

## Heat Wave In Kashmir Over: MeT Weather To Remain Pleasant, No Major Rainfall Till Oct 5

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Announcing an end to the scorching heat wave in Kashmir following fresh snowfall in the upper reaches of the Valley, the weather department on Tuesday predicted dry weather conditions to continue in the Union Territory till October 5.

The valley got respite from the heat after receiving brief spells of rainfall in scattered places, especially the higher reaches in the last three days. The weather in many areas remains cloudy.

Notably, the rainfall broke the nearly two-month-long unprecedented dry spell in Kashmir on Monday as the season's first snowfall occurred in the ski resort of Gulmarg.

Mukhtar Ahmad, deputy director Meteorological department (MeT) told Kashmir Observer that the monsoon is over as the autumn season has arrived.

"The heat wave is over. The weather will remain dry except a sporadic rainfall in scattered places. However, there is no forecast of any major rain or snowfall for the next one week," Ahmad told. **» More On P10**

## Jaishankar Makes Fiery Speech At UNGA Days When Few Nations Set The Agenda Are Over: India

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: India on Tuesday told the UN General Assembly that the days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over, underlining that its Presidency of the G20 sought to focus on key concerns of the many, not just the narrow interests of a few.

Beginning his address to the General Debate at the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly with the salutation "Namaste from Bharat", Jaishankar said India had taken on the G20 Presidency in December 2022 "with a sense of exceptional responsibility".

Jaishankar's 'Namaste from Bharat' salutation was a first in his address to the UN General Assembly.

He said Delhi's vision of One Earth, One Family, One Future "sought to focus on the key concerns of the many, not just the narrow interests of a few".

India's G20 Presidency came at a time when the world was



witnessing an exceptional period of turmoil.

"As it is, structural inequities and uneven development have imposed burdens on the Global South. But stresses have been aggravated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and

the repercussions of ongoing conflicts, tensions and disputes. As a result, socio-economic gains of recent years have been rolled back," he said.

Jaishankar referred to remarks by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had said

that it was to bridge divides, dismantle barriers and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world, where unity prevails over discord and where shared destiny eclipses isolation.

"The New Delhi G-20 Leaders' Declaration articulates

our collective ability to do so," Jaishankar said, referring to the joint declaration adopted by consensus at the Leaders' Summit in Delhi on September 9 and 10.

"At a time when East-West polarisation is so sharp and North-South divide so deep, the New Delhi Summit also affirms that diplomacy and dialogue are the only effective solutions. The international order is diverse and we must cater for divergences, if not differences. The days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over," he said.

Noting that resources for sustainable development are being severely challenged, many countries are really struggling to make ends meet and navigating the future appears even more daunting today, Jaishankar said India began its G20 Presidency by convening the Voice of the Global South Summit that enabled it to hear directly from 125 nations and place their concerns on the **» More On P10**

## US Not To Get Involved In Kashmir: Envoy

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Amid a row over the US envoy to Islamabad visiting Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Tuesday said the American delegation has visited Jammu and Kashmir as well for G20 meetings.

Garcetti was reacting to questions on US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome's six-day visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week.

"It's not my place to react to the US Ambassador in Pakistan but he's been before and we obviously had part of our delegation in Jammu and Kashmir during G20 as well," the American envoy told reporters on the sidelines of the 20th Indo-US Economic Summit.

At the same time, Garcetti made it clear that the Jammu and Kashmir issue has to be resolved bilaterally by India and Pakistan and not by any third party, including the US.

"We'll stay engaged but this is an issue we very religiously know that has to be resolved between India and Pakistan not by any third party including the US," he said. **» More On P10**

## Granting Sanction Under AFSPA GoI's Prerogative: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday said no direction can be issued to the Union of India, Home Affairs, to grant sanction to prosecute the accused persons under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Dismissing a petition being "misconceived", a bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal said that it was the sole prerogative of the Union Government to grant or refuse the sanction.

The petition was filed by one Munawara Sultan for directing the J&K government to forward the case for grant of sanction to the Union Government to grant sanction for prosecution of the accused BSF forthwith in connection with her husband's killing in 1993, four months after their marriage.

In the reply, SHO Police Station Shergari, Srinagar had stated that the investigation

has been closed as challan against some officials of BSF has been filed but as the AFSPA is in vogue in the State of J&K and the sanction for launching prosecution against the officials is mandatory, as such, the case has been submitted to the Home Department for taking up the matter with the Ministry of Defence, Government of India for accord of sanction for launching the prosecution against the accused persons.

"...this Court is of the considered view that no direction can be issued to the respondent No.5 (Union Government) to grant sanction to prosecute the accused persons and it is the sole prerogative of respondent No.5 to grant or refuse the sanction," the court said, adding, "Any direction by this court would amount to interference in the decision to be arrived at by the respondent No.5 on the basis of record placed before him."

## Efforts On To Finish Residual Militancy In J&K: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Asserting that terrorism is at its lowest ebb in Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Tuesday said efforts are on to finish residual militancy and also the drug menace from the Union territory.

He said the anti-terrorist operation in south Kashmir's Kokernag about a fortnight ago was a successful one and there was no change in the peaceful atmosphere in the valley after the gunfight.

"Militancy (in Jammu and Kashmir) has reached its lowest ebb with the contribution of the people. Police and other security forces, who have a lot



of contribution (in controlling terrorism), are promise-bound to finish it off and efforts are on in this direction," the police chief told reporters at Katra in Reasi district.

Accompanied by Additional Director General of Police (Jammu) Mukesh Singh, the DGP dedicated the newly-constructed modular police station to the people at Katra - the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

Asked about the gunfight between terrorists and security forces in the forests of Kokernag from September 13 to September 19 that left four security personnel including three officers and two terrorists dead, Singh said there was no change in the peaceful atmosphere in the valley after the incident.

"Prior or after the Kokernag encounter, the situation continues to remain **» More On P10**

## 2 Women Among Nine Held For Arms Smuggling

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Asserting that terrorism is at its lowest ebb in Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Tuesday said efforts are on to finish residual militancy and also the drug menace from the Union territory.

A terrorist and eight terror associates, including two women, involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition were arrested in separate operations as security forces unearthed two terror modules in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said on Tuesday. The terrorist associates were involved in cross-border smuggling of arms **» More On P10**

## HC Rejects Bail To 'Rapist' Stepfather

The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has declined bail plea to man accused of raping his stepdaughter in Kupwara. The accused Ferooz Ahmad Dar was arrested subsequent to registration of a case (FIR No.17/2022) with Police Station, Women, Kupwara on 13 June 2022. Dar's counsel had submitted that the prosecution has concluded its evidence and now the case was pending for defence evidence and, as such, there was no apprehension that Dar would tamper with the prosecution evidence. **» More On P10**

**ANY DIRECTION BY THIS COURT would amount to interference in the decision to be arrived at by the respondent No.5 on the basis of record placed before him."**

## Dal, Nigeen Lakes To Get New Lease Of Life With Floating Sewage Treatment Plants

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Dal and Nigeen lakes here will soon have floating sewage systems that connect the houseboats to treatment plants, protecting the lakes from pollution in the process.

The Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), which manages and conserves the water bodies and waterways of Jammu and Kashmir, said the project will collect sewage from the houseboats and keep the lakes clean. Both lakes have over the years suffered a great deal of pollution.

The Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), which looks after, manages, and conserves the water bodies and waterways of J-K, said the project will totally arrest the



sewerage from the houseboats and render the lakes clean. Speaking to PTL, LCMA vice chairman Bashir Ahmad Bhat said that the refuse from houseboats currently go directly into the two lakes. Since the problem of sewage seeping into the lake has persisted, the government has decided to connect

**WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF HOUSEBOAT OWNERS AND HOUSEBOAT associations. They want this network to develop so that the lake remains clean."**

the houseboats through a proper sewage system.

Last year, the LCMA started a programme under which they planned to connect all the houseboats in the Dal and Nigeen lakes to the sewerage line, Bhat said.

"The western shore houseboats of Nigeen Lake were connected last year. Then the Dal Lake project got started and

currently, we have completed 60 to 70 per cent of the work. We are hopeful that by the end of October, all the houseboats of both lakes will be connected to the sewerage line," he said.

The houseboats in the lakes are being connected with a sewage treatment plant through a floating sewage system.

"Basically, it is to arrest all the refuse that gets into the lake so as to improve the water quality. The goal (of LCMA) is to restore Dal Lake to its pristine glory," Bhat said, adding that it was a challenging project as many experiments on collecting sewage have failed in the past. He added that there are 950 houseboats in both lakes. Tanveer Ahmad, Assistant Executive Engineer, LCMA, **» More On P10**

## SHORT TAKES

### 4 Suspects Held With Pistols In Budgam

Security Forces on Tuesday apprehended four suspects along with arms and ammunition in central Kashmir's Budgam district. An official said that based on specific inputs, on the intervening night of 25-26 in Beerwah area of Budgam district, four suspects were arrested. He said that they were apprehended along with arms and ammunition including three Pistols and other war like stores. Chinar corps in an **» More On P10**

### Councilor Removed For Abusing Powers

In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has removed a councilor of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on the grounds of abusing her official powers. The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) has ordered removal of Jyoti Devi, councillor, Jammu Municipal Corporation, who was caught red handed by sleuths of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while accepting Rs 1000 as bribe. "Now, therefore, in **» More On P10**

### Two Youth Injured In Bear Attack

Two youths on Tuesday were attacked and injured by a black bear in Budgam district of Central Kashmir. 18-year-old Ishaq Ahmad Sood and Mushtaq Ahmad Poswal (24), both residents of Khanshab were attacked by the bear in the Ringzabal forest area of the district on Tuesday evening, reports said. Both the injured were removed to primary health centre (PHC) Hardapunzoo for treatment. However, the doctors there referred them to SKIMS. **» More On P10**

### SPO Found Dead In Poonch

Special Police Officer (SPO) was found dead in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday with preliminary investigation suggesting that he suffered fatal injuries in a road accident. The body of SPO Khaliq Husain was recovered from a field, around 10 feet below the main road, near village Kankote with his motorcycle lying nearby, Station House Officer of Police Station, Poonch, Deepak Pathania said. **» More On P10**

### Eid-e-Milad Holiday On Thursday


Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday postponed the holiday on account of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) to Thursday instead of Wednesday. According to an order, the holiday in Jammu and Kashmir shall be observed on September 28. "In partial modification of Government Order No. 1596-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated: JO.1.2022 read with Government Order No. 1597-JK(GAD) Of 2022 dated 30.12.2022, it is hereby ordered that the holiday on account of **» More On P10**

### Cop Among 2 Dead In Poonch Accident

Two persons, including a policeman, were killed and another was injured after a car skidded off the road and fell into a 100-feet deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said. The accident took place at Zirat Plera area in the district when a car driven by constable Mohammad Sadiq fell into the gorge, they said. The constable and one Jamil Ahmed died in the accident, they added. A third person, **» More On P10**



**کانفرنس اہم**



یہ شوکت حسین قادری ولد میر غلام نبی قادری ساکن شالیمار 25 ستمبر 2023 بروز سوموار شام 4 بجے اہل کولیک کے گھر جمعہ کی انتہائی فاقہ خوانی 29 ستمبر 2023 بروز جمعہ المبارک صبح 10:00 بجے آجی مقبرہ زہدہ صاحبہ صاحبہ عزا داری میں انجام دی جائیگی۔  
 منیجنگ: میر مظفر احمد قادری (برادر اکبر)، میرہ مفتیظ احمد قادری (فرزند)  
 بیڈیشن اور رانی (فرزند ہستی)

**CONDOLENCE**

The staff members of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Mr. Muzafar Ahmad Kuchay Resident of Ranipora ShangusAnantnag an employee of the Department who passed away this world on 23rd September, 2023 after a tragic road accident. In a condolence meet that was held at the head office, all the employees extended heartfelt condolences to the concerned family during this difficult time.

Muzafar was an integral part of the Department and his contributions were invaluable. He will be remembered not only for his professional accomplishments but also for his kindness, generosity, and dedication that made a positive impact on the lives of those around him.

In honor of Muzafar's memory, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir held a condolence meeting at its premises and paid respect to the departed employee. While offering heartfelt sympathies and condolences, the employees prayed for the peace to the departed soul and patience for the kith and kin.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer REW Division Ganderbal**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**NIT No.148/2023-24 of REW Ganderbal Dated: 25/09/2023**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Major Head	Block	Treasury Challan Account Head
1	Construction of Plastic Waste Management Unit at Yachihama Block Kangan District Ganderbal	17.60 Lacs	1000	60 Days	BEE/CEE	52800	SBM	Kangan	0515

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of funds: Partially Available.  
 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-09-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25-09-2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	25-09-2023 from 2:00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	03-10-2023 at 4:00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) -	04-10-2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Conditions for Bidders:

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (REW) Division Ganderbal (Account Head-0515-Executive Engineer REW Ganderbal) mentioning therein NIT No. & Serial No. Of Work on it.
- Note: The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money/CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 3% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer (REW) Division Ganderbal. Non submission of earnest money/bid security shall render the bidder as non-responsive.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@3% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder (LI) shall be treated as Performance Security for fixation of contract.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@3% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the unsuccessful Bidders shall be released within 15 days after opening the Tender on production of Treasury Challan.
- The Tender Opening Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.
- Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure "B" given below.
- The date and time of opening of Bids will 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 will be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work will remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR within five days after opening of bids, as per following break-up:-

S.No	Percentage of unbalance bid viz., advertised cost on account of Low rates	Additional Performance Security to be deposited on quoted bid by LI
1	Up to 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%

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- (a) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering with the RDD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Ganderbal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document) and relevant bid documents will be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- 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. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- 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 up to completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes will 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 REW e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRP and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-  
 a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.  
 b. Scanned copy of E- challan/Treasury Receipt  
 c. Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal  
 d. Scanned copy of Valid GST No./ GST Acknowledgement receipt with latest GST (3B) or GSTR-(1) certificate of ending previous month/ quarter.  
 e. PAN Card  
 f. Tender Document Fee Receipt shall have NIT No. & Serial No. Of Work Mentioned on it.
- Defect Liability period:- The DLP shall be Calculated from date of certified completion of work and period will be 12 months.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No. XEN/REW/GBL/e-tendering/ 10993-11002  
 DPK-9474/23 Dated:- 26-09-2023

Sd/  
 Executive Engineer (REW)  
 Division Ganderbal

**GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.**  
**Ground Water Division Srinagar**  
 Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.  
 E- mail:- [phegw@dialup.com](mailto:phegw@dialup.com), Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

**EXTENSION NOTICE 2nd**

Due to "Poor Response" against E. Nit No.20/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, issued under No: - JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./ 4097-4111 dated:- 14-09-2023 for the works:-

- Construction of 125 mm machine drilled hand pump well at Waheedpora Nursery, in SF Range Ganderbal in District Ganderbal. Tender ID: 2023\_PHE\_229778\_1.
- Construction of 125 mm machine drilled hand pump well at Khonmoh Nursery, in SF Range Srinagar in District Srinagar. Tender ID: 2023\_PHE\_229778\_2.
- Construction of 125 mm machine drilled hand pump well at Malpora S.K Bala NHO Gh. Qadir Dar. Tender ID: 2023\_PHE\_229778\_3

Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 25-09-2023 (02.00 PM) are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	29-09-2023 up to 02.00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	30-09-2023 11.00 AM

NOTE:  
 All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./ 4557-71  
 DPK-9435/23 Dated:- 26-09-2023

Sd/  
 Executive Engineer,  
 PHE Ground Water Division,  
 Srinagar.

**G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No:- 230-2023-24-ADEN-II/ASR Dated: 25.09.2023 Sr.DEN-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-17/10/2023 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 this 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 [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
25.09.2023	03.10.2023	17.10.2023 / 15:00 Hrs

S.No.: 1 Tender No. 230-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR

Details of Tender: Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/PAX under ADEN-II/ASR

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
55,00,090.88/-	1,10,000.00/-	60 Days	09 Months

Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28"

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2991/2023

**G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**e-Tender Notice**

For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DMU CAR SHED JALANDHAR CITY invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work.

Name of work: Installation and commissioning of Automatic coach washing plant at DMU Car Shed Jalandhar City

Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	Rs. 2,43,99,000/- (Two Crore Forty Three Lakh and Ninety Nine Thousand Only)
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 2,72,000/- (Two Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Only)

Tender document available for sale on website	25.09.2023
E-Tender closing Date & Time	23.10.2023 at 15:00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	23.10.2023 at 15:15 Hrs
Validity of Tender	45 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Type of Tender	Open Tender (Single Packet System)
Contract Period	06 Months
Website	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Tender No.: 03-2023-24-DEMU-JUC Dated : 25.09.2023 2983/2023

Serving Customers With A Smile

**G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr.DEN-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-13/10/2023 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 this 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 [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date / Time
21/09/2023	29/09/2023	13/10/2023 / 15:00 Hrs.

Tender No. 231-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR

Details of Tender: Provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Pathankot City Railway station under ADEN/PTK in C/W ABSS.

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
3,09,38,416.81/-	3,04,700.00/-	60 Days	10 Months

Similar Nature of work:- " Any Civil Work other than track work "

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

Tender Notice No:- 231-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR Date: 25.09.2023 2978/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Walk-In-Interview for the post of Contract Medical Practitioners over Firozpur Division**

Website:- [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) (>News&recruitment info>Recruitment info)

Walk-in-interview for the post of Contract Medical Practitioners (CMPs) of 04 posts on contract basis over Firozpur Division will be held on 06.10.2023 at Srinagar Railway Station, 1st floor, Conference Hall, J&K at 10.00 hrs on 06.10.2023 (For the one post of CMP, HU/BDGM) & DRM Office, Firozpur (Northern Railway) at 10.00 hrs on 11.10.2023. Candidates can download Walk-in-interview form and notification from the website <https://nr.indianrailways.gov.in/>. For more information or any query contact on 9779232631, 9540096053 or can email on [srdpfzr@gmail.com](mailto:srdpfzr@gmail.com).

**Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer,**  
 Northern Railway/Firozpur

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2972/23

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,**  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer**  
**PHE Jal Shakti Spl. (PHE) Division Kulgam**  
 TELE: 019312, E-Mail: [xenphekgm@gmail.com](mailto:xenphekgm@gmail.com)  
 E-mail: [xenphekgm@gmail.com](mailto:xenphekgm@gmail.com). Phone/Fax: 01931295109

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
**FOR**  
**ENIT NO.38/PHEK/2023-24 ISSUED UNDER NO:PHEK/3270-76 Dated 25/09/2023**

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

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost(Rs.in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document	MH of Account
1	Clearance of silt from SRs /PSTs / FPs/ Flocculators /Intake Chambers of Sub Division Kulgam under M and R	520252.00	10400.00	DEE	10 days	300.00	M&R
2	Clearance of silt from SRs /PSTs / FPs/Flocculators/ Intake Chambers of block DH Pora and block DK Marg of Sub Division DH Pora under M and R	321456.00	6430.00	DEE	10 days	300.00	M&R

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings ( if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: [WWW.jktenders.gov.in](http://WWW.jktenders.gov.in)

As per the Schedule of dates given below:

	Publishing date of NIT	25/09/2023
I.	Download start date	25/09/2023
II.	Bid submission start date	25/09/2023
III.	Bid submission end date	03/10/2023
IV.	Bid opening date	04/10/2023

- Bids must be accompanied by with cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan shown against the each item advertised and credited to MH 0215 –PHE Government Account as per the devised format enclosed.
- The bids shall be opened in the office of Executive Engineer Special PHE Division Kulgam on the above mentioned date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.
- Bidders shall ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like:  
 i. Registration card duly renewed for the year 2023-24  
 ii. Treasury Challan (TR)  
 iii. Earnest money in the form of CDR FDR pledged to Ex Engineer  
 iv. PAN/GST with latest GST return  
 v. Bidders Address format with full particulars.  
 vi. Latest ITR
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.
- As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he/she has to draw necessary agreement with the department. However, non-drawal of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-  
 a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.  
 b) The successful contractor fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract.  
 c) The successful bidder fails to start the work within one week from the date of fixation of contract.
- The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject the bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- Watch & ward of departmental. Material issued for the work(s) shall be exclusively the responsibility of the successful contractor/bidder & in the event of any loss/theft of the materials, the same shall be the responsibility of the bidder, the cost thereof shall be recovered from the bidder @ double the stock issue rates.
- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to torrential rains/heavy snow fall/cyclone/floods etc. shall be the responsibility of the bidder till the work is finally handed-over to the Department.
- The taxes viz. Income tax, & Cess shall be deducted from the bidders claims as admissible under rules.
- The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities). In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling item rate inclusive of all taxes & it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The unit rates & prices shall quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of work unless otherwise specified.
- If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the BOQ, such item/items shall be deemed to be the part of the overall/total contract value and no rate shall be allowed for such item/items.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of Contract allotment as the case may be.
- In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty of the maximum 10% of the contract value shall be imposed upon the agency.  
 19. No mobilization advance /equipment advance shall be paid  
 20. Anything of historic/significant value unexpectedly discovered on the site during execution of work shall be property of the Government.  
 21. It shall be mandatory for the executing agency/contractor to ensure safe and adequate supply of electricity required for all the work men skilled/unskilled deployed at site of work. Besides no labour below the age of 18 years should be engaged as per the Labour law  
 22. Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled/unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premium shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself  
 23. Other terms and conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD form-25 double/tender document  
 24. No pre-tender/repeated tender of any successful work shall be accepted in no case.  
 25. The successful bidder LI shall have to deposit an additional security in the shape of CDR/FDR before award of contract in case the LI is found to be unbalanced as per the details given below.

S.No	Percentage of Unbalanced Bid	Additional Security	Advertised value of work as percentage of advertised cost
1	Upto and including 15%	Nil	
2	Greater than 15 to 20% below	5%	
3	Greater than 20 to 25%	10%	
4	Greater than 25 to 30%	15%	
5	Greater than 30%	20%	

DKP-9480/23 dated: 26-09-2023

Sd/  
 Executive Engineer  
 Spl.PHE Division Kulgam



LMD Conducts Intensive Drive Against Smuggled, Illegal Cigarette Sale

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of Controller Legal Metrology Department (LMD) UT of J&K, the Enforcement squad of Legal Metrology Department conducted an intensive drive against the sale of smuggled/illegal cigarettes in various markets of District Srinagar.

During the inspection several locations were raided including Koker Bazar, Batamaloo, Bohri Kadal, Maharaja Gunj etc in which various brands of illegal cigarettes like Paris Special Filter cigarettes, Business Royals,

Gold Vimal, Win etc were seized. A case was registered against the delinquent dealers for selling the brands in contravention to the provisions of Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and the Rules made there under.

The Legal Metrology Department has registered a few cases against the delinquent dealers for selling illegal cigarette brands in the past months and imposed huge penalties.

Similar drives for other products shall be continued in future for compliance under Legal Metrology Laws and strict action shall be taken against the offenders.

Delay In Salaries Sparks Protest Outside CE's Office In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: All Jammu and Kashmir Casual Daily Wagers Association staged a protest outside the Chief Engineer's office in Rajbagh here on Tuesday, demanding the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led administration to release their pending salaries.

The protesters gathered outside the Chief Engineer's office here in Rajbagh and raised slogans in favor of their demands.

Talking to the media, the protesting daily wagers who gathered outside the Chief Engineer's office earlier today said the protest was organized to seek the pending dues.

The protesters had carried placards in their hands and chanted slogans while demanding immediate redressal of their grievances.

"The government stopped our salaries, forcing us to take to the streets. We have no issues with the government, but we want our pending salaries to be released at the earliest," said Sajad Parry, President of the association.

"If a daily wager is working honestly for many years, they should receive their salary on time, but the government has also stopped the payment. The government should intervene in this matter and ensure that we receive our salaries on time," added Wajahat, EJAC president.



Dal turning into Swamp Lake with Red Algae defacing the mystic water body situated on the foothills of Shankaracharya hills. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Unnecessary Referrals Impacts Patient Care At B&J Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government Bone and Joint Hospital in Barzulla here is receiving 1000 patients on an average in Out Patient Department (OPD) while officials at the hospital claimed that 90 percent of them can be managed at peripheral hospitals.

The doctors posted at B&J Hospital Srinagar said the OPD receives around 1000 patients on average, from different corners of Jammu & Kashmir and even Ladakh.

On Monday and Tuesday, the number of OPD patients

Though the hospital is the valley's largest tertiary-care bone and joint hospital, that doesn't mean you have to refer every case here to put pressure on limited resources

even goes to 1300-1500 while on the rest of the days; it remains between 800 and 900, a doctor wishing anonymity said.

He said dozens of patients are being referred to the hospital from district and sub-district hospitals every day.

"Though the hospital is the valley's largest tertiary-care bone and joint hospital, that doesn't mean you have to refer every case here to put pressure on limited resources," he said.

A top doctor at the hospital said that around 90 percent of the patients visiting OPD and referred to the hospital can be easily managed at peripheral hospitals.

"When there remains a heavy rush of patients, you are unable to give more time to the patients who deserve it," he said, adding the unnecessary referrals severely impact the treatment of genuine patients.

Action Plan For Implementation Of PM Vishwakarma Scheme Finalized

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to finalize the action plan for implementation of recently launched PM Vishwakarma Scheme designed to uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople in District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here today at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Assistant Commissioner Development, Secretary SMC, Senior Superintendent of Post Office, Deputy Director Employment, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Lead District Manager, District Manager CSC and other concerned Officers from Sericulture, Floriculture, Labor, Tourism, Fisheries, FCS&CA, MSME Department.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner discussed threedbare various aspects of with regard to implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme including implemen-

tation framework, coverage of trades, Process Flow for availing benefits, financial provisions in order to improve the quality, as well as the reach of products & services of the Artisans (Vishwakarmas) i.e. Self-employed traditional artisans and craftspeople forming the informal or unorganized sector of the economy.

During the meeting, the role and responsibility of all line Departments was deliberated in detail and actionable points viz Identification and Verification of the Beneficiaries and process of their registration were also discussed in threedbare.

On the occasion, the DC asked the Officers of all line Departments to be more practical in successful implementation of the scheme so that the target group is benefitted for their overall socio-economic development.

The DC asked the line Departments to submit lists of registered Artisans and Craftspeople by October 3, 2023 so that the same is uploaded on PM Vishwakarma and subsequent approval for release of benefit by the District Level Implementation Committee.

The DC also instructed

that Common Service Centers (CSCs) will ensure smooth enrollment of beneficiaries under the scheme, while verification of beneficiaries shall be done by the Rural Development Department and Srinagar Municipal Committee.

Highlighting the features of PM Vishwakarma, the Deputy Commissioner said that the scheme will directly benefit thousands of Artisans and Craftspeople of the District working with their hands and tools besides transforming the lives of the Artisans and Craftspeople contributing in preservation of traditional and heritage crafts.

The DC further said the scheme will enable the recognition of Artisans and Craftspeople as Vishwakarmas (Traditional Artisans) making them eligible to avail the benefits under the Scheme. The DC hoped that through implementation of the Vishwakarma scheme, the Artisans who are the economic growth of the society will get easy access to collateral free credit, skill upgradation besides getting a platform for brand promotion and market linkages through modern technological interventions.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority Gulmarg. E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 7700) Out-sourcing of '01 No. Coffee Shop near Ski Slope at Gulmarg through GeM Portal for a period of 03-years. No:GDA/F-40/2023/ 823 dated 19/08/2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date :20.10.2023 at 15:00 Hrs only.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488, 2452222, 2452155

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

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

PRAYERS FAJR 4:59 ZUHR 12:22 ASR 4:40 Magrib 6:26 ISHA 7:46 HIJRI CALENDAR 10 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1445

This Day In History

- 1290 - Earthquake in Gulf of Chili China, reportedly kills 100,000 1794 - French troops conquer Crèvecoeur 1821 - Mexican revolutionary forces led by Agustín de Iturbide occupy Mexico City as Spanish withdraw, bringing an end to the Mexican War of Independence

From KO Archives

Israeli Experts Help India's Kashmir Ops

Jerusalem - Israeli anti-terrorism experts have been helping India combat Muslim separatists in Jammu and Kashmir, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported Friday. The despatch of the experts, who Haaretz said were winding up their mission Friday, came three months after a visit to Israel by Home Minister Lai Krishna Advani



## 'Stay Vigilant': Canada Updates Travel Advisory For Citizens In India

Press Trust of India

Canada has updated travel advisory for its citizens in India asking them to "stay vigilant and exercise caution" in the context of recent developments as there are calls for protests and some "negative sentiment" towards Canada on social media.

Tensions flared between India and Canada following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"In the context of recent developments in Canada and in India, there are calls for protests and some negative sentiment towards Canada on social media. Please remain vigilant and exercise caution," the Canadian government said in an update on Sunday.

This comes after New Delhi issued a similar advisory for Indian nationals and students living in Canada and halted visa services late last week, Global News reported.

## Bandh In Bengaluru Against Cauvery Water Release To TN Evokes Partial Response

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** The Bengaluru bandh called by various organisations over the Cauvery river water dispute evoked partial response on Tuesday with most of the public services functioning normally.

Farmers and Kannada organisations, backed by the opposition BJP and JD(S) had made the call for shutdown in protest against the release of Cauvery water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Normal life was affected in the city as fewer people ventured out.

'Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti,' an umbrella outfit of farmers' associations and other organisations led by farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar, has given the call for today's dawn-to-dusk (6 am to 6 pm) Bengaluru bandh.

Shanthakumar and other leaders of the 'Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti were detained by the police at the Mysuru Bank circle, as they were trying to hold a protest march towards Town Hall.

Several activists of Kannada organisations were also whisked away by the police at Town Hall, as they gathered there to stage a protest.

Farmers' leaders and Kannada activists hit out at the government for allegedly using police force to curtail the protests and bandh.

City police have taken adequate security measures to respond to any violence that may happen during the protests. About 100 platoons have been deployed.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said that prohibitory orders under Section 144 are in place across the city from midnight on Monday to Tuesday midnight in the wake of the bandh.

Also, according to existing restrictions and court orders, there is no permission for any bandh or procession in the city, he said. "No one can forcefully implement the bandh by using force, other than in cases where someone wants to observe it voluntarily."

Meanwhile, a Karnataka bandh, a state-wide shutdown, has been called, on September 29 by 'Kannada Okkuta', an umbrella organisation for Kannada organisations, led by activist Vatal Nagaraj. They are not supporting today's bandh.

Bengaluru Urban district Deputy Commissioner Dayananda K A has declared a holiday for all schools and colleges in the city on Tuesday, in view of the bandh.

Though cab services, autos and hotels/ restaurants were seen operating, drivers and hotel operators said not many people were coming out to utilise the services.

## Disease X Could Be Next Big Pandemic, Kill 50 Million People, Says Expert



Agencies

According to a UK health expert, Disease X could lead to another pandemic more lethal than Covid-19 and could claim at least 50 million lives, the Daily Mail reported. Earlier, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that Disease X represents an epidemic that could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease.

Kate Bingham, who chaired the UK's Vaccine Taskforce from May to December 2020, suggested that the new virus could have an impact similar to the devastating Spanish Flu of 1919-1920.

Bingham said, "Let me put it this way: the 1918-19 flu pandemic killed at least 50 million people worldwide, twice as many as were killed in the

First World War. Today, we could expect a similar death toll from one of the many viruses that already exist."

She added that the world must prepare for mass vaccination campaigns and deliver doses in record time to neutralise the threat from Disease X. Bingham further explained that there are several viruses replicating and mutating more than all other life forms on the planet combined.

"Not all of them pose a threat to humans, of course, but plenty do," she told the Daily Mail.

Bingham also mentioned that scientists have identified 25 virus families, any of which could mutate into a deadly pandemic. Additionally, there could be more than one million undiscovered variants that may be able to jump from

one species to another.

"The vast majority of people infected with Covid-19 have managed to recover," Bingham said. "Imagine Disease X being as infectious as measles with the fatality rate of Ebola, which is 67 per cent. Somewhere in the world, it's replicating, and sooner or later, someone will start feeling ill."

According to WHO, "Disease X represents the knowledge that a serious international epidemic could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease. The R&D Blueprint explicitly seeks to enable early cross-cutting R&D preparedness that is also relevant for an unknown 'Disease X.'" This list was first published in 2017, and the order of prioritisation was carried out in 2018.

## US, India, Allies Discuss Threats Facing Asia-Pacific, China Reacts



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Army chiefs and senior officers from 30 countries including the United States met in New Delhi Tuesday to discuss threats facing the Asia-Pacific region, in the face of concern at an increasingly assertive China.

US Army chief Randy George said the region was "critically important", speaking to reporters alongside Chief of Army Staff Manoj Pande, and vowed to boost cooperation to "maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific".

Generals from Japan and Australia, which make up the "Quad" defence cooperation forum alongside Washington and Delhi, also took part, as

did Britain and France.

As the generals met, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Beijing would oppose the "wanton expansion of military alliances", the latest in a string of warnings as Washington deepens security ties in the Asia-Pacific.

Beijing has long said that any effort to establish a NATO-like military alliance in the Asia-Pacific would provoke conflict. Nations present at the two-day conference in Delhi included Vietnam and the Philippines, both of which have longstanding pending territorial disputes with China.

The conference, which launched in 1999, brings together army chiefs and top officers from 30 countries.

Mr Pande said the region faced challenges on both land and at sea.

"These range from territorial disputes over land masses, or in some cases, even over artificially expanded islands to acquire real estate and establish military bases," Mr added, in an indirect reference to China.

New Delhi has also had to balance its traditional alliance with Russia -- the provider of most of its arms imports, and now a source of cut-price oil -- with growing ties to Washington.

"The partnership between India and the US armies is vital for stability in the region, and the relationship between our armies is strong and growing stronger," George said.



## Ram Temple Getting Ready, Idols Installation By Jan 22

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The construction of the ground floor of the three-storey Ram temple in Ayodhya will be completed by December-end, and the consecration ceremony is expected to take place on January 22, temple Construction Committee Chairperson Nripendra Mishra has said.

In an interview to PTI, he also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to take part in an event related to the 'pran pratishtha' on any day during January 20-24. The final date is yet to be communicated by the Prime Minister's Office, he said.

Mishra also said work is underway to design an apparatus that will be installed on the 'shikhar' of the temple, which will make sun rays fall momentarily on the forehead of the deity in the sanctum sanctorum on the day of Ram Navami every year.

It is being built in Bengaluru and its design is being overseen by scientists, he added.

The Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, and an institute in Pune have jointly created a computerised programme for this, Mishra said.

The Supreme Court in a 2019 verdict had paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot an alternative five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a new mosque at a "prominent

place in the holy town of Uttar Pradesh.

The court had ruled that the 2.77 acres of the disputed land where the demolished 16th century-era Babri Masjid once stood will remain with a Central government receiver and be handed over to the trust within three months of the ruling for the construction of the temple.

The Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust will formally invite Prime Minister Modi for the consecration ceremony during which the idol of Ram Lalla will be installed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.

The temple trust has decided to start the process of the consecration of Ram Lalla after Makar Sankranti on January 14, and observe a 10-day ritual of Ram Lalla's 'pran pratishtha' (consecration).

The Ram temple in Ayodhya is likely to open for devotees on January 24 after the consecration of Ram Lalla idol, Mishra, a member of the trust, had said in June.

In response to a query during the interview, Mishra did not reject the suggestion that the ceremony taking place ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls shall have political implications.

"It was planned to complete the construction of the ground floor of the temple by December 2023 and this work will definitely be completed within the stipulated time," he said.

## Ornaments Worth Rs 20 Crore Stolen From Delhi Jewellery Shop



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Ornaments worth over Rs 20 crore are missing from a jewellery shop in Jangpura area of Delhi after an alleged burglary, police said on Tuesday.

"We got information on Tuesday from Umrao Jewellers. Police teams reached the spot. We have started an investigation into the matter," said Rajesh

Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast).

Police said that the store remains closed on Monday and the incident is expected to have occurred between Sunday night and Monday.

"There are many CCTV footage available which our forensic teams checking. The accused will be nabbed soon," the official said.

## PM Modi Pays Homage To Dev Anand On 100th Birth Anniversary



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid homage to cinema legend Dev Anand and said his films not only entertained but also reflected the aspirations of India.

Dev Anand, the star of movies such as "Hum Dono", "Tere Ghar Ke Samne", "CID" and "Guide", would have been 100 on Tuesday. He passed away in 2011 at the age of 88.

"Dev Anand Ji is remembered as an evergreen icon. His flair for storytelling and passion for cinema were unmatched. His films not only entertained but also reflected the changing society

and aspirations of India.

"His timeless performances continue to influence generations. Remembering him on his 100th birth anniversary," PM Modi wrote on X alongside photographs with the screen icon.

Dev Anand made his debut as an actor in 1946 with "Hum Ek Hain" before establishing himself as a leading star with movies like "Paying Guest", "Baazi", "Jewel Thief", "Johnny Mera Naam", "Amir Garib", "Warrant" and "Hare Rama Hare Krishna", which he also directed.

For his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, Dev Anand was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2002.

## Lookout Circular Issued Against Ex-Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Badal

Press Trust of India

**CHANDIGARH:** A lookout circular (LOC) has been issued against former Punjab finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal, who has been booked in connection with alleged irregularities in the purchase of a property in Bathinda, a top official of the Punjab Vigilance Bureau said on Tuesday.

The LOC was issued on Monday after teams of the Punjab Vigilance Bureau conducted raids at the residence of Badal, who joined the BJP after quitting the Congress in January, in Muktsar to nab him.

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau has registered a case against Badal and five others in connection with alleged irregularities in the purchase of a property in Bathinda.

Besides Badal, former Bathinda Development Authority (BDA) chief administrator Bikramjit Shergill, Rajiv Kumar, Amandeep Singh, Vikas Arora and Pankaj have been booked in the matter.

Rajiv Kumar, Amandeep Singh and Vikas Arora have already been arrested.

The vigilance bureau had launched an investigation into the matter based on former MLA Sarup Chand Singla's 2021 complaint alleging irregularities in the purchase of the property at a prime location in Bathinda.

BJP leader Singla, who was earlier with the Shiromani Akali Dal, had alleged that Badal, as a minister in the previous Congress dispensation, had abused his position to convert two commercial plots into a residential plot for himself.



## Dead Rats In Mouth, Farmers Protest Over Cauvery Issue In Tamil Nadu

Agencies

**Trichy, Tamil Nadu:** Farmers in Trichy engaged in an unexpected way as a token of protest against Karnataka and the central government demanding Cauvery water release from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. Farmers held rats in their mouth to mark their protest over the ongoing dispute with Karnataka.

National South Indian River Interlinking Farmers' Association Tamil Nadu unit president Ayyakannu is leading the protest in Trichy.

The protestors demanded the sharing of Cauvery water to save the standing 'kuruva' crop cultivation in TN.

Earlier a group of farmers in Trichy on Sunday staged a protest in Cauvery River water over the ongoing dispute with Karnataka. The farmers were demanding the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.



Meanwhile, the farmers in Karnataka's Mandya are protesting to stop water from being released from Karnataka dams to Tamil Nadu. Farmers across Karnataka have been

There were widespread protest in Karnataka as well with the capital city Bengaluru observing a bandh over the Cauvery Water Management Authority asking Karnataka to release 5000 cusecs of water till September 28.

Karnataka CM Siddaramiah appealed to all parties to not do politics on the issue.

"It's most unfortunate that BJP and JDS both are doing politics in Cauvery issue. Its just because for politics, not for the people of the state or the people, when they said we'll call for bandh, they have all the right to call bandh. But there is SC verdict regards to this. When we exercise our fundamental rights, other shouldn't be disturbed, that's what SC said" Siddaramiah said.

AROGYA MANTHAN 2023



## J&K State Health Agency Receives Best Performing Title

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** State Health Agency, Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday bagged the 'best performing' title in gender equality, enrollment under PMJAY Ayushman Bharat, highest Ayushman card creation and full utilization of allocated funds.

The award was presented by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, to Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar and Chief Executive Officer SHA, Sanjiv M Gadkar during Arogya Manthan 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi.

All the States and Union Territories participated in the Manthan.

At the impressive function "Arogya Manthan", which was organised to celebrate completion of five years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and two years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, the State Health Agencies were asked to showcase the best practices adopted in their respective states.

Bhupinder Kumar representing J&K State Health Agency showcased the best practices adopted in successful implementation of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in the UT.

J&K SHA received the award in all the four segments includ-

ing gender equity in service delivery, above 90% families with at least one Ayushman card, prompt Anti-Fraud Action, full utilization of allocated funds and highest Ayushman card creation.

During the function, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K, also received an award for "Highest in Scan and Share" Category. The award was received by Additional Mission Director, Dr Shaqfat Khan.

Bhupinder Kumar also highlighted the progress of J&K in beneficiary identification and feedback mechanism under Ayushman Bharat.

During the Valedictory function, Union Health Minister appreciated the efforts put in by the J&K government in generation of golden cards. Notably, J&K has covered 90% of the beneficiary families in terms of golden card generation, so far.

The innovative practices adopted by J&K in generation of golden cards has resulted in better utilization of services by the beneficiaries.

State Health Agency (SHA) has rolled out ambitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme. Besides, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT has crossed a major milestone of providing 5 lakh free treatments to citizens of J&K UT recently.

## Govt Unveils First-Of-Its-Kind Space Lab In Kishtwar School



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A space lab, first-of-its-kind in Jammu and Kashmir, was inaugurated in a government school in Kishtwar district, an official spokesperson said, describing it as a "historic moment" for the Union Territory.

The pioneering space lab, developed under the ISRO space tutor programme by Vyomika Space Academy and funded by the Directorate of Education Jammu, represents a significant leap in educational technology, the spokesman said.

He said the lab is equipped with high-tech telescopes, ISRO rocket and satellite demonstration models, drones and aircrafts.

"This will enable students to explore the wonders of the cosmos and notable space missions from ISRO," the spokesman said in a statement here.

He said the unveiling ceremony took place at Government Higher Secondary School Boys, Kishtwar in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav and Chief Education Officer, Kishtwar Prehlad Bhagat.

Students and staff of the school were also in attendance to witness this landmark cosmic event, the spokesman said. He said Vyomika Space Academy Chief Executive Officer Govind Yadav briefed the gathering about detailed insights into the lab's functionality and its potential to inspire and enhance students' knowledge of space, science and technology.

The Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner encouraged students to make the best use of this "remarkable space lab", emphasizing that it would not only foster a deeper un-

derstanding of space but also inspire students to consider careers in space sciences.

"This initiative is expected to ignite interest in astronomy-related activities at the school level, potentially guiding students towards careers in this fascinating field," he said.

Students from class 6 to 12 will have the opportunity to receive skill development training sessions from these cutting-edge labs, the spokesman said, adding Vyomika Space Academy will host a state-level inter-school hydro rocket and astronomy workshop on October 15, in commemoration of the birth anniversary of former president A P J Abdul Kalam.

Students from various schools are encouraged to participate and expand their knowledge in these captivating fields, the spokesman said.

## Toxic Water Kills Fish Worth Rs 15L Of Pahalgam Farmer

Fisheries Dept Calls For Extensive Survey, Verification To Locate Walnut Peeling Machine Operators

Agencies

**ANANTNAG:** A fish farmer in Anantnag suffered financial losses after toxic water carrying extracts of walnut green husk entered his fish farm, leading to death of the fish.

The incident occurred at Wahdan village of Pahalgam where Fayaz Ahmad Khan owns the private fish pond.

Khan alleged that the fish died at his farm due to toxic water supply originating from a nearby site where villagers engaged in peeling of walnut husk.

Distressed by the loss of fish valued at Rs 15 lakh, the owner appealed the authorities to step in and address the situation, ensuring that such incidents do not recur in the future.

Taking cognizance of incident, Deputy Director Fisheries Anantnag Muhammad Sidiq is-

the concerned officers to get the machines halted with immediate effect till further orders.

The communiqué reads, "It has come to the notice of the District Administration as well as the undersigned that a large no of automatic walnut peeling machines have been installed at various places across the District mainly on or near the water sources without making any proper arrangement for prompt disposal of green husk extracts which contains certain harmful chemicals that if amalgamated with the water may not only cause pollution but may have a drastic effects on the aquatic life."

"The operators of the machines have neither followed proper procedure for disposal of the green husk extracts nor sought NOC from the con-



cerned Departments. Recently in a tragic incident at Dalseer Wahdan, trout fish worth 20 lakh suffocated to death due to intermingling of walnut green husk extract with the water of stream that was a source of water for the trout units."—(KNO)

He directed them to serve notices to them while asking

## PSAJK Demands Permanent NTA Centres In Kashmir

Fears Deliberate Effort To Create Another Crisis During 2024 Exams

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) has voiced its apprehension regarding the reported relocation of all National Testing Agency (NTA) examination centers from Kashmir, suspecting a hidden agenda aimed at generating a crisis during the 2024 exams.

In an official statement, the PSAJK expressed dismay at the mysterious move by NTA to transfer all examination centers out of Kashmir, viewing it as a worrisome development for the prospects of Kashmiri students.

The spokesperson of PSAJK recalled the significant crisis of the previous year when numerous Kashmiri students were assigned examination centers outside of Jammu and Kashmir for their CUET exams. This forced many underprivileged students to abstain from participating in these exams, leading to a severe predicament. It necessitated appeals from members of civil society, political leaders, and other representatives to implore the government to establish examination centers within Kashmir. Eventually, NTA relented and established temporary centers

in Kashmir thus avoiding a full blown crisis.

The Association said that everybody was of the view that government has learnt its lesson and now permanent centres will be established in Kashmir. On the contrary, even temporary centres are being taken away creating uneasiness among students and their parents.

The spokesperson said that if there are no permanent exam centres in Kashmir by next year, NTA may claim once again that they have no centers in Kashmir, this Kashmiri students need to appear in exams in distant states. Where will the disadvantaged students or those who have never set their foot outside the valley, go at that time?

The Association questioned on the silence by concerned authorities. "If any crisis is created next year, these officials will be fully responsible," he said.

PSAJK has called upon Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to take cognizance of the situation and prevent the relocation of NTA centers from Kashmir. The LG is urged to issue directives for the establishment of permanent examination centers in Kashmir to spare students from further distress.

CHANGE OF LAND USE

## DC Baramulla Discusses Various Cases

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar on Tuesday convened a meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) at DC Office Complex here to discuss the cases of change of land use.

The meeting after a threadbare discussion took various cases of conversion of land for non-agriculture purposes.

On the occasion, Dr. Sehrish directed the concerned departments to ensure timely issuance of NOCs to the applicants after proper verification of documents under rules of land conversion Regulations, 2022.

She also directed the officers to submit the NOC/reports to their respective departments in a time bound manner and ensure speedy disposal of such applications.

Moreover, the meeting also discussed the status of NOCs being issued in connection with the approved cases, besides their reporting and follow up status by the concerned departments.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, SDM Pattan, SDM Gulmarg, Superintending Engineer R&B and other concerned officers were present in the Meeting.

## SIA Raids Terror Suspect's House In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Tuesday carried out a raid on the house of a former terrorist associate on the outskirts of Jammu, officials said.

The counter-insurgency wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police searched the house of Mohd Iqbal at Peer Bagh locality of Sunjwan in the early hours and confiscated a mobile phone and two SIM cards for examination, they said.

The officials said that Iqbal, originally a resident of village Khor in Mahore Tehsil of Reasi district, was a former terrorist associate and the raid was conducted on the suspicion that he still has connections with terrorists.

## Dheeraj Gupta Assigned Charge Of BOPEE Chairman

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The government on Tuesday ordered Dheeraj Gupta (IAS) to discharge functions of Chairman, J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, the Government hereby orders that Mr. Dheeraj Gupta, IAS (AGMUT:1993), Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment shall discharge functions of Chairman, J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations, in addition to his own duties, as an interim arrangement, till further orders, in place of Raj Kumar Goyal, IAS (AGMUT:1990), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department," reads a government order.

## Rather Reviews Ayushman Bhava Campaign In Budgam



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather Tuesday visited Budgam to take review of Ayushman Bhava Campaign at ANMT School Khanpora.

During review, the Director stressed on an impact awareness campaign aimed at promoting the Aabha card and other essential healthcare services among the general public.

Speaking at the outset, the Director urged the general public to prioritize their health by availing themselves of the Aabha numbers, a unique patient ID for every individual, which in future will be of great benefit. He said that a person can visit health facilities without carrying the burden of prescriptions, reports and all Aabha number will work as digital locker of health records.

# SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

ADDRESS: REGAL LANE, LAL CHOWK SRINAGAR

email: eerrwsmc@gmail.com

FRESH TERM E- TENDER No. 19 of 2023-2024

Dated: 22.09.2023

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, J&K UT, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis (in Double Cover System) read with the bid document uploaded on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from approved registered eligible Civil Contractors for the below mentioned works.

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. Lacs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor	AA order No	T.S. Order No. dated
1	Construction of Sanitary Landfill Cell No.4 at Garbage Dumping site at Achan Srinagar	2952.00	0.20	59.04	10 months	14 <sup>th</sup> F.C	"Super Class AAY/ AAY Class Registered Firm/ Joint Venture	Order No. 37-JK (HUD) of 2022-23 dated: 19.03.2022	Order No. 13 of 2022-23 dated: 27.10.2022

Defect Liability Period: 03 years after date of completion as per clause 20.6 of JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020

The NIT consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract, and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the date schedule given below.

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1	Date of issuance/ Publication of NIT on e-portal	22.09.2023
2	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NIT	22.09.2023 from 05:00 PM
3	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	22.09.2023 from 06:00 PM
4	Date of Pre-bid meeting	03.10.2023 at 02:00 PM in the office of Joint Commissioner(works)
5	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	18.10.2023 at 06:00 PM
6	Date of receiving of hard copy of documents including DD/ Bid Security/ Bank Guarantee	19.10.2023 up to 04:00 PM
7	Date of Technical Bid opening	20.10.2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of Joint Commissioner(works)
8	Date of Financial Bid opening	Date shall be incorporated after Technical Bid Evaluation

Note: - Fresh Date means the Documents Drawn after the issuance of said NIT.

- The employer, Commissioner, SMC invites bids from bidders who shall be an Agency/ Entity/ Company/ Firm incorporated in India under the (Indian) Companies Act 2013/ Firm registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008 for the work as detailed in table above:
- The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Joint Commissioner(Works), SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned) and Earnest Money / bid security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ Bank Guarantee (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/ bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
- The Bid document consisting of Information to Bidders (ITB), Bid Data Sheet (BDS), Information and Documents to be furnished along with the Bid, General & Special Conditions of Contract, Contract Data, Scope, Specifications and Drawings, Schedule of Quantities and set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be uploaded on the website: [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) The Bidders can take part in the bidding process as per below tabulated schedule given above.
- Bids shall be received "on line" on or before the scheduled date. The bidder must possess a Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID. If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
- The Schedule indicated above is tentative and the Employer may change any or the entire schedule with prior intimation to all bidders.
- Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Bid Document Cost.
- The Cost of Bid Document is non-refundable and can be also paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F.A/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Account details as under:

Name of Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.  
Branch: Balgarden, Srinagar  
Bank Account Number: 0216010200000007  
IFSC Code: JAKA0GARDEN  
MICR Code: 190051008

- The bidder is required to quote in the prescribed format provided on the e-procurement portal and the selection will be done on a least cost basis.
- Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason therefore and thereby assumes no responsibility of incurring any liability to the affected applicants.
- Any information regarding the IFB and / or Bid Document can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.
- In favour of a successful bidder, the bid security equivalent to 2% of Adv. Cost shall be released after submission of performance security of 5% (Five percent) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
- (i) Experience of similar nature of work shall be as mentioned in the Bid Document under Section 3-Evaluation & Qualification Criteria, Sub Section 2.4 .1 and 2.4.2(a & b, i, ii).
- The design of project is framed as per relevant IRC codes, CPWD and MORTH specification and other standards as applicable and same got authenticated by competent authority well before the execution of work.
- There is no time or cost overrun involved in the project and set time line is strictly adhered to.
- The bidder should have registration certificate of the contractor being registered with J&K Government, CPWD or other States/ Central Government organization along with the current year's renewal certificate.
- The N.O.C from Regulatory Authority/ PCB is sought before the commencement of work.
- The Encumbrance free land is available for the execution of the project.
- That during execution / maintenance of landfill cell following issued are taken care of
- a) Ground water protection
- b) Surface water protection
- c) Health safety and quality of life of neighbouring areas and passer-by.
- d) Health and safety of workers at site.
- e) Landfill gas risks
- f) Fire control measures
- g) Emission of gases
22. No consistent history of court/ arbitral award decision against the Bidder since 1st January 2013.
23. The bidder shall demonstrate that it has access to or has available liquid assets, unencumbered assets, lines of credit and other financial means (independent of any contractual advance payments) sufficient to meet the construction cash flow requirement.
24. Annual minimum turnover for last 3 years ending 31st March of previous year shall be as per the clause 2.3 of Standard Bid Document.
25. Any typographical error if found shall be rectified as per actual.

Read with the Standard Bid document uploaded on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)  
No: SMC/EE/RWD/1508-14  
Dated: 22.09.2023  
DIPK-NB-3387-23  
DT: 26/09/2023

SD/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Right River Works Division,  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Tuesday | 27-09-2023

## Five State Elections

As India gears up for the crucial assembly elections in five states, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has made predictions about his party's performance. According to Gandhi, the Congress is poised to win in four out of the five states, setting the stage for parliamentary elections in May 2024.

Gandhi criticized the BJP's concept of 'One Nation, One Election,' labeling it as a distraction strategy. He argued that the real issues plaguing India include wealth concentration, staggering wealth inequality, soaring unemployment, discrimination against lower-caste communities, and rising prices. These, he contended, are the topics that deserve serious attention, rather than divisive distractions.

Congress is part of the 26 party strong INDIA Alliance which aims to take on the BJP in the next year's general elections. The alliance faces an uphill task. The BJP remains favourite to win the polls. Besides, the INDIA Alliance doesn't have a charismatic central leader who could take on the overarching figure of the prime minister Narendra Modi. There is little to indicate that PM Modi is any less popular, let alone facing an anti-incumbency sentiment. But it is also true that the alliance boasts of several formidable leaders such as Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Tejasvi Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal and others. Rahul Gandhi himself has emerged as a political challenger of sorts.

What the alliance seems to need is a narrative, the need for which has even been pointed out even by Gandhi. He referred to the Congress's strategy in Karnataka, where the party presented a clear vision for the state, focusing on social security programs and controlling the narrative. He claimed similar narrative control in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, effectively sidelining the BJP.

As India braces for the 2024 elections, the political landscape is becoming increasingly polarized. The road ahead promises intense political drama, where the outcome will shape the trajectory of India's politics and governance. Whether the united opposition can successfully challenge the incumbent BJP and the PM Modi remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: the battle for India's future has begun in earnest.

The BJP's decision to revive the NDA in response to the growing unity among the opposition parties is a testament to the importance of the INDIA alliance. With the prospect of a third term on the horizon, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to secure its position. The INDIA Alliance could be an answer. But it will be a big challenge to keep the alliance steady until 2024, considering the BJP is no easy opponent. And critical to the opposition challenge will not be an alternative agenda but also an alternative political narrative.

### OTHER OPINION

## Politicising exchanges

The days leading up to the opening ceremony of the 19th edition were, however, marked by anything but. The day before the opening, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur cancelled his visit to China as a mark of protest to the last-minute denial of entry to three Indian Wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh. The three athletes — Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mepung Lamgu — were given the accreditation needed to travel along with the rest of the Indian team for the Games. However, in what appears to be a directive issued to the airline by China, the athletes were told they could not board their flight. China has in the past issued stapled visas to Indians from Arunachal Pradesh. Only in July, three wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh, due to take part in the World University Games in Chengdu, were issued stapled visas. In this instance, the decision to bar the athletes appears particularly vindictive as visas were not needed to travel for athletes issued digital accreditations. Indian officials believe Beijing thus went out of its way to bar their travel by instructing the airline to not allow them to board. The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement described the action as "targeted and pre-meditated".

This is, unfortunately, not the first instance of Beijing using sporting events that should have no place for politics to score geopolitical points. In February last year, Beijing ill-advisedly selected the People's Liberation Army's commander involved in the Galwan Valley clash as one of the torchbearers for the Winter Olympics. Both then and now, the organisers have appeared more than happy to look the other way given China's status as both a willing host and strong financial backer of such events. The acting President of the Olympic Council of Asia, Randhir Singh, who met with President Xi in Hangzhou, in remarks to journalists chose not to call out the denial of entry to athletes, instead only saying the matter was being discussed. Beyond the Asian Games, the latest Chinese action serves as a reminder of the current distrust in bilateral relations, as well as of the absence of adequate channels of communication to deal with long-persisting thorny issues, including visas. New Delhi has correctly made clear that restoring normalcy in relations will not be possible without completing the disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control and restoring peace in border areas. Until Beijing reviews its stance on the border, the current state of affairs, which suits neither India nor China, is likely to endure.

The Hindu

# Drug Addiction: A Looming Shadow Over Kashmir

Mudasir Wani

“  
The challenge ahead is formidable but so is the strength and resilience of the valley. Let us stand united, breaking down the barriers of addiction, and restoring hope, prosperity, and a brighter future for all. Together we can build a valley free from the clutches of drug addiction, where our youth can flourish, and our society can thrive once more



Kashmir valley has always been under the spotlight for very many reasons. However, of late, Kashmir is caught in the whirlwind of drug addiction which has pushed the valley into a dark abyss.

Pandora's box is open now. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment revealed in the Lok Sabha that nearly 10 lakh people in J&K consume various kinds of drugs. The population of J&K, according to the 2011 census, is 1.25 crore. The figures reveal that estimated 1,08,000 males and 36,000 females were found using marijuana (Cannabis) in the Union Territory (UT) while as 5,34,000 males and 8,000 females were found in the dragnet of Opioids and 1,60,000 males and 8,000 females were found using sedatives of different kinds. The Government further informed that, 1,27,000 males and 7,000 females were noticed using inhalants and a large number of males and females were addicts of cocaine, Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and Hallucinogens in the J&K, it added.

According to a study by IM-HANS-K, 33.50% of married drug users and 61.70% of unmarried drug addicts in Kashmir are both adults, showing that drug addiction affects not only children but also the elderly.

This wave is skyrocketing, tumbling down the foundations of society in ruins. Numbers and trends only show the tip of the iceberg. The inculcation of drugs is lambasting the conscience and healthy mindset of youngsters. It is a religious theft, a moral theft, an intellectual theft and whatnot. Our youth is sinking in the sea of troubled waters and it is now very difficult to salvage them from this deadly wave. Universities, colleges and other educational institutions are hit hard by drug addiction. This addiction robs the young generation from their senses and its influence has ruined the career of thousands of students. The morali-

ty, ethics and values of the student community is marred by the consumption of drugs. Their minds are now encumbered and clogged.

Drug addiction has resulted in multiple social problems such as crime, violence, and has also affected the family system. The ill effects of this heinous problem can't be avoided and ignored.

The rising crime rate in Kashmir is also correlated with drug addiction. Recently, a young boy brutally killed his mother under the influence of drugs. Another person attacked the people with the wooden log, killed three persons, including his mother and injured several persons.

The sudden rise in drug addiction in Kashmir is due to multiple factors, including divine detachment, unemployment, peer pressure, lack of recreational facilities, and the decades-long political conflict. The government is trying its utmost to nab drug dealers but the problem still seems to be worsening.

The poetic couplet of Shahab Jafri fits the situation:

*Tuu Idhar Udhar Ki Na Baat Kar... Ye Bata Keh Kafila Kyun Luta Mujhe Rehzanon Ka Gilah Nahin... Teri Rehbari Ka Sawal Hai*

The government and the civil society must work shoulder to shoulder and should take concrete steps and make joint efforts in order to wipe the menace of drug addiction. The government must adopt the iron fist approach towards drug traffickers and suppliers. The civil society and rehabilitation centres should come forward and organize workshops, seminars and programmes in Universities, Colleges and other educational institutions and to make everyone aware about the ill effects of drug addiction. Let us foster a culture of compassion, understanding and empathy, reinforcing the importance of family bonds and community support.

Together, we can create an environment where our youth feel valued, heard and understood.

The challenge ahead is formidable but so is the strength and resilience of the valley. Let us stand united, breaking down the barriers of addiction, and restoring hope, prosperity, and a brighter future for all. Together we can build a valley free from the clutches of drug addiction, where our youth can flourish, and our society can thrive once more.

Remember, it is not just a fight for today but generations to come. Let us sow the seeds of change now, so that our grandchildren can reap the harvest of a drug-free and prosperous valley. The important precept that will counter this deadly arsenal is the divine decree. The remembrance of Almighty is a cure to both visible existence (body) and invisible entity (soul). Parents too have a greater responsibility to keep a close vigil on their wards and encourage them for Divine attachment. They should exhibit love, sympathy and moral support towards their wards. This ailment needs a spiritual dose.

The budding poet wrings her soul with myriad paroxysms:

*In shadows deep, addiction's grasp entwines,  
Valley's youth lost, in troubled waters 'brine,  
Divine Decree, a cure to heart and mend,  
Together we stand this battle we'll transcend.*

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a resident of Koil Pulwama. Feedback, if any, can be shared at s.mudasir267@gmail.com



OBSERVER MAIL

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

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## The Vital Importance of Reducing Screen Time

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to draw attention to a matter of increasing concern in our modern society—the excessive amount of time we spend glued to screens. In an age dominated by technology and digital devices, it is imperative that we recognize the adverse effects of excessive screen time on our physical and mental well-being.

Screens have become an integral part of our daily lives, with smartphones, tablets, computers, and televisions constantly vying for our attention. While these technological advancements have undoubtedly revolutionized communication and accessibility to information, the repercussions of excessive screen time cannot be ignored.

Firstly, excessive screen time has detrimental effects on our physical health. Prolonged sitting or poor

posture while engaging with screens often leads to sedentary behavior and a host of associated health problems, including obesity, cardiovascular issues, and musculoskeletal disorders. Additionally, extended exposure to the blue light emitted by screens disrupts our sleep patterns, causing insomnia and fatigue.

Moreover, excessive screen time has profound implications for our mental well-being. Studies have shown that increased screen time is linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, and stress, especially among young individuals. Continuous exposure to social media platforms can foster feelings of inadequacy, as people compare their lives to carefully curated highlight reels of others. Furthermore, excessive screen time often replaces meaningful face-to-face interactions, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

To address this growing concern, it is crucial that we advocate for reduced screen time and promote healthier alternatives. Parents, educators, and communities must work together to encourage children and young adults to engage in physical activities, explore the outdoors, and participate in creative pursuits that do not involve screens. It is essential to create a balanced environment where screen time is limited, and individuals are encouraged to focus on interpersonal relationships, hobbies, and personal development.

Furthermore, we need to educate individuals about responsible screen usage. Encouraging breaks from screens, setting boundaries, and establishing screen-free zones within households can significantly contribute to reducing screen time. Employers can also play a role by promoting digital detox initiatives, providing

opportunities for physical activity during work breaks, and fostering a culture that values personal well-being over constant connectivity.

Lastly, public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and community initiatives can play a vital role in raising awareness about the consequences of excessive screen time. By fostering a collective understanding of the importance of reducing screen time, we can work towards creating a healthier and more balanced society.

In conclusion, it is imperative that we recognize the adverse effects of excessive screen time on our physical and mental health. By promoting reduced screen time, encouraging healthier alternatives, and fostering awareness, we can mitigate these negative effects and cultivate a society that prioritizes human connection, well-being, and personal growth.

Maliha Khan



In light of these issues, what should consumers do to protect themselves from insurance frauds within the banking sector? The answer lies in making informed choices

# Unveiling Insurance Frauds in Jammu and Kashmir's Banking Sector

Rafiq Dar

In Jammu and Kashmir, as in many parts of the world, banks offer a wide array of insurance products to their customers. These encompass life insurance, health insurance, property insurance, vehicle insurance, and credit facility insurance. While these offerings are meant to provide financial security and peace of mind, it's imperative for consumers to be aware that not all is as it seems. Behind the glossy brochures and persuasive sales pitches, insurance frauds lurk within the banking sector. This article sheds light on some common insurance frauds perpetrated by banks in the region, as well as offers guidance on making informed insurance choices.

The Profitable Nexus

Why are insurance products so important to banks? The answer lies in the

substantial commissions that banks earn through insurance sales. These commissions help offset various operational expenses such as rent, employee welfare, and daily branch expenditures, including electricity bills. While it's entirely legitimate for banks to earn commissions through insurance sales, the trouble arises when these financial institutions prioritize profits over the welfare of their customers.

Misrepresentation and Non-Guaranteed Returns

One glaring issue in the banking sector's insurance offerings is the misrepresentation of insurance products. Bank employees responsible for insurance sales often present policies in a misleading manner. For instance, they might sell you an insurance policy promising guaranteed returns, but in reality, the returns are far from guaranteed. Such deceptive

practices can lead customers to make investments without fully understanding the risks involved.

Health Insurance Pitfalls

Health insurance is another arena where banks in Jammu and Kashmir sometimes fall short of ethical standards. When customers seek protection for themselves and their families, they expect comprehensive coverage. Unfortunately, some bank-offered health insurance products come with hidden flaws that may compromise family safety. Before purchasing health insurance, it's crucial to carefully scrutinize the terms and conditions to ensure you are getting the coverage you need and deserve.

Loan Application Coercion

In the pursuit of obtaining a loan, whether it's a term loan or a credit card

loan, customers are often subjected to undue pressure. Banks sometimes employ tactics that can feel like blackmail. Even when customers meet all eligibility criteria for a loan, banks may manipulate the situation to make them believe they were granted a privilege rather than an entitlement. In this process, customers may be asked to sign up for insurance policies they neither want nor need.

A Better Way Forward

In light of these issues, what should consumers do to protect themselves from insurance frauds within the banking sector? The answer lies in making informed choices. When it comes to insurance, focus on the essentials: term insurance for life coverage and carefully vetted health insurance policies. Rather than relying solely on banks, consider reaching out to composite license holders in the market. These professionals have access to

multiple insurance companies, enabling them to offer tailored solutions that suit your needs. Plus, you may enjoy the benefit of discounts and managed offers that are often unavailable through banks.

Conclusion

Insurance frauds within the banking sector are a harsh reality, and consumers must exercise caution. By being vigilant, seeking expert advice, and choosing insurance products wisely, individuals can safeguard their financial well-being. In Jammu and Kashmir, as elsewhere, it's essential to remember that the right insurance coverage can bring peace of mind and security, while the wrong choice can lead to financial distress and regret.

Rafiq Dar, Hailing from Dhara Shalimar having 10 Years Experience in Banking, Finance and Insurance industry



# Balancing Feminine and Masculine in Individuals

Faizan Bashir

In every man, there is a woman. In every woman, there is a man. Together, they make for a complete human being. Men often give forth the whiff of feminine energy, as in the case of caring for the other, turning emotional, showing empathy, and so on. Women seldom emit masculine qualities as in exhibiting gumption, marching forward with furious eyes, confronting the fearful, and so forth.

As humans of the 'highest order', we leave no stone unturned to unnerve the contra-principled feminine qualities in men and masculine in women. We declare men are supposed to be ever-formidable and possess stone-esque hardness in daily affairs of life. We stressfully reiterate that women must wriggle themselves off from the occasional emergence of audacity and boldness. These two sentences, however, have wreaked havoc on the deepest layers of our self. And it's here where we welcome the

**AS HUMANS OF THE 'HIGHEST ORDER', we leave no stone unturned to unnerve the contra-principled feminine qualities in men and masculine in women. We declare men are supposed to be ever-formidable and possess stone-esque hardness in daily affairs of life. We stressfully reiterate that women must wriggle themselves off from the occasional emergence of audacity and boldness**

consequences of playing with cosmic intelligence.

We often witness men suffering from the ever-welcoming depression. When we have to focus on being able to tackle slings and arrows of time head-on sans displaying anything emotional, we are

bound to downplay what lurks deeply within us: softness, the whole feminine energy. We often run into women reeling under the ever-present infirmities, fits of feminine hysterical outbursts, and ending up repressing intense masculine inclinations.

This constant denial of exhibiting the minority in us remains one of the prime reasons for our varied psychological diseases.

Balance, that is. This is not to say that we must sweep aside what's dominant in us: masculine in men and feminine in women. But we must recognize that we possess both, and we have to pay attentive homage to them. It's like a machine that prints swathes of pages. We must attend to both the quality of the pages and the ink.

Before you consider this piece a stark hogwash, try scouring for mentally disturbed human beings, delving into the roots of their psychological sickness, and reflecting on them. You will discover they repress emotions and dispositions, resulting in neuroticism.

The author can be reached at peerfaizanbashir@gmail.com

# Love Forms And Intensity Mapped On Human Body In A New Study

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have created a map of the human body showing where different forms of love are felt and the intensity with which they are felt.

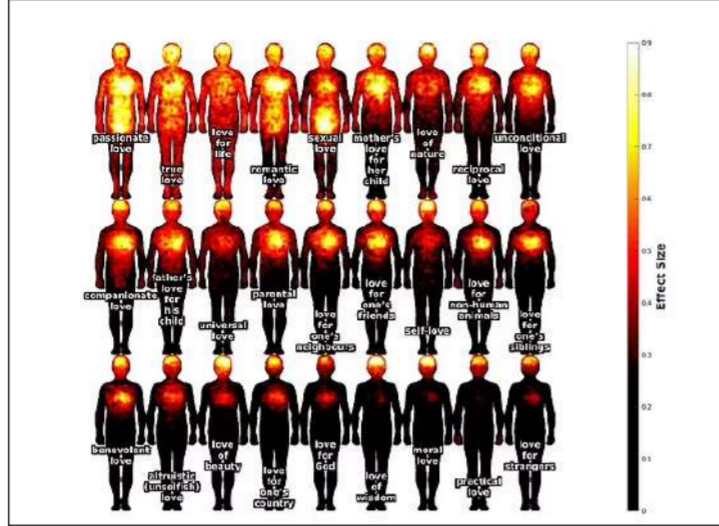
For building the map, the researchers from Aalto University, Finland, used data collected by surveying hundreds of participants about how they experienced 27 different types of love, such as romantic love, sexual love, parental love, and love for friends, strangers, nature, God, or themselves.

They also asked them where they felt the different types of love in their body and how intensely they felt it physically and mentally.

The findings suggested that the different types of love form a continuum from weaker to stronger, the researchers said in their study published in the journal *Philosophical Psychology*.

The strongest forms of love were felt most widely throughout the body, they found from the responses, most of which came from young women in higher education.

"It was noteworthy,



though not very surprising, that the types of love associated with close relationships are similar and are the most strongly experienced," said philosopher Parttyli Rinne, who coordinated the study.

The participants were asked to colour in a body silhouette to show where they felt each type of love, how they felt the different types physically and mentally, how pleasant the feeling was and how it was associated with touch. Finally, they were asked to rate the close-

ness of the types of love.

"Love between persons is divided into sexual and non-sexual. The types of love that are particularly close to each other are those that have a sexual or romantic dimension," said Rinne.

While all the types were felt strongly in the head, their intensity differed throughout the rest of the body - some spread only to the chest, while others were felt all over, the researchers found.

"It was also interesting to find a strong correlation between the physical and

mental intensity of the emotion and its pleasantness. The more strongly a type of love is felt in the body, the more strongly it's felt in the mind and the more pleasant it is," said Rinne.

"When we move from more strongly experienced types of love to less strongly experienced types, the sensations in the chest area become weaker.

"It may be that, for example, love for strangers or wisdom is associated with a cognitive process. It may also be that there are pleasant sensations in the head area. This is something that should be investigated further," said Rinne.

Rinne also noted that there are cultural differences in love and that the demographics of the study group are linked to the experience of love.

"If the same study were done in a highly religious community, love for God might be the most strongly experienced love of all.

"Similarly, if the subjects were parents in a relationship, as in our ongoing brain study project, love for children could be the strongest type of love," said Rinne.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Wular Conservation And Management Authority Kashmir Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Near Silk Factory) -190001

Tender Notice  
e- NIT NO: - 06 OF 2023-24 DATED: 26 -09-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from manufacturers or Authorized/Registered dealers for supply and installation of following items: -

NAME OF ITEM	EARNEST MONEY (in Rs.)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
Supply and Installation of 3D Fiber Glass Lifesize Wildlife Models for Deltas/Parks of WUCMA (On Turnkey Basis) Specification detail enclosed with tender documents as annexure-A	20000/-	Original manufacturer or their authorized/Registered dealers	Rs. 1000/=	30 Calendar days.

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: - [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

Date of issue of Tender Notice	26-09-2023
Download Start Date:	28-09-2023 from 11:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	28-09-2023 from 11:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	09-10-2023 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	10-10-2023 at 01:00 PM in the office of the Project Coordinator CAT, Wular Conservation & Management Authority Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	Will be notified separately

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be as per time schedule mentioned.
- Bids uploaded must be accompanied with **Treasury Receipt-0406 Forest/Demand Draft** (cost of tender document) in favour of Project Coordinator CAT WUCMA for the amount shown against each work above and Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of **CDR/FDR** for the amount shown against said work pledged to Project Coordinator CAT Wular Conservation & Management Authority Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and surroundings before submission of bid.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The successful bidder has to produce a performance security of 3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Coordinator CAT WUCMA before issuance of contract allotment and if there are compelling circumstances performance security in excess of 3% may also be demanded.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e:-
  - Valid Registration/License, PAN Card, Valid GST Registration with Latest Return,
  - Earnest Money/Bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR & Treasury receipt/Challan/DD
  - Work Experience Details with Government Agency- Experience of executing similar nature & size of work for any Government institution in the last three years.
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Opening Committee however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The unit rate and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rate quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto the completion of work physically/financially. The deduction of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill prevailing at the time of recovery.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed tender document.

No.:PC/CAT/WUCMA/23/533-38

Sd/-

DIPK-NB-3405/23  
dated: 26-09-2023

Project Coordinator, CAT  
WUCMA

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

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

Subject: Provisional Selection List of the candidates for admission to the DNB (Post MBBS DNB/Post Diploma DNB/Post MBBS Diploma DNB) Courses-2023 in the Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of the UT of J&K after conduct of the First Round of Counseling(Physical).

Reference: Notification No. 083-BOPEE of 2023 dated 22.09.2023

### Notification No. 088-BOPEE of 2023 Dated 26-09-2023

In pursuance of the Notification No.083-BOPEE of 2023 dated 22.09.2023, the Board has conducted Physical Counseling for admission to DNB (Post MBBS DNB/Post Diploma DNB/Post MBBS Diploma DNB) Courses-2023 in the Government / Private Colleges / Institutions of the UT of J&K on 25-09-2023.

The List of candidates who have been allotted seats provisionally on the basis of Merit-cum-Preferences filled by them during the process of counseling is hereby notified as per Annexures-A & B to this Notification, which shall remain available on the official website of the Board: [www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in) only.

The candidates shall have to report to the respective Colleges/Institutions allotted to them for completion of admission process w.e.f. 27.09.2023 to 03.10.2023 alongwith following documents in original: -

- Domicile Certificate;
- MBBS Degree /Diploma Certificate where applicable;
- NEET/PDCET Score Card 2023 where applicable;
- NOC from Health and Medical Education Department;
- Any other document as may be required by the College Authorities.

The provisionally selected candidates shall have to mandatorily report for admission to the allotted Colleges/Institutions by or before 03.10.2023 upto 04:00 p.m. alongwith their relevant certificates in original, failing which they shall not be eligible for further rounds of counseling, if any, conducted by the Board.

The Colleges shall submit the shortfall, if any, on 03.10.2023 upto 05:00 p.m. positively to enable the Board to take further appropriate action in the matter.

Note: -

- The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be liable to be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate(s) proves to be false / fabricated and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against those candidates.
- If any candidate(s) is found to have concealed any information, his/her selection/admission shall be cancelled ab-initio and fine/penalty shall also be imposed upon him as may be deemed proper by the Board in accordance with the laid down rules.
- It is the responsibility of the Head of the Institution to verify the eligibility/documents of the provisionally selected candidates in their institution before allowing them to join in their respective institutions.
- All the Heads of the Institutions/Colleges are requested to keep their admission counters open on Holidays/Off days to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission well in time and the candidates should in their own interest, avoid waiting for the last day for completing the admission formalities as the delay in such matters has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.
- The Heads of the Institutions shall keep record of the admissions and send the shortfall of the candidates, if any, who have not completed their admission within the prescribed time mentioned above through E-mail viz. [coejakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:coejakbopee@gmail.com) & [helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com) on 03.10.2023 upto 05:00 p.m. positively along with hard copy duly signed by the Head of the Institution.

The other Terms and Conditions shall, however, remain the same as notified by the Board in the e-Information Brochure and Notifications/Notices issued from time to time in this regard.

E & OE  
No. BOPEE/Exam-17/2023 DIPK-NB-3385/23 Dated 26-09-2023

Sd/-  
Controller of Examinations  
J&K BOPEE



## Tax Dept Notifies 'Angel Tax' Rules For Valuing Investments In Startups

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Income Tax Department has notified new angel tax rules that comprise a mechanism to evaluate the shares issued by unlisted startups to investors.

While previously the angel tax - a tax levied on capital received on the sale of shares of a startup above the fair market value - applied only to local investors, the Budget for 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024) widened its ambit to include foreign investments.

As per the Budget, the excess premium will be considered as 'income from sources' and taxed at the rate of up to 30 per cent.

However, startups registered by the DPIIT are exempt from the new norms.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a September 25 notification spelled out the valuation methodology.

As per the changes in Rule 11UA of I-T rules, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) provides that the valuation of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) and equity shares issued by unlisted startups can be based on the fair market value.

The amended rules also retain the five new valuation methods proposed in the draft rules for consideration received from the non-residents -- (i) Comparable Company

Multiple Method, (ii) Probability Weighted Expected Return Method, (iii) Option Pricing Method, (iv) Milestone Analysis Method, and (v) Replacement Cost Method.

Deloitte India Partner Sumit Singhania said from an investors' standpoint, revised rules offer a wider range of valuation methodologies to work with, and that ought to make compliance less onerous henceforth.

"Also, safe harbour permitting 10 per cent deviation from fair value makes room for valuation adjustments when needed. Overall, the trajectory is to align tax valuation methodologies with permissible exchange control norms," Singhania said.

Nangia & Co LLP Partner Amit Agarwal said the amendments to Rule 11UA of the Indian Income Tax Act bring positive changes by offering taxpayers flexibility through multiple valuation methods, simplifying the valuation date consideration, incentivising venture capital investments, facilitating investments from notified entities, providing clarity on CCPS and encouraging foreign investments.

"The inclusion of a tolerance threshold for minor valuation discrepancies further enhances efficiency and fairness in tax assessments, ultimately benefiting both taxpayers and the government."

The inclusion of a tolerance threshold for minor valuation discrepancies further enhances efficiency and fairness in tax assessments, ultimately benefiting both taxpayers and the government.



## Days After Delisting, DGFT Grants More Time To KCCI To Complete On-boarding Process



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has granted more time to the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) to complete on-boarding process, days after the apex trade body was delisted by the agency of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for issuing certificates of origin for exports.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, KCCI Secretary General, Faiz Ahmad Bakshi said that the DGFT has considered its representation against de-listing it from issuing Certificate of Origin (Non-preferential) to exporters.

"The KCCI expresses its

gratitude to Director General of Foreign Trade Mr. Santosh Kumar Sarangi for taking a serious note of its representation and taking immediate action upon it," he said.

The DGFT, he said, has taken a view and communicated to KCCI its decision to grant more time to it to complete the ON-BOARDING process with the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). Subsequently, DGFT will issue re-notification in the Appendix 2E of FTP.

It is pertinent to mention that the KCCI was de-listed as an authorised Chamber for issuing Certificate of Origin for its failure to ON-BEARD on e-CoO on the Common Digital Platform under Trade Notice

No: 42/2020-21 dated: 19-02-2021. However, KCCI never received this notice or 10 subsequent notices recorded to have been issued by DGFT during the years 2021 & 2022 and 2 notices during 2023 to have enabled it to comply with it.

The KCCI thanks its members and concerned members of civil society for their support to deal with a crisis as "fiat accompli". The exporter community has heaved a sigh of relief on learning about the DGFT decision. The KCCI, however, feels anguished by irresponsible conduct of some people who tried to exploit the situation for their own vested interests.



## GST Council Meet On Oct 7, May Review SGST Amendments On Online Gaming

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The GST Council will meet on October 7 and is likely to review the progress made by the states in incorporating changes with regard to taxation of online gaming in SGST laws as approved by the council in its August meeting.

The GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising state counterparts, had last month cleared amendments to Central GST and Integrated GST laws to give clarity on the levy of 28 per cent tax on the full face value of bets in online gaming, casinos and horse race clubs.

The amendments also make registration mandatory for offshore e-gaming companies operating in India. It also provides for blocking of access in case offshore platforms fail to comply with GST registration and tax payment norms.

Similar changes were required to be undertaken by the states in their respective SGST laws.

The council had set October 1 as the deadline for implementing

the amended provisions after all state assemblies pass the required changes to their SGST laws.

"The 52nd meeting of the GST Council will be held on 7th October, 2023, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi," the GST Council said in a post on X.

An official said the meeting will mainly review the progress with regard to amendments in the SGST law by different states.

Since the council's clarification after its meeting on July 11, that online gaming companies are subject to 28 per cent GST on the full face value of a bet, the GST authorities have started sending notices to the online gaming companies and casino operators, including big players like Delta Corp and Dream11.

While the companies are challenging the decision of the GST authorities to levy 28 per cent tax on full face value with retrospective effect, tax officials maintain that GST at 28 per cent was leviable on such supplies from the very beginning and the GST Council's decision in July was only clarificatory in nature.

## Dream11 Moves Bombay High Court Against GST Show Cause Notices

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Fantasy sports platform Dream11 has filed a petition in the Bombay High Court challenging the levy of 28 per cent GST retrospectively on bets placed on its platform.

The petition filed on September 22 follows Show Cause Notices (SCN) slapped on the e-gaming platform by Goods and Services Tax (GST) authorities.

As per the petition, the tax demand is to the tune of Rs 216.94 crore for 2017-18 and Rs 1,005.77 crore for 2018-19.

Dream11 challenged the SCN, which seeks to recover the GST as they were based on the premise that the services provided by the company were those of gambling on which 28 per cent tax is leviable.

"The impugned notices lack jurisdiction having been issued in teeth of the Apex Court judgments in the petitioner's own case, wherein, it has been held that Online Fantasy Sports Gaming provided by the petitioner are predominantly games of skill, not amounting to gambling/betting," the petition said.

The e-gaming company said the impugned notices lack jurisdiction and deserve to be quashed.

Dream11 did not comment on the issue.

A host of online gaming companies and those in casino business have received similar

SCN for non-payment of GST at 28 per cent on full face value of bets placed on their platform.

GST authorities last week issued an intimation notice to casino operator Delta Corp and



its subsidiaries for shortfall in GST payment worth over Rs 16,000 crore.

The notices follow the GST Council's clarification that online gaming, casinos and horse racing supplies are subject to 28 per cent tax irrespective of whether they are game of skill or chance.

In September last year, a similar SCN was served on online gaming company Gameskraft for recovery of Rs 21,000 crore GST.

The company had approached the Karnataka High Court, which had quashed the SCN.

Following this, the revenue department in July filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court on the Karnataka High Court ruling in the Gameskraft case. The next date of hearing is listed for October 10.

## J&K Bank Opens Easy Banking Unit In Kishtwar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its mission of providing convenient banking services to the people of remote areas, J&K Bank Tuesday operationalised an Easy Banking Unit (EBU) at village Lopara in District Kishtwar. The EBU will provide the basic facilities of banking like cash deposit, cash withdrawal, account openings etc. to the people of the area.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Doda) Fayaz Ahmad Bhat e-inaugurated the EBU at Lopara in the presence of Chairperson, DDC (Kishtwar) Pooja Thakur, Cluster Head (Kishtwar) Parvin Singh with a good gathering of people present at Lopara.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Fayaz Ahmad Bhat apprised the people about the contribution of J&K Bank in rendering the world class banking facilities to the people irrespective of their location,



status and gender. He said, "The EBU at Lopara will definitely help the people in meeting their daily banking needs."

Chairperson DDC (Kishtwar) lauded the banking facilities to the people living in remote areas of J&K. She said that the opening of this Easy Banking Unit

(EBU) has fulfilled the long cherished desire of the people in the area.

People present on the occasion expressed their gratitude for opening of an EBU by the Bank in their area. "The EBU will definitely enhance the bonding of the people with the J&K bank", they said.

## DC B'la Inaugurates 2 Days Seminar On Bee-Keeping

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA-** In order to encourage the beneficiaries of Baramulla district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Tuesday inaugurated a two days Seminar on Bee-keeping at Dak Bungalow, here.

The programme was organized by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department Baramulla under National

Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM) and was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf, Joint Director Planning, M. Yusuf Rafter; Chief Agriculture Officer and enthusiastic beekeepers, progressive farmers and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Dr Sehrish marked the importance of beekeeping as a complimentary source to the overall income of the farmers.

She said that it is encouraging that a large number of youth in Baramulla district are taking beekeeping as a main venture to earn income and livelihood.

Encouraging youth to come forward and establish beekeeping units of their own, Dr Sehrish urged them to take benefit from the programme and schemes being run by the department for the promotion of beekeeping and other allied activities.

## Sensex Falls 78 Pts On Profit Taking In IT & Banking Shares, FII Outflows

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 78 points in a listless trade on Tuesday due to select profit taking in IT and banking shares in line with weak Asian markets and continuous foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 78.22 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 65,945.47 with 14 of its components closing lower and 16 advancing. During the day, it declined 158.06 points or 0.23 per cent to a low of 65,865.63.

The broader Nifty dipped 9.85 points or 0.05 per cent to end at 19,664.70. As many as 23 Nifty shares declined while 27 closed in the green.

Among Sensex shares, IndusInd Bank fell the most by 1.29 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra (1.28 per cent), Kotak Bank (1.24 per cent) and Infosys (1 per cent).

Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Titan, and Bajaj Finserv were among the losers.

On the other hand, Nestle India rose the most by 1.58 per cent. Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.09 per cent and the smallcap index climbed 0.33 per cent.

Phone: 01933-293110 Email: cdpoicdtral@gmail.com

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

**Subject: - Extension of date for advertisement of Sanginis and Sahakiyas (Anganwadi Workers) and (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Tral**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In pursuance to the Government Order No 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated:-28.04.2023 and approval from Mission Director Poshan J&K vide no:-MD/Poshan/Estt/13226-30 dated:-08.05.2023 and no:-MD/Poshan /Estt/2023/14988-15027 dated:-23.05.2023, an advertisement notice was issued vide notification no.CDPO/Poshan/T/Adv/2023/861-79 dated: - 13.09.2023 and no:-CDPO/Poshan/T/Adv/2023/842-60 dated:-13.09.2023 for selection of 01 Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for 01 AWCs and 03 Sahakiyas for 03 AWCs of Poshan Project Tral. As such this Office Extends the date till 30.09.2023 for receiving the application forms along with the required documents shall be deposited in the office of undersigned i.e.CDPO Tral against the proper receipt.

No:-CDPO/POSHAN/T/2023/ 920-29 S/d  
Dated: - 25.09.2023 Child Dev. Project Officer Poshan Tral.

DIPK-9481-23  
DT: 26/09/2023

Email id: telkrmrzone@jkrpolice.gov.in Ph No.0194-2452698 Fax. No.0194-2506526

### ZONAL HEADQUARTERS POLICE TELECOMMUNICATION KASHMIR

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

HC (Tel) Gh. Mohd Dohond S/O Auzimtullah Dohond R/O Warnow Tehsil Lalpora District Kupwara, working as HC, (Telecom) in J&K Police Telecommunication under Regimental No.2101/PW PID No.TEL-993645 has represented for correction in his parentage recorded as Azmatullah Dohond instead of Auzimtullah Dohond in the service records of this office.

As such, objections if any, in this regard are invited from General Public, which should reach the office of undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

No: - Estt/PF-2101/2023/17768 Superintendent of Police  
Dated:26/09/2023 Dated:26/09/2023  
DIPK-9464-23  
DT: 26/09/2023

## Birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya 25th September 2023



Mushtaq ul Islam

Pulwama: Nehru Yuva Kendra Pulwama Celebrates Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Programme in District Pulwama. Dayal Upadhyaya Junction' in 2018. On this day in 2014, the Ministry of Rural Development re-introduced Aajeevika Skills, a skill development programme under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). It was later renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- NRLM in November 2015. In keeping with the Antyodaya Mission's

mission to reach out to all, the motto of the day is to help all underprivileged and rural youth in India find local, national and global employment opportunities. To create awareness about the need to protect and care for the underprivileged and vulnerable members of society, the government organised symposiums, blood donation camps, programmes and orientation sessions. On this special day, the government organises many activities across the country to help people who lack basic necessities.

## Anti-Drone System To Be Deployed Along IB: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Amritsar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said anti-drone system will be deployed along the international border for strengthening security. Addressing a meeting of the Northern Zonal Council here, Shah also asked the members of the council -- Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh -- to resolve their disputes related

to water sharing with an open mind and mutual discussion.

"The Modi government is committed towards strengthening the security system along the border. Soon anti-drone system will be deployed on our country's borders," he said.

Smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics from across the international border to Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir has been a major problem confronting the border guarding forces.

## Delhi: Thieves break into jewellery shop, decamp with ornaments worth Rs 20 crore

New Delhi: At least three unidentified people broke into a jewellery show room in south-east Delhi's Bhogal area, made a hole in strong room and decamped with ornaments worth more than Rs 20 crore, police said on Tuesday.

This is one of the biggest burglaries reported in the national capital.

The shop, Umrao Singh Jewellers, had several CCTV cameras but they were damaged around midnight on Sunday, police said.

"Police teams reached the spot after we got information on Tuesday at 10.55 am from the shop owner. We have started an investigation into the matter," said Rajesh Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast).

The incident is expected to have occurred between Sunday night and Monday, police said, adding the store remains closed on Monday.

"The owner closed the shop on Sunday around 8 pm and when he opened it on Tuesday around 10.30 am, he got to know about the incident. There is a safe situated on the ground floor in the shop having a heavy metallic gate and walls on three sides. The dealing with customers takes place on the ground floor of the showroom while its upper three floors are used for stock and repair works.

"When the owner opened the shop, he found that the concrete wall of the safe room has been damaged. The

accused made a whole on one side of the wall having dimension of around one to one-and-half foot. Forensic team was called at the spot. The safe will be opened to ascertain the amount of the jewellery stolen," Deo said.

"Our forensic teams are checking footage captured by CCTV cameras before their wires were cut by the burglars. The accused will be nabbed soon," the official said.

The shop owner has reported a theft of 30 kg gold jewellery and Rs 5 lakh cash, the DCP said.

A case has been registered at Hazrat Nizamuddin police station and several teams have been constituted to work out the case, he added.

Mahavir Prasad Jain, the shop owner, said that his showroom was around 75 years old.

"Nothing like this happened before. There are six to seven workers in our shop and all are trusted employees. They have been working for the last 20 years. The showroom remains closed on Monday. We locked it on Sunday around 8 pm, opened the shop around 10.30 am on Tuesday and got to know about the burglary.

"There was around Rs 20 crore worth gold and diamond jewellery which was found missing. All six CCTV cameras inside the showroom were found to be unplugged," Jain said.

The shop has no guard and a common guard of the market gives security during the night

hours, he said.

Duler Jain, a relative of the victim, said that the accused came from the terrace. "They broke the lock on the terrace and came downstairs. They took the jewellery from the strong room with them. They also cut the wires of WiFi and CCTV cameras," he said.

Sources said that the incident took place between 11.30 pm and 12 am on Sunday. The preliminary investigation has suggested that there were at least three people involved in the incident.

The routes of the accused are being ascertained, police said.

Ravinder Taneja, the owner of a nearby building from where it is being suspected that the thieves reached the shop's terrace, said, "It has a shop on the ground floor while a tuition class is run on the first floor. A person from Kashmir lives on the second floor who comes to the city during winters. The upper floor is vacant."

"As it is a residential building, no one locks its main entrance," Taneja said.

Dilip, who sells slippers near the showroom, said that nobody knew about the incident till Tuesday morning when the owner opened it and found the store burgled.

Ravi, who runs an electronic shop in the area, said it seems that the accused knew about the showroom very well. "The way the burglary has taken place, the thieves must have done some reconnaissance before," he said.

## Death Of 2 Youths: 45 Manipur Protesters Injured In Lathi Charge; Net Ban Reimposed For 5 Days

Agencis

Imphal: Altogether 45 students, many of them girls, were injured in Manipur's Imphal Valley on Tuesday as the police fired tear gas shells and baton-charged protesters demonstrating against the killing of two youths who were allegedly kidnapped in July, officials said.

In view of the prevailing situation, the government reimposed suspension of internet services for five days and announced that all schools in the state will be closed till Friday.

Twenty-four MLAs of Manipur including 21 of the BJP have urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah for "urgent necessary action by the CBI against the guilty persons" involved in the killing of two youths.

The students of Imphal-based schools and colleges brought out the protest rallies hours after photos of the bodies of the two youths went viral on social media, demanding arrest of those involved in the killing.

The protesters clashed with the police near Sanjenthong in Imphal East district when security forces stopped them from advancing towards the chief minister's secretariat here.

The police used tear gas shells and batons to disperse the agitators.

"School and college students took out a rally in Imphal to protest against the killing of the two youths. As the students were heading towards the CM's Secretariat, security personnel took action to disperse them,"

a police officer said. Over 45 students were injured in police action and admitted to various private and government hospitals in Imphal East and West districts, officials of the medical facilities said.

Of them, 31 are being treated in a private hospital, 12 others are in two government facilities. Two others were admitted to another private hospital.

Soon after the incident, the Manipur government reimposed the ban on internet services for the next five days.

Mobile internet services, which were suspended as ethnic violence erupted in Manipur in early May, were restored after four months from September 23.

The state government in a notification also declared that all government and private schools will be closed on Wednesday and Friday.

Thursday is a public holiday in the state on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad, the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad.

Photos of the bodies of the two missing students surfaced on social media on Monday, following which the Manipur government has asked people to exercise restraint and allow authorities to investigate the "kidnapping and killing" of them.

The two youths were identified as Pihjam Hemjit (20) and Hijam Linthoingambi (17).

Students also took out rallies at Uripok, Old Lamblane, Singamei in Imphal West district demanding arrest of those involved in the killing of the two youths.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Heat Wave In

Kashmir Observer.

According to the weatherman, in August, Jammu-Kashmir was grappling with a rainfall deficit of 29%, recording only 131 mm of rain against 184.9 mm of normal precipitation.

The situation wasn't any better in September. With just 20 mm of precipitation till Saturday last, Kashmir received about 55 mm of rainfall against 75 mm of average rainfall expected by September 23.

The dry weather had adversely affected horticulture and agriculture sector production, particularly apples.

The dry weather had also led to a fall in the water level of other water bodies as well. The water volume in the water bodies of the valley has dropped around 75% than normal, according to reports.

Summer temperatures had also remained unusually high in the Valley this year resulting in a heat wave; the locals were not accustomed to. On September 12, the summer capital Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.2 degrees Celsius which was a notch less than the all-time highest recorded temperature of 35 degrees Celsius in 1934.

Meanwhile, the season's first snowfall at multiple places and overnight rainfall has brought relief to the people from scorching heat and also the prolonged dry spell.

### Jaishankar Makes

G20 agenda as Delhi recognised that growth and development must focus on the most vulnerable.

"As a consequence, issues which deserve global attention got a fair hearing. More than that, the deliberations produced outcomes that have great significance for the international community," he said.

Jaishankar also underscored that it is "noteworthy" that at India's initiative, the African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the G20. "By doing so, we gave voice to an entire continent which has long been its due."

He noted that the outcomes of the New Delhi G20 Summit will surely resonate for years ahead. Among them is the Action Plan for Sustainable Development Goals, a crucial need of the day. Equally important are the High Principles of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and the Green Development Pact, "as they shape our approach to our planet's future."

The minister said the transformative role of Digital Public Infrastructure has also been finally recognised.

"As has the salience of women-led development in building an inclusive and progressive society. The reform of international financial institutions (IFI) has been given due weight, as has the resolution of debt vulnerabilities," he said.

Jaishankar further emphasised that the New Delhi G20 outcomes are expressed both as larger policies and as specific initiatives. They could be

about building cities for tomorrow or fighting corruption, eliminating hunger or delivering quality education, ending plastic pollution or preserving the ocean-based economy. "And for that matter, enhancing food security or even mapping global skills," he said.

"Some address longstanding issues like the gender divide and climate action. Others focus on new concerns such as the responsible harnessing of Artificial Intelligence. All in all, we have placed for the world's consideration a set of actionable propositions, constructive solutions and new directions," Jaishankar said.

### US Not To Get

US Ambassador to Pakistan Blome visited the Gilgit-Baltistan region of PoK and interacted with the locals there, according to a Pakistani media report.

Asked about the standing ovation given to a Nazi war veteran in the Canadian Parliament, Garcetti said: "I think everybody recognises the mistake."

He refused to comment on the US sharing intelligence on the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

"It's not my place to speak on another country, Canada. As a matter of business not just this, we don't talk about intelligence or criminal justice matters," Garcetti said.

He said the US cared about both the countries and its relations with New Delhi and Ottawa were strong.

In response to a question, Garcetti said India had extended an invitation to US President Joe Biden to visit New Delhi as chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, but the schedule was yet to be confirmed.

"There is an invitation that has been extended. Schedule not confirmed yet," Garcetti said.

### HC Rejects Bail

He further argued that there was "material inconsistencies" in the evidence led by the prosecution, as such; Dar deserves to be enlarged on bail.

On the other hand government counsel argued that Dar has committed heinous offence of rape upon his step-daughter and the prosecution without any delay has produced the witnesses before the trial court, as such, Dar does not deserve to be enlarged on bail.

"...It is settled law that while deciding a bail application, the evidence led in the case cannot be appreciated though looked in to, for the limited purpose for finding out as to whether there is any evidence or not," a bench of Justice Rajesh Oswal said, adding, "The Court cannot meticulously consider and appreciate the evidence led by the prosecution while deciding the bail application."

Subsequently, the Court declined bail to Dar "at this stage when the trial has almost reached the stage of culmination."

However, the court directed the trial court to conclude the trial as expeditiously as possible, preferably

within a period of two months.

### Efforts On To Finish

peaceful. People have the misunderstanding that one incident occurred somewhere and will unleash a tornado. We are watchful of movements of terrorist supporters and make attempts to bust their hideouts in the forest.

"Kokernag was one such operation where we had information about the presence of a particular terrorist and went there to neutralize him. Unfortunately, you are not familiar with the location and came under fire from the waiting terrorists, the loss was visible because it is the one who opens fire first has the advantage," the DGP said.

In this case, Singh said "we were unfortunate that the first fire was taken by our brave officers and the soldiers due to which one colonel, one major, one Deputy Superintendent of Police and one soldier laid down their lives."

"I salute those officers and jawans who participated in this operation and laid down their lives and neutralized dreaded terrorist Uzair Khan (of Lashkar-e-Taiba) who was very active in the area. This was a successful operation. The chance of loss of life remains there for which we are all grieved but at the same time we are also proud of their contribution and leading from the front," he said.

Singh said the attempts to revive militancy in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and adjoining Reasi was scuttled to a large extent by the security forces through various successful operations, while attempts are on to neutralize those who have managed to infiltrate into this side.

"We have had back to back successful operations in Reasi and Rajouri in the recent past, resulting in the killing of (several) terrorists," he said.

About the challenge posed by narco-terrorism, he said the operations against narcotic smugglers were speeded up three times compared to previous years which is evident from the registration of cases, arrest of drug peddlers and busting of narco-terrorism modules.

"It (narcotics) is like a pandemic which is going on for sometime after starting from across the border. Pakistan-based agencies are using it as a tool to fund terrorism (in J&K). We have achieved a lot of success against the menace.

"We have to break all the nexuses and arrest all people, whether they belong to here (J&K) or outside it, associated with it. We are working on this side and are hopeful of rooting out this menace," Singh said.

### 2 Women Among

and ammunition at the behest of Pakistan-based terror handlers and its further distribution to Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists for carrying out terrorist activities.

Giving details at a press conference in Baramulla, senior superintendent of police (SSP), Baramulla, Amad

Nagpure, said on September 21, police, through reliable sources, came to know that Yaseen Ahmad Shah, resident of Janbazpora Baramulla, is missing from his home and has joined proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF.

TRF or The Resistance Front is the shadow outfit of the LeT.

Nagpure said a case was registered and investigation was taken up.

On receipt of the information, based on human/technical intelligence, during mobile vehicle check-point (MVCP) checking at Tapper Pattan, the security forces apprehended the terrorist on September 22.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including a pistol, a pistol magazine and eight live rounds were recovered from his possession, the SSP said.

During questioning, Shah disclosed the name of his other associate as Parvaiz Ahmad, resident of Takiya Wagoora.

Accordingly, security forces raided his residence and subsequently arrested him, the SSP said.

Upon his disclosure, two hand grenades were also recovered from his possession, he added.

The next day, the SSP said, during the further course of interrogation of the terrorist, and on his disclosure, a pistol, a pistol magazine and eight live rounds were again recovered from his house at Janbazpora.

Shah disclosed the names of his women associates as Nigeena, resident of Vijjipora Hajin, and Aafreena alias Aayat, resident of Patpora Shalteng Srinagar and upon their disclosure, two hand grenades were recovered from their possession, Nagpure said.

On Monday, during further questioning of Shah and Ahmad, they disclosed the names of two more associates as Mudasir Ahmad Rather, resident of Takiya Wagoora, and Showkat Ahmad Malik, resident of Wagila Wagoora, the police officer said.

Upon their disclosure, he said, a Chinese grenade, a pistol, a pistol magazine and eight live rounds were recovered from their possession.

The investigation has revealed that the terrorist along with his five associates were operating on the directions from Pakistan-based handlers and were planning to recruit more terrorists and carry out terrorist activities in Baramulla and nearby areas, the SSP added.

A case under sections of UA(P) and Arms Act has been registered and further investigation is going on.

In another operation, the SSP said, a terror module was unearthed with the arrest of three terrorist associates of LeT outfit.

During checking at Paranjeelan Bridge Uri, security forces noticed two suspected persons coming from Dachi towards Paranjeelan Bridge and tried to flee while noticing the naka party, but were apprehended tactfully, Nagpure said.

During their search, two Glock pistols, four pistol magazines, two pistol

silencers, five Chinese grenades and 29 live pistol rounds were recovered from them.

They were taken into custody and have been identified as Zaid Hassan Malla, resident of Mir Sahib Baramulla, and Mohammad Arif Channa, resident of Stadium Colony Baramulla.

The police said the terror associates 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.

A case under the Indian Arms Act and UA (P) Act was registered and investigations was taken up.

During the course of investigation, they disclosed the name of their associate as Aftaar Ahmad Lohar, resident of Surankote Poonch, who was subsequently arrested, the SSP said.

### Kargil Buzz

The NC and Congress have already entered into a pre and post-poll alliance aimed at keeping the BJP away from the council. The AAP is also contesting this election for the first time in Kargil.

Hassan Pasha, Media Secretary of BJP Ladakh, while praising his party's stature and candidates said they are "very sure" of getting voted into power in the 5th general elections. "We are preparing for the elections in all constituencies. We are approaching people with the agenda of guaranteeing development, developing Kargil airport and other local issues. We are also giving top priority to unemployment concerns."

Pasha said the party is also focusing on women's empowerment. "We are committed towards women empowerment. We guarantee the political upliftment of women," he said.

Haji Hanifa, District President JKNC, hailed the Supreme Court's verdict in favour of the party, saying it has encouraged them.

"We have introduced some new faces. All of them are highly qualified and are capable of representing people. Some reputed new faces have also been introduced. We want to give a strong council this time to ensure a better future for Kargil," he said.

Our alliance with Congress is aimed at a better future for Kargil, Hanifa said.

"We aim to give a strong council with able faces. There are local developmental issues but we also want representation of the people of Kargil and Ladakh at every level," he said, adding, "Our plan is not limited to Hill Council elections. We have the upcoming MP elections also in mind."

### Dal, Nigeen Lakes

said the project was designed to scientifically dispose of sewage from houseboats.

For the Dal Lake part of the project, the water body has been divided into 11 clusters. Each cluster has about 70 houseboats. The work on the project is taken cluster after cluster, he said.

"These clusters will have an individual sump in which the sewage is collected. After the collection, it will be pumped out and will be carried to the shores where it will get treated in a nearby sewage treatment plant," Ahmad said.

Ahmad said while the project deadline is November 15, the LCMA is trying to complete it before time.

He said houseboat owners would benefit from the project as the lakes would be cleaner which would lead to an increase in tourism.

"We have the support of houseboat owners and houseboat associations. They want this network to develop so that the lake remains clean," he added.

Houseboat owners have welcomed the move and have thanked the authorities for it.

"We want the sewerage system to be constructed as we live around water, and for many years now, it has been polluted," said Zahoor Ahmad, a houseboat owner.

He added that if the project is implemented properly "after three to four years, the water of the lakes will be fit for drinking."

"Due to this sewerage system, our own health and the environment will get better which will be beneficial to everyone," he said.

### 4 Suspects Held

official tweet on X formally Twitter said that, "OP BEERWAH, #Budgam; In a Joint Operation launched by #IndianArmy, #JmuKmrPolice & Int agencies on the intervening night of 25-26 Sep in Beerwah, #Budgam, four suspected individuals have been apprehended. 03xPistols & other warlike stores recovered. Investigation in progress." the police official added. (KNO)

### Councilor Removed

exercise of the powers conferred by section 34(1) (b) of The Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, the government hereby removes Smt. Jyoti Yadav, councillor, ward No 53, from her office on the ground of abuse of her official powers, with immediate effect," reads an order issued by the H&UDD.

This is the second such action in the past two years.

Earlier, it had removed president municipal committee Awantipora Bashir Ahmad Bhat for abusing official powers.

### Two Youth Injured

Bemina hospital for advanced treatment.

### Eid-e-Milad

"Eid-e-Milad-ul-Nabi" shall be observed in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on 28.09.2023 instead of 27.09.2023," reads the order

### Cop Among 2 Dead

Naem-ul-Sadiq, sustained injuries and has been shifted to a hospital. Police have registered a case in the matter, they said.

# Rampant India Eye Rare ODI Clean Sweep Against Struggling Australia

Press Trust of India

**RAJKOT:** Skipper Rohit Sharma would fancy a perfect culmination to Indian team's World Cup preparations as hosts eye a rare clean sweep of Australia in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday.

Never before in the history have India whitewashed Australia in the ODI format. In fact, neither of them have achieved such a result, home or away, irrespective of the number of matches played in a series.

Given how perfectly everything has panned out for the World Cup hosts in the lead up to the mega tournament, it would only be fitting that India finish with a deserving 3-0 score-line.

Dominant Indian team, despite the absence of its front-line players and still tinkering with playing combinations to make sure every member has had game-time under their belt, are in pole position to record a fourth consecutive ODI win before the quadrennial event begins.

If they manage to clinch a 3-0 win, India would also have taken a massive upper-hand over the five-time world champions Australia before the two teams meet again in Chennai on October 8 for their World Cup opener.

It will be no exaggeration in saying India have battered Australia in the first two ODIs despite both the rivals making plenty of changes to



keep their top guns fresh, while also putting miles in the legs of those who would not usually feature in first-choice XIs.

There could, however, be some respite for the Australian bowlers as India have rested their young gun Shubman Gill for the final ODI after his 74 and 104 in the first two games, along with Shardul Thakur.

But India's batting mainstays Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are expected

to return and so are the in-form Kuldeep Yadav and Hardik Pandya from a brief resting period during which KL Rahul has led admirably.

Facing some tough questions over squad composition, players' form, fitness and availability, India have turned the tide and how.

Like Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah too has proven his fitness and form in a few matches after a long injury lay-off. After resting from the second ODI,

India's premier bowler is available for selection.

For Australia, it is not often that they flop both with the bat and the ball in India with the white ball as miserably as they have in the first two ODIs. The visitors need to gather themselves as the wheels seem to be coming off rapidly following five consecutive defeats in ODIs.

A few months ago, the same side beat India 2-1 with Mitchell Starc

haunting the Indian right-handers with his perfect in-swingers.

With one last game left before the World Cup begins, Australia would be tempted to play their preferred bowling attack with Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc coming in, even though the batting lacks the firepower of Travis Head at the top and Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne not enjoying a successful year of cricket in India across formats.

## Gill, Pandya, Shami, Thakur Unavailable: Rohit

Agencies

**I**ndian captain Rohit Sharma on Tuesday said five players, including in-form Shubman Gill, will not be available for selection for the third ODI against Australia, as the squad has been hit by a viral sickness and some players have opted to return home.

India, who are leading the three-match series 2-0, will have only 13 players to choose from for the final ODI.

While Gill is rested, Axar Patel is recuperating at NCA from the left quadriceps injury that he suffered during the Asia Cup.

Pacers Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur, who played the first two ODIs against the Aussies, and Hardik Pandya, who is yet to play in this series, have opted to go back to their respective homes.

"We have got 13 players at this point in time," said Rohit during the pre-match press meet.

Rohit said the viral sickness going around the group too has added to the uncertainty. (PTI)

## Grand Warriors Academy Wins 9 Medals In Pencak Silat Championship

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Grand Warriors Academy of Martial Arts won nine medals in various categories at the 8th UT Pencak Silat Championship 2023-24, which attracted more than 800 athletes from various clubs and schools from J&K.

The three-day long championship was held at Sheri-Kashmir Indoor Stadium from 23rd to 25th September 2023. The event was organized by Pencak Silat Association of J&K under the aegis of J&K Sports Council.

Grand warrior's coach Adil Hussain Khan said, "Kashmir is experiencing an alarming increase in drug abuse. To curb this menace youth needs to be physically fit and should participate in Daily activities."



Rauf Ahmed, Secretary L P School and President Grand Warriors Academy congratulated Rizwan Mukhtar and Yasooob for their selection in the upcoming Nationals.

The Grand Warriors team was led by Shahid Hilal, Instructor of the academy. The students who won medals in the 8th UT Pencak Silat Championship include

Mohammad Yasooob (Gold) pre-teen (48kg), Mir Ammar Mudasir preteen (40-45kg) (Silver), Sahil Farooq (Silver) (60kg) senior, Affan Sadiq (Bronze) 60-65 senior, Shakir Hussain (Bronze) +45kg Senior, Farzan Bhat (Bronze) 55kg Senior, Aneed (Bronze) 54kg Senior, Anas (Bronze) 65kg Senior, Bilal (Bronze) Senior 50kg.

## Srinagar Premier League: Ali Jana Beats Jhelum FC 1-0

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Ali Jana FC defeated Jhelum FC 1-0 in a Round 16 match of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The cagey contest failed to produce a goal in the first half of the game, with favourites Ali Jana toiling hard to find the back of the net.

Sahil scored the only goal of the game in the 75th minute, much to the relief of team Ali Jana.

As per the fixtures list, Kashmir Maharaja FC will take on JK United FC today, Wednesday, Sept. 27, with kick off at 6:30 p.m.

The Srinagar Premier League or Premier Division League is organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Football Association.



## U-17 Provincial Level Cricket Tourny Begins In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Under-17 Provincial Level Cricket Tournament, organised by Joint Director Youth Services & Sports Kashmir, began at HSS Bhibehra turf wicket on Tuesday.

The U-14 has already reached the finals stage and due to bad weather, the final is yet to be concluded. The U-17 tournament was inaugurated jointly by District Youth Services & Sports Officer Anantnag and Principal Higher Secondary School Bhibehra.

A total of 12 matches were scheduled on the first two days of the tournament at four different venues. These matches were mostly played on turf wickets. The result of concluded matches were as:

**Match 1:** Budgam vs. Kupwara - Budgam won the Match by 5 wickets.

**Match 2:** Kulgam vs. Pulwama - Pulwama won.

**Match 3:** Srinagar vs. Ganderbal - Not completed due to a wet field.

**Match 4:** Shopian vs. Baramulla - Baramulla won.

**Match 5:** Ganderbal vs. Shopian - Ganderbal won.

**Match 6:** Kulgam vs. Kupwara - Kulgam won by 10 runs.

**Match 7:** Budgam vs. Bandipora - Bandipora won by 45 runs.

**Match 8:** Anantnag vs. Baramulla - Baramulla won by 5 wickets

## Secretary YSS Chairs Meeting On National Youth Festival 2024

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In prelude to hosting the restructured National Youth Festival 2024 and preparations being made by the Department of Youth Services

and Sports (YSS), Secretary YSS, Sarmad Hafeez, chaired a meeting of senior officers on Tuesday here.

The YSS Secretary held detailed discussion on various activities to be undertaken with regard to forth-

coming mega event.

Highlighting the essence of the National Youth Festival as an important platform for showcasing talent of youth, Secretary said that the extravaganza is being organised with

many new additions this time and hoped that the J&K youth would get ample opportunities to take part in the National Level event. Various components of the festival included sporting events, cultural activities, debates,

showcasing of handicrafts, cuisine, etc.

The meeting was attended by Director, Youth Services and Sports Department, Special Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Directors of the Department.

## China Win Asian Games' First Esports Gold Medal

Reuters

**C**hina won the Asian Games' first esports gold medal on Tuesday in an event closely watched by Olympic officials.

A team of five Chinese gamers beat Malaysia for the title in the "Arena of Valor" competition as esports pushed its case for Olympic inclusion five years after being a demonstration sport at the Jakarta Asian Games.

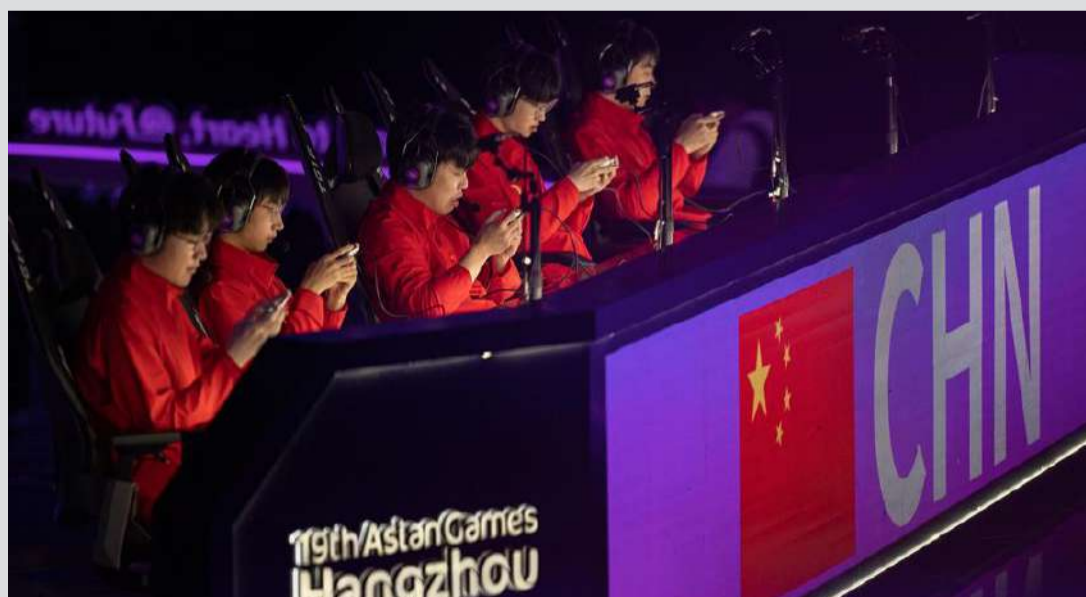
Chinese authorities frown on excessive gaming and have put limits on children's playing time since 2021.

But thousands of home fans were in a frenzy at the Hangzhou Esports Centre as China beat Malaysia 2-0 in a best-of-three clash for the popular mobile phone game.

Tapping furiously on their phones amid ear-splitting music and live commentary, the players communicated via headsets throughout a contest that stretched to 45 minutes and may have seemed bizarre to sports purists.

Thailand earlier claimed the first esports medal awarded at the Asian Games on Tuesday, winning a bronze in a playoff against Vietnam in a mobile phone game at an event that will be closely watched by Olympic officials.

Esports was a demonstration tournament at the Jakarta Asian Games five years ago but is a medal event in Hangzhou for the first



time, adding weight to the video game industry's push for a spot on the Olympic programme.

Teams and individuals are battling for a total of seven gold medals across a range of titles in Hangzhou, including online soccer and multi-player battle arena games.

The tournament has drawn crowds to Hangzhou's Esports Centre since Sunday, underlining Chinese fans' enthusiasm for esports despite local rules limiting children's gaming time.

On Tuesday, they cheered on five Thai gamers -- Sorawat Boon-

phom, Anusak Manpdong, Chayut Suebka, Vatcharanan Thaworn and Kawee Wachiraphas -- as they beat their Vietnam counterparts 2-0 in a best-of-three match for bronze in 'Arena of Valor'.

Developed by a subsidiary of Chinese tech giant Tencent, Arena of Valor is a multi-player battle arena game hugely popular in Asia.

With a soundtrack of ear-splitting music and live commentary, the players sat in line in their teams on a fluorescent-lit stage under big screens streaming the game-play for fans.

The players tapped their small screens furiously and communicated with team mates via headsets throughout a contest that stretched to nearly 40 minutes.

"We feel excited and great," said Bangkok native Boonphom after the win.

The 30-year-old turned professional a decade ago after first getting into gaming aged five.

"The feeling is good, so good." Malaysia and China will play for esports' first gold medal in the evening session on Tuesday, also for Arena of Valor.

## Sri Lanka Leave Out Injured Hasaranga From 15-Member World Cup Squad

Agencies

**I**n a major setback, Sri Lanka were on Tuesday forced to leave out star spinner Wanindu Hasaranga from their 15-member squad for the upcoming ODI World Cup in India due to a hamstring injury. The leg-spinner will miss the entire tournament after sustaining a thigh strain during last month's play-offs of the Lankan Premier League, where he finished as the top run-scorer with 279 runs and the leading wicket-taker with 19 scalps. The injury subsequently ruled Hasaranga out of the Asia Cup. Sri Lanka announced their World Cup squad just two days prior to the ICC cut off date, all-rounder Dasun Shanaka will lead the team. Kusal Mendis has been named as Shanaka's deputy.

In case, Hasaranga had to undergo a surgery, he will be out of action for at least three months. But if he makes a recovery, the spinner can return to Lanka's World Cup squad provided another player gets injured during the course of the tournament. Hasaranga was a vital component during the World Cup Qualifiers held in June-July, where Sri Lanka emerged victorious, securing their spot in the main event. He topped the tournament's wicket-takers chart with an impressive 22 wickets in just seven games.

Among other players, pacer Dushantha Chameera has failed to recover from his shoulder injury and was not included in the WC squad. But the good news is that both Dilshan Madushanka and Lahiru Kumara are back in the squad



after missing the Asia Cup with injuries.

Madushanka had suffered from an oblique muscle tear during a practice game ahead of the Asia Cup, while Kumara had missed the action due to a recurring side strain.

Despite Hasaranga and Chameera's loss, Sri Lanka named a fairly balanced side. Pathum Nissanka, Dimuth Karunaratne, and Mendis will be manning the top-order. The middle-order will feature Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kusal Perera, Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya. Sri Lanka will play two warm-up games ahead of the World Cup against Bangladesh on September 29 and Afghanistan on October 2. The islanders will play their tournament opener on October 7 against South Africa at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

## Stem Cell Therapy Shows Promise For Reducing Alzheimer's Symptoms: Study

Agenceis

Scientists have transplanted stem cells into mice and found reduction of brain abnormalities typical of Alzheimer's disease.

The team, led by researchers at the Stanford University in the US, transplanted blood stem and progenitor cells into mice, effectively leading to the replacement of a type of neural cell, called microglia, that's defective in mice with the disease.

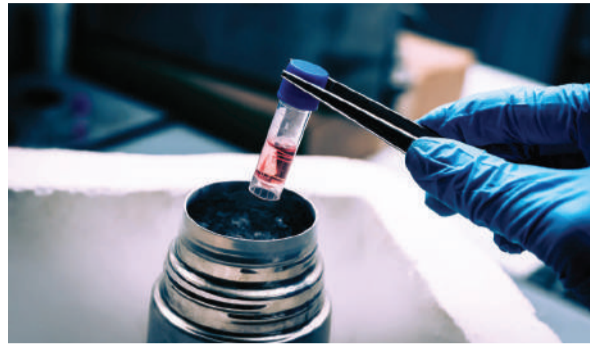
"This cell therapy approach is unique in the field because most researchers are working to find pills or injectables to treat Alzheimer's disease, said Marius Wernig, a professor of pathology at Stanford.

The results were published in the journal Cell Stem Cell in August.

Despite extensive research on Alzheimer's, what causes the neurodegenerative disorder and how it develops are not well understood.

Most therapies focus on clearing the buildup of amyloid plaques found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease, though it is not clear if these plaques are merely a sign of Alzheimer's pathology or are directly causing dementia.

However, there is a clear association between nonfamilial Alzheimer's disease,



which tends to strike later in life and does not stem from an inherited gene variant, and various mutations in microglia.

Microglia cells protect other brain cells against invaders and function as a cleanup crew, taking out the metabolic trash that can accumulate in the brain.

Scientists have observed that some genetic variations in microglia show a strong correlation with an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease.

One such correlation involves a gene called TREM2, which plays an essential role in how microglia detect and address neurodegeneration.

"Certain genetic variants of TREM2 are among the strongest genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's disease," Wernig said.

The data are convincing that microglial dysfunction can cause neurodegeneration in the brain, so it makes sense that restoring defective microglial

function might be a way to fight neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease," he added.

In the study, mice with a defective TREM2 gene received hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell transplants from mice with normal TREM2 function.

The researchers found that the transplanted cells reconstituted the blood system and that some of them efficiently incorporated into the recipients' brains and became cells that looked and behaved like microglia.

We showed that most of the brain's original microglia were replaced by healthy cells, which led to a restoration of normal TREM2 activity," Wernig said.

Next, they investigated whether the restored TREM2 activity was enough to improve the brain health of the TREM2-deficient mice.

Indeed, in the transplanted mice we saw a clear reduction in the deposits of

amyloid plaques normally seen in TREM2-deficient mice," Wernig said.

They were also able to show a restoration of microglial function and reduction of other disease markers, indicating that functional restoration of this one gene had widespread positive effects.

The researchers said they could transplant cells engineered to have supercharged TREM2 activity that may have an even greater effect.

They caution, however, that the microglia that formed from the transplanted cells were slightly different from the natural microglia in mouse brains.

These differences might in some way have their own detrimental effect. We have to look at that very carefully, Wernig said.

The researchers noted that the current procedure would be highly risky if it were developed for human therapy because transplantation of blood stem cells requires the recipient to undergo a highly toxic chemotherapy or radiation treatment to kill off native blood stem cells. However, many researchers are developing less toxic methods of preconditioning patients for stem cell transplants.

A brain cell therapy could then piggyback on such improved and safer transplantation methods, they said.

## Waheeda Rehman to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Agenceis

New Delhi: Waheeda Rehman, who made her debut 68 years ago and went on to act in cult classics such as "Pyasa" and "Guide", was on Tuesday named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema.

"I'm doubly happy because it is Dev Anand's birthday. I think 'taufa unko milna tha, mujhe mil gaya,'" Rehman told PTI on the birth centenary of her frequent collaborator.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur made the announcement on X.

"I feel an immense sense of happiness and honour in announcing that Waheeda Rehman ji is being bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime



Achievement Award this year for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema," Thakur wrote on the microblogging site.

The award for the year 2021 will be presented during the 69th National Film awards ceremony.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the veteran actor on

being named for the honour.

"Delighted that Waheeda Rehman ji has been honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award. Her journey in Indian cinema has left an indelible mark. A beacon of talent, dedication and grace, she embodies the best of our cinematic heritage. Congratulations to her," the prime minister said on X.

The five-member jury comprised Rehman's close friend and last year's Dadasaheb award winner Asha Parekh, actors Chiranjeevi, Paresh Rawal and Prosenjit Chatterjee as well as filmmaker Shekhar Kapur.

Regarded as one of the finest actors of the country, Rehman, also an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer, made her debut in Hindi cinema with Guru Dutt's "CID" opposite Dev Anand.

## Jaipur Literature Festival Begins February 1 Next Year

Agenceis

New Delhi: Well-known British classicist Mary Beard, English historian-broadcaster Tom Holland, art historian BN Goswami and mythological fiction writer Anand Neelakantan, are part of the first list of 25 speakers participating in the 17th edition of Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF), starting February 1, the organisers announced on Tuesday.

Dubbed as "the greatest literary show on earth", the upcoming edition of the festival, scheduled from February 1-5, 2024, will take place at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur.

The five-day literary extravaganza, based on the theme of 'Stories Unite Us', aims to explore the transformative power of literature, how it reflects society, and brings people together.

As in the previous years, the festival will celebrate linguistic diversity, featuring a broad spectrum of languages and host sessions that focus on literary works in languages, including Assamese, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Odiya, Punjabi, Tamil, and Urdu.

"The 2024 edition of the



JLF will bring our living library of ideas, books, and writers into the hearts and minds of book lovers from around the world. Fiction and fact, poetry and music, debates and discussions await us, with a brilliant and diverse list of speakers and performers. A vintage year, with classic themes and stimulating contemporary interpretations," said writer Namita Gokhale, co-director of JLF, in a statement.

Also featuring on the first list of speakers are: Debra Diamond, curator of South Asian and Southeast Asian Art at the Smithsonian's

National Museum of Asian Art; debut novelist of "Quarterlife" Devika Rege; Best-selling American author of "The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death" Jeff Goodell; prize-winning and bestselling broadcaster Jerry Brotton; acclaimed Hindi novelist and writer Mridula Garg and award-winning author of three novels Nilanjana S Roy.

The list continues with award-winning journalist-author Patrick Radden Keefe; journalist-novelist Raj Kamal Jha; British writer Ben Macintyre; recipient of 47 honorary doctorates

RA Mashelkar and former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court S Muralidhar, among others.

"The 17th edition of the JLF will focus on Indian literature and the celebration of diverse voices. Distinguished speakers include Mridula Garg, a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award; Anuradha Sarma Pujari, a prominent Assamese author; B. Jeyamohan, a celebrated writer in Tamil and Malayalam; and acclaimed writers Anand Neelakantan and Kalpana Raina. International writers such as the award-winning historian Mary Beard, the acclaimed travel writer Colin Thubron, and translator Tom Holland will also be at the Festival," said Sanjoy K Roy, producer of the festival, in a statement.

The 10th edition of the Jaipur Book Mark (JBM), which will be running parallel to the festival, will bring together a wide range of publishers, literary agents, writers, translators, translation agencies and booksellers from across the world and give them an opportunity to meet, talk business and listen to major global industry players.

**THE 17TH EDITION OF THE JLF WILL FOCUS ON INDIAN LITERATURE** and the celebration of diverse voices. Distinguished speakers include Mridula Garg, a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award; Anuradha Sarma Pujari, a prominent Assamese author; B. Jeyamohan, a celebrated writer in Tamil and Malayalam; and acclaimed writers Anand Neelakantan and Kalpana Raina. International writers such as the award-winning historian Mary Beard, the acclaimed travel writer Colin Thubron, and translator Tom Holland will also be at the Festival."

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