

## Skyrocketing Airfares Worry Tourism Players, Locals In Kashmir

**Auqib Javed**

Srinagar: Even as the major roads and highways connecting Kashmir Valley with the rest of the world remain open, the soaring airfares between Srinagar and New Delhi have significantly surged in recent days causing concern among tourism players as well as the locals here.

Traveling one-way from New Delhi to Srinagar now costs around Rs 15,000.

Commuters have expressed their grievances about airlines

raising their ticket prices for journeys to the Valley, even though the Srinagar-Jammu national highway is through for vehicular movement.

For instance, on November 2, Indigo, a major private player in the aviation sector, is offering tickets from Srinagar to New Delhi for Rs 6255, while Vistara is selling it for Rs 11,765. Similarly, Air Asia has priced tickets at Rs 5785, and SpiceJet's tickets are capped at a whopping Rs 19,416. The same fare applies to those traveling from New Delhi to



Srinagar on this day.

Even as the weather in Kashmir remains pleasant and there is no forecast of major snowfall in Kashmir as of now,

the airfares have started soaring gradually, leaving commuters high and dry.

The snowfall in winters often blocks Srinagar-Jammu

**THIS HAS BECOME A ROUTINE NOW. WE ARE TIRED OF RAISING** this issue with the administration. I think it needs to be addressed by the Central government."

highway and Mughal road—the two crucial surface links connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. Every year, the closure of highways leads to an unprecedented spike in air ticket prices.

"We have to face this issue

every year. I wonder why isn't the government taking concrete steps to fix the rates of air tickets once for all," said Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Dalgate.

Ahmad said they usually witness a hike in airfares during the winters when there is snowfall.

"But this time, even though winter is yet to arrive, the rates have started soaring sky high," he added.

The uncapped airfare rates applied by different airlines operating in Kashmir have also left students **More on P6**

## Security Beefed Up After Fresh Attacks

Srinagar: Security has been beefed up across Kashmir in the wake of a fresh spate of terrorist attacks in the valley which resulted in the killing of a police personnel and a non-local labourer, officials said.

Security forces have intensified checking and frisking of vehicles and pedestrians in several parts of the city here as well as in other parts of the valley, the officials said.

Nakas and mobile vehicle checkpoints (MVCP) have been established at all major intersections of the city, its entry/exit points, and important roads leading to district headquarters, they added.

Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary CRPF personnel have been deployed at sensitive places, especially around minority population areas, the officials said.

They said the security forces are also keeping a watch, including night domination, in the areas where non-locals reside.

While most of the non-local labourers have left the valley because of the cold weather, few are still putting up in ghettos, they added.

The valley has seen a fresh spate of terrorist attacks. Terrorists shot dead a policeman, a father of seven, outside his house in Baramulla district of

## Poor Prisoners To Get Centre's Financial Help In Bail, Fines

**Agencies**

Srinagar: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Wednesday said that the Government of India will support the poor prisoners who are not able to secure bail and pay the fine imposed on them.

In a communique sent to all States and UTs, the MHA said that it is to inform the Chief Ministers of States/UTs informing them that the Government of India has formulated a scheme to support poor prisoners, whereby it will provide "financial support to such poor prisoners who are not being released from jails as they are unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are not able to secure bail due to financial constraints."

The official document reads that the States/UTs were informed that expenditure in this regard will be borne by the Central Government and therefore they may take full advantage of this scheme in providing relief to poor prisoners.

"Subsequently, Union Home Secretary vide his DO Letter No. 17013/26/2023-PR dated 19.6.2023 had informed the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs about the scheme and had forwarded a copy of the 'Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure' which may be followed in implementation of the scheme," it read, adding that "States and UTs were inter-alia **More on P6**

# Metro Rail In Srinagar, Jammu To Be A Reality Soon: LG

### Launches Srinagar Smart City's 100 Electric Buses



**SMART MOBILITY TO OPTIMIZE TRANSPORTATION** services for harmonious balance with ecology is our top priority. The addition of 100 e-buses is a big leap to achieve Carbon Neutrality as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that the dream of metro rail in the twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu will become a reality soon, while asserting that

smart mobility to optimize transportation services for harmonious balance with ecology is the top priority of his administration.

The LG was addressing a gathering after launching 100 electric buses under Srinagar Electric Bus Project here on

Wednesday. He also flagged off a fleet of 75 e-buses at Nishat Bus Terminal. E-buses will ply on 15 intra-city routes and 2 inter-city routes and will be running a minimum of 200 KM per day from 8 AM to 8 PM.

In his address, the LG congratulated the **More on P6**

## Talks Tough Against Terror In Unified Command Meet

**Agencies**

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor chaired a Unified Command meeting in Srinagar to review the security scenario while stressing to the officers of security that nobody should be allowed to disrupt the prevailing peace and efforts should be doubled to zero-in on the left-over terrorists.

The LG, as per sources, also stressed on the need to fine tune Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) and advisories regarding the movement of police officials in the wake of recent attacks on police

officials that led to the injury to police inspector in Srinagar and killing of police man in Baramulla.

Reliable sources said that the LG chaired the UC meeting at Cheshmashahi Auditorium in Srinagar at 11 am where Advisor to LG, RR Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Home Secretary R K Goel, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bhiduri, DGP RR Swain, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, 15 Corps Commander Rajiv Ghai, special DG CRPF, IG BSF, IG Jammu and officers from the intelligence agencies were present.

Sources said **More on P6**

**NBODY SHOULD BE ALLOWED** to disrupt the peace and efforts need to be doubled to wipe out the remaining terrorists."

## 3 Soldiers Injured In Landmine Blast

Three Army personnel were injured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The soldiers were patrolling Phagwari Gali area in Mendhar sector when the landmine got activated; the officials said quoting preliminary information. The injured were evacuated to a nearby medical facility and later two of them were referred to a **More on P6**

Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

On Sunday, a police officer was critically injured in firing by terrorists in Srinagar while a labourer from Uttar Pradesh was shot dead in Pulwama district on Monday.

A senior police **More on P6**

## HC Upholds Dismissal Of Ex-JKB Chairman's Plea Against Removal

**M Ahmad**

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday upheld its single bench's verdict, dismissing a petition by Pervaiz Ahmad Negroo, challenging his dismissal as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Board of Directors of the Bank in 2019.

Negroo had challenged a communication (no.FD/Bkg/21/2019) on June 8, 2019 addressed by the Additional Secretary to the Government, Finance Department of the erstwhile State, to the Company Secretary J&K Bank Limited, conveying the decisions of the Government that he shall cease to be the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Board of Directors of the Bank. By same communication, the government had nominated R. K. Chibber as Director on the Board and his appointment as the interim Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Board



and Bank.

Negroo had claimed that the communications, orders, actions of the government are arbitrary, illegal and in utter disregard of the Banking Regulation Act, Articles of Association of the Bank and the Service Manual of the Bank.

Negroo submitted that termination of the tenure post of Chairman and CEO required the mandatory prior approval of the RBI in terms of Section 35B of the BR Act and that its provisions have an overriding effect over the Articles of Association of any Banking Company or any resolution passed by any

Banking Company. However his contention was rejected by the Court's single bench on November 11 last year. The order was challenged by him before the Division Bench.

"Having regard to the whole gamut of pleadings, rival submissions and the perusal of the record as well as the impugned judgment, we are of the considered opinion that the learned Single Judge has decided the matter perfectly in consonance with law after a threadbare discussion on all aspects of the case," said a Division Bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M.A. Chowdhary.

"(The Single Bench) has rightly held that the appointment of the appellant/petitioner as Chairman/CEO of the Bank was contractual in its nature and, as such, there being no applicability of the service law, a writ is not maintainable to the extent of determining his removal as Government **More on P6**



**COCKSCOMB FLOWER, KNOWN AS MAWAL** in local parlance, is an important ingredient in preparation of famed Kashmiri Wazwan, has now been replaced by synthetic food colours, resulting in considerable drop in its demand in the region. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

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

#### 3.2 Magnitude Earthquake Jolts Doda



An earthquake of magnitude 3.2 hit Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday but no loss of life or damage to property was reported, officials said. The earthquake occurred at 12.22 pm. Its epicentre was 5 km below the surface of the earth in Doda, said the **More on P6**

#### Army Chief Visits Siachen Base Camp

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Wednesday visited the Siachen Base Camp and forward posts, and reviewed the operational preparedness there, sources said. Gen Pande reached Leh on Tuesday, they said. The Siachen Glacier, at a height of around 20,000 ft in the Karakoram range, is known as the highest militarised zone in the world. Avalanches and landslides are common at the glacier during the winters and temperatures can drop to as low as **More on P6**

#### Two Die As Truck Falls Off Bridge

Two persons were killed when their truck fell off a bridge in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place at Bagiyal Morh near Barnoti when the truck was on its way to Jammu from Pathankot in Punjab, they said. The deceased were identified as Balwant Singh and Ranjeet Singh, both residents of Taran Taran district of Punjab. Rescuers had a tough time retrieving the bodies from the truck, which **More on P6**

#### 4 Terror Associates Held In Baramulla

Four terror associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested by government forces in Baramulla district of North Kashmir, police said Wednesday. In a handout issued here, a police spokesperson said that a joint team of police, army's 52 and 53 RR and CRPF during naka checking at Naradhiri-Dangerpora junction apprehended Gh Hassan Mir and Mukhtar Ahmad Khan. The duo, he said, were apprehended tactfully when they tried to flee after noticing the **More on P6**

#### Man Injured In Bear Attack

In yet another incident of man-animal conflict, a black bear on Wednesday attacked and injured a man in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Abdul Samad was attacked and injured by a bear in his native village Gasirana on Wednesday, reports said. Samad, who sustained grave injuries in the surprise beast attack, was removed to the district hospital Kulgam for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SK institute of medical sciences Soura here for advanced treatment.

#### Policeman Injured In Road Accident Dies

A policeman, who was critically injured in a road accident over a week ago, succumbed at SKIMS Soura here on Wednesday. Waseem Ahmad Chasti of the old town of Baramulla was injured in South Kashmir's Qazigund last week. He was undergoing treatment at SKIMS Soura here, where he succumbed to his injuries. In this regard, police have already registered a case, and started further investigation.



To place an advertisement  
**CALL +91-194 2502327**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
Jal Shakti Department Mechanical Irrigation  
Division Anantnag, H/Q Awantipora.**

**CANCELLATION**

SUBJECT: Repairs/Renovation and restoration of LIS Kanjikulah by way of Providing, Fitting, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Various Electro Mechanical Equipments and allied works

REFERENCE: E NIT NO 42 OF 2022-23 DATED: 10.10.2023

DUE TO POOR RESPONSE, THE ABOVE E-NIT IS HEREBY CANCELLED

No MIDA/ 3066-71  
DIPK-11387/23  
Date: 01.11.2023

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Deptt Mech. Irr. Div.  
Anantnag

**Office Of The Executive Engineer  
Generation Division Power House Ganderbal**

Email- xeneganderbal@gmail.com\_Tel - 01942-416234

No: GDG/T/194-200 Dated:01/11/2023  
Extension Notice-I

Due to poor response of the following e-Nit's for the below mentioned works, published by this office is hereby extended up to 11th November 2023.

S.No	e-NIT No & Date	Title	Bid Submission End Date	Opening Bid Date
1.	GDG/04 of 202324 dated 12/10/2023	SITC of DC Motor system for lubrication of various bearings of Unit I & II at power house Ganderbal.		
2.	GDG/05 of 202324 dated 12/10/2023	Cleaning/Deweeding of Switchyard, Penstock, Store including branch cutting along 11kv Line at power house Ganderbal.		
3.	GDG/06 of 202324 dated 12/10/2023	Concreting of 33kv Switchyard at power house Ganderbal		
4.	GDG/07 of 202324 dated 12/10/2023	SITC of 7.5hp Dewatering Motor Pump assembly at power house Ganderbal.	11-11-2023	13-11-2023
5.	GDG/08 of 202324 dated 12/10/2023	SITC of 63 KVA, 11KV/433KV Distribution Transformer with bimetallic terminal connectors and LV cable box at power house Ganderbal.		
6.	GDG/09 of 202324 dated 12/10/2023	SITC of 110v Battery Charger as well as Automatic regulators of static type compatible with VRLA batteries at 15 MW Power house Ganderbal.		

DIPK-NB-3958/23  
dated: 01-11-2023

Sd/  
Executive Engineer Generation  
Division Ganderbal

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My mother's name in school records has been wrongly written as Manzoora Begum while her correct name is Muneera Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Middle School Hanjoora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Umer Hameed S/o Abdul Hameed Ganale  
Mother's Name: Muneera Begum  
Class: 8th, Roll No: 8072060  
BMG\_r

**NOTICE**

I Huzafa Khan D/O Manzoor Ahmad Khan/R/O Umer Colony B Lal Bazar wants to correct my father's name in my CBSE Secondary school Examination of class 10th from Manzoor Ahmad Khan to Manzoor Ahmad Khan as per Birth Certificate. Regard this, if anybody having any objection may file the same to the Concerned Board within a week at the most after that no objection will be entertained.  
Medialine

**Office Of The Executive Engineer  
Sub Transmission Division-II,nd,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar**

Short Term Tender Notice  
eNIT No STD-II / 35 of 2023-24 Dated 01-11-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from A-class Electrical contractors / registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "Augmentation Of Receiving station Brenwar Receiving Station from 1x6.3 to 2x6.3 MVA."

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Augmentation Of Receiving station Brenwar Receiving Station from 1x6.3 to 2x6.3 MVA	Rs 88220.00	Rs 44. 11 Lacs/-	13-11-2023; 2:30pm

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2. The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 03-11-2023; 5:00pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	03-11-2023; 5:00pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	13-11-2023; 2:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	03-11-2023; 5:00pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	13-11-2023; 2:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	14-11-2023; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs2200.00 (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 88220.00 (Rupees Eighty Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Only)

3. The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.

a. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by EMD in the form of CDR/FDR from a Nationalized Bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar

b. Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared LI after opening of financial bids.

c. The date and time of opening of financial 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-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

5. 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 or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

9. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate(DSC)' class III(b) as per InformationTechnologyAct-2000, to participate in online bidding.

Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared LI after opening of financial bids. The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover.

10. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Sub Transmission Division-II,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No.:STD-II/2667-69/Ts  
DIPK-NB-3950/23  
Dated:01-11-2023

**Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.  
Office of the Executive Engineer, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar**

Near Silk Factory Rajbagh Srinagar  
e-mail: xened2nd@gmail.com Tel/Fax : 01942311374

e-NIT No: ED-II/28 of 2023-24

Dated : 30/10/23

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KP-DCL) e-bids are invited from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K PDD / Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms / Bidders enlisted with CPWD / MES / Railways, for the work titled "Charging of Un-commissioned 25/63/100 KVA HVDS Substations (EMC Infrastructure) created under RAPDRP Scheme by way of executing Balance Works - (ESD Baghat) - (Scheme Code : PDDSS2324100142)"

1.	Name of the Work	Charging of Un-commissioned 25/63/100 KVA HVDS Substations (EMC Infrastructure) created under RAPDRP Scheme by way of executing Balance Works - (ESD Baghat) - (Scheme Code : PDDSS2324100142)
2.	Position of Funds	Available
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs 22.12 Lacs
4.	Administrative Approval (AA)	Accorded by Superintending Engineer, KPDCCL, O&M Circle-II,nd, Srinagar vide Order No.197 of 2023, Dated : 18/10/23
5.	Work Completion Period	50 days

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below :

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 01/11/23, 10:00 AM
B	Clarifications Start Date	01/11/23, 10:05 AM
C	Clarifications End Date	03/11/23, 02:00 PM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	03/11/23, 02:05 PM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18/11/23, 05:00 PM
F	Online e-Bid Opening Date & Time	20/11/23, 11:30 AM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar
H	Cost of e-Bid Document (e-challan/TR)	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of EMD/Performance Security	EMD for Rs 44,250/- (Rupees Forty Four Thousand and Two Hundred and Fifty Only) to be furnished and uploaded by all bidders for tender participation (Exemption allowed only for MSME /Start-Ups having eligible NIC code) and Performance Security for an amount equal to 5% of the value of contract (to be furnished by LI only)

1. The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No Demand Draft shall be accepted.

2. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee for tender participation by all bidders (Exemption allowed only for MSME/Start-Ups having eligible NIC code), pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No interest would be payable on EMD/Performance Security deposited with the Department.

The e-Bids of the bidders not submitting the certified copies of above mentioned documents at S.No. (1) and (2) in scanned form shall liable to be rejected.

3. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD needs to be submitted only by the lowest tenderer instantly after opening of e-NIT and must be pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The same must be submitted to this office within 3 days positively for award of contract.

4. 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's representative will be required to be produced.

5. 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.

6. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared 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 appointed time and place.

7. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Also, Signed and Stamped Copy of SBD is required to be uploaded.

8. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' - (DSC) Class-III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

9. Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer with original Performance Security and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

10. The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in Bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm of the Lowest Bidder should be clearly written on the cover.

It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents by the Lowest Tenderer.

Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh  
Srinagar

No : ED-II/4527-31/TS  
DIPK-NB-3965/23 Dated: 01/11/23

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform general public that the Parentage of Daughters in their DOB Certificate has been wrongly written as

1. Aleena Hassan

Details	Wrong	Correct
Father's Name	Gh Hassan Bhat	Ghulam Hassan Bhat
Mother's Name	Mahabeena	Mahabeena Akhter

2. Aleeka Hassan Bhat

Details	Wrong	Correct
Father's Name	Gh Hassan Bhat	Ghulam Hassan Bhat

Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Municipality Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Hassan Bhat

F/o : Aleena Hassan , Aleeka Hassan Bhat bmg

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform general public that my particulars has been wrongly written in my DOB Certificate as

Details	Wrong	Correct
NAME	Sakeena Nargis	Nargis Sakeena
Father's Name	Ali Mohd Mir	Ali Mohammad Mir
Mother's Name	Shameema	Shameema Ali
DOB	22-02-2001	22-02-2005

Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Municipality Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nargis Sakeena

D/o Ali Mohammad Mir bmg

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform general public that my particulars has been wrongly written in my DOB Certificate as

Details	Wrong	Correct
NAME	Gazala Neelofar	Gazala Neelofar Ali
Father's Name	Ali Mohd Mir	Ali Mohammad Mir
Mother's Name	Shameema	Shameema Ali
DOB	10-06-1998	10-06-2001

Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Municipality Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gazala Neelofar Ali

D/o Ali Mohammad Mir bmg

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform general public that my particulars has been wrongly written in my DOB Certificate as

Details	Wrong	Correct
NAME	Mohd Hussain Mir	Mohammad Hussain Mir
Father's Name	Ali Mohd Mir	Ali Mohammad Mir
Mother's Name	Shameema	Shameema Ali
DOB	10-11-1999	08-09-2004

Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Municipality Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Hussain Mir

D/o Ali Mohammad Mir bmg

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that I have lost marks sheet of MMPHW of 1st and 2nd year session April-May 2019. Now I want to apply for their duplicate. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Aijaz Gull S/o Ghulam Mohd Shah

R/o Khansahib Budgam nj



Photo Exhibition On Badalta-Khilta J&K Concludes At Lal Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An impressive two day's Photo Exhibition organized by the Department of Information & Public Relations...

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam said the unique photo exhibition offered a single window to people to visualize the changed landscape of J&K...

He said that the Photo Exhibition sheds light on the changed facade, reflecting the swift and radical transition into Badalta Jammu and Kashmir since the reorganization in 2019.

Photo exhibition attracted a huge crowd of people including traders and tourists during the day, who learned a lot about the unfolding new phase of J&K...

The Exhibition showcased metamorphosis of transformation of J&K from laggard to leader via infrastructural development spanning across all the sectors...



PI: Abid Bhat/KO

LG Thanks PM For Introducing Smart City Electric Buses In Srinagar

Says 25 More Buses Will Be Added To city In Next Few Days

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday thanked the federal government, especially Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for being instrumental in introducing 75 Srinagar Smart City electric buses...

to experience cutting-edge electric technology.

He said the introduction of state-of-art technology vehicles to Kashmir for the first time was made possible by the central government, particularly Prime Minister Modi.

Today's launching of 75 Srinagar Smart City Electric buses as part of the Electric Bus Project in Srinagar is genuinely a source of satisfaction. 25 more electric buses will be added to the city in the coming days, Sinha told reporters

after launching Srinagar Smart City Electric Buses at Nishat area of Srinagar.

People of Srinagar would embark on a whole new adventure with these smart electric buses, which are equipped with all the latest technology with zero emission, LG added.

He said the UT administration received all the assistance the central government could provide in order to deploy such a cutting-edge fleet of electric buses in Srinagar.

Two-Day National Seminar Begins At Kashmir University

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two day National seminar being organized by the Department of History, University of Kashmir on 'Syncretism in Indian History with Special Reference to Kashmir' began today at varsity's Gandhi Bhawan, here.

More than forty papers were selected from scholars across the country to present their cross-disciplinary ways of making sense of the theme.

The event was formally inaugurated by a keynote address presented by a reputed historian of the field, Professor Raziuddin Aquil, Professor of History at the Department of History, University of Delhi.

The key highlight of the address was Professor Aquil's attempt to historicize syncretism in a larger South Asian context by presenting reflections from Medieval India. He underscored cross-cultural interactions in Medieval India by looking at intersections between communities, cultures and people in India's medieval past.

The seminar is intended to debate the idea of syncretism in Indian history with special attention to the reflections from Kashmir's past.

The seminar has attracted a diverse group of attendees, including academics, experts, students and scholars from various fields to debate and move forward the frontiers of scholarly con-

From the office of Advocate Tufail Ahmad. In the case of Nazir Ahmad Darzi and others s/o Ab Ahad Darzi R/o Wananal Rawalpura. Caveator Public at Large Non Caveators In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A. The caveators have reason to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveator may challenge order issued in favour of caveator...

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Jal Shakti Department Office Of The Executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg Office Phone No.01954-254611 Email Address: fbdivisioantangmarg@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE No.30 of 2023-24 FBI Division Tangmarg (STAGE CONTRACT)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved registered eligible contractors with J&K UT Govt. for following works:-

Table with 8 columns: S. No, Name of work, Estt. Cost of Work (In Lacs), Earnest Money (Amount in Rupees), Time of completion, Class of Contract, Cost of Tender (Amount in Rupees), M.H. of Account, Position Of Funds. Row 1: Hiring of Water Tanker for meeting the exigency the jurisdiction of FBI Division Tangmarg.

Table with 5 columns: S. No, Publishing date, Download date start, Bid Submission date start, Bid Submission date Ends, Date of Opening. Row 1: Publishing date: 01-11-2023, Download date start: 01-11-2023, Bid Submission date start: 01-11-2023, Bid Submission date Ends: 07-11-2023, Date of Opening: 08-11-2023.

Authorization No.JSD/Misc/24821-22 Dated:- 20-10-2023

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Every Bidder is expected to have the Knowledge of roads and acquaint himself with the road conditions, approaches within the jurisdiction of FBI Division Tangmarg and shall be deemed to have examined the tender document, detailed specifications, data etc before quoting his rates. No claim whatsoever should be entertained later on the plea of what so ever, which was or was not foreseen by the bidder. 2. Bidders should quote their rates legibly in the prescribed column/space against item of rate list. The rate so quoted should be for the complete item in the unit, inclusive of all taxes, duties, and levies, rebates etc. 3. The bidder shall be responsible for the watch and ward of the Tanker. The damages caused if any during the contract period have to be set right by the agency itself. 4. The department will not be responsible for any damages/destruction caused to the Tanker or driver by floods, torrents, fire/civil commotion, terrorist act, lightning, earthquake, cloud burst or any other natural calamity. The contractor on his own expenses will arrange for the safety provision outlined in the relevant sections of the relevant Act to comply with the statutory regulations, ISI recommendations and codes. 5. Executive Engineer FBI division Tangmarg reserves the right to postpone the tender submission/opening date/reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof. 6. No tools and tackles for the tanker would be made available by the department. The Successful Bidder shall make his own arrangement for all these facilities. 7. That the tanker is being hired for the department delivering the essential services. The hiring hours are not specified in any case. The driver should be available in all cases when required, in the eventualities wherever, whenever asked to report by the Executive Engineer. 8. For any dispute the decision of the Chief Engineer Kmr I & F.C. Department Srinagar shall be final. 9. The bids found to be abnormally low or high shall be liable for rejection. 10. The Driver should have the experience of running the tanker on hiring basis for at least 2 (Two) years. 11. The successful bidder should provide dedicated tanker as model not less than 2014 model and driver and any change in tanker and/or driver should be made only in exceptional circumstances. The contractor has to submit all the necessary documents of the tanker such as Registration certificate, pollution certificate, Insurance certificate or any other document as required by the motor tanker Department/concerned authorities. The driver should be having transport license, for driving commercial/passenger tanker with minimum 2 years' experience and the antecedents should be duly verified by concerned authorities, at the instance of contract. 12. The tanker shall be deemed to be at the disposal of Executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg during the period and the rate quoted should be for full day inclusive of the driver, which will be paid monthly subject to availabilities. 13. The liability & driver and all expenses relating to maintenance, insurances, parking, toll, change of lubricants etc would solely and wholly be the responsibility of the successful bidder and the department will not bear any liability apart from hiring charges and fuel charge (which will be paid as per actual consumption). 14. The fuel will be provided by the department, if available as per the mileage (Fuel consumption) fixed by the Motor tanker Department after verification of the actual measurement of the trips by concerned Engineer or otherwise, if the fuel is not available with the department the payment on account of fuel charges will be paid as per prevailing rates. In case the mileage of the tanker is not specified by the motor tanker department, the mileage will be fixed by the negotiation committee. 15. The successful bidder should fulfill all the conditions prescribed in the section 66 of Motor tanker ACT 1988 for hiring of tanker. 16. Driver should be well versed with the roads and places within the jurisdiction of Jal Shakti Department. 17. Driver should be decent and well behaved and should not have any criminal case against him and should not have any history of accidents and in case of any complaint misbehavior or reluctance in performing duties from the driver, the Executive engineer will have the right to terminate the contract at that stage. In addition Driver should not indulge in the office functioning and official work of the department. 18. Tanker should be well maintained, clean and without any defect. 19. In case of breakdown of tanker, a substitute Tanker shall be provided by the contractor immediately. In case tanker does not report within reasonable time or does not report at all, the Department will have the right to hire a tanker from Market and additional cost incurred by the Department will be borne by the successful bidder. In case neither substitute tanker is provided nor a tanker is hired by the department, proportionate charges are liable to be deducted from the contract charges payable. 20. Successful bidder has to deposit a Security deposit of Rs.20000 at the time of allotment, which will be released six monthly in equal proportion.

No: FBID/CC/ D1PK-11412/23 4989-5005 Dated:-01-11-2023 Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) FBI DivisioTangmarg.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:- Table with 7 columns: S. No, Tender Notice No., Name of work, Approx Cost (Rs.), Earnest Money (Rs.), Date of opening, Bidding start date on IREPS, Cost of tender form Rs., Completion period of work. Row 1: OT-12-2023-JRC Fabrication & Erection of side pathway on various bridges under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/M/PTK. Rs. 1,35,67,621.97, 2,17,800.00, 22.11.2023, 08.11.2023 to 22.11.2023, 0, 06 Months. Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender: Up to 15:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date. Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. No. 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation, Dated: 31.10.2023 3409/2023

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 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 5:26 ZUHR 12:14 ASR 4:00 Magrib 5:41 ISHA 7:02 HIJRI CALENDAR 17 Rabi-ul-Sani 1445

This Day In History

- 676 - Donus begins his reign as Catholic Pope replacing Pope Adeodatus II 1327 - King Alfonso IV of Aragon crowned 1355 - English invasion army under King Edward lands at Calais 1642 - Second Battle of Breitenfeld, aka First Battle of Leipzig; victory for the Swedish army under Field Marshal Lennart Torstenson over Holy Roman Empire army under Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of Austria 1675 - A combined attack by the Plymouth, Rhode Island, Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut colonies attacks the Great Swamp Fort, owned by the Narragansetts during King Philip's War 1698 - Scottish settlers make landfall in Panama, establishing the ill-fated 'Darrien Venture' colony 1772 - Boston: anti-English Committee of Correspondence forms 1783 - General George Washington, later 1st US President, bids farewell to his army after the American Revolutionary War 1835 - 2nd Seminole War begins in Osceola 1841 - Akbar Khan successfully revolts against Shah Shuja in Afghanistan 1861 - American Civil War: Western Department Union General John C. Fremont is relieved of command and replaced by David Hunter. 1868 - Time zone: New Zealand officially adopts a standard time to be observed nationally. 1880 - James A. Garfield (R) elected 20th US President 1898 - Theodor Herzl arrives in Jerusalem 1914 - Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire 1914 - Great Britain declares the entire North Sea a military area: neutral ships will transit it at their own risk 1917 - Balfour Declaration proclaims support for a Jewish state in Palestine 1917 - Lansing-Ishii Agreement; US recognizes Japan's privileges in China 1920 - Warren G. Harding elected 29th US President 1942 - 11th day of battle at El Alamein: British assault on Tel el Aqaqir 1948 - US President Harry Truman re-elected in an upset over Republican Thomas E. Dewey 1954 - Taiwan & US sign military pact 1956 - Hungary appeals for UN assistance against Soviet invasion 1956 - Israel captures Gaza & Sheham 1959 - The first section of the M1 motorway, the first inter-urban motorway in the United Kingdom, is opened between the present junctions 5 and 18, along with the M10 motorway and M45 motorway 1964 - Faisal succeeds Saud as king of Saudi Arabia 1966 - The Cuban Adjustment Act comes into force, allowing 123,000 Cubans opportunity to apply for permanent residence in the US 1972 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalinsk USSR 1972 - Government of the Republic of Ireland introduce a bill to remove the special position of the Catholic Church from the Irish Constitution 1974 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR 1976 - Jimmy Carter (D) defeats Gerald Ford (R) for US President 1977 - Microbiologist Carl R. Woese and scientists from the University of Illinois announce the identification of methanogens, a form of microbial life (Archaea) dating back some 3.5 billion years 1978 - Crew of Soyuz 29 returns to Earth aboard Soyuz 31 1982 - Fire in Salung tunnel, Afghanistan, 1,000+ Russians die 1984 - Velma Barfield becomes the first woman executed in the United States since 1962 1988 - Computers virus strikes Pentagon, SDI research lab & 6 universities 1991- Bartholomew I becomes the Patriarch of Constantinople, head of 300 million followers of the Eastern Orthodox Church 1992- First test flight of Airbus A330 2000- The first crew arrives at the International Space Station

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 02-11-2023

## Change Of Guard In Police

New Director General of Police Rashmi Ranjan Swain takes over at a time when Kashmir is uneasily poised on the cusp of normalcy. But there is also a possibility that the situation could regress into turmoil. If any reminder was needed, it was provided by the successive attack on two J&K policemen and a migrant labourer from the UP. This has yet again underlined that while the challenge of militancy may have abated, it has not gone away. From hereon, there are two possibilities: either the ongoing normalcy will be further strengthened as looks likely, or the militancy may continue to wax and wane as has been the pattern over the past three decades.

This is where Swain's long experience may come in handy. He has been witness to the worst times in J&K, having been the SSP in Srinagar and Jammu. He has also been the district police chief in several other districts. He started his career as SDPO Kothi Bagh and SDPO Ramban and subsequently took over as SP Kargil, SP Poonch and SSP Kathua. He was also the DIG of the State Vigilance Organization, now known as the Anti-Corruption Bureau. These positions demanded not only his professional expertise but also an acute understanding of the region's intricacies. His tenure in these areas was marked by the complexity of maintaining law and order in what was then a deeply troubled place. As the SSP in various districts, including Ramban, Kargil, Kathua, and Poonch, Swain not only maintained law and order but also played a crucial role in establishing the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) and the Special Operation Group (SOG).

Under his leadership, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) was established in the union territory and operated in line with national investigative agencies. The SIA achieved notable successes, including the attachment of properties worth over Rs 100 crore.

Going forward, the situation remains challenging, even though we have come a long way since the troubled nineties, or for that matter even from the period as far back as five years. That said, Kashmir remains an unpredictable place. The situation can suddenly take a turn for the worse. But it is also true that things have stabilized to a large extent and look set to remain so in future. And with Swain's expertise and understanding of the situation, he would be better able to steer the security situation in the right direction.

Amir Suhail Wani



# Winter and People's Powerlessness

### Electricity Woes

"A total of 22.5 Lakh smart meters will be installed in Jammu and Kashmir to make sure that consumers get 24x7 power supply. Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H. Rajesh Prasad said on Thursday. Prasad said that smart meters are the need of the hour to bring down AT&C losses and to ensure 24x7 power supply to the consumers", reads a news article. But the jarring fact remains that "Pesky Power Cuts Irk Consumers Ahead of Winter in Kashmir", reads a headline appearing recently given the repeated complaints made by the people. People in Kashmir, have been time and again duped by the slogan of "24\*7 electricity availability" and the slogan has been time and again used to install meters, smart meters, insulated cables, micro-transformers and what-not. But every time the promise of round-the-clock electricity has been broken and broken badly. According to the recently circulated Schedule, Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) said that "Metered Areas to Face 4.5 Hour Curtailment, Non-metered 8 Hours". This statement starkly looks into the face of "24\*7 electricity supply commitment" and the sufferings faced by people in the wake of the dipping climate are only aggravated by the near absence of electricity. People have taken to Social Media to vent their anger and frustration brought in by unscheduled power cuts in addition to the scheduled curtailment. People aren't, to my understanding, against smart meters, except in cases of economic marginality, but what irks people in general, are these un-notified and sudden power cuts and blackouts they have to face now & then particularly at times when electricity is next to oxygen.

### Power Deficit State

Of the total identified hydro-potential of 16475 MW, a small fraction amounting to a mere 3500 MW has been developed, of which the state-owned power plants generate around 1300 MW and the centrally owned PSUs like NHPC own a large chunk of around 2000 MW. This underachievement & the state-centre imbalance in shares owes its existence to several topological, political and a host of other factors, the exploration of which is beyond the scope of this article. The lean water flow in the winter sea-

son diminishes the power output to the effect that the UT can generate only 300 MW of electricity against the demand of over 1800 MW's. To fill in the power deficit, the state either imports energy from other states or purchases apart from NHPC, the purchase which has put KPDCL under a heavy debt of 14164 Crore. The unpaid dues by consumers, electricity pilferage, and unscientific modes of energy consumption by people not only dilapidated the existing energy scenario but are pushing the department and the state to the point of no return. Thus in asking the department for an uninterrupted power supply, people must not abandon their duties and responsibilities. The state of power deficit has to be met bilaterally by the judicious use of electricity by the people and the infrastructure upgradation by the department. A failure at each end will keep the state energy-starved at all times and also put a heavy burden on state coffers.

### Out of Stalemate

Let us start with something very basic - our pattern of energy consumption. Electrical Engineering teaches us that the worst usage of electricity in the domestic sphere is to use it for heating purposes. Recall where the vast chunks of electrical energy consumed in our homes - inefficient heaters, water boilers & other appliances that convert electricity into heat. This consumption pattern not only heavily adds to our bills, but puts an unnecessary and inflexible burden on the generation and transmission systems. Can we not replace these gadgets with their economical substitutes like gas-based stoves, induction cookers & other appliances which are efficient & significantly lessen the burden on electrical systems? We have some of the indigenous methods whereby we have been using wood & coal to heat water & rooms respectively. We are hereby advocating the revival of these options not because of any cultural or aesthetic values, but for the sole reason that these alternatives are more economical than their electrical counterparts. But do we intend to relinquish the department of its commitments & responsibilities and let the people suffer in these harsh winter days? That we can never think of. Having pinned the mistakes and lapses on people's side, the de-

partment needs to be reminded that students rely on education to carry on with their studies. There are patients, who depend on instruments & supporting devices that are purely electricity-driven - and these cases usually skyrocket during winter. There are businesses and economies which fall flat in the absence of electricity. How can authorities ignore these facets and switch off the electricity at their whim, jeopardising the lives and economies of people? On this end, a wholesome infrastructural upgrade is needed, as has been said by the experts time and again. A generation has to be up-scaled & this can't be compromised & the department has to wake up to the immediacy of the same. Transmission and distribution losses, amounting to gargantuan figures, have to be brought down, in the absence of which a large portion of the generated power will go to waste. The writer does understand that these are capital-intensive activities requiring a huge capital amount and the state may not be able to carry out the task on its own. It may therefore have to rely on central aid, but in the process, it must not put itself mortgage or agree to terms as have been the fate of previous power agreements between the state & the centre, which we are lamenting and paying for to this day.

The perception which emerges is that despite all the odds faced by the department and despite the aforementioned facts in favour of the department, JKPDCL is not doing enough to ensure a smooth electric supply to its consumers and unscheduled power cuts are the worst forms of nuisance and trouble faced by consumers. The erratic power cuts after issuing a prior schedule is not only irrational but unjustified and unwarranted. The state machinery and the Department in particular needs to wake up to the miseries faced by people and ensure strict adherence to the issued schedule and aspire for a state of affairs where round the clock electric supply is a living reality and not just a hollow statement on paper.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer  
The author is a Srinagar based columnist*

### OTHER OPINION

## Fresher Recruitment Slump

Just a couple of years ago, placement-season jokes went something like this: Joggers near information technology campuses are in risk of getting recruited. The jokes are have been long forgotten as college campuses, particularly the Tier 2 ones, are teeming with anxious graduating students waiting for a call from these companies.

There is a reason for the anxiety. IT companies have been one of the biggest hirers in India's services sector since the 1990s. But according to data from TeamLease, the industry will hire 40% fewer freshers compared with FY23, when they onboarded 250,000 engineers. Quite a few IT companies have said they would be absent from campuses this placement season. The last time this happened was during the financial crisis of 2008. Though TCS and HCL Tech are planning to go ahead with their campus hirings, the concern is that recruitment of freshers by IT companies this year will be less than half of last year's.

Even if companies are showing up, they are hiring a much smaller number of candidates as compared to earlier. For example, HCLTech's investor release reveals that in the first half of FY24, the company added about 5,227 freshers, just one third of the number last financial year.

Among big companies, Infosys and Wipro, which together hired over 200,000 engineering graduates in the past three years, have said they don't plan to go to the campuses this year. The reasons are obvious. Weighed down by fears of a looming recession in the US and Europe, the IT sector has seen a sharp slowdown in revenue and profit growth. The combined net sales of the IT services companies, which have declared their results so far for the second quarter of FY 24, are the lowest in the past 11 quarters and less than a third of the growth a year ago. Similarly, their combined net profit is the lowest in the past five quarters.

It's a big concern for several reasons, especially as it comes on top of large-scale departures—some voluntary, some forced. India's top three IT companies saw more than 25,000 net employee exits in the six months to September, driven by cost-saving measures, unfilled job openings, and hiring curbs. Besides, IT accounts for about 8% of India's gross domestic product versus less than 1% about 30 years back. Overall, the Indian tech sector employs over 5.4 million people, and the number is dominated by the IT sector. Any pullback by IT giants could weigh on the economy and affect engineering students who have seen IT as the sector of choice for decades, creating fresh challenges for India's demographic dividend and consumption story.

Financial Express

# EMBRACING CHANGE

## A Journey of Progress and Values

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

In the ever-evolving landscape of human existence, society finds itself at a crossroads where traditions meet modernity, and where the past and the future intertwine. This journey of transformation, often marked by social, technological, and ideological shifts, brings forth both challenges and opportunities. What's most critical is how we choose to navigate this path and the values we uphold in the process.

Our ancestors handed down to us a rich tapestry of heritage, customs, and beliefs, which are the very roots of our identity. Their wisdom and timeless values continue to guide us in various aspects of life. Yet, the world today presents us with new and uncharted territories.

The struggle we face is not merely about adapting to change, but about preserving the essence of our heritage while embracing progress. It's about striking a harmonious balance between the old and the new.

In this journey, there are those who have chosen the path of prudence, recognizing the need for modernization without losing sight of their cultural and moral compass. They celebrate their heritage and look forward to the future with a clear conscience.

This approach reflects the enduring values of resilience and adaptability, the capacity to accept change while preserving what truly matters. It encourages us to celebrate innovation and transformation, provided they align with our fundamental principles.

As we progress further into an era of knowledge and awareness, it becomes essential to redefine success. It's not merely about materialism or individualism; it's about how we, as a society, grow collectively. The emphasis shifts towards education, empathy, and unity.

We understand that education is the cornerstone of change. Emulating great minds such as Einstein, Shakespeare, and Alama Iqbal, Aristotle, Rumi we strive to adapt their writings into profound spiritual



teachings. We pass on knowledge, the light that dispels ignorance, rather than hide it under the pretense of secrecy.

Our journey leads us to conclude that societal success is built on principles of resilience, adaptability, and wisdom. In the midst of change, we should remember the timeless teachings that shape us.

The trials of history, technological advancements, and cultural clashes bring us to a crossroads. It's a juncture where we need to adopt new



**THIS JOURNEY IS NOT ABOUT SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR PAST, BUT ABOUT ENRICHING** our future by bringing along the cherished values that will forever guide our way. It is a testament to human resilience, wisdom, and the power of adaptability that defines the very essence of our existence

ideas while preserving our core values. We realize that true success is not in following materialistic paths,

but in nurturing empathy, unity, and knowledge.

We celebrate the visionaries who

gracefully adapt to the changing world and, in doing so, remain true to their origins. It's a call to action

for us all, to navigate the ever-shifting sands of time while holding fast to the values that truly define us.

This journey is not about saying goodbye to our past, but about enriching our future by bringing along the cherished values that will forever guide our way. It is a testament to human resilience, wisdom, and the power of adaptability that defines the very essence of our existence.

This perspective signifies that success in the present and future is more about values, knowledge, unity, and compassion than any materialistic pursuit. It encourages a holistic approach to life where progress is harmoniously combined with preserving the essence of our culture and tradition.

The great poet Allama Iqbal has rightly said: "Khirad ko ghulam se azaad kar, Jawaano ko piron ka ustaad kar. Hari shaakh-e-millat tere naam se hai, Nafas iss badan mein tere dam se hai." (English Translation: "Liberate intellect from slavery, Make the youth disciples of sages. Every branch of the nation is through your essence, The breath in this body is from your spirit.")

These powerful words by Allama Iqbal encapsulate a profound message of awakening and empowerment. They call for the liberation of the human intellect from the constraints of ignorance and oppression and emphasize the importance of the youth becoming disciples of sages. It's a call to action, urging us to navigate the ever-shifting sands of time while holding fast to the values that truly define us.

In our ever-changing world, we can follow in the footsteps of those who adapt while cherishing their heritage. This not only ensures the preservation of our culture but also allows us to embrace the future with open hearts and a clear conscience.

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun is a Columnist and an Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill.'

## Benefits of Botanizing

*Take a break from your screen and look at plants*

Jacob S. Suissa  
Ben Goulet-Scott

When you hear about the abundance of life on Earth, what do you picture? For many people, it's animals – but awareness of plant diversity is growing rapidly.

Our planet has nearly 300,000 species of flowering plants. Among animals, only beetles can compete with that number. There are more species of ferns than birds, more mints than mammals, and more beans than butterflies. Measured in total mass, plants make up 82% of all life on land across the globe.

We are plant scientists and co-founders of Let's Botanize, an educational nonprofit that uses plant life to teach about ecology, evolution and biodiversity. In the past several years we have witnessed a botanical boom, with participation in plant-based hobbies surging. From cultivating houseplants to foraging for wild foods and outdoor gardening, plant appreciation is on the rise.

Botanizing is spending time alongside plants in order to observe and appreciate them as living organisms – like birding, but with subjects that stay in place. When you botanize, a simple walk in the woods becomes an immersive experience shared with many species. Getting to know your nonhuman neighbors is a way to engage with a changing planet.

### PLANT COLLECTING AND COLONIALISM

Botanizing has a deep and checkered history. Humans have been analyzing and classifying plants for thousands of years, often to figure out what they can safely eat or cultivate.

When Europeans began exploring and colonizing other parts of the world, they were interested in finding plants that were useful as food, medicine or for other purposes. For example, in the early 17th century, the Dutch East India Company forcibly



colonized the Banda Islands in what is now Indonesia in order to monopolize the cultivation and lucrative trade of nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans*).

In 19th-century England, Victorians became obsessed with plants, especially ferns. This craze came to be known as pteridomania, or fern fever. It coincided with the height of European imperialism across the globe, which included widespread collection of valuable plants from faraway places.

Today, however, many botanic gardens and arboreta – gardens that focus on trees and shrubs – have shifted their mission to public education, scientific research and biodiversity conservation. They can be good resources for learning to botanize.

### WHY BOTANIZE?

Plants provide raw materials for the homes we live in, the food we eat and the oxygen we breathe. Without them, life as humans know it could not exist.

Nonetheless, many people think of plants more as a backdrop to life, rather than as a central part of it. Scien-

tists and educators call this phenomenon plant awareness disparity – a widespread cognitive bias that leads people to underestimate the diversity and importance of plants.

Research has shown the value of being outside in natural green areas or around plants indoors. Even traditional western doctors are starting to prescribe nature walks to reduce stress and improve physical well-being. Botanizing can provide a reason to get outdoors, and spending time closely observing plants' minute structures is a great mindfulness practice.

We also see botanizing as a valuable alternative to spending time on social media. As many experts have observed, online platforms have become so individually tailored by algorithms that each user participates in their own version of reality, a trend that has enabled increasingly combative and antisocial behavior. Botanizing is an opportunity to take a break from these tailored worlds and deeply engage with local human and nonhuman communities.

Finally, since plants form the foundation of life on Earth, caring for plants is a way of caring for our planet. Botanizing is one simple way to inspire change in other aspects of our lives that prioritizes sustainability.

### TOOLS OF THE TRADE

There are many ways to botanize. Typically it involves trying to identify a plant species, observing its form and structure or assessing how it survives in the landscape. Plants are everywhere and don't move, so this can be done in virtually any setting, including your windowsill or sidewalk.

So, how do you start? You can focus on plant structure, ecology, interactions, colors, textures or scents – or tastes, if you're bold. You don't need to travel far or spend a lot of money. There's much to learn from your houseplants, the food you cook, the wood grain of your furniture, the plants growing in your sidewalks, gardens or local green spaces.

### HERE ARE A FEW ESSENTIAL TOOLS:

- ▶ A hand lens is a window into the minutia of the botanical world. It's as essential for a botanist as binoculars are for a birder. We recommend one with 10x magnification – that is, one that magnifies what you're looking at by a factor of 10.
- ▶ A local field guide is your reference textbook. A good field guide to your local plants will have images and detailed text that you can use to cross-reference your identifications.
- ▶ A plant identification app can help confirm your identifications. Machine learning algorithms are getting increasingly good at matching plant images with species. One popular choice is the Seek app, which is powered by iNaturalist, an online social network where people share information about living species and get help with identifications.
- ▶ Almost every region of the U.S. has local botanical clubs that typically hold regular meetings and organize workshops, online groups, botanizing days and more. Joining one is a great way to meet and learn from people with similar interests.

To germinate your initial interest, we recommend searching for a spark plant – one that excites, engages or is meaningful to you. It can be a plant that you are familiar with but haven't seen growing in real life, one that is totally new to you, or one that you associate with a special moment.

If botanizing is to reclaim its place as a nature-based hobby, we believe it is important to reimagine it as a critically evolved 21st century pastime. That means looking at plants with appreciation – not simply as products for human use but as foundational and interconnected members of life on Earth.

By arrangements with The Conversation

# Anticipation Grows for Hezbollah Leaders Speech Amid Rising Tensions

## Agencies

Beirut- The air in Beirut is thick with anticipation. A speech, announced via social media, is set to be delivered on Friday by Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah. Specific details about the content or context of the speech remain shrouded in mystery, further fuelling the suspense.

Nasrallah's speech is eagerly awaited, as many observers have warned that the Iran-aligned leader will only speak to announce a turning point in the conflict, wrote L'Orient Today.

After four weeks of silence, expectations are high. Nasrallah can't afford to disappoint his audience on Friday, which will likely exceed his usual Lebanese followers by far, according to the L'Orient.

## The right moment

Since the start of the al-Aqsa Flood Operation, Nasrallah has opted for an unusual communications strategy, to say the least. Instead of launching into his traditional inflammatory speeches, he chose a puzzling silence, which only began to break last week.

On Sunday, Hezbollah posted a 10-second social media video showing Nasrallah's blurred silhouette walking past the party's logo.

The ten second video clip, released on the day Israel began ground incursion into Gaza, went viral on the social media sparking speculations about next Hezbollah move.

"This has to do with psychological warfare," reiterated those close to the party.

Nasrallah had earlier appeared in a photo alongside Hamas second in command



Saleh Arouri and Islamic Jihad leader Ziad Nakhale during a meeting in Beirut. The sporadic "appearances" will culminate on Friday Nov. 3

when Nasrallah takes the stage nearly a month after the start of the war. Officially, his speech will be a tribute to the party's fighters that died in recent

clashes.

"He will speak in the run-up to Martyr's Day," celebrated Nov. 11 every year, said Kassem Kassir, an analyst reputed to be close to Hezbollah. "It also comes on the heels of the 106th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration [Nov. 2]," Kassir added. The Balfour Declaration is a letter signed in 1917 by UK Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour that pledged to work for the creation of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. This document is considered one of the founding texts of Israel.

According to another interpretation, Nasrallah, who has long praised the "unity of the resistance fronts," was merely waiting for the right conditions to make a speech.

"He could not speak when Israel seemed to be in a position of strength, particularly because of the unlimited Western

support Tel Aviv received after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack," said Mohannad Haj Ali, an expert on Hezbollah at the Carnegie Middle East Centre in Beirut.

Since then, the situation has changed. "Today, on the one hand, Israel has been subjected to its limitations on the ground in Gaza. On the other, there is global outrage, including in the Western capitals, against Israeli war on Gaza.

"Nasrallah is probably not going to announce war. The speech is mainly aimed at boosting the resistance fighters' morale," said Faisal Abdel Sater, an observer close to Hezbollah.

Haj Ali believes Friday's speech may not be a major turning point in the conflict. "In reality, it will be more an exercise in form than substance, with a real effort to put on a show."

While even in Lebanon, Nasrallah's speeches have been

broadcast less and less since 2019. Friday's speech will likely be followed not only by the majority of Lebanese people, but also throughout the Arab world, and by Western and Israeli leaders.

The speech by Nasrallah on November 3 is expected to shed light on Hezbollah's stance and its future course of action. Analysts will be poring over every word, looking for clues and coded messages that offer insight into Hezbollah's strategy and goals, according to Israel Ojoko of BNN network. "Whatever the content, the speech is bound to have far-reaching implications for the entire region," he said.

"At a time when his popular base, as well as Lebanese and regional public opinion, is increasingly angry with Israel, Nasrallah will on Friday be the first Arab leader to directly address the Jewish state since Oct. 7," wrote the L'Orient.

## Ladakh's Contributions In Protecting India Known To Entire Nation: President Murmu



## Press Trust Of India

Leh: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said the people of India have a special feeling of affection and respect for their fellow citizens in Ladakh and are aware of their contributions in protecting the nation.

Attending a civic reception hosted in her honour at Sindh Ghat here, Murmu said that Sindh river exists in the depth of historical, cultural and spiritual consciousness of all Indians.

She said that people of India have a special feeling of affection and respect for the people of Ladakh and that they know about the contributions made by the people of Ladakh in protecting the nation, a statement

issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan quoted her as having said.

President Murmu said that the people of this region are known for bravery and their faith in Buddha.

She said that the immortal and living message of Lord Buddha spread in far and wide countries through Ladakh.

The president said that there are endless possibilities for the development of spiritual tourism, adventure tourism and eco-tourism in Ladakh.

She said that this region has immense potential for development of wellness tourism or health tourism.

President Murmu said that it is a matter of happiness that the rich traditions of many tribal communities are alive in

Ladakh.

She said that people know about the affection and respect for nature which are reflected in the arts, dances, songs and lifestyle of tribal communities.

Murmu highlighted that "we should preserve the lifestyle of tribal communities" in accordance with the "lifestyle for the environment".

She said that people of those communities should also be encouraged to adopt the goodness of modern development.

Murmu said that this confluence of tradition and modernity will prove to be the right path of sustainable development for all citizens, including people of Ladakh.

The president also interacted with members of self help groups (SHGs) and local tribals.

## CS Launches Virtual Tour Application, Competitions To Create Awareness Against Corruption

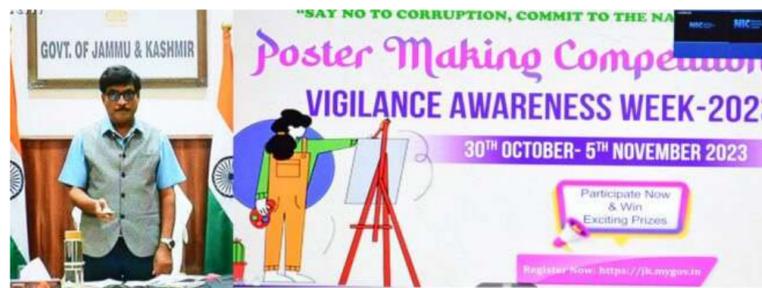
### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday launched the virtual tour application developed by J&K e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) that would enable officers to visit remote areas to take stock of the public grievances and developmental activities without necessity of physical visits.

The virtual tour project introduces a mobile app for remote site inspections by combining the features of video conferencing with location-based virtual interaction. It is transformational in the sense that it enables the officers to have real assessment of all the developmental activities besides holding interaction with public with automated records.

The application offers a simple procedure to visit remote areas without having to leave the office premises. Officers can explore and inspect sites remotely in real-time and give necessary instructions directly to the field functionaries executing the projects on ground.

Moreover the application is AI based that converts recorded observations into text and provides summary of the same also as per the requirements of the user. The application has also been tailored for efficient site inspections, making it distinct



from general video calling apps that do not support most of the requisite features desired from such applications.

In addition, Chief Secretary launched several competitions of the IT Department for the citizens of the UT to mark the 'Vigilance Awareness Week' on similar lines under the theme "Say No to corruption, commit to the nation".

Regarding these competitions, Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri informed that these include contests in Essay/Poetry writing, Poster making and Slogan writing. All these competitions are open to public till 5th of November and carry exciting prizes for the winners. Interested persons can participate in the competitions by logging into the J&K government web portal <http://jk.mygov.in>,

she informed.

The cash prize for the first winner is Rs. 10,000 for all the competitions. Similarly the 2nd prize and 3rd prize winners will receive cash prize of Rs.8000 and Rs.5000 respectively in all the three competitions.

Dr Mehta appreciated the IT Department for coming up with these ideas that provides opportunities to the common citizens to participate in nation building and investing in its integration. He advised the Department to reach out to the youth especially those studying in higher classes in our educational institutions to create maximum awareness among them about the means of fighting corruption effectively since it is youth which gets most adversely impacted by corruption. Youth has a right to corruption

free environment.

Chief Secretary appreciated very enthusiastic participation of people of J&K in events related to national unity.

He maintained that the participation of more than 11 lakh people in recently concluded UT Foundation Day celebrations is first of such example in the history of J&K. He observed that it is quite extraordinary to know that almost individuals from half of the households of the UT have participated in such events which in itself speaks volumes about how well people have embraced the positive changes in recent times.

Those who were present on the occasion included Commissioner Secretary, IT; CEO, JaKeGA; SIO besides other concerned officers of the IT Department.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Skyrocketing Airfares

and patients fuming. The exorbitant rates have also impacted tourism players as guests have canceled their bookings.

"A group of tourists was scheduled to travel to Kashmir from November 15th to November 24th. They had booked over three rooms in our hotel, but they canceled it after the air ticket rates were hiked," said Jan Mohammad, a hotelier from tourist hotspot Boulevard here.

Manzoor Ahmad Pakthoon, chairman of the Kashmir Houseboat Owners' Association, told Kashmir Observer that they have raised the issue of unilateral hike in air tickets with the higher authorities but no action has been taken so far.

"This has become a routine now. We are tired of raising this issue with the administration. I think it needs to be addressed by the Central government," Pakthoon said.

He quickly added that though there's no rush of tourists to the Valley, the tourism players were expecting huge flow once the Valley receives snowfall.

"One can only imagine the airfares when Srinagar-Jammu national highway shuts due to landslides or shooting stones caused by snowfall," he added.

An official from the Tourism department told Kashmir Observer that capping air tickets was the domain of the Civil Aviation Ministry, not the Union Territory administration.

Notably, in March of this year, a parliamentary panel urged the civil aviation ministry to establish price limits for airfares, preventing airlines from using predatory pricing strategies under the guise of a free-market economy.

The panel emphasized the need to strike a balance between the commercial interests of private airlines and the welfare of passengers. They highlighted the importance of enabling the growth of private airlines while ensuring passengers are not exploited in the name of commercialization.

However, the government made it clear that they aren't in favor of interfering in a free-market economy by putting caps on airfares.

### Security Beefed

official said the focus of the security apparatus is to prevent the loss of life of even a single person.

Referring to the modus operandi of the attacks, the police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attacks are mafia-style where a new recruit is given a task to

prove loyalty by hitting a soft target before joining the terror ranks.

In the wake of the attacks, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will chair the meeting of Unified Headquarters (UHQ) on Wednesday.

The high-level meeting, which will be held at the Raj Bhawan here, will discuss the prevailing security scenario of J-K, the officials said.

The meeting will be the first for the newly appointed Jammu and Kashmir Police chief R R Swain.

Apart from Swain, the Army's top brass, including General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C) Northern Command, both General Officers Commanding (GOCs) of Army in Kashmir and Jammu (15th and 16th Corps), Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Home Secretary R K Goyal, all heads of CAPFs, intelligence agencies, would attend the meeting. PTI

### 3 Soldiers Injured

military hospital in Rajouri for specialised treatment, the officials said.

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such types of accidents, the officials said.

### Metro Rail In Srinagar

Srinagar Smart City Limited and the residents of Srinagar and adjoining districts on the occasion.

"Smart mobility to optimize transportation services for harmonious balance with ecology is our top priority. The addition of 100 e-buses is a big leap to achieve Carbon Neutrality as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

He said the Srinagar Smart City Limited is translating the 'modal shift' concept into reality through an integrated approach to provide smooth transportation to people and contributing to the sustainability of society.

The LG further said the e-buses dedicated to the people today will ensure that daily commuters and office goers have access to reliable, affordable, sustainable and safe public transport systems for Srinagar city and the connected districts.

He directed the officials to ensure the dedicated Charging stations for the e-buses remain functional round the year.

At the launch ceremony, the LG expressed gratitude to the Central Government for the support and assistance in improving the urban transport in the UT.

"Soon the dream of Metro Rail in Srinagar and Jammu will become a reality," Sinha added.

The e-buses are equipped with Universal Access and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems, on-board vehicle tracking system, CCTV and emergency stop facility.

A dedicated Mobile app and online ticket payment facility have been developed for the convenience of the passengers. All the buses are integrated with Srinagar Smart City's Integrated Command & Control Centre.

A bus depot is coming up at Pantha Chowk and charging sub-stations have been developed for smooth operation of e-buses.

### Talks Tough

J&K DGP Swain through a power-point presentation briefed LG about the prevailing security scenario in J&K that entailed the recent attacks on policemen and non-JK labourers and the counter-steps taken by police.

Similarly, sources said the army officers briefed the LG about the status of infiltration along the LoC and the status of terrorists in the hinterland besides the success achieved so far in elimination of terror and terrorists. Expressing satisfaction over the prevailing peaceful atmosphere, the LG told the meeting that zero tolerance should be adopted for those promoting terror and anti-peace elements who make a bid to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the UT.

Sources said that the LG stressed on the need of fine-tuning the advisories and SoPs for policemen, soldiers while on duty or on leave.

A source privy to the meeting, said that the LG directed the security top brass to ensure those behind the attacks on police officers and non-J&K labourers or non J&K residents are identified and brought to justice. The LG, as per sources, stated that "we can't allow to see any sort of disruption in the peaceful atmosphere."

In back to back attacks in the past three days, a police inspector was seriously injured in Srinagar while a Head Constable was shot dead in Baramulla. A non-J&K resident was also killed in Pulwama. "Every life is precious be that a civilian, policeman or a non-J&K labourer who comes here to earn a living. We all need to protect the lives of all," he said, adding that "nobody should be allowed to disrupt the peace and efforts need to be doubled to wipe out the remaining terrorists."

While commenting on the border situation, the LG expressed his satisfaction and praised the army for foiling almost all infiltration bids along the LoC this year. "Army has a task ahead to keep

a watch on possible rise in the infiltration bids before snow blocks the passes," he said.

The ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel was also discussed in the meeting and it was decided that all security agencies will keep a close watch on the happenings and the possible fall-out of the middle-east conflict on J&K.

Meanwhile, a joint security review meeting was held at Avantipore, Pulwama where senior army and police officers participated to review and discuss the prevailing security situation in South Kashmir. Army's 15 Corps also known as Chinar Corps wrote on X formerly known as twitter that "GoC Victor Force chaired the meeting which was attended by senior officials of police and CRPF."—(KNO)

### Poor Prisoners

advised through the Guidelines to constitute an 'Empowered Committee' in each District of the State/UT, which will assess the requirement of financial support in each case for securing bail or for payment of fine, etc. and based on the decision taken, the DC/DM will draw money from the CNA account and take necessary action to provide assistance to the prisoner."

The MHA further said that it is expected that the State/UT authorities would have initiated necessary action for constituting the 'Empowered Committee' as envisioned in the Guidelines and SoP and would have identified eligible prisoners to whom the benefit of this scheme can be extended.

"During our recent meetings with the Head of Prisons of all States and UTs, we had requested them to share the details of action taken by them in this regard. However, a response is awaited in the matter," it said.

The MHA further said that since this is a significant scheme of the Government of India which can have far reaching effects on the life of poor prisoners who are not able to secure their release from prisons on bail or due to non-payment of fine, States/UTs are requested to kindly review the matter personally and confirm to MHA if Empowered Committees as envisioned in the Guidelines and SOP have been constituted in all Districts of the States/UTs and whether beneficiaries of this scheme have been identified by the States/UTs.

"The Central Government has made the requisite provision of funds which are ready to be drawn by the States/UTs after following the procedure laid down in the Guidelines/SOP. The State/UT authorities may therefore issue necessary directions to its concerned officers for activating the scheme on urgent basis and

provide a confirmation to MHA in this regard," the document read—(KNO)

### HC Upholds Dismissal

nominee Director, Chairman/CEO of the respondent no.2-J&K Bank and his continuance from a career level post to board level post is not being amenable to writ jurisdiction, is not maintainable," the court said, adding, "No case is made out by the appellant/petitioner (Negro) which warrants any interference in the judgment passed by the writ court (single bench) which is upheld."

### 3.2 Magnitude

National Centre for Seismology.

### Army Chief Visits

minus 60 degrees Celsius.

"The Army chief visited Siachen Base Camp and forward posts today," a defence source told PTI, adding that he also reviewed the operational preparedness during the visit.

### Two Die As Truck

was badly mangled due to the impact of the fall, a police official said.

The bodies have been shifted to the Government Medical College, Kathua for post-mortem examination, the official said.

### 4 Terror Associates

security forces.

Upon their search, the spokesperson said, Chinese pistol, one magazine 12 live rounds and 2 hand grenades were recovered from their possession.

He said that an FIR 68/2023 U/S 7/25 IA ACT, 13.18.23,39 UAPA was registered in Police Station Sheeri and investigation was started.

During the course of investigation and upon their disclosure, the spokesperson said, two more persons Altaf Ahmad Rather and Farooq Ahmad Naqeeb were summoned for questioning.

During questioning, he said, the duo admitted to possessing arms and ammunition.

"As a result of their disclosures, 2 hand grenades were recovered from both suspects, leading to their arrest in the ongoing case," the spokesperson said.

Further investigation, he said, revealed that all four accused individuals had previously worked with the terrorist associate Mudassar Ahmad Sheikh, who is presently detained under PSA.

The spokesperson further said that the investigation is ongoing in this case.

## LG Celebrates Foundation Day Of 8 States, 5 UTs

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led the Union Territory administration's celebrations on the Foundation Day of eight states and five Union Territories, here on Wednesday.

Students, Security personnel and the people of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were the special invitees.

Sinha extended his hearty greetings and best wishes to the people of the States and UTs celebrating their Foundation Day. He said today's event celebrated the nation's unity in diversity and kindled the sense of togetherness.

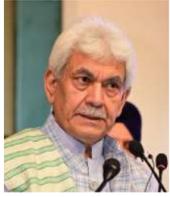
"Every region is a repository of

India's unique ancient traditions and they are working with determination for a glorious future of the country. This unique celebration represents timeless values of multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic character of our nation," he added.

He extended his gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for igniting the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', which has removed the geographic distance, strengthened social and cultural connection.

"This deep bond and harmonious co-existence is now seen as a role model for the entire world," Sinha said.

Artists showcased the rich cultural heritage of the respective States and Union Territories through their spellbound performances.



## '500 Tourists Ride India's Highest Gondola At Patnitop Every Day'

Press Trust Of India

**PATNITOP:** Nestled amid this picturesque hill resort in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, India's highest ropeway, the Skyview Patnitop by Empyrean, sees more than 500 tourists turn up daily to experience gondola rides with breathtaking views of the valley.

A testament to Indo-French collaboration, the ropeway executed through a Public-Private Partnership model with the Patnitop Development Authority has reinvigorated this quaint hill resort.

"Over 500 tourists go up and down daily in the gondolas. We have created several activities for tourists coming to Patnitop... They can experience the meadows and other attractions and can proudly say that they have travelled in the highest gondola in India," Dinesh Gupta, manager of Skyview by Empyrean, told PTI here.

Spread over 11 acres, Skyview Patnitop offers several adventure activities and has come up as a mountain adventure destination for the new-age traveller.

"We have created a luxuri-



ous and adventure destination at Skyview. The gondola starts from Sanget valley and goes till Padora in Patnitop... This is India's highest gondola (in ground clearance). It is CEN certified (European standard certification). We have international acclamation for all safety measures and over 200 safety checks are conducted daily," Gupta said.

The experience of Skyview by Empyrean's mountain adventure destination, particularly the gondola ride, is one of a kind and truly impressive, tourists said.

"Riding the gondola in Skyview resort is an amazing feeling. We can get the entire view of Patnitop... We can see all the flora and fauna," tourist Skinda Sharma said, adding that tourists from across the country

should experience it.

She said that the sound of the wind and the view of the landscape while crossing the towers one after another made her heart beat faster.

Adventure lovers can also experience Asia's longest zig-zag zipline measuring 580 metres here, Gupta said, adding 25 people can take the zipline ride at a time.

He said that an all-season tubing sledge having a length of 238 metres is also operated with the highest standards with an efficient braking system.

"The initiative of the gondola is very nice. Tourists who visit Jammu usually complain about how there is nothing to do here. It's a beautiful tourist attraction for them," Arun Kumar, a student, said.

## 425 Drug Peddlers Arrested In Baramulla, 69 Charged Under PIT-NDPS

3 Houses, 31 Vehicles Worth 12.68 Crore Seized In Northern District Till Oct

Majid Nabi

**SRINAGAR:** Baramulla district of north Kashmir alone saw 425 drug peddlers arrested and 69 most wanted dealers charged under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) this year so far.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have also confiscated three residential houses, three cars, and cash amounting Rs three crore belonging to drug peddlers, as part of the ongoing campaign against drug trafficking in the northern district.

A senior police official told Kashmir Observer that 242 cases of narcotics have been registered in Baramulla district till October ending, while 425

protect youngsters from falling prey to drug addiction will continue," he added.

Those arrested in connection to drug trafficking, he said had either been sent to Baramulla Sub-Jail or Srinagar Central Jail and that the police will stop at nothing to secure their conviction.

He said 2.670 kg brown sugar worth 3.47 crore, 4.527 kg heroin worth 6.33 crore, 11.808 kg charas worth 59.04 lakh and 198.692 kg poppy-straw worth 1.29 crore have been recovered by the police in Baramulla district this year.

"Besides confiscating 3 houses of drug traffickers, we have also seized 31 vehicles used for supplying drugs from one place to another. Cash amounting Rs 1.13 crore has also been seized. The total market value



drug peddlers have been arrested in this direction.

Baramulla district, he said has seen a notable decrease in drug-related incidents due to the remarkable efforts of the police in eliminating the menace.

"As many as 69 wanted drug dealers were charged under PIT-NDPS while a total of 425 peddlers have been arrested this year so far. Our efforts to

of seized vehicles is Rs 12.68 crore," he added.

We have been rigorously campaigning against drug menace in the district and have succeeded in our sacred mission to a great extent. It's an appeal to the general public to cooperate with the police in this direction and help us identify those poisoning our youth and contaminating the society, he said.

## J&K Cong Targets Centre Over 'Failure' To Protect Innocents

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Slamming the Centre over a series of targeted terrorist attacks in the Valley, Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani on Wednesday demanded an explanation from the government over its "failure" to ensure safety of innocents.

A police head constable and a non-local labourer were killed and a police inspector was injured in three separate attacks by terrorists in Kashmir in the last three days.

While the police inspector was shot at and injured in Srinagar on Sunday, the labourer from Uttar Pradesh was gunned down in Pulwama on Monday and the head con-

stable was killed outside his house in Baramulla district on Tuesday.

Condemning the terror attacks, Wani said the security of Jammu and Kashmir is directly under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs so the Centre should give an explanation for its "failure" on this front and in ensuring safety of innocents. "The government must ensure the safety and security of innocents and check militancy," he said.

The Congress leader further asked the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration to focus on "checking the growing acts of terrorism instead of making tall claims of total normalcy" in the union territory.

## Omar Condemns Terror Attacks, Says Situation 'Not Normal'

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah Wednesday condemned the recent militant attacks in Kashmir, saying the situation in the Union territory was not normal.

Terrorists shot dead a policeman outside his house in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. A labourer from Uttar Pradesh was shot dead in Pulwama district on Monday, while a police officer was critically injured in firing by terrorists on Sunday in Srinagar.

"We regret these targeted attacks and condemn them. We ask the government to at least be truthful. We keep on hearing from them that the situation has improved and is now better," Abdullah told reporters here.

Abdullah said whenever statements about improvement in the situation are given by the government, targeted attacks take place in the valley.

"Sometimes police is targeted, sometimes civilians. The situation is not normal, we all know that. Why is the government trying to mislead the people? Only the rulers can answer that," he added.

Asked about Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal being summoned by the Enforcement Directorate, the former chief minister of J-K said opposition parties and leaders were paying the price for doing politics.

"What is new in that (summon to Kejriwal)? Which opposition leader or opposition party is there that has not received such summons? There have been such summons before as well and they will come in the future also.

"You have to pay a price for doing politics, especially the opposition here. This is not something new," he said.

The NC leader said Kejriwal is not the first leader in the AAP who will face this as other leaders of the party have also been summoned before.

## Doctor Faces Probe For Violation Of Professional Ethics

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Health and Medical Education Department appointed an inquiry officer to inquire the allegations levelled against a doctor posted at SDH Magam.

As per an order issued by Health and Medical Education Department, Dr Shafkat Khan additional Director Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has been appointed as inquiry officer and has been directed to submit a report by 15 days.

He will conduct an in-depth enquiry into the allegations levelled against Dr Imran Masood posted at SDH Magam for violating professional ethics, it added.

"The Inquiry Officer shall submit detailed enquiry report within a period of (15) days along with concrete recommendations and cogent grounds, if any, for substantiating the prima-facie case to be further investigated by Anti Corruption Bureau as advised by the General Administration Department," it said—(KNO)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India Invites E-Tenders against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-23-23-24 Closing Date/Time 27/11/2023 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Contract Type	Works
Name of Work	Augmentation of Data Loggers & Provision of Large Format Display System in Control Office over Firozpur Division.
Tender Type	Open (E-tendering)
Tender closing Date & Time	27/11/2023 15:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	14709191.82
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	NIL
Earnest Money (Rs.)	223600.00
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Tender

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-23-23-24 Dated: 31.10.2023 Closing Date/Time: 27.11.2023 15:00

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**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA**  
Fax No: 01952-234426 | e-mail, id, xenmhdbla@gmail.com

**TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2023-24/14/867-72
Date:	31-10-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on item-wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs/Registered/Listed Contractors for the below mentioned repair works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Shifting of oxygen plant 300 LPM from JLNH Hospital to District Hospital Budgam & Servicing/Repairs of the same.	9.09538	500.00	18191/-	15 days	58 DDCB of 2023 Dated: 14-06-2023 (District Capex Budget)	22 of 10/2023 Dated: 31-10-2023

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 31-10-2023 (06.15PM)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 31-10-2023 (06.30 PM) to 13-11-2023 (06.55 PM) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 14-11-2023 (13.00 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

**Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:**

S. No	Particulars
I	Tender Fee
II	EMD
III	Terms & Conditions
IV	Tax Clearance
V	GST
VI	Undertaking

Note: - Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.

Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only. The complete bidding process will be online.

- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla after evaluation of the technical bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
- The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.
- The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract (L1 rates only) from the date of issuance of Allotment Order / L.O.I.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-14/867-72  
Dated: - 31-10-2023  
DIPK-11376-23  
DT: 01/11/2023

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
Baramulla

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL  
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K  
(MAIN CAMPUS DIALGAM, ANANTNAG)**  
Phone: 01932-227624 | e-mail: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com | ragmca22@gmail.com

**Subject: Engagement of candidates for the post of Senior Residents in Government Medical College, Anantnag.**

**ORDER NO. 78. GMCA (RA) OF 2023**  
**DATED: 01-11-2023**

In pursuance to the recommendations of designated selection committee held on 06.09.2023 for selection of Senior Residents/Tutor/Demonstrator in Government Medical College, Anantnag, the below mentioned candidates are hereby engaged as Senior Residents/Tutor/Demonstrators on academic arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020, initially for a period of one year which can be extended only on the basis of satisfactory performance and conduct of the individual.

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Qualification	Department
01	Dr. Arshid Rasool Kani	MD	Anaesthesia
02	Dr. Arshid Hussain Khan	MD	Anaesthesia

All the selected Candidates are required to join the College within (21) Days from the date of issuance of this order failing which the appointment of the concerned appointee shall be cancelled ab-initio. The selected Candidates will have to produce the below mentioned original documents along with a set of self attested photocopies of the same at the time of joining.

- PG Degree/Diploma certificate issued by the Concerned University/Institution,
- MBBS Degree Certificate issued by the Concerned University/Institution.
- All Marks cards of MBBS/PG degree.
- Internship completion Certificate.
- J&K Medical Council Registration Certificate of MBBS and MD/MS, Diploma.
- Attempt Certificate 1st, 2nd, Pre-final and Final MBBS examinations issued by the Concerned University.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Domicile Certificate.
- 2 Passport size photographs.
- Undertaking as per below prescribed format.
- Screening Certificate for FMG's only.

The appointment of above Doctors is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The selected candidates shall submit an affidavit duly attested in the judicial first class Magistrate to the effect that:-
  - If the information furnished by him/her in the application form is found wrong at any point of time, his /her engagement as Jr. Resident will be terminated immediately and followed by action under rules.
  - He/she will not participate in any kind of strike/protest etc. during the period of his /her tenure engagement.
  - He/she shall follow the departmental roster strictly and maintain discipline during the tenure period.
  - He/she is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending/registered in any criminal department or in any police station against him/her.
  - One month salary shall remain as deposit with the department and shall be released on the completion of sanctioned term.
  - He/she will not leave the department before the completion of Junior Residency term (06 Months), however abandoning/ terminating of the engagement in the department will require one month prior notice on either side failing which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the department and leaving the job midway shall not entitle him/her for any experience certificate/remuneration.
  - He/she is not entitled for any kind of experience if leaving the job midway.
  - He/she will have no objection if transferred to any other department during the tenure (Need Based).
  - He/she will not indulge in any private practice. In case he/she is found practicing in private capacity, his/her appointment shall be liable to be terminated without any notice.
  - He/she will reside in the vicinity of their posted respective Associated Hospitals during their tenure at GMC Anantnag.
  - That the salary will be released only after receiving satisfactory report of the selectee from the CID/police department. The appointment shall be terminated ab-initio without any notice if CID/police verification report of the candidate is found adverse.
- Senior Residents/Tutor/Demonstrator appointed on academic arrangement basis shall be paid as per S.O-364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 only after receiving the satisfactory report of the CID/Police verification.

No. GMCA/PD/RA/SR./Eng./2023/2675-82  
Dated: 01/11/2023.

Prof.(Dr.) Anjum Farhana  
Principal  
Govt. Medical College Anantnag.

## ODI World Cup: Red-Hot India Take On Sri Lanka



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Twelve years on from that dream April 2011 night when a country of billions landed in a frenzy of delight, India take on Sri Lanka in another World Cup clash here on Thursday, albeit one that is poles apart from being termed an encore.

If that World Cup final was truly a battle of titans in every sense, the impending contest is more or less a battle of the unequals. India have hitherto marched on immaculately in pursuit of a third title and Sri Lanka have lost more than what they have won.

Unbeaten in six straight games and largely unchallenged for lon-

ger spans, India have displayed traits of being a champion side which has the knack of staging remarkable fightbacks.

India's confidence is irrefutably high but greater is their self-belief and trust on skills — witnessed in the mini-storm created by Australia in Chennai when reduced to 2/3 or when England limited them to a modest 229/9 in Lucknow.

The doggedness to keep striking England until the defending champions were disintegrated was not only another display of their potential, but also a sign that India's opponents must raise the performance bar significantly higher when it comes to facing Rohit Sharma's team in this World Cup.

Coming into fray as a forced selection with India looking to answer Hardik Pandya's absence by creating 'balance', Mohammed Shami has only provided the happiest of selection headaches with nine wickets — including a fifer — in only two appearances.

But the think tank led by captain Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid knows 'Special Shami' must be preserved for greater battles ahead — for India would still need Jasprit Bumrah fresh and firing to steer through remaining challenges in the league stage.

Sri Lanka are no pushovers but they have faltered more often than not in this World Cup after a superlative show in the qualification round.

## South Africa Beat New Zealand By 190 Runs



Press Trust of India

**PUNE:** Quinton de Kock and Rassie Van der Dussen revelled in the knowledge that the focus back home has finally shifted from rugby to cricket, striking scintillating hundreds to power South Africa to 357 for 4 against New Zealand at the World Cup here on Wednesday.

De Kock (114 off 116 balls) hit his fourth hundred of the tournament to go level with Kumar Sangakkara, who achieved the feat in 2015 edition, while Van der Dussen blazed away to a 118-ball 133.

For record, only three batters have scored four or more centuries in a single World Cup edition. David Miller blasted 53 in 30 balls

to provide the final flourish, barely days after the whole country was basking in its rugby team's record fourth World Cup triumph in Paris.

Taking dew into account, New Zealand's stand-in skipper Tom Latham opted to bowl first at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium whose stands were half-full with some people gathered outside when the in-form De Kock and skipper Temba Bavuma walked out to bat.

After Bavuma's dismissal, in De Kock and Van der Dussen the South Africans had the perfect duo to set the tone, and they did exactly that with a 200-run partnership in little over 30 overs.

Dealing with two set batters was not the only challenge for the Kiwis as they also had players getting injured,

the last thing for a team that was already grappling with injuries to key players heading into this match.

After Matt Henry hurt his right hamstring and received treatment, Jimmy Nesham also had some injury issues.

Batting on 104 off 105 balls, Van der Dussen shifted gears and launched into Neesham for two consecutive sixes, the first one was thanks to Trent Boult tipping the ball over the ropes while trying to catch it. Then, Van der Dussen carted Tim Southee for a maximum over long-on.

By the time De Kock and Van der Dussen were dismissed, they had done enough for South Africa to aim for 350. Miller produced a few big hits to prop them up towards the end.

## J&K Lift U-16 Balramji Das Tandon Cricket Tourney



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K beat Punjab on Wednesday to lift the 3rd Balramji Das Tandon U-16 Multi-Day Cricket Tournament.

Playing at DAV College Cricket Ground in Chandigarh, J&K won the toss and opted to field first in the final. Punjab batters showed grit but failed to maintain any meaningful partnership as they were bowled out for 256 in 83.5 overs. Yamuna Singh top scored for Punjab with 88 (128), while Ravtej Singh scored 47 (113). For J&K, Mohd Shefan Abbas, Arun Kumar and captain Manivya Sharma took two wickets each. Irfan Ashraf, Saksham, Jeevesh Gupta and Shourya Chouhan took a wicket each. With the total in sight,

the J&K youngsters needed to take a first innings lead to win the tournament. However, the J&K top order fumbled as the team slid to 99-4 at one point in the game. Middle-order batter Shourya Chouhan 91 (150) led from the front and was ably supported by Manivya Sharma 48 (112) to lead J&K close to surpassing Punjab's total. At the end of the day's play, J&K were 284-8 after 82.1 overs. The first innings lead meant the Under-16 boys had won the tournament for the first time. Zaid Mufti 38 (47), Shiva 28 (72), Mohd Shefan Abbas 25 (36) and Rahil 23 (31) were the other contributors for the team. For Punjab, Akash Singh and Yuvraj Arora took two wickets each. Shourya Chouhan was awarded man of the match.

## Kashmir Division Carrom Tournament 2023 Ends



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Division Carrom Tournament 2023 concluded on Wednesday with a medal distribution ceremony at Gindun Sports Stadium here.

Rauf Trambo, Former member J&K Sports Council, distributed the prizes among winners and runner ups, while Mohammad Iqbal, Manager Gindun Sports Stadium, Adil Rashid Shah, President J&K Carrom Association, Arif Sultan Vice President/Organising Secretary of the tournament, Mudasar Khan General Secretary, Dawar Rashid, Assistant Secretary, and other members of the association were also present during the closing ceremony of the event.

The tournament was organised by Jammu & Kashmir Carrom Association and District Srinagar Carrom Association in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

Around 120 players from Kashmir participated in the tournament, which was played under the International Carrom Federation rules in four categories: Senior, Junior, Sub Junior and Cadet in both boys & girls, Men & Women sections. "We have selected eight players from each category of this event. The top four players of this tournament will represent J&K at the 28th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2023-24 from 10.12.2023 to 13.12.2023 at Andhra Pradesh. The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council will screen and select the team as per the norms," the association said in a statement.

The results are as follows:

### CADET BOYS SECTION:

- 1st Place: Aman Farooq
- 2nd Place: Mohammad Fareed
- 3rd Place: Musa Khan

### SUB JUNIOR BOYS SECTION:

- 1st Place: Aiyana Shalla
- 2nd Place: Ahmad Bin Tariq
- 3rd Place: Sharanjeet Singh

### SUB JUNIOR GIRLS SECTION:

- 1st Place: Aisha Shawkat
- 2nd Place: Ahmad Bin Tariq
- 3rd Place: Syed Khatan Qureshi

### JUNIOR BOYS SECTION:

- 1st Place: Zaid Bin Ajaz
- 2nd Place: Saleem Jan
- 3rd Place: Aiyana Tariq

### JUNIOR GIRLS SECTION:

- 1st Place: Sabreena Shabir
- 2nd Place: Tanzeela Zakir
- 3rd Place: Azra Jan

### SENIOR MEN SECTION:

- 1st Place: Arsalan Mehraj
- 2nd Place: Shahid Ahmad
- 3rd Place: Ajaz Maqsood

### SENIOR WOMEN SECTION:

- 1st Place: Asra Shafi
- 2nd Place: Zainab Ajaz
- 3rd Place: Anzalna Rafiq

## India Keen To Host 2030 Youth Olympics, 2036 Olympics: PM Modi

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday interacted with India's Asian Para Games contingent here and said the country is making efforts to host the 2036 Olympics and 2030 Youth Games in the country. Interacting with the para-athletes at the Major Dhyana Chand Stadium here, the Prime Minister said the approach of the government is "athlete-centric".



He said India is growing in terms of its sporting culture and also as a "sporting society". The Prime Minister said there is another reason that India has gained the self-confidence to move forward. "We are trying to host the 2030 Youth Olympics and 2036 Olympics," PM Modi said.

He lauded the performance of India's Asian Para Games contingent at the Asian Para Games 2022 and motivated them for future competitions. The programme was attended by the athletes, their coaches, officials from the Paralympic Committee of India and the Indian Olympic Association, representatives from National Sports Federations and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

"I keep finding opportunities to meet you...I have come between you people for only one thing and that is to congratulate you. You were outside India, playing in China... Every second, I was living your efforts and confidence sitting here. The way you all have made the country proud is absolutely unprecedented. Your performance has left the entire nation thrilled," PM Modi said.

"Those of you who have been selected for the games, some won, some learned but no one lost...In sports, only two things happen, either you win or you learn. You never lose," he added.

India ended their Para Asian Games campaign at Hangzhou in China with a total of 111 medals, consisting of 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze. India finished fifth in the medal tally. (ANI)

## Saudi Arabia Likely To Host 2034 FIFA World Cup After Australia Pulls Out

The Associated Press

**GENEVA:** Saudi Arabia is all but certain to host the men's 2034 World Cup after the Australian soccer federation decided not to enter the bidding contest, which had been widely seen as shaped by FIFA to suit the oil-rich kingdom.

FIFA had set Tuesday as the deadline for its member federations in Asia and Oceania to formally declare interest in hosting the tournament, and it later confirmed that only Saudi Arabia was in.

Australia's decision not to enter the race left Saudi Arabia alone as a declared candidate — to the dismay of many human rights activists.

FIFA still needs to rubber stamp Saudi Arabia as the host — a decision that is likely to be made late next year — but that now seems a formality.

It would be the culmination of Saudi Arabia's ambitious drive to become a major player in global sports, having already spent massive amounts on bringing in dozens of star soccer players to its domestic league, buying English soccer club Newcastle, launching the break-away LIV Golf tour and hosting major boxing fights.

But FIFA's seeming eagerness to



pave the way for Saudi Arabia to host its marquee event has drawn widespread criticism from activists who say it exposes the governing body's human rights commitments as "a sham."

When FIFA made a deal this month to have just one host bid for the 2030 World Cup — uniting Spain, Portugal and Morocco with three games placed in South America — it also fast-tracked the 2034 hosting race with only member federations in Asia and Oceania eligible

to bid. The tight deadline gave them less than four weeks to enter the race by Tuesday and just one month more to sign a bidding agreement with government support for staging 104 games over nearly six weeks.

Qatar hosted in November and December, in the heart of the European club soccer season, to avoid extreme heat in the summer months and a Saudi tournament likely also will be moved from the traditional June-July period.

## Real Madrid Extends Contract Of Brazil Forward Vinicius Junior To 2027

The Associated Press

**MADRID:** Real Madrid extended the contract of Vinicius Junior on Tuesday, tying the Brazil forward to the club through the 2026-27 season.

Vinicius' original contract was set to expire at the end of this season. Madrid did not reveal financial details, but Spanish media said the deal makes Vinicius the team's highest-paid player and carries a buyout clause of 1 billion euros. (\$1.06 billion).

"Improbable, but not impossible," the 23-year-old Vinicius said on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Thank you president, fans, teammates and everyone who works at Real Madrid. Thank you family and friends. In the club of my dreams until 2027, fighting for more titles together."

At the signing, Vinicius posed with club president Florentino Pérez and displayed a Madrid jersey with the No. 2027 on it.

In his six seasons with Madrid, Vinicius has made 235 appearances, scoring 63 goals and winning nine titles, including a Champions League and two Spanish leagues. He scored the winner in the Champions League final in which Madrid defeated Liverpool 1-0 in 2022. His other titles with the club include a Copa del Rey, two Spanish Super Cups and two



Club World Cups.

Madrid said in a statement that Vinicius already is one of the club's "most influential players of recent years."

There were doubts early on as he showed signs of his talent but struggled to contribute. He was known for his misses in front of goal just as much as for his speed and nifty dribbles in front of defenders.

The forward steadily improved and is now both a scoring threat and a gifted playmaker in coach Carlo

Ancelotti's team.

Vinicius last season was targeted by racist abuse and received widespread support in the soccer world after an incident in Valencia, prompting a series of actions by Spanish authorities to improve the fight against racism in the country.

Vinicius on Monday won the humanitarian prize named after the late Brazil midfielder Socrates for his involvement in the foundation that the Madrid player set up for underprivileged children.