

## 2 Security Men Among 4 Injured In Grenade Attack

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Four people, including two security personnel, were injured in a grenade blast in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday, officials said.

The explosion took place during a cordon and search operation in the Kokernag area of the south Kashmir district, they said.

The injured -- two security personnel and as many civilians -- have been hospitalised and their condition is stated to be stable, the officials said.

The search operation in the area is underway, they said.

## Arrested Afghani Linked To Al-Badr: Police

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** An Afghan national, who was arrested near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for his alleged links with Pakistan-based terrorists, a police official said on Thursday.

Abdul Wahid with a disability in left leg was taken into custody by the Army from Dabi-Basuni village of Balakote sector while he was trying to sneak into this side from across the border on Monday. He was handed over to police for further legal action the next day.

The official said an FIR under various sections | [More on P10](#)

# Modi Govt Defeats No Confidence Motion In Lok Sabha

KO Web Desk

**New Delhi:** The no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government was defeated in the Lok Sabha on Thursday in the penultimate day of the Monsoon Session.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his long-awaited appearance in Parliament and taunted the Opposition unrelentingly for more than two hours and predicted that the BJP would break all records in next year's general elections.

Replying to the debate on the no-confidence motion in the Lower House, Modi repeatedly took jibes at the opposition saying they were not prepared for the discussion.

"What kind of debate you have done on the no-confidence motion. I am seeing on social media, even your 'darbaris' (courtiers) are disappointed. This is your condition," the prime minister said.

"See the fun of this debate,



**KASHMIR WAS BURNING** In The Fire Of Terrorism, But The Congress Government Did Not Believe The Common Man.

fielding was laid out by opposition, but fours and sixes were hit from here (treasury benches). The opposition is bowling only no-balls in the no-confidence motion," Modi said.

"There are centuries being scored from this side and no-balls being bowled from that side. I would like to tell my opposition friends 'why don't they prepare and come'." he said.

Hitting out at the Congress and its allies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said they trusted Pakistan more whenever a terrorist attack took place but never paid heed to the feelings of the citizens of the country. Responding to a debate on the no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha, Modi said the Congress and its allies have a history of not trusting the inherent strength of India and its armed forces, but they reached out to separatists in Kashmir. "Whom did they believe? Pakistan used to attack our borders, they used to send across terrorists and then Pakistan would shrug off its responsibility, it never took any responsibility. They had such love for Pakistan that they used to believe Pakistan immediately," the prime minister said. "Pakistan used to say terror attacks will take place and talks will also take place. They even went to the extent to believe that if Pakistan is saying, it must be true," he said. Modi said Kashmir was burning in the fire of terrorism, but the Congress | [More on P10](#)

motion against the government. The motion was defeated by a voice vote.

### Oppn stages walkout

Opposition MPs staged a walkout from the Lok Sabha as PM Modi spoke, complaining there was no reference to Manipur in the first 90 minutes of his speech.

Chanting 'Manipur, Manipur' during the prime minister's reply, the Opposition urged him to speak on the ethnic violence in the northeastern state. The parliamentarians of the parties of the opposition bloc INDIA then staged a walkout while the prime minister was speaking.

Members of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) also walked out of the House subsequently.

After the opposition walkout, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said, "We asked the PM to address the nation on Manipur. After one hour and 45 minutes (of his speech), he

had not mentioned the word Manipur. He was making a purely political speech, there were all the old attacks on Congress party and the opposition, insults, but there were no answers to questions raised by the no-confidence motion."

"It was a purely political speech. What was new? What did he tell the nation that we did not know? It lacked the gravitas that we associate with PM, and lacked any substantive reference to the motion of no-confidence," he said.

Gaurav Gogoi, who moved the no-confidence motion in the House, said, "This no-confidence motion had two objectives -- first, people of Manipur should get justice and second, PM Modi should speak on Manipur issue."

"After so long, the nation could see the PM speaking in the House. We forced him to break his silence...but the objective of getting justice for Manipur was not achieved. PM Modi is running away from his responsibility," he said.

## Man Gets 1 Yr Jail, Fine in Cheque Bounce Case

M Ahmad

**Srinagar, Aug 10:** A local court here on Thursday awarded one-year simple imprisonment to a man in a cheque bounce case instituted sixteen years ago.

The court—City Judge Srinagar Fozia Paul—also imposed fine of Rs 4.60 lakhs, double the cheque amount, to the accused, Javid Ahmad Tota of Ellahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar, in connection with the two cheques issued by him to the complainant Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh of Kangan Ganderbal for an amount of Rs 1.30 lakh and one lakh on 16 April 2007 and 30 May 2007 respectively.

In the complaint filed by Sheikh through his counsel advocate Sajad Ahmad Sofi submitted that both the cheques were dishonoured due to "insufficient funds" in the account.

"The accused is sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of one year and is imposed a fine of Rs. 4.60 lacs (Rupees Four Lakh and sixty thousand only), which is double the amount of cheques," the court said.

Further, the court said, the whole amount of fine of Rs. 4.60 lakh shall be paid to the complainant as compensation with 8% simple interest per annum from the date of cheques till the date of judgment of conviction, for the loss suffered by him due to the act of the accused.

"Moreover, in case of default in payment of compensation, the accused shall | [More on P10](#)

## Article-370 Hearing J&K's Surrender Of Sovereignty To India Was 'Absolutely Complete': SC

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court said on Thursday the surrender of Jammu and Kashmir's sovereignty to India was "absolutely complete" with the accession of the former princely state in October 1947, and it was "really difficult" to say that Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state, was permanent in nature.

Observing that once Article 1 of the Constitution says India shall be a Union of States, including Jammu and Kashmir, the transfer of sovereignty was complete in all respects, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said.

Schedule 1 of the Indian Constitution contains the list of states and union territories and their extent and territorial jurisdiction, and Jammu and Kashmir figures there in the list.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, observed it cannot be said that some elements of sovereignty in Jammu and Kashmir were retained post Article 370.

"One thing is very clear that there was no conditional surrender of sovereignty of Jammu

and Kashmir with India. The surrender of sovereignty was absolutely complete. Once sovereignty was absolutely vested in India, the only restraint was on the power of Parliament to enact laws (in respect of the state)," the CJ said.

"We cannot read the post Article 370 Constitution as a document which retains some element of sovereignty in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The argument of the petitioners, who have challenged the abrogation of Article 370 is that under the Instrument of Accession, the government of India was empowered to look after only defence, communication and external affairs.

Senior advocate Zaffar Shah, appearing for the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, one of the petitioners, said constitutionally speaking, there is no power vested in the central government or in the President to make any laws for the erstwhile state.

Shah, who was arguing on the fifth day of hearing in the matter, said unlike Jammu and Kashmir, neither consultation nor concurrence was required for framing of laws with regard to other states.

"The constitutional autonomy of the state is embedded in Article 370," he asserted.

Justice Kaul | [More on P10](#)

## LG Invites Industry Leaders To Invest In J&K Says Kashmir Becoming Mini-Europe; Nightlife Returns After Many Decades

Observer News Service

**New Delhi:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday invited industry leaders to invest in Jammu & Kashmir with an assurance that the new industrial development policy offers greater incentives, support for expansion and opportunity to explore emerging possibilities in tourism, ITes, agriculture & allied sectors.

"MSMEs are the backbone of industrial growth and equitable development. Our commitment to industries, Small and Medium Enterprises and institutional support as well as infrastructural facilities in J&K is showing results," Sinha said after inaugurating the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 here on Thursday.

Highlighting the immense potential of the MSME sector in J&K, the LG said as many as 2.81 lakh MSMEs have been registered on the Udyam portal in the last 3 years, reflecting the sector's remarkable growth trajectory.

He said that districts like Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kulgam, and Bandipora are recording unprecedented growth of micro and small units.

"The number of new enterprises in small towns is



'Kashmir Turning Into Mini-Europe'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that in the last four years a lot has changed as Kashmir is becoming a mini-Europe as night life has returned there after so many decades. Addressing 9th MSME Expo and Summit, the LG said that many people question what has changed in Kashmir in the last four years. "Let me put it on record that Kashmir is becoming a mini-Europe. The night life has returned to a place where people | [More on P10](#)

growing faster and realizing the dreams of new entrepreneurs," he added.

The LG underscored the important role of Small and Medium Enterprises in skilling of youth, promotion of One District One Product (ODOP) and handicraft and handloom sector in the UT.

"Micro & Small enterprises have also become a powerful

medium for socio-economic change for women entrepreneurs. Today, more than 74,000 SMEs are being run by women in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Extending an invitation to the industry leaders and the potential investors to invest in J&K, Sinha said that the new industrial development policy offers greater | [More on P10](#)

## Conjunctivitis Cases On Rise In Baramulla, Srinagar Health Authorities Issue Advisory, Urges People To Maintain Hygiene

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** The health department in Jammu and Kashmir have urged people to take precautions as Conjunctivitis, a highly contagious eye condition, is witnessing a gradual surge in twin districts of the Valley, including Baramulla and Srinagar.

Conjunctivitis, also known as the 'pink eye' or eye flu, has occurred at a time when J&K is grappling with increasing instances of dengue fever, a mosquito-borne tropical disease.

So far, over 15 positive cases of pink eye have been confirmed in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, while a few cases have



also been reported in Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K.

Health experts said the people with weak immune systems become easy targets of conjunctivitis, which spreads rapidly if precautions are not taken well in time. The most common causes of conjunctivitis, they said, are viruses and bacteria, but allergies, ultraviolet | [More on P10](#)

## J&K To Seek Details Of Missing Women From MHA

Auqib Javeed

**Srinagar:** The Union Territory administration is likely to start an investigation to know the whereabouts of over 10,000 women, who have gone missing from Jammu and Kashmir in just three years.

The shocking revelation about 9,765 missing women from J&K was made by the Minister of State (MoS) Home Ajay Mishra in Rajya Sabha last month. Mishra informed the house that from 2019-2021, there were 1148 cases of missing girls below the age of 18 and 8,617 women aged above 18 who have disappeared.

While giving yearly data, the MoS Home stated that 355 girls and 2,738 women went missing in the year 2019, followed by 350 girls and 2,701 women in 2020 and 443 girls and 3,178 women in 2021.

Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary to Government's Social Welfare Department told Kashmir Observer that she will seek details of missing women from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and take up the matter further.

"We will be working on it, in coordination with Home (MHA). We will ask them to share the details and we will | [More on P10](#)

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

#### Barman Chargesheeted In Fake DOB Case

The Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday filed a chargesheet against an employee of Royal Spring Golf Course (RSGC) for submitting a fake date of birth certificate at the time of appointment. The chargesheet was filed by the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) against Mohammad Sidiq Qazi for his alleged involvement in commission of offences punishable under Sections 420, 468 & 471 of RPC, an official spokesperson said. Giving details of the case, he said, | [More on P10](#)

#### Man Arrested For Duping Job Aspirants

The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested a man who was on the run for the last nine years after he was booked for duping people on the pretext of arranging government jobs, an official said. Bilal Ahmad Handoo alias "Doctor Sahib", a resident of Bemina locality in Srinagar, was arrested by the special team of economic offences wing of the Crime Branch Jammu, a spokesperson of the agency said. He said a case under | [More on P10](#)

#### Man Injured In Bear Attack

A middle-aged man was attacked and injured on Thursday by a black bear in Lolab Valley of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. 50-year-old Mohammad Yousuf Mir was attacked by a female bear in his native Shranth village of Khurhama on Thursday morning, reports said. The injured man was removed by the villagers to a nearby health facility for immediate medical assistance. Meanwhile, the Wildlife Department has launched an operation to tranquilize the roaming | [More on P10](#)

#### Six Terrorist Associates Arrested: Police

Six Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist associates have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla and Budgam districts, officials said on Thursday. They said a terror module was unearthed in the Uri area of Baramulla in north Kashmir and three terrorist associates of LeT involved in running the module were arrested. Acting on a tip off, security forces in a joint patrol apprehended one suspected person whose search led to recovery of | [More on P10](#)

#### IAF Rescues 5 UTRF Men In Leh

Five personnel of the Union Territory Disaster Relief Force were rescued in a daring operation by the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Markha Valley in Ladakh, Army said on Thursday. The rescue operation was launched by the IAF on the request of the Ladakh administration following information that a group of UTRF personnel were trapped in the high altitude region, officials said. "Daring rescue operation by IAF 114 HU (helicopter unit). Five personnel of UT Disaster Relief | [More on P10](#)

#### 3 Absent Teachers Suspended In Karnah

Three government teachers in remote Tangdar zone of Kupwara district were placed under suspension on Thursday over unauthorised absence from their duties. Government Boys Middle School in Gomal, within the Tangdar zone of Kupwara district, have been suspended due to their unauthorised absence from their duties. An official told a local news agency KNT that the action was taken after a surprise inspection was carried out by a checking squad led by Tehsildar Karnah, aimed | [More on P10](#)



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# Vaccine 'Accessory' Found To Stop Covid Infection In The Nasal Tract

Press Trust Of India

**A** nasal vaccine adjuvant, or a substance added to nasal vaccines to trigger a stronger immune response, was found to stop COVID-19 infection in both young and old mice.

Several current vaccines contain adjuvants, which boost the effectiveness of a vaccine.

While vaccines are known to offer protection against serious illness and death, vaccines can be improved in their ability to stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2 at the point of entry in the upper respiratory tract, the research led by the University of Michigan (U-M) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, US, said.

Their vaccine protocol combines a nanoemulsion, similar to a tiny droplet of oil and water, and an RNA-based

molecule, which is the adjuvant, recognised by the immune system.

The RNA adjuvant triggers antiviral pathways inside the cell while the nanoemulsion carries it into the cell, the study published in the journal NPJ Vaccines said.

This helps prevent the adjuvant from being cleared too quickly from inside the nasal passages, along with activating immune pathways complementary to the one triggered by the RNA adjuvant, it said.

Testing the combined vaccine, including the adjuvant, the researchers detected an enhanced antibody and memory T cell response in both young and old mice, including in the mucus-secreting membrane lining of the upper airway where the virus starts to proliferate.

"It's very hard to induce a strong immune response with intranasal vaccines containing just the protein or in-

activated virus alone because your mucosal sites will see many things during the day or over a lifetime and are to some extent 'trained' not to overreact.

"So, you want to overcome that barrier through the use of adjuvants while balancing safety," said Michael Schotsaert, co-corresponding author of the study and an assistant professor of microbiology at Icahn Mount Sinai.

Further, the nanoemulsion can inactivate viruses on its own, the researchers said.

"This means you could mix live virus with the nanoemulsion and it would inactivate it without having to use harsher chemical methods, better preserving the conformation of the viral proteins that the immune system sees, potentially leading to better quality immune responses," said Pamela Wong, a research assistant professor in the U-M Medical School.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**

**Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/150-2023-24-Sr.DEN-C-FZR** acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date **30.08.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Two packet System	07.08.2023	16.08.2023	30.08.2023

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1	150-2023-24-Sr.DEN-C-FZR	Manufacturing and Supplying of 1,20,000 cum 65 mm gauge stone ballast (Mechanically broken) duly stacked and loading into Railway Wagons/Hoppers in quarry siding in Sub Depot-I at Madhopur Punjab on PTK-JAT section under ADEN/PTK	111804000	90 Days	18 Months

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### Public Notice

I have lost my passport bearing no: L1913975 Somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the 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.

Gh Ahmad Chopan  
 S/o Mohd Shaban Chopan  
 R/o Durapora Shopian fko

### In The Court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pampore.

Case No.25 of 2023  
 Date of Institution: 22/07/2023

Danish Aziz S/o Abdul Aziz Sheikh Through his father namely Abdul Aziz Sheikh Resident of: Sathpokhran, Khrew, Pampore (Applicant)

VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths  
 Block Development Officer Pampore (Non-Applicant)

In the matter of:  
 Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.

**CORAM: Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D.No. JK00208**

**NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC**

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant through his father Abdul Aziz Sheikh in this court seeking direction to the non-applicant for Registration of Date of Birth.

Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Registration of Date of Birth of Applicants (who has born on 03-05-2006 at Sathpokhran, Khrew, Pampore) to the non-applicant he/she/they shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objections will be entertained and matter will be given up for disposal in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Court today 08-08-2023

No: 37/JMIC/Pampore dated: 08-08-2023 fko (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray) U.I.D.No JK00208 Munsiff/JMIC Pampore.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**

**Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/151-2023-24-ADEN-LDH, 152-2023-24-ADEN-LDH, 153-2023-24-ADEN-LDH, 154-2023-24-ADEN-II-FZR & 155-2023-24-ADEN-II-FZR** acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date-31.08.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
08.08.2023	17.08.2023	31.08.2023

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1	151-2023-24-ADEN-LDH	Misc Works in connection with the provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Phagwara Railway station on LDH-JUC section in c/w ABSS under ADEN-LDH	4,76,18,318.33	60 Days	12 Months
2	152-2023-24-ADEN-LDH	Misc Works in connection with the provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Phullaur Railway station on LDH-JUC section in c/w ABSS under ADEN-LDH	4,44,13,715.15	60 Days	12 Months
3	153-2023-24-ADEN-LDH	Misc Works in connection with the provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Dhandan Kalam Railway station on LDH-JUC section in c/w ABSS under ADEN-LDH	2,27,13,819.89	60 Days	12 Months
4	154-2023-24-ADEN-II-FZR	Misc Works in connection with the provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Fazilka Railway station on FZP-FKA section in c/w ABSS under ADEN-II-FZR	2,52,62,147.76	60 Days	12 Months
5	155-2023-24-ADEN-II-FZR	Misc Works in connection with the provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Kapurthala Railway station on JUC-FZR section in c/w ABSS under ADEN-II-FZR	4,61,01,787.94	60 Days	12 Months

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(Government Of Union Territory Of Jammu & Kashmir)  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Constr. Div. No. 1st Sgr**

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
 NIT No.\_30 /e-tendering /CD-I/2023-24/5945-61\_Dt\_09-08-2023

For and on behalf of the L. Governor of (UT), Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Project Authority	Ref. to Auth./A.A Ref. to T.S	Major Head of Account
1.	Face lifting of Hospital including allied building at Govt. Dental College and Hospital Srinagar.	86,33,000/-	1600/-	1,72,660/-	60 days	AAY	Govt. Dental College & Hospital Srinagar	233-GDC of 2023 S/E PWD (R&B) Sgr-dtd.24-06-2023 Bud/240 of 2023-24 dtd.15-07-2023	4210-Med
2.	Repair / Renovation of all the washrooms along with additional bathrooms in Block IV of Govt. Dental College / Hospital Srinagar.	31,82,000/-	1100/-	63,640/-	45 days	BEE & AAY	Govt. Dental College & Hospital Srinagar	246-GDC of 2023 EE/CD-I/TS/14/2023-dtd.11-07-2023 24 dtd.24-07-2023	4210-Med
3.	Establishment of skill lab at Govt. Medical College Srinagar. (Balance work)	25,10,000/-	1100/-	50,200/-	30 days	BEE/AAY	Govt. Medical College Srinagar	11-MCS of 2022 EE/CD-I/TS/16/2023-24 dtd.31-07-2023	4210-Med
4.	Renovation cum extension of Hostel Mess / Kitchen in Girls Hostel GDCBH Srinagar.	16,87,000/-	800/-	33,740/-	25 days	CEE, BEE	Govt. Dental College & Hospital Srinagar	220-GDC of 2023 EE/CD-I/TS/15/2023-dtd.14-06-2023 24 dtd.24-07-2023	4210-Med.

Position of Funds:- Available.

S.No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-08-2023
1. <td>Period of downloading of bidding documents <td>From 10.08.2023 10:00 A.M</td> </td>	Period of downloading of bidding documents <td>From 10.08.2023 10:00 A.M</td>	From 10.08.2023 10:00 A.M
2. <td>Bid submission Start Date <td>10.08.2023 from 10:30 AM</td> </td>	Bid submission Start Date <td>10.08.2023 from 10:30 AM</td>	10.08.2023 from 10:30 AM
3. <td>Bid Submission End Date <td>16.08.2023 upto 4.00 P.M</td> </td>	Bid Submission End Date <td>16.08.2023 upto 4.00 P.M</td>	16.08.2023 upto 4.00 P.M
4. <td>Date &amp; time of opening of Bids (Online) <td>17.08.2023 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar. (to be notified after bid evaluation is completed).</td> </td>	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) <td>17.08.2023 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar. (to be notified after bid evaluation is completed).</td>	17.08.2023 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar. (to be notified after bid evaluation is completed).

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy.

Any short fall found in the soft copy will render the Bid rejected.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM.No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared is Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
- The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 days after opening of Bids which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. This will replace the EMD @ 2% of the Advertised cost uploaded by the Bidder.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The earnest money may be forfeited if:-
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.
- No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-
  - Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business.
  - Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration with return clearance certificate (Form GST-3B) for the month of June-2023 or latest or Quarter (April- June-2023-24).
  - Scanned copy of Enlistment/Regd. Certificate with current Renewal Certificate. (Only digitally issued and renewed contractor registration cards through [jkpwdoms.jk.gov.in](http://jkpwdoms.jk.gov.in) shall be accepted for contractors registered with PW(R&B) department. However, contractor's registered with other departments must also have online registration on [jkpwdoms.jk.gov.in](http://jkpwdoms.jk.gov.in) in light of circular No. GDAT/PS/DR/7172456/196 dtd.24-05-2023 issued by J&K Finance department.
  - Scanned copy of PAN card. (as reflected in GST Regd./GST Form-3B).
  - All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (Tender inviting authority).
  - Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) Pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (Tender Inviting Authority).
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- Unbalanced Bid:- In case of Unbalanced Bid, the successful bidder L-1 shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before award of contract & the following scale shall apply there to:-
 

S.No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz-a-viz Adv. Cost	Additional Performance Security to be deposited on quoted bid by L-1
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5	>30% below	20%
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- Non attending will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents cost in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document(s) which has / have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The contractor shall procure the Key Construction Material of his own and specifications prescribed to be certified by the Engineer incharge.

No.EE/CD-I/NIT/5945-61  
 DIPP-6792/23 DATED.10-08-2023.

sd./  
 Executive Engineer,  
 (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st  
 Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and DOB has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card as Shameema Kifayat while my correct name is Shamima Hassan and Correct DOB is 10/09/1979 which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shameema Hassan bmg

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My particulars in my J&K Bank account has been wrongly written as Bintul Huda D/o Mohd Ibrahim While my the correct particulars are Bintul Huda W/o Sajad Hussain Dar R/o Mirgund Checki Tilwanpora Srinagar 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 J&K Bank Branch office Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bintul Huda W/o Sajad Hussain Dar bmg  
 R/o Mirgund Checki Tilwanpora Srinagar.

### Before The Hon"BLE Court Of Principal District And Sessions Judge At Srinagar

**From the office of :-**  
 Adv faizan ul haq mattoo  
 Adv Imtiaz Aziz baigh  
 Adv Manzoor Sadiq ganie  
 Adv Sirnawaz thakur

IN THE CASE OF :-  
 Abdul Khaliq Buland S/o GHULAM Ahmad Buland  
 R/o Firdous abad sector B lane no 15 Batamaloo Srinagar .  
 V/S  
 Public at large

IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat petition in terms of section 14B A cpc.

The caveat has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveators may file an application /case /revision or any other proceedings before this hon'ble court on the ground of distorted facts /misrepresentation and cooked up story , therefore may succeed in obtaining some relief / order at their back /ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators may suffer an irreparable loss and injury which can't be compensated by any means later on . Therefore it would be proper to put caveators on notice so that an opportunity of being heard is given to the caveators before passing any such relief / order .

Hence this Caveat application .

NJ

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

In the case of  
 Shabir Ahmad Sofi F/o Mohammad Haseeb R/o Chewa (Applicant )

VS

Registrar of Births & Deaths BDO Hajin Non-Applicant

in the matter of : Registration of date of Birth/ date of Death

Present MS. Bazila Bashir JO CODE. JK00262  
 Publication for the General Public

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

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the day 09-08-2023

fko Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Sumbal Sonawari

### از نیابت پھالان

مضمون :- درخواست شہید بیگم زہیرہ بیگم شائق احمد میر ساکت پھالان تحصیل چٹن بمراد جرائی ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ

اشہتیار ہر خاص و عام

ماملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست نمائش ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پیواری ملتے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا شہر ہومرور 15-04-2023 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے جس کی تصدیق ایجوکیٹو آفسر نے پہلی چٹن نے کی ہے متوفی کا نام کا کرم تھا جس کا رجسٹرڈ نمبر JK011305316 تھا۔ متوفی کا کنیڈ بڈل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

مسما شہید بیگم زہیرہ بیگم شائق احمد میر 39 سال گھریلو کام بیوہ متوفی ہزار مشتاق ولد مشتاق احمد میر 13 سال ذریعہ تعلیم پیر متوفی خوشبو شائق دختر مشتاق احمد میر 11 سال ذریعہ تعلیم دختر متوفی

کہ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عارض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اجناسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ عراض و دوائے حد کو فوری اداقت کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے سے معاف کوئی مندرجہ عراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکو

نائب تحصیلدار

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

In the case of  
 Shabir Ahmad Sofi F/o Sahiba Shabir R/o Chewa (Applicant )

VS

Registrar of Births & Deaths BDO Hajin Non-Applicant

in the matter of : Registration of date of Birth/ date of Death

Present MS. Bazila Bashir JO CODE. JK00262  
 Publication for the General Public

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

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the day 09-08-2023

fko Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Sumbal Sonawari

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My particulars in my service records has been wrongly written as Parvaz Ahmad Mir S/O Gh Hussain Mir R/O Iskander Beerwah Budgam While my the correct particulars as per school records are Parvaz Ahmed Mir S/O Gh Hussain Mir R/O Iskander Pora Tehsil Beerwah 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 Commandant IRP 9th BN Parhaspora Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Parvaz Ahmed Mir S/O Gh Hussain Mir bmg  
 R/O Iskander Pora Tehsil Beerwah

## Comprehensive Security Measures Put In Place In Srinagar: IG CRPF

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Ajay Kumar Yadav Thursday said that comprehensive measures have been put in place for smooth conduct of Independence Day celebrations across Kashmir Valley.

He said that special checkpoints have been strategically positioned in Srinagar and surrounding areas to maintain a peaceful environment.

Speaking during a medical camp organized by CRPF in the Maisuma area of Srinagar, Yadav said they are fully prepared for a peaceful Independence Day on August 15th throughout Kashmir. He emphasized that

a well-structured deployment strategy is in place, encompassing random inspections and other security measures.

"Fresh checkpoints have been established in various parts of the city and beyond. Our officers are actively monitoring the situation in the field. Regular night inspections and patrols are being conducted to preserve peace," he added.

Yadav assured that the CRPF is equipped to handle any challenges which may arise. He also highlighted that the medical camp offers complimentary medical care and treatment, and if required, the CRPF is prepared to facilitate further specialized treatments for patients.

## DC Srinagar Flags Off Retrofitted High End Enforcement Vehicles

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad in presence of Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari flagged off enforcement vehicles from premises of State Motor Garages here on Thursday to strengthen the road safety measures besides to help in smooth traffic flow.

Director State Motor Garages, Tahir Malik, ARTOs of all the Districts of Kashmir division and other concerned were also part of the flag off ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner hailed the initiative of RTO, Kashmir for making availability of 10 Mahindra Scorpio and 24 retrofitted high end motorcycles with modern technology features to be deployed with Traffic Police.

While interacting with the ARTOs at the occasion, the DC stressed them

to ensure optimum use of these retrofitted vehicles and emphasized upon them to make use of vehicles on such stretches where traffic jams occur often.

The DC also hoped that the vehicles will prove helpful in redressing the traffic issues and in better traffic management. He said that it is an effort to empower Transport Offices to ensure quick and better response in regulating vehicular movement and maintaining traffic discipline.

The DC further stressed on conducting awareness workshops in educational institutions, bus yards and other places to sensitize students, general public, transporters and other stockholders. He said such programs will help in streamlining the traffic system and develop the habit of following traffic rules, besides overcoming the rising accidents to save precious lives.

## 76th I-Day: Tricolour Hoisted Atop Iconic Ghanta Ghar In Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A Tricolour was hoisted on the newly-renovated iconic Ghanta Ghar here on Thursday, as the city is preparing for the Independence Day celebrations, officials said.

The famous clock tower in the heart of the city was renovated recently under the Srinagar Smart City Project.

The 'Tiranga' was hoisted atop the clock tower on Thursday morning to celebrate the country's 76th Independence Day, the officials said.

Speaking to PTI, Athar Amir Khan, chief executive officer (CEO) of the Srinagar Smart City Project, said the hoisting of the national flag was a historic moment for the city.

"Ghanta Ghar and Lal Chowk Srinagar are very iconic places which are being decorated by Tiranga under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign," Khan said.

Several places across the city and the Union Territory are being decorated as people are celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by taking out Tiranga rallies, he added.

Asked about the developmental works underway for several months in the Lal Chowk area, the commercial hub of the city, Khan said the project is in its final stage and will be inaugurated before Independence Day.

"We have almost finished the work at Lal Chowk; it is a matter of four-five days more. The finishing touches, which include installation, light fittings, etc. are being done. We will finish the entire work before August 15 and it will be inaugurated before that," he said.



PICTURE: Abid Bhat/KO

- 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**  
23 Muharram  
1445

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4:16
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:26
ISHA	8:55

## This Day In History

- 1998 - Palestine Liberation Organisation and Palestinian National Authority president, Yasser Arafat, arrives in Cape Town on his first state visit to South Africa at the invitation of President Nelson Mandela
- 2003 - Jemaah Islamiyah leader Riduan Isamuddin, better known as Hambali, is arrested in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2003 - A heat wave in Paris results in temperatures rising to 112°F (44°C), leaving about 144 people dead.
- 2003 - NATO takes over command of the peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, marking its first major operation outside Europe in its 54-year-history.
- 2012 - 153 people are killed and 1300 injured in Tabriz and Ahar, Iran after two earthquakes of up to 6.4 magnitude
- 2012 - 13 people are killed and 15 injured by a lightning strike at a Mosque in Bangladesh
- 2013 - 22 people are killed by flash floods in Kabul, Pakistan
- 2015 - Largest ever outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in New York - 12 dead, with over 100 cases in the South Bronx
- 2015 - Japan's Sendai Nuclear Power Plant restarts the first nuclear reactor since the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster
- 2016 - A Greenland shark declared oldest vertebrate animal in the world at 392 years by international team of scientists

## From KO Archives

Azad's Move Against Corruption

## Politicians Come Under SVO Scanner

Srinagar- After getting the go ahead from the chief minister, the state vigilance organization (SVO) has formally initiated moves to gather details about the assets of Valley politicians. The SVO is planning to put its plan into action very soon.

During a departmental conference of the SVO, the chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad had indicated that the organisation could extend its reach to politicians, and later it got the formal nod.

The SVO is learnt to have begun compiling details of the incomes of the state's politicians, political functionaries and workers with a view to determine their movable and immovable property.

Sources said that the SVO would try to gather information about the property of these politicians before and after they assumed public office.

The SVO has formulated several teams and put them to work under cover. The teams will gather data about the incomes of politicians holding office in government departments and on the basis of this record the SVO will tighten the ring around wrongdoers.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a top officer of the SVO said that though the organization had intended to lay its hands on politicians as well, it was waiting for the green signal from the government.

"And that finally came from the chief minister," he said.

According to reports, several politicians are feeling the ground slipping beneath their feet at the chief minister's decision, and have begun to transfer their property to other names. They have begun the process of shifting valuables and luxurious items to the homes of their relatives.

(Kashmir Observer, August 11, 2007)

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

email : xenphepulwama@gmail.com GIST

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT S. No. 16/PHEP of 2023-24

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders in single cover system are invited on overall percentage rate basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works :-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	EMD (in )	Cost of TD (in )	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Programme
1	Providing water supply to Sheep Multipurpose Centre at Nawa	1.73	3460	200	25 days	DEE	(Deposit Contribution)

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below :-

S. No.	Description	Date
1	Publishing date of NIT	10 08 2023 1600 Hrs
2	Download start date	10 08 2023 1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	10 08 2023 1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	24 08 2023 1600 Hrs
5	Bid opening date	26 08 2023 1400 Hrs.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".

To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.

Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4&5) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)

Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:

i) Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR

ii) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.

iii) Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.

iv) Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.

Note: Bidders have to upload only required documents as mentioned above, uploading bogus, useless or unnecessary documents will result in rejection of your tender.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, EMD and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama by hand or by speed/registered post before processing of allotment. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least two years.

No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

The bid shall be deposit in electronic format only on the web site of (jktenders.gov.in)

The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee to be constituted by the competent authority.

No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.

Videography record through the professional person before, during & after execution and progress reports in soft copies and hard copies for works register & office record. Taking levels by Auto Level / ETS before and after execution. Preparation of work abstract of executed work, preparation of Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated in tender document elsewhere is for the General guidance only and may vary as a result of more detailed construction drawings and as per site requirements.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder

NO: PHEP/2238-48  
DIPK-6853/23 Dated:- 10-08-2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division,  
Pulwama

### From the office of Advocate Mohammad Rafiq Bhat

In the case of Nisar Ahmad Munshi S/o Ghulam Mohammad R/o Umarhair Buchpora sgr

(Caveator)

VS  
PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

nj Sd/advocate

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.  
Central Stationery Department,  
Nowgam Bypass Srinagar,  
J&K - 190001

On-Line Request for Quotes (e-RFQ)  
for  
Printing & Supply of  
Cash Balance Report Books

RFQ Notice along with Complete RFQ document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpurchase.com> w.e.f. AUGUST 11, 2023, 16.00 Hrs. RFQ Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). Last date for submission of Bids is Aug 18, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.

e-RFQ Ref: JKB/CSD/CBRB/2023-753

Dated: 09-08-2023

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928;  
E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2528/23 dated: 10-08-2023

## 17 Rohingya Refugees Die In Boat Tragedy Off Myanmar



Agencies

**YANGON:** At least 17 people drowned when a boat carrying Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar's Rakhine state broke up at sea this week, rescuers said Thursday.

Thousands of Rohingya risk their lives each year making perilous sea journeys from camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar to try to reach Muslim-majority Malaysia and Indonesia.

Byar La, a rescuer from the Shwe Yaung Metta Foundation in the town of Sittwe, said more than 50 people were thought to be on the boat heading for Malaysia when it got into trouble in heavy seas on Sunday night.

"We found 17 dead bodies... as of yesterday," he told AFP. "We found eight men alive. Police have taken them for questioning."

Rescuers are still trying to find those unaccounted for, he said, although the exact number on board is not known.

Rakhine in Buddhist-majority Myanmar is home to around 600,000 Rohingya Muslims, who are considered migrants from Bangladesh and are denied citizenship and freedom of movement.

Deadly sea crossings More than 3,500 Rohingya in 39 vessels attempted crossings of the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal in 2022, up from 700 the previous year, according to the United Nations refugee agency's January data.

At least 348 Rohingya died or went missing at sea last year,

the agency said, calling for a regional response to stop further drownings.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says calls for maritime authorities in the region "to rescue and disembark people in distress have gone unheeded with many boats adrift for weeks".

Amnesty International likens the living conditions of Rohingya people in Rakhine state to "apartheid".

A Myanmar military crackdown in 2017 forced some 750,000 Rohingya to flee Rakhine for Bangladesh following widespread accounts of murder, arson and rape.

Myanmar is facing genocide accusations at the United Nations' top court following the mass exodus.

Bangladesh and Myanmar have discussed efforts to begin repatriating Rohingya refugees to their homeland.

A top US rights envoy in Bangladesh said in July conditions remain unsafe for the return of ethnic Rohingya refugees to Myanmar.

Funding cuts forced the United Nations food agency to cut rations to Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh twice this year.

A cyclone ravaged Rakhine in May and the military junta has blocked international efforts to deliver aid.

Myanmar has been in chaos since Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government was toppled in a military coup in February 2021, ending its brief period of democracy.

## US Warned Pak Of Isolation If Imran Khan Wasn't Removed: Report

Agencies

**WASHINGTON DC:** The US State Department in a meeting on March 7, 2022 encouraged the Pakistani government to remove Imran Khan as the country's Prime Minister over his neutrality in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. US-based news outlet The Intercept reported citing a classified Pakistani government document.

The meeting between the Pakistani ambassador to the US and two US State Department officials has been a matter of intense scrutiny, controversy, and speculation in Pakistan over the past year and a half, as the former Pakistani PM and his military and civilian opponents struggled for power.

The political struggle further escalated on August 5 when Khan was sentenced to three years in prison on corruption charges, according to The Intercept report. However, Khan's supporters have denied the charges, terming them baseless. The decision announced by the court also blocks Khan from contesting polls expected in Pakistan later this year.

One month after the meeting with US officials was revealed in the Pakistan government's document, a no-confidence vote was held in Parliament, resulting in Khan's ouster from power. The vote in the Pakistani parliament was believed to have the support of Pakistan's army.

The vote is believed to have been organised with the backing of Pakistan's power-



ful military. Since his ouster, Khan and his supporters have been involved in a struggle with the army and its civilian allies, whom the former Pakistan PM engineered his removal from power at the request of the US.

In March last year, Pakistan's then-Prime Minister Imran Kha raised "foreign conspiracy" charge.

Addressing the nation amid his coalition government seemingly losing the majority after losing the support of some allies, Khan said a foreign power sent a message that he needs "to be removed" or Pakistan will face consequences.

"A foreign nation sent a message to us (Pakistan) that Imran Khan needs to be removed else Pakistan will suffer consequences," he said. Referring to "foreign conspiracy letter," he said its language "was threatening and arrogant".

On March 27, Khan had waved the "letter" at a public rally saying a foreign conspiracy was afoot to oust him. He had sought to link the opposition's no-confidence motion with a "foreign-funded" move to topple his government.

The text of the Pakistani

cable, known as "cypher", produced from the meeting by the ambassador and transmitted to Pakistan has revealed the methods used by the US State Department in its push against Khan, promising warmer ties with Islamabad if Khan was removed, and isolation if he was not, The Intercept reported.

The document, titled "Secret", includes an account of the meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu and Asad Majeed Khan, who was then-Pakistan's ambassador to the US. An anonymous source in the Pakistani military has provided the document to The Intercept.

The cable includes the carrots and sticks used by the US State Department in its push against then-Pakistan PM Imran Khan. The dynamics of the Pakistan-US ties mentioned in the cable were subsequently borne out by events, according to The Intercept report. In the cable, the US has raised objections to the foreign policy of Imran Khan over the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The stance taken by Imran Khan over Ukraine was quickly reversed post his removal from office.

The diplomatic meeting between US State Department officials and the Pakistani government took place two weeks after the conflict between Russia and Ukraine started, as Khan was heading to Moscow. Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's visit to Russia angered the US.

## Pak President Dissolves National Assembly Setting Stage For Fresh Polls

Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's parliament was dissolved by the president on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice late Wednesday night, the president's office said, setting the stage for a national election.

The advice came three days ahead of the parliament's five-year term, which expires on August 12.

It will be followed with a caretaker administration to be picked by Sharif and an opposition leader in the outgoing parliament to hold new elections in 90 days.

"I will tonight advise the president to dissolve the parliament," the premier had earlier told the parliament.

He said he would start discussions with the opposition leader on Thursday to pick from candidates recommended from both sides to nominate as caretaker



prime minister.

The vote, however, could be delayed several months with the election commission set to start redrawing hundreds of constituencies based on a fresh census.

The last general election in July 2018 was won by the party of cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, who was sworn in days later as prime minister for the first time.

Khan was ousted as prime minister in a no-confidence

vote last year. He has since been convicted and jailed in a graft case, following which he has been barred from taking part in any election for five years.

Khan was replaced by Sharif, who has been grappling with a debilitating economic crisis and historically high inflation levels as the government implemented painful reforms to secure funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## Manipur Woman Alleges Gang-Rape, Fir Registered



Press Trust of India

**IMPHAL:** Another case of sexual assault has come to light in Manipur after a 37-year-old married woman from Churachandpur district alleged she was gang-raped by a group of men while fleeing her burning house on May 3, the day on which the ethnic strife began in the northeastern state, police said.

An FIR in this connection has been registered in Bishnupur women police station on August 9, police said, adding it was later forwarded to Chura-

chandpur police station for further investigation.

According to the FIR, the woman was gang-raped at Khumujamba Meitei Leikai in Churachandpur district by "un-identified Kuki men."

According to woman's statement to police, around 6.30pm on May 3, a group of Kuki miscreants set fire to several houses, including her's. Amid the chaos, she tried to flee. However,

after running for about half-a-kilometre, she was stopped by a few men and was sexually assaulted, police said quoting the FIR.

## Sectarian Tensions Flare In Lebanon After Christian Militia Attacks Hezbollah Truck



Agencies

Two people, including a Hezbollah member, were killed on 9 August during a shootout in the village of Kahale in central Lebanon. The violence erupted after a truck belonging to the Shia Muslim resistance group overturned on a downhill turn in front of the local office of the Christian Maronite Kataeb party.

The victims have been identified as Hezbollah member Ahmad Ali Kassar and Fadi Bejjani, a local of Kahale who was involved in the shootout.

"A clash occurred between the drivers of a truck carrying ammunition and the people of Kahale, which resulted in two deaths," the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) said in a statement on Thursday, adding that a detachment was immediately deployed to the area on Thursday night to suppress tensions and transfer the truck to an army center.

"If the army had intervened in time, none of this would have happened," a Kahaleh resident told Lebanese daily L'Orient Le Jour on Thursday.

According to a statement released by Hezbollah's media relations office, the truck had set off from the Bekaa Valley and was passing through the Kahale road - which runs from Beirut to Damascus - on its way to the Beirut suburb of

Dahye.

After it overturned, and as the drivers tried to call for help to remove the truck from the road, "several gunmen from the militias present in the area gathered, attacking the people of the truck in an attempt to seize it."

"[The militants] threw stones first, then opened fire, which resulted in the injury of one of the brothers guarding the truck. He was transferred to hospital, where he later died," the statement adds.

The violence escalated as locals set up road blockades in both directions of Kahale Road and prevented a crane from removing the overturned truck. Hezbollah blamed the incitement on "the Lebanese Forces (LF) and Kataeb parties."

Wednesday's shootout marked the worst clash between the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and the US and Israel-backed Christian Maronite groups since the Tayouneh massacre in Beirut two years ago when LF militants ambushed and killed several supporters of the Hezbollah and Amal Movement parties.

Despite arresting dozens in the weeks following the massacre - and charging the leader of the LF party, Samir Geagea, for his involvement - last year, Lebanese judicial authorities released all suspects, and the case was left in impunity.

## No Change In Age-Limit For Civil Service Aspirants, Says Centre

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Union minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said it has not been found feasible to consider any change in the existing provisions regarding number of attempts and age-limit in respect of the civil services examination.

The civil services examination (CSE) is conducted annually by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in accordance with the CSE rules notified by the government, the minister of state for Personnel said.

"Based on the judgments passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the writ petitions filed by some CSE candidates and in light of the views expressed by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, the matter has been duly considered in the Department

of Personnel and Training and it has not been found feasible to consider any change in the existing provisions regarding number of attempts and age-limit in respect of the CSE," Jitendra Singh said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

He said the dates and the places for conducting the preliminary examination and main examination of CSE are fixed and notified by the Commission.

"The civil services (preliminary) examination, 2023 has been conducted by the Commission on 28.05.2023 and the results declared on 12.06.2023 wherein adequate number of candidates (i.e. 14,624) have been declared qualified. Some unsuccessful candidates of the civil services (preliminary) examination, 2023 have approached courts of law," the minister said.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Where Are Your Priorities, Madam: Mahua Moitra Hits Out At Smriti Irani Over 'Flying Kiss' Row

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Thursday took a swipe at Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani, saying that not one word was heard from her when a BJP MP was accused of harassment and molestation by wrestlers and now "she is talking about some flying kisses".

Moitra's attack came a day after Irani expressed outrage over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi blowing a flying kiss in the Lok Sabha, calling him misogynist and saying the House had never witnessed such an "indecent act".

BJP women MPs later met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and demanded "stringent action" against Gandhi.

Speaking with reporters outside Parliament, Moitra said, "When a BJP MP was accused of harassment



and molestation by our champion wrestlers, we did not hear one word out of the women and child development minister and now she is talking about some flying kiss, where are your priorities, madam." Her remarks were in reference to the allegations against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual ha-

arrassment of women wrestlers. The Delhi Police had filed a charge sheet against the six-time MP on June 15 under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354-A (sexual harassment), 354-D (stalking) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

## Barbie Banned In This Country Over "Public Ethics" Concerns

Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait has barred hit film "Barbie" from cinemas over concerns about "public ethics", officials have said, also confirming a separate ban on a horror movie featuring a transgender actor.

"Barbie" and "Talk to Me" both "promulgate ideas and beliefs that are alien to the Kuwaiti society and public order", Lafa Al-Subei'e, head of Kuwait's cinema censorship committee, told the official KUNA news agency.

While deciding on any foreign movie, the committee usually orders "censoring of the scenes that run counter to public ethics", Subei'e was quoted as saying late on Wednesday.

"But (if) a film carries alien concepts, message or unacceptable behaviour, the committee decides to bar the stuff in question as a whole," he said.

Gulf Arab states including Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates



and Saudi Arabia -- all of which outlaw homosexuality -- routinely censor films that contain LGBTQ references.

Most recently, they banned the latest Spider-Man animation in June, reportedly over a scene that includes a transgender pride flag. However, "Barbie", which has taken more than \$1 billion worldwide, is being shown in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain.

In Lebanon, Culture Minister Mohammad Mortada said on Wednesday he had asked authori-

ties to ban "Barbie" for purportedly "promoting homosexuality", though the film does not contain any overt references to same-sex relationships or queer themes.

"Talk to Me", which is shown in Emirati and Saudi theatres, features Australian transgender actor Zoe Terakes but no explicit LGBTQ references.

"Our film doesn't have queer themes," Terakes said in a statement posted on social media on Sunday, after the ban was first reported.

## 'Conman' Kiran Patel Transferred To Gujarat From J&K Jail

Arrested For Cheating Morbi Businessman Of Rs 42.86 Lakh



Press Trust Of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Alleged conman Kiran Patel was on Thursday brought from a jail in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat on a transfer warrant by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch and placed under arrest in a cheating case, an official said.

This is the seventh FIR against Patel and involves alleged cheating of a businessman by posing as a Class I officer, he said.

Patel made national headlines when he was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir for posing as a top official in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in March after videos showing him moving around under security cover went viral.

He was remanded in the custody of the crime branch till 2pm on Friday, the official said, adding that it is the second occasion when Gujarat police have brought him from J-K through a transfer warrant.

As per the fresh FIR registered with Sola police station in Ahmedabad recently, Patel, a resident of Ghodasar area of city, had cheated Morbi-based businessman Bharat Patel of Rs 42.86 lakh by posing as a "class-1 government officer", a crime branch release said.

"When Bharat Patel was planning to set up a factory in Morbi a year ago, Kiran Patel approached him claiming he works as a class-1 officer and can get required clearances from the state government using his influence," as per the release.

"Kiran Patel took Rs 42.86 lakh from the businessman in various installments. However, when nothing was moving for seven to eight months, Bharat Patel found Kiran Patel was lying and filed a police case," as per the FIR.

Kiran Patel has been charged under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating), 406 (breach of trust), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 170 (impersonation).

## HC Orders 'Plough' Symbol For NC To Contest LAHDC Kargil Polls

M Ahmad

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday ordered authorities in Ladakh to issue "plough" symbol to National Conference for contesting the ensuing election to LAHDC Kargil.

According to a notification issued by the election department on August 5, the election to 26 seats of the 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, is scheduled for September 10 and the counting of votes will take place four days later.

"Keeping in view that the upcoming General Election of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) stands announced, the petitioner-party (NC) is directed to approach the office of the respondents 1 to 3 & 5 (UT of Ladakh, District election Officer Kargil & Administrative Secretary election department Ladakh) for notifying the reserved symbol (Plough) already allotted to it," Justice Sindhu Sharma said, adding, "Respondents 1 to 3 & 5 shall notify the symbol allotted to petitioner-party in terms of Paragraphs 10 and 10 (A) of Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, and allow the candidates set up by the petitioner-party to contest on the reserved election symbol (plough) already allotted to the party."

The court was hearing a petition filed by National Conference through its General Secretary A M Sagar stating that the party is aggrieved by a notification issued by election department, Ladakh on July 26, excluding the reservation of election symbol allocated to the party.

In its plea, National Conference had said it being the incumbent political party in power in the present LAHDC, Kargil, seeks to contest the upcoming elections of LAHDC on allocated reserved election symbol (Plough). The authorities, it said, have not notified the election symbol already allotted and reserved by the party for the upcoming elections, which has "deprived the party to contest the election on the symbol".

T. M. Shamsi, Deputy Solicitor General of India, had opposed the contention on the ground that the party is not a recognized State Political Party in Union Territory of Ladakh and is only recognized as State Political Party for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The symbol, he said, is reserved only for the Union Territory of J&K as per the notification issued by Election Commission of India.

The allotment of symbols in terms of notification dated 26.07.2023 is to be chosen by other than recognized political parties for the elections to LAHDC, Kargil. No party has been recognized/identified as a State Party in the Union Territory of Ladakh, therefore, no symbol has been reserved for them, he said.

In terms of Rules 17 and 18 of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Election) Rules, 1995, symbols are reserved only for political parties recognized by the Election Commission as National/State Party.

Meanwhile, NC Vice-President Omar Abdullah has described the court as a major victory for his party.

"In a major victory for @JKNC, in the J&K High Court today, the court ordered the UT of Ladakh to allot Hal (Plough) symbol for candidates of the party to contest the Hill council elections for which the notification has been issued a few days ago. Our lawyer @ShariqReyaz, engaged by the party, did an excellent job in securing this vital win for the @JKNC in court." Omar wrote on Twitter.

AMARNATH YATRA

## 999 Pilgrims Leave From Jammu As Highway Reopens



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A fresh batch of 999 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Amarnath cave shrine in Kashmir early Thursday as traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was restored after a day-long closure, officials said.

The 270-km-long highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, remained closed for more than 18 hours following a massive landslide near Maroog in Ramban district around 3 am on Wednesday, they added.

The officials said the restoration work was hampered several times during the day by frequent shooting stones from the hillock overlooking the highway which was, however, partially opened late in the evening for stranded vehicles.

A traffic department official said fresh traffic was allowed from both Jammu and Srinagar this morning after clearance of all stranded vehicles.

The officials further said that with the opening of the highway, authorities allowed the 37th batch of Amarnath pilgrims to set out from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley in a convoy of 33 vehicles around 3.30 am.

They added that 422 devotees are on the way towards the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district, while 577 pilgrims are heading for the Pahalgam base camp to undertake the yatra from the traditional route in Anantnag district.

Over 4.28 lakh pilgrims have so far paid their obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine since the commencement of the 62-day yatra on July 1.

## Ex-IPS Officer Basant Rath Registers Himself As BJP Activist

Party Says No Place For Indiscipline

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Days after the central government ordered his premature retirement, former IPS officer Basant Rath on Thursday registered himself as a BJP activist online and sought blessings of party for what he called an "uphill trek called politics".

The IGP-rank officer, who was under suspension for the past over three years for "repeated instances of gross misconduct and misbehavior", was given premature retirement by the government through a notification dated August 7. It was reported in the media on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Rath shared on social media a screenshot of a welcome note from the BJP for his joining the party online.

Reacting to Rath joining the party, the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir chief spokesperson Sunil Sethi said, "Anyone can join as a member of the BJP using an online facility. It is the party leadership which finally takes a call whether the individual is inducted or given any responsibility in the party."

He, however, added, "In BJP, there is no place for indiscipline. He (Rath) has been given premature retirement because of indiscipline." Rath had announced his resignation from service in June last year and later expressed his wish to contest election against Omar Abdullah of the National Conference or Mehbooba Mufti of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on a BJP ticket.

In a three-page "Thank You Note" shared on Thursday on X, formerly known as Twitter, he said, "Today, I find myself on the precipice of a new endeavour, one that seeks to carry forward the torch of public service onto a bigger platform, and I humbly implore your earnest blessings as I embark upon this uphill trek called politics."

He said that each month of his 23 years in the Indian Police Service (IPS) has been guided and embellished by the unwavering presence and affection of the people.

## India's 'First' Post Office Is Bang On LoC

Press Trust Of India

**KERAN:** India's "first" post office bearing PIN code 193224 is located on the banks of the Kishanganga river, the de facto Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district with Pakistan-occupied territory just across the stream at a stone's throw.

It was known as the last post office of the country until recently, when the signboard near it described it as the "First Post Office of India", as it is the first one from the LoC or border in terms of distance.

Abdul Hamid Kumar, Superintendent Post Offices, Baramulla Division, said, "Earlier it was known as the last post office as we cannot deliver beyond it. Then, the Army changed it to the first post office as it is the first post office from the LoC or the border in terms of distance."

The residents of this apparently sleepy hamlet said the post office has been functional even before India got independence or Pakistan came into existence. It has not stopped delivering mail even at peak hostilities in 1965, 1971 or the frequent cross-border shelling incidents that had become regular occurrences after



Abid Bhat/VO

eruption of Pakistan-backed militancy in 1990.

Shakir Bhat, the postmaster, said the post office, which has been here since 1947, never stopped its services.

"Before the ceasefire (agreement between India and Pakistan in 2021), it was very risky to go out, deliver the mail or pick up the posts. Today we feel peace and we want peace between the two nations to prevail," Bhat told PTI.

The post office was even washed away in the flash floods that hit the Keran sector in 1993.

"I was appointed to the department in 1992. After the 1993 floods, the post office has been functioning from my house," he said.

Bhat said he does not get any rent for operating the post office from home and he is not seeking any.

He added that there are three mailmen, who work with him at the post office, providing a wide range of services to the local people and the security forces deployed at the first post of India.

The postmaster, however, said lack of dependable communication facility meant this post office cannot offer online services like other post offices across the country.

"For now, there is no (online communication) network here, so no digital services are being offered," he added.

Bhat wants peace to prevail as it has brought tourism to Keran.

"It is because of peace that everything is good. Tourism is here only due to peace," he said.

## Condolences Pour In Over Syed Abdul Rasheed Shah's Death

Tourism, Culture Departments Condole With Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Condolences continue to pour in for the second consecutive day Thursday over the death of Syed Abdul Rashid Shah retired Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and father of Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Secretary Tourism and Culture, who passed away after a brief illness on Wednesday.

The Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir has

condoled with Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah over the demise of his father. In this regard a condolence meeting was held here at Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar in which officers and officials of the Tourism Department, Tourism Development Authorities, J&K Cable Car Corporation and other allied Departments participated.

Addressing the meeting, Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob conveyed heartfelt sympathies and condolences with the bereaved. He said all the members of line departments stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief.

The meeting prayed for peace to the departed soul and courage and forbearance for the bereaved.

Similar condolence meetings were held at the Department of Culture and Archives at Civil Secretariat Srinagar and Jammu besides Directorate of Tourism, Jammu.

Speakers at these meetings conveyed their sympathies with Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed and prayed for peace to the departed soul. Two minutes of silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. The meetings also prayed for courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Nigeen Tourist Traders Association (NTTA) Chairman, Nageen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO) President Manzoor Wangnoo also expressed his profound grief and condolences on the sad demise of the father of Secretary Tourism.

He said that along with him the entire NTTA and NLCO members, offers their sincere sympathies to Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, IAS and his family during this difficult time.

"Today, we mourn the loss of a distinguished environmentalist and a compassionate soul. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, IAS and his family as they navigate through this period of sorrow. May the departed soul find eternal peace in Jannah," he said.

The SKICC employees also held a condolence meeting to extend heartfelt condolences to Secretary Tourism and culture. The employees prayed for heavenly abode to the departed soul and patience to bereaved.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) Vice-President Omar Abdullah on Thursday visited the residence of Secretary Tourism, J&K Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah and expressed sympathies with him on the passing away of his revered father.

Joined in by the party functionaries, he offered Fatiha for the departed soul and prayed for strength to the bereaved household.

Those who accompanied him on the visit include party Treasurer Shami Oberoi, Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, Political Advisor to VP Mudassar Shahmiri.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir											
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEV. PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT EIDGAH											
On the recommendations of the District Level Selection Committee conveyed vide No: DPO/Poshan/Sgr/2023/1206 dated: 28-07-2023 and pursuant to the subsequent approval conveyed by the Additional District Development Commissioner vide No: ADDC/PS/23/444 dated: 28-07-2023, following candidates are provisionally selected as Sanginis (AWWs) in their respective Electoral Wards. The Selected Sanginis (AWWs) shall report to the Office of the undersigned at Sazgaripora Hawal within a period of 21 days from the publication of selection list, along with the requisite document in Original Viz:- Qualification Certificate, Domicile Certificate, Ward Certificate, DOB Certificate, Marks Cards											
Selection list for the post of Anganwadi Workers/ Sanginis advertised vide notice no. 01 CDPO-Eid of 2023 dated 26-05-2023											
Sno.	Name & No. of Electoral Ward	Vacancies in the Ward	Sno. Of Candidate in the Ward	Name of Applicant	Parentage	Date of Birth	Residence	Marks Obtained (12th Class)	Total Marks	Percentage	Additional Weightage (Yes/No)
1	Nawakadal 48	2	1	Hufsa Farooq	W/O Mohammad Rafiq Rah	16/12/2001	Nawakadal	294	500	58.80	No
2	Safa Kadal 49	2	1	Iqra Rashid	Abdul Rashid Sofi	20/02/1994	Danamazar Safakadal	437	500	87.40	No
			2	Zuhaa Mush-taq	Mushtaq Ahmad Matoo	01/03/2000	Danamazar	436	500	87.20	No
3	Rathpora - 50	1	1	Hadiya Nabi	Ghulam Nabi Bhat	28/02/2001	Rathpora Eidgah	409	500	81.80	No
4	Palpora-52	1	1	Khushboo Yousuf	Mohammad Yousuf Wani	19/12/2004	Goripora Palpora	457	500	91.40	No
5	Tarabal-53	3	1	Inshah Shafi	Lt Mohammad Shafi Ganie	24/07/2003	Mirjanpora	347	500	69.40	No
			2	Nadiya	Tariq Ahmad Malik	16/08/2000	Nawakadal	296	500	59.20	No
			3	Sakeena Jan	Abdul Salam Lone	21/01/1998	Tarabal Nawakadal	291	500	58.20	No
6	Kawdara 54	3	1	Sahiba	Abdul Rashid Kaloo	15/05/2004	Gadh mohalla Kawdara	484	500	96.80	No
			2	Sadiya	Zahoor Ahmad Naroo	20/07/2004	Dalipora Kawdara	480	500	96.00	No
			3	Rumaiza Amin	Mohd Amin Sofi	14/07/2001	Kawdara	454	500	90.80	No
7	Gilli Kadal 57	3	1	Muskan Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Magray	07/07/2003	Gilli Kadal Zoonimar	426	500	85.20	No
			2	Mehnaz Ayoub	Mohd Ayoub Magrey	05/06/1998	Gilli Kadal Zoonimar	394	500	78.80	No
			3	Nazima Nizam	Nizam U Din Mir	11/09/1993	Babapora Zoonimar	327	500	65.40	No
8	Nowshera 58	1	1	Binish Farooq Bhat	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	05/04/2004	Nowshera	483	500	96.60	No
9	Buchpora 70	4	1	Qurat ul Ain	Mohammad Shafi Ganai	18/09/1998	Sheikh Mohalla Soura	382	500	76.40	No
			2	Hena bashir	Bashir Ahmad bhat	28/04/1993	Ganie Mohalla Soura	372	500	74.40	No
			3	Rabiya Majeed	Abdul Majeed Baba	07/03/2002	Sheikh Mohalla Soura	354	500	70.80	No
			4	Muzamil Jan	Abdul Ramzan Dar	23/02/1999	Shalbf Mohalla	346	500	69.20	No
10	Ahmad Nagar 71	1	1	Sabreena	Ali Mohammad Shalbf	17/10/1998	Umer heir Buch-pora	362	500	72.40	No

DIPK-6870-23  
DT: 10/08/2023

Child Dev. Project Officer  
Poshan Project Eidgah

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Friday | 11-08-2023

## Yes, Talk To Youth

Home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday once again reiterated his government's policy to talk only to youth of Kashmir, and not to "Hurriyat, Jamaat, or Pakistan." Among other significant statements, Shah stressed that the abrogation of Article 370 was a turning point in Kashmir's history. He pointed out that this transformation was not merely legal but also marked a departure from the past, crediting the move for getting rid of the dual flags and two constitutions and embracing a unified identity.

Other measures highlighted by Shah included imposing restrictions on All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Jamaat-e-Islami and removing separatist sympathizers from employment which, according to him, have significantly contributed to fostering a climate of stability and security. He also referred to the dignified burial of militants, symbolizing a break from the past practice of publicizing funeral processions.

It is true that the removal of Article 370 in August 2019 and the subsequent measures have fundamentally altered the ground situation in J&K in most of its aspects. It has also changed the complexion of the Kashmir issue as it existed before. It is also true, that the policies and measures underlined by the home minister have gone a long way to pacify the situation. How long and whether this calm lasts, only time will tell.

Ideally, it would be in the fitness of things had the union government decided to hold talks with Pakistan. A peaceful neighbourhood would bring peace and prosperity to the region. It would also be beneficial for Kashmir which has witnessed bloodshed over the last three decades. But as the home minister has made it clear, New Delhi is no longer interested in engaging Pakistan and for that matter, the separatists in Kashmir. This was not always like that. Even after the abrogation of Article 370, the union government did engage with the neighbouring country informally for over months. The back-channel talks were reported to have begun in November 2020 and by February 2021, the two countries reinstated the otherwise defunct 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control. The truce was marked by a brief spell of bonhomie. But there was no further progress on the back-channel making it difficult for the two neighbours to move to the front-channel.

That said, it is difficult to take away from the fact that the central government has improved the situation to a point where a regression into instability seems unlikely. Here's hoping that the peace lasts but for it to sustain in the long term, the central government would need to take its promise of talking to J&K youth to its logical conclusion.

OTHER OPINION

## Bullying By Teachers Can Destroy Lives

Amir Hussain

I used to find comfort in the pursuit of knowledge and the prospect of a successful academic career in the hallways of my school. My hopes were dashed, though, when I came across a teacher who preferred to serve as a tormentor rather than an educator. I had no idea about the lasting effects of this sad period of my life on my academic career.

Bullying is a plague that manifests itself in many different ways, and when it appeared from a person I was meant to trust, the impact was severe. Beyond being strict or a disciplinarian, this instructor deliberately targeted me, singled me out, and gradually destroyed my self-esteem. Every attempt by me was treated with contempt in the classroom, which had formerly been a haven for inquiry and learning. The enduring jeers, severe criticism, and public humiliation destroyed the passion of studying I once had. I started to lose interest in studies and felt like a mere shell of the person I once was.

The weight of this tyranny grew heavier as the days turned into weeks, and then weeks into months. I was alone and abandoned, and I began to doubt my value as a student and a person. A great deal of psychological damage resulted in worry, self-doubt, and a persistent sense of hopelessness. The effects of this constant bullying extended beyond the classroom. My academic career, which had previously seemed promising, was wrecked when my grades fell. I retreated from my classmates because I lacked the courage to tell anybody about my situation. As the gloom intensified, I struggled to see the point of continuing my schooling.

I want to raise awareness of the damaging effects bullying may have on a student's academic career by sharing my experience. No kid ever ought to experience such brutality at the hands of a teacher. Schools, parents, and society at large all have a role to play in fostering conditions that are safe and conducive to learning.

I stand in sympathy with people who have experienced such hardships. Together, we can increase public awareness of the effects of bullying and fight to provide supportive learning environments for all students. Let's work together to make sure that no one else's ambitions are crushed by bullying and that every child has the opportunity to develop and prosper.

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# West is Paranoid About BRICS Summit

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

Reuters carried a speculative report last week that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi might not attend the BRICS summit in Johannesburg in person and, furthermore, that India disfavoured an expansion of the grouping. Reuters' long history of cold war skulduggery notwithstanding, the gullible Indian media fell for the rumour mongering.

And it created some confusion, but only momentarily. South Africa is conscious that with the state of play in its bilateral ties with the US being what it is, President Cyril Ramaphosa's excellent personal equations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, BRICS' sojourn on the "de-dollarisation" pathway and its expansion plans, there are high expectations of Modi's constructive role to make the upcoming event in Johannesburg a historic milestone in 21st century world politics.

The plain speak by the South African foreign minister Naledi Pandor on the Reuters report is spot on. Pandor said, "I did speak to various colleagues in government and outside, and everybody was astounded by this rumour. I think that someone who is trying to spoil our summit is creating all sorts of stories that suggest that it won't be successful."

"The prime minister of India has never said that he is not attending the summit. I am in constant contact with foreign minister Jaishankar. He has never said that. Our sherpas are in touch and they have never said it. So, we have all been trying to look for this needle in a haystack that began this rumour."

There was a time not too long ago when the West used to ridicule the BRICS as an ineffectual butterfly beating its wings in the void in a world order dominated by the G7. But the "butterfly effect" is being felt today in the remaking of the world order.

Simply put, the torrential flow of events in the past year in the situation around Ukraine brought to the surface Russia's existential struggle vis-a-vis the US, which in turn triggered a tectonic shift in the international landscape, one transformative aspect being the rise of the Global South and its increasingly important role in international politics.

The Biden administration wouldn't have expected that a polarisation to isolate Russia and China would end up like this. Paradoxically, Washington's "dual containment" of Russia and China, as enshrined in the Biden Administration's National Security Strategy marked the beginning of the Global South breaking away from the control of the big powers, repositioning their international status and role, and seeking strategic self-confidence and autonomy.

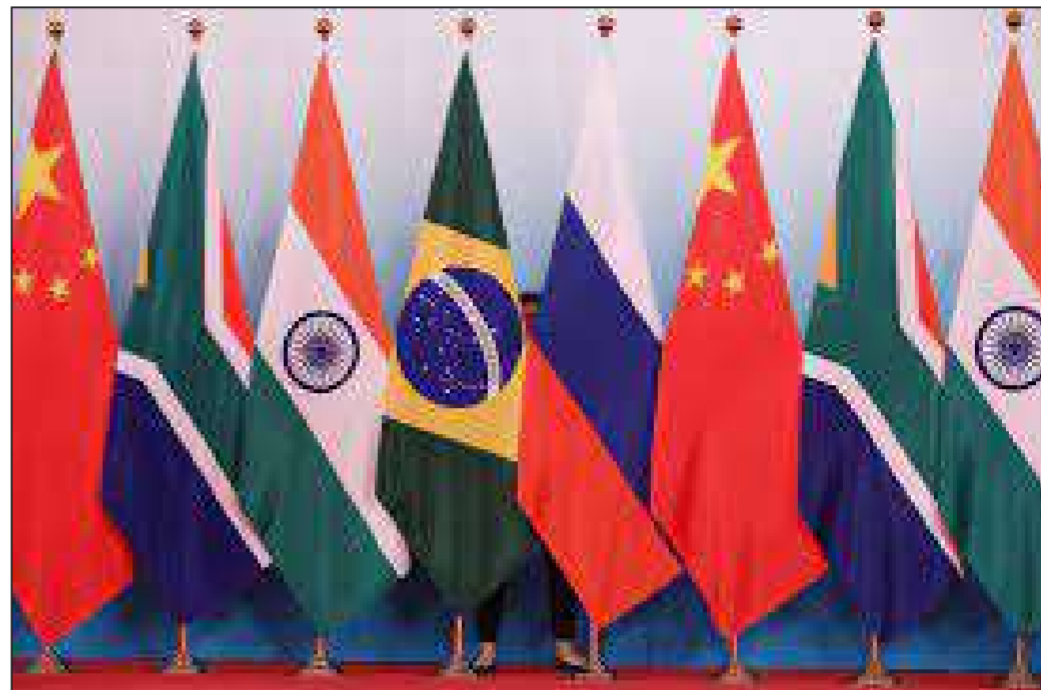
Saudi Arabia is a stellar example — assuming an independent trajectory in regional hot spots such as Sudan or Syria, calibrating the world oil market through the OPEC Plus format rather than obey the diktats from Washington, and in seeking BRICS membership.

The developing countries are gaining room to manoeuvre in the game of big powers and their political influence has risen rapidly. Their diplomatic independence and strategic autonomy against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis has accelerated their rise as an emerging force in global politics in a remarkably short period of time.

What prompts the 23 non-western countries to formally seek BRICS membership — although, the grouping doesn't even have a secretariat — is because the grouping is perceived today as the principal platform of the Global South espousing an equitable world order and, therefore, has a trust with the destiny of mankind.

Right from its inception, BRICS has been savvy enough not to inject any "anti-westernism" into its agenda — in fact, none of its founding members has a "bloc mentality". But that hasn't prevented the West from feeling threatened. In reality, this threat perception emanates out of a morbid fear of extinction that the 4-century old western dominance of the political and economic order and the international system is drawing to a close.

Neo-mercantilism, which is crucial to arrest the decline of the western economies, is being frontally challenged, as we are witness-



A staff worker stands behind the national flags of Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa and India during the BRICS Summit at the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center in Xiamen, southeastern China's Fujian Province, China September 4, 2017/ Reuters

ing in real time in Niger. Without the massive transfer of resources from Africa, the West faces a dim future. The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell blurted out in a weak moment that the West, a manicured garden, is threatened by the jungle. The atavistic fears and instincts implicit in Borrell's metaphor are simply stunning.

Hence such frenzy to run down BRICS, to weaken its resolve, to tarnish its image and standing, and prevent it from gathering momentum. Alas, the same old colonial "divide and rule" mindset is at work to amplify the differences and disagreements between the BRICS member states.

The controversy about the Indian stance on BRICS expansion can be seen only that way. Last week, following the rumour mongering by Reuters, Indian foreign ministry spokesman felt compelled to clarify all over again, "Let me repeat again. We have clarified our position in the past. As mandated by the leaders last year, BRICS members are internally discussing the guiding principles, the standards, criteria, and procedures for BRICS expansion process on the basis of full consultation and consensus. As our External Affairs Minister had mentioned, we are approaching this with an open mind and a positive outlook. We have seen some baseless speculation... that India has reservations against expansion. This is simply not true. So let me put it very clearly from that."

As regards the canard that Modi planned to skip the trip to Johannesburg, Indian spokesman reacted, "I would urge you not to go by speculative media reports. When we are in a position to talk about, to announce such high-level visits, we will certainly do so, and you'll

know that that's been our practice. For the moment, I would urge you all to just be patient and let us announce it at the right time."

Equally, the Anglo-American conspiracy behind the ICC's arrest warrant on Putin is self-evident. Russia had pioneered BRIC and the grouping's first summit took place in Yekaterinburg in 2008 [which, by the way, issued a joint statement warning against the global domination of the US dollar as the world's standard reserve currency.]

Putin has been tirelessly campaigning for "de-dollarisation" and is the most resonant voice today on that issue on the international stage. Putin's prognosis has gained wide acceptance in the Global South, as evident from the exodus of countries opting for national currencies to settle their mutual payments. Washington is increasingly concerned that a process of "de-dollarisation" is gaining traction in the international financial system following its excessive weaponisation of sanctions and arbitrary seizure of dollar reserves of countries it does not get along with.

Interestingly, Bloomberg featured an article on the BRICS summit titled "This club isn't big enough for both China and India." Its thesis is that "tensions between the Asian rivals will likely prevent the BRICS bloc from ever posing a coherent challenge to the West." It is a hackneyed attempt to dwell on the contradictions that exist between China and India to drive a wedge and undermine BRICS unity.

True, India may have concerns about China dominating BRICS group. But then, China is also a strong exponent of BRICS expansion and increased representation of developing countries. Doesn't that show a strategic convergence?

Fundamentally, despite their unresolved border dispute, India and China have a common vision that BRICS plays an essential role on the global multilateral stage. Both countries also see the BRICS as a platform to enhance their international status and influence. This commonality of interests is what worries the West.

For India, BRICS is a favourable instrumental platform to realise its aspiration to achieve greater representation on the international stage. Therefore, BRICS success can only strengthen India's foreign policy — and, conceivably, may even create some positive energy and ambience in its relations with China.

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

The article was originally published by India Punchline



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## Deploy AI to Reduce Plastic Pollution

One of the most urgent environmental issues of our time is plastic trash, which calls for ground-breaking innovations to solve. The plastics sector in developed countries is undergoing a transformation thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) and digitization, which are providing solid solutions that

may efficiently reduce plastic waste and optimize its use through higher recycling. Waste collection in urban areas by state and central regime, particularly in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad, can be significantly improved by utilizing intelligent algorithms and integrating advanced technologies such

as the Internet of Things (IoT) and geolocation, which bring us closer to a more sustainable future. It is necessary to adopt more AI-enabled smart bins across the nation in order to sort materials at their source, maximize recycling potential, and improve plastic waste management. More industries ought to employ algorithms that

develop cutting-edge goods and package designs, use less plastic and other resources while maintaining performance standards. Potential effects of AI and digitization on the management of plastic trash could hasten the transition to a circular economy.

Dr. Vijaykumar HK

Mindful Fridays

# Unraveling The Link Between FINANCIAL Literacy And MENTAL Health

WASIM KAKROO

In today's fast-paced world, teenagers are exposed to an array of challenges that impact their overall well-being. One such critical intersection lies between their financial quotient (FQ) and mental health. Financial education and its implications on the mental health of adolescents have gained significant attention in recent years. In today's article we will delve into the correlation between FQ and mental health among teenagers, highlighting the importance of equipping them with financial literacy skills for a healthier future.

#### WHAT IS FINANCIAL QUOTIENT (FQ)?

Financial Quotient (FQ) refers to an individual's level of understanding, knowledge, and skills related to financial matters. It's a measure of how well someone can manage their money, make informed financial decisions, and navigate various aspects of personal finance. Just like IQ measures intelligence and EQ measures emotional intelligence, FQ focuses specifically on financial intelligence.

A high FQ indicates that a person has a strong grasp of concepts such as budgeting, saving, investing, managing debt, and making prudent financial choices. It enables individuals to handle their financial affairs with confidence, plan for the future, and make decisions that align with their long-term goals. Developing a high FQ is essential in today's complex economic landscape, as it empowers individuals to achieve financial stability and security, leading to a better overall quality of life.

#### THE MENTAL HEALTH LANDSCAPE AMONG TEENAGERS:

Adolescence is a period of rapid physical, emotional, and psychological changes. During this phase, individuals are vulnerable to mental health challenges such as anxiety, depression, stress, and low self-esteem. External factors, including academic pressure, social interactions, and family dynamics, can amplify these challenges.

#### The Link between FQ and Mental Health:

##### Financial Stress and Anxiety:

A significant correlation exists between an individual's level of financial literacy and their mental well-being. For teenagers, a lack of financial knowledge can lead to poor money management, resulting in financial stress. The uncertainty of handling money, making future financial decisions, or dealing with unexpected expenses can create a sense of unease. Such stress not only impacts their financial situation but can also exacerbate existing mental health issues, leading to heightened anxiety levels and emotional turmoil.

##### Confidence and Self-Esteem:

Empowering teenagers with financial knowledge has a profound impact on their confidence levels. When armed with the ability to manage money effectively, adolescents experience a sense of accomplishment and control over their lives. This newfound mastery positively influences their self-esteem and mental well-being. The confidence to navigate financial decisions enhances their overall outlook, enabling them to face challenges with resilience and optimism.

##### Future Security and Anxiety Reduction:

A strong Financial Quotient (FQ) fosters an understanding of the importance of planning for the future. Teenagers with a high FQ grasp the significance of financial preparedness, which in turn reduces anxiety about uncertainties. Knowledge about saving, investing, and budgeting provides them with a safety

**A SIGNIFICANT CORRELATION EXISTS BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL'S LEVEL OF FINANCIAL LITERACY and their mental well-being.** For teenagers, a lack of financial knowledge can lead to poor money management, resulting in financial stress. The uncertainty of handling money, making future financial decisions, or dealing with unexpected expenses can create a sense of unease.

net, instilling a sense of security and preparedness for potential challenges that may arise. This proactive approach to financial planning contributes to a more stable mental state.

##### Delayed Gratification and Emotional Regulation:

FQ encourages teenagers to embrace the concept of delayed gratification – the ability to resist immediate desires in favor of greater future rewards. This skill has a direct impact on emotional regulation. Adolescents who understand the value of patience and thoughtful decision-making are less prone to impulsive behaviors often linked with poor mental health outcomes. By practicing delayed gratification in financial matters, teenagers learn to regulate their emotions and make decisions that align with their long-term well-being.

##### THE ROLE OF EDUCATION:

Education is like a key that can unlock the door to understanding money. Here's how:

##### Incorporating Financial Literacy in Curricu-

**lum:** Schools are like the places where we learn many important things. One important thing they should teach is how to handle money smartly. They should teach about making budgets, saving money, and even investing wisely. When students learn these things, they become super smart about money choices. This helps them feel happier in their minds too.

**Parental Influence:** Parents are like guides in life, and they can help teens become money wizards. They can do it by talking about money stuff openly at home. Imagine sitting with your parents and chatting about family finances, saving money, and how to spend smartly. These talks create good habits in teens about money and make them feel less worried about it. So, parents can be like money mentors and make their kids' minds feel more relaxed.

When schools teach about money and parents talk about it at home, teens become like superheroes in handling money. They learn to make smart decisions, plan for their future, and not stress too much about money. Just like learning any other important skill, understanding money matters is a powerful tool that can make life better.

##### Benefits of a High FQ on Teenagers' Mental Health:

- 1. Reduced Financial Anxiety:** A strong FQ enables teens to manage their finances confidently, alleviating concerns about monetary issues and enhancing mental tranquility.
- 2. Empowerment and Control:** Knowledge of financial matters empowers adolescents to take control of their financial decisions, translating to a heightened sense of control over their lives and mental well-being.
- 3. Improved Decision-Making:** Teens with high FQ are more likely to make prudent financial decisions, resulting in fewer regrets and a reduced mental burden.
- 4. Long-Term Vision:** Understanding the implications of financial choices encourages forward-thinking, contributing to lowered stress and anxiety levels about the future.

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

# 'Switch To Clean Fuels Could Lower Exposure To PM2.5, Premature Deaths'

Press Trust Of India

Switching to clean fuels from polluting solid ones could significantly lower personal exposure to and indoor concentrations of PM2.5 pollutants and thus, reduce premature deaths linked to PM2.5 pollution, new research published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal said.

Developing models to estimate household air pollution (HAP) for 2020, the study estimated average HAP-PM2.5 personal exposure and HAP-PM2.5 indoor concentration by analysing data from 282 peer-reviewed research and updated from the WHO Global HAP dataset.

The models were then used to predict HAP-PM2.5 exposure globally, that included personal exposure in 62 countries and indoor concentration in 69 countries.

Further, the researchers estimated the related attributable death rate per 100,000 population.

In 2020, national-level 24-hour average exposure for one person was found to be 151 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m3) when using solid fuels. However, the use of clean fuels was found to more than halve it to 69 ug/m3. The related premature mortality (national average) was 78 for the former and 62 for the latter.

Using solid fuels was found to result in an average PM2.5 indoor concentration of 412 ug/m3. Using clean fuels, however, reduced the concentrations to one-third of original levels to 135 ug/m3, the study found. The attributable premature death rate reduced from 78 (solid fuels) to 59 (clean fuels).

Exposures from traditional stoves in rural and urban settings were much higher than those from improved stoves, the study results showed.

Thus, the study said, improved stove interventions could potentially reduce HAP-PM2.5 exposure, particularly in rural settings, the implementation of which could be challenging owing to sociocultural house-



hold traditions. Such interventions would have to be flexible and tailored to their needs, preferences and specific culture.

Transitioning to clean fuels could potentially reduce the national-level HAP-PM2.5 personal exposure on average by 53 per cent and indoor concentration by 65 per cent, the study said.

The transition, however, is challenging and affected by income, education, household size, fuel availability, location, and other sociodemographic factors, the study said.

For India, the present study estimated the average HAP-PM2.5 indoor concentration in India as 450 ug/m3 for rural and 155 ug/m3 for urban settings, with the overall national level as 315 ug/m3.

Previous studies had estimated overall national levels of indoor concentrations at 600 ug/m3 and 450 ug/m3, the study said, because they had sourced their data from only the India National Family and Health Survey 2015 and not from the WHO dataset.

The overall national level average personal exposure for India as 137 ug/m3, the study said, with yearly average estimated death rate (per 100,000 population) as 108.

## 'Nutrition Support Shown To Prevent TB, Related Deaths In India'

Press Trust Of India

A monthly food basket with adequate protein and multivitamins has been found to reduce new tuberculosis cases by nearly half among family members of TB patients in India, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

An international team of researchers enrolled household contacts of 2,800 patients with confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis across 28 TB units of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme in four districts of Jharkhand.

All patients received a monthly 10 kilograms food basket (rice, pulses, milk powder, oil) and multivitamins for 6 months. In family members, the intervention group received 5 kg rice and 1.5 kg pulses per head per month.

After screening all household contacts for co-prevalent tuberculosis, all participants were followed up actively until July 31, 2022, for the primary outcome of incident TB.

Between August 2019 and January 2021, there were 10,345 household contacts, of whom 5,328 (94.8 per cent) of 5,621 household contacts in the intervention group and 4,283 (90.7 per cent) of 4,724 household contacts in the control group completed the primary outcome assessment.

Almost two-thirds of the population belonged to Indigenous communities (eg, Santhals, Ho, Munda, Oraon, and Bhumij) and 34 per cent (3,543 of 10,345) had undernutrition.

The results of the Reducing Activation of Tuberculosis by Improve-

ment of Nutritional Status (RATIONS) trial, published in the Lancet on Tuesday, show that improved nutrition in family members of a patient with lung TB reduced incidence of all forms of TB by nearly 40 per cent, and infectious TB by nearly 50 per cent.

An accompanying paper in The Lancet Global Health, based on the outcomes in patients in the RATIONS trial showed that severe undernutrition was present in nearly half of all patients underlying the need for nutritional support.

An early weight gain in the first two months was associated with 60 per cent lower risk of TB mortality. The other benefits to patients were higher treatment success, better weight gain, low rates of loss to follow up. Only 3 per cent were able to work at enrolment, but this figure rose to 75 per cent at end of treatment.

An estimated 30 households (111 household contacts) would need to be provided nutritional supplementation to prevent one incident tuberculosis, the researchers said.

"Food is an important adjunct to TB treatment to save lives and improved outcomes," study lead author Anurag Bhargava, a professor at the Yenepoya Medical College, Center for Nutrition Studies, Mangalore, tweeted on Wednesday.

"Monthly food basket with adequate protein alongside effective therapy led to better weight gain. Nearly half of the cohort had BMI less than 16. Compared to other cohorts, mortality was 35-50 per cent less. Early weight gain by 2 months was associated with 60 per cent reduction in mortality," Bhargava added.

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Subject: - Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & style M/s "EKTA HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS " Situated at Syedpora Nowhatta Srinagar.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr. SHEIKH MANZOOR AHMAD S/O SHEIKH MOHAMAD AMIN R/o Gousia Colony Khanyar Srinagar intends to apply in the department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel under the name and style M/s EKTA HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS Situated at Syedpora Nowhatta Srinagar, Kashmir under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile-Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 years) Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum balance 10000.00, Site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-registrar, Printing Material, (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photographs of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and two Passport size Photographs to the department of tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/ 82/ 2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/ Bank Organization, etc, for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail ID ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice. No objection beyond a period of 07 days shall be entertained.

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Directorate of School Education, Kashmir

**Subject: Advertisement Notice for hiring of "Cluster Resource Coordinator for Teaching Support" till end of Academic session 2023-2024(31st March 2024) for Govt. High and Higher Secondary Schools.**

Notification No: 01-DSEK OF 2023  
Dated:09.08-2023

Applications through online mode on prescribed format are invited from the post-graduate candidates having secured minimum 50% Marks in Post-graduation and who are domicile of UT of J&K for the hiring on temporary basis as "Cluster Resource Coordinator for Teaching Support" in Govt. High and Higher Secondary Schools of various districts of Kashmir Division for the following subjects as per the following vacancies:-

Accountancy	Chemistry	Commerce	Economics	Education	GIS	English	Occupational	Arabic	History	Kashmiri	Maths	Physics	Practical Science	Psychology	Statistics	Urdu	Zoology
05	57	15	40	48	30	82	08	06	40	08	100	55	60	30	06	65	53

**Terms and conditions:**

- The hiring shall be made purely on 'temporary basis' at Higher Secondary level (6<sup>th</sup> Secondary as per need) on monthly remuneration of Rs. 25000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five thousand only).
- The selection will be based on merit which will be determined separately for each district subject wise.
- The hiring shall be made up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which shall be strictly as per the performance & feedback of School Head.
- The hiring thus made shall not have any preferential claim to the candidates for selection on regular basis.
- The tenure of 'temporary hiring' shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 without any further notice/information or till regular arrangement is made by the Govt. whichever is earlier.

**Age as on 1st January 2023:**

Age limit in years	Not born after	Not born before
10	01-01-2006	01-01-1988

**Domicile:**

The candidate should be a domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The candidate must possess the domicile certificate issued by the competent authority in the prescribed format as on the last date prescribed for submission of online application form.

**Documents to be uploaded:**

Following documents shall be uploaded with the application form:-

- Domicile Certificate.
- Affidavit duly sworn in and attested by the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate as per enclosed prescribed format.
- Date of Birth Certificate (Matriculation).
- PG Degree along with consolidated Marks Cards.
- M.Phil. Certificate, if applicable.
- Ph.D Certificate, if applicable.
- NET/SET Certificate, if applicable.
- Scanned Front Page of the Research publication/s, not more than five. (Published in Peer Reviewed or UGC Listed Journals)
- Character Antecedents Certificate from Special DG CID J&K (after final selection)

**How to apply:**

- The candidates are required to apply online through the website of Directorate of School Education Kashmir on the link available on [www.dse.kashmir.gov.in/Notice/ClusterMain.html](http://www.dse.kashmir.gov.in/Notice/ClusterMain.html) from 10th of August 12 noon till 20th of Aug 2023. No other means/ mode of application shall be accepted.
- The candidate shall also be required to upload the image of recent passport size colored photograph.
- No application shall be entertained after the expiry of last date.
- Applications should be supported by the self-attested certificates/testimonials.
- In the event of any information given by candidate found false, incomplete, inaccurate, forged, tampered, the candidature of the applicant will be cancelled without any notice thereof. Further, misleading information shall also warrant necessary legal & criminal action.

6. Subject wise/District wise Vacancies can increase or decrease depending on upon transfers/promotion and outcome of PSC selections/appointments, if any  
7. One candidate can apply in one district only.

**Last Date of Submission of Online Forms: 20-08-2023**

**Selection procedure:**

The selection of candidates will be made by this Directorate as per the following merit & the prescribed scale of weighting to be acted upon for such hiring shall be as follows:

- PG- 80 Points (on pro-rata basis).
- M.Phil-05 Points (Across the board).
- Ph.D./ NPT/SET-10 Points. (Across the board and in case the candidate is having all the three shall be awarded for one only).
- Publications (National & international level)-05 Points, one point for each such publication up to the maximum of 5 points.

**Total -100 points**

*In case two or more candidates of the same subject score same points, the candidate having higher marks percentage in PG shall be given the first preference and if the tie persists, it shall be resolved based on UG marks. In case tie persists at UG marks, age of the applicant shall be considered, and the director of the Principal Secretary School Education Department shall be final. Merit list will be prepared after issuing domicile as proof of residence (separate merit list for each district)*

  
**Director School Education, Kashmir**

No: DSEK/PS/154      DIPK-6809/23      dated:10-08-2023

### Affidavit Format

Affidavit duly sworn in and attested by the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate as per enclosed prescribed format.

\_\_\_\_\_  
S/O/D/O/W/O: \_\_\_\_\_ R/O: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tehsil: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ presently under the proposal for consideration as "Cluster Resource Coordinator for Teaching Support" in Govt. High & Higher Secondary School for the subject \_\_\_\_\_ under the dispensation of purely temporary basis for the session 2023, do hereby solemnly affirm on oath as under:-

- That I am a Bonafide candidate for consideration under such dispensation.
- That the documents/information I have submitted for such hiring are genuine and in case any of the documents/information or the department/organization issuing such document/information turns out to be fake/bogus/incompetent to issue such documents or has a disputed/dubious/sub-judice status, I shall be having no objection against the termination of my services.
- That in case the post, for which I have been hired on temporary basis, gets filled up through selection/promotion by the PSC/DPC, I shall be having no claim for my continuance, and I shall abdicate the post.
- That in case the Principal/Head concerned has any complaint in respect of my delivery or conduct and he/she is not satisfied with my performance/conduct, I shall be having no objection against any departmental action that may emanate from such poor performance/conduct.
- That in case any university/Board/Institution, having issued the certificates which have not been considered on the basis of being dubious/disputed/sub-judice status, but later turns out to be recognized /accredited by the competent organization and other candidate having credentials of such University/Board Institution has been considered and has a preferential claim on the basis of his/her merit, I shall be having no claim for my continuance on lower merit.
- That I shall neither claim for my permanent absorption in the department on the basis of instant hiring purely on temporary basis for a brief stint till March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, nor I shall be having any preferential claim at the time of my consideration for a post in the department on the basis of the instant hiring.

Verification: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIPK-6809/23      dated:10-08-2023



## 'Tomatoes Coming From Nepal': Sitharaman



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government is taking steps to control inflation and as part of the measures tomatoes are being imported from Nepal to meet the demand and check prices.

"Lot of steps have been taken to contain inflation. Group of Ministers has been taking timely steps to control prices which are hitting common people," Sitharaman said while participating in a debate on the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha.

Sitharaman said Tur dal is being imported from Mozambique, Urad dal will be imported from Myanmar, while around three lakh tonnes of onions have been procured to create a buffer stock.

She said tomatoes are being procured from Maharashtra and Karnataka, and distrib-

uted in Delhi-NCR, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and other cooperative societies.

National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF) has distributed 8.84 lakh kg of tomatoes in these states.

"This will continue, and be increased," she said, adding that the wholesale prices of tomatoes in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are coming down.

"We have allowed imports from Nepal by removing import restrictions. The first lot will reach Varanasi, Kanpur, Lucknow this week," she said.

NCCF is also planning a mega sale of tomatoes in Delhi NCR region at a subsidized rate of Rs 70 per kg this weekend, the minister said adding that more such steps will be taken.

## RBI Keeps Interest Rates Unchanged In Hawkish Policy

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday left its key interest rates unchanged for a third straight meeting but signalled tighter policy if food prices continue to drive inflation higher.

The monetary policy committee, which has three members from the central bank and a similar number of external members, held the benchmark repo rate (repo) at 6.50 per cent in a unanimous decision.

It retained the stance on "withdrawal of accommodation" but Governor Shaktikanta Das sounded hawkish when he highlighted that headline inflation needs to subside sustainably below 4 per cent and any surge in the inflation print, if continued for a longer period, may necessitate fresh action.

Uncertainty on the inflation trajectory has increased with the recent flare-up in food prices. Monsoon and weather disruptions, along with government interventions and global food supply trends, are likely to influence the inflation outcome.

The hawkish stance was also reinforced by the un-



"The job on inflation is still not done," Das said. "Inflationary risks persist amidst volatile international food and energy prices, lingering geopolitical tensions and weather-related uncertainties."

The RBI raised its inflation forecast for the current financial year ending March 2024 to 5.4 per cent from 5.1 per cent earlier, citing pressures from food prices. In the July-September quarter, it saw inflation at 6.2 per cent, significantly higher than the 5.2 per cent earlier forecast.

"We do look through idiosyncratic shocks but if it shows signs of persistence, we have to act," he said detailing decision of the MPC meeting here.

The MPC drew confidence from moderation in core prints and expects a seasonal correction in food prices in the fourth quarter of 2023.

This is the third straight meeting where RBI kept interest rates unchanged. Prior to that, it had raised interest rates by 250 basis points (bps) since May 2022 in a bid to cool surging prices.

Radhika Rao, Executive Director and Senior Economist, DBS Group Research said the MPC commentary can be characterised as "a pause with hawkish underpinnings."

## Home Loan, Other Borrowers Can Switch To Fixed-Rate Regime: RBI



Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank on Thursday said it will come out with a framework allowing borrowers to switch to fixed interest rate from floating interest rate, a move that would provide relief to borrowers of home, auto and other loans reeling under the impact of high interest rate.

Unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said under the framework, to be put in place shortly, the lenders will have to clearly communicate with the borrowers about tenor and EMI.

"The supervisory reviews undertaken by the Reserve Bank and the feedback and references from members of public have revealed several instances of unreasonable elongation of tenor of floating rate loans by lenders without proper consent and communication to the borrowers," he said.

To address the issue, it is proposed to put in place a proper conduct framework to be implemented by all Regulated entities to address the issues faced by borrowers, he said.

"The framework envisages that lenders should clearly communicate with the borrowers for resetting the tenor and/or EMI, provide options of switching to fixed rate loans or foreclosure of loans, transparent disclosure of various charges incidental to the exercise of these options, and proper communication of key information to the borrowers," he said.

The detailed guidelines in this regard would be issued shortly, he said.

To enable the Infrastructure Debt Funds to play a greater role in financing of the infrastructure sector and to move towards the regulatory objective of harmonisation of regulations applicable to various categories of NBFCs, Das said a review of the extant regulatory framework for IDFs has been undertaken in consultation with the government.

The revised framework envisages withdrawal of the requirement of a sponsor for the IDFs; permission to finance Toll Operate Transfer projects (ToT) as direct lenders, access to ECBs; and making tripartite agreement optional for PPP projects, he said.

## Air India Unveils New Brand Identity, Aircraft Livery



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Air India on Thursday unveiled a new brand identity and aircraft livery as the airline moves ahead with its transformation plan since being taken over by Tata Group more than one-and-a-half years ago.

The new look re-imagines the iconic Indian window shape, historically used by Air India, into a gold window frame that becomes central to the new brand design system. It symbolises a 'Window of Possibilities', according to a release.

Air India's new logo symbol 'The Vista' is inspired by the peak of the gold window frame, signifying limitless possibilities, progressiveness, and the airline's bold, confident outlook for the future, it said in a release.

The airline said the new aircraft livery and design features a palette of deep red, aubergine, and gold highlights as well as a chakra-inspired pattern.

"It also boasts a striking new custom-made 'Air India Sans' font, marrying confidence with warmth to position Air India as premium, inclusive, and accessible," the release said.

The new brand identity has been designed in partnership with the brand transformation company FutureBrand.

Travellers will begin to see the new logo throughout their journey starting December 2023, when the airline's first A350 enters the fleet in the new livery, according to the airline.

Tata Group took control of loss-making Air India in January 2022.

Earlier this year, Air India placed orders for 470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing at USD 70 billion (based on published list prices). The deliveries of the new planes will start from November this year.

As part of its transformation plan, the airline is leasing and buying 20 wide-body aircraft this year. Besides, a USD 400 million programme to completely refurbish the interiors of its legacy fleet of 43 wide-body aircraft will commence in the middle of next year.

By March 2024, the carrier expects that 33 per cent of its wide-body fleet will be upgraded.

"Taxi", the first phase of the transformation plan Vihaan.AI, which focussed on "addressing legacy issues of the airline at scale and laying the foundation for future growth" has concluded. The second phase "Take Off", -- that will focus on developing the platforms, processes and systems needed to build toward excellence -- is progressing now.

## Domestic Passenger Vehicle Wholesales Rise 2.57 Pc In July: SIAM



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Domestic passenger vehicles wholesales registered a 2.57 per cent year-on-year increase in July at 3,50,149 units, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers said on Thursday.

As per the latest data issued by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), dispatches of passenger vehicles (PVs) from manufacturers to dealers were at 3,41,370 units in July 2022.

Two-wheeler domestic wholesales were down at 12,82,054 units last month, as against 13,81,303 units in July 2022.

Three-wheeler wholesales were higher at 56,034 units, as compared to 31,324 units in the year-ago month.

Total vehicle dispatches across categories were at 16,40,727 units, as compared to 17,06,545 units in July 2022, SIAM said.

"Though the passenger vehicle and three-wheeler segments are performing well, there has been a de-growth of two-wheelers in July 2023, compared to July 2022.

"Overall, we expect that the positive economic environment, good monsoons, and upcoming festive season will support continued growth in the auto industry," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal SIAM said.

## OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT HAJIN

UT of Jammu & Kashmir

### NOTIFICATION

**Sub- General Merit list of candidates applied for the post of Sangnis (AWWs) of different AWCs & inviting objections thereof.**

**Ref- Govt Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:- 30.11.2022; Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated:- 28.04.2023**

This office has advertised five (05) posts of Sangnis (AWWs) vide notification No. 06 of 2023 Dated:- 10.07.2023 issued under endorsement No. CDPO/Poshan/Adv/H/2023/364-74 Dated:- 10.07.2023 and same was published through department of information vide DIP No. 355588 in the daily newspaper Kashmir Images on 12.07.2023. The notification was also uploaded on the website of District Bandipora besides wide publicity was given through PRIs & Masjid Committees concerned. In response to the notification applications were received from the eligible candidates within the cut off date. After proper scrutiny of the applications received from the candidates by the District level Selection Committee (DLSC) Bandipora constituted vide Govt Order No. 222-Jk(SWD) of 2022 Dated:- 30.11.2022, the general merit list of candidate here under mentioned as (Annexure A) and tentative Selection list here under mentioned as (Annexure-B) to this notification for each ward is published for inviting of objections (if any) within ten days from the date of publications of this notification, No objection shall be entertained after the cut off date.

### "ANNEXURE-A"

Merit List of Candidates of Panchayat Ajas C Panch Ward No. (02) Waz Mohallah Lassi for the post of Sangnis (Anganwadi Worker) at Anganwadi Centre Waz Mohallah											
S.No	Index No	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 10+2	Total Marks in 10+2	Academic Percentage/weightage	Relation with Retired AWW with 2 point Percentage	Total Percentage/Weightage	Remarks
1	18	Faiza Bhat	D/O Shamas Ud Din Bhat	12th pass	02-02-1996	330	500	66.00%	0	66.00%	
2	6	Mehroza Akhter	W/O Irfan Rashid Bhat	12th pass	08-03-1996	318	500	63.60%	0	63.60%	
3	15	Kulsooma Bashir	W/O Zaffer Rasool Bhat	12th pass	04-01-1993	426	750	56.80%	0	56.80%	
Merit List of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Ajas (A) Rawathpora Panch Ward No. (04) for the post of Sangnis (Anganwadi Worker) at Anganwadi Centre Rawathpora											
1	1	Aasia Ramzan	W/O Naseer Ahmad Mir	12th pass	15/03/1990	342	750	45.60%	0	45.60%	
2	14	Aamina Hasan	W/O Tariq Ahmad Mir	12th pass	08-11-1987	264	600	44.00%	0	44.00%	
3	16	Sumira Shafi	W/O Khurshed Ahmad Dar	12th pass	02-03-1987	291	750	38.80%	0	38.80%	
Merit List of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Poshawari Panch Ward No. (02) Hurr Mohalla Wanimohallah for the post of Sangnis (Anganwadi Worker) at Anganwadi Centre Poshawari C											
1	12	Saima Nazir	D/O Nazir Ahmad Bhat	12th pass	03-10-1995	292	500	58.40%	0	58.40%	
2	2	Nayeema Akhter	D/O Bashir Ahmad Hurra	12th pass	04-02-1989	268	600	44.67%	0	44.67%	
Merit List of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Sadunara C Ward No. (07) Bronth Mohalla for the post of Sangnis (Anganwadi Worker) at Anganwadi Centre Bronth Mohalla											
1	5	Hakeena Akhter	D/O Farooq Ahmad Wagay	12th pass	01-01-2004	348	500	69.60%	0	69.60%	
2	4	Urmeela Farooq	D/O Farooq Ahmad Wagay	12th pass	03-12-2001	287	500	57.40%	0	57.40%	
3	19	Shabnam Ismayeel	D/O Mohd Ismail Wagay	12th pass	25/03/1995	273	500	54.60%	0	54.60%	
4	10	Bisma Rashid	D/O Ab Rashid Bahru	12th pass	01-01-2001	219	500	43.80%	0	43.80%	
5	20	Zenab Sultan	D/O Mohammad Sultan Wagay	12th pass	15/02/1986	226	600	37.67%	0	37.67%	
Merit List of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Shahgund B Ward No. (01) Laway Mohallah for the post of Sangnis (Anganwadi Workers) at Anganwadi Centre Karnaie Mohallah Shahgund											
1	11	Suraya Bano	D/O Gulam Mohammad Dar	12th Pass	03-12-2000	385	500	77.00%	0	77.00%	
2	17	Rubeena Bano	D/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar	12th Pass	06-01-1998	332	500	66.40%	0	66.40%	
3	9	Bushrata Bano	D/O Bashir Ahmad Dar	12th Pass	17/01/2002	228	500	45.60%	0	45.60%	
4	7	Shaista Bashir	W/O Lateef Ahmad Peer	12th Pass	08-05-1993	326	750	43.47%	0	43.47%	
5	13	Mufti Aaleeyah Farooq	W/O Zulfqarain	12th Pass	13/05/1987	224	600	37.33%	0	37.33%	

### "Annexure-B"

Merit/Tentative selection list of Sangnis (AWWs) for different AWCs.

S.No	Index No	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 10+2	Total Marks in 10+2	Academic Percentage/weightage	Relation with Retired AWW with 2 point Percentage	Total Percentage/Weightage	Remarks
1	18	Faiza Bhat	D/O Shamas Ud Din Bhat	12th pass	02-02-1996	330	500	66.00%	0	66.00%	
2	1	Aasia Ramzan	W/O Naseer Ahmad Mir	12th pass	15/03/1990	342	750	45.60%	0	45.60%	
3	12	Saima Nazir	D/O Nazir Ahmad Bhat	12th pass	03-10-1995	292	500	58.40%	0	58.40%	
4	5	Hakeena Akhter	D/O Farooq Ahmad Wagay	12th pass	01-01-2004	348	500	69.60%	0	69.60%	
5	11	Suraya Bano	D/O Gulam Mohammad Dar	12th Pass	03-12-2000	385	500	77.00%	0	77.00%	

No.: CDPO/Poshan/Hajin/2023/468-472  
Dated:- 08 .08.2023

DIPK-6841-23  
DT: 10/08/2023

Sd/= Child Development Project Officer  
Poshan Project Hajin

## Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Introduces Comprehensive Pet Insurance Policy for Pet Cats

**Pune:** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers of India, today announced 'Pet Insurance Policy', which is an insurance cover which will now provide insurance protection for pet cats in addition to pet dogs. The Company was the first insurer in the country to introduce comprehensive pet insurance for dogs. The Pet Insurance Policy covers 35+ breeds of dogs and all breeds of cats. The cover is available on an individual as well as group basis and can be bought for annual, short term and long-term periods of up to 3 years. The revised policy brings you greater flexibility and helps you take better care of your furry friends.

The policy is designed in such a way that it allows customers to tailor the coverage according to their specific needs. The premium would vary depending on the age, size, cover, and the sum insured opted for. To simplify the policy structure and cater to different types of pets, the policy classifies dogs into four categories - small, medium, large, and giant. Similarly, cats are

categorized into indigenous and exotic breeds. The policy also covers pets used for commercial purpose as well. This comprehensive policy includes a range of essential covers to protect your furry friend, which includes coverage for Surgery Expenses and Hospitalization costs to ensure that your pet receives quality medical care. Additionally, the policy offers Mortality Benefits, Terminal Disease Coverage, Long Term Care, OPD Cover, and Third-Party Liability protection. In the unfortunate event of theft or straying, the policy covers Advertising Costs for locating the insured dog or cat. Moreover, it rewards the individual who successfully helps trace the lost or stolen pet.

The policy also covers vaccination failures, providing additional peace of mind for pet owners. To make the policy more affordable, various discount options are available like pet owners can enjoy discounts for RFID tagging, submitting Fitness/Medical certificates, insuring multiple pets, and opting for long-term coverage. Furthermore, the policy offers a built-in cumulative bonus that increases with each claim-free

year, rewarding responsible pet ownership.

Commenting on the product announcement, Mr. Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance said, "At Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, we understand the needs of our customers, and we constantly strive to address their worries. Pets are part of our family; we hold a deep emotional bond with them, and our desire to provide them with the best care possible is natural. To help our customers take better care of their four-legged family members, we have launched an enhanced pet insurance policy, which now extends care and protection to their feline friends. The revised policy offers a wider cover helping our customers provide the best-in-class care and protection to their beloved furry friends."

The relationship between owners and their pets is extremely special; Bajaj Allianz General Insurance recognizes the significance of this relationship, and their revised pet insurance policy provides all-around protection for pets. Now, you are not alone in caring for your pets.

## In a first, fuel outlet run by women convicts opens in Tamil Nadu

Chennai: The nation's first retail fuel outlet run by women convicts who are still serving their prison sentences was inaugurated here on Friday by Tamil Nadu Minister for Law and Prisons S Regupathy.

Named Freedom Filling Station, it is located on Ambattur Road here at Puzhal, abutting the Special Prison for Women (SPW-Puzhal). It will go a long way in reforming and rehabilitating the convicts, the Tamil Nadu prison department said. "For the first time in India, a petrol retail outlet will be fully managed by convicted women prisoners. About 30 female prisoners will be employed at this petrol retail outlet. The prisoners will get Rs 6,000 each as monthly salary," an official release said.

DGP in charge of Prisons and Correctional Services Amaraesh Pujari said the newly opened petrol bunk run by women convicts is a first in India, and will be run by the women convicts of SPW-Puzhal prison. It will help them in their reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration with the society, he said.

It provides the women prison inmates an opportunity to learn new skills and gain work experience, which can help them find employment after their release. Also, it will give them a sense of responsibility, dignity, and self-worth, which can boost their confidence and morale. They can earn some income (up to Rs 10,000 per month) which they can use to support their families or save for their future, he said.

The initiative will open up exposure to the outside world and interaction with

customers and the larger society as well, which in turn can help improve their social skills and also reduce isolation. The plan will encourage prison inmates to behave well and follow rules, as they have to meet "certain criteria and behavioural yardsticks" to be eligible for the job, he pointed out.

R Kanagaraj, DIG Prisons (Head Quarters); A Murugesan, DIG Prisons, Chennai Range; and V C Asokan, Executive Director & State Head, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, IOCL took part. The prison department has already been running a 'Prison Bazaar' as part of its reform and rehabilitation initiatives. Items made by prisoners, including shoes, rain coats, readymade garments, handicrafts, note books, compost manure, bakery products and vegetables cultivated by them are sold through the Prison Bazaar under the brand name Freedom.

The government had already accorded sanction for setting up five petrol retail outlets on the premises of Puzhal, Vellore, Coimbatore and Palayamkottai jails and the Borstal School in Pudukkottai. These retail outlets, run by the Tamil Nadu Prison Department in association with Indian Oil Corporation, are functioning well under the brand name Freedom Filling Station.

The state government in an order dated May 2, 2022 sanctioned setting up of six more petroleum retail outlets on the outer premises of central prisons including the Puzhal Central Prison on Ambattur Road here, as well as in Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli (two outlets), Madurai and Salem.

## CBI arrests Srijan scam 'key accused' Rajni Priya after 6 years

New Delhi: The CBI on Thursday arrested Srijan Mahila Vikas Sahyog Samiti (SMVSS) secretary Rajni Priya, a "key accused" in the Rs 1,000 crore scam by the Bihar-based NGO, officials said.

Priya, who was absconding for the last six years, was arrested from Sahibabad area of Ghaziabad adjoining Delhi, they said.

"The arrested accused (Priya), daughter-in-law of the NGO founder (Manorama Devi) and Secretary of the NGO, is allegedly key accused in the scam and has been absconding since the beginning of investigation. She was declared proclaimed offender by the court," a CBI spokesperson said.

The Special Judge, CBI cases, Patna had issued a non-bailable warrant against Priya declaring her a proclaimed offender.

The agency registered 24 cases since 2017 on the allegations of misappropriation of Rs 1,000 crore (approx.) of government funds by fudging records between 2003 and 2014, the officials said.

"The scam came to light after the death of the founder (Devi) of the NGO based at Bhagalpur in Bihar. CBI had taken over the investigation of the cases on the request of the Bihar government. It was alleged that the officials of said NGO entered into conspiracy with officials of various banks, including Bank of Baroda, Indian Bank, and Bank of India, for diversion of government funds into the accounts of said NGO by using forged documents," the spokesperson said.

The agency has filed a number of charge sheets in the case in which several persons including a former district magistrate of Bhagalpur have been named as accused. It is alleged that the SMVSS, which was working towards imparting training to women, had pilfered government funds in connivance with the bank officials and state government officials between 2003 and 2014.

There was illegal transfer and misuse of funds from government accounts in Bhagalpur district to accounts of the 'Samiti' through a conspiracy hatched between government officials and office bearers of the NGO, the CBI has alleged.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### PM Modi Tears

government did not believe the common man.

"They used to trust the Hurriyat, they used to trust the separatists, they used to believe those who carried the Pakistani flag," he said.

The prime minister said when India carried out surgical strikes on terrorism, and air strikes, the Congress and its allies did not believe the armed forces, they trusted the claims of the enemy.

Modi said the opposition possessed an amazing magnetic power to lap up every word spoken against India and amplify it across the country.

#### Man Gets 1 Yr Jail,

undergo further imprisonment for a period of six months," the court said, adding, "Such fine of Rs. 4.60 lakh imposed on the accused shall be recovered by issuance of levy warrant to be executed by District Collector Srinagar who is authorised to realize the amount from the accused by attachment of immovable property of the accused after the period of appeal is over."

The court also declined to exercise its discretion of probation to the accused, observing that the impact of this offence is usually confined to the private parties involved in commercial transactions."

#### Arrested Afghani

of the UAPA and the Egress and Internal Movement (Control) Ordinance was registered against the accused on the information of the Army, the official said, adding his questioning revealed that he was associated with terror group 'Al-Badr' and had come to this side for a recce of the area without generating any suspicion due to his disability.

Meanwhile, a local court on Thursday granted the police 10 days remand of the Afghan national for questioning.

Wahab was produced in the Munsiff court in sub-division Mendhar, where police sought his remand for questioning, the official said.

#### J&K's Surrender

said the real issue is whether the process adopted by the Centre for abrogating Article 370 was permissible or not.

"To say that Article 370 is permanent is really difficult. Suppose the state itself says that we want all laws (prevailing elsewhere in the country) to apply, then where does Article 370 go? Then, we really come back to the main question of process (where Parliament can repeal Article 370). Was this process permissible or not?" Justice Kaul asked Shah.

The senior counsel replied there may be different perceptions on the issue and the question would be whether Article 370 was temporary or became permanent as the constituent assembly was not there to remove it on August 5, 2019.

The petitioners have repeatedly said the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir alone could have recommended the abrogation of Article 370 and, since it ceased to exist after drafting the state Constitution in 1957, the provision acquired a permanent status. They have maintained that Parliament arrogated to itself the power of abrogating the constitutional provision, an act that was unconstitutional.

"If that machinery (constituent assembly) was to be recreated, then Article 370 could be removed?" Justice Kaul asked.

The senior lawyer said for complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India, one had to get rid of the Instrument of Accession signed on October 26, 1947 as well as Article 370, and execute a merger agreement.

Shah wondered whether one can proceed on an assumption that the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir would have recommended to the Union of India the abrogation

of Article 370 so it "completely integrates" with the country.

Justice Khanna voiced his reservations on the use of the term "completely integrates", saying the integration had already taken place as per Article 1 of the Constitution.

CJ Chandrachud said though there are restraints on the power of Parliament to make laws for states on subjects falling in the state list, the distribution of legislative powers does not affect the fact that the sovereignty vests in India.

"Restraint on the power to enact legislation is implicit in the scheme of the Constitution because we don't have a unitary state. But does that retract from sovereignty? No. It's just a fetter on Parliament," the CJ said, adding concurrence is not something unique only with regard to the country's relationship with Jammu and Kashmir.

He said there are various shades of concurrence required under the Constitution and they don't reflect on the sovereignty of the Union.

Referring to Article 246 A, which relates to Goods and Services Tax, the CJ said this is a classic case where the Union of India or Parliament can do nothing without the concurrence of states.

"Article 246A has completely redefined our notions of sovereignty as states are given a vital role in financial matters," he told Shah, adding "Our notion of parliamentary exclusion from states has been an evolving exercise. But one thing is clear, the sovereignty of Jammu and Kashmir was ceded completely to the Union of India."

During the day-long hearing, Shah said limitations were provided in Article 370 itself with regard to the powers of Parliament to make laws for Jammu and Kashmir and, if the Centre intended to make any law on a subject which was not covered under the Instrument of Accession, concurrence of the state government was required.

He said special status was accorded to Jammu and Kashmir because there was no merger agreement and the state's autonomy had to be maintained.

Shah argued the then governor of Jammu and Kashmir had committed a "serious constitutional misconduct" in 2019 by recommending the abrogation of Article 370 to the President.

He said people of Jammu and Kashmir have been divided for a long time as one part went into Pakistan, the other is with China and the remaining part is here.

The Shaksgam Valley was ceded to China by Pakistan in 1963 when the two countries signed a boundary agreement to settle their border differences. Aksai Chin and Shaksgam Valley are part of Chinese administered territory in Jammu and Kashmir which India claims as its own.

"We are being sandwiched by all forces being applied," Shah said and referred to the division of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories.

Shah concluded his arguments after which senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan commenced his submissions on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference and others.

The hearing remained inconclusive and will resume on August 16.

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.

#### LG Invites Industry

incentives, support for expansion and opportunity to explore emerging possibilities in Tourism, Information Technology Enabled Services, Agriculture & Allied Sectors, he said.

"For the promotion of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, the UT Administration had also taken an important decision and increased the

total procurement of Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings from MSMEs to 25 percent," he said.

LG also launched the One District One Product (ODOP) Box of J&K UT. He said all the districts of J&K are being developed as export hubs and efforts are being made to take the One District One Product Box launched today to the global market.

Earlier, the LG commended the MSME Development Forum for its endeavours to bring together policymakers and entrepreneurs for the promotion of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

"Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises are accelerating India's economic growth and powering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'," he said.

"Initiatives such as MSME Expo, trade fairs provide an important platform to spread awareness about government schemes, policies and to explore new business opportunities in the sector," he added.

More than 40 exhibitors, supported by JKPTPO, are participating in the 9th India International MSME Expo & Summit 2023, showcasing their innovative products, services, and solutions across diverse sectors.

Rajnish Goenka, Chairman, MSME Development Forum; Alexander Rybas, Trade Commissioner of Russian Federation in India; Dr Deepak Vohra, Indian Diplomat; Dr Sharad Kohli, National Board member, MSME Development Forum, foreign and domestic business delegates, investors, entrepreneurs and representatives of MSMEs were present on the occasion.

#### 'Kashmir Turning

were seen rushing to their homes just after sunset," the LG said. He said that street violence, Pakistan sponsored terror, terrorism, separatism, closure of schools for 150 days a year is history now.

"Cinemas are functioning normally and people are enjoying the nightlife. Youth could be seen going home late at night with guitars and ice-creams in their hands," the LG said.

#### Conjunctivitis Cases

light, and chemicals may also become the cause of 'pink eye'.

Excessive tearing, mucus discharge, redness, burning or sandy feeling in eyes are the most common symptoms of viral conjunctivitis and that the severe or untreated cases may result in complications that impact vision negatively.

Prof Dr. Ruby Reshi, Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla confirmed a spike in 'pink eye' cases in the northern district of Kashmir and said the advisory has already been issued in this direction and measures are being taken to deal with the issue.

She said that over 15 positive 'Pink Eye' cases have been recorded in Baramulla thus far and that the actual scenario would be established in a week. She was however quick to add that the number of cases are slightly higher than usual.

"Baramulla district usually records two to three cases of conjunctivitis but the situation this time is a bit different as the number of cases recorded is slightly higher than usual. But there is nothing to worry as the bacterial virus resolves on its own within a week or two if precautions are taken positively," Dr Ruby told Kashmir Observer.

When contacted, spokesman, Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Dr Mir Mushtaq Ahmad said the situation is under control at the moment and that every measure is taken by the administration to deal with the situation.

He urged people to maintain proper hygiene including frequent hand wash, not touching eyes with unclean hands and avoiding sharing personal items like towels.

When asked whether 'pink eye' cases have also been reported in Srinagar, DHSK spokesman said yes cases are there but there is nothing to worry about as the situation is completely under control.

#### J&K To Seek

see the basis on which this report was made," Nanda told Kashmir Observer.

The report sent shock waves across the valley with people demanding a thorough probe in the case. Political parties like National Conference and Aam Aadmi Party also staged protest demonstrations in this capital city seeking whereabouts of missing women.

However, a senior police officer told Kashmir Observer that most of the cases are related to lovers eloping and then marrying on their own without letting their parents know.

"Whenever any girl is missing from home, their parents register a missing complaint in the concerned police station. We trace them and they reveal that they had fled on their own choice and have married," said the officer, wishing not to be named.

In many cases, she said, even if the girl returns home after eloping with her boyfriend, the case still goes to the court of law and remains open in the police station.

The officer further revealed that the figures revealed on the floor of the house were eight months old and most of the cases have been disposed off or either closed.

"This data was submitted in December 2022. Most of these cases have been closed. So, these numbers are not true as on this date," she added.

Meanwhile the Government of India said that they have taken a number of initiatives for the safety of women across the country.

"The Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013 was enacted for effective deterrence against sexual offences. Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of girls below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and filing of charge sheet in rape cases in 2 months and trials to be completed in 2 months," MoS home said in Rajya Sabha.

"Emergency Response Support System provides a pan-India, single internationally recognized number (112) based system for all emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a cyber-crime reporting portal on 20th September, 2018 for citizens to report obscene content besides that MHA has launched the "National Database on Sexual Offenders" (NDSO) on 20th September 2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies," he said.

Notably, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said that his government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance for crime against women and is committed to punish the criminal networks or individuals behind human trafficking.

#### Barman Chargesheeted

CBK received a complaint from some employees of RSGC, Srinagar alleging that Mohammad Sidiq Qazi, working as a barman at RSGC Srinagar is actually 67 years of age and is still serving in the department.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No. 57/2022 was registered at P/S Crime Branch Kashmir in the year 2022 and investigation started.

"During investigation, it has been established and proved that the accused individual had submitted a fake D.O.B. certificate at the time of his initial appointment as a result of which he illegally continued to remain in service beyond his actual age of superannuation," the spokesperson said.

The chargesheet has accordingly been presented against the accused person in the Court of Judge Small Causes Srinagar for judicial determination.

#### Man Arrested

sections of the Ranbir Penal Code was registered at the Crime Branch Jammu police station in 2012 following a complaint by a person that he was duped of his hard earned money by a gang on the pretext of arranging government jobs for his children.

The spokesperson said Handoo had been evading his arrest for the last nine years by constantly changing his locations.

A chargesheet against the accused, including Handoo, was filed in a court in 2014 for judicial determination after allegations of cheating and fraud were substantiated and proved against them during the course of investigation, he said.

Handoo is the eighth absconder arrested by the Crime Branch Jammu in different cases in the past nine weeks, the spokesperson said.

#### Man Injured

bear at an earliest to avoid any untoward incident in the area.

#### Six Terrorist

two grenades, they said.

The individual was identified as Showkat Ali Awan, resident of Churunda area of Uri.

During his questioning, he revealed the names of his accomplices Ahmad Din and Mohammad Sadeeq Khatana who were questioned and upon their disclosure two grenades, a Chinese pistol, a pistol magazine and four live rounds were recovered from them, the officials said.

The accused were involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the behest of Pakistan-based terror handlers and its further distribution to LeT terrorists for carrying out terror activities, the officials said.

A case has been registered and investigations have been taken up, they added.

In another incident, security forces arrested three terrorist associates linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT in Budgam in central Kashmir and recovered incriminating materials from their possession.

The arrests were made in Khanshab area of district.

The terrorist associates have been identified as Qaisar Ahmad Dar, resident of Kremshora, and Tahir Ahmad Dar and Aqib Rashed Ganie, both residents of Wagar, the officials said.

Incriminating materials, including a Chinese hand grenade, two magazines and 57 live rounds have been recovered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation, they said.

A case has been registered and investigation has been taken up.

#### IAF Rescues

Force evacuated from Markha Valley, Ladakh," Defence PRO Leh said on X, formerly known as Twitter, while sharing two video clips and a picture.

The PRO said, "IAF's single-engine helicopters flew in uncharted territory and narrow valley without any flat terrain/feature to land."

#### 3 Absent Teachers

at ensuring employee attendance across various government schools.

"During the inspection at the Government Boys Middle School in Gomal, within the Tangdhar zone, it was discovered that three teachers were absent from their duties without proper authorization," he said.

Subsequently, the official said that the absent teachers have been promptly placed under suspension as a consequence of their actions.



## Junior Boys Football National Trials From Aug 12

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association will hold open selection trials for the 2023 Hero Junior Boys National Football Championship Dr. B.C Roy Trophy on August 12 and 13 at Synthetic Turf TRC here. The trials will start from 8:30 AM onward.

Nazir Ahmad Andrabi, JKFA Chairman (Election Committee/Working Committee/Day-to-day Affairs Committee), issued a notice Thursday stating similar trials will be held in Jammu at Mini Stadium, Parade Ground from 4:00 PM onward.

"Players eligible for the trials must be born on or after 1st January 2008 and not later than 31st December 2009. We kindly request all District Football Associations (DFAs)/Zones of the Kashmir province to send their top 3 players to the trials in Srinagar," the FA said.

"Participants are advised to bring their original Date of Birth certificates issued by their respective Municipalities or Board of School Education. These certificates are crucial for eligibility verification. For further information and inquiries, please contact the J&K Football Association office," the statement added.

## Sajid Dar Named JKFA Selection Committee Chairman

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association on Thursday named a four-member Selection Committee set to be headed by renowned coach Sajid Yousuf Dar.

A crucial JKFA meeting was convened Thursday to discuss the formation of the Selection Committee. "The primary aim of this committee is to ensure fair and effective player selection processes for upcoming National football events," the FA said.

"Following thoughtful deliberation, it has been unanimously decided that Mr. Sajid Yousuf Dar will take on the responsibility of leading the Selection Committee as its Chairman," it said.

Sajid Dar is a former J&K footballer who took to coaching in 2004 after an illustrious career representing J&K in Santosh Trophy and JK SRTC and Iqbal Sports FC at local club level. Dar



is now an AFC Licensee and an AIFF Educator. He has coached the Indian National Women's and U-16s teams.

The University of Kashmir football coach will now oversee the Selection Committee, which includes Zahoor Ahmad Teli, Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Rajesh Samberia and Moon Stephen.

"The Selection Committee will also be comprised of esteemed members who have been selected for their expertise and dedication to the sport," the statement added.

## District Water Sports Event Concludes In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The 20th District Water Skiing Championship concluded at the Water Sports Center, Nigeen Lake here on Thursday. The three-day event was organized by J&K Water Skiing Association in association with J&K Sports Council.

The event was inaugurated on the August 8 by Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir, J&K Sports Council, Muzaffer Husain Wani. He was accompanied by other officials of the Sports Council besides the office bearers of the concerned association and eminent citizens of the area.

During the closing ceremony apart from the facilitation of the winners, the demos for water surfing, water skiing, mano water skiing, waterboarding, water

skiing, double skiing, zigzag skiing, and criss-cross skiing.

The players from the districts of Srinagar, Bandipora Badgam Ganderbal, and Baramulla took part in the event.

At the closing ceremony, Muzaffer Husain Wani presided over the function as the chief guest. He was flanked by Principal B.Ed college Bandipora, Prince Parvaiz Ahmed as the guest of honor.

While speaking on the occasion, Muzaffer Wani stressed the active participation in sports for the holistic personality development of the youth that can keep a check on the other social evils among the youth.

The guest of honor, Prince Parvaiz Ahmed appreciated the role played by the J&K Sports Council in engaging youth of the union territory in purposeful sports activities.

## India 'Desperate' To Win World Cup: Rohit Sharma



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Skipper Rohit Sharma on Thursday said India are "desperate" to break their ICC trophy drought in the upcoming World Cup and are armed with "inner confidence" and "self-belief" to win the title.

India have gone without a trophy in ICC events for a decade now, with their last major win coming in the Champions Trophy 2013, two years after their World Cup triumph at home.

"Honestly, I have never won a (50 overs) World Cup, it's a dream to win a World Cup and to be here fighting for it nothing makes me happier than that," Rohit told the media here on the sidelines of an event.

"You don't get World Cups on a platter, you have to really work hard and that is what we have been doing all these years from 2011 till now we all are fighting for it," the India

captain said.

"Everyone is desperate to go and win, because we know we have a good team. We are all good players, that inner confidence and self-belief is there that they can do it. It's not happened doesn't mean that we take it lightly. When we lost the 2022 World Cup, I said we will keep fighting for the next World Cup," he added.

"The World Test Championship was coming and I said we will keep fighting for it, no matter what. Kabhi na kabhi to milega (we will win it at some point)," he expressed.

Rohit said while he is tasked to lead the team, his primary job is to do well as a batter.

"I need to do first as a batter. Captaincy is secondary... my role in the team is more as a batter. Obviously to captain well as well, (but) first of all, I have to score big runs and win games for the team." With key men such as KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer unavailable

in the lead-up to the World Cup, Rohit said he is scared of injuries now but stressed on the importance of resting the players.

"Last year also we did the same thing — the T20 World Cup was there, so we didn't play one-day cricket. Now also we are doing the same, the ODI World Cup is there, so we are not playing T20s," he said.

"You can't play everything and be ready for the World Cup. We decided this two years ago. (Ravindra) Jadeja is also not playing T20, you did not ask about him? I understand about the focus (on himself and Virat). But Jadeja is also not playing," Rohit said in reply to a query about him and Kohli missing India's recent T20 assignments.

"It is a World Cup year; we want to keep everyone fresh; already we had so many injuries in the team that I am scared of injuries now," he continued.

## 'No. 4 Slot In ODIs Issue For India Ahead Of Asia Cup & World Cup'



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** No batter has succeeded in settling into the vital number four slot in the Indian ODI team since the retirement of Yuvraj Singh, captain Rohit Sharma said on Thursday, raising serious concerns before the World Cup.

With the 50-over World Cup less than two months away, India are struggling to find a batter for the No. 4 slot, something that has also troubled them in the previous edition in 2019 in England.

Shreyas Iyer, who is on a comeback trail after a long injury layoff, did well in his 20 matches at No. 4, scoring 805 runs at 47.35 with two centuries and five fifties. "Look, No.

4 has been an issue for us for a long time. After Yuvi (Yuvraj Singh), nobody has come and settled themselves in.

"But, for a long period of time, Shreyas (Iyer) has actually batted at No. 4 and he has done well — his numbers are really good," Rohit told reporters on the sidelines of a La Liga event here.

"Unfortunately, injuries have given him a bit of trouble; he has been out for a while and that is honestly what has happened in the last 4-5 years. A lot of these guys have got injured and you will always see a new guy coming and playing there," he said.

The India captain said the percentage of injuries to players in key positions has hampered

the team in the longer run.

"The percentage of injuries that have happened in the last 4-5 years, it is massive. When the players get injured or are not available, you try doing different things with different players — that is what I have to say about No. 4," he said.

"Even before, when I was not the captain, I was watching no? There were so many guys who came in and went out. But injuries kept them away or they were not available or someone lost form," Rohit added.

With both KL Rahul — India's preferred option for No. 5 as wicketkeeper-batter — and Iyer on comeback trail, Rohit said they will wait and watch how these two players go.



## Gundogan Yet To Be Registered Ahead Of Barcelona Debut

Agencies

**MADRID:** Midfielder Ilkay Gundogan is among several Barcelona players who have yet to be registered with LaLiga due to the club's breach of Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules, raising doubts about their participation in Sunday's season opener against Getafe.

Other than former Manchester City captain Gundogan, who joined on a free transfer in June, new signings Inigo Martinez, Ilkay Gundogan and Oriol Romeu have also not been registered. Players such as Ronald Araujo, Marcos Alonso, Sergi Roberto and Inaki Pena, who signed new contracts, also remain unregistered.

That means the LaLiga champions have only 12 players available for their season debut. Barca experienced the same situation last season, when they were blocked by the strict LaLiga financial reg-

ulations to register new signings such as Robert Lewandowski, Franck Kessie, Andreas Christensen and Raphinha. They were eventually registered on the eve of Barca's season opener after the club triggered a last minute economic operation.

Defender Jules Kounde, however, ended up missing several games as his formalities were not completed until the end of August. Clubs have to meet LaLiga's salary cap to register new signings as well as those who sign contract renewals.

Last year Barcelona resorted to selling club assets as "economic levers" to create the margin they needed with LaLiga, as their debts totalled 1.35 billion euros (\$1.49 billion). They will not be able to play at Camp Nou for the next few seasons after agreeing a financing deal worth 1.45 billion euros to renovate the iconic but outdated stadium.

## Real Madrid GK Courtois Tears Knee Ligament, Needs Surgery

Agencies

**MADRID:** Real Madrid was dealt a major blow on Thursday when goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois tore a ligament in his left knee, just two days before the team's first game of the season.

The club said its star goalkeeper will require surgery, meaning that he will likely be out for a large part of the campaign. Local media reported that the injury occurred during training.

The injury comes after an off-season that featured the exit of striker Karim Benzema, with the club having yet to sign a replacement.

The 31-year-old Courtois has been a pillar of Madrid's success since he arrived from Chelsea in 2018. His saves provided the perfect counterpoint to Benzema's goals. The Belgium international helped Madrid win



the Champions League in 2022, Spanish league titles in 2020 and 2022, and last season's Copa del Rey.

Previously, Courtois helped Chelsea win two Premier League titles and an FA Cup. Before his stint in London, he played for Real Madrid's rival, Atletico Madrid, helping it win the Spanish league and Europa League.

Madrid opens the season on Saturday at Athletic Bilbao, when rarely used backup Andriy Lunin, a Ukrainian player, looks set to take Courtois' place. (AP)

## West Ham Sign Mexico Midfielder Alvarez From Ajax

Agencies

**LONDON:** West Ham United has signed Mexico midfielder Edson Alvarez from Ajax Amsterdam on a five-year deal, the Premier League club announced on Thursday. West Ham did not disclose terms but Ajax

said the two clubs had agreed a transfer fee of 38 million euros (\$41.90 million), which could increase to 41 million euros with add-ons.

"We're really pleased to add Edson to our squad," said manager David Moyes after his first signing of the summer transfer window. The 25-year-old, who was under contract at Ajax until 2025, is a twice Dutch champion and has made 147 appearances, scoring 13 goals in all competitions, for the Eredivisie club since arriving in 2019.

He has been capped 69 times for Mexico, playing at the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

## Saudi Pro League Set To Kick Off After Raiding Europe's Top Clubs For Footballing Talent

Agencies

**RIYADH:** When the new Saudi Pro League season kicks off on Friday it will herald a new dawn for football in the Gulf kingdom which has spent close to half a billion dollars luring top players and coaches from traditional European powerhouses.

Last season, Al-Ahli and Al-Hazm were in the second division but the two clubs will meet in the league's opener with fans around the world tuning in to see star-studded sides that seemed like a distant dream only a year ago. Al-Ahli, in particular, are one of the few clubs that have benefited from the Saudi Public Investment Fund's (PIF) project to invest in and privatise clubs, which also include reigning champions Al-Ittihad, Al-



Hilal and Al-Nassr.

On Friday, one could forgive Al-Ahli fans for rubbing their eyes in disbelief when they see Champions League winners like Riyad Mahrez, Edouard Mendy and Roberto Firmino line up in their team's shirt after the club's return to the top-flight. Saudi clubs spent nearly 450 million euros in the close season signing players, most from elite teams in Europe as

the PIF created a blueprint for what football fans can expect in transfer windows to come.

The league turned heads when Cristiano Ronaldo joined Al-Nassr last season soon after the World Cup in a deal which made him the highest-paid athlete on the planet. The Portugal forward's move paved the way for more household names to sign up for a Saudi league that has

increased its size from 16 teams to 18.

Ronaldo's Al-Nassr lost out on the title to Al-Ittihad, who wasted no time in reinforcing their team, with coach Nuno Espirito Santo bringing in Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante, Fabinho and Jota. But Al-Ittihad will face stiff competition for the title from Al-Nassr and Al-Hilal this season.

**NO GUARANTEES**

Runners-up Al-Nassr brought in Croatia midfielder Marcelo Brozovic from Inter Milan while Brazilian defender Alex Telles arrived from Manchester United.

But they made a statement signing by adding Sadio Mane to their attacking lineup, with the unhappy Senegal forward leaving Bayern Munich after one season.

## Harry Kane To Decide After Tottenham & Bayern Munich Reach Transfer Agreement

Agencies

**LONDON:** Harry Kane has a career-defining decision to make.

The England captain must choose whether to stay at Tottenham, the English team where he has been since 2004, or move to German giant Bayern Munich.

The clubs reportedly have reached an agreement regarding the transfer of Kane — for a deal worth more than 100 million euros (USD 110 million) — and now it is over to the striker to decide.

Neither club has commented officially about reaching an agreement for Kane. Tottenham has previously said Kane wasn't for sale, but has held talks with Bayern in recent weeks.

Kane, who is the second highest-scoring player in Premier League history with 213 goals, is entering the last



year of his contract at Spurs and can leave as a free agent in 2024. It puts pressure on Tottenham to sell him this summer if the club is to get any money for its star player. Kane reached the Champions League final with Tottenham in 2019. However, he has never lifted a major trophy at the club and the team's progress has stalled. An eighth-place finish in the Premier League last season meant Tottenham failed to qualify for

European competition.

The three-time Premier League top scorer could be the key to revitalising Bayern, which lacked a focused goal-scoring threat through the centre last season after Robert Lewandowski left for Barcelona. Bayern needed goal difference to beat Borussia Dortmund to the German title on the final day of a turbulent season in which its top Bundesliga scorer was Serge Gnabry with 14 goals. Two years ago, Lewandowski scored a record 41 goals.

However, there will be pressure to succeed immediately. Bayern's last high-profile signing from the Premier League, Sadio Mane, was widely considered a flop after his arrival from Liverpool a year ago.

Mane's departure for Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr and the sale of defender Lucas

Hernandez to Paris Saint-Germain helped to free up funds to sign Kane.

Kane's move is also a symbolic moment for the England team, whose players are generally reluctant to leave the riches of the Premier League.

No permanent England captain has played for a club outside England since David Beckham at Real Madrid in 2006. England's squad for its most recent games was entirely Premier League-based after Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham withdrew injured.

Kane has long been linked with Manchester United. However, United didn't want to be drawn into protracted negotiations with Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy and opted for a younger option in Rasmus Hojlund, who joined for an initial 64 million pounds (USD 82 million) last week. (AP)

## Influencers With 5 Lakh Followers Will Be Considered Celebs: Ads Body



**Agenceis**  
Mumbai: Influencers having over 5 lakh followers or earning more than 40 lakh per year will now be classified as 'celebrities' appearing in ads, ASCI said on Wednesday.

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), a self-regulatory body of the advertising industry, broadened the definition of who is a celebrity and needs to comply with its code.

Celebrities are required to adhere to requirements by doing due diligence before signing up to endorse a brand and also produce evidence of the same when called upon by Ascii and not peddle prohibited items.

The review in definition was necessitated because in recent years, the phenomenon of social media influencers has created

new centres of mass influence, a statement from Ascii said.

Historically, it said, celebrities who could lend credibility to brands and influence large masses of people largely comprised popular actors and sports personalities.

Asci said flouting of guidelines is common, and despite the existence of the norms, it processed over 500 misleading ads featuring celebrities in FY23.

"We have a range of personalities who are extremely popular on social media and share a close personal connection with consumers. These personalities affect the spending habits of consumers who trust them. So, it's vital to ensure consumer protection," Manisha Kapoor, body's chief executive and secretary general, said.

## Big Sign That Mars May Have Been Habitable At Some Point In Its Past

**Agenceis**

**New Delhi:** Mars may have seen dry and wet season cycles and thus, may have been habitable at some point in its past, according to scientists.

Analysis of mud crack patterns on early Martian surface, observed by NASA's Curiosity Rover, suggest an irregular or episodic presence of water, meaning water could have been present for a time and then evaporated.

The process may have repeated until mud cracks formed, the scientists from France, US and Canada said in their study.

"These exciting observations of mature mud cracks are allowing us to fill in some of the missing history of water on Mars. How did Mars go from a warm, wet planet to the cold, dry place we know today? "These mud cracks show us that transitional time, when liquid water was less abundant but still active on the Martian surface," said Nina Lanza, principal investigator of the ChemCam instrument onboard the Curiosity Rover and one of this study's authors.

On Earth, mud cracks are known to assume a T-shape initially. However, subsequent wetting and drying cycles can cause these cracks to take more of a Y-shape.

The Y-shape of the mud cracks



on the Martian surface, therefore, could mean that the red planet saw wet-dry cycles, the scientists said in the study published in the journal Nature.

Further, these cracks were only a few centimetres deep, suggesting that these wet-dry cycles could have been seasonal or could have occurred more quickly, such as through flash floods, they said.

These findings, thus, point to the possibility of Mars once having had Earth-like wet climate and that Mars may have been able to support life at some point.

"(The wet-dry cycles create) the perfect place for the formation of polymeric molecules required for life, including proteins

and RNA, if the right organic molecules were present at this location," said Patrick Gasda, co-author of the paper.

"Wet periods bring molecules together while dry periods drive reactions to form polymers. When these processes occur repeatedly at the same location, the chance increases that more complex molecules formed there," said Gasda.

"These features point to the existence of wet-dry environments that on Earth are extremely conducive to the development of organic molecules and potentially life. Taken as a whole, these results give us a clearer picture of Mars as a habitable world," said Lanza.

## White House Offers Million Of Dollars In Prize For Hacker-Thwarting AI

**Agenceis**

Washington: The White House on Wednesday launched a competition offering millions of dollars in prize money for creating new artificial intelligence systems that can defend critical software from hackers.

Competitors vying for some of the \$18.5 million in prize money will need to design novel AI systems that quickly find and fix software vulnerabilities in electric grids, subways or other key networks that could be exploited by hackers, President Joe Biden's administration said.

"This competition will be a clarion call for all kinds of creative people in organizations to bolster the security of critical software that American families and businesses and all of our society relies on," the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Arati Prabhakar, told a briefing.

To boost participation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) running the competition will put \$7 million into funding small businesses that want to compete, according to the White House.

DARPA is collaborating with AI tech titans Anthropic, Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI, which will provide expertise and technology for the competition, Arati Prabhakar said.

The challenge is intended to "bring together diverse thinkers from all across the nation

to think about how we can use AI to dramatically improve cybersecurity," Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber and Emerging Technology Anne Neuberger said in the briefing.

The challenge was announced in Las Vegas at a cyber security conference ahead of a Def Con gathering where hackers will attempt to penetrate various AI systems.

"We'll have thousands of people over two and a half days red teaming leading AI models to see how they stack up," Ms Prabhakar said.

Red teaming is a tech industry reference to testing systems by fiercely attacking them the way hackers would.

"In cybersecurity, there's always a race between offense and defense," Ms Neuberger said.

"We see the promise of AI in enabling defense to be one step ahead."

Joe Biden evoked AI's "enormous" risk and promise last month at a White House meeting with tech leaders who committed to guarding against everything from cyber-attacks to fraud as the sector revolutionizes society.

Standing alongside top representatives from Amazon, Anthropic, Google, Inflection, Meta, Microsoft and OpenAI, President Biden said the cutting-edge companies had made commitments to "guide responsible innovation" as AI rips ever deeper into personal and business life.

*Quick eats for busy people*



**Bun Maska**  
& Chai

*Chicken Crispy*

*Burger*



📍 JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR