

## Policeman Shot Dead In Baramulla

### Third Terror Attack In Kashmir In Last 3 Days



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a third attack in the last 3 days, unidentified terrorists on Tuesday shot dead a policeman outside his house in Tangmarg area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The deadly attack on Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad Dar comes a day after Mukesh Kumar, a labourer from Uttar Pradesh, was shot dead in Pulwama on Monday, evoking sharp condemnation from Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and major political parties of the region. On Sunday, police officer Masoor Ahmad was shot in the head by terrorists at Eidgah ground in this capital

city when he was playing cricket with local boys. "#Terrorists fired upon one JKP personnel HC Gh Mohd Dar resident of Wailoo Kralpora in #Baramulla at his residence. Shifted to SDH Tangmarg for treatment. Health condition critical," Police wrote on X, previously known as Twitter. In another Tweet, police confirmed the death of the Head Constable. "Injured Police Personnel #succumbed to his injuries & attained #martyrdom. We pay our rich tributes to the #martyr & stand by his family at this critical juncture. Area has been cordoned off. Search operation going on," the Tweet read.

**INJURED POLICE PERSONNEL #SUCCUMBED TO HIS INJURIES & ATTAINED #MARTYRDOM.** We pay our rich tributes to the #martyr & stand by his family at this critical juncture. Area has been cordoned off. Search operation going on."

## Parents, Students Elated Over Changed School Timings



Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The students and their parents are elated over the government's announcement in changing school timings within and outside the Srinagar Municipal limits from tomorrow. Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) announced a change in school timings for all government and private schools starting from November 1st. According to a communiqué from the DSEK, schools within Srinagar municipality limits will operate from 10 AM to 3

PM. For schools outside the municipality limits of Srinagar district, the new timing is set from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. "The order/instructions shall be adhered to strictly by all the concerned institutions. Any deviation in this regard shall be viewed seriously," reads the order. The parents as well as students have hailed the decision, which they said, came as a major relief for them amidst constant drop in daytime temperature. "I really appreciate the decision. It was too difficult for both parents as well **More on P10**

## Ecosystem Which Promoted Separatism And Terrorism Dismantled: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that the ecosystem, which promoted separatism & terrorism for almost 70 years, has been successfully dismantled by his administration and that the Union Territory under the guidance of Prime Minister has achieved its fullest glory. Addressing J&K UT Foundation Day celebrations here on Tuesday, Sinha said that in the last 4 years, the grandeur and divinity of the crown jewel of the nation found a new identity and 1.3 crore citizens- Karmayogis got new wings to their dreams. "Ecosystem, which promoted separatism & terrorism



More on P6

for almost 70 years, has been successfully dismantled. The age-old ideals of humanism, communal harmony and peace have been established. Under

the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, the UT has achieved its fullest glory," he said. The Union Territory administration, the **More on P10**

## Youth Our Most Precious Wealth

S tating that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are the most precious wealth, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Tuesday that the opportunity to compete in different sports will enable them to bring new hope, right skills to excel in life, courage to achieve success in every field and become role models for children. He was addressing the closing ceremony of CRPF T20 Cricket Cup 2023 during which he felicitated the winner, runner-up and other outstanding players of the tournament. In his address, Sinha congratulated the CRPF Srinagar Sector officials, and all the participating players and teams from Ganderbal, Budgam and Srinagar. "CRPF has always lived upto its motto of 'Service & Loyalty' **More on P10**



SRINAGAR'S ICONIC LAL CHOWK wore a festive look on Tuesday evening as a series of events were organized as part of the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Foundation Day. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Wall Of Art-370 Between Kashmir And Country Has Fallen: PM

### Politics Of Appeasement Biggest Hindrance In Our Development Journey: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

Kevadia: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said that the wall of Article 370 between Kashmir and the country has fallen and the people of the Union Territory have come out of the shadow of terrorism to breathe in one air. "Who would have thought that Kashmir will be rid of Article 370? But today, the wall of Article 370 between Kashmir and the country has fallen. Sardar Saheb would be feeling the happiest and blessing us from wherever he is today," he said. He was addressing a



gathering at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat's Narmada district after paying floral tribute to Sardar Patel on his birth anniversary, which is celebrated as National Unity Day.

"Today, our brothers and sisters have come out of the shadow of terrorism to breathe in one air and are moving forward step by step in the country's development," Modi added. **More on P10**

## Offences Carrying Upto 7 Year Jail Term HC Issues Guidelines On Arrest, Bail

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued slew of guidelines for the guidance of the Magistrates and the Criminal Courts subordinate to it as well as police officers on arrest, detention and bail of accused in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Acting in compliance to the directions of the Supreme Court of India in its order dated 31 July this year in the case titled Mohammad Asfak Alam vs State of Jharkhand (Cr. Appeal No 2207 of 2023), the High Court ordered both the Governments

of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh to instruct its police officers not to automatically arrest accused when a case under Section 498-A Indian Penal Code 1860(domestic violence), is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under parameters laid down and flowing from Section 41 CrPc. All the police officers, the court said, provided with the check list containing specified sub-clauses under Section 41(1)(b)(ii). "The police officers shall forward the check list duly filled and furnish the **More on P10**

## Four Dead In Kupwara Cab Crash

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Four people, including 3 women on Tuesday were killed in a road accident in Tangdhar area North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The tragic accident took place on Tuesday afternoon when a cab carrying 14 passengers skidded off the road at Nati Top Gabra in the Tangdar area, reports said. Four passengers, including three women died on the spot while others sustained injuries, including two children. The injured were shifted to a hospital for treatment. The deceased have been identified as Saida Nazir, Razia Manzoor, Nusrat Begum and Muhammad Sayed Raina, all residents of Nowagabra village in Karnah. The injured have been identified as Riyaz Karim, Muhammad Ismail Chechi, Rufaidha Begum, Farooq Ahmed Babazad, Shaheena Begum, Sarjeela Begum, Adebba Bano and Adeb Amjid. The accident, reports said, occurred when the driver Muhammad Shafi **More on P10**

## RR Swain Takes Over As 17th DGP Of J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior IPS officer, R.R Swain took over as 17th Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir at a function held at PHQ Srinagar on Tuesday. DG Crime J&K, A.K Choudhary, ADGsP, S. J. M. Gillani, M.K Sinha, Vijay Kumar, Director, Fire & Emergency Services, J&K, Alok Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjeet Singh, IGP V. K Birdi, IGP (CIV/Hqrs) B.S Tuti and other senior officers from J&K Police were present on the occasion. On his arrival, Swain was received by senior officers and was presented guard of honour in the PHQ lawns. He also inspected the guard of honour. A 1991 batch IPS officer, Swain before taking over as DGP Jammu and Kashmir remained posted at various important and key positions of Jammu and Kashmir Police which included SDPO Kothi Bagh, SP Ramban, SP Kargil. **More on P10**

### SHORT TAKES

#### 2 Suspects Held With Pistol, Grenade

Security forces arrested two suspects with arms and ammunition at a checkpoint in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, army said Tuesday. In a post put out on X, previously known as Twitter, an army spokesperson said that a joint operation was launched on Monday by army, police, CRPF and intelligence agencies during which multiple MVIPs were established at Dangerpora village of Baramulla. The army spokesperson added that two suspects were

#### Northern Army Commander Visits Ladakh

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday visited forward areas and reviewed the operational preparedness for the winters in Ladakh sector. The Army commander appreciated and felicitated the troops of the Indian Army, Indo Tibetan Border Police and General Reserve Engineer Force for their relentless efforts in maintaining highest standards of operational

#### Criminal Detained Under PSA In Reasi

A man wanted in 14 criminal cases has been arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Tuesday, officials said. Umer Waseem Ghani, who hails from Bagga village of Mahore tehsil, was booked under the PSA by police and subsequently a detention order was issued by District Magistrate Babila Rakhwal. Ghani was found involved in 14 cases registered against him in Udhampur, Jammu and Reasi districts of **More on P10**

#### Mortar Shell Destroyed In Samba

A mortar shell was found lying in a field in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district and destroyed in a controlled explosion on Tuesday, officials said. The 84 mm shell was found lying in a field at village Dadui along Samba-Mansar road **More on P10**

#### Dentist's Murder: Chargesheet Filed

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday filed a 1,249-page charge sheet in the murder case of a woman dentist who was killed by her male friend. Sumedha Sharma (27) was allegedly stabbed to death by Johar Mehmood Ganai (30) at her Janipur residence in Jammu on March 7. Ganai, who is a doctor, tried to commit suicide using the same knife. The charge sheet was filed against the accused under section 302 (murder) and 309 (attempt to commit suicide) of **More on P10**

#### Man Kills Mother, Daughter In Jammu

A man allegedly killed his mother and minor daughter in their house here on Tuesday, police said. Jagdev Singh alias Michael fled the scene of the crime and efforts are on to arrest him, they said. Quoting preliminary information, a police official said Singh attacked his 60-year-old mother Kamla Devi and his three-month-old daughter with a sharp-edged weapon at Mochapur village in Bishnah area on the outskirts of Jammu at around 5 pm. Police along with forensic teams **More on P10**



## GDC Srinagar Hosts Seminar On Oral Health & Career Guidance

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant step towards inclusive healthcare, Government Dental College (GDC) Srinagar today hosted a one-day seminar focusing on career counseling and oral health care for individuals with special needs.

The event, inaugurated by the Principal of GDC, Prof. Riyaz Farooq, garnered enthusiastic participation from Heads of Departments, faculty members, as well as post-graduate and undergraduate students.

The seminar unfolded through a series of enlightening lectures and presentations, delving deep into the imperative of oral health care for those with special healthcare needs. It aimed to not only impart crucial knowledge but also ex-

tend a guiding hand towards promising career paths within the realm of dentistry.

Dr. Altaf H Shah, a distinguished figure in the field of dentistry and Associate Professor at Marquette University, School Of Dentistry, Wisconsin USA, delivered an illuminating lecture on comprehensive oral healthcare for individuals with special needs. He shed light on the pivotal role of dentists in achieving this, while also elucidating the diverse career opportunities within the field.

Speaking during the event, Prof. Riyaz emphasized the multitude of avenues available to graduating students to advance their careers. He underscored that a doctor's dedication should fundamentally lie in the betterment of society.



PICT: Abid Bhat/KO

## Lt Governor Attends Open Painting Competition At Zero Bridge

Inaugurates DIPR's Photo Exhibition On 'Badalta Khilta Jammu Kashmir'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended an open painting competition on the theme "Corruption free & Poverty free future", Ideals of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat at Zero Bridge, on the occasion of UT Foundation Day.

The Lt Governor interacted with the children participating in the competition and encouraged them to highlight the social issues through their creative art.

The painting competition was organized by School Educa-

As a part of UT Foundation Day celebration, the Lt Governor inaugurated a photo exhibition organized by Department of Information and Public Relations on the theme "Badalta Khilta Jammu Kashmir" at the iconic Lal Chowk.

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nized by Department of Information and Public Relations on the theme "Badalta Khilta Jammu Kashmir" at the iconic Lal Chowk.

The exhibition highlighted the development journey of Jammu Kashmir over the last four years.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO, Mission Youth; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Minga Sherpa, Director Information Department; HoDs and senior officers were also present.

## Pledge Taking Ceremonies Held Across Srinagar On Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with the Observance of National Unity day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patil on October 31, the District Administration Srinagar Tuesday organized pledge taking ceremonies at all Government Offices.

The Pledge Taking Ceremonies were held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad.

At the Meeting Hall of DC Office Srinagar,

the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria administered pledge to all Officers and Officials on National Unity day to dedicate themselves and their services to preserve the Unity, integrity and security of the nation and to strive hard to spread this message among the fellow citizens.

Similar pledge taking ceremonies were also held in other District Offices in Srinagar where in the Officer/officials took oath with regard to commemoration of National Unity day.

## S.P College Srinagar Celebrates UT Foundation Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sri Pratap College, Srinagar celebrated UT Foundation Day with great zeal and enthusiasm in College Campus on Tuesday.

The celebrations started early in the morning with Unity Run (Ekta Run) that witnessed participation from students, NSS Volunteers and faculty along with the Jawans from 132 battalion of the CRPF. The run commenced at 9:00 am from Ghanta Ghar and culminated at S. P. College. The run was im-

mediately followed by a massive plantation drive inside the lawns of S. P. College in which all the participants from the run planted a deodar sapling.

Afterwards, to formally kick start the day-long Accession Day celebrations, Tiranga hoisting ceremony was held followed by the playing of the National Anthem. The ceremony was presided over by the dignitaries including Prince Noorul Hamid, Deputy Secretary to Higher Education Department along with Principal S. P. College, Prof (Dr.) Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi.

## 114 Students Receive Rs 28.5L Under SKUAST-K Endowment Fund

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir Monday distributed Rs 28.5 lakh to 114 undergraduate deserving students under its SKUAST-K Endowment Fund scholarship.

The SKUAST-K Endowment Fund was established in May this year with the aim to help financially disadvantaged students. The fund is supported by the university faculty, staff, alumni, and several philanthropic organizations.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, handed over the cheque of Rs 28.5 lakh to

Manager, J&K Bank, SKUAST-K Shalimar Branch in a function at the university main campus. The amount was later transferred to the students online.

Prof Ganai, who is the brain behind establishing the SKUAST-K Endowment Fund, said the university has created the fund with contributions of the faculty, staff and alumni, while people from different walks of life including AIBOA have contributed generously towards the fund. He said the aim of the endeavor is to help the students on their journey towards a brighter future.

Education is a fundamental right that should be accessible to every individual, regardless

of their financial circumstances, he stressed.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Education Prof MAA Siddique, said that SKUAST K has long been a frontrunner in supporting students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The university recognizes that economic challenges should never be a hindrance to one's education. This initiative demonstrates SKUAST K's dedication to its students, as it continues to foster a learning environment that is accessible to all. Each scholarship recipient was awarded a grant to help alleviate the financial burden of pursuing their academic dreams.

## Office Of The Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI (6), Bemina, Srinagar

Tele No: 0194-2492429 Fax: 0194-2492429.

Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com

EXTENSION - I

e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/13 of 2023-24

Dated: 14 /10/2023

Name of the work: Annual Rate Contract for Carrying out Preventive / Routine / Breakdown Maintenance of 220kV and 132kv Grid stations Viz Delina, Mattan & Kulgam for the year 2023-24.

Corrigendum title: Extension of bid submission dates for NIT due to poor response. Bids not accompanied with CDR/DD shall not be entertained for techno-commercial evaluation.

CRITICAL DATES AFTER CORRIGENDUM:-

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission supporting documents in PDF formats).  | 09-11-2023 (2:30pm)   |
| 2. | Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date and time.   | 11-11-2023 (2:30pm)   |
| 3. | Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids.   | Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina, Srinagar           |
| 4. | Cost of e-Bid document (to be submitted in the form of DD /Online Payment Pledged to Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, JKPTCL Bemina Srinagar. | Rs. 1000/-  |
| 5. | Cost of EMD ( in the form of CDR/DD)  | Rs. 20000/= pledged to Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina, Srinagar. |

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per attached SBD, BOQ and other documents uploaded on site.

No: TLMD-VI/ 2384-88  
DIPK-NB-3937/23 Dated:- 31.10.2023

-Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
TLMD-VI, Bemina Sgr.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice  
Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.i-reps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

| Tender No.             | Name of work  | Approx. Cost    | Earnest Money   | Completion period | Opening of tender           | Website Particulars |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 251-Elect-T-37-2023-24 | Cleaning of Fresh, Return air Filters, grills and condensers and evaporator coil in AC Coaches of trains at FZR, ASR and JAT Depots over Firuzpur Division for three Years. | Rs. 63,93,879/- | Rs. 1,27,900.00 | 36 Months         | 21.11.2023 after 15:00 Hrs. | www.i-reps.gov.in   |

No.: 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 29-Elect/2023-24 Date: 30.10.2023 3396/2023  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

**EOI for Empanelment of Consultant**  
Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited for selection of consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for setting up of 10 MW<sub>p</sub> Ground Mounted Grid-Connected Solar Power Plant at Islamic University of Science & Technology, Kashmir, Campus II. The detailed document (for terms and conditions) is available at university website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in). The last date for the submission of EOI is 21-11-2023 (upto 4:00 pm).

No. IUST/Reg\_P&S/Ext\_EOI/23/1592 Sd/-  
Dated: 31-10-2023 Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores)

DIPK-NB-3922/23 dated: 31-10-2023

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

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

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**PRAYERS**

FAJR 5:25  
ZUHR 12:14  
ASR 4:01  
Magrib 5:42  
ISHA 7:03

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
16 Rabi-ul-Sani  
1445

## This Day In History

- 835 - All Saints Day made compulsory by Pope Gregory IV throughout Frankish Kingdom
- 996 - First recorded use of modern name for Austria in the 'Ostarrichi Document'
- 1570 - All Saints Flood, tidal wave in the North Sea devastates the coast from Holland to Jutland; killing more than 1,000 people.
- 1721 - Prince Eugenius of Savoy unveils statue of himself
- 1755 - Lisbon earthquake kills more than 50,000 in Portugal
- 1834 First published reference to poker (as Mississippi riverboat game)
- 1894 - Vaccine for diphtheria announced by Dr Roux of Paris
- 1894 - Nicholas II becomes the new Tsar of Russia after his father, Alexander III, dies.
- 1897 - Italian football club Juventus F.C. is founded by students in Turin as Sport-Club Juventus
- 1902 - France and Italy sign an Entente under which Italy agrees to remain neutral if France is attacked; this is France's attempt to neutralize the Triple Entente
- 1911 - The first aerial bomb is dropped by an Italian pilot on Turkish troops in Libya during the Italo-Turkish War
- 1913 - Less than a week after the US non-intervention promise, President Woodrow Wilson demands that Mexican dictator Huerta resigns
- 1917 - In WW I, the 1st US soldiers are killed in combat
- 1928 - Graf Zeppelin sets airship distance record of 6384 km
- 1942 - 10th day of battle at El Alamein
- 1944 - World War II: Units of the British Army land at Walcheren in the Netherlands.
- 1947 - UN trusteeship for Nauru granted to Australia, NZ & UK
- 1951 - First atomic explosion witnessed by troops, New Mexico
- 1956 - Delhi becomes a territory of Indian union
- 1956 - Nobel for physics awarded to Shockley, Brattain & Bardeen
- 1962 - Greece enters European Common Market
- 1962 - USSR launches Mars 1; radio contact lost before arrival at Mars
- 1974 - UN affirms independence of Cyprus
- 1985 - Netherlands decides definitive sites for cruise missiles
- 1990 - Last of Margaret Thatcher's original government resigns, Deputy PM Howe
- 1990 - Rhetoric escalates as Bush likens Saddam to Hitler
- 1991 - Three faculty, and one staff member of the department of physics and astronomy, were killed, along with one administrator, when physics graduate student Gang Lu went on a shooting rampage at the University of Iowa.
- 1993 - The Maastricht Treaty, the Treaty on European Union comes into effect
- 1998 - The European Court of Human Rights is instituted.
- 2012 - Scientists detect evidence of light from the universe's first stars, predicted to have formed 500 million years after the big bang
- 2012 - 2 Iranian fighter jets fire on a US General Atomics MQ-1 Predator drone in international air space
- 2015 - Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet's Davutoglus Justice and Development Party regains its parliamentary majority in a surprise result
- 2017 - Boiler explosion at a NTPC government-run coal-fired power plant in Rae Bareilly, India, kills 29
- 2017 - UK Defense Secretary Michael Fallon resigns due to his behavior towards women, part of wider scandal of sexual harassment by UK politicians
- 2018 - Google employees stage mass walkout to protest the company's handling of sexual harassment
- 2018 - Ground assault mounted on Yemeni port city of Hudaydah by Saudi-backed government forces
- 2020 - Gunmen kill at least 32 people, set fire to homes in Oromia state, Ethiopia, in attack blamed on rebel Oromo Liberation Army

## Opposition Leaders Claim Apple Warned Them About Their Phones Being Hacked



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** At least four opposition leaders on Tuesday claimed to have received messages from Apple warning them of "state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise" their iPhones and posted the purported screenshots on their X handles. Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi, Congress's Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor and his party's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera shared the screenshots on X. PTI reached out to Apple for comment but there was no immediate response. "Received text and email from Apple warning me that the government trying to hack into my phone and email. @HMOIndia -- get a life. Adani and PMO bullies - your fear makes me pity you," Moitra said sharing the screenshots. Tagging Chaturvedi to the post, she claimed that three other leaders of the opposition INDIA alliance have received similar messages. Chaturvedi also shared a similar screenshot which she claimed to have received from Apple and said, "Wonder who? Shame on you. Cc: @HMOIndia for your kind attention". Replying to Moitra's post, she said, "So not just me but also @MahuaMoitra has received this

warning from Apple. Will @HMOIndia investigate?" Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor also shared a post about him receiving a similar message. "Received from an Apple ID, threat-notifications@apple.com, which I have verified. Authenticity confirmed. Glad to keep underemployed officials busy at the expenses of taxpayers like me! Nothing more important to do?" he said on X, tagging the Prime Minister's Office, the Congress, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. Khera also shared a screenshot of a similar message on X and said, "Dear Modi Sarkar, why are you doing this?" The message shared by the MPs stated, "ALERT: State-sponsored attackers may be targeting your iPhone". "Apple believes you are being targeted by state-sponsored attackers who are trying to remotely compromise the iPhone associated with your Apple ID. These attackers are likely targeting you individually because of who you are or what you do. If your device is compromised by a state-sponsored attacker, they may be able to remotely access your sensitive data, communications, or even the camera and microphone. While it's possible this is a false alarm, please take this warning seriously," it stated.

## Centre Given Time To Respond To Petition Against Use Of INDIA Acronym

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court Tuesday granted time to the Centre to respond to a petition for restraining 26 political parties from using the acronym INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance). A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, which had issued notice on the plea in August, noted that only the Election Commission has filed a response and some of the political parties named in the proceedings have not been served the notice yet. It also granted time to the political parties to state their stand. During the hearing, the counsel for the petitioner said the matter required to be dealt with urgently, as the parties were using "the name of the country" and the national flag. Petitioner Girish Bharadwaj had approached the high court earlier this year against the use of INDIA acronym, saying the political parties in the grouping were taking "undue advantage in the name of our country".

The petitioner sought an interim order staying the use of acronym INDIA as also the national flag by the alliance. The court orally observed during the proceedings that the national flag cannot be used by the political parties and listed the case for further consideration on November 22. "National flag you cannot use," the bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi told the court he was "representing most private respondents" (political parties) and that the petition was not maintainable. He also opposed the allegation over the use of the national flag by the alliance parties, saying it can lead to prosecution under the law in relation to use of national emblems. The court said it was not holding a hearing in the matter at this stage as replies were yet to be filed. "Let reply be filed (by Centre). Served respondents are also granted two weeks to file replies," the court said.

## 'Despair': UN Deplores Gaza Conditions, Child Casualties Amid Israeli War

Agencies

An urgent ceasefire is a matter of life and death for millions in the Gaza Strip, an official warned at a United Nations Security Council emergency briefing, noting climbing child casualties as Israel continues to bombard the enclave. Palestinians in Gaza are facing a life-or-death crisis aggravated by the struggle to deliver aid to the Strip's more than two million inhabitants, said Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), at the meeting on Monday. "The level of destruction is unprecedented, the human tragedy unfolding under our watch is unbearable," the official said. "The current siege imposed on Gaza is collective punishment." More than half a million Palestinians forced from their homes due to Israel's bombing campaign, continuing for three weeks, are now sheltering in cramped UNRWA schools and buildings, with scarce food and water and often nowhere to sleep, he reported. "Hunger and despair are turning into anger against the international community," Lazzarini said, adding that the meagre aid allowed in through Egypt starting last week was nowhere near sufficient. Israel began allowing limited aid into Gaza on October 21, but in-depth inspections of each convoy have caused lengthy delays. Israel has also categorically refused to allow fuel to be shipped in, leaving the enclave's few operational hospitals at risk of closure. "Last remaining lifeline" On Sunday, Palestinians, desperate due to continued blockade and bombing, broke into UN warehouses, taking wheat, flour, and other basic



survival goods. "A further breakdown in civil order will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the largest UN agency in Gaza to continue operating," Lazzarini warned the UNSC assembly. "I say this while being fully aware that UNRWA is the last remaining lifeline for the Palestinian people in Gaza," he added. To increase the flow of much-needed aid, UN officials have urged Israel to open up Karem Abu Salem, known as Kerem Shalom to Israelis, border crossing with Gaza, saying it is the only passage equipped to take in enough trucks. Israel has so far refused to open any of its crossing points with the enclave, on which it has imposed a land, air, and sea blockade for 16 years. "This cannot be collateral damage" UN officials also emphasised the skyrocketing casualties in Gaza, particularly among children, a toll unparalleled by even the most bloody contemporary conflicts. "More than 420 children are being killed or injured in Gaza each day - a number which should shake each of us to our core," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. Lazzarini added: "This surpasses the number of children killed annually across the world's conflict zones since 2019," stressing, "This cannot be 'collateral damage'." Israel has warned that even greater danger looms as it intensifies a ground offensive into the enclave. It has ordered people in Gaza to evacuate to the southern part of the territory or risk being treated as "terrorist accomplices". However, Palestinians in Gaza have not found safety in the south either, where Israel has continued to bomb homes. "I have said many times, and I will say it again 'no place is safe in Gaza,'" said Lazzarini. His plea to the UNSC came after the body failed to pass four separate resolutions calling for a ceasefire or "humanitarian pauses". One was vetoed by the United States, and another by Russia and China. The others failed to get the minimum nine votes. On Friday, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian truce, but its resolution is non-binding. The US and Israel were among 14 countries to vote against the resolution.

## Iran's FM Says National Referendum Only Viable Political Solution To Palestinian Issue

Agencies

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says holding a referendum in Palestine can serve as the "fundamental and political" solution to the Palestinian issue. In a phone conversation on Monday, Amir-Abdollahian and Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States Paul Archbishop Richard Gallagher discussed Israel's relentless attacks against the defenseless Palestinian people, which have been going on over the past 24 days, as well as ways to find a political solution to the critical situation. "We believe that the Palestinian crisis should be resolved basically and a political solution to it is to hold a referendum with [the participation of] all the original inhabitants of Palestine, including the Christians, the Jews and the Muslims, in cooperation with the United Nations," the top Iranian diplomat said. Israel waged the bloody war on the Gaza Strip on October 7 after the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement



women and children had sheltered, "reveal another facet of the Zionist regime's savage and brutal nature." The Iranian foreign minister also warned against the consequences of a possible expansion of war. Gallagher, for his part, stressed the importance of delivering humanitarian aid to the war-stricken people in Gaza and finding a political solution to the conflicts with Israel in a bid to prevent the expansion of war. Iran opposes killing of civilians in every part of world: Amir-Abdollahian In another phone call with Maltese Minister for Foreign, Trade and European Affairs Ian Borg on Monday, Amir-Abdollahian said Iran opposes the killing of civilians, including women and children, in any part of the world. "Unfortunately, there is no resemblance between the measures of the [Palestinian] liberation movement Hamas and constant attacks and war crimes perpetrated by the occupying regime of al-Quds (Israel)," he added.



## Yemen's Houthis Say They Launched Ballistic Missiles, Drones At Israel

Agencies

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim they launched a "large number" of ballistic missiles and drones towards Israel and warned of more attacks to come. Israel earlier said it destroyed an unidentified "aerial target" over the Red Sea on Tuesday morning. "There was no threat or risk to civilians," the Israeli military said. The incident triggered air raid sirens in the popular Red Sea tourist resort of Eilat and sent residents running for shelter. Separately, the Israeli military said that it used the "Arrow" aerial defence system for the first time since the October 7 outbreak of the war with Hamas to intercept a surface-to-surface missile in the Red Sea fired towards its territory. Yahya Saree, a spokesperson for the Houthi's military, said the operation was the third targeting Israel and threatened to carry out more strikes "until the Israeli aggression stops." Earlier, a senior Houthi official told the AFP news agency that the Iran-backed Yemeni group had sent drones towards southern Israel. "These drones belong to the state of Yemen," Abdelaziz bin Habtour, prime minister of the Houthi government, said. The incidents come as regional tensions rise amid the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. "This is a concern for Israel because it is already engaged

in conflict with the Iran-backed Hezbollah on its northern front," Al Jazeera's Sara Khairat said, reporting from occupied East Jerusalem. On October 27, drones caused explosions in the Egyptian Red Sea towns of Taba and Nuweiba, near the Israeli border. Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Iran-backed Houthis launched drones and missiles "with the intention of harming Israel". The incidents came two days after Hamas, the group running the Gaza Strip, said it launched a rocket towards Eilat. The Israeli military said the rocket landed in an open field. Also last week, the US military said a navy warship in the northern Red Sea intercepted projectiles launched by Houthis potentially towards Israel. Regional tensions have been on the rise after Hamas launched a surprise attack inside Israel on October 7. Since then, Hezbollah has been involved in increasingly heavy exchanges of cross-border fire with Israel. Iran denies having any role in the Hamas attack. Meanwhile, Israel in recent days has expanded its air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip, which has been under relentless bombardment for more than three weeks. Officials in Gaza say more than 8,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's air attacks, while in Israel, the death toll has topped 1,400, according to Israeli authorities.

## Cash For Query Case: Mahua Moitra Says Will Appear Before Ethics Committee On November 2

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Tuesday said she will appear before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee on November 2 but also expressed her desire to cross-examine businessman Darshan Hiranandani over the allegations made against her in the cash-for-query case. Moitra had requested a hearing date after November 5 to accommodate her existing commitments but was denied an extension beyond November 2. Moitra on Tuesday questioned whether the Ethics Committee is the appropriate forum to examine allegations of alleged criminality. She pointed out that parliamentary committees lack criminal jurisdiction and em-



phasised the importance of involving law enforcement agencies in such cases. "While registering my protest, I wish to inform you that I will respect the summons and appear before the Committee on November 2, 2023 at 11 am," she said.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER SRINAGAR**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ATTENTION: FREE DISTRIBUTION OF PROSTHETIC AIDS AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES TO DIVYANJAN (Person with Disabilities).**

It is to inform general public that this office in collaboration with ALIMCO Auxillary Production Centre is organizing an Assessment Camp for the free distribution of prosthetic aids among disabled individuals is to be organized on below mentioned dates and venues.

| S.No | Name of Office                  | Date and Day       |
|------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.   | TSWO North Miskeen Bagh Khanyar | Monday, 6/11/2023  |
| 2.   | TSWO South Bemina               | Tuesday, 7/11/2023 |

Please bring UDID Card and AADHAR Card to ensure the assessment process is accurate and efficient. Through the medium of this notice the general public particularly disabled persons are requested to take the advantage of this camp for empowerment of Divyanjans.

DIPK-11326-23  
DT: 31/10/2023

Districts Social welfare Officer  
Srinagar

Email: telkmrzone@jkpolice.gov.in  
Phone No.(office) 0194-245269  
(Fax) 0194-2506526

**ZONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS TELECOM KASHMIR**

**SHORT TERM QUOTATION**

Due to poor response to this office short term quotation issued vide order endorsement No. Q-HEATING-ARRG/KZ-2023-24/19138-43 dated 19-10-2023, afresh sealed short term quotations are invited from authorized dealers/suppliers for supply of commercial LPG filled cylinders of 19 Kgs to Police Telecommunication Kashmir zone for winter session 2023-24 for delivery at Zonal Police Telecom Hqrs Kashmir-PCR Kmr Complex Batamalo, All District & Police District Telecom Hqrs of Kashmir valley on day-to-day government approved rates.

The rates quoted per cylinder at District & Police District Telecom Hqrs of Kashmir valley should be inclusive of all taxes viz SGCT/CGST and other charges viz freight, loading, unloading as applicable under rules at ZPHQ Kashmir, District & Police District Telecom Hqrs of Kashmir valley.

The quotation must be submitted in a sealed envelope duly marked for supply of commercial LPG filled cylinders of 19 Kgs capacity addressed to Sr. Suptd. of Police Telecommunication Kashmir and should reach this office by or before 04-11-2023 up to 1700 hours. The quotations so received will be opened on 05-11-2023 at 1130hrs in the office of undersigned in presence of quotationers who may like to attend the opening of quotations on the scheduled date.

The supply has to be made immediately on placement of Supply order within the prescribed time period.

The quotations shall be accompanied with authorization certificate and the earnest money deposit (EMD) amounting to Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) in shape of CDR from any scheduled J&K Bank pledged to SSP Telecom Kashmir without which no quotation shall be accepted. The quotation received after prescribed date and time shall not be entertained. The already received quotations are valid and treated fresh for further course.

The earnest money of the unsuccessful quotationer will be released within one month after the opening of the quotations, whereas, in case of successful quotationer, it will be treated as a part of security deposit and will be released after successful supply of gas during the winter session 2023-24.

No. Q-Heating ArRG/KZ-2023-24/19587-91  
Dated:30/10/2023

DIPK-11333-23  
DT: 31/10/2023

Sr. Suptd. of Police,  
Telecommunication Kashmir.

## Cong, NC Slam BJP Over UT Foundation Day

Demand Restoration Of Statehood, Early Elections

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Congress and the National Conference on Tuesday lashed out at the BJP over the observance of the Union Territory Foundation Day in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded the restoration of statehood and early Assembly polls.

While the Congress staged a peaceful protest here, the NC said the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has demeaned the glory of the Dogra community.

Both parties demanded the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and a democratically elected government.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The over hour-long protest led by Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani outside party headquarters at Shaheedi Chowk was part of the party's announcement of observing the fourth UT foundation day by the Jam-

mu and Kashmir administration as "black day".

Carrying placards in support of their demand for restoration of statehood and holding of early assembly elections, the protesters, including former ministers and legislators, raised slogans against the UT administration -- that held a series of functions across all the 20 districts to celebrate the day -- and the BJP.

Senior NC leader Rattan Lal Gupta said the BJP has rubbed salt into the wounds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by celebrating the foundation day.

"It has demeaned the glory of the Dogra community as it was on this day that the erstwhile J&K state was downgraded and cut into pieces," Gupta, who is the Jammu provincial president of the party, said.

He said people having the slightest idea of the formation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir know well how bravely Dogra ruler Maharaja Gulab Singh and his late General Zorawar Singh fought to expand his empire up to China and Tibet thus making it one of the biggest states in the country.



**A GIRL STUDENT GIVES** final touches to her painting during a competition organised on the occasion of UT Foundation Day, here at Zero Bridge on Tuesday. **KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT**

## J&K Marks UT Foundation Day With Record-Breaking Public Participation

Over 11 Lakh Participate In Online Competitions

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir celebrated its Foundation Day with an unprecedented display of enthusiasm, under the theme 'Badalta Jammu & Kashmir, Badhta Jammu & Kashmir - Aman aur Taraqqi ki Nayi Tasveer,' symbolizing the remarkable transformation the region has undergone since its reorganization.

The resounding success of this year's celebration owes much to the overwhelming participation of the public, specially the youth, an official spokesperson said.

October 21, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, inaugurated a series of online competitions, offering a platform for the citizen engagement.

The Information Technology Department of Jammu and Kashmir introduced a range of online competitions in various categories, including Painting, Photography, Videography, Essay/Poetry writing, and a Selfie Competition. The response to these competitions has been remarkable with more than 11 lakh participants spanning all age groups.

Participants from various segments of society like schoolchildren, sports enthusiasts, the elderly, and professionals, including public servants, actively joined in the festivities. The overwhelming response through the <https://jk.mygov.in/contest> portal underscores the growing embrace of e-governance, particularly among the tech-savvy younger generation, indicating the increasing public engagement with digital platforms for various activities, including celebrating the Foundation Day.

The UT Foundation Day celebrations not only highlight the unity and progress of Jammu and Kashmir but also showcase the region's potential and the talent of its people. These celebrations serve as a testament to new and positive image region is embracing as it advances forward. It also reflects the cultural diversity and rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, showcased through various art forms and expressions, like paintings, photography depicting transformational changes, videos depicting the cultural tapestry, and thought-provoking essays and poetry.

The diverse participation from enthusiastic schoolchildren to sports aficionados, the wisdom of the elderly, and dedicated professionals, including public servants, has contributed to making the Foundation Day celebrations a true representation of the spirit of Jammu and Kashmir. The overwhelming response through <https://jk.mygov.in/contest> portal is a testament to growing embrace of e-governance, particularly among the tech-savvy younger generation, who are actively engaging with digital platforms for various activities and taking keen interest in celebrating the region's transformation and progress.

The winners of these competitions will not only receive exciting prizes, including cash awards, but also gain recognition for their creative contributions, encouraging the talent pool in Jammu and Kashmir to shine on a larger stage. The results of these competitions will be eagerly awaited, and an official prize distribution ceremony will be organized to honor the remarkable achievements of the participants, adding to the jubilant atmosphere of the Foundation Day celebrations.

## This Is The Time To Safeguard Peace: Outgoing DGP

Says Conspiracies, Terror Threats Haven't Ended In J&K

Press Trust Of India

**ZEWAN:** Conspiracies and terror threats have not ended in Jammu and Kashmir, and this is the time to safeguard peace, the Union territory's outgoing police chief Dilbag Singh said Tuesday.

In his farewell speech at a function here, he said the security forces have been successful in achieving peace in the Union territory to a large extent.

"We have been successful to a large extent in achieving peace. But it is not enough. What is needed is that peace should be maintained. This is the time to safeguard peace. The conspiracies have not ended and terror threats have not stopped. We have to remain alert and work together," he told officers and personnel of the police, army, and central paramilitary forces.

Singh, a 1987-batch IPS officer, was appointed as an interim DGP in September 2018 but was made the full-time police chief a month later. He is being replaced by the special director general of police R R Swain.

Singh, who was presented with a guard of honour, said, "When I was assigned the post of the DGP, I felt there were more capable persons than me. But I thank God for getting this opportunity to lead the brave



force and its officers," he said, adding the force has witnessed many phases from unrest to terror but has prevailed.

He said his five-year tenure as the police chief began when the atmosphere in the erstwhile state was disappointing.

Referring to slain militant commanders Riyaz Naikoo, Zakir Musa, and Burhan Wani, as well as late separatists Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mohammad Sehrai, Singh said JK police through its bravery improved the atmosphere.

There was a time when SPOs were announcing resignations as (militant) commanders were threatening them to leave their jobs, he said.

"But JK Police ended that era of disappointment and made way for the return of those hundreds of SPOs. Police with bravery wiped those elements inimical to the peace and to the people," he added.

## DPAP Aims To Work For Progressive J&K: Azad

Observer News Service

**BHADERWAH:** Democratic Progressive Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday reiterated his commitment to ensure his politics is free of religion and only issues pertaining to public interest are highlighted.

He told his workers never indulge in politics that is divisive and stoke communal flares and divide the society. "Our aim is to ensure we bring people together for peaceful and progressive Jammu and Kashmir. We can't afford to indulge in politics of division since our party foundation is based on same principles," he said while addressing a workers meeting

at Bhaderwah. He said politics cannot thrive or serve people which has a communal and divisive agenda. Azad said Bhaderwah in particular and Chenab valley in general is known for its secular values and brotherhood.

He said this brotherhood and Unity deserves an appreciation and people must retain it in all the times, come what may. He stressed for meetings and public outreach among his workers and directed them to hold

corner meetings and explain the agenda of party to everyone. "We need to reach out to the people and explain them our party agenda. So that more and more people are ready to join our mission," he said.



## SED Proposes Reduction For Promotion Of ZEOs To Principals

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have proposed to decrease the percentage of ZEOs for promotion as principals from 20 percent to five percent only.

In a proposal, the School Education Department has said that it may decrease the percentage of Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) for promotion as principals from existing 20 percent to 5 percent keeping in view their cadre strength."

According to reports, currently Jammu and Kashmir have nearly 200 ZEOs across the region. Besides, other proposal under the revision of Jammu and Kashmir School Education service recruitment rules-2023 wherein the department has invited objections has said, "B.Ed degree

has been added to the existing qualification of existing PG only as per NCERT guidelines."

"For promotion purposes, in addition to BED, a limited Departmental examination is proposed to be conducted by JK PSC and JK SCERT shall prepare the syllabus," it reads.

It also states that in order to fix the seniority of a candidate, the date of passing higher qualification required for acquiring full eligibility for promotion be taken as the date of inclusion in seniority in addition to the date of appointment.

"Introduction of the post of Vice Principal equivalent to the number of the principals (HSS) from the existing sanctioned strength of Senior Lecturers without any financial implications," it reads--(KNO)

## I Am Fighting For Statehood, Won't Go To UT's Assembly: Omar

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said he is fighting for the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, and it is not necessary that "I have to go to the assembly" to wage this struggle.

Speaking to reporters in the Tangdhar area of Kupwara, he said there are other platforms outside the assembly to fight for the rights of the people.

"I have said this before that I will not go to the UT's assembly," he said, when asked about his earlier remarks that he would not contest the assembly polls as long as J-K was a union territory.

"So, I have not said something new. I stand by my word. I am fighting for statehood, article 370, pride and dignity of the people, and for such a fight, it is not necessary that I have to go to the assembly. I can fight from outside the assembly. There are many platforms where I can fight such a fight,"

he said. Among other issues, he called for a probe into the claims by several opposition leaders that they received an alert from Apple warning them of "state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise" their iPhones.

Abdullah said Israeli software Pegasus had been used in the country before as well to snoop on people.

"The (latest) allegations did not come from the MPs. They have received a warning from Apple, which has told them that attempts were being made illegally by state actors to infiltrate their phones. There should be an investigation into it because before also, Israeli software Pegasus has been sold to this country and it was used in this country to snoop on people," he said.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said Apple should share all the details "and after investigation, all the facts be brought before the public".



## 'RASTRYA EKTA DIWAS'

## Unity Runs, Integrity Pledges Organised Across Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Scores of unity runs and integrity pledges were organised across Jammu region as part of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel the country's first home minister.

The birth anniversary of Sardar Patel has been celebrated as the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day since 2014, and a Run for Unity' was organised here to mark the day.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh came into effect from October 31, 2019. This day is celebrated as union territory day in J&K and Ladakh.

In Jammu, a big unity run was organised by district administration, which was led by Jammu Divisional Commis-

sioner Ramesh Kumar from Gulshan ground area and concluded at Hari Singh Park here.

Hundreds of people including school students, officials of various departments, police personnel and civilians took part in the run for unity. They chanted the organs of Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

Speaking to reporters here, Kumar said a unity marathon has been organised on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 148th birth anniversary. He had played a major role in the union of India, Kumar said.

The official said the day is also celebrated as the foundation day of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. "For this, a run for unity was organised, in which people from various walks of life took part", he said.

Kumar, who presided over an integrity pledge of the people, said people should follow

the path shown by Sardar Patel, keeping the nation as their first priority and working for unity and integrity.

According to reports from various districts, district administration, such runs for unity and integration pledges were also organised in their respective districts.

As part of events to observe police commemoration week and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas', Jammu and Kashmir Police in Rajouri organised a Run for Unity' on Tuesday morning which was flagged off from District Police Lines, Rajouri by SSP Amritpal Singh.

In Kishtwar, SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal emphasised the paramount importance of unity and highlighted how Sardar Patel's efforts led to the integration of princely states into a united India. He fervently encouraged all present to uphold the core values of unity and diversity.

## Jammu Potters Begin Preparing Earthen Lamps For Diwali

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The potters in Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, have begun making eco-friendly earthen lamps for Diwali, the festival of lights and diyas.

These lamps also symbolise hope, positivity, and the victory of good over evil.

In the heart of Jammu city's bustling area, potter Dharamveer and his family is working full throttle to prepare diyas for the festival. He has started working on 3,000 pieces for his first order.

"It is the season of festivals. We

have prepared utensils for Karva Chauth, and Diwali will follow in a few days. We have started preparing earthen lamps (diyas) for Diwali. We are working hard to make them in all sizes - small, medium, and large", Dharamveer told PTI.

Living in a slum, Dharamveer's entire family has been involved for generations in the preparation of earthen lamps.

"Despite getting very less paid, we have been continuing with the family trade. While most of the potters have left this job, we are committed to continue it. This is our generational work. Our forefathers used to do it", said



Dharamveer, who is among the few left to continue his ancestral trade. The family has got orders for over

3,000 diyas of various sizes from various shops and units dealing with earthen lamps.

"We supply diyas to various people. It is a laborious work. A lot of hard work goes into it. Chinese items are made from machines, but here we prepare the clay. It's challenging to find the best clay for diyas", he said.

He said that they are hopeful for a good business as people have started to return to the tradition of celebrating Diwali with earthen lamps.

His sons, wife and mother help him fulfill the orders he receives from the market. "They prepare clay with the necessary quantity for making the di-

yas and the remaining clay is covered with a wet jute bag to retain its moisture. Later, a lump of clay is placed on the potter's electric wheel and spun," his wife Kavita said.

Dharamveer said that there was a demand for the Chinese items in the market. "But for the past two to three years, earthen lamps have come back in use for Diwali. People have become aware of the benefits of clay-based items, and Diwali is a festival of diyas. So people are purchasing them again", he added.

He said that nowadays, people are increasingly buying electric strings of lights, floating candles, and perfumed

wax lights for Diwali. Potters like Dharamveer, quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are sending a message that it is not only essential to use diyas because they are environmental friendly, but also to preserve the ancient tradition of the country.

"The tradition of pottery is one of the oldest crafts in India. For generations, people have been lighting their houses with earthen diyas (oil lamps) during Diwali. The diya automatically relates to Diwali, which is the time of year to buy lamps made from clay. This is the message these potters have been sending to the general public," Dharamveer said.

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Wednesday | 01-11-2023

## More Killings

The killings of two police officers and a migrant laborer in the Kashmir Valley within a mere 72 hours have created a sense of déjà vu: Just when we thought that militancy is on its way out, the killings have come as a reminder that it may still be premature to write its epitaph.

The Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad Dar, killed on Tuesday in Baramulla was just one of the police personnel who face the constant threat in the line of duty. Earlier, militants shot at and critically injured Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani, who was playing cricket. A migrant worker from Uttar Pradesh, Mukesh, was gunned down in Pulwama. It is a stark and painful realization that the situation in Kashmir remains volatile, despite the relative calm in recent times.

The increase in attacks is particularly concerning given that the number of militants operating in the region has dwindled to around 100, marking the first time this has happened since 2015 when the Burhan Wani insurgency revitalized a declining militancy. Also, since the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy in August 2019, around 550 militants, most of them local youth, have been killed by security forces. While this has managed to reduce the number of active militants, it has not curtailed the persistence of violence. The militants seem to have adopted a new strategy, opting to target civilians, panchayat workers, J&K police personnel visiting their homes. This has forced security forces to assume a broader role, not only combating militancy but also safeguarding a significant portion of the population, including their own personnel.

Despite these renewed attacks, the broader situation in the Union Territory hasn't witnessed a significant setback to the gradual return of normalcy. Tourism, for instance, has been on the rise, with last year attracting over one crore visitors and this year set to beat the record of the last year. The majority of hotels are reportedly booked well in advance for the upcoming winter season, indicating that tourism is set to continue thriving.

However, it is imperative that the security situation does not deteriorate further. The weeks and months ahead will be critical in determining the evolving security landscape in the Valley. Historically, the winter season has been less volatile. But influx of more militants from across the border could significantly alter the ground situation in Kashmir for the worse. In the face of these challenges, the security agencies will need to be on the alert. However, addressing the militancy will need both a security and a political approach. While the security personnel have been doing their best to maintain peace, it is for the governments, both at the centre and in the UT, to apply a political balm.

### OTHER OPINION

## A Bot to Attend All Your Meetings? Yes, Please

There are many reasons, experts say, to worry about artificial intelligence (AI): It can take over jobs and steal people's likenesses and voices to create potentially misleading video and sound clips. A recent report by a US think tank has found that AI can even be used to plan bioweapon attacks, and three European bodies have put out a statement asking the EU to regulate the technology before it is used to undermine democracy. For the ordinary office worker, however, plagued by unrealistic deadlines and an anxiety-inducing stack of unread emails, all of the above doomsday scenarios may be cancelled out by the news that AI can attend virtual meetings on their behalf.

In the nine-to-five, and more, office grind, few things are as unpopular as the mandatory meeting where much is said and little is achieved. Which is why the announcement by companies like Google and Microsoft, that their new AI assistants can take the place of humans in meetings, comes as a promise — not just for reluctant participants, but also for the organisers of these meetings. Unlike a human worker, AI will turn up on time, not derail discussions with segues and monologues; it will keep diligent notes and provide a summary at the end. AI can also be used to enforce meeting etiquette — as some companies are reportedly now doing in the US, "meeting bots" can be programmed to point out when some participants are dominating discussions or interrupting others.

Despite the rapid pace of development, though, humans will have to continue braving ennui and burnt coffee at physical meetings for a while yet. If there is any truth to what the Cassandras of technology have been predicting, the day is not far when AI will take over the planet. Before that, could it please take over all the meetings?

The Indian Express

## Vigilance Awareness Week

# Moving Beyond The Integrity Pledge

Why have only fifty five corrupt government officials been convicted in the last 13 years?

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Every year, the Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) is celebrated between October 30th to November 5th. This coincides with the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of India who was known to be a man of high integrity. The Central Vigilance Commission-CVC is observing Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 from October 30th to 5th November with the theme, "Say no to corruption: Commit to the Nation."

The Vigilance Awareness Week is an annual outreach measure to create mass awareness about the importance of integrity and ethics in public life.

The observance of Vigilance Awareness Week commenced from Oct 30th with the administering of the integrity pledge by Central Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava and Vigilance Commissioner Arvinda Kumar at Satarkata Bhawan in New Delhi to the officials of Central Vigilance Commission.

### Cancer of Corruption

In Jammu & Kashmir, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha administered 'Integrity Pledge' to the officers of Special Security Force (SSF) and the Raj Bhawan staff in Srinagar. Administrative Secretaries, and Deputy Commissioners also attended this pledge-meet through virtual mode. LG Manoj Sinha after the integrity pledge said: "To eliminate the cancer of corruption, all the stakeholders have an important role to play. Corruption-free J&K is our vision as well as the mission."

After reading out the 'Integrity Pledge' and administering the oath to officers and staff LG Manoj Sinha said that integrated and collective approach was required to deal with corruption as it impedes the growth and undermines the moral fibre in the society.

He also highlighted the steps taken to improve public service delivery in all the organisations, paving the way toward good governance in J&K.

"We should take this opportunity to renew our commitment to achieve the goals of promoting efficiency, accountability, and probity in public life for a better future," he added.

### Activities by CVC

Early this year, the Central Vigilance Commission-CVC had sought the participation of all Central Government organisations to undertake a three month campaign (16th August to 15th November) on preventive vigilance activities as focus areas. As a means of eliciting public participation while also disseminating information on vigilance matters, the CVC has also launched a quiz on corruption related issues. In the coming days and weeks the CVC is also issuing three important publications namely:

- Best Practices in Vigilance Administration
- Increasing transparency through the use of technology
- Public Procurement: Challenges and Way Forward.

The idea behind coming up with these publications is to disseminate information regarding effective and innovative practices undertaken by different organisations to serve as a point of reference and a way forward. The Central Vigilance Commission-CVC has solicited the participation of all the citizens to come together in bringing about transparency

and accountability in public administration.

### Corruption in J&K

As per the official figures made public by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there was a continuous decline in the number of corruption cases in J&K between the years 2018 to 2020 but in the last 3 years the corruption cases have witnessed an increase. Around 94 cases filed by the J&K Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) under the Prevention of Corruption Act and related sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 2022. These are the figures based on FIRs registered by ACB but that doesn't necessarily mean that the corruption graph was down between 2018 to 2020.

In 2018, around 82 cases were filed by J&K Anti Corruption Bureau, 73 in 2019 and 71 in 2020. During this time very few traps were laid by the ACB due to lockdown post article 370 abrogation which was followed by the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 onwards. In the year 2021, many corruption cases were registered by ACB and the graph was up to 94 as ACB got much active post first wave of the pandemic wave between 2021-2022. It still continues to lay traps to arrest government officials red handed.

The corruption cases as per NCRB data mentioned above include 29 trap cases, 15 cases of disproportionate assets, 2 cases of criminal misconduct and 48 other cases. The report revealed that 386 cases of corruption were pending in J&K by the end of 2020 besides that four cases were reopened for investigation, two cases were transferred to other agencies. The data further reveals that in 29 cases final reports have been submitted, 55 cases have been charge-sheeted and 398 cases were pending by end of year 2021.

### Why more acquittals and less convictions

In 2020, only one person was convicted by the Anti Corruption Court in J&K and was awarded punishment. Recently, this author had access to some information related to corruption related acquittals and convictions in eleven anti-corruption courts in J&K. There are

only Special Anti Corruption Judges appointed in Srinagar and Jammu and rest of the nine courts don't have designated judges. The Anti Corruption cases in Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur, Kathua, Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla are looked after by the judges posted in local District and Sessions court who already have a lot of workload.

Due to the absence of separate special anti-corruption judges, the corruption cases filed by ACB in these courts take years to get judgments. Very less convictions are made and even corrupt officers get acquitted as well.

As per the data provided by J&K ACB under RTI Act 2005 to this author, there were only 78 Govt officials convicted in the last 13 years i.e between 2010 to 2023 in J&K. During the same time 156 Govt officials who were accused of corruption by ACB were acquitted by the respective Anti Corruption courts. This means the graph of acquittal is three times more than conviction? In Special Anti Corruption Court Jammu, 75 accused Govt officials were acquitted and 55 were convicted; in Special Anti Corruption Court Srinagar which includes cases from Budgam and Ganderbal as well, 42 Govt officials were acquitted and only 18 were convicted between 2010-2023.

Ironically, in Rajouri Doda and Kathua not even a single Govt official has been convicted in the last 13 years by Anti Corruption Judges whereas one each Govt official was acquitted by these three designated courts.

In Pulwama Anti Corruption Court, nine accused officials were acquitted and 2 were convicted. Similarly, in Anantnag, six officials were acquitted and one Govt official was convicted in between 2010-2023. In Baramulla, Anti Corruption Court which includes cases from Kupwara and Bandipora as well, 11 Govt officials accused of corruption by ACB were acquitted and only one official was convicted.

### Conclusion

Before the commencement of Vigilance Awareness Week, J&K Government celebrated "Corruption Free J&K Week" or "Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K" between September 4th to 10th. Such activities do create awareness about corruption and its negative impacts on society but the government also needs to ensure that people, especially public servants who are involved in corruption, are taken to task in a time bound manner.

I had written a piece a few months back mentioning how a corrupt police officer was convicted after 15 years. There are not only delays in getting corrupt government officials convicted by Anti Corruption Courts but the graph of acquittals is much higher than the convictions. Infact, the J&K Anti Corruption Bureau is doing its job efficiently but due to lack of designated Judges in our eleven (11) Anti Corruption Courts in J&K, the trial gets delayed.

The government also needs to do a study on why there are so many acquittals vis a vis corruption cases and if there are loopholes on part of the prosecution.

Let us now move beyond the Integrity Pledge and counter the menace of corruption with an iron fist. Corruption not only undermines good governance but also wastes the taxpayers' money and citizens lose the confidence in public authorities which is not good for our democracy.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow.

He is Founder & Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. Feedback: bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com



# HONOURING THE WISDOM OF AGED

Abid Hussain Rather

In our fast-paced world, it is easy to overlook the invaluable treasure trove of wisdom and experience that our senior citizens and elders bring to our communities. As we rush through our daily lives, it is essential to take a moment to reflect on the elderly individuals who have contributed so much to society and are still contributing in countless ways. Senior citizens are an invaluable part of our society. They have a wealth of life experience and knowledge, which can be a source of wisdom and inspiration. As a society, we owe a debt of gratitude to the older generation who have contributed to our communities and played a pivotal role in shaping our world. It is our moral and societal duty to ensure that they lead a life of dignity, comfort, and respect. They have contributed their wisdom, experience, and often a lifetime of hard work to create the world we live in today. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that they enjoy their golden years with dignity, respect, and the support they need. Respecting and helping senior citizens strengthens the social fabric of our communities. It creates a sense of belonging, interdependence, and a culture of empathy and compassion. Helping and respecting senior citizens is not just a moral obligation; it's a duty we owe to those who have paved the way for our present and future. Senior citizens are a valuable and often overlooked segment of our society. These individuals have contributed a lifetime of wisdom, experience, and hard work to build the world we live in today. It is our responsibility as a society to ensure that they are not only cared for but also respected for their invaluable contributions.

## Understanding the Needs of Elders and Senior Citizens

As people age, they may face a range of physical, mental, and emotional challenges. To offer genuine help and respect to senior citizens, it is crucial to understand their unique needs and challenges. It is crucial to understand and empathize with these challenges to provide appropriate help and respect.

With age, mobility and physical strength may decline. This can make daily tasks, such as cooking, cleaning, or even dressing, more difficult. As we grow older, our body strength weakens and doesn't support us to do needful things for ourselves. Seniors are also often more prone to health problems, and managing chronic illnesses can become a significantly difficult part of their lives. With growing age, our immunity decreases and we become more prone to various infections and common diseases. Many senior citizens may also experience social isolation due to the loss of friends and family members. Loneliness can lead to mental health issues like depression. In the later stages of life, people are left in isolation assuming that they are old-fashioned, uninteresting and boring which ultimately leads to many kinds of mental health issues among older people.

Additionally, with growing age, our IQ decreases and our memory power starts declining. Some seniors may experience memory loss and cognitive decline, making it essential to approach them with patience and understanding. This may explain why senior citizens often feel perplexed and confused at public offices. We must recognize that many seniors may not be tech-savvy, they need various kinds of help at public offices. Public offices should prioritize accessibility by providing ramps, handrails, and elevators for those with mobility challenges. Elders often need help in information interpretation and proper communication



with the employees at public offices.

They may also experience reduced mobility. Therefore, providing transportation or helping them with daily errands is a significant support. They often need support while walking, travelling or crossing roads. Knowing and understanding the various needs of senior citizens, it is imperative upon every member of a society to help, support and respect them in every possible way.

Following are some of the practical ways to help and respect our elders and senior citizens which may provide insights on how to provide them with the care and consideration they deserve:

## Financial Support and Planning

Financial matters can become increasingly complex with age. It is important to help seniors manage their finances, ensure they are aware of their entitlements, and prevent them from falling victim to financial scams. Seek legal advice for estate planning to protect their assets and provide a sense of security. It is duty of youngsters to support them financially when they are unable to earn because of their age factor. Elders too have basic needs like other people have and they need financial support to fulfill their basic needs.

## Ensuring Safe and Accessible Housing

For many seniors, their living conditions may need to be modified for safety and accessibility. This may include installing handrails, ramps, or adapting bathroom facilities. These adjustments not only enhance their quality of life but also prevent accidents. Nowadays elders and senior citizens are taken as burden on the family and are kicked away from the homes which renders them homeless. These issues need to be addressed and special laws and provisions need to be framed to safeguard their shelter.

## Providing Emotional Support

Elderly individuals often face emotional challenges such as loneliness and isolation. Spending time with them, engaging in conversations, and being empathetic can significantly improve their

mental well-being. Strong emotional support helps seniors feel valued and cared for. Nowadays most of us remain busy with social media, spending less time with our families especially elders. Resultantly, they feel isolated and secluded. It is better to spend much time with them so that they may feel integrated with other family members which will give them emotional support.

## Technological Assistance

Many senior citizens may not be familiar with modern technology and new digital tactics. We should offer them help to learn how to use smartphones or computers to stay connected with loved ones or access information. Nowadays, most of the offices/banks are digitized. While finding some senior citizen struggling with something in any office, we should readily help him and clear his confusion regarding some issues or handling any gadget.

## Listen Actively

One of the most fundamental ways to respect and honor our seniors is by actively listening to their stories, experiences, and advice. Their life journeys are filled with invaluable lessons that can guide us through our own challenges. When engaging in conversation, put away distractions and give them your full attention. Not only will they appreciate it, but you'll gain insight and understanding in return and they will in turn feel honoured.

## Offer Assistance

Many seniors may require assistance with daily tasks or errands. Whether it's helping them with grocery shopping, taking them to medical appointments, or assisting with household chores, offering a helping hand can make a world of difference. These small acts of kindness show that you care and are willing to support them.

## Respect Their Independence and Their Perspective

While it is important to offer help, it is equally

crucial to respect their independence. Seniors cherish their autonomy, and we should encourage and enable them to maintain it as long as possible. Ensure that your assistance doesn't overshadow their ability to make decisions about their own lives. We should try to not interfere in their decisions. Senior citizens often have different viewpoints shaped by their experiences. Even if you disagree, always respect their perspectives and engage in meaningful discussions rather than dismissing their thoughts.

## Include Them in Activities

Isolation and loneliness can be significant and critical issues for senior citizens. Make an effort to include them in social activities and gatherings. Invite them to family events, local community gatherings, or simply spend time with them. Such interactions can provide much-needed companionship and keep their spirits high.

## Support Their Health

Senior citizens often face health challenges. Encourage regular check-ups and help them adhere to prescribed medications or treatments. Physical activity and a balanced diet are crucial for their well-being, so consider engaging in these activities together.

## Ensure Safety

Safety is a top concern for seniors, especially if they live alone. Help them create a safe home environment by addressing potential hazards, such as loose rugs or inadequate lighting. Consider installing handrails or ramps to make their living spaces more accessible. Their rooms should be regularly checked to ensure their safety from any hazard.

## Promote Lifelong Learning

Encourage seniors to pursue lifelong learning. They can take up new hobbies, attend classes, or engage in volunteer work. This not only keeps their minds active but also makes them feel valued in their communities.

## Advocate for Their Rights

Advocate for policies and programs that protect the rights and well-being of senior citizens. Support organizations that focus on senior issues and be aware of elder abuse, reporting any concerns when necessary. Their rights should be strictly safeguarded and any breach should be strictly dealt with law.

In conclusion, helping and respecting senior citizens is an essential part of building a compassionate and inclusive society. Our elders have contributed to the world in countless ways, and it is our responsibility to show gratitude and provide the support and respect they deserve. By implementing these guidelines, we can ensure that the senior citizens in our lives live with dignity and fulfillment in their golden years. In return, their wisdom and experiences can enrich our lives in countless ways, creating a mutually beneficial relationship that fosters a stronger and more compassionate community. Let us remember that age should be celebrated, and senior citizens should be valued for their unique contributions to society.

The author is an academician, columnist, freelancer and occasional writer and can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com

# The One Where We Lost a F.R.I.E.N.D

Jo Adetunji

The death of Matthew Perry, best known for his role as Chandler Bing in the television series Friends, has seen an outpouring of grief from fans and the Hollywood community.

His passing at age 54 has shocked both those who admired his acting work, as well as those who followed his efforts to bring awareness to the pains of addiction.

Tributes to Perry have understandably focused on his star-making turn on the incredibly popular television sitcom. Scenes, catchphrases, and his character's lines have been lovingly repurposed across the internet to memorialise the gifted actor.

Meanwhile, many viewers have situated their recollections of Perry and the series within the context of their own experiences.

Viewers who came of age, or were the characters' ages during the show's original run, have reminisced about what the work of Perry and his co-stars meant to them at formative times in their lives. Newer viewers have similarly shared how important the series has been to them – their relationship with the show often beginning long after production ended.

For many, Friends was the television equivalent of the soundtrack to their lives.

To appreciate the staying power of the series for original and newer viewers alike almost 30 years since it debuted, we need to consider what functions television viewing serves and the bonds we form with its characters.

## Enduring appeal

Part of Friends' popularity lies in its timing. The show premiered in 1994, a period when network television was still dominant. By its end a decade later, while the power of the big television networks had eroded, the series had maintained an average of more than 20 million viewers each season.

The 2004 finale brought in a record-breaking 52.5 million viewers in the United States. The series then entered repeats around the world. It hasn't left our screens since.

The late 90s and early 2000s have sometimes been referred to as the end of monoculture. While a contested and controversial idea because of, among other concerns, who was included and excluded on our screens, monoculture meant we watched many of the same things.

One of the most popular shows of its era, Friends brought people together. It was a show we watched with our families or friends, spoke about the next day with colleagues, and it provided a common connec-

tion. It allowed bonding with real friends as much as fictional ones.

Friends did not only reflect style of the time; it also frequently created it. Jennifer Aniston's haircut, coined "The Rachel", or Perry's lovable smart-alecky cadence, typified with Chandler's catchphrase of "Could I be any more...", were endlessly imitated. I know I attempted to replicate Chandler's sweater vests and light blue denim look. Participation provided viewers a sense of identity.

As people enter their 30s and 40s, they often gravitate towards the memories made during their formative adolescent and young adult years. So perhaps it's no surprise Friends endures for original viewers as it represents – and was a part of – their lives at this important time.

## Likeable characters

Television and other fictional media meet our needs for both pleasure and extracting meaning. We get excited, entertained and moved by television.

As part of this, we bond with fictional characters. We cannot help but empathise with them. A series like Friends with its characters and their combinations of breakups, makeups and other mishaps allowed us to safely use our empathy muscles to cheer on and sometimes commiserate with the group of six. It helped that each



character was flawed but inherently likeable. Fictional characters also allow us to experience lifestyles we might not otherwise. In the case of Friends, who didn't want to live in a rent-controlled apartment like Monica's, or regularly meet their supportive and funny pals for coffee at Central Perk? As a teen, I imagined such a world for myself in the not-too-distant future. Younger generations might be more aware of how out-of-reach that lifestyle was, or find the show's humour sometimes dated. But the

idea of what the friends' lifestyle represented – possibility, freedom, a chosen family – evidently still holds appeal.

## Fictional relationships, but real sadness

In forming relationships with fictional characters, we form bonds with the performers who bring them to life. The lines between character and creator become blurry, both because of the knowledge about actors' lives celebrity culture affords us, but also because their characters seem so real. When the actors pass away, we feel real grief.

It's important for fans of Matthew Perry to acknowledge their loss. Even though his character is fictional, and you didn't know him personally, you can still feel sad. Watching the series may be difficult right now. With time, it will become easier.

Matthew Perry wanted his legacy to be awareness of addiction and the help he provided to people struggling with this disorder. Hopefully what will be felt now, alongside collective sadness, is an empathy for those facing addiction. That may be the power of television, and of a character named Chandler, and the actor who brought him to life, who many considered their friend.

By arrangements with The Conversation

# Simple Blood Test Can Help Diagnose Bipolar Disorder More Accurately: Study

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have developed a simple blood test that in combination with an online psychiatric assessment provides an improved diagnosis of bipolar disorder.

The team at the University of Cambridge in the UK found that the blood test on its own could diagnose up to 30 per cent of patients with bipolar disorder, but it was even more effective when combined with a digital mental health assessment.

Incorporating biomarker testing could help physicians differentiate between major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder, which have overlapping symptoms but require different pharmacological treatments.

Although the blood test is still a proof of concept, the study published in the journal JAMA Psychiatry found that it could be an effective complement to existing psychiatric diagnosis and can help researchers understand the biological origins of mental health conditions.

Bipolar disorder affects approximately one per cent of the population as many as 80 million people worldwide but for nearly 40 per cent of patients, it is misdiagnosed as major depressive disorder.

"People with bipolar disorder will experience periods of low mood and periods of very high mood or mania," said study first author Jakub Tomasik,

from Cambridge's Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology.

"But patients will often only see a doctor when they are experiencing low mood, which is why bipolar disorder frequently gets misdiagnosed as major depressive disorder," Tomasik said.



The most effective way to get an accurate diagnosis of bipolar disorder is a full psychiatric assessment. However, patients often face long waits to get these assessments, and they take time to carry out.

"Psychiatric assessments are highly effective, but the ability to diagnose bipolar disorder with a simple blood test could ensure that patients get the right treatment the first time and alleviate some of the pressures on medical professionals," said Tomasik.

The researchers used samples and data from the Delta study, conducted in the UK between 2018 and 2020, to identify bipolar disorder in patients who had received a diagnosis of major depressive disorder within the previous five years and had current depressive symptoms.

Analysis of the data showed a significant biomarker signal for bipolar disorder, even after accounting for confounding factors such as medication, the researchers said.

The biomarkers were correlated primarily with lifetime manic symptoms and were validated in a separate group of patients who received a new clinical diagnosis of major depressive disorder or bipolar disorder during the study's one-year follow-up period.

The researchers found that the combination of patient-reported information and the biomarker test significantly improved diagnostic outcomes for people with bipolar disorder, especially in those where the diagnosis was not obvious.

"The online assessment was more effective overall, but the biomarker test performs well and is much faster. A combination of both approaches would be ideal, as they are complementary," said Professor Sabine Bahn, who led the research.

"We found that some patients preferred the biomarker test, because it was an objective result that they could see," Tomasik added.

sample from a simple finger prick, which the researchers analysed for more than 600 different metabolites using mass spectrometry.

After completing the Composite International Diagnostic Interview, a fully structured and validated diagnostic tool to establish mood disorder diagnoses, 241 participants were included in the study.

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## ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K) , Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Service of Laptops, Desktops, Printers, Photocopiers, Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners  
Registered Government order Suppliers.



## NOTICE

I want to change my name in my Passport bearing Passport no K9630097 from Zargar Rehana to Rehana Rafiq. In future I will be known as Rehana Rafiq. If anybody is having any objection He/She may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Medialine

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, J&K Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar/Nowabad Canal Road, Jammu

(Email-jkfdjmu@gmail.com, Phone No. 0194-2500106, 0191-2951670)

E-tender Notice NO. of 2023 Dated: -10-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor J&K Union Territory, e-tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs. 5/- are invited from original manufacturers for Supply of Fish Meal on annual rate contract basis (Required for manufacturing of Trout Fish Feed Ingredients) for the year 2023-24.

| S.No | Name of the Ingredients  |
|------|--|
| 1    | Fish Meal with minimum 60% Protein. (Steam Sterilized finely ground)<br>Sand Silica 3% max.<br>Salt Less than 3% max.<br>Moisture 5% to 10%<br>Crude fat Max 12% |

The tender document containing detailed specification/size, terms & conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded against tender document fee of Rs.3000/- only in shape of DD pledged to Accounts officer Fisheries Department from the official government website www.jktenders.gov.in. from

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| 1 | Download date start                     | 02.11.2023 |
| 2 | Bid Submission date start               | 02.11.2023 |
| 3 | Bid submission date ends                | 23.11.2023 |
| 4 | Submission of DD of tender document fee | 23.11.2023 |
| 5 | Bid opening Date                        | 24.11.2023 |

The bid document of the tender accompanied by the Bid Security Declaration pledged to Accounts Officer Member Secretary UT Level Purchase Committee be uploaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in along with all relevant papers. The tenders shall be opened on 24-11-2023 at 12.00 PM or any other date convenient to tender opening authority in presence of tenderers who may like to be present. The other specification/terms and conditions are mentioned in detailed tender document.

Member Secretary (UTLPC)  
Department of Fisheries

No:-DOF-ACTT/95/2023-05 Dated: -10-2023.

### TENDER DOCUMENT FOR SUPPLY OF TROUT FISH FEED INGREDIENTS FOR 2023-24. (Tender Document cost Rs. 3000/-)

Note 1: Tender document shall be issued only to original manufacturers on production of copy of valid registration certificate, attested copy of PAN / TAN / GST number & Tax clearance certificate from the competent authority. The supplies of Fish Meal shall be accepted from the Mangalore Coast only.

Note 2: The tenderers are required to go through the terms and conditions minutely and clear any doubt before submitting their tenders. The tenderer shall sign each page of this document in token of acceptance of the terms and conditions mentioned herein and submit the same along with the rate offer.

#### General Instructions / Terms and Conditions:-

1. The tender shall be uploaded from the official website (www.jktenders.gov.in) and submit the following documents:-

- Bid Security Declaration.
- Registration certificate of Competent Authority for being original manufacturer.
- Tender Document duly signed.
- Income Tax / GST clearance.
- Attested copy of valid TAN / GST number.

Note: Documents are required to be produced by L1 only after opening of Financial bid. However, Demand Draft for Rs. 3000/- on account of cost of Tender documents is compulsory to be produced in advance. This has in reference to the Finance Department OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018

Second Bid shall contain Financial Bid.  
2. The tender document shall be downloaded from 02-11-2023 against payment of Rs.3000/- (Non-Refundable) pledged to Accounts officer Fisheries Department in shape of Demand Draft and shall be uploaded from official website www.jktenders.gov.in upto 23-11-2023. The tender shall be opened on 24-11-2023 or any other date which shall be notified on departmental notice board convenient to opening authority in presence of tenderers who may like to be present. However, if the tender opening day happens to be a holiday or office remains closed due to any other reason, then tenders shall be opened on next working day. Direct or indirect canvassing on the part of tenderers or their representatives shall render his/her tender as disqualified.

3. The tender shall be accompanied by Bid Security Declaration pledged to Accounts Officer Member Secretary State Level Purchase Committee as per the circular instructions issued by the Finance Department vide No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/G dated 22-12-2020. However, the successful tenderer shall deposit CDR for an amount of 3% of cost of advertised quantity of scheduled bank as earnest money pledged to Accounts Officer, Fisheries Member Secretary UT Level Purchasing Committee before accord of rate contract. The registered SSI units shall furnish the Bid Security Declaration as is applicable in their favour as per standing Govt. instructions. Such units shall furnish proof of being registered SSI Units (Attested Photostat copy of Registration certificate) manufacturing the items and their units being functional.

4. The successful tenderer shall in no case sublet his contract for supplies to any person or agency.

5. The Supplier shall have valid TAN / GST registration. Proof of having filled returns of Income Tax / GST for the last three years. Reasonable and fair turnover of the supplier for the last three years with respect to volume/ estimate cost of the goods.

6. The rates offered shall be inclusive of all taxes, duties, GST, carriage or any other incidental charges etc. and shall be FOR stores of Chief Project officer Trout Fish Farming Project Kokernag (District Anantnag) and Senior Project officer Trout Feed Mill Manasbal (District Ganderbal). No escalation of rates on any account/reason shall be allowed and the entire supplies for which supply order is placed with successful tenderer (in phased manner during contract of one year) have to be made at the approved rates mentioned in the supply order that is placed with the successful tenderer.

7. The department can if need arises, verify various documents such as Registration Certificate, Income Tax/GST, Clearance Certificates etc., furnished by the supplier from concerned departments.

8. The department reserves the right to increase or decrease the advertised quantity by 20%.

9. The approved/accepted rates shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance of rate contract or till the items are available on GeM Portal whichever is earlier.

10. The successful tenderer shall have to execute an agreement on (non-judicial paper of Rs.5/- with attestation of Notary) with the department for due fulfillment of the terms of NIT/supply order. However, in case of failure to execute such agreement, the terms and conditions of NIT/Rate contract shall still be binding upon him.

11. The department shall not be bound to issue supply order for full advertised quantity at one time and the same shall depend on availability of funds and requirement of the department. However, since the feed is required for sensitive live stocks as such supplier is bound to supply as much quantity of materials so that at least requirement for three months always remains in the stores of Chief Project officer Kokernag/Sr. Project officer Trout Feed Mill Manasbal.

12. The supplies shall be of standard quality strictly as per specifications mentioned in supply order free from adulterations or place from which transported before its dispatch/transportation to the place of destination i.e. Kokernag/Manasbal or ask the supplier to furnish test certificate of each consignment of supplies of a reputed laboratory of the state where the material has been manufactured or where from transported. Besides after the material reaches Kokernag/Manasbal the departmental inspection committee shall also arrange testing of the material from Government and Private laboratories within or outside state before accepting the supplies to ascertain whether material supplied is as per required specification etc.

13. The ordered quantity shall have to be supplied within 25 days from the date of issuance of supply order by the Department. Supplier is required to remain in touch with the Chief Project officer Trout Fish Farming Project, Kokernag& Sr. Project Officer Trout Feed Mill Manasbal (District Ganderbal), to ascertain their requirement of various items from time to time. Copy of the supply order shall be sent to the address of the supplier. In case supplier makes any delay in supplying the required materials the same shall be arranged as per the standard instructions of the Government governing the e-tendering process at the risk and cost of supplier.

14. Payment of the supplies duly verified and accepted as per the conditions mentioned above shall be made after deduction of statutory taxes. The supplier is also required to furnish the self attested Xerox copy of his PAN / TAN / GST. The DDO shall not draw the payment until receipt of these instruments is produced. Deduction @ 2% on a/c of GST supposed to be deducted at source, implemented vide SRO 433 dated 29-09-2018 w.e.f 01-10-2018 shall be deducted from each supply, as rate contract exceeds 2.5 lacs.

15. Fish meal has to be supplied in new HDPE bags in 50 kg Pack.

16. Director Fisheries reserve the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute/doubt the decision of the Director Fisheries shall be final. All disputes shall be within the jurisdiction of J&K UT Courts.

Member Secretary  
UT Level Purchase Committee,  
Department of Fisheries

Annexure to Tender Document for supply of Trout Fish Feed Ingredients for 2023-24 with reference this office e-Tender Notice No. of 2023 dated:- 10-2023.

| S.No | Name of the Item   | Quantity (kgs) | Rates to be quoted (P. Kg) FOR Kokernag/Manasbal(Kmr) |
|------|--|----------------|---|
| 1    | Fish Meal ( Mangalore Coast only) (Steam sterilized finely ground)<br>Protein Minimum 60%<br>Sand Silica 3% Max.<br>Salt less than 2%<br>Moisture up to 10%<br>Free from adulterations | 5,00,000       |   |

Seal and Signature of tenderer  
DIPK-11334/23 dated: 31-10-2023

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division-Ist (KPDCL), Bemina, Srinagar

### Notice Inviting Tender

e-NIT No. STD I / 18 of 2023-24 dated 30/10/2023.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director KPDCL, e-tender (In Single Cover system) are invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

| S.No | Name of Work   | Cost of T/D (Rs.) | Earnest Money (Rs.) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG | Time of Completion in working Days | Class of Contract | Major Head of Accounts | Position of Funds |
|------|--|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1.   | Renovation & Modernization of Soura Receiving Station by way of Improvement of water logged 33/11KV yard and land development of the Receiving Station | 1000/-            | 33,500/-                                       | 45 Days                            | Aay, BEE and CEE  | Capex                  | Available.        |

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice             | 30/10/2023   |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 02/11/2023 3:00 P.M.  |
| 3. | Date of Clarification Start/End            | From 02/11/2023 10:00 AM to 03/11/2023 04:00 PM  |
| 4. | Bid submission Start Date                  | 04/11/2023 from 10.00 A.M  |
| 5. | Bid Submission End Date                    | 22/11/2023 up to 3.00 P.M  |
| 6. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)    | 23/11/2023 at 2.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar.   |
| 7. | Submission of Performance Security (PS)    | Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security. |

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Non-Refundable Demand Draft and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar. (The Date of Demand Draft and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar.  
4. The normal deposits (deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after total completion of the work.

5. The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.  
6. The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.

7. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site http://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar.  
8. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.  
9. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.  
10. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for Department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working Day at the same time and place.

No:-STD-1/4184-87 DIPK-NB-3926/23 Dated:-31/10/2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Sub-Transmission Division-I,  
Bemina Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## Office Of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Wavoor

### (ANNEXURE-A)

Selection List of Candidate for the post of Sanginis (AWW) for Anganwadi Center Tariyan Khurhama of Poshan Project Wavoor under Advertisement Notice No:- CDPO/ Poshan/Adv/2023/300-310 dated:-10-07-2023.

| S.No | Name of the selected candidate with Percentage | Residence of Panch ward No. | Date of Birth | Qualification | Marks in class 10+2 | Percentage of Marks of class 10+2 | Additional 02 Point relation if any with retiree AWW | Total Marks Percentage | Name of Anganwadi Center for which candidate is selected |
|------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| 01   | Najma Bano D/o Majeed ul Rehman Malik          | 07 Tariyan Khurhama         | 02-01-2004    | 10+2          | 295/500             | 59.00                             | Nil  | 59.00                  | Tariyan Khurhama   |
| 02   | Nageena Akhter D/o Ab Rashid Mugal             | 07 Tariyan Khurhama         | 01-03-1999    | 10+2          | 244/500             | 48.80                             | Nil  | 48.80                  | Tariyan Khurhama   |
| 03   | Anjum Akhter D/o Saif Din Khatana              | 07 Tariyan Khurhama         | 12-01-2003    | 10+2          | 266/500             | 53.20                             | Nil  | 53.20                  | Tariyan Khurhama   |

The objection if any against the said Merit list, shall be filed in the office of CDPO Wavoor against proper receipt by or before 6-11-2023 upto 4.30 PM.No objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filling objections,

DIPK-11330/23  
dated: 31-10-2023

Sd/  
Child Dev.Project Officer  
Poshan Wavoor



## 'More Than 42,000 Cases Came For Resolution Under Insolvency Law'

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** More than 42,000 cases have been brought for resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which has led to a behavioural change in the business landscape, encouraging companies to prioritise financial stability and sustainable practices, according to an official.

At an event in the national capital on Tuesday, IBBI Whole Time Member Sudhaker Shukla also said that while competition and innovation are two things that drive a company, resolvability is a goal to cherish. "It ensures that companies remain sustainable and adaptable," he added.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is a key institution in implementing the IBC.

Speaking at a conference organised by industry body Assocham, Shukla positive outcomes have led to a behavioural change in the business landscape, encouraging companies to prioritise financial stability and sustainable practices.

More than 42,000 cases have been brought for resolution under the IBC, he said.

Pravin Kumar Tiwari, Full-Time Member at the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), said the regulator's role involves setting high-quality standards and exercising effective oversight over accounting and auditing matters.

"This is aimed at protecting public interest, investors, creditors, and prescribed classes of



companies," he added.

He also said the NFRA since its establishment has reviewed and recommended 42 proposals from ICAI relating to issuance of new Indian accounting standards and amendments to the existing ones.

Anita Shah Akella, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, stressed on the importance of ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) aspects at corporates.

"Over the past few years, there has been a tremendous improvement in the field of accounting and auditing but what we audit mostly is policy and the gaps in the policy. We have noticed that ESG has still not formed so much a part of company policy which it should have..." she added.

With ESG becoming increasingly integrated with the business interest and SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) having mandated the BRSR, its related obligation, among others, will also play a huge role for auditors to look into the bankruptcy proceedings.

"The companies and the legal advisors must be prepared for such complexities," she noted.

BRSR refers to Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting.

## Growth Momentum Strong, Q2 GDP Growth Will Surprise On The Upside: RBI Governor

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday said the growth momentum continues to be strong, and the official data for GDP expansion in the second quarter will surprise on the upside.

Speaking at the annual BFSI Insight Summit organised by Business Standard here, Das said inflation is the first priority for the RBI at the moment.

"... looking at the momentum of economic activity, looking at a few early data points that have come in a few early indicators, I can say that the second quarter GDP number as and when it is released at the end of November, in all probability will surprise everyone on the upside," Das said.

He said the RBI estimates the real GDP growth for the second quarter of the current fiscal to come at 6.4 per cent.

Das said geopolitical uncertainties are the biggest risk to global growth at present, but India is better placed to handle it as compared to other countries.

The governor said rates in advanced countries and other international factors are taken into consideration while formulating the monetary policy, but was quick to add that eventually the monetary policy is driven by domestic factors of inflation and growth.

"Our monetary policy is not influenced by what is the differential in bond yields (between India and the US) or if currency is depreciating," Das said.

When asked about the country's inclusion in the J P Morgan global bond indices, Das initially admitted that



### 'Closely Watching High Attrition At Some Private Banks'

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday said attrition is seen to be high at some private sector banks and that the central bank is watching the issue "closely".

Speaking at the annual BFSI Insight Summit organised by Business Standard, Das said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking at the issue as part of the regulatory supervision efforts.

In the comments that come amid some major banks reporting attrition rates of over 30 per cent, Das said every bank has to build a core team to take care of such issues.

He also said that the career outlook of youngsters has changed with regard to job switching and added that the youth is "thinking differently" on the aspect now.

According to Das, the growth momentum in the economy continues to be strong, and that the GDP number for the second quarter will surprise everyone on the upside.

He said that geopolitical uncertainty is the biggest risk to global growth but was quick to add that India is better placed to deal with any potentially risky situation.

this is a double-edged sword with positives and negatives, but sought to allay fears saying any large volatilities in the financial markets are unlikely.

He said the move can get an additional USD 25 billion into the country as estimated by analysts, but it can potentially lead to an outflow as passive investors' money can move out as the country weightage moves.

"We can handle large-scale inflows (and) large-scale outflows. So, therefore, I don't think we will see that kind of volatility. I think the RBI has the capacity to deal with it effectively," Das said.

He said the move to include the country in the indices announced last month speaks of confidence in the country's economy and the financial markets.



## DGCA Allows Scheduled Commuter Airlines To Operate Single-Engine Aircraft At Night

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Aviation safety regulator DGCA has allowed scheduled commuter airlines to operate their single engine aircraft at night, a move that will help in enhancing air connectivity to remote areas during night hours.

The operations with Single Engine Turbine (SET) planes was introduced for Scheduled Commuter Airlines (SCAs) in 2018. Till now, such operations were restricted to day operations and Visual Flight Rules (VFR).

Generally, SCAs operate regional flights.

In a release on Tuesday, aviation watchdog DGCA said it has amended its relevant regulations to include a provision for SCAs to fly at night on air-planes.

The operations circular has also been amended to incorporate the guidance material and detailed guidelines to modify the assessment of routes, qualification, experience, training, and assessment requirements of the crew, among other aspects, the release said.

Besides, operational, certification and airworthiness requirements have also been taken into account to ensure that safe operations are carried out on single engine airplanes.

The grant of such approval would be based on the assessment of operators meeting these requirements, which have been incorporated on the basis of the report submitted by an expert committee constituted by the DGCA.

The committee reviewed international regulations and global best practices for such SET scheduled commuter operations at night, worldwide safety as well as India safety data and operational experience gained over a period of time, as per the release.

The committee also carried out safety risk assessment and practical flight trials to identify the deficiencies/hazards and incorporate the safety enhancement measures, the release added.

The government has been working on ways to boost regional air connectivity across the country.

## Apple MacBook Pro With M3 Chips To Be Available In India From Nov 7

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Apple's new MacBook Pro laptops and iMac with M3 chipsets will be available across 27 countries, including India, from November 7 onwards, according to an official statement.

The company announced the launch of three M3 chip-set models with built-in next-generation Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) architecture and faster Central Processing Unit (CPU) with an eye on artificial intelligence (AI) use cases, gaming, entertainment professionals and other segments that need high-resolution image processing.

The company has launched two variants of MacBook Pro laptops with 14 and 16-inch displays at a starting price of Rs 1.69 lakh and Rs 2.49 lakh, respectively.

"Customers can order the new MacBook Pro starting today, Monday, October 30, at the Apple India store and on the Apple Store app in 27 countries and regions, including the US. It will begin arriving to customers, and will be at Apple store locations and Apple-authorized resellers, starting Tuesday, November 7," the



company said in a statement.

The development of AI technology has started pushing for GPU over CPU-based processors to handle large amounts of computational requirements.

The M3 chipsets are based on three nanometer technology which means the transistors or the smallest data processing unit in the chipset is so small that two million of them can be embedded across a section of human hair.

The new iMac all-in-one desktops with eight-core GPU would be available in India at a starting price of Rs 1.29 lakh from November 7.

iMac with a ten-core GPU would be available at a starting price of Rs 1.44 lakh.

"New iMac customers will enjoy all of these benefits and see up to four times faster performance than the bestselling 24-inch all-in-one PC with the latest Intel Core i7 processor," the statement said.

## Govt Hikes Windfall Profit Tax On Crude Oil, Cuts Levy On Diesel Exports

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Tuesday increased the windfall profit tax on crude oil produced in the country and reduced the levy on exports of diesel.

The tax, levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty or SAED, on domestically produced crude oil was increased to Rs 9,800 per tonne from Rs 9,050 a tonne, according to an official notification.

SAED on the export of diesel was reduced to Rs 2 per litre from Rs 4 a litre and on jet fuel or ATF to nil from Rs 1, the notification said.

SAED on export of petrol will continue to be zero.

The new tax rates will come into effect from Wednesday.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1 last year, joining a growing number of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13 a litre



(USD 26 a barrel) on diesel.

A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was also levied.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

A windfall tax is levied on domestic crude oil if rates of the global benchmark rise above USD 75 per barrel. Export of diesel, ATF and petrol attract the levy if product cracks (or margins) rise above USD 20 per barrel.

Product cracks or margins

are the difference between crude oil (raw material) and finished petroleum products.

International crude oil prices averaged USD 90.17 per barrel in October.

The levy on domestic crude oil dropped to nil in the first half of April as international crude oil prices fell but was back in the second half in step with a rise in rates.

Levy on diesel became nil in April but the levy was brought back in August. Levy on ATF became nil in March and was brought back in second half of August. The export tax on petrol was scrapped in the very first review.

## 'GST Collections In J&K Show 33% Growth, Return Filing Percentage Reaches 97%'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department Tuesday celebrated 4th UT Foundation Day and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas here.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner State Taxes, J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh, congratulated the team of officers and stakeholders for achieving remarkable milestone in last four years. "Number of registered taxpayers in year 2017-18 was only 72000 under GST which is now increased to more than 1.42 lacs. Moreover, from a modest average monthly collection of around 300 crores, the collection in the current financial year (2023-24) has crossed 683 crore while return filing percentage also shown remarkable achievement with 97 percent dealers filing returns," she remarked.

Highlighting on other major accomplishments of the department, Dr Rashmi said,

"GST revenue collections from J&K (SGST) have shown 33.20% growth, surpassing the National average of 15% for the current financial year. Upto the end of October 2023, a total GST revenue (SGST & IGST) of 4811.09 crores has been realized, showing an overall growth of 20.31 per cent."

Terming National SKOCH award (Silver) 2023, a remarkable milestone, the commissioner said, such prestigious accolades further encourage officials to work with more zeal and enthusiasm.

On Stamps, she said adoption of e-stamping system has led to better results in terms of accuracy, transparency, speed and maintaining a steady growth of around 11% in stamp revenue.

The Commissioner also listed other achievements included sustained tax awareness campaign 'Kartavya', setting up Business Intelligence Unit, establishment of GST Suvidha

Kendra/helpdesks in all districts, extension of e-way bills through Suvidha Kendra, MoU with Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for capacity building and knowledge exchange besides launching of awareness campaign 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar'.

The Commissioner also released department's milestone compendium on the occasion.

Earlier, CST administrated 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' (National Unity Day) Pledge' wherein officers and staff of both Jammu and Kashmir divisions took oath to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir, Shakeel Makbool in his welcome address paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary, which is celebrated as National Unity Day.

## Remain In Close Contact With Farmers: Dir Agri To Officers

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Agriculture Department Kashmir Tuesday organized an impressive function in the lawns of Agriculture Complex to celebrate UT Diwas.

All the Officers and officials of the directorate participated in the event.

Addressing the gathering, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal who was the chief guest congratulated the participants on the UT Diwas and appreciated their role in the successful working of the department. He especially marked the role of officers, officials working in the departmental farms and said that their contribution in the transformation of said farms is remarkable.

He said the best way to celebrate this day is to serve the interests of the farming community of the region with utmost commitment

and dedication. to remain in close contact with the farmers

The Director asked the officers of the department to remain in close contact with the farmers and make sure that every initiative by the department reaches them well in time.

Iqbal highlighted some of the major achievements by the department over the last few years, including cultivation of oilseed on more than 1.5 lakh hectares of land, GI Tagging of saffron, Muskbudji, vegetable cultivation over the large area of land, Introduction of exotic vegetables, remarkable growth in small scale agriculture cottage enterprises like mushroom cultivation and apiculture, promotion of agri-entrepreneurship etc.

Later, the Director Agriculture and other participants took part in multiple activities such as cleanliness drive, Selfies, Pledge etc.

## SKUAST-K Holds 3 Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs On Vegetable Nursery Raising

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir organised three Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP) on vegetable nursery raising techniques in district Ganderbal.

About 50 participants were imparted training and awareness on 'Vegetable Nursery Raising Techniques' organised by the SKUAST-K's Division of Vegetable Sciences, Faculty of Horticulture and the MSME training of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises at Dabb, and Repore-A villages of Ganderbal.

The programmes were coordinated by Dr Ummiyah H Masoodi, Assistant Professor, Division of Vegetable Science, SKUAST-K. These programmes were an effort to develop awareness among the participants regarding entrepreneurship avenues in vegetable

nursery raising with the aim of motivating them to take up this venture for greater economic benefits. The primary objective of this awareness programme was to identify gaps in the startup ecosystem and develop strategies to create an enabling environment for scaling up successful agri-business ventures. During the awareness programmes lectures were delivered by experts from the Division of Vegetable Science, Dr Gazala Nazir and Dr Syed Berjes Zehra who highlighted different methods of nursery raising in vegetables and also made the participants aware about the ways and means of raising their income through the sale of vegetable seedlings. Marketing strategies for greater coverage were also discussed with the participants. By the end of these three programmes, the coordinator Dr Ummiyah H Masoodi was thankful to the participants for participating in the programme with great interest and enthusiasm.



## Race To Semis: New Zealand Take On South Africa



Press Trust of India

**PUNE:** One side endured the agony of a close defeat and other felt the ecstasy of victory in a rip-roaring game but when New Zealand and South Africa clash in a World Cup game here on Wednesday both will start on an even keel.

The current edition of World Cup has featured mostly lopsided games but if the two games stood out, one certainly was South Africa's one-wicket win against Pakistan in Chennai and New Zealand nearly pulled off a sensational

chase of 388 against Australia before finishing five runs short.

With both teams firmly in contention for semi-final berths, one can expect good game of cricket where batters of both sides are expected to set the tone of the match.

For New Zealand (8 points from 6 games), the Dharamsalale after four straight victories didn't pan out on expected lines and another loss would give the likes of Afghanistan (6 points) and Pakistan (4 points) a shot at semi-final qualification.

On the other hand, if South Africa (10 points from 6 games)

win, the 12 points will almost put them in the last-four bracket alongside India.

Hence, it would be one of the most high-stakes game of the league stage and a team like Pakistan wouldn't mind if New Zealand suffer a hat-trick of defeats.

Both teams have put up more than impressive batting performances in most of the games but the track at the Maharashtra Cricket Association ground in Gahunje hasn't exactly been a belter with spinners getting sufficient help like Afghanistan spinners did against Sri Lanka in their seven-wicket victory.

## Pakistan Knock Out Bangladesh With 7-Wicket Win, Keep Semis Hope Alive

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Opener Fakhar Zaman capped his return with an attacking fifty after Shaheen Shah Afridi's fiery spell as Pakistan knocked Bangladesh out of the World Cup with a seven-wicket win to keep their slim semi-final hopes alive here on Tuesday.

Shaheen spearheaded their three-pronged pace attack with splendid figures of 9-1-23-3 as Pakistan bundled out Bangladesh for a lowly 204 in 45.1 overs.

Fakhar, who missed five of their six matches because of a knee injury, smashed seven sixes and three fours in his 74-ball 81. Abdullah Shafique also struck a quick 68 off 69 balls (9x4, 2x6) as the new-look opening pair laid the foundation with an imposing 128-run alliance.

Just when it looked like a one-way traffic for Pakistan, off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3/60) took both the openers but with no scoreboard pressure Pakistan knocked off the paltry 205-run target in 32.3 overs.

This was Bangladesh's sixth loss on the trot as the



| Team         | P | W | L | N/R | Tied | NR     | Points |
|--------------|---|---|---|-----|------|--------|--------|
| India        | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0   | 0    | +1.405 | 12     |
| South Africa | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0   | 0    | +2.032 | 10     |
| New Zealand  | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0   | 0    | +1.932 | 8      |
| Australia    | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0   | 0    | +0.670 | 8      |
| Pakistan     | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0   | 0    | -0.004 | 6      |
| Afghanistan  | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0   | 0    | -0.718 | 6      |
| Sri Lanka    | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0   | 0    | -0.875 | 4      |
| Netherlands  | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0   | 0    | -1.077 | 4      |
| Bangladesh   | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0   | 0    | -1.416 | 2      |
| England      | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0   | 0    | -1.652 | 2      |

Shakib Al Hasan-led side became the first team to be officially eliminated from the 10-team global showpiece with two matches in hand.

They next play Sri Lanka and Australia in their last two matches.

Having returned to winning ways after enduring four defeats, Pakistan with three wins from seven matches kept their faint semifinal hopes alive. They next take on New Zealand before concluding their league campaign against England.

## LG Flags Off 'Run for Unity' In Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K LG Manoj Sinha flagged off J&K Sports Council's "Run for Unity" in Srinagar on Friday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Citizens from different age groups participated in the run.

The LG administered "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" pledge to the assembled gathering at Bakshi Stadium and Raj Bhavan, and paid tributes to Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"Sardar Patel with his statesmanship, grit and

courage unified the country and defended its territorial integrity and sovereignty so that the future generations can live in honour, peace and prosperity," the LG said.

"Let us reawaken the values and vision propagated by Sardar Patel and work for peace, harmony and prosperity in the society," he added.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG; Mandeep Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG, Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and senior officers of Civil and Police Administration were present at Bakshi Stadium.

## 67th National School Games Begin At Bakshi Stadium, J&K Win 1-0

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 67th National School Games in Football Under-19 and Volleyball Under-17 Boys at Bakshi Stadium on Tuesday.

A total of 15000 school children from Kashmir and 2000 athletes from all over the country are participating in this mega sporting event.

The LG conveyed his best wishes to participating sportspersons. He said the prestigious sporting event is a collaborative effort between the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K and the School Games Federation of India (SGFI). Twenty-eight States, eight Union Territories, and several SGFI-recognised boards are participating in the competitions.

At the inaugural ceremony, the LG shared the efforts of the UT Administration, under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to create a robust sports ecosystem and realise the true potential of Jammu Kashmir.

The LG administered an oath to the participants to respect



and abide by the rules of the sport and in the spirit of fair play.

The gathering of sportspersons, youth and officers at Bakshi Stadium also took the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' pledge on the occasion.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary GAD, Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, officers bearers of SGFI, senior officers of Civil and Police Administration, team managers, coaches,

prominent sports personalities and youth took part in the inaugural ceremony.

Sixteen venues across Srinagar City are set to host different matches of volleyball and football till November 4.

In a thrilling kick-off match, the host state, Jammu and Kashmir, faced off against Maharashtra in football. The contest was marked by intense competition, with J&K securing a 1-0 victory. Mohd Salha emerged as the impact player, while Furkaan was awarded player of the match.



## LG Felicitates CRPF T20 Cricket Cup Winners

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** LG Manoj Sinha attended the closing ceremony of CRPF T20 Cricket Cup 2023 on Tuesday and felicitated the winner, runner-up and other outstanding players of the tournament.

In his address, the LG congratulated the CRPF Srinagar Sector officials, and all the participating players and teams from Ganderbal, Budgam and Srinagar.

"The youth of J&K UT is our most precious wealth. The opportunity to compete in different sports will enable them to bring

new hope, right skills to excel in life, courage to achieve success in every field and become role models for children," the Lt Governor said.

The final was played between MLA Gymkhana Club Budgam and Kashmir Tigers Lal Chowk.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, SMC; Aftab Malik, Chairman, DDC, Srinagar; Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairman, DDC Budgam; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG; Nalin Prabhat, ADG CRPF; senior officers of Civil administration, Police and CRPF, sports lovers and youth witnessed the final.

## Kashmir Division Ranking Carrom Tournament Begins

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Division Ranking Carrom Tournament began on Tuesday at Gindun Stadium, Raj Bagh here.

The championship was declared open by Adil Rashid Shah, President J&K Carrom Association, along with Mudasir Khan General Secretary, Arif Sultan Vice President and Organising Secretary, Sheikh Saqib Jr. Secretary, Dawar Rashid Assistant Secretary were also present.

A total of 120 players from Kashmir are participating in the tournament, with 42 matches played on the inaugural day. The competitions of Sub Junior, Junior & Senior categories in both boys and girls & men & women sections were held.

The championship will produce



eight ranking players in all the events with first four senior players representing J&K at the 28th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2023-24 from 10.12.2023 to 13.12.2023 at Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM), KRM Indoor Stadium, Gandhi Nagar, Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh,

Day 1 Results:

**SENIOR MEN:**

Shahid Ahmad defeated Asif Ahmad, Hashim Aslam defeated Shah Abbas, Furqan Nazir defeated Aqib Zahoor, Arsalan Mehraj defeated Shadab Mir, Ajaz Maqsood defeated Ubair

**SENIOR WOMEN:**

Mehak nabi defeated Sabreena, Asra defeated Sayeena Yousuf, Adfar Imtiyaz defeated

Sawlat Nazir, Minha defeated Kazima, Anzalna defeated Mehandi.

**JUNIOR BOYS:**

Zaid Bin Ajaz defeated Numan, Salman defeated Afaan, Saleem Jan defeated nair Abrar, Monik Singh defeated Sheikh Zahran.

**SUB JUNIOR BOYS:**

Mohammda tabib defeated Hammad, Mohammad Tahoor defeated Rehan Altaf, Sharinjeet Singh defeated Mir Mujtaba, Aman Mushtaq defeated Shahid Ajaz.

**SUB JUNIOR GIRLS:**

Mahnoor defeated Kariha, Zehra defeated Adiba, Soliha defeated Hibra, Rida defeated Urwah.

## IUST Hosts Para Athletic Meet

Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** The Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, Islamic University of Science & Technology organised a Para Athletic Meet at the university's track field on Tuesday. The meet was presided over by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST.

The event, held at IUST's Synthetic Athletic Track showcased remarkable abilities and talents of para-athletes from across the valley.

The Para Athletic Meet, featured a diverse range of events including wheelchair racing, shot put, long jump, and Relay Races; and was aimed at promoting inclusivity and fostering a spirit of athleticism among specially-abled indi-



viduals, the university said in a press release.

Prof. Romshoo, commended the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, IUST for organising the event and appreciated the participants for their commitment and resilience.

Prof. Naseer Iqbal (Registrar IUST), Mr Samir Wazir (Finance Officer and Chairman Sports Committee IUST), Dr Waseem Bari (Controller of Examination), Prof. Masooda Yaseen

(Honorary Secretary Voluntary Medicare Society), and Dr Bashir Ahmed Lone among others were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Dr Hilal Ahmad Rafter, Assistant Director Physical Education & Sports, welcomed the guests and thanked the organising committee for successful conduct of the event.

The programme was organised with the support of Voluntary Medicare Society.

## Messi Wins Record-Extending 8th Ballon d'Or

The Associated Press

**PARIS:** The list reads 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023.

Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time on Monday after fulfilling his life's ambition by leading Argentina to the World Cup title in Qatar last year.

Adding to his silverware the one major trophy that eluded him in his storied career was

the decisive factor in an otherwise quite mundane season — for his standards — at Paris Saint-Germain.

The 36-year-old Messi won ahead of Manchester City forward Erling Haaland and his former PSG teammate Kylian Mbappe.

Messi thanked his Argentina coach, teammates and staff for making his victory possible.

"Tonight I'm enjoying myself. It's a pleasure that will never leave me, and I hope to

be able to enjoy it for many years to come," Messi said through a translator.

"Becoming world champion was the title we were missing. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make Argentina the world champion team." Messi also paid tribute to the late Diego Maradona, who also helped Argentina win the World Cup, back in 1986.

"This title and this trophy," Messi said, "I share them with you and all our Argentina com-

rades." Aitana Bonmati won the women's award for guiding Spain to victory at the Women's World Cup in August. She also helped Barcelona win the Women's Champions League and Spanish league.

A year after missing out on the shortlist for the 2022 Ballon d'Or, and despite leaving top-level European soccer behind, Messi has recovered his crown.

He won the sport's biggest individual prize due to his tre-

mendous World Cup. In Qatar, Messi was involved in 10 goals for Argentina, scoring seven and assisting three. He scored twice in the final against France.

His final season with PSG was less shiny. Although PSG won a record-extending 11th French league, it again exited the Champions League in the round of 16.

Nobody else has won more than five Ballon d'Or. Cristiano Ronaldo has five, and Michel Platini, Johan Cruyff and Marco van

Basten each won it three times.

Since moving to Inter Miami in the United States, Messi has already picked up his first silverware there by inspiring the team to victory in the U.S. Leagues Cup.

Messi's latest win marked the first time a Major League Soccer-based player got such recognition. Messi received the trophy from former Manchester United star David Beckham, who is one of the owners of his new club.

"I'm very happy with the decisions I've made and to be with Miami," Messi said. He succeeded Karim Benzema.

Mbappe hoped another Frenchman could win the Ballon d'Or after he scored a hat trick in the World Cup final, though France lost in a penalty shootout.

Haaland led City to a treble of trophies last season — Champions League, English Premier League, FA Cup — while scoring 52 goals.

## Novel antibody may offer effective drug treatment for breast cancer: Study



**Agenceis**

Researchers have developed an antibody that they say can stop an enzyme which helps some breast cancers spread.

With further development, the antibody developed by researchers at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in the US may offer an effective drug treatment for breast cancers.

The antibody, described in the journal *Genes & Development*, targets an enzyme called PTPRD that is overabundant in some breast cancers.

PTPRD belongs to a family of molecules known as protein tyrosine phosphatases (PTPs), which help regulate many cellular processes.

They do this by working in concert with enzymes called kinases to control how other proteins inside cells behave. Kinases add small chemical regulators called phosphates to proteins. PTPs take them off.

Disruptions in the addition or removal of phosphates can contribute to inflammation, diabetes, and cancer. Some disruptions can be corrected with

kinase-blocking drugs, the researchers said.

People have targeted kinases for 25, 30 years. It is a multibillion-dollar industry. But many challenges remain. In cancer, patients will respond to these sorts of kinase inhibitors and then, after a period of time, resistance develops," said Professor Nicholas Tonks from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Drugs that control PTP activity could have a major impact on human health. However, such drugs have been difficult to develop. To stop PTPRD activity, Zhe Qian, a graduate student at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, devised a new kind of PTP blocker. He targeted the enzyme with a synthetic antibody molecule that recognises and binds to its target in a particular fashion.

PTPRD molecules sit nestled in the outer membranes of cells, with bits protruding inside and out. Qian designed his antibody to grab onto two PTPRD molecules from outside a cell simultaneously.

The researchers then showed that when the antibody binds to its target, it draws pairs of PTPRD proteins together into an inac-

## Antibiotics For Common Childhood Infections No Longer Effective: Lancet Study

**Agenceis**

New Delhi: Drugs to treat common infections in children and babies are no longer effective in large parts of the world, including India, due to high rates of antibiotic resistance, a study has found.

The team led by researchers at the University of Sydney in Australia found many antibiotics recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) had less than 50 per cent effectiveness in treating childhood infections such as pneumonia, sepsis (bloodstream infections) and meningitis.

The findings, published in *The Lancet* regional Health-Southeast Asia journal, show global guidelines on antibiotic use are outdated and need updates.

The most seriously affected regions are in Southeast Asia and the Pacific where thousands of unnecessary deaths in children resulting from antibiotic resistance occur each year, the researchers said.

The WHO has declared that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. In newborns, an estimated three million cases of sepsis occur globally each year, with up to 570,000 (5.7 lakh) deaths.

Many of these are due to lack of effective antibiotics to treat resistant bacteria.

The study adds to mounting evidence that common bacteria responsible for sepsis and meningitis in children are often resistant to prescribed antibiotics.

The research shows the urgent need for global antibiotic guidelines to be updated, to reflect the rapidly evolving rates of AMR. The most recent guidelines from the



WHO were published in 2013.

The study found that one antibiotic in particular, ceftriaxone, was likely to be effective in treating only one in three cases of sepsis or meningitis in newborn babies.

Another antibiotic, gentamicin, was found likely to be effective in treating fewer than half of all sepsis and meningitis cases in children, according to the researchers.

Gentamicin is commonly prescribed alongside aminopenicillins, which the study showed also has low effectiveness in combating bloodstream infections in babies and children.

"Antibiotic resistance is rising more rapidly than we realize," said study lead author Phoebe Williams from the University of Sydney.

"We urgently need new solutions to stop invasive multidrug-resistant infections and the needless deaths of thousands of children each year," Williams said.

The study analysed 6,648 bacterial isolates from 11 countries across 86 publications to review antibiotic susceptibility for common bacteria causing childhood

infections.

The data collated largely arose from urban tertiary hospital settings with over-representation from particular countries, especially India and China.

Williams said that the best way to tackle antibiotic resistance in childhood infections is to make funding to investigate new antibiotic treatments for children and newborns a priority.

"Antibiotic clinical focus on adults and too often children and newborns are left out. That means

## Distance Between Meat Shop, Religious Place Must Be 150-Metre: Delhi Rule

**Agenceis**

New Delhi: A condition of a minimum distance of 150 metres between a meat shop and a religious place is part of a proposed policy for granting new or renewed licenses for meat shops, which received the approval of the MCD House today.

It was among the several proposals that were passed by the MCD House amid a ruckus during its brief proceedings.

The proposed policy pertains to grant of new licenses or renewal of licenses for meat shops, meat processing units, packaging or storage plants, among other such establishments, according to the agenda tabled in the House today. The proposal imposes a condition of a minimum distance of 150 metres between a meat shop and a temple, mosque, gurudwara or other religious places, according to the House proceedings.



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## Indians Can Travel To Thailand Without Visa From November 10 To May 10



**Agenceis**

New Delhi: Indians can travel to Thailand without a visa from November 10 to May 10, 2024 as the Southeast Asian country looks to boost tourism.

India is one of the major tourism sources for Thailand.

Indians can travel to Thailand

without visa during the period from November 10, 2023 to May 10, 2024. On one entry, a person can stay for up to 30 days, Siriges-A-Nong Trirattanasongpol, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand at New Delhi Office, told Press Trust of India today.

Thailand is looking to boost tourism, including from India.

Jal Shakti Department  
Jammu & Kashmir

Har Ghar Jal  
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## Badalta Khilta Jammu & Kashmir

In the UT of J&K, all **18,68,801**

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# Jal Jeevan Mission

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