demand Draft cannot be accepted).
- The Tenders for the works shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of Tenders.
- The Tenders shall be deposited in Electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The Tender uploaded on the website upto due date and time will be opened on the schedule date and time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri H.Q. Chandanwari, in presence of the Tenderers who wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of the opening of the Tender/date of submission of Hard copies, the same will be on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-  
5.1. Any Tenderer withdraws his Tenders/tender during the period of Tender validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the Tender.  
5.2. Failure of Successful tenderer to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- The tenderer shall have to execute the agreement within 10-days after fixation of contract.
- Instructions to Tenderer regarding E-Tendering process:-  
7.1. Tenderers are advised to download Tender submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "Tenders manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint Tenders submission process.  
7.2. To participate in tendering process Tenderers have to get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology act. 2000 Tenderers can get digital certificate from approved vendor.  
7.3. The Tenderer have to submit their Tenders online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial Tender will be accepted in physical form.  
7.4. Tender will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.  
7.5. Tenderers must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like /CDR/ BG/PAN/ G.S. TIN/Treasury Challan under MH 0702 in respect of Irrigation work and under MH 0215 in respect of PHE works /REG. Card duly renewed and submitted hard copies thereof physically to tender receiving authority before date of opening of Tender.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.  
No: HDU/CC-02/3172-92  
DIPK-6335/23 DATED:-03/08/2023

Executive Engineer,  
Hydraulic Division Uri  
(Syed Shafat)

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Hospital And Central Heating Division Srinagar

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject:- I. Repairs to 26 Passenger OTIS Lift near Staircase at Govt. Superspeciality Hospital Srinagar  
II. Repairs to 08 passenger (G+3) OTIS make lift at Govt. Superspeciality Hospital Srinagar  
III. Providing and Fitting of Oxygen Connectors with Oxygen Flowmeters in ECT Theatre at Govt. Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Srinagar

Ref : This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS/2023-24/51/e-tendering Dated 13.07.2023

### EXTENSION

In view of poor/no response, the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	07.08.2023 (12:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	07.08.2023 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
MHCH Division Srinagar.

No. MHCHD/TS/ 3821-24,

DIPK-6355/23 Dt- 03-08-2023

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
e-NIT No: - 08 of 2023-24 DATED: 01/08/2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Forest / FDC Contractors registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt. for the following work:-

S. No	Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) Rs	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
01	Extraction, Conversion, Carriage & Transportation of Firewood to the tune of 4470 Quintals upto PC Depot Srinagar and Local Firewood Depot(s) from Yusmarg Block Doodganga Range PP Forest Division Budgam.	12.86 Lakhs	Rs. 25720/=	Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 600	Three calendar Months
02	Extraction, Conversion, Carriage & Transportation of Firewood to the tune of 1960 Quintals upto PC Depot Srinagar and Local Firewood Depot(s) from Jabbad, Padshahtar & Negoo Blocks of Doodganga Range PP Forest Division Budgam.	5.64 Lakhs	Rs. 11280/=	Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 300	Two calendar Months
03	Extraction, Conversion, Carriage & Transportation of Firewood to the tune of 485 Quintals upto PC Depot Srinagar and Local Firewood Depot(s) from Kachwari, Raiyar & Gurwaith Blocks of Raithan Range PP Forest Division Budgam.	1.40 Lakhs	Rs. 2800/=	Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 200	One calendar Months
04	Extraction, Conversion, Carriage & Transportation of Firewood to the tune of 464 Quintals upto PC Depot Srinagar and Local Firewood Depot(s) from Palmaldan Block of Raithan Range PP Forest Division Budgam.	1.34 Lakhs	Rs. 2680/=	Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 200	One calendar Months
05	Extraction, Conversion, Carriage & Transportation of Firewood to the tune of 2005 Quintals upto PC Depot Srinagar and Local Firewood Depot(s) from Rinzabal & Khalkhat Blocks of Sukhnag Range PP Forest Division Budgam.	5.77 Lakhs	Rs. 11540/=	Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 300	Two calendar Months

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

Position of Funds: Budgeted  
Position of AA: Give Letter No. CF/Sgr/L/439-40/Firewood Dated:-18-07-2023.  
Position of TS: Give Letter No. CF/Sgr/L/439-40/Firewood Dated:-18-07-2023.

Publishing Date:-	02-08-2023
Download Start Date :	03-08-2023 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	03-08-2023 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	11-08-2023 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	12-08-2023 at 03:00 PM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar Sheikh-Bagh Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date and time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: https://jktenders.gov.in. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited Pn Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406-Forest and Bid Security in the shape of Bid Security Declaration form duly filled in with time period prescribed and addressed to Divisional Forest Officer. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e.EMD, Valid Registration Card issued by Forest Department / FDC duly renewed for the current year 2022-23, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

NO:-DFO/PPBudgam/Firewood/471-78  
DIPK-6353/23 Dated:-03/08/2023

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Pir Panjal Forest Division,  
Budgam.

### Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my passport as Hameeda Qadir while my correct name is Hamida Qadir which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Hamida Qadir  
D/o Gh. Qadir Dar  
bmg

### Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopian

ARTO/SPN/999 Dated: 03-08-2023

Sub:- Issuance of Bid Number JK22C-0004.

This office has received an application from namely Mr. Huzaif Mushataa Turrey S/o Mushtaa Ahmad Turrey R/o 006 Gagren Shuplyan for issuance of Bid No. JK22C-0004 for his Vehicle Hyundai Verna. If anybody having any objection regarding same will be approaches to this office within three days the publication published in news paper is Kashmir Observer

Regional Transport Officer Shopian  
FKO

### Before The Hon'ble Court Of Pr. District Judge Srinagar

In the ease of:-

- Owais Ashraf Shah S/O Mohammad Ashraf Shah R/O Charar-i-sharief. Budgam A/P Khanday Colony, Pahroo-Chowk. Nowgam. Tehsil B.K.Pora District Budgam.
- Massarat Jabeen D/O Mohammad Ashraf Shah W/o Alamgir Ali Bandy R/O Beerwah, District Budgam, A/P Khanday Colony, Pahroo-Chowk, Nowgam, Tehsil B.K.Pora, District Budgam.
- Alamgir Ali Bandy S/O Zaffar Hussain Bandy R/O Beerwah, District Budgam A/P Khanday Colony, Pahroo-Chowk, Nowgam, Tehsil B.K.Pora, District Budgam

(Caveators)  
V/S  
Public At Large  
(Non-caveator)

In the matter of:-  
Caveat petition under section 148-A CPC.  
May it please your Honour:-  
The Caveators humbly submit as under:-  
1. That the Caveators are the domiciles of UT of J&K, thus have every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for the protection and enforcement of their legal rights.  
2. That the caveators have every apprehension that the non-caveator may file an application, suit or any other like proceedings against the caveators and may succeed in obtaining an ex-parte order in their favour and the same will run harsh against the rights and interests of the caveators.  
3. That this Hon'ble court before passing any ex-parte order in the eventuality of any institution by the non-caveator against the caveators, may hear the Caveators, so that the Caveators are not condemned unheard.  
4. That the caveators submit this caveat petition for securing the rights and interests and pray that they may be put to notice before passing any order in the event of institution of any suit, application or other like proceedings by the non-caveator against the caveators.  
5. That the Caveators have published copy of this caveat petition in daily newspaper and the newspaper cutting is annexed herewith.  
Accordingly in the premises it is therefore humbly prayed that in the eventuality of institution of any suit, application or other like proceedings against the caveators, this hon'ble court may be pleased to afford a chance of being heard to the caveators before passing any order against the caveators. That will secure the ends of justice.  
Dated:-01-08-2023

Caveators  
Through Counsel  
Advocate Ahsan gull shah  
nj

### The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 2514267

Class : 10 th

Year & Session : 2018

Registration: NI7341620098

Name : Sameer Ahmad Mir

Father's Name: Abdul Hamid Mir

Mother's Name : Tasleema Begum

Date of Birth:- 13-09-2004

Residence:- Kandhamda Beerwah Budgam

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 18ARKAM-1010067 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Ceris-I-DQC)/B/KD/23

Dated

bmg\_r

Assistant Secretary  
Certificates, KD.

### Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my passport bearing No: J3911049 as Raheel Hassan Khan while my correct name is Raheel Hassan which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Raheel Hassan  
S/o Ghulam Hassan Khan  
R/o Bongam Shopian  
fko

### از عدالت سب جج میڈیکل مجسٹریٹ سربنگر بااطلاص مہرین مشتاق

رجسٹرڈ برصغیر انڈیا ہندوستان  
نام Shameema  
سائل اسامہ  
دوخواست بڑج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش  
نام: Shameema  
تاریخ پیدائش: 15-06-1985  
معاملہ نمبر عدالت صدر سائل اسامہ نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول ملحق بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش  
Shameema D/o Ghulam Rasool Makloo  
R/o Dar Mohalla Soura Srinagar  
بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی نظر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے غدرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر سے عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میں کوئی غدرات اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں 07-08-2023 کو کھولے۔  
تجزیر الصدور  
سب جج میڈیکل مجسٹریٹ سربنگر  
nj

### از نیابت پٹپان

عنوان:- لیگل بیئرٹیفیکیشن کنج اردان، جائز بیہنوگی والد خود مشتاق احمد میر ولد لی محمد میر ساکن پٹپان

### اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ نمبر عدالت صدر سائل اسامہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل بیئرٹیفیکیشن پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ اس بارے میں راقم نے بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے سالکانا شوہر مشتاق احمد میر مورخہ 15-04-2022 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ ستونی کے وارثان ہڈیل ہیں  
شمیم بیگم 39 سال گھریلواکام زید ستونی  
سہارا احمد میر 13 سال زینعلیم پستونی  
خوشبو مشتاق 11 سال زینعلیم دستونی  
اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد نکلے نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکیشن زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی اعتراض کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ عدالت صدر سائل اسامہ کے اندر سے اپنے غدرات اشاعت اشاعت عدالت ہڈا کو بذریعہ اشتہار پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میں کوئی غدرات اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
تاریخ اشاعت اشاعت  
فکو



## 7, 366 E-Court Challan's Pending

Court Asks Vehicle Owners To Dispose Of E-Challans By Aug 9

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Court of Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) Srinagar has issued a notice, asking owners of 7,366 vehicles to dispose of E-challans by or before August 9, failing which registrations of their vehicles will be cancelled and vehicles impounded.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic City, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah issued a public notice in this direction urging vehicle owners to liquidate E-challans within the stipulated time to avoid inconvenience they may face in case of non-compliance of the court orders.

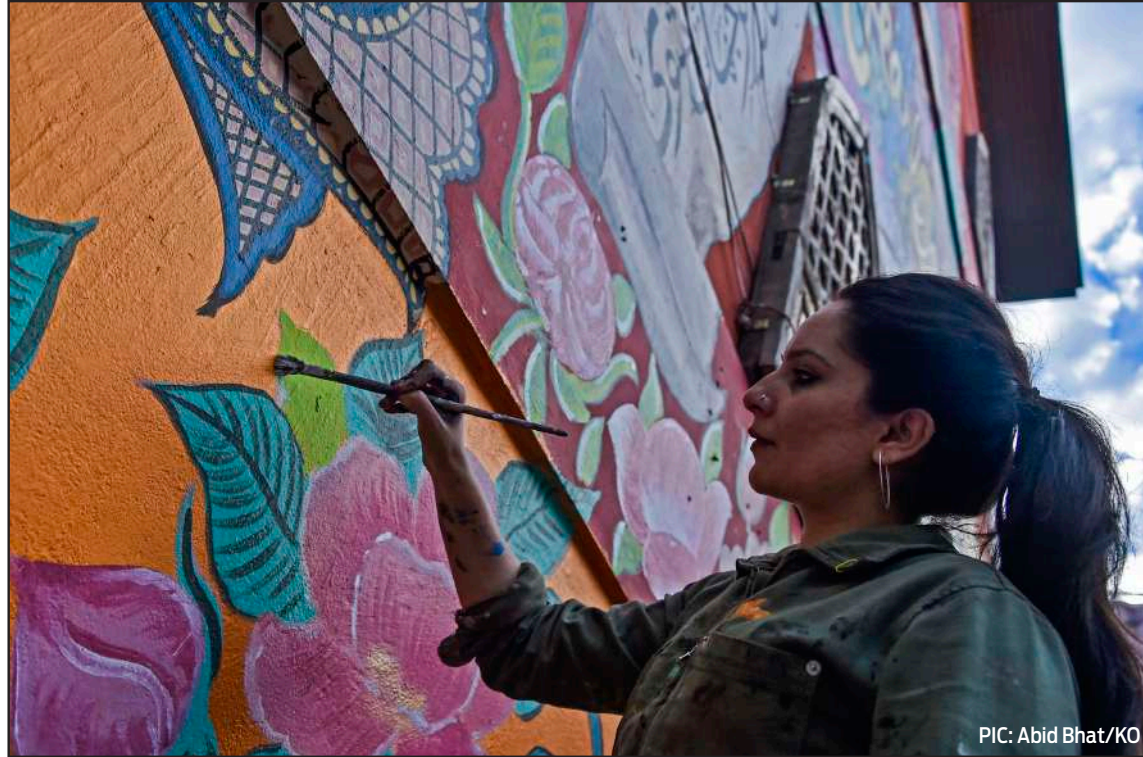
SSP Traffic said that his office has received an order annexed with a list of 7,366 vehicles with pending E-Court Challan from the Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) Srinagar on 28th of last month, with the directions to the owners to dispose of the pending E-challans against their vehicles by or before August 9.

"This office is in receipt of a court order dated 28.07.2023 issued by the Court

of Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) Srinagar annexed with a list of 7366 vehicles with Pending E-Court Challans shown against each, with the directions that the owners of these vehicles be informed for disposal of the challan's against their vehicles by or before 09.08.2023," reads the notice issued by SSP Traffic.

The notice further reads that in view of the above, the list of vehicles along with the pending challans issued by the Court is hereby circulated among the General Public with the advise that the vehicle owners/violators whose challan's are shown pending in the list against each, shall appear before the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate, Traffic Srinagar for disposal of the challan's by or before August 09, 2023.

"On failure to do the same, stern action will be initiated against the violators under the relevant provisions of M.V. Act read with its allied rules and shall lead to impounding of vehicles and recommendation for cancellation of registration, notice reads.



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

## The Artful Result Of Creativity And Fearlessness

Saqain Beig

Srinagar: A once bland and unassuming wall of a building on the road at Jahangir Chowk has turned into a breathtaking awe grabber in the form of an intriguing and meaningful mural painting, thanks to the unwavering creativity of artists from The Fearless Collective. Located exactly near Hari Singh High Street, the mural is pretty large, and catches one's attention from afar. In a very artistic and aesthetic manner, the artwork depicts the independent and talented women artisans of Kashmir.

Fearless Collective is an international organisation popular for doing public interventions in the form of creating such murals and artworks in an activist approach. Fearless does this while representing communities that they feel have a need to be spoken about. The website of the organisation mentions that they "believe that given the ugliness of oppression we fight, the creation of beauty is an act of resistance". Internationally, the mural in progress

at Jahangir Chowk is the organisation's 51st such project.

Zoya Khan, an architect and a city planner who is also the in-charge of the mural, mentioned that this project is quite different from other such displays in Kashmir because it represents and comes from the community itself, talking about the experiences and aspirations of the set of people that it depicts. She said that the primary idea of Fearless in these initiatives is to create something beautiful and catchy; which, by grabbing the attention of the people passing by, makes the message of the artwork come to light, engraving it into peoples' memories. Regarding the fact that the mural depicts Kashmiri women artisans, She added that, people on the other side of things usually prejudice or assume stuff about these artisans' struggles, way of life and feelings; and this project acts as a medium and aid to the pursuit of these people of being depicted the way they want to be perceived amongst the masses. She highlighted that while talking

to these women artisans in person, they mentioned that they've been doing what they do for years without any change, and that they now feel like their popularity within the market has been dull in recent years. The project, addressing this problem as well, helps promote the craft of these women and act as a showcase to their abilities.

In a tone of apparent gratitude, Zoya added that she must thank and give full credit to the Department of Handicrafts and the Director of Estates as they were the ones to facilitate the project. The Department of Handicrafts has helped getting in touch with the artisans in the first place and with the permission for the project, while the Director Estates provided them with the building the project is now being made on. The artwork is on a path to be one that has the potential to not only turn into a major landmark of the city, but one that would influence the scene of graffiti and street on productive and cultural themes art among the youth and new-coming creative professionals.

## Srinagar Tops In India In Eat Right Challenge Phase III'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing its endeavor, the Srinagar District has achieved top rank across the country in implementation of phase III of "The Eat Right Challenge for Cities and Districts" of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

The Eat Right Creativity Challenge Phase III started from May 2023 and will end in October has been launched

as a part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is aimed to tap the creative talent of students and enable them to inculcate healthy dietary habits.

The Eat Right Challenge in Srinagar was carried out under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, while Assistant Commissioner Food & Safety, Yamin ul Nabi was its Nodal Officer.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

**Tender Notice**

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur Division invites applications for allotment of halt contract for sale of tickets for the following stations:-

1	Name of work	Allotment of Halt contract at Jamsheer Khnas, Shani Chaurasi, Khatkar Kalan Jhanda Ji, Jajion Dabba, Garshankar, Maluota, Salla Khurd, Dudwandi, Gama Sahib, Chakdayala, Sindhar, Butewala & Hiller Shahabad Halt Stations over Firozpur Division.
2	Tenure of contract	5 (five) years.
3	Last date & time of submission and opening of applications	On 05.09.2023 Up to 15:00hrs. Applications will be opened on 05.09.2023 and in case the day on which the applications are to be opened is a holiday, the same will be opened at the same time on next working day.
4	Address of the office & date from which application forms will be available	Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur. Date 03.08.2023 to 05.09.2023
5	Northern Railway's website	Applications can also be downloaded from Northern Railway's official website <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>

The notice for inviting application forms and other related information is also available on the official website of Northern Railway [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) 2395/2023

Serving Customers with a Smile

## Intensify Inspections To Check Overloading In Cabs: RTO Kashmir Tells Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In response to the reports regarding overloading in cabs across the city, the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir in a meeting with transport and JKRTC officers today said that such inputs are of a significant concern for authorities and the passengers, which cannot be overlooked.

The RTO said that it can compromise the safety and comfort of the passengers and increase the risk of accidents, adding that overloading can also lead to discomfort during the journey especially the female passengers who may have to share limited space with others.

Meanwhile taking serious note of the issue, the RTO Kashmir direct-

ed the officers to intensify the inspections especially in late evening hours and ensure that public transport is available and enforce penalties for violations of passenger capacity limits. He insisted on ensuring public transport is available during the late evening hours to all the places, especially from the Lal Chowk and all major hospitals of the city.

## SAD DEMISE



**Our beloved mother Mrs Aisha W/o Late Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Bagati Kanipora, (Near State Bank of India) Left for Heavenly adobe on 03-August-2023 (15th Muharram-UI-Haram-1445 AH) Ina Liiiah wa Ina Illahi Rajoan.**

**The fourth (Charum) will be observed on 6th August-2023 at 10:00 AM (Sunday) at our ancestral Graveyard, Malkhah.**

## Bereaved Family

**Zahoor Ahmad (9906461445)**  
**Hilal Ahmad (9469113335)**  
**Nisar Ahmad (9541222606)**  
**Parvez Ahmad (7006089081)**

IKM

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
 Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department  
 Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh, Sopore  
 Phone: 01954-221082/83  
 E: amid.zobara@jkbmail.com

### AUCTION CUM-SALE NOTICE

(For Sale of Secured asset under the SARFAESI Act, 2002)

**Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/Mortgagor/guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgage/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 21.08.2023, for recovery of Rs. 1,03,05,091.37 being balance outstanding as on 31.07.2023 due to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. (Secured Creditor) from Mr. Altaf Hassan Tantray, Sole Proprietor of M/s Royal Fresh Agro Farm, S/o. Mr. Gulam Hassan Tantray R/o. Dahama, Vilgam, Kupwara. (Borrower cum Mortgagor), 1). Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Aga S/O. Mr. Mohammad Rajab Aga R/O. Vodhpura, Handwara, 2). Mr. Bilal Ahmad Zargar S/O. Mr. Gulam Ahmad Zargar R/O. Haradoona Handwara, 3). Mr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/O. Mr. Sonaullah Bhat R/O. Kawari Handwara and 4). Mr. Gulam Rasool Baba S/O. Gulam Qadir Baba R/O. Drugmulla, Kupwara (guarantors). The reserve price will be Rs. 100.96 Lacs and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 10,09,600.00.

**Description of Property**

Lease hold rights of plot over which a Milk Processing plant is located, along with the structure thereon and Plant & Machinery in the unit, measuring 01 Kanal bearing Plot No.21 at Industrial Estate, Chotipora Handwara leased out to Mr. Altaf Hassan Tantray (borrower) vide Lease Deed dated 03.02.2017 registered with Sub Registrar Handwara on 07.02.2017 Under No.206.

The tender document containing full details of the properties and all the terms and conditions can be had from JK Bank Branch Office Vilgam, Kupwara during office hours on all working days against a payment of Rs.100/-. The completed tenders must be received in the said Branch latest by 19.08.2023. The tender should be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of not less than 10% of the Price Offered (which in any case should not be below the Reserve Price for the property concerned) in the form of a Demand Draft/ Pay Order payable at Sopore, Kashmir, issued by a commercial bank in favour of The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch Vilgam Kupwara.

This publication is also 15 days notice to the borrower/mortgagor of the above said loan account about holding of sale on above mentioned date/ place if the outstanding dues are not paid in full.

**Date: 02.08.2023**  
**Place: Amargarh, Sopore**

**Authorized Officer**  
**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd**

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
 CIN: L65110JK19385GCC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2403/23 dated: 03-08-2023

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

**AIRPORTS**


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**

16 Muharram  
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4 : 09
ZUHR	12 : 37
ASR	5 : 30
Magrib	7 : 33
ISHA	9 : 04

## This Day In History

- 1914 - US declares neutrality on the outbreak of WWI
- 1916 - Denmark cedes Danish West Indies, including the Virgin Islands, to the US for \$25 million
- 1918 - Adolf Hitler receives the Iron Cross first class for bravery on the recommendation of his Jewish superior, Lieutenant Hugo Gutmann
- 1919 - The Communist Bela Kun comes to power in Hungary
- 1943 - Soviet units reach suburbs of Orel
- 1943 - USAAF bombs Germans in Troina
- 1946 - An earthquake of magnitude 8.0 hits northern Dominican Republic. 100 are killed and 20,000 are left homeless.
- 1947 - The Supreme Court of Japan is established.
- 1956 - Indonesia says it will not pay debts to the Netherlands
- 1960 - Rocket propelled USAF research aircraft sets record at 2,150 MPH
- 1962 - Nelson Mandela captured by South African police
- 1964 - Civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman & James E Chaney, bodies discovered in an earthen Mississippi dam
- 1964 - North Vietnam torpedoes US ships Gulf of Tonkin
- 1971 - US launches 1st satellite into lunar orbit from manned
- 1979 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1983 - France performs nuclear test
- 1983 - Revolution in Burkina Faso
- 1990 - European community proposes a boycott of Iraq
- 1993 - Rwandan Hutus & Tutsis sign peace treaty in Arusha
- 2007 - NASA's Phoenix spaceship is launched.

## From KO Archives

### Vaishno Devi Board Snaps Ties With J&K Bank

Observer News Service

**J**AMMU - The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has snapped its 20-year-old ties with the Jammu and Kashmir Bank in what appears to be a fallout of the bickering between Governor S.K. Sinha and the state government.

The board - which controls the popular Hindu shrine of Vaishno Devi in Jammu and of which Sinha is the chairman - has withdrawn all its money from the bank and transferred it to the ICICI Bank, sources said.

Sinha, whose bickering with Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed over a host of issues is only too well known, directed the board to withdraw all accounts from the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, the sources said.

The state government is a major shareholder in Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

The shrine board had a Rs.1 billion deposit with the bank, the source said. It had been rendering several services to the shrine board free of cost.

The shrine board had had its deposits with the bank since 1986, when the former was set up. The Vaishno Devi shrine attracts more than 5.5 million pilgrims.

The governor and chief minister have earlier sparred over the duration of the pilgrimage to the Hindu cave shrine of Amarnath in Kashmir. While the governor wanted it to last for two months, the chief minister insisted on one month.

Sinha, who also heads the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, finally had his way.

The chief minister was worried over the impact of a longer pilgrimage on the security of the state, as a large number of troops and police forces are committed to guard the pilgrimage route.

He had also pleaded that the fragile ecology of the routes to the Himalayan shrine, located at a height of 13,500 feet, could not withstand the rush of pilgrims.

More than 200,000 pilgrims have visited the shrine so far this year, (IANS)

(Kashmir Observer, 04 August, 2005)



## Pak Probe Agency Using Israel's Intrusive Cyber Tech Since 2012: Report

Press Trust of India

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli cyber tech firm, Cellebrite, has sold Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and various police units products that are highly intrusive and can lead to gross human rights violations despite the two countries not having diplomatic ties and Israeli norms prohibiting such deals, a local media report said on Thursday.

The Israeli firm's products have been in use by Pakistani agencies since 2012, Ha'aretz newspaper reported in an investigative report. Cellebrite's flagship product, UFED, is traded in Nasdaq and enables law enforcement agencies to engage in digital forensic work by hacking into password-protected cell phones and can copy information stored on the device, including pictures, documents, text messages, call logs and contacts.

Unlike Israeli company NSO, whose sale of Pegasus cyber tech grabbed worldwide attention, and other manufacturers of offensive-cyber products, Cellebrite operates in a grey area between security exports and civilian ones.

In 2020, the export of forensic equipment such as that produced by Cellebrite came under the Defence Ministry's oversight, since it was included in the Wasenaar Arrangement on Export

Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, which defines which dual-use (security use and civilian use) products require oversight, the report noted.

However, International shipment records show that until at least 2019, Cellebrite Asia-Pacific Pte (its Singapore subsidiary) sold products directly to companies in Pakistan and to its Federal Investigation Agency, the Israeli daily reported.

This happened despite Cellebrite's end-user license agreement forbidding sales to Pakistan.

In other proofs presented in the report, the investigative piece notes that in 2012 it was reported in Pakistan that the Sind

Province police had acquired UFED Touch Ultimate devices made by Cellebrite, and their use has been expanding since.

The Express Tribune newspaper had also published pictures that clearly show Cellebrite's product, the Israeli daily said.

"Operating manuals, documents and official invitations for bids show that police units and the FIA regularly use these systems," Ha'aretz claimed.

"FIA officials, past and present who were tasked with enforcing the draconian cybercrime law, even state in their LinkedIn profiles that they have been trained and certified to use these systems and that they use them on a regular basis," it noted.



## Gurugram-Nuh Violence: Muslims Decide To Offer Friday Namaz At Home



Press Trust of India

**GURUGRAM:** Muslims here will not offer Friday namaz at any public place or mosques in view of violence that flared up in Nuh, Sohna, and Gurugram earlier in the week, a community leader has announced.

Mufti Saleem Qasmi, president of Jamiat Ulama in Gurugram, appealed through a video message to people to refrain from praying in public places or gathering in mosques for prayers.

Qasmi said it is the responsibility of the people to maintain brotherhood.

The decision comes in the wake of the communal clashes that broke out on Monday in Nuh district during a VHP rally. Six people including a cleric were killed in the violence that ensued after the clashes and several cars and food joint were set on fire.

"I appeal to the people to offer namaz at home. Only those people who live in a masjid can offer namaz in the masjid. No one else is allowed

to enter it. May Allah protect our brotherhood," Mufti told PTI on Thursday.

Hindu-right outfits had on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to a Deputy Commissioner of Police demanding, among many other things, a ban on namaz in public places.

DC Prashant Panwar and SP Varun Singla of Nuh held a meeting with the Ulemas in Nuh on Thursday and appealed to them to pray at their homes.

Ulemas assured police that there will be public namaz.

## Rajya Sabha Passes Press And Registration Of Periodicals Bill

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Rajya Sabha today passed a bill that replaces the existing legislation which governs the registration of print and publishing industry in the country.

The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023 was passed by a voice vote.

Replying to the discussion on the bill, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said this will lead to ease of do-

ing business for media and publishing companies, simplify the process of registration and decriminalise several colonial-era penal provisions. He observed that the bill traverses the journey from bureaucratic burden to ease of doing business.

"Those involved in terrorist activities or unlawful activities against the state will not be granted permission to start a paper or periodical," he said. The bill replaces the existing Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1967.

The Union Cabinet last month approved the PRP Bill that seeks to simplify the registration process for periodicals and do away with the provision for prosecution and imprisonment of publishers and simplify the registration process for periodicals.

The new law also seeks to do away with two provisions that



required the publishers and printers to file a declaration before the district magistrate. It further seeks to do away with the penal provisions of the PRB Act which made improper declaration of information a punishable offence with a prison term of up to six months.

The new bill also provides for an appellate authority.

Practitioners Act, 1879, and to amend the Advocates Act, 1961, by incorporating the provisions of section 36 of the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, in the Advocates Act, 1961. This will reduce the number of superfluous enactments in the statute book. Also it will help to regulate the legal profession by a single Act, the Advocates Act, 1961, according to statement of objects and reasons of the legislation said.

BJD member Sujeeet Kumar said there should be a single database to carry details about all the practicing advocates in the country, saying it will help in bringing a social welfare scheme for them.

He demanded to bring advocate's protection act to enable them practice fearlessly.

"Advocates are the officers of the court. Advocates are the most important stakeholders in the administration of justice," Kumar said. BJP member Vijay Pal Singh Tomar said the Bill has provision that will end touts from courts.

AIADMK's M Thambidurai asked the government to change the name of Madras High Court to Tamil Nadu High Court, and similarly, the names of all high courts in the name of the state and not in the names of cities.

YSRCP MP V Vijayasai Reddy said lawyers charge between Rs 5 to Rs 50 lakh per hearing in the Supreme Court which is very high and demanded to put some cap on the fees.

## Gyanvapi Mosque Case: Masjid Committee Moves SC Against HC Order Allowing ASI Survey



Press Trust of India

**M**uslim body Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee on Thursday moved the Supreme Court against the Allahabad High Court order permitting an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey at the Gyanvapi mosque.

The matter was mentioned by advocate Nizam Pasha before Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who was heading a five-judge constitution bench hearing the arguments in the Article 370

court dismissed a petition filed by the Gyanvapi committee challenging a district court order directing the ASI to conduct the survey to determine if the mosque was built upon a temple.

The Varanasi district court order was issued on July 21 and was challenged by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee.

Chief Justice Pritinker Diwakar had reserved the order on the committee's petition on July 27 after hearing the counsels for both parties.

Earlier in the day, the high

court dismissed a petition filed by the Gyanvapi committee challenging a district court order directing the ASI to conduct the survey to determine if the mosque was built upon a temple.

The Varanasi district court order was issued on July 21 and was challenged by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee.

Chief Justice Pritinker Diwakar had reserved the order on the committee's petition on July 27 after hearing the counsels for both parties.

## NEWS MAKERS

## In Letter To Pope, Ayatollah Sistani Urges 'Concerted Efforts' To Promote Respect Among Followers Of Religions

Agencies

**I**raq's most prominent Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani has underscored the significance of peaceful coexistence, calling for concerted efforts to reject violence and promote respect among followers of various faiths.

Ayatollah Sistani made the remark in response to a letter from Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church, on the second anniversary of the pontiff's visit to Iraq and his meeting with the top Shia cleric.

Ayatollah Sistani said the Pope's historic visit to Iraq and their meeting in the Iraqi city of Najaf provided "impetus" for many followers of Islam and Christianity - and other faiths - to show greater tolerance and good coexis-



tence with those who have different religions or beliefs.

Recalling the topics raised in the meeting, the top Shia cleric underlined the importance of concerted efforts to promote a culture of peaceful coexistence and reject violence and hatred. Ayatollah Sistani also called for the establishment of the values of harmony among people, based on caring for rights and mutual respect among the followers of different religions.

"More needs to be done to defend oppressed people around the world as the tragedies experienced by many people and ethnic and social groups in many places in the east and west of the world, the suppression of fundamental freedoms and the absence of social justice play a role in the emergence of some extremist movements that do not hesitate to attack others with whom they disagree in thought or belief," he said.

## Justin Trudeau And Wife Sophie To Separate: 18 Years Of Ups And Downs

**OTTAWA:** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau unexpectedly announced their separation on Instagram on Wednesday, likely marking the end of the couple's 18-year high-profile marriage.

Trudeau, 51, and Gregoire Trudeau, 48, got married in May 2005. Ten years later, Trudeau became prime minister, landing the sharply-dressed couple in world media's spotlight.

Trudeau, whose father Pierre Elliott Trudeau was also Canadian prime minister for 15 years, worked as a school teacher before joining politics.

Gregoire Trudeau was a former entertainment journalist and had known Trudeau since childhood. They have three children Xavier, 15, Ella Grace, 14, and nine-year-old Hadrien.

They often publicly expressed love and displayed unity, especially on



birthdays and anniversaries, but over the years, their married life has seen ups and downs.

Here are some comments the couple have made about their married life in recent years.

\* Trudeau, 2014 autobiography, Common Ground

"Our marriage isn't perfect, and we have had difficult ups and downs, yet Sophie remains my best friend, my partner, my love. We are honest with each other, even when it hurts."

## Delhi Court Summons Wrestler Bajrang Punia In Criminal Defamation Case

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court today summoned wrestler Bajrang Punia on September 6 in connection with a criminal defamation complaint filed against him by wrestling coach Naresh Dahiya.

Metropolitan Magistrate Yashdeep Chahal directed Mr Punia to appear before the court on that day, holding he is of the "prima facie" view that all the ingredients of defamation were made out. He said at the stage of summoning it was fairly settled that the court was not required to go into a comparative analysis of the possible defence that may be taken by the accused.

"On a consideration of the complaint, supporting documents and pre-summoning evidence, I am of the prima facie view that all the ingredients of defamation are made out. It appears that the statement made in the press conference was a result of malicious intent and was not made in good faith," the judge said.

"In view of the same, let accused, namely, Bajrang Punia be summoned for the commission of offence punishable under Section 499 read with Section 500 (both dealing with criminal defamation) of the IPC," he added.





## 14TH MUHARRAM PROCESSION

### Khusipora Serves Example Of Unity Among Shia, Sunni Muslims

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Amid several mourning gatherings that take place in the month of Muharram across Kashmir, very less is known about a small hamlet—Khusipora—in HMT area of Srinagar's outskirts, which hosts one of the largest Muharram mourning congregations in Srinagar on 14th day of Muharram.

The residents of the area told a local news agency KNO that they have an age-old tradition to host the mourners on the 14th of Muharram, saying that people specially from the Shia community—Imamiya School of thought would come to their village from every nook and corner of the valley.

"Hosting mourners on the 14th of Muharram is a privilege and honour for us, every household in the area makes arrangements for the food and tea as the area hosts

ing," said Hussain.

He said that after Zadibal in Srinagar, the religious gathering is the largest in the district and that their area ensures everyone is served with love and respect.

"We have a brotherhood in the area and that should precede, as Muslim brothers from the Sunni community in our area would come to our house to serve the guests on the 14th of Muharram. This is how we live in our area," Hussain said.

Sumair Javid, a young boy from the Sunni Muslim community has a yearly routine to come to his friend's place to lend a helping hand in serving lunch and tea to a massive gathering of more than 2000 people.

"This is a yearly routine for me; this house belongs to my friend. Personally, for me this is a moment of happiness as this should reflect that we don't belong to sects but to



people in thousands," a local resident, Bashir Ahmad said.

Kiyat Hussain, village head of the area said for the first time after the death of Moulana Iftikhar Hussain Ansari, they hosted one of the largest gatherings and estimated that above 50,000 people had gathered in the area.

"We are an area that has around 450 households and on every 14th Muharram every household makes the preparation for hosting the guests, who would come to take part in the mourning gather-

one human race," he said.

Ejaz Ahmad, another volunteer with a group of more Sunni boys said that he renders himself available for volunteer service on the 14th of Muharram every year, and with a purpose that the Muslims are one.

"I don't believe in sects, this area is in my neighbourhood, and since the time has become mature I take part happily on this day to ensure my part of service to my neighbours and this gives me happiness," he said—(KNO)



**AN ARTIST ADDS FLOWERS** on a mural painting drawn over an old building near Hari Singh High Street in Srinagar on Thursday.  
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## AAP Holds Protest, Seeks Whereabouts Of 9000 Missing Women



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Local Aam Aadmi Party workers on Thursday held a demonstration over 9,000 women going missing from the Union Territory, as revealed recently by the National Crime Records Bureau.

The protest was held at Press Colony here by dozens of AAP workers, who held placards bearing the question "Why? Who? Where? Missing 9765." AAP media committee Chair-

man Nawab asked Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to give answers on all the missing women.

"We are asking why this happened and what is the flaw in your system? Who are these 9,765 and what is the reason behind their going missing? And where are those missing women? Are you doing anything to trace those missing people?" he asked.

Nawab also asked Sinha about 'human trafficking' al-

legedly taking place in the Union Territory.

"Is there any department that can protect the honour and safety of the women of Jammu and Kashmir? This is not a political issue, this is about security and integrity," he said.

According to the NCRB, 8,617 women and 1,148 girls went missing in Jammu and Kashmir in three years between 2019 and 2021. The data of the Union Home Ministry was tabled in Parliament recently

## CS Visits 3-Day Solar Energy Awareness Camp At Civil Secretariat

Encourages Employees To Adopt Solar Energy For Substantially Reducing Their Monthly Power Bills

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday inspected the stalls installed to create awareness about the benefits of adopting solar energy among the employees in the lawns of Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The camp is being held from August 02-04 by J&K Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), Department of Science & Technology in collaboration with multiple vendors of re-

newable energy industry and other line departments of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Mehta appreciated JAKEDA for organizing this awareness camp about the GoI sponsored Grid connected Solar Rooftop Power Plants. He encouraged the employees to come forward and take lead in adopting this clean and reliable energy source that would not only reduce

their power bills substantially but simultaneously save our environment by reducing carbon emissions also.

He asked JAKEDA to organize more such awareness camps across other parts of the UT so that people would know about rooftop solar plant, KUSUM scheme and its financing pattern so that the benefits reach all the eligible persons.

The Chief Secretary said that renewable sources of energy holds great promise the future as government envisions a future



newable energy industry and other line departments of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Mehta appreciated JAKEDA for organizing this awareness camp about the GoI sponsored Grid connected Solar Rooftop Power Plants. He encouraged the employees to come forward and take lead in adopting this clean and reliable energy source that would not only reduce

with reduced dependence on fossil fuels by promoting alternative renewable energy sources. He also noted that besides reducing carbon emissions, the generation of solar energy through rooftop solar programme would also offset power requirements of domestic consumers in J&K thereby aiding our Power Discoms to provide quality power to rest of the consumers.

## Over 1,100 Amarnath Pilgrims Leave For Cave Shrine

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The 32nd batch of Amarnath Yatris with over 1,100 pilgrims Thursday left the base camp here for the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

Over 4.3 lakh devotees paid obeisance at the 3888-metre high shrine since the commencement of the Yatra on July 1, the officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to Amarnath shrine commenced from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgalam route in An-

antnag and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal -- on July 1.

In the early hours of Thursday, 1,198 pilgrims -- 1,023 men, 116 women, 58 seers and a child -- left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgalam in a convoy of 43 vehicles, the officials said.

As many as 932 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgalam, left in a convoy of 33 vehicles, while another convoy of 10 vehicles carrying 266 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp, they added.

The Yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

## Mega Tourism Festival In Doda From Aug 5

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir tourism department will host a two-day festival in the high-altitude resort town of Lal Draman in Doda district from August 5.

The event is being organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, the Doda district administration, and the Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art Culture. It aims to

showcase the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the area and promote tourism in the region.

"We are all set to host a two-day tourism promotion mela at Lal Draman in Doda district on the August 5 and 6. The event aims to promote tourism in the region and showcase the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the area," Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai told reporters here.

## Advisor Bhatnagar Conducts Extensive Tour Of Tangmarg

Interacts With DDC, BDC Members, PRI Representatives, Locals

Observer News Service

**TANGMARG:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Tangmarg area of the district to evaluate the progress on key projects and gain insights into the infrastructure and educational facilities available for the residents.

During the visit, the Advisor inspected Water supply Scheme at Heing Tangmarg being executed under Jal Jeevan Mission, inspected Govt Middle School Sharai and Fazili Kashmiri Memorial Govt Higher Secondary School Chamdilor and took stock of their functioning as well as academic activities.

While inspecting the water supply Scheme at Heing, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that this is a crucial infrastructure project aimed at providing a sustainable and

reliable water supply to the locals here, adding that the present LG led Administration is committed to provide tap water to all the residents and rural households of Jammu and Kashmir under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The Advisor during the inspection took stock of the ongoing works and interacted with the project officials as well as the representatives of executing agency. He emphasized upon them to complete the project at the earliest so that the clean tap water is provided to the locals of the area.

Meanwhile, Advisor Bhatnagar also visited Government Middle School Sharai and Fazili Kashmiri Memorial Government Higher Secondary School Chandilora here and took first hand appraisal of educational infrastructure as well as assessment of quality of education being provided to students. The

Advisor's visit was aimed to gather valuable feedback and identify areas that need improvement in order to enhance the overall educational experience for the students.

At Government Middle School Sharai, Advisor Bhatnagar appreciated the efforts of the school staff in maintaining a conducive learning environment at the school. He engaged with the teachers, and school management, encouraging them to continue their dedication towards imparting quality education and providing a nurturing environment for the students. He emphasized on them to focus on extracurricular activities also, which are essential for the holistic development of students.

The Advisor on the occasion, also interacted with the school children and sought feedback from them about the academic activities of the institution

Meanwhile, at Fazili Kashmiri Memorial Government Higher Secondary School Chandilora, Advisor Bhatnagar lauded the commitment of the school's faculty in delivering quality education to the students. He emphasized on the importance of continuous professional development for teachers to stay abreast of the latest teaching methodologies and technologies.

While interacting with the faculty, Advisor Bhatnagar said that education is the cornerstone of progress, and the government is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and enriching educational system as per NEP-2020 across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized upon the faculty of institution to educate and empower students as per the verticals of Nep-2020 so that they can attain knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of the future.

## DC Budgam Reviews Arrangements For I-Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparedness for ensuing Independence Day-2023 celebrations in the district.

The meeting was informed that the main function of the Day shall be held at Sports Stadium Budgam while similar functions will be held at sub-division and

Tehsil levels also.

It was also informed that contingents of JKP, CRPF, NCC, students of various government schools will participate in the march past parade. Besides various cultural programmes will also be the part of celebrations and a felicitation ceremony would also be held.

On the occasion, various committees like the hospitality committee, stage management committee and selection committee

were formed for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

Different departments viz. Education, PHE, R&B, DYSSO, Information, Health, Sports, Traffic, Motor Vehicles, Police, Floriculture, PDD, Municipality and Paramilitary Forces were directed to look after their respective assignments.

The decoration of the main venue ground, seating arrangements, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water/tanker service, bar-

ricading of venue, medical aid camp, availability of ambulance, deployment of fire tenders, transportation facilities, adequate and separate vehicle parking, refreshment, invitations, PAS system, brochures, cleanliness and sanitation measures were discussed threadbare in the meeting while as special emphasis was laid on march past parades cultural programmes, refreshments, transportation, mobile toilets etc.

Government of UT Jammu & Kashmir  
**POLICE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PHQ, J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR**  
**ELECTRICAL WORKS FOR**

S.No	NAME OF WORK	TENDER VALUE	COST OF DOC.
1.	Internal Electrification of newly under constructed ACB Police Station at Awantipora (Part-1st).	39.99 lacs	Rs. 2000/-
2.	Internal Electrification of newly under constructed G.O's Mess at Shivpora Srinagar (Part-1st).	29.99 lacs	Rs. 2000/-

**GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR.**  
**INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/43/2023-24 Dated: -27-07-2023  
Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs)	Earnest money (EMD)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Internal Electrification of newly construction ACB Police Station at Awantipora (Part-1st)	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	39.99 lacs	2000/-	79980/-	90 days	12-08-2023	Electrical
2	Internal Electrification of newly constructed G.Os Mess at Shivpora Srinagar (Part-1st).	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	29.99 lacs	2000/-	59980/-	60 days	12-08-2023	Electrical

- Date of Publishing 28-07-2023 at 1600 hours.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1630 hours on 28-07-2023
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 01-08-2023 to 11-08-2023 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 12-08-2023 on line.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 12-08-2023 at 1100 Hrs.
- The lowest bidder i.e L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H 0055/ Revenue (others).
- The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.
- Earnest Money - The earnest money deposit (EMD) @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar shall be valid for minimum six months or more after the last date of receipt of bids of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer in charge.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
- The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
- Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2023-24/4404-11  
Dated: 27-07-2023

**DIPK-6315-23**  
**DT: 03/08/2023**

Executive Engineer  
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/Sgr.



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Friday | 04-08-2023

## Changing Healthcare Scene

The healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir has experienced a major transformation over the last four years. New medical colleges have been established, expanding the medical seat capacity from 500 to an impressive 2,000. The introduction of two All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has positioned the union territory as a hub for medical education. And the establishment of colleges across various districts has brought advanced healthcare within closer reach of people.

Historically, healthcare in J&K has faced numerous challenges, including limited accessibility to medical facilities, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and geographical barriers that hindered the delivery of medical services. However, the current administration has made a determined effort to change this reality for the better.

In the upcoming academic session, two additional medical colleges, situated in Handwara and Udhampur, are set to commence operations, each accommodating 100 students. With their inauguration, the tally of medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir will rise to 13, collectively offering 1,300 MBBS seats. This will not only make available more seats to MBBS aspirants in a place where medicine is one of the most sought after profession but also, in turn, enhance accessibility to healthcare.

Simultaneously, the development of two Medicines is currently in progress, one in Jammu and the other in Kashmir. An important initiative that has made a real difference to the lives of people has been the distribution of Golden Cards to over 60 lakh individuals in the union territory. This initiative aims to provide health insurance up to Rs. 5,00,000, encompassing all segments of the population. The health insurance schemes have alleviated financial burdens and facilitated cashless medical care. Also, specialized treatments worth Rs 221.66 crore have been provided under these initiatives.

Last week, doctors at SKIMS Soura were directed to prescribe generic medicines exclusively, and the entry of medical representatives into hospital premises was restricted. Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme has established Dialysis Centres across various locations in the region, reducing the need for patients to travel elsewhere for such services.

People in Kashmir Valley generally head to other parts of the country for specialized treatment. But the last four years have witnessed some of India's major hospitals coming or planning to come to Valley which hopefully will address the need for the patients to go outside for expensive medical treatment.

However, challenges still persist. There is a need for continued investment in healthcare infrastructure, especially in the remote and mountainous areas. The healthcare system must also be prepared to tackle health emergencies effectively, whether they are infectious disease outbreaks or natural disasters. Going forward, the administration will be expected to address these.

### OTHER OPINION

## Mercury rising

The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, this week reiterated the consequences of the climate catastrophe that has enveloped the globe. The earth had passed from a warming phase into an "era of global boiling", he said at the U.N.'s headquarters in New York. His comments come even as scientific evidence converges on the conclusion that July is set to be the hottest month in the last 12,000 years. This was a "disaster" for the whole planet, he said, noting that "short of a mini-Ice Age over the next few days, July 2023 will shatter records everywhere". Scientists from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Commission's Copernicus Climate Change Service described conditions this month as "rather remarkable and unprecedented", with July seeing the hottest three-week period on record. Average July temperature so far has been 16.95° Celsius, 0.2° C warmer than in July 2019 — a record in the 174-year observational data of the European Union.

With ocean temperatures on the rise and the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean transitioning from La Niña conditions — where average sea surface temperatures are below normal — to El Niño conditions, the opposite, it was widely expected that temperatures would be warmer than that in the last three years (when La Niña prevailed). However, it is the distribution and impact of the 16.95° C, which includes temperature in north-west China touching 52° C; wildfires in Greece and the baking heat in the United States' Southwest. The extraordinarily high rains in north and western India, while largely due to prevailing monsoon conditions, were also due to the warm air increasing atmospheric capacity to hold moisture resulting in short torrential bursts, causing floods and devastation. While climate prognostication induces pessimism, Mr. Guterres said that it was still possible to limit global temperature rise to 1.5° C and avoid the very worst of climate change but only with "dramatic, immediate climate action". At a G-20 ministerial meet in Chennai the same day, the COP28 President-designate, Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, also emphasised that the world's largest economies should be more ambitious with emission cuts. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised to make India the "third largest economy" if his party is re-elected in the general election, it will also mean greater pressure on India to take on a greater share of greenhouse gas mitigation responsibilities. This could mean advancing its net zero commitments from 2070 to 2050, as Mr. Guterres says, and generating fossil-free electricity by 2040. While these are the testy points on which climate negotiations hinge, the climate — it bears reminding — waits for nobody.

THE HINDU

### Mindful Fridays

# The Perfectionism Paradox

## The Toll of Unattainable Standards on Mental Health

Wasim Kakroo

In today's fast-paced, achievement-oriented world, the pursuit of perfection is deeply ingrained in our society. From academic success to social media presence, we are constantly bombarded with the message that perfection is the ultimate goal. In Kashmir, the pursuit of perfection has infested many lives, especially the young. It starts right from the school where new competitions have crept-up to certify who is going to "make it big" by being the best and nothing less. This pursuit stays in the lives of the young as they grow up and manifests in new ways.

However, the relentless pursuit of flawlessness can take a toll on our mental health and well-being. In contrast, practicing imperfection can be a powerful way to live a mentally healthy life.

Perfectionism is a double-edged sword that often leads to an unattainable standard of success. Individuals who subscribe to the tenets of perfectionism strive for flawlessness in every aspect of their lives, setting excessively high standards for themselves in personal relationships, academics, careers, and even in their physical appearance. Driven by an incessant desire to meet these unreachable ideals, they engage in constant self-criticism, berating themselves for any perceived shortcomings.

The pursuit of perfection becomes a relentless and anxiety-inducing journey, as the fear of failure looms large over their lives. They become trapped in a never-ending cycle of dissatisfaction and disappointment, unable to fully celebrate their achievements due to an unquenchable thirst for perfection. This relentless pursuit can cause burnout, stress, and a deterioration of mental health.

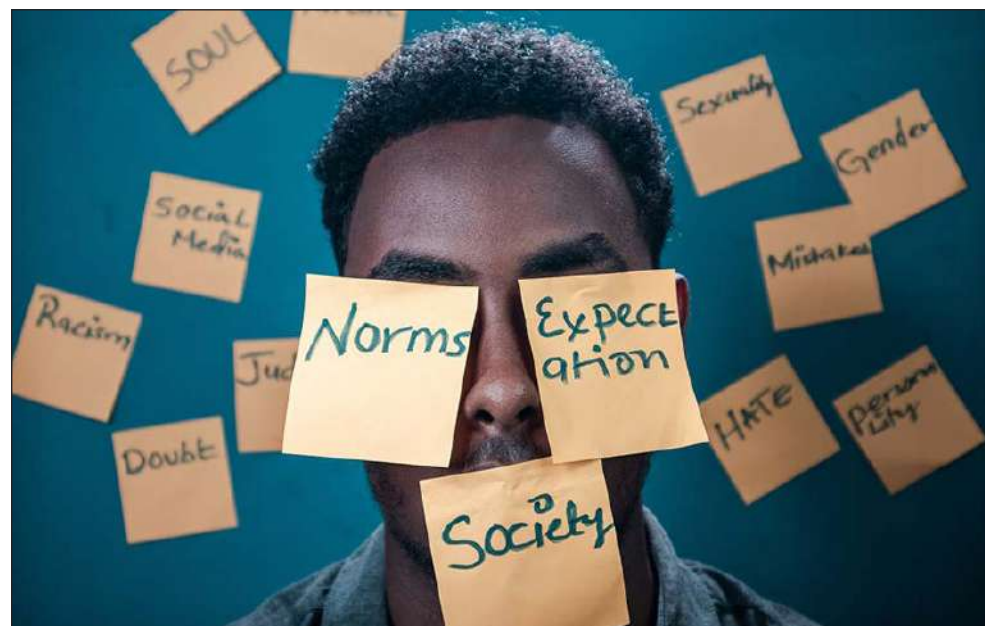
While striving for excellence can be a healthy and motivating pursuit, perfectionism takes it to an unhealthy extreme. It stifles creativity and spontaneity, as individuals become paralyzed by the fear of not measuring up to their own impossibly high standards. Moreover, the pressure to be perfect can alienate others, making it difficult to form meaningful connections with those who may not meet their rigid expectations.

Perfectionism is a trait that can have significant implications for mental health, contributing to various psychological issues such as anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), and Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (OCPD).

Anxiety disorders are commonly linked to perfectionism. Individuals who strive for flawlessness fear making mistakes and experience constant pressure to be perfect. This self-imposed standard triggers feelings of anxiety and dread, as they worry about negative evaluations from others. Consequently, a form of anxiety, such as social anxiety can arise, hindering their ability to form and maintain meaningful relationships.

Depression is another common mental health issue associated with perfectionism. The relentless pursuit of perfection can take a toll on one's emotional well-being, leading to burnout and a deep sense of inadequacy. The continuous disappointment in failing to meet unrealistic standards can exacerbate feelings of hopelessness and contribute to the development of depressive symptoms.

Perfectionism also plays a significant role in the development and maintenance of eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia.



**In Kashmir, the pursuit of perfection has infested many lives, especially the young. It starts right from the school where new competitions have crept-up to certify who is going to "make it big" by being the best and nothing less. This pursuit stays in the lives of the young as they grow up and manifests in new ways**

The desire for a perfect body image and the need to control every aspect of life can drive disordered eating behaviors. This quest for an idealized appearance can lead to dangerous patterns of restriction, bingeing, and purging, resulting in severe physical and psychological consequences.

Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) is another condition closely linked to perfectionism. Individuals with BDD obsess over perceived flaws or defects in their appearance, even when these flaws are not visible to others. The pursuit of an unattainable "perfect" appearance becomes all-consuming, leading to significant distress and impairing daily functioning.

Perfectionism plays a significant role in the development, maintenance, and exacerbation of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Individuals with perfectionist tendencies often set unattainably high standards for themselves, leading to increased anxiety when they fail to meet these ideals. OCD symptoms emerge as a maladaptive coping mechanism to alleviate this distress. Compulsions become repetitive rituals aimed at achieving an illusory sense of control and perfection. Paradoxically, these behaviors reinforce OCD's grip, creating a vicious cycle. Perfectionism intensifies the disorder's severity, making it harder for individuals to break free from its clutches.

It is also associated with certain personality disorders. Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is characterized by unstable self-image and intense fear of abandonment. Perfection-

ism in individuals with BPD may manifest as extreme efforts to avoid perceived rejection or criticism, leading to emotional volatility and difficulty in maintaining stable relationships.

Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (OCPD) is marked by a rigid need for orderliness and perfectionism in all areas of life. Individuals with OCPD may become excessively focused on detail, work, and rules, to the detriment of their social and interpersonal life.

### Practicing Imperfection

Embracing imperfection involves cultivating self-compassion. Instead of harshly criticizing ourselves for not being perfect, we should treat ourselves with the same kindness and understanding we offer to our loved ones. Recognizing that making mistakes is a natural part of being human allows us to embrace imperfection without self-judgment.

Additionally, it is crucial to set achievable and realistic goals. While ambition is commendable, setting unattainable standards only sets us up for failure and disappointment. By setting manageable goals, we can celebrate progress and feel a sense of accomplishment, boosting our self-esteem.

Embracing imperfection also helps build resilience. When we encounter setbacks or failures, we are better equipped to bounce back and learn from our experiences. Resilience enables us to adapt to life's challenges without being overwhelmed by self-criticism.

Practicing imperfection involves challenging negative thought patterns related to perfectionism. Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) can be effective in helping individuals identify and change these thought patterns, fostering a healthier mindset.

Embracing imperfection means valuing the journey rather than fixating solely on the destination. By focusing on the process, we can savor the growth, learning, and development that occurs along the way, even if the outcome is not flawless.

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

*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*



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## Make Vaccinations Mandatory for Domesticated Dogs

JUST like humans, dogs require vaccinations to keep healthy and prevent sickness. Dog vaccinations are an essential component of providing better care for one's so-called furry pet. Therefore, it is important for every pet owner to be aware of dog vaccinations and to vaccinate their pets. Avoidance is preferable to cure. As per veterinary science there are vaccines that can prevent diseases in dogs that have been tested and are readily available. Because their immune systems are still developing when the dogs are

still puppies, they are more prone to infections. It is therefore advisable to begin immunising them when they are infancy stage. Additional antibodies that aid in preventing disease will be produced as a result of vaccinations. There must be a full immunisation cycle.

As per Veterinarian unvaccinated domestic dogs are more likely to infect both humans and other dogs with diseases than those who have received vaccinations. Unvaccinated dogs may potentially quickly infect humans with illnesses. Unvaccinated dogs can infect their owners' family

members, particularly young children. Unvaccinated dogs are a major source of human disease transmission, including rabies, parvovirus, parainfluenza, giardia, lyme disease, hepatitis, distemper, bordetella, kennel cough, and leptospirosis. Making Canine vaccinations essential is a good idea, but it's also pivotal to understand how tamed tykes are affected by these shots. tykes, for illustration, may have adverse goods frequently. One should make sure that possessors schedule vaccinations meetly. Veterinarians advise that if faves aren't vaccinated, it could lead

to Fever, languor, loss of appetite, swelling around the face or paws, hives, puking, diarrhoea, pain at the injection point, and in rare cases, anaphylactic shock are a many of the side goods.

It's essential that one has to look out for any of the signs that beget concern and take tamed canine to the veterinary for consultation. So thus our central animal husbandry ministry should make the vaccination of tykes obligatory.

Vijay Kumar



# Breaking The Silence

## Combating Harassment on Buses in Kashmir

Irfan Attari Kashmiri

**H**arassment against women in public spaces, such as buses, offices, and other places, continues to be a pervasive issue across the globe. This form of gender-based violence has a profound impact on the physical and mental well-being of women, hindering their ability to fully participate in society. However, in recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the need to prevent and address such incidents. In this article, we will delve into the strategies to prevent harassment, the role of youth and NGOs in creating change, and how individuals can raise their voices to combat this social ill.

### THE PREVALENCE OF HARASSMENT

Harassment against women is an alarming reality that has existed for decades. In public spaces like buses, women often face unwelcome advances, catcalling, and even physical assault. Workplaces, too, have not been immune to harassment, as women have been subjected to inappropriate comments, unwanted advances, and more subtle forms of discrimination. Such behavior perpetuates a hostile environment, contributing to a cycle of fear and silence that needs to be broken.

### PREVENTING HARASSMENT

Preventing harassment requires a multifaceted approach that involves both individuals and institutions. Promoting awareness and education about harassment is crucial to change societal attitudes. Comprehensive educational programs can be integrated into school curriculums and workplace training sessions, raising awareness about what constitutes harassment and its detrimental impact on individuals and society.

Women should be encouraged to stand up for their rights and assert themselves confidently in public spaces. Empowerment can be achieved through self-defense training, mentorship programs, and by celebrating strong female role models.

Additionally, employers and public transport authorities must enforce stringent anti-harassment policies. Transparent reporting mechanisms should be



established, ensuring that victims can safely report incidents without fear of retaliation.

The use of surveillance cameras and mobile applications that allow individuals to report incidents in real-time can also act as a deterrent and aid in holding perpetrators accountable.

### THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND NGOS

The youth and NGOs play a pivotal role in the fight against harassment. As agents of change, they can foster safe spaces. Youth-led initiatives can create safe spaces for women to share their experiences and express their concerns. These forums not only provide emotional support but also encourage collective action against harassment.

NGOs can also advocate for policy reforms and the implementation of laws that prioritize the safety and well-being of women. They can lobby for better transportation infrastructure, increased law enforcement presence, and specialized support services for victims.

Furthermore, youth and NGOs can collaborate on awareness campaigns using social media, workshops, and community events. These campaigns challenge societal norms, shatter stereotypes, and foster

empathy among communities. Youth-led NGOs can organize workshops on gender sensitivity and consent as well, to sensitize both men and women about their roles in preventing harassment.

### RAISING ONE'S VOICE

To raise one's voice against harassment, individuals can take several steps:

- 1. Speak Up:** If you witness harassment, speak up and intervene if it's safe to do so. Show solidarity with the victim and help create a sense of collective responsibility.
- 2. Report Incidents:** If you experience or witness harassment, report it to the appropriate authorities, whether it's the workplace HR department or public transport authorities. Your report may be crucial in holding the perpetrator accountable.
- 3. Support Survivors:** If someone confides in you about their harassment experience, be a supportive listener. Encourage them to seek professional help if needed.
- 4. Engage in Advocacy:** Join or support local NGOs working to combat harassment. Participate in rallies, sign petitions, and demand policy changes that prioritize women's safety.

### A RESILIENT STAND: MARIA'S JOURNEY FROM BUDGAM TO SRINAGAR

Note: The following story is not based on true events. The name "Maria" is a pseudonym used to protect the individual's privacy.

In the picturesque region of Kashmir, Maria, a young professional, embarked on her daily commute from Budgam to Srinagar via the local bus. The serene landscapes provided a stark contrast to the challenges she faced during her journey, as she encountered an issue all too common for women in public spaces.

One winter morning, as Maria boarded the bus, she noticed a man who seemed to be staring at her intensely. She tried to

brush it off, attributing it to mere curiosity. However, as the journey progressed, she sensed his gaze becoming more intrusive, causing a sense of unease to settle in.

Maria had heard stories from her friends and colleagues about similar incidents on buses, and her heart sank as she realized she was facing a similar situation. As the bus meandered through the winding roads of Kashmir, the man in question moved closer to Maria, invading her personal space.

Fear gripped her heart, but she remembered the stories she had heard about courageous women who stood up against harassment. Drawing strength from those tales, Maria mustered the courage to confront the situation. In a firm voice, she spoke up, "Please maintain some distance; you are making me uncomfortable."

The man seemed taken aback by her assertiveness, and for a moment, the bus fell silent. Maria was afraid of potential backlash, but she knew she had to take a stand for her dignity and safety. To her relief, the man eventually backed away, seemingly aware that his inappropriate behavior was not going unnoticed.

Although the immediate threat had been thwarted, Maria couldn't shake the feeling of vulnerability. She reflected on the pervasive nature of harassment faced by women in public spaces and felt a growing determination to challenge this societal norm.

During her lunch break, Maria shared her experience with her friends at work. Surprisingly, they revealed similar encounters and acknowledged that such incidents were far too common. Together, they decided to raise awareness about harassment on buses in Kashmir.

As a close-knit group, they decided to use pseudonyms in public to protect their identities. They organized workshops and awareness campaigns, reaching out to local NGOs for guidance and support. They also collaborated with the

transportation authorities to advocate for safer commuting experiences for women.

The campaign began to gain traction, with more and more women sharing their experiences. Each story added to the collective strength of their cause, and Maria felt empowered by the growing support. The initiative attracted media attention, and the use of pseudonyms allowed them to speak openly without fear of reprisal.

In an unprecedented move, the transportation authorities in Kashmir took note of Maria and her team's efforts. They recognized the need for change and, following successful discussions with the group, committed to implementing specific measures.

Maria and her team successfully persuaded the authorities to install surveillance cameras on buses traveling between Budgam and Srinagar. This step aimed to deter potential harassers and ensure greater safety for passengers. Furthermore, a dedicated helpline was established for reporting incidents of harassment in real-time, offering immediate assistance to those in distress.

As the days turned into weeks, the impact of the campaign became evident. Reports of harassment on buses decreased significantly, and women felt a renewed sense of confidence while commuting. The success of their initiative transcended regional boundaries, inspiring other communities to take similar actions.

Maria's journey from being a silent victim to a fierce advocate resonated deeply with women across Kashmir. As she traveled on the bus from Budgam to Srinagar, she felt a newfound sense of pride in her community's resilience. Her pseudonymous identity allowed her to speak up without fear, and her determination brought about positive change.

The story of Maria's unwavering resolve remains an enduring testament to the power of collective action and the impact of standing up against harassment. The legacy of her courage continues to inspire generations of women to reclaim their spaces and assert their right to safety, dignity, and freedom as they journey through life.

The fight against harassment is a collective responsibility that requires a concerted effort from individuals, institutions, and society as a whole. By implementing preventive strategies, empowering women, and engaging youth and NGOs in advocacy, we can create a safer environment for women in public spaces. Raising our voices against harassment is not just an act of empathy, but a transformative step towards building an inclusive and equitable society for all. Only then can we hope to eradicate the pervasive issue of harassment and create a world where women can thrive without fear.

*The author is a Social Activist/Writer, President of Foundation For Youth Well & Student Of Cybersecurity*



**THE FIGHT AGAINST HARASSMENT IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY THAT REQUIRES A CONCERTED EFFORT FROM INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS, AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.** By implementing preventive strategies, empowering women, and engaging youth and NGOs in advocacy, we can create a safer environment for women in public spaces



# Social Media Showoff vs. Reality

## THE ILLUSION UNVEILED

The stark contrast between curated online personas and authentic lives

Syed Faraz

**I**n the digital age, social media has become an integral part of our lives, offering a platform for self-expression, connection, and networking. However, behind the glossy filters and meticulously crafted posts lies a pervasive issue – the culture of social media showoff. People often present idealized versions of themselves, showcasing only the highlights while concealing the struggles and imperfections that make us human.

### THE ALLURE OF THE PERFECT IMAGE

Social media platforms entice users to showcase an image of perfection. From exotic vacations to mouthwatering meals, glamorous events, and envy-inducing possessions, users often project an idyllic life that appears to be the epitome of happiness and success. This portrayal, albeit a curated one, garners attention, likes, and validation from followers, feeding a cycle of seeking exter-

nal approval and admiration.

### THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

As individuals constantly compare their realities to the seemingly perfect lives of others, it can lead to feelings of inadequacy, anxiety, and even depression. The pressure to maintain an impeccable image pushes many to strive for unattainable standards, triggering a detrimental impact on mental health. Moreover, this obsession with external validation may hinder authentic connections and discourage vulnerability, essential components of genuine human interaction.

### UNVEILING THE REALITY

Amidst the facade of grandeur, a growing movement emerges, encouraging transparency and authenticity on social media. Influencers, celebrities, and everyday users are stepping forward to unveil the reality behind the perfectly curated images. Some share their struggles, set-

backs, and moments of vulnerability, breaking down the illusion of perfection and encouraging a more genuine, relatable online presence.

### EMBRACING REALNESS AND BALANCE

While social media can be a powerful tool for inspiration and connection, it's crucial to strike a balance between its benefits and potential pitfalls. Acknowledging that life is a mix of ups and downs, and that imperfections are part of the human experience, is essential in fostering a healthier relationship with social media.

### TIPS FOR A MORE AUTHENTIC ONLINE PRESENCE

- 1. Be Genuine:** Share your authentic experiences, joys, and challenges. Embrace vulnerability, as it fosters meaningful connections with others.
- 2. Limit Comparison:** Remember that social media is a highlight reel, not the full story. Comparing your life

to others' curated posts only fosters negative emotions.

- 3. Mindful Consumption:** Be conscious of the content you consume. Unfollow accounts that trigger feelings of inadequacy or promote unrealistic standards.
- 4. Seek Support:** If social media is affecting your mental well-being, don't hesitate to seek support from friends, family, or mental health professionals.
- 5. Balance Online and Offline:** Take breaks from social media to focus on real-life connections, hobbies, and personal growth.

In conclusion, social media showoff culture has created a stark contrast between online personas and authentic lives. By embracing transparency and vulnerability, we can foster genuine connections and ultimately redefine the way we use social media, making it a force for positivity, understanding, and authentic self-expression.



# How To Beat Extreme Heat: Fan-Cooled Beds And Other Gadgets

Bloomberg

As extreme heat blankets the globe from Phoenix to Athens, entrepreneurs are responding with an array of personal cooling devices that can help reduce health risks for everyone from infants to outdoor workers.

At Tokyo's annual Extreme Heat Countermeasures Exhibition last week the focus was on how to keep workers in high-temperature environments, like construction sites and factories, cool and reduce the risk of heat stroke. As fossil fuel emissions accelerate climate change and with July set to become the world's hottest month on record, there is growing appetite for the products from consumers and public institutions.

"We're getting more orders from public facilities, like school gyms, to use our product," said Hayato Ohashi, who works in sales at industrial fan manufacturer Earth Blower Japan Inc. "The heat is just getting extraordinary in the last decade-it's not something that will suddenly disappear next year."

Japan has one of the world's oldest populations and its citizenry is particularly at risk from extreme temperatures. In 2020, 86% of heat wave deaths were among people above the age of 65, according to the environment ministry. And Japan isn't the only country aiming to safeguard people: last week US President Joe Biden said the nation is spending \$100 billion a year to protect Americans from extreme heat.

Here are six cooling products showcased at the trade show in Tokyo.

## Baby carriers and beds

Tokyo-based Kuchofuku Co. has been making fan-equipped apparel like vests and jackets favored by many Japanese con-



struction workers for decades. The company has redesigned some of its products as casual wear and home products for general consumers.

Fan-based cooling apparel works by accelerating airflow to dry perspiration and typically uses less energy than air-conditioning. The approach works best in more humid places where perspiration doesn't evaporate efficiently.

Kuchofuku's offerings included a fan-equipped baby carrier and a bed. The mattress, which is made of a sheet of flexible,

mesh-like padding, has an electricity-powered fan at the foot that sucks air from the headboard to boost circulation and keep sheets dry. The baby carrier fans are battery powered.

## Large-scale fans

Earth Blower Japan produces large-scale fans nearly 2 meters (6 feet 6 inches) tall that blew visitors passing its booth with a strong breeze. Fans come in a variety of models, with names of Japanese deities, like thunder god "Raijin" or wind god "Fu-

jin Max."

Ohashi emphasized the flexibility that fans offer because they can easily be transported to new locations and provide immediate relief. Although factories and logistics centers are the regular customers, the company has also rented out its blowers for use at stadiums, including for some of the sporting events during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Fans can also limit power costs. Although expenses vary according to the cost of electricity, Ohashi said running its big-

gest fan for eight hours a day for a month excluding weekends typically only costs around 10,000 yen (\$72).

## Safety helmets

Many of the products on display targeted outdoor workers. Because of Japan's aging population many of its laborers at construction sites or in agriculture are at higher risk of heat stroke.

Hyogo prefecture-based Toyo Safety Industrial Co. showcased a safety helmet with a fan installed at the base that circulates air around the wearer's head. The fans that are detachable and rechargeable.

## Wearables

Tokyo-based Biodata Bank Inc. has developed a wearable device that alerts people when they are at risk of heatstroke.

Its Heat Warning Watch Canaria beeps when the wearer's core body temperature exceeds unhealthy levels. Priced at 4,950 yen, the watch can be used for four months without charging. The device is aimed at outdoor workers and athletes.

The product is currently sold in Japan and Europe, and the company has seen demand increase in European countries amid heat waves in recent years.

## For pets

Some firms are eyeing products for four-legged animals.

Manufacturer A-Mec Co. developed a mesh vest with pockets to carry cold packs for dogs to keep pets cool in hot weather. The vests, which come in four sizes and range in price between 4,950 yen and 7,150 yen, are also sold in the US market.

Businesses have become increasingly aware of demand for animal cooling products, and retailers like Sweet Mommy also offer fan-based cooling vests for pets.

## Why India Can Afford To Wait And Watch Before Regulating AI

360info.org

India should not rush with a comprehensive law that might become outdated quickly.

India's position on regulating AI has swung between extremes from no regulation to regulation based on a risk-based, no-harm approach.

In April this year, the Indian government said it would not regulate AI to help create an enabling, pro-innovation environment which could possibly catapult India to global leadership in AI-related tech.

However, just two months later the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology indicated India would regulate AI through the Digital India Act.

Taking a U-turn from the earlier position of no-regulation, minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said: Our approach towards AI regulation or indeed any regulation is that we will regulate it through the prism of user harm.

In a labour intensive economy like India, the issue of job losses because of AI replacing people is relatively stark.

However, the minister claimed: While AI is disruptive, there is minimal threat to jobs as of now. The current state of development of AI is task-oriented, it cannot reason or use logic. Most jobs need reasoning and logic which currently no AI is capable of performing. AI might be able to achieve this in the next few years, but not right now.

Such an assessment seems only partially correct because there are many routine, somewhat low-skill tasks that AI can perform. Given the preponderance of low-skill jobs in India, their replacement by AI can have a significant and adverse impact on employment.

India should not rush with a comprehensive law that might become outdated quickly.

Drafts of the upcoming Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 leaked in the media suggest that personal data of Indian citizens may be shielded from being used for training AI.

It seems this position was inspired by questions US regulators have posed to Open AI about how it scraped personal data without user consent. If this becomes law though it is hard to see how this can be implemented because of the way training data is collected and used the deemed consent that allows such scraping of data in the public interest will cease to exist.

The Indian government's position has clearly evolved over time. In mid-2018, the government think tank, Niti Aayog, published a strategy document on AI. Its focus was on increasing India's AI capabilities, reskilling workers given the prospect of AI replacing several types of jobs and evolving policies for accelerating the adoption of AI in the country.

The document underlined India's limited capabilities in AI research. It therefore recommended incentives for core and applied re-

search in AI through Centres of Research Excellence in AI and more application-focused, industry-led International Centre(s) for Transformational Artificial Intelligence.

It also proposed reskilling of workers because of the anticipated job losses to AI, the creation of jobs that could constitute the new service industry and recognising and standardising informal training institutions.

It advocated accelerating the adoption of AI by creating multi-stakeholder marketplaces. This would enable smaller firms to discover and deploy AI for their enterprises through the marketplace, thus overcoming information asymmetry tilted in favour of large companies that can capture, clean, standardise data and train AI models on their own.

It emphasised the need for compiling large, annotated, dynamic datasets, across domains possibly with state assistance which can then be readily used by industry to train specific AI.

In early 2021, the Niti Aayog published a paper outlining how AI should be used responsibly. This set out the context for AI regulation.

It divided the risks of narrow AI (task-focused rather than a general artificial intelligence) into two categories: direct system impacts and the more indirect social impacts arising out of the general deployment of AI such as malicious use and targeted advertisements, including political ones.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maintt. Division-7,  
JKPTCL Bemina, Srinagar-190010**  
Ph. No. 0194-3516481 e-mail: tlm7.jkptcl@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
e-NIT No: TLMD-7/12 of 2023  
Dated: 31/07/2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-7, Srinagar, hereby invites e-Tenders valid for 120 days, from eligible, experienced and registered professional/ Consultancy firms having vast experience in Consultancy and designing, for providing of the below mentioned services as per Terms, Conditions, Technical Specifications and Schedules thereto mentioned in Standard Bidding Document. The Cost of Tender Documents shall be deposited into the bank Account of Transmission Line Maintenance Division-7, Srinagar bearing CD A/C No. 0367010200000182, JK Bank Branch Tankepora and the bank receipt shall be uploaded. The EMD in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer TLMD-7, JKPTCL Srinagar shall be uploaded and the original bank instrument shall be deposited alongwith hard copy of tender upto the specified date. The Standard Bidding Document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

S.No	Description of Work	Qty	Estimated Cost of the project (INR Lacs)	Cost of Tender Documents (Non refundable) INR	EMD
1.	Consultancy services including providing of Drawings, estimates, finalization of tender documents, Monitoring, Inspection & Quality control during execution of work for Strengthening and recasting of tower foundations of 220kV D/c Alusteng-Mirbazar Transmission Line (Capex 2023-24).	As per BOQ	453.27	1000.00	Rs. 27000

1. The Bidding Documents consisting of Pre-Qualifying Requirements / eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of Terms and Conditions of the contract and other related details can be seen/downloaded from the J&K State Government's website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>, as per Scheduled of dates given below:-

### LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-07-2023
2	Online Start date of downloading of Tender Documents	01-08-2023 (10:00Hrs.)
3	Online Start date & time of e-Bid submission	02-08-2023 (14:00 Hrs.)
4	Online Last date & time of e-Bid submission	10-08-2023 (14:00 Hrs.)
5	Last date for submission of hardcopies	10-08-2023 (14:00 Hrs.)
6	Online Techno-Commercial Bids Opening Date & time	11-08-2023 (16:00Hrs.)
7	Date and time of opening of Price e-Bid (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	The date & time of opening of price e-bids shall be notified separately
8	Position of AA and TEC	Accorded
9	Position of funds	Available

2. The Techno-Commercial Bids of all participating Bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer, TLMD-7, Bemina Srinagar. The date & time of opening of Price Bids of the qualifying bidders shall be notified on J&K Government's website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through e-mail message. The hardcopies shall have to be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer TLMD-7 Bemina Srinagar by 10-08-2023 (14:00 Hrs).

3. Before participating in the online Bids, the intending Bidders shall visit each tower location and get acquainted with the topography of site of work and local conditions thereof.

4. Clarifications, if any, can also be sought from the office of the undersigned on any working day or through e-mail id: [tlm7.jkptcl@gmail.com](mailto:tlm7.jkptcl@gmail.com) or on phone No. 0194-3516481 during the working hours.

5. The Department reserves the right to reject any or all the Bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd-  
Executive Engineer  
TLMD-7 Srinagar

No: TLMD-7/TS/1283-86  
DIPK-NB-2405/23  
Dated: 03/08/2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR

**Office Of The General Manager District Industries Centre Kupwara**  
FAX/Tel/01955252323

### NOTICE

**Subject:- Change of Constitution from Partnership to proprietorship in favour of M/s Vilgami Engineers Vilgam**

M/s Vilgami Engineers Vilgam stands registered formally with this office under registration NO:01/01/11/00099/PMT/ dated-21-11-2019 for the activity of Gates Grills, Roof Trusses, Angle Iron posts, Steel Bridges, Steel Furniture & Crate Mesh (Manual). The unit holder has approached to this office for change of constitution from partnership concern to proprietorship concern.

Objections are invited from all concerned and public in general in this regard, if any. The objections should reach to the office of undersigned within seven days from the issuance of this notice. After expiry of date, no objection/claim will be entertained in this regard.

NO:DIC/Kup/Dir/362  
DIPK-6329/23  
Dated:- 03-08-2023

General Manager  
DIC Kupwara



## India Restricts Import Of Laptops, Computers



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Thursday imposed import restrictions on laptops, tablets, and certain types of computers with immediate effect for security reasons and the need to promote domestic manufacturing.

The move will also curtail inbound shipments of these goods from countries like China and Korea.

Importers of these items would now have to seek permission or license from the government for their inbound shipments.

A senior government official said that there are a variety of reasons for imposing these restrictions but the primary is "to ensure that the security of our citizens is fully safeguarded".

The official also said that internet penetration is increasing in the country in a bigger way and in this background Indian citizens need to have an environment and ecosystem, where they are not exposed to machines or instruments which might have security risks.

"Some of the hardware could potentially have security related issues and could com-

promise sensitive and personal data, we have taken into account few of those goods," he added.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in a notification, however, said certain exemptions have been given against these curbs.

"Import of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, and ultra small form factor computers, servers... is 'restricted' with immediate effect," it said.

The official further said that "safety is the top most priority" of the government and the move is in compliance with the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Under the transition provisions of the foreign trade policy (FTP), if the bill of lading and letter of credit has been issued or opened before August 3, that import consignments can be imported.

An importer can apply for a license from August 4. The trader should have to be a regular importer to get a license.

"The idea is not to ban imports but to regulate the inbound shipments of these goods," the official said.

## Brand Gurugram Takes A Hit After Haryana Clashes

Reuters

**GURUGRAM:** Communal clashes in Delhi's neighbour Gurugram this week have worsened religious fault lines in the region and exposed a booming business hub to threats of violence and disruption, authorities and analysts said.

Seven people were killed and over 70 injured in rioting in Nuh and Gurugram districts of Haryana after a Hindu procession was targeted and a mosque attacked in retaliation.

The 48-hour cycle of violence which was put out on Wednesday has brought to the fore Hindu-Muslim tensions brewing in the region since 2015, a year after the BJP came to power in the centre and Haryana.

The lynching of two Muslim men in the region earlier this year by suspected Hindu vigilantes and the failure to nab the main suspect had worsened tensions, with the main suspect saying on social media that he would participate in the procession this week. Ultimately he did not show up, police said.

"It has been shocking to see how distrust between two communities spilled onto the streets," Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij told Reuters.

"Security has been restored... bringing relief and social harmony will take time," Mr Vij said, adding that authorities understand safety



concerns of businesses in Gurugram.

Gurugram, formerly known as Gurgaon, is a city of over 1.5 million people that shares a border with Delhi.

A new urban centre with glitzy high-rises, luxury hotels, malls and gated condominiums, it is home to multinational firms, large Indian corporates and start-ups, with 250 of the Fortune 500 companies having offices here.

Among the multinationals with offices here are Google, American Express, Dell, Samsung, Ernst & Young and Deloitte. Suzuki's main India plant is also located near Gurugram.

Because of the violence, many companies allowed employees to work from home on Tuesday while schools and colleges were shut before resuming classes on Wednesday.

In the past, Gurugram has seen tensions over Muslims holding Friday prayers in public spaces and meat sales

during Hindu festivals, which Hindu groups wanted banned to respect their sentiment.

"Muslim men attacked the Hindu procession and killed many of our people," said Praveen Babbar, a leader of Hindu Yuva Vahini (Hindu Youth Force). "Every action will have not just equal, but sometimes even more brazen reaction," he said.

Nuh Congress MLA Aftab Ahmed blamed local police for not acting fast enough even though he had alerted them about "provocative statements" being made by Hindu leaders.

Haryana Police, however, said they acted swiftly and prevented riots from spreading, and that two of its men were killed in the violence.

Analysts said the violence is worrying for the message it sends to businesses at a time India is seeking more investment under its "Make in India" campaign.

## India's Construction Sector Second Largest Employment Generator: Report

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's construction sector is the second largest employment generator with 71 crore workforce employed currently and the number is set to cross 10 crore by 2030, according to Knight Frank-RICS report.

The output generated from the Indian real estate sector is estimated to grow to USD 1 trillion by 2030 from the existing USD 650 billion, it added.

Real estate consultant Knight Frank India and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) on Thursday released a report 'Skilled Employment in Construction Sector in India' that assesses the growth in this sector emphasising on the existing levels and gaps in skilled employment in the sector.

"Growth in India's real estate and infrastructure sector will generate considerable demand for manpower in the industry. With the advent of technology, the construction sector has also adapted itself to improve productivity, raising the demand for skilled manpower," the report said.

As per the report, India's construction sector is the second largest employment generator and as of 2023, 71 million (71 crore) of



the workforce is estimated to be employed in the construction sector. However, 81 per cent of this workforce is unskilled and only 19 per cent are skilled employees.

Employment in the construction sector is estimated to grow to 100 million to attain economic growth targets, it added.

"Owing to the growing demand for real estate and infrastructure, the demand for skilled employees will continue to arise from developers, construction companies, consulting firms etc whereas the supply of the skilled manpower is to be generated from government initiatives, academic and training institutes," the report said.

As per the estimates of the National Skill Development Council (NSDC), 87 per cent of the overall employees (skilled and unskilled) are absorbed by the real estate sector, whereas 13 per cent are absorbed by the infrastructure sector.

## Parliament Passes Bill To Provide Fixed 50-Year Production Lease For Offshore Minerals

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A bill to provide a fixed 50-year production lease for offshore minerals was passed by Rajya Sabha today amid a walkout by the opposition members over the situation in ethnic violence-hit Manipur.

When the Upper House reassembled for the post-lunch session, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi moved The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 for consideration even as the opposition parties insisted on a discussion on the Manipur situation.

The bill to amend the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 was passed by Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Discussion on the bill continued even after the members of opposition parties, including the Congress, RJD, TMC, AAP, CPI and CPM, staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha for the second time in the day after they were not allowed to raise the Manipur issue.

Members including Sasmit Patra (BJD), Anil Sukhdeorao



Bonde (BJP), M Thambidurai (AIADMK), K Laxman (BJP), V Vijayasai Reddy (YSRCP) and Ramji (BSP) took part in the discussion.

In his reply to the discussion, Joshi sought to address concerns raised by some of the members over the impact of offshore mining on the marine ecosystem and its implications on the livelihood of those dependent on the seas, especially fishermen.

There are so many safeguards through legislations and rules, he said and asserted that "environment legislations will be followed and states and all other stakeholders also will be duly consulted and all laws will be applicable in the offshore areas." "This is not sea-bed mining. It happens in the continental shelf within our

exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the entire world is doing it and only India is not doing it," the minister said.

Before notifying any offshore area for the grant of lease, the ministry will consult many other ministries, including ministries of fisheries, forest, climate change, home and defence along with state governments, he said adding there is no question of violation of any law and the priority remains the protection of marine biodiversity and livelihood of fishermen.

Citing examples of Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Namibia, Joshi said these countries are already doing offshore mining while protecting marine ecosystems and those people who are dependent on the sea.



## J&K Bank MD & CEO Visits DPS Srinagar, Felicitates Toppers

Providing quality education to our young generation is a great service to the nation: Baldev Prakash

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With a common aim to propagate culture of serving people for the betterment of their future, J&K Bank's collaboration with major institutions like Delhi Public School (Srinagar) will reach to new heights in days to come.

This was stated by J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash during a felicitation ceremony at DPS School Srinagar.

The Bank's MD & CEO and Pro Vice-Chairman DPS Vijay Dhar jointly felicitated Madiha Tariq and Fawaz Bandyaj for securing first positions in recently declared CBSE results of class 12th and 10th for session 2022-23 in presence of Bank's General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool and Principal DPS Shafaq Afshan amid a gathering of students, faculty members and bank officials. MD & CEO was invited by the school management to be the chief guest on the occasion.

Highlighting the significance of quality education and financial literacy in equal measure,

MD and CEO highlighted the role of J&K Bank in helping establish educational institutions like DPS Srinagar.

"It fills my heart with pride that J&K Bank - the premier financial institution of Jammu and Kashmir - has initially financed towards the creation of this great space of learning and innovation. Providing quality education to our young generation is a great service to the nation and J&K Bank will continue collaborating with institutions like DPS for upgradation of educational infra-structure. A well-drilled financial literacy campaign is also being carried out to ensure students are made aware about the basics of banking and finance from an early age" he said.

On the occasion, MD & CEO was taken on a guided tour along his team to different facilities of DPS including Library, Sports Arena and Learning Research Centre - specially established for educating and equipping specially-abled children - wherein the visitors interacted with the students and

## Food Industry Impacted By High Commodity Prices: Britannia Ind

Press Trust Of India

**KOLKATA:** FMCG major Britannia Industries Limited said that the food sector in which it operates has been significantly impacted by high commodity prices, rising interest rates and due to the fall out of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The long term effects of these factors continue to be felt extensively, the company said in its annual report for 2022-23.

It said that although commodity prices were volatile and inflation was at unprecedented levels, the post-COVID normalisation of economic activities supported growth throughout 2022-23. During the last fiscal, the major challenge confronting the food industry was managing inflation in the cost of key inputs like wheat, milk, sugar, palm oil and crude oil, the company annual report said.

The foods vertical of Britannia comprise segments like biscuits, cakes, rusks, bread and dairy.

On the outlook for the foods vertical, the company said that



businesses in the country are still optimistic on demand conditions despite apprehensions about global recession.

The inflation trajectory during the coming year will depend on a host of domestic and global factors. The outlook for food prices and rural growth will depend significantly on the climate and adequacy of monsoon rain, it said.

Britannia said that the company's international business weathered the difficult inflationary environment and expanded to new geographies during 2022-23. The company's strategy in its international business is to strengthen brand equity, offer new products, establish and grow local operations in fast emerging markets like contract manufacturing, acquisitions and joint ventures.

## Saudi Extends Cut Of 1 Million Barrel Of Oil A Day Through Sep

Associated Press

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia said Thursday it will extend its unilateral production cut of 1 million barrels of oil a day through the end of September in its effort to boost flagging energy prices.

The Saudi cut of 1 million barrels per day, which began in July, comes as the other OPEC+ producers have agreed to extend earlier production cuts through next year. The kingdom announced the extension in a statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency. The move was widely expected by analysts.



## DGCA Issues 993 Commercial Pilot Licences This Year Jul 24: Govt Data

Press Trust Of India

A total of 993 commercial pilot licences have been issued this year till July 24, the government said on Thursday.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh informed the Lok Sabha that currently, there are 36 Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) operating at 57 bases.

According to data provided as part of a written reply, 993 Commercial Pilot Licences (CPLs) and 407 Airline Transport Pilot Licences (ATPL) have been issued this year till July 24.

In 2022, a total of 1,165 CPLs and 720 ATPLs were issued. An individual is eligible to apply for CPL after completing at least 200 hours of flying and fulfilling other conditions.

Besides, the individual has to clear theory papers and once successful, the CPL is given for a period of five years subject to complying with various requirements.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issues three types of licenses -- CPL, Air Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) and Private Pilot Licence (PPL).

While CPL allows a pilot to start flying as a co-pilot, ATPL permits a pilot to be the commander. PPL is issued for operating private planes.

"The estimated supply of engineers from DGCA-approved AME Training Institutes is around 3,500 per year to cater to the demands of the aviation industry," Singh said.

Singh, in another written reply, said that as on July 28, a total of 8 Indian scheduled operators with 649 aircraft are operating commercial passenger services in the country.

To queries about airfares, he noted that ticket prices are fixed by the airlines keeping in mind the market, demand, seasonality and other market forces.

"Airline ticket prices are determined by the demand and supply theory and are governed

under the competition laws (Competition Act, 2002). Anti-competitive practices are kept in check by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)," he added.

The minister also said DGCA has taken various steps to enhance safety of operations and ensure safe travel of passengers.

These include airlines being directed to increase their engineering capabilities at all airports where they operate to ensure availability of spare and qualified manpower.

Further, the watchdog has increased its spot checks on aircraft of airlines, and has directed carriers to ensure adequate availability of spares.

In a separate written reply, Singh said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is probing 11 accidents and 4 serious incidents.

The minister also said that investigations in progress are regularly reviewed and efforts are made for their timely completion.

## Govt To Develop Model Infrastructure, Special Facilities In Verinag: CS

Observer News Service

**VERINAG:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Thursday said Verinag is an important tourist destination and constant efforts are being made to enhance the destination with modern state of the art tourist infrastructure.

He made these remarks in his virtual address during the concluding ceremony of two-day multi-activity event 'South Kashmir Adventure' organised by Directorate of Tourism Kashmir.

Secretary Tourism and Culture, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Director Tourism, CEO Verinag, renowned artists and locals participated in the event.

Maintaining that tourism promotion is a top priority of the government, Chief Secretary said that Verinag offers scenic beauty at par with other major tourist destinations and all efforts are being taken to tap its full potential.

Chief Secretary said that there are certain things which are lacking but it is the endeavour of the government to ensure that the shortcomings are addressed immediately and all the facilities are available to the tourists. He said that the coming times will be much better for the locals as the youth of the Valley have a vision to move forward.

He said that the serenity and hospitality of the place is mesmerizing and has a potential to attract tourist from all over the world.

Dr Mehta also interacted with the locals and adventure enthusiasts who thanked the government for upscaling the infrastructure and organising adventure and cultural events for the promotion of tourism sector which adds to the economy of the local populace.

Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah in his address said that Jammu and Kashmir government is launching new initiatives

and attractions for tourists to enjoy which can have a positive impact on the local economy.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir has much more to offer than just its natural beauty - it has the potential to become a hub for adventure tourism. He said that activities such as trekking, mountaineering, skiing, river rafting, and paragliding are all examples of adventure tourism and Kashmir has all the necessary ingredients to become a popular destination for adventure tourism as it has some of the highest mountains in the world which offer excellent opportunities for trekking and mountaineering.

Secretary Tourism further said that promoting adventure tourism has several benefits that can help to diversify the tourism industry by attracting a new segment of tourists who are interested in exploring the great outdoors and seeking new challenges.



## Director ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana visits KVK Ganderbal

Appreciated efforts of KVK in carrying out its mandated activities religiously

**Srinagar:** Dr. Parvender Sheoran, Director Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI) Ludhiana visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ganderbal on Thursday. He was accompanied by Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K. At the outset Dr. Ishfaq Abidi, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Ganderbal heartily welcomed Dr. Sheoran on his maiden visit to the KVK. Director ATARI and other officials had a comprehensive visit of the KVK farm and inspected all the units like high density horticulture, crop fields, dairy unit, poultry unit, walnut propagation unit, hi-tech poly-houses, horti-poultry unit and fish pond. On the occasion, the worthy Director ATARI inaugurated the first apple harvest of the season. Later on, he visited the Administrative Block, Farmers Hostel and laboratories of the KVK. This

was followed by a comprehensive Interaction Session with Scientists, Supporting Staff and Field Staff. In his address, Dr. Parvender Sheoran expressed satisfaction about KVK farm activities and appreciated efforts of KVK team under guidance of Director Extension & Senior Scientist & Head Dr. Ishfaq Abidi. He suggested that KVK should replicate Horti-poultry model and other components of IFS at farmers' field. He also stressed on uploading the day-to-day activities on the KVK portal and documentation of activities to improve ranking of the KVK. Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi emphasized the activities of the KVK and its achievements especially with regard to the massive development of the KVK farm over the past one year. Prof. Makhdoomi appreciated the efforts of the KVK team in technology

demonstration and dissemination among the farmers. Dr. Ishfaq Abidi, Senior Scientist KVK Ganderbal thanked the Director ATARI for visiting the Kendra and appraised him regarding the relentless work being done by the KVK in reaching out to nook and corner of the District. He emphasised that currently the KVK focusses on outcome based skill and entrepreneurship development, high density plantation, fodder resource development, nutrition of women & children, organic farming, climate resilient agriculture, drone technology, FPOs and SHGs. Dr. Abidi further appraised Director ATARI regarding the various constraints faced by the KVK team and requested for funds for infrastructure development of residential building and farmers hostel and setting up of mushroom unit, packaging unit and Sheep & Goat Unit.

### Is Art-370 Being

doctrines of the Constitution and held that certain fundamental features such as democracy, secularism, federalism and rule of law cannot be amended by Parliament.

Sibal stuck to his stand that in the absence of a constituent assembly, the provision has acquired a permanent status and the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir says that no bill for modification or abrogation of Article 370 can be moved in the legislative assembly.

"How would you then put into place the constitutional machinery? It cannot be that because there is no constituent assembly, you cannot at all deliberate upon a proposal for abrogation or modification of Article 370," the CJ said.

Sibal said though many people feel that the provision should go there has to be a constitutional way of doing it and that he is not going to tell the other side how to do it.

"You can't introduce a bill in Parliament at 11 am and pass a resolution without anyone knowing about it," the senior lawyer said, asserting the bill for abrogating Article 370 was passed without proper discussion.

He said abrogating the provision is a political process but it should fit within the constitutional scheme.

Article 370 has been titled as "Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir" in Part XXI of the Constitution.

The top court had on Wednesday referred to proviso 3 of Article 370 which says, "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify, provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification."

Many feel since Article 370 itself spoke of the way it can become inoperative, the framers of the Constitution did not intend the provision to be permanent.

Sibal has been arguing that the constituent assembly, which existed for seven years between 1951 and 1957, alone was given the power to recommend modifications to Article 370. Since it ceased to exist after drafting the Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir, the provision acquired a permanent status.

He has said Parliament of India could not have assumed the powers of the non-existent constituent assembly and abrogated Article 370.

The hearing in the matter remained inclusive and will resume on August 8.

On Wednesday, the apex court had asked who can recommend the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir when no constituent assembly exists there.

The top court had asked as to how can a provision (Article 370), which was specifically mentioned as a temporary provision in the Constitution, become permanent after tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly came to an end in 1957.

Several petitions challenging abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh- were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

### PDP Plans Rally

Srinagar on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, for which other like-minded political parties in Jammu and Kashmir are invited to participate," Tramboos said.

"We also want to express ourselves for which we hope that permission will be given to us for a peaceful programme," he added.

Tramboos said the party has sought permission from the district magistrate of Srinagar for the event.

"If permission is not granted, the matter will be taken up by the jurists during the ongoing hearing on Article 370," he said.

Tramboos said the party is working hard within the Constitutional limits for the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A.

"We are happy that the Supreme Court has started regular hearings and we are hopeful of getting justice," he said.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Wednesday commenced hearing a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, a move that had come in for vicious attack by some major opposition parties but earned fulsome praise from those supporting the BJP.

### A Terrorist Has

has to be called a terrorist come what may," he

added.

The LG inaugurated various projects during his visit to Integrated Command and Control Centre at HMT, Zainakote

He said that those hesitating in calling an "atanq-wadi a terrorist" are the people who would never want peace prevail in J&K.

He said peace has started to become a permanent feature in J&K after a long gap. "For the first time, 1.27 crore tourists have visited J&K in the first seven months of 2023. The figure is set to cross 2.25 Crore by the year end.

The LG said that gradually tourism infrastructure is being upgraded everywhere in the UT to provide best facilities to the guests.

He said that J&K was deprived of proper Panchayat raj system for decades together. "The system was set up for the first time in J&K to ensure governance at the grassroots level. I believe time has come when we should have Panchayat polls so that people reap the benefits of governance at their door steps right at their door steps once again," he said.

The LG said that Srinagar is witnessing a major re-vamp and is set to become a major example of development shortly. "Some people who can't digest the development of the city are even making non-issues an issue. Recently, heavy rainfall triggered some water logging and this was highlighted on social media. Roads were made in a way in Srinagar which always resulted in waterlogging during rainfall. It will take some time to address the issue as Srinagar is set to emerge as a model city," he said, adding that he was hopeful to see the ongoing projects," he said.

The LG said that no development would take place unless peace becomes a permanent feature. "I have been saying this from day one," he said, adding that "today youth and people are going home late night while holding guitars and ice-creams in their hands."-(KNO)

### Pays Obeisance

this spiritual heritage place is a testimony of our resolve to ensure "Virasat Bhi Vikas Bhi", Heritage as well as Development," the LG said. The Gurdwara building has been reconstructed; roof and interiors have been redone with improved diverse facilities to the visitors. Sinha was accompanied by Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and senior officers of police and UT administration.

### Lal Chowk's

days European design is being used in the construction of the Clock Tower. We have been told that we will see Paris in Srinagar now," Suhail Shah, vice president Lal Chowk traders association, said. Shah said the traders' hope that the construction will be over by the middle of August.

"We have been given assurance by the SMC Commissioner and CEO Smart City Athar Amir Khan that we will see a new Lal Chowk after August 15," he said.

Sadiya, another city resident, expects the Ghanta Ghar will be another option for the people of the city to hang out after the Polo View market.

"Revamping is good as it will be a change of scene for everyone. Earlier, the Polo View market was renovated and it has become very beautiful and has turned into a tourist hot spot," said Sadiya, upbeat despite the dug up roads.

"It is a bit inconvenient the way the roads have been dug up but it is just a matter of time and it will be sorted. We will be left with a beautiful structure. Kashmir will be on the map for the recreational activities," she said.

Athar Amir Khan, who is also the Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, said Lal Chowk, being a historical place, is now being turned into a sape which can appeal to the youths too.

"It is one of the most prominent and well recognized places in Srinagar. It is part of the central business and hub of commercial activity. We have designed it in such a way, like what did the Polo View market, that it becomes a public space.

"A lot of tourists and locals come and stay here till late evening. Similarly the idea is to turn entire Lal Chowk into a tourist hub, like Dal lake and Nishat," Khan said.

He said the Clock Tower is just one part of the project which also plans to give a facelift to entire Residency Road, Jehangir Chowk, Karan Nagar, and Batamalo areas as part of the central business upgrade.

"We hope to complete the entire project in the next 40 to 45 days," Khan added.

### Affidavit Attested

accompanying the petition has been attested by a Notary and not by the Oath Commissioner as required by the provisions contained in the Writ Proceedings Rules, 1997.

"So, any affidavit attested by any of the aforesaid authorities is legally permissible for its use in the High Court," the court said.

The court also said that it would be in the interests

of administration of justice if incharge of the jails are vested with powers of Oath Commissioners by the High Court so that the affidavits which are intended to be used by the prisoners before the Courts are attested by the said officers.

"Before parting, it would be necessary to record certain observations as regards the difficulties that are being faced by the undertrial and convict prisoners who intend to file cases before the High Court or before other Courts of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh," the court said.

In the cases that are to be filed by the litigants, particularly of civil nature, more often than not, the "petitioners/respondents/applicants/plaintiffs/defendants" are required to sign the pleadings and swear affidavits in support thereof.

"It becomes very difficult for the undertrial/convict prisoners who intend to file such affidavits before different courts to secure the services of a Notary or an Oath Commissioner inside the jail," the court said.

The Bench said that the High Court, in terms of Clause (b) of Section 139 of the Code of Civil Procedure, has power to appoint any officer who can administer oath on affidavit(s).

"It is in exercise of this power that the High Court appoints the Oath Commissioners. It would be in the interests of administration of justice if incharge of the jails are vested with powers of Oath Commissioners by the High Court so that the affidavits which are intended to be used by the prisoners before the Courts are attested by the said officers," the court said, adding, "This would obviate the difficulties that are generally being faced by the prisoners while filing their pleadings/affidavits before different courts, particularly in cases of civil nature."

To overcome such difficulty, Allahabad High Court has, in terms of Proviso to Rule 4 of Chapter IV of the Rules of the said High Court, authorized an officer of jail in the State of Uttar Pradesh to attest an affidavit and the power of Oath Commissioner has been conferred upon such officers, the court noted.

Incorporation of a similar Rule in the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Rules can be considered, the bench said.

"In view of the above, it is directed that a copy of this order be forwarded to the Registrar General of this Court, who may place the same before Hon'ble the Chief Justice for considering the aforesaid aspect of the matter."

### CJ Orders Disposal

in the month of September, 2023 or thereafter, shall be listed after 15th of August, 2023 and be taken up for hearing with the consent of parties/counsels by seeking advancement of date of hearing, wherever needed."

The list of old cases shall be notified to the parties or counsels by the respective Registrar (Judicial) by issuing the appropriate Notifications, it said.

"These old cases shall continue to remain in the cause list, till disposal by the appropriate Bench," the order said, adding, "These old cases shall be placed above other cases in terms of chronology and given priority for disposal."

### J&K Chose India

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Peoples Democratic Party formed a government together. The alliance fell apart in June 2018 and President's rule was imposed.

Subsequently in August 2019, the Centre abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated the state into Union territories - Jammu and Kashmir (with a legislature) and Ladakh.

Abdullah said, "The tragedy of Jammu and Kashmir is that from the time India got independence and two dominions were created, (Pakistan's founder M A) Jinnah thought Kashmir was in his pocket. He didn't realise it's not..."

"Many say Article 370 was a temporary thing.... You must realise it was so because a plebiscite had to decide which dominion we had to go to," the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said.

"You have to realise a Muslim majority state decided to remain in a Hindu majority India. We could have gone to Pakistan, what brought us here was Gandhi and his utterance that this nation is for all," he said, adding that communal division is on the rise in the country.

"Kashmir never asked for independence, we are part of this nation," he said, adding that it has been in turmoil since independence.

"Delhi has played its game and it continues to play its game. It was the same in first prime minister (Jawaharlal) Nehru's time, it is the same today," he said.

Abdullah also said there was a trust deficit with the government.

He also stressed on the need for a dialogue with Pakistan and said, "Whether they agree or not, as long as there is no dialogue with Pakistan infiltrations will continue and many will die.... Any tragedy between India and Pakistan affects Muslims in India in a great manner.... Who are you to decide if I'm Pakistani or Indian."

Addressing the gathering, Yechury said what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir is not only a humanitarian issue but destruction of the India that was created after independence.

"Equality is being assaulted today. You can see what is happening in Manipur," he said, referring to the ethnic violence in the northeastern state.

Referring to the government's claims about normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, Yechury questioned why elections were still not being held there.

"This must be treated as abnormal...elections should be held in J&K immediately," he said.

Former Jammu and Kashmir MLA M Y Tarigami said the Union government took credit for holding panchayat elections after the abrogation of Article 370, but is not holding polls for electing an assembly, even as the delimitation exercise is over.

Talking to PTI on the sidelines of the event, Tarigami also expressed concern over a bill which seeks to add four communities to the list of Scheduled Tribes in the Union territory.

The government should hold talks with tribal groups before taking any decision, he said.

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 26, seeks to add "Gadda Brahmin", "Koli", "Paddari Tribe" and "Pahari Ethnic Group" in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is a specific definition of tribe.... There is strife between the communities already, they should have taken people in confidence ahead of bringing the legislation. They did not do it because they want to create division, not unite people," he said.

He said price rise and inflation remain a major

issue for the people of Jammu and Kashmir as it is for the rest of the country.

"Where is vikas? Inflation is so high, common people are scared of going to market... How many jobs have been given by the government? Same issues are faced by people in Kashmir, they have to survive," the CPI(M) leader said.

Addressing the event, Ladakh politician Sajjad Hussain Kargili highlighted the series of protests going on in Ladakh, which became a Union territory without legislature, and asked how the Centre can take away statehood from any state.

"How can they take away statehood when they can't give statehood... this was totally unconstitutional. Today the people of Ladakh are on streets. Ladakh was the only place in India where there were no protests, now protests are happening every day," he said.

Extending his support to the demand for elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said it is shameful that elections have not been held there for nine years. He also stressed on the need for humanitarian approach in search and cordon operations, and raised concern over the increase in the number of deaths of security personnel.

RJD MP Manoj Jha referred to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and called it a party which is known for "burning bridges", not building them.

"It's not only about Kashmir. They are using it as fodder in north Indian politics. Unless that fodder is challenged it will be difficult," he said.

He also drew parallel with the situation in Manipur and the recent violence in parts of Haryana, and said, "The recipe is different, but the idea is to use polarisation without realising that at the end, elections are not held in crematoriums and burial sites."

Sule and Kanimozhi also mentioned the communal violence in Haryana and the situation in Manipur, and said the situation is worrisome. They extended support to the demand for early conduct of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Prescription Mandatory

those found violating the order will be dealt with seriously as the administration is very serious towards the alarming rise of drug abuse among youngsters.

"Those who haven't yet installed CCTV cameras are once again requested to comply with the directions or else their license will be canceled forthwith. We have extended the time of installing CCTV cameras by three more months," she added.

Besides installing good quality CCTV cameras; Khajuria the chemists have been directed to keep a tab on sale of psychotropic drugs

"The department will later retrieve the data to ascertain whether the drugs have been sold in accordance with the directions issued by the department.

Dr Fazal-e-Rob, senior resident, Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar said the H1 drug abuse has increased manifold among heroin users and that the drug overdose at times leads to their death.

Dr Fazal said the most commonly abused substance among them was cannabis, followed by morphine. He said besides snorting and smoking heroin, those who are into substance abuse, take H1 sedatives containing diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine, cyproheptadine, and promethazine.

"Schedule H1 includes 39 generic drugs like alprazolam, cefixime, cefotaxime, cefpodoxime, cefitibum, cefizoxime and codeine. Their use has increased manifold in Kashmir over the years and that's what prompted the administration to direct pharmacists to install CCTV cameras in their shops," Dr Fazal told Kashmir Observer.

"This way the authorities will be able to curb the rampant abuse of drugs as the easy availability of medicinal drugs used as substitutes to heroin has deteriorated the situation to the alarming level," he added.

### US Backs Direct

that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and will" always be part of the country.

"As we have long said, we support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on issues of concern. That has long been our position." State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters on Wednesday at his daily news conference.

Miller's remarks came two days after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered to hold talks with India to address all serious and outstanding issues.

Bilateral relations between Islamabad and New Delhi have been tense since August 2019 when India changed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

On India's ties with Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that it is not possible for India to have normal relations with the neighbouring country until the policy of cross-border terrorism is abrogated.

"We can't allow terrorism to be normalised; we cannot allow that to become the basis for getting us into discussions with Pakistan. To me it is a fairly common sense proposition," he said in June.

### HC To Hear

to flag the "serious security lapse" to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Malik appeared before the top court bench on July 21 for the CBI's appeal against a September 20, 2022 order of a trial court in Jammu in the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

He was brought to the high-security apex court premises in a prison van escorted by armed security personnel without the court's permission.

Later that week, the Department of Delhi Prisons suspended four officials over Malik's physical appearance before the top court while ordering an inquiry into the lapse.

On May 29, the high court had issued notice to Malik on the NIA's plea seeking death penalty for him in the terror funding case and said, "Let warrants of production be issued against Yasin Malik, before this Court on the next date of hearing. List on 09.08.2023." On May 24, 2022, a trial court here had awarded life imprisonment to Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front chief Malik after holding him guilty for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the IPC.

Malik had pleaded guilty to the charges, including those under the UAPA, and he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Appealing against the sentence, the NIA has emphasised that a terrorist cannot be awarded life sentence only because he has pleaded guilty and chosen not to go through trial.

While seeking enhancement of the sentence to death penalty, the NIA has said if such dreaded terrorists are not given capital punishment on account

of pleading guilty, there would be complete erosion of the sentencing policy and terrorists would have a way out to avoid capital punishment.

A life sentence, the NIA has asserted, is not commensurate with the crime committed by terrorists when the nation and families of soldiers have suffered loss of lives, and that the trial court's conclusion that Malik's crimes did not fall within the category of the "rarest of the rare cases" for grant of death penalty is "ex-facie legally flawed and completely unsustainable".

The agency has emphasised that it has been proved beyond reasonable doubt that Malik spearheaded terrorist activities in the Valley and with the help of dreaded foreign terrorist organisations, had been "masterminding, planning, engineering and executing armed rebellion in the Valley in an attempt to usurp the sovereignty and integrity of a part of India".

"Not giving capital punishment to such dreaded terrorist will result in miscarriage of justice, as, an act of terrorism is not a crime against society but it is a crime against the entire nation; in other words it's an act of external aggression, an act of war and an affront to the sovereignty of nation," the plea has said.

The trial court, which had rejected the NIA's plea for capital punishment, had said the crimes committed by Malik struck at the "heart of the idea of India" and were intended to forcefully secede Jammu and Kashmir from Union of India.

It had, however, noted that the case was not the "rarest of rare", warranting death penalty.

The maximum punishment for such an offence is death penalty.

The life term was awarded for two offences - section 121 (waging war against government of India) of IPC and section 17 (raising funds for terrorist act) of the UAPA.

According to the Supreme Court, life imprisonment means incarceration till the last breath, unless the sentence is commuted by the authorities.

The court had awarded Malik 10-year jail term each under sections 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against the government of India) of IPC and sections 15 (terrorism), 18 (conspiracy for terrorism) and 20 (being member of terror organisation) of UAPA.

### Militant Associate

the detained terrorist associate was previously involved in anti-national activities and, accordingly, was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Butt is facing trial in the case in an NIA court, he added.

Poswal said Butt's current activities were prejudicial to the security of the country and his free movements in the society might create circumstances for the radicalisation of the youth.

Accordingly, he was detained under the PSA and lodged at district jail Kishtwar, the SSP added.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

The police is committed to uphold the rule of law while ensuring that civil liberties are respected, Poswal said.

He said the police force is employing a multi-pronged approach to address the issue of anti-national elements.

He said anti-national activities will not be tolerated at any cost.

### SIA Conducts

over his alleged links across the border. On March 3, seven kilograms of heroin, more than Rs 2 crore in cash and a pistol along with some ammunition were recovered from the house of Lala.

### Govt Official

of Tehsilدار concerned, an ACB spokesperson said Thursday.

The complainant, he said, also stated in his complaint that he has a dispute with his uncles with regard to land.

The complainant, he said, alleged that the government official had been delaying the hearings of the case and when requested to expedite the trial of the case, he demanded a bribe of Rs. 2000 for listing the case.

"The complainant did not want to pay a bribe and instead approached Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Srinagar for taking legal action against the accused public servant as provided under law," the spokesperson said. On receipt of the complaint, he said, a Case FIR No. 14/2023 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted by this Bureau, which laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 2000 from the complainant," he added/ The spokesperson further said that the bribe money was recovered from the accused on spot.

"Further investigation into the case is going on," he added.

### Missing Soldier

(ADGP) of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said in a tweet. Although police did not divulge any details about Wani's missing case earlier, there were fears that he might have been abducted by militants.

### Cabinet Secy

two years. He was given one-year extensions in 2021 and then in August last year.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved extension in service to Gauba, a 1982-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Jharkhand cadre, for a further period of one year beyond 30.08.2023, in relaxation of AIS or All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits or DCRB) Rules, 1958 and rule 56 (d) of the Fundamental Rules, it said.

The rules allow the central government to give extension in service to the cabinet secretary, in the public interest "provided that the total term of the cabinet secretary, who is granted such extensions of service, shall not exceed four years".

The latest extension will allow Gauba to stay in the post during the general elections due early next year.

Gauba is said to be the key architect of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, under which the erstwhile state was bifurc



## Govt Schemes Give Wings To Women Entrepreneurs In Kashmir

84,000 SHGs In J&K, Over Rs 100 Crore Financial Help Given To Women: Mission Director JKRLM

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: Dilshada Bano, 28, from North Kashmir's Bandipora district had never thought that one day she would stand on her own feet and will support her husband in running the house.

She learned tailoring at a local government-run center and started work to earn some extra money for her family. However, the low dividends forced her to quit this job. So she decided to do "something big" that would cover all her expenses.

In 2019, Bano started a dairy farm after her friend informed her about the government's self-help groups (SHGs) scheme.

"My husband accompanied me to the DC office and we completed all the formalities. It was very smooth and the officials were very helpful," Bano told Kashmir Observer.

She received assistance from the Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihood Mission (JK-SRLM) in the form of a revolving fund, community investment fund and bank linkage. Bano got Rs 50,000 and bought her first cow.

"I came to know about the government's Umeed Scheme that helps women to set-up their own ventures. That's how it all started," she said.

Initially, she said, she just started her new venture with just one cow. As the days passed, her hard work took the shape of a milk processing unit producing dairy products like yogurt, milk and cheese.

Bano, a mother of three, not only sold her products in Bandipora, but parts of Sopore and Baramulla in the neighbouring district. In order to boost the business of the local potters, she also chose clay pots instead of plastic packing for her dairy products.

"My friends and neighbors now come to my unit and try to learn the business," says Bano with a smiling face.

The new venture has also helped Bano to raise some assets. With around Rs 10 lakh financial help extended to her, Bano constructed three shops in her native village and also expanded her business.

She has priced 1 kg milk at Rs 45 and yogurt at Rs 50 to Rs 60 as per the size of the pot.

Bano is not the only woman who has scripted her success story after receiving help from the government. There are hundreds and thousands like her who have been benefited by the Union Territory administration launched schemes like Self-Help Group



(SHG) scheme, 'Umeed' scheme, SAATH, Tejaswini livelihood scheme etc.

Traditionally the womenfolk did not own or operate businesses on their own. But that is all now changing. Young women of Kashmir are breaking all the barriers and treading the path of business which otherwise would be a man's domain only.

A number of women in rural areas of Kashmir with the help of the government have started their own business ventures while pushing-up the patriarchy and standing up on their own feet.

The trend of becoming financially independent women is picking-up in Kashmir with many women having become successful woman entrepreneurs.

The woman doing business was seen as a taboo in a place like Kashmir. However, the new generation of young female entrepreneurs are overcoming all the challenges.

In February 2023, over a dozen women in Shahgund village of North Kashmir's Bandipora district manufactured eco-friendly

reusable and affordable sanitary pads thus enhancing their incomes, ensuring better health and hygiene for women in the district.

The unit was started with the support of the JKRLM UMEED

On June 29, 2021, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the priority of the government is to reduce the gap between women and men entrepreneurs, in a systematic manner.

JKSRLM mandate is to reach out to 66% of rural population across the erstwhile 125 blocks. Link them to sustainable livelihood opportunities and nurture them till they come out of poverty and enjoy a decent quality of life.

Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib told Kashmir Observer there are around six lakh women in J&K who have joined the scheme and around over Rs 100 crore have been provided to them to launch their start-ups. At present, there are more than 84,000 Self Help Groups in J&K.

"Women are very excited to be beneficiaries of our schemes. Everyday more and more girls are joining from the rural areas," Chib said.

She, however, said that the department is facing a challenge in informing more and more people about the schemes.

"...and to address this issue, we have started a call center and people can call us on 18002020383 if they are willing to be a beneficiary of our schemes. We will send our team to their home and will help them," Chib said.

She added that JKRLM has now signed a deal with e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Meesho, Flipkart etc.

Mahmoona Akthar, an entrepreneur and beneficiary of UMEED scheme of JKRLM from Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district now takes care of her family of six, including four children and her parents.

In 2020, Akthar lost her husband, a driver by profession in an accident, and there was no one to run her house.

"So I decided to stand on my own feet and do something for my family," Akthar told Kashmir Observer.

Akthar established a small unit of mushroom with the financial assistance of JKRLM. She says she is earning a good amount of money every month. Akthar not only harvests four quintals of mushrooms every year, but also provides jobs to other women in her village.

Mission Director JKRLM urged women to reach out to her team and take advantage of different schemes of the government which have become a hope of financial freedom among rural women.

## Strengthening Grassroots Democracy

# Empowering PRI Institutions in the Last 4 Years

Firdos Ali

In the past four years, significant strides have been made in strengthening grassroots democracy through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. Transparent and fair elections were conducted in 2019-20, resulting in the election of about 33,000 representatives across all tiers of PRIs in 20 districts, covering 4291 panchayats.

To bolster the infrastructure of PRIs, 20 District Development Council (DDC) and 48 Block Development Council (BDC) office buildings are under construction, aiming to provide better facilities and support for local governance.

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building, a massive exercise was undertaken, equating to over 6 lakhs mandays, to empower all PRIs. Around 6,000 Elected Representatives were also sent on exposure visits to other states and prestigious institutes to gain insights into effective governance practices. Furthermore, a plan to send 10,000 more representatives on such visits is underway for the current year.

Empowering PRIs at the local level, the power to grant building permissions in certain areas has been delegated to the panchayats. Additionally, all Panchayats have been e-enabled, streamlining communication and administrative processes.

Recognizing the dedication of elected representatives, monthly honorariums are being provided to representatives from all three



tiers of Panchayati Raj, ensuring financial stability and incentivizing their commitment to public service.

Addressing security concerns, an ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 251 is provided to the next of kin of elected representatives in the event of loss of life due to militancy-related

incidents, safeguarding their families and encouraging their participation.

To facilitate effective planning and implementation, Panchayat Prabhari Officers have been nominated for all 4291 Panchayats, enhancing coordination and support at the grassroots level.

Promoting excellence, 23 Panchayats were awarded at the UT level for their exemplary work, fostering healthy competition and inspiring further progress.

Infrastructure development continues, with more than 2500 Panchayats having Panchayat Ghar, and a plan to construct 500

more during the current year, providing essential community spaces for local governance and activities.

Recognizing the significance of renewable energy, 1131 Gram Panchayats are being solarized, ensuring uninterrupted power supply and internet connectivity, thereby facilitating communication and development.

In line with capacity-building efforts, 1889 Posts of Panchayat Accounts Assistant were created and filled up through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), enhancing financial management and accountability.

Acknowledging the efforts of PRIs, 22 Panchayats received national-level awards since 2018, with an additional 3 Panchayats being recognized this year, highlighting their contributions to the nation.

The successful implementation of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act in 2018 was a crucial step towards decentralization and financial empowerment of PRI institutions across all tiers, fostering local governance and development.

In conclusion, the last four years have witnessed remarkable progress in strengthening grassroots democracy through PRIs. The efforts towards transparency, capacity-building, infrastructure development, and recognition have empowered these institutions to play a pivotal role in local governance, paving the way for inclusive and sustainable development across the nation.



## Govt taking steps to increase organ donation in country: Mansukh Mandaviya

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Over 15,000 organ donations are now made annually in the country as compared to 5,000 in 2013, Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday.

"There cannot be a greater service to humanity than giving life to another person," he said at the 13th Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) ceremony here. "In 2013, around 5,000 people

came forward to donate their organs. Now there are over 15,000 organ donors annually," he said.

He said the government has taken several steps for increasing organ donations in the country and the age limit of 65 years for donating organs has been removed.

The government, he said, is committed to bringing in more policies and reforms to popularise organ donation in the country.

## Nitin Desai's Post-Mortem Report Validates Hanging As Cause Of Death

Press Trust of India

The post-mortem report of the body of acclaimed art director Nitin Desai has confirmed that he died due to hanging, an official said on Thursday.

Desai was found dead on the premises of his N D Studios at Karjat in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Wednesday morning.

The post-mortem report of the body of acclaimed art director Nitin Desai has confirmed that he died due to hanging, an official said on Thursday.

Desai was found dead on the premises of his N D Studios at Karjat in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Wednesday morning.

A post-mortem was conducted on his body by a team of four doctors at the state-run J J hos-



pital in Mumbai on Wednesday night, he said.

As per the post-mortem report, the death was due to hanging, said Somnath Gharge, Raigad superintendent of police.

The body has been kept at the J J hospital and it will be handed over to Desai's family on Friday, he said. Desai's last rites will be performed at N D studios on Friday, he said.

## China Proposes To Limit Children's Smartphone Time To A Maximum Of 2 Hours A Day

Agenceis

Beijing: China's internet watchdog has laid out regulations to curb the amount of time children spend on their smartphones, in the latest blow to firms such as Tencent and ByteDance, which run social media platforms and online games.

The Cyberspace Administration of China on Wednesday published the draft guidelines on its site, stating that minors would not be allowed to use most internet services on mobile devices from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., and that children between the ages of 16 and 18 would only be able to use the internet for two hours a day.

Children between the ages of 8 and 15 would be allowed only an hour a day, while those under 8 would only be allowed 40 minutes.

Only certain services, such as apps or platforms that are deemed suitable to the physical and mental development of minors, will be exempted. The CAC did not specify which internet services would be allowed exemptions.

The restrictions are Beijing's latest efforts to attempt to limit internet addiction, a problem it views as widespread among its youth.

In 2019, Beijing limited children's daily online game time to 90 minutes a day and tightened those restrictions in 2021, allowing children only an hour a day of online game play



on Fridays, weekends and public holidays.

Short-video and online video platforms like Douyin, Bilibili and Kuaishou have offered youth modes that restrict the type of content shown to minors and the length of time they can use the service. Children are also pushed educational content, such as science experiments.

The latest restrictions would impact firms like Tencent, China's largest online game company, and ByteDance, which runs popular short-video platform Douyin. Firms in China are often responsible for enforcing regulations.

"To effectively strengthen the online protection of minors, the CAC has in recent years pushed for the establishment of a youth mode on internet platforms, expanding its coverage, optimising its functions and enriching it with age-appropriate content," the CAC said.

"Since the mode was launched, there has been a positive impact in reducing youth internet addiction and the impact of undesirable information," it added.

The CAC said draft guidelines were open to public feedback until September 2. It did not say when the new rules would be into effect.

## AI Tool GPT-3 Demonstrates Undergraduate-Level Reasoning Abilities

Press Trust of India

Researchers have found GPT-3 to possess reasoning capabilities akin to college undergraduate students. In a study, conducted by researchers at the University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA), the artificial intelligence large language model (LLM) was put to the test, solving complex reasoning problems, which are often used by colleges and universities worldwide for admission decisions.

The UCLA researchers presented GPT-3 with challenging shape prediction tasks and asked it to answer SAT analogy questions, all the while ensuring that the AI had never encountered these specific problems before. To establish a fair comparison, 40 UCLA undergraduate students were also asked to solve the same problems.

In an impressive display of its prowess, GPT-3 achieved a remarkable success rate, accurately solving 80% of the shape prediction problems. This surpassed the average score of just below 60% achieved by the human participants, with some of them obtaining their highest scores. The results have left the research team astounded, highlighting the AI's ability to tackle complex reasoning tasks with exceptional efficiency.

GPT-3's performance in the SAT analogy questions further solidified its prowess, successfully providing answers to challenges that typically measure a person's capacity for logical

thinking and problem-solving. The researchers were fascinated to witness the AI's capability to adapt to new scenarios and display its reasoning abilities on par with college students.

This breakthrough discovery has significant implications for the field of artificial intelligence and education. As GPT-3 continues to prove its mettle in solving complex problems, its potential applications in various industries and academic settings are likely to expand further.

"Surprisingly, not only did GPT-3 do about as well as humans but it made similar mistakes as well," said UCLA psychology professor Hongying Lu, senior author of the study published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour.

In solving SAT analogies, the AI tool was found to perform better than the humans' average score. Analogical reasoning is solving never-encountered problems by comparing them to familiar ones and extending those solutions to the new ones.

The questions asked test-takers to select pairs of words that share the same type of relationships. For example, in the problem "Love" is to "hate" as "rich" is to which word?, the solution would be "poor".

However, in solving analogies based on short stories, the AI did less well than students. These problems involved reading one passage and then identifying a different story that conveyed the same meaning.

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