

## Mercury Drops By Few Notches In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The minimum temperature decreased by several degrees in Kashmir but settled above the freezing point at most places as the higher reaches of the valley brace for light to moderate snowfall, officials said on Wednesday.

The twin resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam were the only weather stations which registered sub-zero minimum temperatures last night, with night temperature in Gulmarg in north Kashmir settling at a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius -- down from 1.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Srinagar recorded a minimum of 0.8 degrees Celsius -- over three degrees down from 3.9 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The officials said that the mercury at Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley in south Kashmir, too settled at a low of [More on P6](#)

# J&K's Dark Phase Had Destroyed Future Of Our Youth: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Stating that the dark phase of Jammu and Kashmir had destroyed the future of our youth, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that today youth are marching forward with new resolve to realize their aspirations.

Sinha made these remarks while addressing a delegation of J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides at Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday. The delegation presented the LG with the sticker flag during the celebration of its Foundation Day.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG said that over 63 lakh Scouts and Guides are inspiring examples of unity in diversity of our nation and in the last seven decades they have strengthened the bond of friendship among youth.

"J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides team is selflessly serving the society, contributing in capacity building and cultivating values like discipline and dedication to the nation



among youth and have displayed exemplary courage during relief operations," Sinha said.

"Peace is the prerequisite for development of a progressive society. Volunteers of Bharat Scouts and Guides must spread the message of peace around the world, work with the spirit of social goodwill and contribute to the

journey of Viksit Bharat," he added.

Asserting that a strong economy makes a nation stronger, the LG said that India has emerged as 5th largest economy and our youth has an important role in achieving the goal of 3rd largest economy in the next four years.

He asked the Scouts and Guides to move ahead with

confidence and work on five goals- Act together to promote ancient values, contribute in the journey of Viksit Bharat, move together for nation's unity and integrity, educate youth about potential and challenges of modern technology, launch awareness campaigns for environment protection.

"The dark phase of J&K

had destroyed the future of our youth. Today, our youth are marching forward with new resolve to realize their aspirations. Now is the time for Scouts and Guides to embark upon the new goals and engage actively in social development and work for the cause of social equity," he said.

He congratulated the Scouts selected for the President's Award and assured every support from the administration to further strengthen the Bharat Scouts & Guides movement in the UT of J&K.

He also interacted with the scouts who represented India during the recently held 25th World Scouts Jamboree held in South Korea and extended his best wishes for their future endeavours.

Subash Chander Chhibber, Director Youth, Services & Sports and Chief Commissioner, Bharat Scouts & Guides J&K, briefed the Lt Governor about the achievements and the ongoing activities of the organization.

Every year [More on P6](#)

## J&K Assembly's Strength To Reach 114

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday listed 18 bills, including two to extend provisions of the women's reservation act to Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry and three to replace the criminal laws, during the Winter Session of Parliament beginning next week.

According to a bulletin issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the government also plans to bring a bill that seeks to increase the strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly from 107 to 114 in a bid to provide representation to Kashmiri migrants, displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Scheduled Tribes.

Besides the bills, the government has listed the first batch of supplementary demands for grants for the year 2023-24 for presentation, discussion and voting during the session.

The Winter Session of Parliament begins on December 4 and continues till December 22.

## J&K's Lithium Block Up For Grabs

Govt Launches Auction Of 20 Critical Minerals Worth Rs 45,000 Crore



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday launched the auction of 20 critical minerals worth Rs 45,000 crore.

Of the 20 minerals put on

sale, two are lithium blocks, Joshi said.

One of the lithium blocks is in Jammu & Kashmir, while the other is in Chhattisgarh.

"For the first time ever, we have identified critical and deep seated [More on P6](#)

## Homecoming for IAS Atal Dulloo, Takes Over As CS J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Senior IAS officer Atal Dulloo has been appointed as chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, replacing Arun Kumar Mehta who is due to superannuate at the end of this month.

A 1988-batch Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre IAS officer, Dulloo will take charge following the superannuation of incumbent chief secretary Arun Kumar Mehta. Mehta, also a 1988-batch AGMUT cadre officer, is retiring on Thursday.

At present, Dulloo is posted as secretary, department of border management, under the Union home ministry.

"Consequent upon the superannuation of Arun Kumar Mehta, IAS on 30.11.2023 and



on repatriation from central deputation, Atal Dulloo, IAS is hereby appointed as chief secretary, Jammu and Kashmir with effect from 01.12.2023 or from date of assumption of charge, whichever is later and until further orders. This is subject to the approval of competent authority," the ministry said in an order on Wednesday.

On November 20, the Central government repatriated Dulloo to his Union

Territories cadre after working as secretary of the Department of Border Management under the Home Ministry.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Dulloo's repatriation to his parent cadre at the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Dulloo will be the first person from J&K to occupy the top slot in the UT's bureaucracy after 5 August 2019.

A seasoned bureaucrat known for his people-friendly style of functioning Dulloo had deftly handled the situation in Jammu and Kashmir during the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

Before he was sent on central deputation Dulloo had served in various capacities in Jammu and Kashmir, including as additional chief secretary and financial commissioner. [More on P6](#)

## ED Attaches Land In PMLA Probe Against Lal Singh

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday said it has attached a land worth Rs 1.21 crore as part of a money laundering investigation against former Jammu and Kashmir minister Choudhary Lal Singh, his wife and an educational trust run by her.

The land belongs to R B Educational Trust (RBET) and a provisional order has been issued to attach it under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the agency said in a statement.

The ED said the land was the "proceeds of crime generated out of criminal activity related to the scheduled offence of PMLA".

The former MP was arrested by the federal probe agency on November 7 in Jammu. He is also chairman of the Dogra



Swabhiman Sangathan Party.

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR and a charge sheet was filed against Singh's wife Kanta Andotra (chairperson of RBET) and a former 'patwari' of the J-K government Ravinder Singh.

"Choudhary Lal Singh, along with his wife Kanta Andotra, in connivance with revenue officers/officials i.e. the then patwari, the then gridawar, the then naib tehsildar and the then tehsildar used [More on P6](#)

## 'After Extracting Blood From His Veins For 30 Yrs..' CAT Comes To Sweeper's Aid, Asks Authorities To Consider His Regularization

M AHMAD

Srinagar: Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Srinagar spelt relief to a Sweeper cum Chowkidar by asking the authorities to consider his engagement, observing that the refusal to regularize his services "after having extracted blood from his veins for 30 years" was unjustified by "welfare state with its employees."

A bench of the CAT comprising M.S. Latif (J) and Prasant Kumar(A) asked the authorities to consider the regularization of the 48-year-old Sweeper cum Chowkidar, Shaiq Hussain Magray of Pulwama within eight weeks.

Magray in his plea before the CAT had stated that he came to be engaged as a Sweeper cum



Chowkidar in Government Primary School, Goosu, Pulwama against a monthly wages of Rs. 25 per month in the year 1994 by virtue of an order by the Chief Education Officer Pulwama on 1 July 1994.

Magray submitted that he

had been continuing from the past three decades but has not been regularized in accordance with the law. According to him the District Level Screening Committee (DLSC) while scrutinizing the credentials of the eligible CPWs (Contingent paid

workers) have raised an observation regarding the genuineness of his engagement order.

He submitted that vide order dated 16 October 2023 issued by the Chief Education Officer Pulwama regarding final seniority list in CPWs/LFWs, he stands at Sr. no. 13 but in the remarks column there is an observation recorded which reads that "genuineness of engagement order is pending".

"It is an admitted position that the petitioner (Magray) has been working from the year 1994 however, his regularization has not been considered for the reasons that the genuineness of his engagement order is pending," the CAT observed, adding, (Respondents' (authorities) refusal to [More on P6](#)

## HC Upholds Withdrawal Of 45 Physiotherapists' Posts

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has upheld a verdict by Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in July last year regarding withdrawing of 45 posts of Junior Physiotherapists despite recommendations by the J&K Service Selection Board in 2015.

The posts according to the government were inadvertently referred on 17 August 2015 by the Health and Medical Education Department to JKSSB and the latter proceeded with the recommendations despite being subsequently informed not to go ahead.

"The fundamental question that arises for consideration of this Court in the instant



petition is as to what is the right of a candidate who competes in the selection process," a bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani.

"Law stands settled that mere selection does not confer any right of appointment on a selectee and that an employer has a right to abandon the selection process at any time, though, with a caveat that same should not be done

arbitrarily without any reasonable and just cause," the court said.

Keeping in mind the position of law and reverting back to the case in hand, the court said, it is not in dispute that Health and Medical Education Department after making a reference of 45 posts of Junior Physiotherapist on 17.08.2015 to the JKSSB had withdrawn the reference on 07.12.2015 on the premises that the reference had been made inadvertently by mistake. However, the court said, the JKSSB overlooked it and proceeded with the process of selection and consequently made the recommendation on 14.12.2017.

"It is also not in dispute that the official [More on P6](#)

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

#### Woman Falls To Death

A woman died on Wednesday after falling off a moving bus in Sopore town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Fatima Begum, wife of Abdul Hameed Dar of Dangerpora Sopore was critically injured when she accidentally fell off a moving bus on Wednesday afternoon, reports said. The injured woman was removed to the sub-district hospital (SDH) Sopore for treatment. However, she succumbed to her injuries before the doctors could start procedures to save her life. [More on P6](#)

#### 3 Held For Selling Fake Gold Biscuits

Police on Wednesday arrested three people for their alleged involvement in selling fake gold biscuits to buyers at exorbitant rates and deceiving them. The arrests were made a day after Police Station Khansahib received information from reliable sources that a group of individuals are involved in illicit trade of counterfeit gold biscuits, a police spokesperson said. Acting swiftly, he said, a suspected vehicle (JK04F-5047) with 3 people on board was [More on P6](#)

#### Apni Party's Vice President Meets LG

Usman Majid, former Minister and Vice President J&K Apni Party called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday. Also, Abhijeet Jasrotia, BJP Spokesperson also called on the LG and apprised him of various issues of public importance, an official spokesperson said. He said Dr Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director IGNOU Jammu briefed the LG on the educational programmes for undergraduate government employees [More on P6](#)

#### SPO Crushed To Death, Driver Held

Police on Wednesday arrested a cab driver after he mowed down a special police officer (SPO) at a checkpoint in Mattan area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat of Aishmuqam was arrested after his taxi (JK012-1976) hit and critically injured SPO Mohammad Maqbool Ganie near a checkpoint in Bumzoo village of Mattan on Wednesday evening. The critically injured SPO was immediately taken to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for treatment. [More on P6](#)

#### Rain, Wind Improve Delhi's Air Quality

Delhi's air quality improved on Wednesday following rain and wind during the past two days, bringing much-needed respite from severe pollution levels in the national capital. Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in the 'poor' category with a reading of 290, an improvement from Tuesday's 312. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and [More on P6](#)

#### Flight Diverted Over Couple's Argument

An argument between a couple led to the diversion of a Munich-Bangkok Lufthansa flight to Delhi on Wednesday following which they were deboarded, official sources said. The Lufthansa flight number LH772 landed at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport at 10.26 am after the pilots contacted the Air Traffic Control (ATC) informing them about a "situation and possible unruly passenger". The flight left for Bangkok after a delay of more than [More on P6](#)



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

YouTube Rolls Out Over 30 'Playables' Mini-Games For Premium Users

IANs

In an effort to lure users to subscribe to its paid Premium service, Google-owned YouTube has rolled out a collection of mini-games called 'Playables', offering more than 30 mini-games that can be played instantly, without the need for any downloads.

The games can be played on Android, iOS and desktop. To begin, users can navigate to a "Playables" shelf by scrolling on Home or by clicking a "Playables" link in the Explore menu on desktop and mobile, reports TechCrunch. The games available are Daily Solitaire, The Daily Crossword, Angry Birds Show-

down, Merge Pirates, Farm Land, Words of Wonder, Endless Siege, 8 Ball Billiards Classic, and Brain Out. The games may not be available at all times, as YouTube stated that they are only playable until March 28. This limited-time access might be used by YouTube to gather feedback from its Premium subscribers before making any

further choices about expanding its gaming capabilities. Meanwhile, YouTube has said it is testing new generative AI features that'll let people create music tracks using just a text prompt or a simple hummed tune. The company introduced Dream Track, an experiment on YouTube Shorts which is powered by Google DeepMind's most advanced music generation model to date, Lyria.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Shopian Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No.31/JSDS of 2023-24

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-Tendering under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. TENDER NOTICE NIT No:- 87/9769-78/RnB/SPN/e-tendering/2023-24 Dated: 28-11-2023

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of Work, App. Cost (Rs.), Earnest Money (Rs.), Date of Opening, Completion Period of Work

TENDER DOCUMENT Instructions while submitting the Tendering process. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Valid Treasury Receipt/e-Challan under Major Head 0059 Revenue in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian ( tender receiving authority).

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-19.12.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

From the Office of Advocate Mudasar Gulzar Vakil license no 828/19 In the case of: Qaiser Nazir Khan S/o Nazir Ahmad Khan 2 Zubaida Qaiser Wife of Qaiser Ahmad Khan R/o Zoonimar Koker Bagh Srinagar (Caveator) V/S Public at Large (Non-Caveator) In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC.

PUBLIC NOTICE My daughter's name in her school records has been wrongly written as Anusha Zehra while her correct name is Taskeen Zehra 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 Tyndale Bisco Tangmar within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Nazir Ahmad Malla F/o Taskeen Zehra/Ro Magam bmg\_r

PUBLIC NOTICE I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Concerned Blok Development Officer within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objections shall be entertained. Baba Badru-ud-din BMG S/o Nisar Ahmad Baba R/o Doulatpora A

PUBLIC NOTICE I have lost the ownership of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK04D-8060. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the ARTO Office Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Ameen Shera S/o Bashir Hussain R/o Yagipora Magam bmg

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار سرکل رامباغ سرنگر مضمون: پرویز عزیز زار ولد محمد عبدل عزیز زار ساکن برادر سرنگر لغرض اجرائی وارث جائز سرٹیفیکٹ بیوقوفی بیوی اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔ معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل سے اس بارے میں سائل کی پٹواری حلقہ سے راپور طلب کی جس سے عیاں ہے سائل کی بیوی مورخہ 05-02-2022 کو فوت ہو چکی ہے مثنیٰ کے وارث جائز بذیل ہے پرویز عزیز زار ولد محمد عزیز زار 47 سال سرکاری ملازم شوہر متوفی شہان پرویز ولد پرویز احمد زار 08 سال زینتیم فرزند متوفی سائیدہ بنت پرویز اختر پرویز احمد زار 05 سال زینتیم دختر متوفی اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد نامزد نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی کی کوئی شخص کوئی غرض یا ہوتو وہ بعد مشورہ اختیار سائل دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مذرا عترت و اولاد حاذق کو فوری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی مذرا عترت یا قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار nj

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ مضمون: درخواست منجانب غلام حسین ملک ولد گلستان ملک ساکن گوم احمد پورہ برادر حصول ذمہ سرٹیفیکٹ اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔ معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور سائل راپور نیابت سکرٹری و نمبر دار و چوکیدار علاقہ ماشہڈیم سے موصول ہوا ہے مثنیٰ میں گلستان ملک ولد ساکن گوم احمد پورہ مورخہ 10-08-1996 کو فوت ہوا ہے۔ اور تا حال تو گلستان ملک حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔ سائل غلام حسین ملک ولد سائل اپنے والد کی ذمہ سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہش ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کوئی غرض یا ہوتو وہ سات ایام کے اندر پیش کرے معیاد کرنے بعد کوئی بھی مذرا عترت یا قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار nj

## Srinagar Export Hub To Be Operational Soon, Say DC Srinagar

Approves DPAP For Silk Carpet, Pashmina And Paper Mache Products

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Administration Srinagar is establishing Srinagar Export Hub at Kashmir Haat with the vision to give a fillip to the Export volume and to boost the local Economy, particularly focusing on promoting specific products or industries within the District that have good export potential, thereby likely enhance production, improve quality, and facilitate marketing and export of these products.

The idea is also to enable holistic socioeconomic growth of the local Artisans and Exporters of the District. The Initiative is being run by the Department of Commerce (DoC) with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.

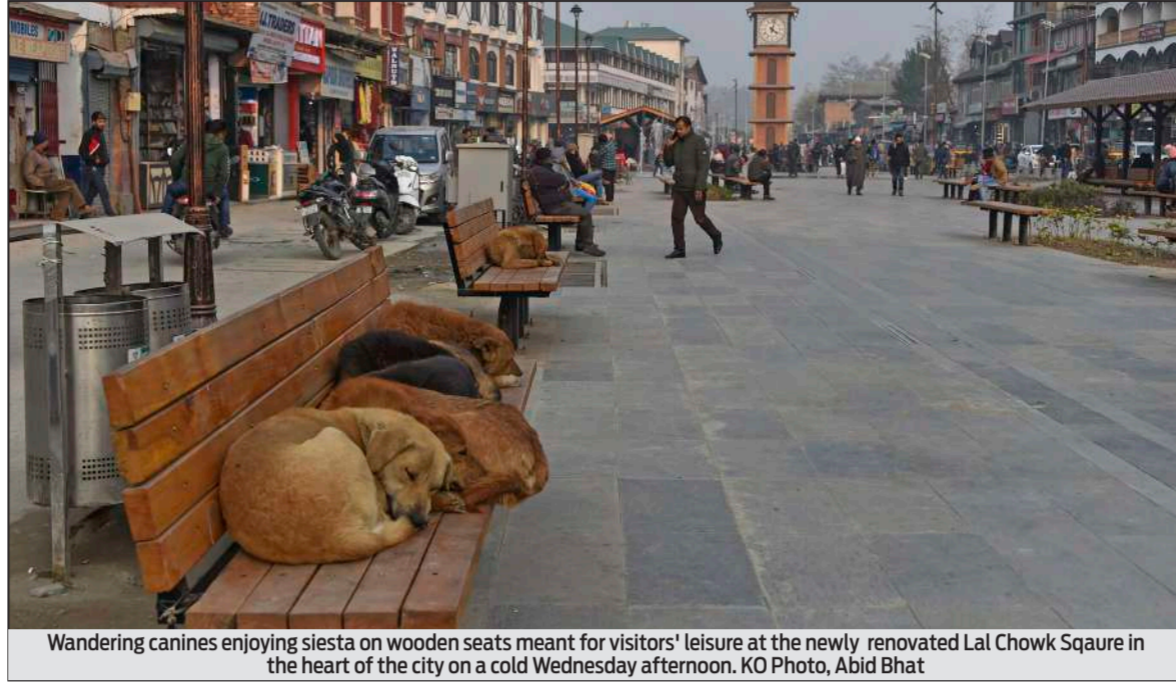
A meeting of District Level Export Promotion Committee (DLEPC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to finalize the Draft Export Action Plan aimed to enhance the Export of Goods from Srinagar District to boost the local Econ-

omy and institutionalize the Export Ecosystem through establishment of Srinagar Export Hub.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner held an extensive discussion with all the stakeholders present in the meeting on the proposed Draft District Export Action Plan.

The DC, who is also the Chairman of DLEPC also held a detailed deliberation on the comprehensive Export Plan placed before the Committee under which 3 products have been identified/finalized having good export potential viz Silk Carpet, Pashmina and Papier Mache in Srinagar District.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that Rs 10.65 crore plan has been earmarked under Silk Carpet having different components including Strengthening of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, Setting up of Raw Material Banks, Replacement of Old worn-out Carpet Looms, Skill Up-gradation and Capacity Building Training, Publicity and Promotion of GI Tagging of Carpets, Marketing and Promotion, Market Research/Study, Setting up a Common Facility for Carpet Washing and Drying on Modern Lines.



Wandering canines enjoying siesta on wooden seats meant for visitors' leisure at the newly renovated Lal Chowk Square in the heart of the city on a cold Wednesday afternoon. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Spontaneous Power Cuts Poses Threat To Patients On Oxygen Support

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Unscheduled power outages in Kashmir pose a serious threat to the well-being of patients relying on oxygen support at home.

In Srinagar City, unreliable power supply has left patients in perilous situations, while those living in rural areas face many more challenges.

Patients across various areas of Srinagar claimed that the frequent and unscheduled power disruptions have transformed their lifeline—oxygen supply—into a source of anxiety.

Shakeel Ahmad, the son of a patient from the Barzulla area in

Srinagar, said continuous power is crucial for oxygen concentrators which are vital for supporting those with respiratory conditions.

Despite the city setting, Ahmad said he faces hurdles in ensuring a constant oxygen supply for his father. "I have to travel to Batamloo every alternate day to fill an oxygen cylinder, which costs around Rs 500 including fare," he said.

Another patient from Wantpora, Srinagar, echoed similar concerns, saying there is an imperative need for a 24x7 oxygen supply, which becomes unattainable due to power outages.

Highlighting the severity of the situation, the patient said any disruption exceeding half an hour can

lead to deterioration in their health.

Patients and their families in other areas of Srinagar said they are grappling with the challenge of managing power backup solutions and ensuring the safety of their loved ones. While some have resorted to alternative power sources, these solutions come with their own set of challenges, and not everyone can afford generators or backups, they said.

Expressing the financial constraints faced by many, they revealed that patients from financially weaker sections rely on concentrators provided by NGOs, but managing daily refills for oxygen cylinders remains a daunting task.

## Mehjoor Nagar Pedestrian Bridge Misses Deadline, Locals Aghast

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The pedestrian bridge connecting Mehjoor Nagar and Jawahar Nagar at Mahjoor Nagar Bund has missed its deadline for completion, much to the displeasure of the

residents living around.

"The bridge was scheduled to be completed by August this year, however, looking at the slow pace of the work, it is believed that its completion may take one more year," the locals said.

### Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar

AUCTION NOTICE

An open Auction of horses / mules seized in various Territorial Divisions of the Forest Department shall be conducted through Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar as per the below given calendar:-

At P.C Depot, Qamarwari  
On 04.12.2023, At 01:00 PM

In case of any un-avoidable circumstances the date of auction will be on next normal working day. All the persons interested in purchase of these animals may participate in the open Auction on the following terms and conditions.

- The intending bidder shall have to prove his identity before participation in the auction.
- No person involved / accused in any Forest offence shall be allowed to participate in the auction. All the participants shall affirm their non-involvement given shall lead to legal action against the person.
- The interested bidders shall have to deposit an amount of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) as security deposit in cash before participating in the auction. The security deposit in case of unsuccessful bidders shall be returned on close of the auction and adjusted towards payment of cost of horse / horses purchased in case of successful bidder.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit the entire bid amount on spot against proper receipt before taking delivery of the purchased horses on the same day. No delay in deposition of cost and delivery of horses shall be allowed. In case any bidder fails to deposit the entire cost on the same day and take delivery of the horse / horses, the auction of the particular horse / horses shall be deemed as cancelled.
- The Auction Committee may reject any offer without assigning any reason thereof.
- The intending bidder shall have to participate personally in the auction and no proxy or telephonic offer shall be accepted.
- No offer after the close of auction shall be entertained.
- The horses / mules purchased through this auction shall not be utilized for any illegal activity including any act prohibited under J&K Forest Act. The purchaser shall have to furnish an attested undertaking to this effect. In case of any violation, the purchaser shall be liable for legal action, forfeiture of CDR amount of Rs. 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) as per horse as penalty. He / She also be debarred from participation in future auctions.
- Any other conditions that the auction Committee may deem necessary shall be announced on spot before the commencement of auction.
- An undertaking that the purchaser shall abide by the terms and conditions of this auction notice & those announced on spot and all laws and rules in force, shall be furnished by the successful bidder / purchaser, before taking delivery of the horse.

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Urban Forestry Division  
Srinagar.

No. : DFO/UFL/3868-74  
DIPK-12988/23  
Dated: - 29-11-2023

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Zonal Office Srinagar  
Opposite Women's College  
M. A. Road Srinagar, 190 001 J&K

**On-line Request for Proposal (e-RFP) for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Comprehensive Maintenance of IP/PRI enabled EPABX System for J&K Bank Zonal office Srinagar, along with buyback offer of existing EPABX system**

Tender Notice along with Complete Tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcprocure.com> w.e.f. **November 28, 2023, 16.00 Hrs.** Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). Last date for submission of Bids is **December 19, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.**

**e-NIT Ref.No. JKB/E&ED/SITC-EPABX-ZOSGR/2023-898**  
**Dated: 24-11-2023**

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC00048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ;  
E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-4498/23  
dated: 29-11-2023

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Sgr

**بنام**  
Ishrat Jabeen  
دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 1,53,59.00

**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام**  
Ishrat Jabeen D/o Late Mohd Maqbool Mir R/o Hamambal Khanyar Sgr

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیس تیس کرانے کی بیا کوشش کی گئی۔  
- الا تو پتہ چید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور تہی بذریعہ تین تین لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 1,53,59.00 زیر سماع عدالت ہوا ہے۔  
لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 30-11-2023 اصالتاً یا دکاتا بروقت پھیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔  
ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
J&K Bank B/U Khayam Sgr

**بنام**  
Nusrat Farooq  
دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 1,42,949.92

**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام**  
Nusrat Farooq D/o Farooq Ahmad Bhat R/o Abi Nowpora Srinagar

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیس تیس کرانے کی بیا کوشش کی گئی۔  
- الا تو پتہ چید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور تہی بذریعہ تین تین لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 1,42,949.92 زیر سماع عدالت ہوا ہے۔  
لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 30-11-2023 اصالتاً یا دکاتا بروقت پھیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔  
ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Sgr

**بنام**  
Mst Hafeeza  
دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 98,980.12/-

**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام**  
Mst Hafeeza W/o Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/o Bhat Mohalla Abi Nowpora Sgr

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیس تیس کرانے کی بیا کوشش کی گئی۔  
- الا تو پتہ چید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور تہی بذریعہ تین تین لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 98,980.12/- زیر سماع عدالت ہوا ہے۔  
لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 30-11-2023 اصالتاً یا دکاتا بروقت پھیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔  
ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

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

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
15 Jumada al-Awwal  
1445

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 45
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3: 46
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6: 50

### This Day In History

- 1786 - Grand Duke of Tuscany Leopold II promulgates a penal reform, making his the 1st state to abolish the death penalty. November 30 commemorated as Cities for Life Day.
- 1803 - Spain cedes her claims to Louisiana Territory to France
- 1864 - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee: Confederate attack fails, 7,700 casualties
- 1864 - Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina (Broad River) 96 dead, 665 wounded
- 1876 - Archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann finds the gold Mask of Agamemnon at Mycenae (modern Greece) "the Mona Lisa of prehistory"
- 1908 - The US Secretary of State and Japan's ambassador to the US exchange notes in what becomes known as the Root-Takahira Agreement: they affirm support for an independent China with an 'open door' policy and for the status quo in the Pacific
- 1909 - British House of Lords rejects David Lloyd George's 'People's Budget', which tried to shift tax burden to the wealthy. Leads to the Parliament Act; intent to stop unelected house overruling will of the elected house.
- 1916 - Costa Rica becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1922 - 1st speed test of 1st genuine Japanese aircraft carrier Hosho.
- 1922 - Hitler speaks to 50,000 national-socialists in Munich.
- 1944 - Biggest & last British battleship HMS Vanguard launched.
- 1950 - US President Harry Truman threatens China with atom bomb.
- 1961 - USSR vetoes Kuwaits application for UN membership.
- 1962 - U Thant of Burma becomes the 3rd Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- 1964 - USSR launches Zond 2 towards Mars; no data returned.
- 1967 - People's Democratic Republic of Yemen declares independence from the UK.
- 1967 - The Pakistan Peoples Party is founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who becomes its first Chairman later as the Head of state and Head of government after the 1971 Civil War.
- 1969 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1971 - The government of the Republic of Ireland states that it will take the allegations of brutality against the security forces in Northern Ireland to the European Court of Human Rights
- 1978 - France performs nuclear test
- 1980 - Uruguay's new constitution rejected by referendum
- 1981 - Cold War: In Geneva, representatives from the United States and the Soviet Union begin to negotiate intermediate-range nuclear weapon reductions in Europe (the meetings ended inconclusively on December 17)
- 1982 - STS-6 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1982 - US submarine Thomas Edison collides with US Navy destroyer in South China Sea
- 1983 - Radio Shack announces Tandy Model 2000 computer (80186 chip)
- 1987 - Afghanistan's Constitution adopted
- 1988 - Cyclone lashes Bangladesh, Eastern India; 317 killed
- 1988 - UN General Assembly (151-2) censures US for refusing PLO's Arafat visa
- 1990 - US President George H. W. Bush offers to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad to meet with Saddam Hussein
- 1994 - Man Mohan Adhikari sworn in as 1st communist premier of Nepal
- 1998 - Deutsche Bank announces a US\$10 billion deal to buy Bankers Trust, thus creating the largest financial institution in the world
- 1999 - British Aerospace and Marconi Electronic Systems merge to form BAE Systems, Europe's largest defence contractor and fourth largest aerospace firm in the world

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 30-11-2023

## Ceasefire Now

The extension of the truce between Israel and Palestinians offers a ray of hope in the midst of conflict and suffering. The further two-day extension has seen the release of hostages, a crucial step towards restoring a semblance of normalcy in the region. However, what is required now is not just a pause in hostilities but a firm commitment to a lasting peace. And this means not just prolonging the ceasefire but also working for a two-state solution.

The extension of this truce, now in its fifth day, is a fragile yet significant opportunity for both sides to prioritize dialogue over violence. It has enabled the freedom of hostages and prisoners. The gesture, though commendable, must not be a temporary respite but a foundation for sustained peace efforts.

The hostage releases, while an important development, represent only a fraction of those impacted by the conflict. Civilians, caught in the crossfire, have borne immeasurable suffering. The staggering toll of Palestinian lives, with over 15000 of them dead so far, demands an end to the cycle of violence.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with its dire shortage of essentials like food, fuel, and medical supplies, calls for urgent and sustained attention. The truce extension has allowed aid to trickle in, but the needs of the 2.3 million people in Gaza far exceed the current relief efforts. A longer-term ceasefire would facilitate the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid, alleviating the plight of countless civilians.

The images of families reuniting with their loved ones bring fleeting moments of peace, but there remains a pressing need for a comprehensive resolution. It is heartening to witness the efforts of mediators like Qatar and Egypt in facilitating talks. However, the international community including India must put their weight behind these initiatives, advocating not just for the extension of the truce but for a permanent cessation of hostilities.

The tragedy of this conflict is not confined to the physical destruction; it permeates the lives of countless individuals, leaving scars that extend far beyond the visible ruins. The trajectory of this war must shift from destruction to reconstruction, from hostility to healing.

The international community, including influential stakeholders like the United States, must intensify efforts to support this prolonged ceasefire and facilitate talks for a durable resolution. Diplomacy, empathy, and a genuine commitment to lasting peace should guide every step forward.

The extension of this truce must not be merely a reprieve from violence but a catalyst for a future where the children of this region no longer live in fear, where families are not torn apart, and where hope triumphs over conflict.

OTHER OPINION

## Not above board

Boards of companies should be fiercely independent and must have the power to fire a CEO whose actions are not in alignment with the best governance practices. In that sense, the OpenAI board consisting of reputed scientists and technology entrepreneurs has made full use of its freedom by getting rid of a star CEO who they felt was no longer fit to lead the company effectively. The official position highlighted Sam Altman's "lack of consistent transparency in communications with the board of directors", implying a trust deficit. The board, of course, hastened to add that the firing was not the result of "malfeasance or anything related to our financial, business, safety, or security/privacy practices". Prima facie, it seemed that the board did what it was empowered to do.

The problem, however, is that the Open AI board perhaps forgot that freedom brings with it certain responsibilities. And this is where it slipped, big time. For example, it kept an important shareholder of the company in the dark about its decision to fire the CEO. No board, however independent it may be, can treat so casually a shareholder with 49% stake in OpenAI and who has put \$13 billion into the company. Besides, Microsoft, the shareholder, is also the exclusive provider of computing power for OpenAI's research, products, and programming interfaces for developers. No one seems to know why the board chose to be so secretive, raising doubts over its actual motive. The CEO himself reportedly was informed about his firing just hours before the public announcement was made.

This is certainly not how a company should treat a founder-CEO who last month announced Open AI's accomplishments under his stewardship: two million customers, including "over 92% of Fortune 500 companies." Under Altman, OpenAI leapfrogged rivals like Google and Amazon in certain categories of cloud computing, reinvigorated its Bing search engine, and put the company in the leading position in the hottest software category. The board perhaps was not in sync with the CEO's rapid expansion plans, and maybe even found it dangerous. Whatever the reason, the fact is that the board should have initiated a discussion with the CEO and Microsoft about its concerns. And the least it could have done is to set up a seamless transition process.

Financial Express

## India's G20 Presidency and the Dawn of a New Multilateralism

# Towards a Brighter Tomorrow



Narendra Modi

Today marks 365 days since India assumed the G20 Presidency. It is a moment to reflect, recommit, and rejuvenate the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

As we undertook this responsibility last year, the global landscape grappled with multifaceted challenges: recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, looming climate threats, financial instability, and debt distress in developing nations, all amid declining multilateralism. In the midst of conflicts and competition, development cooperation suffered, impeding progress.

Assuming the G20 Chair, India sought to offer the world an alternative to status quo, a shift from a GDP-centric to human-centric progress. India aimed to remind the world of what unites us, rather than what divides us. Finally, the global conversation had to evolve - the interests of the few had to give way to the aspirations of the many. This required a fundamental reform of multilateralism as we knew it.

Inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive — these four words defined our approach as G20 president, and the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), unanimously adopted by all G20 members, is testimony to our commitment to deliver on these principles.

Inclusivity has been at the heart of our presidency. The inclusion of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member of the G20 integrated 55 African nations into the forum, expanding it to encompass 80% of the global population. This proactive stance has fostered a more comprehensive dialogue on global challenges and opportunities.

The first-of-its-kind 'Voice of the Global South Summit,' convened by India in two editions, heralded a new dawn of multilateralism. India mainstreamed the Global South's concerns in international discourse and has ushered in an era where developing countries take their rightful place in shaping the global narrative.

Inclusivity also infused India's domestic approach to G20, making it a People's Presidency that befits that world's largest democracy. Through "Jan Bhagidari" (people's participation) events, G20 reached 1.4 billion citizens, involving all states and Union Territories (UTs) as partners. And on substantive elements, India ensured that international attention was directed to broader developmental aims, aligning with G20's mandate.

At the critical midpoint of the

2030 Agenda, India delivered the G20 2023 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), taking a cross-cutting, action-oriented approach to interconnected issues, including health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

A key area driving this progress is robust Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Here, India was decisive in its recommendations, having witnessed the revolutionary impact of digital innovations like Aadhaar, UPI, and Digilocker first-hand. Through G20, we successfully completed the Digital

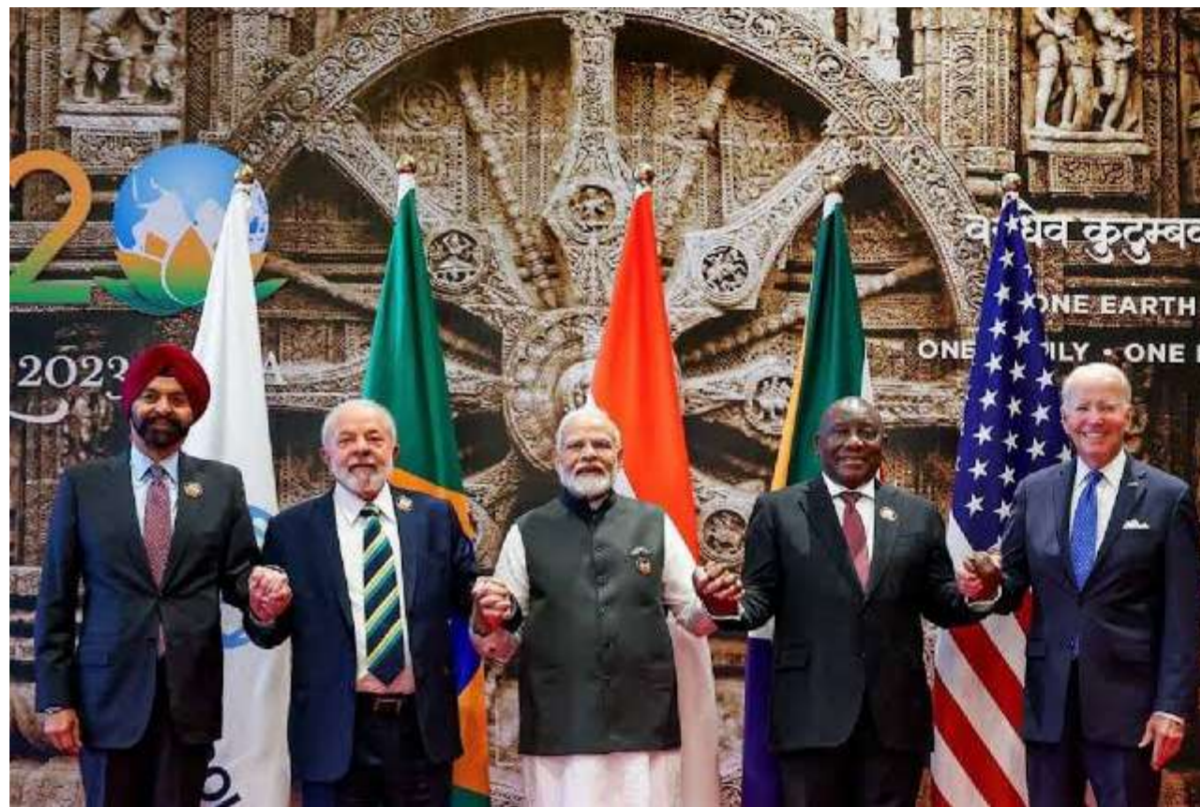
Public Infrastructure Repository, a significant stride in global technological collaboration. This repository, featuring over 50 DPIs from 16 countries, will help the Global South build, adopt, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

For our One Earth, we introduced ambitious and inclusive aims to create urgent, lasting, and equitable change. The Declaration's 'Green Development Pact' addresses the challenges of choosing between combating hunger and protecting the planet, by outlining a comprehensive roadmap where employment and ecosystems are

equitable global order.

Gender equality took centre stage in the Declaration, culminating in the formation of a dedicated Working Group on the Empowerment of Women next year. India's Women's Reservation Bill 2023, reserving one-third of India's Parliament and state legislative assembly seats for women epitomizes our commitment to women-led development.

The New Delhi Declaration embodies a renewed spirit of collaboration across these key priorities, focusing on policy coherence, reliable trade, and ambitious cli-



“During our G20 Presidency, India led deliberations on geopolitical issues and their impact on economic growth and development. Terrorism and the senseless killing of civilians is unacceptable, and we must address it with a policy of zero-tolerance. We must embody humanitarianism over hostility and reiterate that this is not an era of war”

complimentary, consumption is climate conscious, and production is planet-friendly. In tandem, the G20 Declaration calls for an ambitious tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030. Coupled with the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance and a concerted push for Green Hydrogen, the G20's ambitions to build a cleaner, greener world is undeniable. This has always been India's ethos, and through Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE), the world can benefit from our age-old sustainable traditions.

Further, the Declaration underscores our commitment to climate justice and equity, urging substantial financial and technological support from the Global North. For the first time, there was a recognition of the quantum jump needed in the magnitude of development financing, moving from billions to trillions of dollars. G20 acknowledged that developing countries require \$5.9 trillion to fulfil their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2030.

Given the monumental resources required, G20 emphasised the importance of better, larger, and more effective Multilateral Development Banks. Concurrently, India is taking a leading role in UN reforms, especially in the restructuring of principal organs like the UN Secu-

mate action. It is a matter of pride that during our Presidency, G20 achieved 87 outcomes and 118 adopted documents, a marked rise from the past.

During our G20 Presidency, India led deliberations on geopolitical issues and their impact on economic growth and development. Terrorism and the senseless killing of civilians is unacceptable, and we must address it with a policy of zero-tolerance. We must embody humanitarianism over hostility and reiterate that this is not an era of war.

I am delighted that during our Presidency India achieved the extraordinary: it revitalised multilateralism, amplified the voice of the Global South, championed development, and fought for the empowerment of women, everywhere.

As we hand over the G20 Presidency to Brazil, we do so with the conviction that the our collective steps for people, planet, peace, and prosperity, will resonate for years to come.

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

The author is the Prime Minister of India



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

### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

## Is Remote Work Here to Stay

I am writing this as a response to a nice write-up that appeared in KASHMIR OBSERVER, dated March 18, 2022, "The Future of Work is Hybrid"

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the perception to the extent that companies globally are willing to extend the 'work from home' concept, and this 'new normal' has become the 'accepted normal' ever since the outbreak of Coronavirus. When employees work from home, companies benefit on costs in terms of rent, water, electricity and fuel allowances. Work stations worldwide are generally crowded. There

may be a situation of an asymptomatic employee who could potentially infect the whole office, and hence it is better to err on the side of caution.

Though it is a real challenge to work remotely, it also gives an opportunity for one to acquire and hone many new skills like planning, forward-thinking, coordination in times of distress, and so on. In addition, it is natural that when you are working from home, you save a lot of commute time and get to spend it with your family.

But then there are issues that employees face in the 'work from home' model. The combination of work and

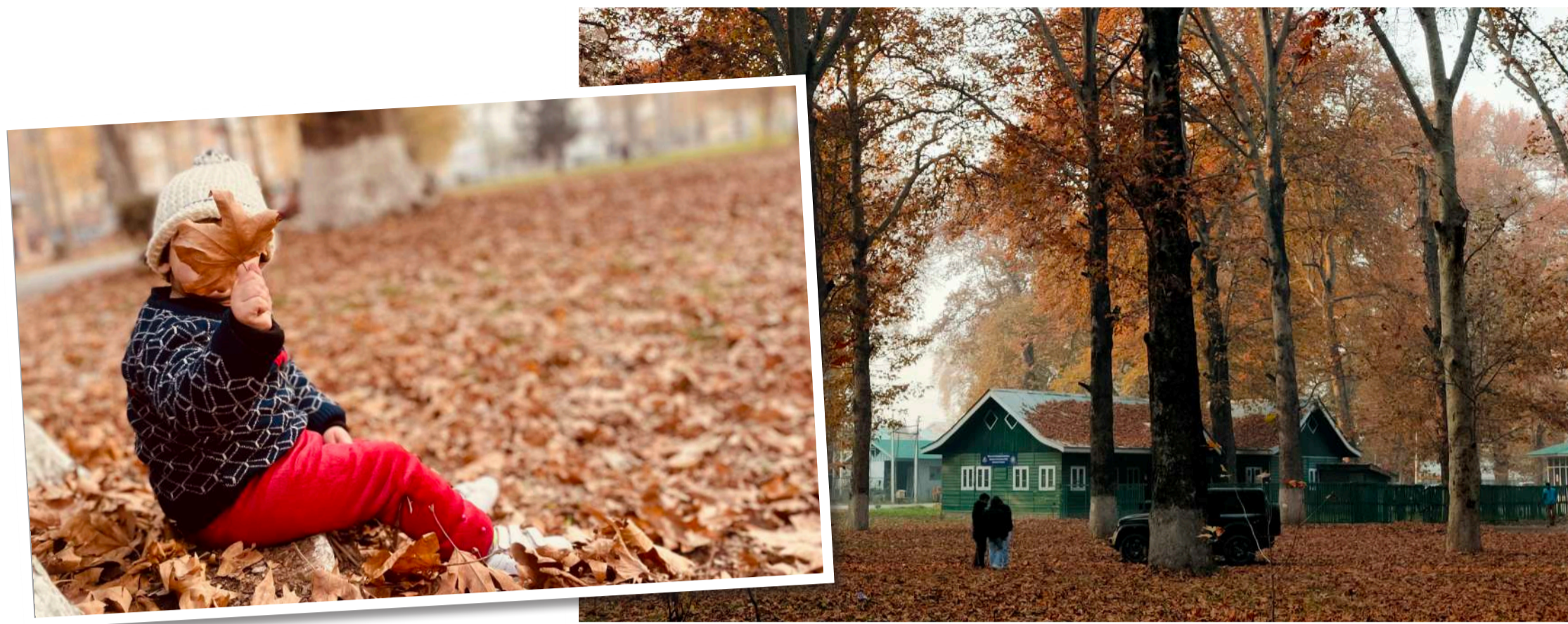
personal, and collective health anxiety are contributing to a specific kind of burnout brought on by the pandemic. Uncertainty took hold of the entire work-force, leading to stress and worries to emerge. In fact, the emotional trauma from stress has been even higher among remote workers due to the challenges of balancing home life and office work in the same setting. However, there are ways to deal with burnout.

It could be like taking a few deep breaths or smelling a wonderful fragrance, since it is important for our brain to take small breaks from often monotonous tasks. Also talking to

friends and relatives can be helpful as they may give some insights into how you can reduce your stress during the pandemic days.

In the final analysis, a shift towards home working doesn't mean that an employee has to necessarily work from home always. Often splitting time between home and the workplace is, perhaps, the most productive and profitable solution irrespective of whether Covid will end or not.

Ranganathan Sivakumar  
siva19kumar@gmail.com



## Goodbye November!

### Naseem Bagh's Autumn Charm Beckons Locals and Students Alike

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Nestled within the serene campus of Kashmir University, Naseem Bagh has emerged as a captivating haven, especially during the enchanting embrace of autumn. In this season of transition, the air is imbued with a sense of tranquility and Naseem Bagh has become a place for students and locals to come together and enjoy autumn.

Thanks to social media, more and more people are drawn towards the garden during the autumn season. One such person is Aijaz Ahmad, who has come all the way from North Kashmir's Handwara to witness autumn in the city. Aijaz along with his friends had rented a vehicle for a day.

"I had seen a picture from Naseem Bagh campus on social media which drew me to this place. We came in the morning, toured Dal Lake, Hazratbal Shrine and now came to Naseem Bagh. I must say, autumn has a different feel in the city," Aijaz said.

"We have spent a day here, now we will leave."

The majestic Chinar trees, painting the landscape in hues of gold and crimson, beckons locals and students alike.

The allure of the mighty Chinars, their leaves gracefully descending in a mesmerizing dance, is drawing visitors from all corners, especially students from adjacent NIT.

Amit Choudhary, a student of NIT Srinagar has come to witness Naseem Bagh for the first time.

"The Chinar Trees in Naseem Bagh outnumber the trees in NIT in terms of magnanimity and beauty. In NIT, the trees are scattered while in KU, they stand tall rooted uniformly distant from each other," said Amit, who hails from Uttar Pradesh.

"I see people from all backgrounds and tourists as well. It garden has a different vibe" Amit added.

In another corner, students of Business School, Kashmir University armed with smartphones and cameras, were busy capturing the picturesque scenes, creating a vibrant tapestry of seasonal beauty on their social media platforms.

Farhan Mukhtar, currently pursuing IMBA, said that he finds the tranquility of this place amazing.

"No matter where you go, you cannot find this vibe anywhere else in this world. The pictures taken here come out really beautiful. This place is known for autumn, the chinars, and the fallen leaves," Farhan said.

"I would like to recommend this place to tourists, this will give them a feel about local college and university life" Farhan added.

*The author is a reporter with Kashmir Observer*



In this season of transition, the air is imbued with a sense of tranquility and Naseem Bagh has become a place for students and locals to come together and enjoy autumn. Thanks to social media, more and more people are drawn towards the garden during the autumn season

## BOOKER PRIZE 2023: What Paul Lynch's Win Means And Why We're In A 'Golden Age' Of Irish Writing

Orlaith Darling

Irish author Paul Lynch won the 2023 Booker Prize for the dystopian novel *Prophet Song*. But he wasn't the only writer from Ireland nominated. Paul Murray (*The Bee Sting*) was also on the shortlist and, on the long list of 13 novels, Elaine Feeney's *How to Build a Boat* and Sebastian Barry's *Old God's Time* made the cut.

While Barry and Lynch have previously been listed for the Booker Prize, Lynch and Feeney are new additions to the catalogue of Irish Booker Prize nominees which includes Claire Keegan, Anne Enright, and Colm Tóibín. Both Murray and Lynch are part of what Barry, an Irish Laureate for Fiction, calls a "golden age" of Irish writing. Irish writers have benefited from structural factors in recent years, including a strong Arts Council, legislation which since 1969 has

exempted artists from income tax, an artist's three-year basic wage pilot and the sheer proliferation of excellent literary journals at the moment.

Irish writers have been over-represented on other prize lists, too, with three Irish writers winning the Sunday Times Audible short story award in the last few years.

However, ask them in person and Irish writers are more likely to highlight impediments to producing work. The housing crisis has been taken up by former Booker Prize long-listee Sally Rooney, for example. The closure of arts spaces in Dublin given over to short-time lets is also a common cause for concern.

The nominated novels Murray's *The Bee Sting* is a tragicomedy of epic proportions. Clocking in at 656 pages, it follows the Barneses – mother, father, 17-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son – as the aftermath of the 2008



financial crisis places unbearable strain on an already tense family dynamic. Lynch's slimmer offering, *Prophet Song*, takes place in a dystopian Ireland hurtling towards authoritarianism. It is both recognisable and unknown – Ireland, but "under some foreign sky".

Its main character is a stalwart of Irish literature: a mother and wife named Eilish. Her attempts to protect her family in a world not of her making is resonant back through the canon while taking on a new and eerie prescience in Lynch's portrait of an Irish police state.

*The Bee Sting* and *Prophet Song* deal with one of the abiding themes of Irish literature – the trickiness of memory, both personal and collective. This literary preoccupation with the past has sometimes come under fire. In 2001, Irish Times journalist Fintan O'Toole alleged that

Irish writers were struggling to analyse the times in which they were living, instead reverting to old tropes and themes and depicting an Ireland that "most competent writers can do [...] with their eyes closed". Both Murray and Lynch seem to speak directly to O'Toole's concern. In one instance in *Prophet Song*, Eilish muses: "All your life you've been asleep, all of us sleeping and now the great waking begins."

Indeed, both novels deal with wake-up calls. Murray revisits the financial crash – a moment in recent Irish history whose trauma remains, it could be argued, partially suppressed. Meanwhile, Lynch takes aim at Irish political "stability" and complacency. In Murray's depictions of personal, buried histories and in Lynch's concern with the vulnerability of consensus and humanity, these novels reflect how we can simultaneously know so much and so little of the people and

places closest to us.

Both writers masterfully reveal the strangeness of familiarity and the familiarity of strangeness. They both question the extent to which we know the depths of our own capabilities, for good and for bad, and sketch the intersection of existential crises with normal, individual lives.

Writing in *The Stinging Fly* magazine, Stephen Cox wryly notes that Murray's back catalogue could be summarised as "We Don't Know Ourselves" à la Fintan O'Toole's 2021 memoir of the same title.

It has historically been the job of Irish writers to reflect the worst elements of their society back at itself. In *Prophet Song* and *The Bee Sting*, Lynch and Murray are continuing this tradition. Ireland should pay attention.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*

## Day 11: J&K College On Wheels Flagged Off For Wardha

ISRO, IISc Bangalore Inspire Educational Odyssey

Observer News Service

Bangalore: In a transformative journey of knowledge and collaboration, a contingent of 780 students and mentors, having explored the technological wonders of ISRO and the academic excellence of IISc Bangalore, has been flagged off for their onward journey to Wardha in Maharashtra.

The late-night flag-off ceremony was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including T. Subramanya Ganesh, Scientist/Engineer-G Deputy Director, NSA, ISTRAC Telemetry Tracking and Command Network ISRO; B. Sankar Madaswamy, Scientist/Engineer- SF Manager HRDD, ISRO; and Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu. T. Subramanya Ganesh, in an interaction, provided valuable insights into the ongoing journey of knowledge exchange at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and space technology cells nationwide. He focused on research activities in the expansive realm of space technology.

T. Subramanya Ganesh highlighted the exceptional talent and knowledge demonstrated by students from Jammu and Kashmir participating in these programmes. He expressed confidence in their potential to excel in their chosen fields, underlining the importance of nurturing and promoting such promising talent.

"It's truly commendable to witness the enthusiasm and aptitude displayed by the students of Jammu and Kashmir in the field of space technology. The ongoing interaction programs at ISRO and various space technology cells across the country aim to harness and further cultivate this immense potential," T. Subramanya Ganesh added.

B. Sankar Madaswamy, during the flag-off ceremony, in an interaction expressed his overwhelming appreciation for the dedication of the female students, who travelled long distances to seek knowledge from esteemed institutions of the country during the College on Wheels.

Madaswamy further remarked, "Their determination and eagerness to learn are inspiring, contributing to the vibrancy of such educational programmes." The collaborative spirit exhibited during this journey not only reinforces the

commitment to academic exploration but also opens avenues for future partnerships between educational institutions and space research organizations.

This initiative reflects a shared vision of fostering academic growth and nurturing the potential within the students. As the College on Wheels embarks on the next leg of its journey, the echoes of encouragement from T. Subramanya Ganesh and B. Sankar Madaswamy resonates, paving the way for a future where education and industry seamlessly intertwine.

Following these insightful visits to the ISRO and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) the participants from universities engaged in a spirited preliminary Charkha competition, adding a touch of traditional skill and camaraderie to their educational journey.

In an effort to blend modern education with traditional values, the participants took part in a preliminary Charkha competition. With a huge response from the participants from various universities, the competition was divided into two levels. Firstly, internal competition among students of respective institutions shall be held in two phases.

Today the preliminary round for Charkha Competitions was held. The students, hailing from

various universities, actively participated in the preliminary round of Charkha competition, demonstrating their skill in this traditional craft. The event not only promoted cultural exchange but also emphasized the importance of preserving and celebrating our heritage.

Then, final competition among the two best students of all institutions shall be held on December 01, 2023. Supriya Sharma is looking after the Charkha Competition.

Professor Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor University of Jammu, in his message conveyed, "The College on Wheels initiative aims to provide students with a holistic learning experience, combining academic exploration with cultural engagement. The visit to ISRO and IISc offered a unique blend of scientific discovery and technological marvels, while the Charkha competition added a touch of our rich cultural heritage."

As the College on Wheels continues its journey, students eagerly anticipate further experiences that balance modern education with cultural awareness. This initiative serves as a testament to the commitment to providing a well-rounded education that goes beyond the confines of traditional classrooms.

## DC Kulgam Chairs NCORD Committee Meet

Urges Stakeholders To Work For Eliminating Drug Menace

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Kulgam: A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today held at Nini-Secretariat, here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various issues related to the incidence of drug addiction, certification of Nasha Mukta Villages as per norms, hotspots of drug use and action taken by the concerned departments with regard to curbing the menace of drugs.

During the meeting DC sought details from the concerned departments about the measures being taken to control the Drug addiction and rehabilitation of addicts in designated treatment and rehabilitation centres.

He said that efforts with cooperation, coordination and collaboration are vital to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain, besides taking stringent action against



the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs.

DC urged all stakeholders to work religiously for eliminating the drug menace in the district.

After reviewing the functioning of Drug Addiction Centre and ATF Centre the DC asked the CMO to introduce OTP followup mechanism of patients.

He also instructed Agriculture Department for implementing alternative cropping strategy in areas affected by illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in the district.

Police authorities informed the chair that during the ongoing month, 16 FIRs have been lodged and 19 arrests of drug peddlers were made.

## Jammu And Kashmir Pavilion At 42nd IITF A Major Attraction

Jammu And Kashmir UT Day On 18th November 2023 Showcased Vibrant Cultural Offerings Of J&K

Observer News Service

New Delhi: In a momentous stride towards fostering economic growth and providing vital market linkages, the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) under the aegis of Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir took centre stage as the "Focus State" at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14th November 2023 to 27th November 2023.

This initiative aligns with the vision of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to empower local entrepreneurs by connecting them with significant opportunities on both domestic and international fronts.

India International Trade Fair (IITF) is one of the most prominent and prestigious Trade fairs not only in India, but in the whole world which attracts overwhelming participation from business leaders, industry experts, trade enthusiasts, innovators and potential partners, inducing collaboration and opportunities. The IITF witnessed participation from more than 3500 exhibitors from various parts of the country and across the globe, and more than 10 Lakh visitors visited the stalls and pavilion showcasing variety of products.

One of the key highlights was the august presence of Lieutenant

Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha as Chief Guest on 18th November 2023 at 42nd IITF on the occasion of Jammu and Kashmir UT Day which not only brought added attention on the Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion but also proved to be a morale booster for exhibitors and artists of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion of Jammu Kashmir Union Territory Day celebration at IITF, Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha commended the marketing excellence endeavour of India Trade Promotion Organization for bringing together exhibitors, buyers, sellers, distributors, customers, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and artisan under one roof.

The India International Trade Fair's (IITF) theme this year is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-United by trade' is offering an ideal platform to showcase state-of-the-art technologies, innovations and infinite variety of creative products, he said.

"J&K Pavilion at IITF is getting extraordinary response from domestic and international buyers. It has become most effective instrument to promote the tremendous market potential of J&K UT and build and strengthen the trade ties," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also shared the J&K's journey over the past few years. He said the UT is undergoing a rapid



process of transformation. The change taking place in diverse sectors has given our entrepreneurs a new set of wings to achieve the new goals and tap into international markets, he added.

"Badalta Jammu and Kashmir is not just a slogan. It symbolizes the new aspirations, new hope of our entrepreneurs, business community, artisans and the revival of the ancient culture. I invite the business leaders and

potential investors to invest in J&K," the Lt Governor said.

Efforts are being made to provide J&K's handloom, handicraft and agro sector access to global market. New handloom, Handicraft policy and other interventions have brought positive change in the lives of our artisans and skilled workforce, he said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the key initiatives of the UT Administration to provide vast

opportunities to women entrepreneurs and artisans to showcase their skills and contribute to the local economy.

The Lt Governor visited the J&K Pavilion at India International Trade Fair, and interacted with the exhibitors, entrepreneurs and artisans from Jammu Kashmir. He said the stalls put up at the Trade fair displaying products from J&K are a must-visit for all.

J&K is part of focus states/UTs this year and more than 122 exhibitors from the Union Territory are offering unique handicraft, handloom and agro-based products. Visitors and buyers can experience creativity of our craftspeople, weavers, and a wide canvas of agricultural products, the Lt Governor added.

The celebration of Jammu and Kashmir UT day on November 18, 2023, was a landmark moment, inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha.

Distinguished officials, including Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary Govt. Of Jammu and Kashmir, Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary I&C and Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director JKTPo graced the occasion, reflecting the region's prominent position at the 42nd India International Trade Fair.

A grand cultural program, featuring artisans from Jammu and Kashmir, showcased the Dogri and Kashmiri

culture through mesmerizing dance performances. The event resulted in noteworthy sales, totalling Rs. 3.9 Cr and generated over 11000 business leads.

The pavilion was adorned with captivating features, including a video wall showcasing product profiles, success stories, crafts, tourist destinations, and infrastructure. TV screens strategically placed throughout the pavilion highlighted products, success stories, and the vibrant culture of Jammu and Kashmir. Live demonstrations of crafts, such as Kani Shawls, Sozni, wood carving, and paper machie, added an interactive dimension to the exhibit.

Notable among the offerings were the Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products, including Saffron, Carpet, Kani Shawls, Pashmina Shawls, Honey, Basholi Pashmina, Sozni embroidery, Basholi Paintings, and Paper machie. The other products include Sarees, Kashmir Embroidery, Sozni, and Carpets to Walnuts, Red Chillies, Kidney beans, Honey, Lavender oil, Mushkbadui. The sectoral diversity was evident with exhibitors in Handloom and Handicrafts and Agri-Food Processing and Horticulture. Corporations like JK Minerals Ltd, J&K Agro Industries Dev. Corporation, J&K Industries, J&K Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation added a corporate

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### J&K's Dark Phase

7th November is celebrated as Foundation Day of Bharat Scouts and Guides and various events are observed throughout the month.

### Mercury Drops

0.8 degrees Celsius. Kokernag town registered a low of 2.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara town in north Kashmir logged 1.3 degrees Celsius, they added.

The Met officials said Jammu and Kashmir is under the influence of a western disturbance which is likely to bring light to moderate rain or snow in the middle and higher reaches across the Union Territory.

The weather currently is generally cloudy at most places of Jammu and Kashmir and it will likely remain such with light rain or snow at many places towards the evening, they added.

The officials said there are chances of light to moderate rain or snow at fairly widespread places with the possibility of thunderstorms or lightning at a few places during the night and on Thursday.

While snowfall in the plains is unlikely, even if it does occur, the accumulation is expected to be minimal, they added.

The officials further said a significant improvement in the minimum temperature is expected till December 1, adding, it will fall by two to four degrees thereafter.

### J&K's Lithium

minerals. We have not just identified it but we have also put it up for auction today," the minister told reporters here.

The 20 blocks on sale are across various states, including Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Bihar, he said.

"The total worth of these blocks is Rs 45,000 crore," Joshi said, adding that the entire revenue accrued from these mineral blocks will go to the states.

The minister further said the auction process will close on February 20. Of the 20 mineral blocks, 16 have been put up for grant of

composite licence and four for grant of mining lease.

"Today's launch of auctions is only the first tranche. We will continue to add more block of critical minerals in subsequent tranches."

"Not only this, based on industry feedback we will continue to amend the relevant laws in order to make it easier to operate in the domain of clean energy technologies," Joshi said.

India in February found its first lithium deposits in Jammu & Kashmir with estimated reserves of 5.9 million tonnes.

In July, India tweaked its mining rules by allowing the entry of private miners to search for the materials.

Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security.

There is high demand for critical and strategic minerals. Their demand is usually met by imports. Critical minerals cater to the needs of sectors like renewable energy, defence, and agriculture.

These minerals are essential for our economic development of the country and its security.

### ED Attaches

his stature and official position to get the land measuring 167 kanals and 15 marlas, having value at the time of possession of proceeds of crime as Rs 1.21 crore (as per circle rate in 2011), transferred forcibly in the name of RBET," the ED claimed.

### After Extracting Blood

regularize the services at this juncture after having extracted blood from his veins for 30 years is certainly not justified particularly it would amount to sheer exploitation of his helplessness by treating him like a torn apparel after ruthless use, which should not be the conduct of the respondents in a welfare state with its employees."

The CAT subsequently disposed of the application by asking authorities to accord consideration to the Magray's engagement in accordance with the rules governing the field. However, the CAT left authorities free to ascertain the genuineness of the engagement order.

"The needful be done within a period of eight weeks from the date the copy of this judgment is served upon the respondents," the CAT said, adding, "It is also provided that the present position of the petitioner shall not be disturbed, however, which shall be subject to the genuineness of his engagement."

### HC Upholds

respondents have had upon coming to the position initiated a proposal for creation of supernumerary posts for adjusting the selectees ...against the said post which proposal, however, did not mature on account of the opinion furnished by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, having regard to the legitimacy of right of the selectees ...., thus, resulting into issuance of communication dated 14.02.2018 impugned in the petition, filed by the petitioners and along with other co-petitioners and which came to be rejected by the Tribunal (CAT) in terms of the impugned order/judgment," the court said, adding, "Admittedly in presence of the withdrawal of the reference by the Intending Department (H&MED) communicated to the Board (JKSSB), the Board have had no mandate in law to proceed ahead with the process of selection, thus the whole process of selection undertaken by the Board has been without any legal sanctity." Subsequently, the court dismissed the petitions, challenging the CAT verdict.

### Woman Falls

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and started further investigation in this regard. (KS)

### 3 Held For Selling

intercepted near Gogijpathri crossing in the Khansahib area. During search, he said, 239 counterfeit gold biscuits were recovered from their possession. During questioning, they were unable to substantiate the authenticity of the items and were arrested subsequently.

Police identified the accused as Fayaz Ahmad Dar of Kunzar, Farooq Ahmad Dar and

Shabir Ahmad Dar, both residents of Arizal Khansahib.

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No.163/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Khansahib and investigation has been initiated," the spokesperson said.

He said that preliminary investigations have suggested that these persons were allegedly selling these fake gold biscuits to buyers at exorbitant rates and deceiving them.

### Apni Party's Vice

and police personnel, and establishment of Learner Support Centres in Higher Education institutions of Jammu.

Besides, the spokesperson said, Devinder Singh Kaluria, and Riya Kaluria, Chairman and Trustee of General Zorawar Singh Memorial Education and Charitable Trust also met LG Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Tarun Uppal, Chairman, Nirbhay Bharat Foundation also called on the LG and briefed him on the endeavours of his foundation in the fight against drug menace.

### SPO Crushed To

However, the doctors there declared him dead.

"The accused driver has been arrested and his vehicle seized", a police official said. (KS)

### Rain, Wind Improve

300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The air quality is likely to remain in the 'poor' category on Thursday and Friday and decline to 'very poor' on Saturday.

The 24-hour average AQI -- recorded at 4 pm every day -- was at 395 on Monday and Sunday, 389 on Saturday, 415 on Friday and 390 on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the maximum temperature in the national capital was recorded at 25.5 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average. The minimum temperature settled a notch above normal at 11.5 degrees Celsius.

The humidity level oscillated between 69

per cent and 100 per cent.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy skies on Thursday with the possibility of light rain and thunder-shower. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle around 24 and 13 degrees Celsius, respectively.

On Tuesday, the minimum temperature was recorded at 14.2 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average.

### Flight Diverted

an hour even as the male passenger was boarded by CISF personnel at the airport.

An argument between a couple -- a German man and his Thai wife -- led to some problems on-board the Lufthansa flight following which it sought permission to land at the IGI, which was allowed, the sources said.

An official said the wife had first complained about her husband's behaviour to the pilot, saying she was being "threatened" by him and sought intervention.

Lufthansa, in a statement, said the flight was diverted to Delhi due to an "unruly" passenger on board.

"The person in question was handed over to authorities. The flight to Bangkok is expected to continue subsequently with minor delays. Safety and security on board for our passengers and crew is our top priority," the German airline said.

According to the sources, the 53-year German passenger allegedly "threw food, tried to burn a blanket using a lighter, shouted at his wife and did not follow the instructions issued by the crew" and hence the pilot diverted the flight and he was later offloaded by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel.

The wife was travelling on a different PNR ticket and she desired to continue her journey to Bangkok. She left on the Lufthansa flight, they said.

The male passenger later gave a verbal apology for his act and he was provided an Air India flight ticket by Lufthansa to Bangkok. He left on that flight around 3 pm, a senior officer said.

J&K Attains Feat, Crosses 75% Coverage Of Rural Households

Also Ranks 3rd In Quality Monitoring At National Level

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an effort to achieve 100 percent saturation of rural areas in tap water connectivity in J&K, 14.03 lakh (75%) out of 18.69 lakh rural households have so far been covered under Tap Water Connections by the J&K Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The Mission has been working overnight to achieve the targets and so far out of 6596 work components, more than 5600 components (85%) like Tube wells, Bore Wells, Rapid Sand Filtration Plants, Over Head Tanks, Ground Service Reservoirs and pipe networks have started with completion of 1376 works as on date.

Similarly, more than 3000 schemes are under execution across all the districts of the UT with involvement of about 1700 contractors executing the works which has resulted in massive employment generation in rural areas. At least 350 Water Supply Schemes have been completed as on date.

Under Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance, during the current fiscal, about 1.75 lakh tests have been conducted through 98 Water Testing Laboratories set up all across the UT to ensure the constant maintenance of quality of the water

being supplied to the general public.

Further, about 7500 Field Testing Kits (FTKs) have been distributed among 6630 Panchayat Pani Samitis and more than 33000 Women have been trained for uses of FTKs in checking the quality of water and reporting the results online through WQMIS Portal.

The Mission has conducted massive public outreach and awareness campaigns across J&K during this year which includes capacity building sessions, debates, painting competitions at schools, holding of special Gram Sabhas, distribution of field kits etc.

JJM, it may be mentioned, is a flagship programme of national importance aimed to provide each and every rural household with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) within the premises, capable of supplying water at a minimum service level of 55 liters per capita per day and quality conforming to BIS 10500.

At an estimated cost of Rs. 13000 crore, the programme involves creation of a sustainable water infrastructure and to build the capacities of the local communities and involve them in the management of the water supply assets on a long term and sustainable basis.



THE DEMAND FOR FUR PRODUCTS and woollens has sharply increased as mercury keeps falling in Kashmir Valley with the onset of winter .

NIT Suspends Classes After Protests Over SM Post

Press trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Classwork was on Wednesday suspended at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here after protests over a student's social media post, officials said.

They said all academic activities, including classes, examinations, and administrative work, will remain suspended.

A notification to this effect was issued by in-charge Registrar of the NIT Srinagar, Atikur Rehman, they added.

Protests were held at the institute on Tuesday over a student's social media post allegedly hurting religious sentiments.

The protesters demanded stringent action against the non-local student who has been sent home on leave.

The students blocked both the gates of the institution, located in Nigeen area of the city, and raised slogans inside the campus.

After the protests, police registered a case and started investigation.

"The police received information about a protest by students at the NIT campus. Upon investigation, it was discovered that a student had posted objectionable content

Student Booked For Sharing Derogatory Video

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday said it has filed a case for promoting religious enmity between communities against a student of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here for sharing a derogatory video on social media.

Students had protested at the NIT in the Nigeen locality of the city here alleging the social media post hurt their religious sentiments.

The FIR was registered under sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion), and 153 (wantonly giving provocation, with intent to cause riot) of the IPC against the student.

The charges carry imprisonment of up to three years.

"Police have taken cognizance of the incident of uploading of sensitive content against religious sentiments of a particular community by one student of NIT Srinagar. Upon receipt of communication from NIT authorities, case FIR No.156/23 u/s 295A,153A,153 IPC registered in PS Nigeen," Srinagar Police said in a post on X on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the police have appealed to the people to desist from spreading rumours/false information.

"They shouldn't fall prey to false propaganda of anti-social elements. Legal action shall be taken against those who are found to be involved in provocative act/instigation," the police said in the post on X.

on social media, though the video was not the student's own, but taken from YouTube, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, V K Birdi said on late Tuesday.

Birdi said the content of the post has hurt the religious

feelings of the people. "The police have received a written complaint from the NIT registrar urging legal action. We have taken legal action under relevant sections of the law. The investigation is going on, the IGP had said.

Families Of 7 SKUAST Students Seek Leniency

SRINAGAR: Families of the seven agricultural university students arrested under UAPA for allegedly raising objectionable slogans after the Indian cricket team's loss in the World Cup final on Wednesday appealed to police and Jammu and Kashmir administration for leniency as their career was at stake.

Students should get another chance, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also said amidst separate rows over the arrest of the seven undergraduates of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir and the derogatory social media post by a student of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) that had sparked protests.

The families of the seven students at Shuhama in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir met senior police officials of Ganderbal police and sought leniency for them.

"I am speaking on behalf of all the seven families from Anantnag, Kulgam, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora that it was an unfortunate, uncalled for and unwarranted incident. We all condemn it. It should not have happened," Advocate Mohammad Shafi told reporters.

He said the families appealed to the J-K administration and the police to show leniency in the FIR lodged against the students. "The families met Ganderbal police. We told the police that the students were intelligent and had qualified NEET examination and were undergoing BVSc degrees.

"All the students belong to poor families. Their career is at stake, which needs to be saved. We are grateful to Ganderbal police for a positive response. They have also assured us that whatever help under the legal ambit is needed, will be provided to at least save their career," Shafi said.

He appealed to the students at the campus to live with brotherhood and focus on their studies and career.

"We also advise our students not to do anything which could destroy their career, rather focus on your career to serve this country," Shafi added.

The students have been arrested under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). After political parties criticised it, the police defended its action and said they were booked under a "softer" provision. Police have also filed a case for promoting religious enmity between communities against the NIT student in the other incident.

Speaking to reporters after addressing a workers' convention at Zainpora in south Kashmir's Shopian district, Mufti said action should be taken against the NIT student for the derogatory social media post, but asserted that students should be given another chance and no one should play with their future.

"If any student has done it, it is wrong. Our students from SKUAST were booked under UAPA which is unjustified as they did not commit any crime.

"So, I hope that action will be taken against the student who has made derogatory remarks. But, I want to say this also that students should get another chance whether they are from SKUAST or this (NIT), their future should not be played with," she said.

On the issue of the arrest of seven students, Mufti said that "sports should be treated as sports, and not made a crime".

Meanwhile, the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU) - a conglomerate of various religious bodies in Jammu and Kashmir - condemned the blasphemous social media post by the NIT student. The MMU, headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, demanded a thorough investigation into the incident, a statement said.

Illegal Mining in Romshi Nallah NGT Issues Notice To DC Pulwama, SEIAA

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal -NGT taking cognizance of illegal riverbed mining in Romshi nallah in Pulwama has issued notices to District Magistrate (Deputy Commissioner) Pulwama and J&K State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority -SEIAA.

The double bench of NGT headed by Justice Prakash Srivastava (Chairperson) and Dr A Senthil Veil (Expert Member) while acting on petition of social activist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat on Tuesday directed the District Magistrate Pulwama and J&K State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority -SEIAA to file their detailed reports before the next date of hearing. The case is now again listed before the NGT on February 5th 2024.

While hearing the counsel of the petitioner Advocate Rahul Chowdhary the NGT bench in its order noted:

"The original application -OA involves substantial issues relating to the environment. Hence, we deem it proper to issue notice to the respondents. Counsel for the applicant is directed to serve the respondents and file an affidavit of service before the next date of hearing. Respondent No. 2, J&K En-

vironment Impact Assessment Authority and Respondent No. 5, District Magistrate, Pulwama are directed to file their reports at least one week before the next date of hearing"

"I was forced to move to NGT as the project proponent / contractor continued to be involved in illegal riverbed mining. In spite of my repeated appeals on social media and locals also urging the Govt to be involved in illegal riverbed mining. In the last 2 years the Romshi nallah has been destroyed with the use of heavy machines, JCB's and L&T cranes. I urged the NGT to take the culprits to task by levying environmental compensation on the contractor and other Govt agencies found guilty of this loot and plunder. I am grateful to NGT for taking cognizance of my petition and I am sure like Doodh Ganga, Romshi nallah will also be free from illegal riverbed mining in the coming months" said Dr Raja Muzaffar

Div Com Asks PDD To Keep Strict Vigil On Power Theft

'Discourage People From Using Crude Electric Devices'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Wednesday ordered power development department (PDD) to strictly adhere to the power curtailment schedule and keep strict vigil on power theft.

He passed these directions in a review meeting with Deputy Commissioners, here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said. Bidhuri reviewed the current power scenario in the valley and availability of electricity to consumers in all districts.

"He directed concerned officers to strictly adhere to the power curtailment schedule to avoid any crisis. Div Com enjoined concerned officers of PDD to keep strict vigil on power theft and discourage people from using crude electric devices," the spokesperson said.

In view of inclement weather, he said, the Div Com reviewed the exigency plan of KPDCI for restoration of electricity in case of heavy snowfall. Bidhuri, he said, also reviewed the buffer stock of transformers, electric poles and functionality of

workshops. According to the spokesperson, Div Com said that with the procurement of additional electricity, the overall scenario of power in the valley will improve significantly.

Besides, he also chaired a meeting to deliberate over revision of market value guidelines & rules and revision of rate for upcoming calendar year.

Earlier, Bidhuri said that the ongoing campaign of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the panchayats promises transformation of rural lives. He maintained that mobilization of the general public to encourage them to participate in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to familiarize them with the welfare schemes of the government is the moot objective of the ongoing campaign.

While reviewing the coverage under VBSY, Div Com underlined that universal coverage of all the panchayats in districts is imperative for rural transformation. He emphasize on comprehensive measures and extensive efforts for the success of the programme through IEC Van.

COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS PATTAN. Case File No. 63/NIJ, Date of Institution 10-11-2018, Date of Order 07-10-2023, CNR No. JKBAL100004122018. In the case of: Farooq Ahmad Ganie Son of Ghulam Mohideen Ganie R/o Andargam Tehsil Pattan. Complainant along with his counsel Advocate Taseer Gul Present. Versus Sajad Mushtaq Reshi Son of Mushtaq Ahmad Reshi R/o Nundreshi Colony Srinagar Kmr. Accused Absent. In the matter of:- Application in terms of Section 138 N.I.Act. PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR.PC. U.I.D No JK00187. The above captioned complaint under section 138 N.I.Act has been presented before this court by the complainant named above & same is pending adjudication before this court after tendering appearance you have subsequently remained absent as such this court issued warrant against you. The warrant issued against you has been returned unexecuted with the endorsement that you are concealing your presence in order to avoid execution of warrant. This court satisfied that you are willfully concealing yourself in order to avoid the execution of warrant issued against you. As such, through this proclamation you are directed/required to appear before this court on before this court 17-12-2023. Issued today on 17th of November 2023. Under the seal of this court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pattan

COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS PATTAN. Case File No. 62/NIJ, Date of Institution 10-11-2018, Date of Order 07-10-2023, CNR No. JKBAL100001112018. In the case of: Mohammad Afzal Najar Son of Ali Mohammad Najar R/o Waiganam Pattan Tehsil Pattan. Complainant along with his counsel Advocate Taseer Gul Present. Versus Sajad Mushtaq Reshi Son of Mushtaq Ahmad Reshi R/o Nundreshi Colony Srinagar Kmr. Accused Absent. In the matter of:- Application in terms of Section 138 N.I.Act. PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR.PC. U.I.D No JK00187. The above captioned complaint under section 138 N.I.Act has been presented before this court by the complainant named above & same is pending adjudication before this court after tendering appearance you have subsequently remained absent as such this court issued warrant against you. The warrant issued against you has been returned unexecuted with the endorsement that you are concealing your presence in order to avoid execution of warrant. This court satisfied that you are willfully concealing yourself in order to avoid the execution of warrant issued against you. As such, through this proclamation you are directed/required to appear before this court on before this court 17-12-2023. Issued today on 17th of November 2023. Under the seal of this court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pattan

MUNICIPALITIES TERM COMING TO AN END

Govt Appoints DCs, ADDCs To Look After ULBs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory on Wednesday appointed deputy commissioners (DCs) and additional district development commissioners (ADDCs) as administrators of the urban local bodies, as the five-year term of elected representatives of these bodies came to an end.

The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) today appointed DCs and ADDCs as administrators of 71 municipal councils and municipal committees in the UT.

While respective DCs have been appointed as administrators of municipal councils, the respective ADDCs would look after the administrative and financial functioning of municipal committees.

According to a notification issued by the H&UDD, DCs have been appointed as administrators of 17 municipal councils, while ADDCs of 54 municipal committees.

As per the notification, they have been appointed as administrators for a period not exceeding six months or until the municipality is established, whichever is earlier.

The administrators have been appointed due to delay in holding municipal elections. The terms of elected representatives of almost all municipal bodies in J&K have come to an end.

With the end of their tenure, the mayors, presidents, vice-presidents, corporators/councillors of urban local bodies are no longer entitled to perks, privileges and honorarium--(KNO)

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Gains Momentum In Kupwara

18 More Panchayats Of Teetwal, Ridi-Chowkibal Blocks Covered

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a nationwide outreach initiative aimed at informing and empowering citizens about the Centre's flagship schemes, has gained momentum in frontier Kupwara district.

On Wednesday, VBSY was held in 18 Panchayats of Teetwal and Ridi-Chowkibal blocks of Kupwara district.

People in large numbers participated in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Panchayats of Ibkote, Jabdi, Prada, Sadipora (Dhani), Seemari, Taad of Teetwal Block, Budhnumbal Bala, Budhnumbal Payeen, Chowkibal- (Marsari-Rangwar), Gund Zonerishi, Hamchamarg, Manchattar, Manzapathra, Panzgam A, Panzgam B, Panzgam C, Rawathpora, Reddi of Reddi Chowkibal Block.

VBSY- a groundbreaking initiative aimed at saturating the benefits of Central government schemes, witnessed enthusiastic response from PRI mem-

bers locals and officers and field functionaries of different government departments who thronged the venues of the campaign despite shivering cold.

Participants listened keenly to the recorded message from the Prime Minister of India.

As part of the program, participants took the Viksit Sankalp Bharat pledge, affirming their commitment to the nation's holistic development.

SDM Karnah Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather visited far-off Bijaldhar - Jabdi Panchayat of Teetwal Block which is located close to the dividing line(LOC) and administered the Pledge to the participants. SDM also reviewed the winter preparedness from the concerned sub divisional level officers and field functionaries.

The Block Development Officer Raddi-Chowkibal, administered pledge to the participants at Boys High School Raddi. The participants, especially farmers, were excited on krishi Drone demonstration at Raddi-Chowkibal.

Jan Bhagidari events, including interaction with beneficiaries, celebration of achievements, health camps are forming an integral part of the ground activities.

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. با اجلاس: اروند مشرما. J&K Bank B/U Khyam Sgr. بنام Fareed Ahmad Bhat. دعوی وصولیابی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 1,46,317.57. اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام Fareed Ahmad Bhat S/o Amer Bhat R/o Raiteng Miskeen Bagh Khanyar. مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی۔ الا نہ تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تعمیل لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 1,46,317.57 زیر سماعت عدالت ہذا ہے۔ لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی ابراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 30-11-2023 اصالتاً یا کالتاً بروقت بخیر حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر۔

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. با اجلاس: اروند مشرما. J&K Bank B/U Khyam Sgr. بنام Mohd Shafi Bhat. دعوی وصولیابی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 1,43,613.92. اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام Mohd Shafi Bhat S/o Gh Qadir Bhat R/o Jo Mohalla Abi Karpura Sgr. مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی۔ الا نہ تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تعمیل لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 1,43,613.92 زیر سماعت عدالت ہذا ہے۔ لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی ابراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 30-11-2023 اصالتاً یا کالتاً بروقت بخیر حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر۔

## VC IUST Inaugurates Cricket Tournament



Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** The Fourth Vice Chancellor's Employees Cricket Tournament (Men) began Wednesday at the Islamic University of Science and Technology. The tournament, organized by Directorate of Sports and Physical Education IUST, was inaugurated by Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST.

Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar,

IUST, commended the efforts of Directorate of Sports and Physical Education for organising sports activities regularly. Dr Hilal Assistant Director Sports welcomed the guests and introduced the teams.

The tournament witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including Prof. A. H. Moon (Dean Academic Affairs), Sameer Wazir (Finance Officer) deans, directors, and staff, alongside students and faculty.

## Provincial Baseball Competition Ends At GCOPE



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Inter-District Provincial Level Baseball competition and selection trials organised by DYSSO Ganderbal concluded at GCOPE here after a five-day event.

District Ganderbal emerged victorious in all three age groups for both boys and girls, showcasing outstanding

performances by the student players.

The final match of the U-14 girls age group witnessed a competitive showdown between the host district and District Pulwama, with the former emerging victorious.

In the U-17 girls age group, District Ganderbal once again secured a win against District Pulwama in a thrilling match.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

## Rasikh, Shubham Lead J&K To Win Over Delhi



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K senior men's cricket team on Wednesday registered its first win of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023-24 after defeating Delhi by 75 runs at the ADSA Railway Ground in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Shubham Khajuria 109 (112) and Rasikh Salam (4/23) led J&K in batting and bowling departments after the team performed poorly and lost the first two games of the competition by huge margins. Karnataka won the opener by 222 runs, while Chandigarh beat Jammu & Kashmir by 8 wickets. The senior team

managed 180 and 138 in the two matches.

Knowing J&K's struggling batting display in the tourney, Delhi decided to bowl first after winning the toss. However, the Jammu & Kashmir's top order performed well with skipper Shubham Khajuria leading the way. Shubham smacked 6 sixes and 6 fours in his blistering ton. He was aptly assisted by his opening partner Abhinav Puri 46 (75), while Aquib Nabi 44\* (24) played a crucial inning in the final overs to help J&K reach a competitive total of 299-7 in 50 overs. Mayank Yadav picked up three wickets for Delhi.

In reply, the Delhi top order crumbled as J&K's pace sensation Rasikh Salam removed the opening batter in his third delivery of the first over. Rasikh then had the other half of the starting pair LBW in his second over to set the tone for the rest of the game.

Delhi captain Yash Dull 49 (56) and Ayush Badoni 31 (50) tried to stabilize the innings, but were dismissed in back-to-back overs by Abid Mushtaq (3-28). Lalit Yadav 67 (62) led the charge for Delhi, but Rasikh ensured J&K cross the finish line as Delhi were bundled out for 224-10 in 45.3 overs.

J&K next play Mizoram on Friday, December 1.

## Jammu's MA Stadium Pitch Not Made For T20: Kevin Pietersen

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** Former England cricket captain Kevin Pietersen who is here in Jammu for the Legends League is not impressed by the refurbished Maulana Azad Stadium and considers the wicket not good enough for the shortest format of the game.

"The wicket is not good for

T20 cricket," he told reporters on the sidelines of a practice session on Tuesday. "You want to see more runs than see the balls rolling along the ground. Let us see if the wicket is better (for the next match) that will be good. For the teams to finish the game in the 20th over as a few (matches) had gone, it is great for the competition."

The 43-year-old, who is here as part of the Legends League T20 cricket season 2, praised the opportunity the league offers to retired players to be on the field again as players.

The first of the four matches was played at the 20,000-capacity stadium under floodlights on Monday while the remaining three matches are scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

## BCCI Extends Contracts Of Rahul Dravid & Support Staff



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The BCCI on Wednesday extended the contracts of Indian cricket team head coach Rahul Dravid and his support staff following the side's runners-up finish in the ODI World Cup.

India lost to Australia in the summit showdown in Ahmedabad on November 19 after an excellent run of 10 successive wins in the premier tournament.

The PTI had on Tuesday reported that Dravid's contract would be renewed with the BCCI looking for continuity in

the set-up helmed by the legendary cricketer over the last two years.

Dravid had replaced Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup in 2021, getting appointed for a two-year term which ended with the ODI World Cup.

Under Dravid, India also finished runners-up in the last World Test Championship, losing to Australia in the final.

The BCCI engaged in productive discussions with Dravid after the term of his contract ended following the recently-concluded World Cup and unanimously agreed to further the tenure, it added.

## Liverpool Look To Clinch Top Spot In Europa League

Reuters

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp has urged fans to treat their Europa League group-stage match against LASK at Anfield on Thursday as a "special night" as his side look to seal qualification for the knockout rounds.

Liverpool top Group E with nine points from four games, two ahead of Toulouse, after being beaten 3-2 by the Ligue 1 side earlier this month. Union Saint Gilloise are third with four points, one more than bottom side LASK.

A win against LASK would ensure Liverpool's progress to the last 16 and put them in pole position to finish top of the group.

"We are in the beginning of



the most intense period of the whole season. We play now Thursday-Sunday, it's super tough," Klopp told reporters on Wednesday.

Liverpool will be without first-choice goalkeeper Alisson Becker and winger Diogo Jota.

**MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR**  
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —  
**DIL KE EHSAAAS**

