







To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

J&K Police Headquarters
Jammu/Srinagar

ORDER

References;

- 1. VGDs emails dated 28-01-2024, 03-03-2024, 06-02-2024, 08-02-2024, 10-02-2024, 11-02-2024, 12-02-2024, 15-02-2024, 16-02-2024, 17-02-2024, 19-02-2024, 23-02-2024, 04-03-2024
2. PHQ J&K Letter nr MT/Veh-Fab/TF/2022-23-515 dated 03-02-2024, MT/Veh-Fab/TF/2022-23/830 dated 17-02-2024, MT/Veh-Proc-21/2019-20/ 1071, MT/Veh-Fab/TF/2022-23/997 Dated: 21-02-2024 dated 27-0-2024, and MT/Veh-Proc-21/2019-20/1280 dated 07-03-2024
3. PHQ Letter nr MT/Veh-Proc-21/2019-20/1280 dated 07-03-2024
4. PHQ Letter nr MT/Veh-Fab/TF/2022-23/2024-25 dated 07-03-2024
5. VGDs Email dated 12-04-2024

Whereas, JKP floated tender for up-armouring of backhoe loader and tractor (05 nr each) as detailed in table-1 below.

Table with 4 columns: Sr Nr, GeM Bid nr & Dated, Type of Items, Remarks. Row 1: 1, 511687728933849, Armouring of Backhoe Loader and Tractor, GeM Contract (GEMC-511687728933849 dated 30-01-2024 has been generated)

- 2. Whereas, VG Defence Systems Private Limited (VGDS) emerged as LI firm whereafter contract nr 511687728933849 dated 30.01.2024 was generated.
3. Whereas, vide reference-I, your firm raised various queries from time to time, and PHQ J&K responded to all queries/clarifications.
4. Whereas, in spite of timely reply to all the queries and clarifications given by PHQ, VGDS failed to submit fabrication drawing and design for up-armouring of backhoe loaders and tractors (05 nr each) within 10 days after generation of contract i.e., 30.01.2024 which was mandatory in terms to clause 12 of buyer added specific ATC of the tender.
5. Vide reference-iv, PHQ issued a show cause notice to VGDS to explain why the instant tender may not be cancelled and legal proceedings including blacklisting of their firm be not initiated against the firm for not fulfilling the contractual obligations as stipulated in the GeM contract for up-armouring of Backhoe loader and tractor (05 nr each)
6. Whereas vide reference-v. VGDS submitted reply to the show cause notice to justify their position
7. Whereas, the reply to the show cause notice submitted by VGDS was carefully examined and it revealed that many reasons/ justifications had been put forth which were not relevant to the show cause notice. It was further revealed that VGDS has not put forth any concrete reasons/ justification for not providing the fabrication design and drawing for uparmouring of 05 backhoe loaders and 05 tractors. The fabrication design and drawings have not been provided to the JKP till date, inspite of repeated requests made by JKP to VGDS.
8. Whereas, vide email dated 12.04.2024, VGDS has submitted various reasons to justify non-execution of contractual obligations and inability to provide a clear timeline for carrying out fabrication of Backhoe Loaders and Tractors (05 nr each) in compliance to GeM contract nr GIMC-511687728933849 dated 30.01.2024 which were found devoid of merit, and in utter violation of GeM contract terms and conditions as mentioned in table-8 below.

(Table -8)

Table with 4 columns: Sr. nr, Document, Clause nr, Clause Details. Rows 01-04 detailing contract terms, termination clauses, and performance security requirements.

- 9. Thus, on the basis of grave violation of GeM contract terms and conditions as detailed in column-D of table-08 above, the contract is hereby terminated with immediate effect.
10. VGDS is hereby debarred/black-listed for a period of 02 years from bidding process in concurrence with "Guidelines on debarment of firms from bidding" issued by Government of India. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Procurement Policy Division 169-A. North block, New Delhi, vide OM nr under F.I./20/2018-PPD dated 2nd November, 2021 (copy enclosed at Annexure-A. 07 pages), for abandonment of works and failure to abide by tender/contract terms and conditions.
11. It is further clarified that regarding the other three tenders in which VGDS has not accepted the offer validity extension requests, no legal action is warranted against VGDS. VGDS is not legally obligated to accept bid offer validity extension requests, as the bidder retains the right to accept or reject a validity extension request. Therefore, no legal action is warranted against VGDS for non-acceptance of offer validity extension requests.
12. This issues with approval of the DG, J&K Police

(Gurinderpal Singh, IPS
AIG (Provision-Transport)

For Director General of Police, J&K Jammu.

No: MT/Veh-Fab/TF/2022-23/4659-65
DIPK-3840/24
Dated: 31-07-2024.



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
VISHWA BHARATI DEGREE COLLEGE
RAINAWARI SRINAGAR KASHMIR- 190003

http://vbcollege.edu.in ; principalvbc@hotmail.com; vbcollege@hotmail.com

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
BG 1ST & 2ND SEMESTERS 2024

It is notified for information of the desirous students who have passed 10+2 (12th Class) and have not registered themselves with CUET for admission to undergraduate courses under NEP-2020 in the BG First and Second Semester of Batch 2024, that admission in this college is open under Non-CUET (Offline Mode) from 01/08/2024 to 09/08/2024 up to 04.00 pm. Interested students can visit the college admission section during working hours for Application Forms, and can access the college website http://vbcollege.edu.in for more information. A list of the Major and Minor subjects is also available on our website.

The admission criteria are as per norms set by affiliated Kashmir University which is 45% for the general category and 40% for reserved categories.

Sd/- Principal
V. B. Degree College
Rainawari,
Srinagar

Additional Directorate Of Sericulture
Development Department Kashmir

Notification-Revised
Dated: 30-07-2024

Subject- Revised Calendar for sale of Dry Bi-Voltine Silk Cocoons, Kashmir Division, 2024.

For proper marketing of the Dry Silk Cocoons, the Cocoon Auction Markets in Kashmir Division for the Silk Cocoons harvested during Spring/Summer/Autumn Rearing 2024 shall be organized by the Sericulture Development Department as per the revised details given below:-

Table with 5 columns: S.No, District, Name of the Market with location, Date & No. of days required for the marketing, Name & Designation of Marketing Officers. Rows 1-5 listing auction markets in Srinagar, Kupwara, Baramulla, Pulwama, and Anantnag.

The Marketing Officers/DSOs shall take appropriate necessary action(s) by way of staff deployment etc. for the purpose and run the market as per established law/rules governing the subject and report the transaction details on daily basis to this office as well as to the Directorate. Any transaction (s) not reported in time shall be deemed null and void.

DIPK-3880/24
Dated: 31-07-2024

Additional Director
Kashmir

No: ADSDK/Tech/ Market/24-25/4081-89

Date: - 30 /07/2024.

ASF ENTERPRISES

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

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRly, Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Tender No., Description, Quantity, Due Date. Row 1: 1, 94245932, Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 11KV/0.416KV oil immersed 500KVA outdoor distribution transformer copper wound, 3 phase, 50 Hz, conforming to IS: 1180(Part I): 2004 with latest amendment if any with energy efficiency level-3 or above.

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e., www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.
Tender Notice No. 15/2024-25 Date:- 30.07.2024 2331/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Jammu and Kashmir
State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 958445
Class : 10 th
Year & Session 2012
Registration: N11442380043
Name : Ishfaq Ahmad Dar
Father's Name: Abdul Rashid Dar
Mother's Name : Sara Bano
Date of Birth:- 25-03-1998
Residence:- Chatabugh Budgm



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/KD/24

Dated

bmj

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th DC certificate issued by Boys Hr. Sec School Magam under admission no: 7947 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Boys Hr Sec School Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tawseef Ahmad Dar
S/o Mohd Akram Dar
R/o Peth Makhama

bmj

Office of the Executive Magistrate
1st Class Narbal Budgam

Tele Fax 01951-260-276 Pin Code 193401

Notice For General Public

I tis hereby notified that the applicant namely Tahir Hussain Sofi S/o Ghulam Mohammad Sofi R/o Jawaharpura Narbal tehsil Narbal District Budgam had applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate of his son namely Ehsan Ali Sofi S/o Tahir Hussain Sofi . The applicant intends to register the DOB of his Son as per school record/vaccination card School Record

In this connection, if anybody having any objection regarding the same he/she may contact office of the undersigned within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Narbal

bmj

Dated: 31-07-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK04B 4350 from Bamrada To Magam . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Budgam Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ab Qayoum Bhat
S/o Mohamad Hayat Bhat R/o Bamrada Budgam (2nd Owner)
Ishtiya Ahmad Bhat S/o Haji Jalal Ud Din Bhat
R/o Wathoora Chadoora (1st Owner)

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th certificate issued by Boys Hr. Sec School Magam . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Boys Hr Sec School Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sajad Ahmad Sofi
S/o Gh Mohi ud Din Sofi
R/o Sofipora Magam Budgam

bmj



## CEO Smart City Conducts Night Vigil, Reviews Progress Of Key Projects



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a sustained effort to monitor the progress of smart city projects, Srinagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Owais Ahmed, who is also the CEO of Smart City Projects continued his night vigil on Wednesday.

Focusing on crucial areas of the city, Dr. Owais inspected ongoing works at Jehangir Chowk, Balidan Stamp, Maharaja Bazar, Gowara Road, Karan Nagar Market, and Goni Khan Market.

Accompanied by the Smart City team, the Commissioner meticulously assessed the progress of ongoing works.

During the inspection, Dr. Owais interacted with workers and project managers, emphasizing the need for diligence and dedication. "This relentless oversight is aimed at ensuring adherence to project timelines and maintaining the highest quality standards," Dr. Owais Ahmad told Kashmir Dot Com.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to

a zero-tolerance policy for subpar materials and practices, stressing that this is essential for the vision of transforming Srinagar into a modern, citizen-centric city. "Our focus remains on delivering projects that not only enhance the infrastructure but also improve the quality of life for all citizens," he added.

Owais provided an update on the progress of the Balidan Stambh project, stating, "The work on the Balidan Stambh is in its final stages. Our workers have almost completed the technical tasks, and now we are focusing on the finishing touches. We aim to complete this within 10 to 15 days."

He also highlighted the city's commitment to environmental sustainability, announcing, "We are launching a massive plantation drive and promoting waste segregation to keep Srinagar beautiful." This dual approach of infrastructure development and environmental conservation underscores the administration's dedication to enhancing the city's overall quality of life, he added.

## JK Housing Board Organizes Special Camp In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A special camp was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board today under the supervision of Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandep Kaur.

The camp, held at the Camp Office in Bemina, aimed to address public grievances related to plot transfers, leasehold rights, and other housing matters.

Managing Director of the Housing Board, Ashish Kumar Gupta oversaw the camp's operations.

The camp, which will run until August 3rd aims to provide assistance with various issues such as the transfer of plots, extension/conversion of leasehold rights, NOC for conveyance deed, NOC for

sale deed, and more. This initiative allows the public to directly engage with officials to promptly address their concerns.

The first day saw a significant number of applicants visiting the office and sought information and collected documents for the transfer of plots and other related matters. The Housing Board officials promptly addressed most of the issues on the spot, providing guidance for resolving any remaining concerns. The Managing Director encouraged allottees/lessees and the general public to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Furthermore, he expressed that similar special camps will be organized in the future, providing hope and reassurance to the public.

## VC SDA Took Departmental Review, Implementation Of Master Plan 2035

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Dr. Owais Ahmed, the Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), took an intensive departmental review meeting at Conference hall of SDA, Jehlum Valley Bypass, Bemina, Srinagar to assess the developmental and Housing & Planning Projects besides reviewed progress of implementation of the Master Plan 2035.

The meeting was attended by Chief Town Planner Kashmir, Director Land Management SDA, FA&CAO SDA, Executive Engineer SDA, Deputy Director Technical SDA, Administrative Officer SDA, and other senior officers from SDA and TPO.

The discussions encompassed the operational efficiency of SDA, ongoing developmental projects, and strategies to enhance revenue generation.

Emphasizing the pivotal role of the Enforcement Wing, the VC highlighted the importance of main-

taining vigilance and taking proactive measures to combat illegal constructions and prevent encroachments in Srinagar.

Additionally, VC called upon revenue officials to intensify their efforts in recovering outstanding dues owed to the authority.

A significant focus of the meeting was the Master Plan 2035 for Srinagar, with directives issued to the Town planning organization to undertake necessary actions and ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the plan.

The deliberations held during the review meeting reflect SDA's commitment in fostering sustainable development, upholding regulatory compliance, and enhancing the overall urban landscape of Srinagar.

Through collaborative efforts and strategic planning, SDA aims to realize the vision set forth in the Master Plan 2035, ensuring a well-organized and prosperous future for the Srinagar city.



## WCC Officially Designates Srinagar As 'World Craft City'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The World Crafts Council International (WCC) on Wednesday officially designated Srinagar as a 'World Craft City' during a ceremony here.

The prestigious recognition was celebrated at a grand ceremony held at SKICC Srinagar, where Saad Al Qaddumi, President of the WCC delivered a speech and highlighted the importance of this achievement.

"I am honored and proud to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government officials and the citizens of Srinagar on acquiring the World Crafts Council's designation as a World Craft City," said Qaddumi.

He said Srinagar has joined its well-deserved rank among the most celebrated 65 World Craft Cities across the world. He highlighted the rigorous process involved in achieving this designa-

tion, underscoring its significance.

Saad expressed gratitude to the hosts, the World Crafts Council team, master artisans and the people of Srinagar for their dedication and hospitality.

"This city represents a testament to the hard work and prestige of

**I AM HONORED AND PROUD TO EXTEND MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND the citizens of Srinagar on acquiring the World Crafts Council's designation as a World Craft City,"** said Qaddumi.

Srinagar's artisans, who have preserved and cherished the city's craft traditions over generations,"

he said, adding Srinagar's crafts are not only a source of beauty and pride but also play a crucial role in the social and economic development of the region.

The WCC President added, "The recognition by the World Crafts Council enhances cultural exchanges and fosters mutual understanding among different communities worldwide. The recognition of Srinagar as a World Craft City by the World Crafts Council is a step towards safeguarding the Indus heritage and promoting sustainable development across the sector."

The designation of Srinagar as a World Craft City not only celebrates its cultural heritage but also paves the way for future growth and development in the craft sector, ensuring the legacy of its artisans continues to thrive.

Srinagar is the 4th city in India to receive the prestigious title of 'World Craft City'.

## Residents Demand Fencing Of 'Suicide Hotspots' In Srinagar

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** While the suicide incidents have witnessed an upward trend, there is an immediate need to block the hotspots by fencing the bridges across Srinagar in order to prevent such incidents in the future.

The local residents of Habba Kadal and the surrounding areas here have urged the authorities to install proper fencing on Habba Kadal Bridge, as well as on others.

Notably, a teenage girl (name withheld) jumped into the river Jhelum from Habba Kadal Bridge on Wednesday afternoon. A rescue operation was soon launched, but no traces of the girl were found.

Speaking to the news agency—KNO, the locals from the area said

### Girl Jumps In Jhelum From Habba Kadal, Rescue Ops On

**SRINAGAR:** An unidentified girl on Wednesday afternoon jumped in the river Jhelum in Habba Kadal area of Srinagar even as a rescue operation has been launched, officials said.

An official told the news agency—KNO that soon after the girl jumped into the river Jhelum rescue operation was launched to trace her. He said that the operation is underway and efforts are being made to retrieve her body. Police have taken cognizance of the matter.

they request the authorities to install proper fencing at Habba Kadal and other bridges in Srinagar City to prevent such incidents.

"We have approached the authorities many times to request fencing for the bridges. This morning, a lady also tried to jump from the Habba Kadal Bridge but was later spotted by locals. The authorities have constructed a beautiful bridge here, but it too has witnessed a suicide incident," said Arsalan, a local resident said.

The officials from SDRF, when contacted, told KNO that they have started the rescue operation and, so far, no traces of the girl have been found. "Our boat is scanning the water, and we are trying our best to retrieve the body," said ASI SDRF Abdul Rashid.

- 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

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

### RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 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**  
25 Muharram  
1446

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4:04
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:36
ISHA	9:09

### This Day In History

- 30 BC - Octavian (later known as Augustus) enters Alexandria, Egypt, bringing it under the control of the Roman Republic
- 527 - Justinian I becomes the sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire
- 607 - Ono no Imoko is dispatched as envoy to the Sui court in China (Traditional Japanese date: July 3, 607)
- 902 Aghlabid emir Ibrahim II of Ifriqiya destroys Taormina, Sicily
- 1021 - Synod of Pavia: emperor Henry II convicts married priest
- Declaration of War
- 1177 - Peace Treaty of Venice: Emperor Frederick I and Pope Alexander III
- 1203 - Alexius IV Angelus appointed co-regent of Byzantium
- 1291 Everlasting League forms, basis of Swiss Confederation (Independence)
- 1498 - Christopher Columbus lands on "Isla Santa" (Venezuela)
- 1664 - Battle at St Gotthard: Earl Raimondo Montecuccoli beats Ahmed Kiprulu
- 1690 - Battle at Staffarda: French army beats Victor Amadeus of Savoy
- 1714 - Monarch Georg Ludwig becomes King George I of England
- 1717 - Nicholas Rowe is appointed British Poet Laureate by George I
- 1732 - Foundations laid for Bank of England
- 1759 - Battle at Minden, Westfalen: Ferdinand van Brunswick beats France
- Historic Invention
- 1774 - Joseph Priestley, English theologian, chemist and author discovers oxygen by isolating it in its gaseous state
- 1780 - Sweden declares neutrality
- 1781 - British army under general Cornwallis occupies Yorktown, Virginia
- 1785 - Caroline Herschel becomes 1st woman to discover a comet
- 1789 - US Customs begins enforcing Tariff Act
- 1793 - France becomes 1st country to use the metric system
- 1798 - Battle of the Nile: British Royal Navy under Admiral Horatio Nelson attacks and decimates the French fleet at Aboukir Bay off the Nile Delta, Egypt
- 1832 - The Black Hawk War ends.
- 1834 - Slavery abolished throughout the British Empire - Slavery Abolition Act 1833 comes into effect
- 1861 - Brazil recognizes Confederacy
- 1863 - Battle of Little Rock, Arkansas; start of Chattanooga campaign
- 1869 - 1st voyage down Colorado River
- 1886 - Great Britain annexes Kermadec-Island near New Zealand
- 1907 - U.S. Army Signal Corps establish a small Aeronautical Division
- 1914 - France & Germany mobilize their troops at outbreak of WWI
- 1926 - Battles between Druze & French in Damascus
- 1943 - Japan declares Burma Independence under U Ba Maw
- 1958 - US atomic submarine USS Nautilus begins 1st transit of North Pole "operation Sunshine"
- 1960 - Islamabad declared as the federal capital of the Government of Pakistan.
- 1969 - Mariner 6 sends close-up photos of Mars
- 1974 - China's People's Liberation Army Navy, put into service Chang Zheng 1, their first nuclear-powered submarine
- 1982 - Heavy Israeli air bombardment on Beirut
- 1990 - Iraq pulls out of talks with Kuwait
- 1990 - Soyuz TM-10 launches
- 2000 - First patient to receive the Jarvik 2000, the first total artificial heart that can maintain blood flow in addition to generating a pulse
- 2001 - Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia and Slovakia join the European Environment Agency.
- 2004 - A supermarket fire kills 396 people and injures 500 in Asunción, Paraguay.
- 2014 - USA and UN announce a 72 hour ceasefire between Israel and Palestine, though it quickly breaks down
- 2016 - Anthrax outbreak in Yamalo-Nenets, Siberia kills one and infects 8 others, also kills 2,300 reindeer, global warming blamed

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE  
MAINTENANCE DIVISION-I (TLMD-I), BEMINA, SRINAGAR  
Ph. No. 0194-2492427, 9419181913 E-mail: tlmd1tech@gmail.com

**CANCELLATION NOTICE**  
**Subject: Tender Cancellation Notice in respect of the e-NITs mentioned below:**  
Due to Nil response, the e-NITs for the works mentioned below are hereby cancelled:

e-NIT No	Tender Ref ID	Work Description
05/JKPTCL/TLMD -I/SGR/2024-25; Dated: 05.07.2024	2024_PDD_252164_1	Upgradation of Infrastructure at 132/33 kV, 100 MVA Badampora GSS by way of: 1. Twinning of conductor of 33kV Buses at 132/33 kV, 100 MVA Badampora GSS, 2. Modification of existing kitchen, PLCC room & Battery room including Electrification work of kitchen at Badampora GSS
06/JKPTCL/TLMD -I/SGR/2024-25; Dated: 05.07.2024	2024_PDD_252172_1	Upgradation of Infrastructure at 132/33 kV, 150 MVA Habbak GSS by way of: 1. Revamping of existing Control cabin at 132/33 kV, 150 MVA Habbak GSS 2. Laying of PI foundations including Equipment support structure and Earthing at 132/33 kV, 150 MVA Habbak GSS 3. Supply of Tool kit including Safety Gears

No.: TLMD-I/TS/05A506A/24-25/1310-14  
Dated: 31.07.2024  
DIPK-NB-1134-24  
Dt: 31/07/2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
TLMD-1st Bemina Sgr  
Transmission (Kashmir), JKPTCL, Bemina



## Hezbollah Searching For The Body Of Commander Targeted In Israeli Strike In Beirut

**Agencies**  
BEIRUT: The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said Wednesday they were still searching for the body of a top commander targeted in an Israeli strike in Beirut.

The Iran-backed group's first comment after the strike targeting Fouad Shukur came hours after his death Tuesday and followed an overnight strike in Tehran that killed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. Hezbollah did not comment about the Hamas leader's death.

Israel claimed late Tuesday that they had killed Shukur, who they said was behind a rocket attack on Majdal Shams in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights that killed 12 youths.

An Israeli drone strike in Beirut's southern suburb of Haret Hreik has targeted Fuad Shukur, head of Iran-backed Hezbollah's military operations room, who is considered the No. 2 in the group.

The attack left the targeted residential building damaged.

Hezbollah said civil defense workers were still searching for his body and others under the rubble of the building Israel struck.

Like most of Hezbollah's military officials, little is known about Shukur, who was also known as Sayed Mohsen. Washington blames him for planning and staging the truck bombing of a Marine Corps barracks in Beirut that killed 241 American service members in 1983. US Treasury Department had offered a \$5 million reward for information about him.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said that at least two children and a woman were killed in the attack, while 74 others were wounded.

The attack, which took place shortly before 8 p.m. local time, came against the backdrop of Israeli threats to deal Hezbollah "a painful blow" after Israeli officials held the group responsible for the bombing of a football stadium in the town of Majdal Shams in the oc-

cupied Golan Heights on Saturday, which left 12 children and young adults dead and dozens injured.

Hezbollah strongly denied any role in the attack.

The Israeli drone fired three missiles at the targeted building, which is located near a former office of Hezbollah's Shoura Council and a few meters from Bahman Hospital.

Dozens of ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene amid the thick dust, broken glass and debris in the surrounding streets, while Hezbollah set up a security cordon around the area.

Residents took to the streets, some in a state of panic believing that the area was being bombed, while hundreds of young Hezbollah supporters chanted slogans in support of the group, threatening Israel with a response.

The Israeli military said 15 projectiles had been fired across the Lebanese border, with impacts in parts of the Upper Galilee region. No injuries were reported.

Israel's Channel 13 was quick to confirm the attack on the southern suburb of Beirut and said that it was carried out by a drone that had fired three missiles.

Israeli media published a photo of Shukur and said that "the Israeli army has set a reward of up to \$5 million for information on Fuad Shukur."

Officials, including the UN's chief coordinator in Lebanon, have stepped up their efforts to prevent a deterioration in the situation.

Israel's Channel 12 quoted an Israeli official as saying that "Israel has no intention of starting a regional war, and the ball is in Hezbollah's court. If it does not respond to the attack, we will not be dragged into a war."

The Israel Broadcasting Authority said: "The decision on the target of the attack on the southern suburb of Beirut was made last Sunday after Benjamin Netanyahu's return from the US."



Palestinians attend a protest in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank following the assassination of the chief of the Palestinian Hamas group, on July 31, 2024. — AFP

## World Reacts To Killing Of Hamas Leader Haniyeh In Tehran

**Agencies**

DUBAI: The assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the early hours of Wednesday morning in Iran drew regional and global reactions, raising fears of wider escalation in a region shaken by Israel's war in Gaza and a worsening conflict in Lebanon.

Hamas said that Haniyeh was killed in an Israeli strike in Iran, where he was attending the inauguration of the country's new president.

Israel itself did not immediately comment but it often doesn't when it comes to assassinations carried out by their Mossad intelligence agency.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the United States was "not aware of or involved in" the killing of Haniyeh in Iran.

"I can't tell you what this means. I can tell you that the imperative of getting a ceasefire, the importance that that has for everyone, remains," Blinken said, according to a transcript shared by his staff from an interview with Channel News Asia in Singapore.

However, Iran said that the United States bears responsibility in the assassination of Haniyeh because of its support for Israel.

**Attack risks to escalate regional fighting**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has vowed revenge on Israel over the killing of Hamas' political chief, saying Israel "prepared a harsh punishment for itself."

"We consider his revenge as our duty" in a statement on his official website, saying Haniyeh was "a dear guest in our home." Iran also declared three days of mourning following the killing of the Hamas chief.

Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters: "This assassination by the Israeli occupation of Brother Haniyeh is a grave escalation that aims to break the will of Hamas."

He said that Hamas would continue the path it was following, adding: "We are confident of victory."

Hamas senior official Moussa Abu Marzouk, mean-



**I can't tell you what this means. I can tell you that the imperative of getting a ceasefire, the importance that that has for everyone, remains**

while, said that Haniyeh's assassination will not go unanswered, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Wednesday. He also called the assassination a cowardly act.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the killing of Haniyeh, and Palestinian factions in the occupied West Bank called for a general strike and mass demonstrations.

Russia on Wednesday denounced the killing of Haniyeh as an "unacceptable political assassination."

"It is a completely unacceptable political assassination, and this will lead to a further escalation of tensions," Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mikhail Bogdanov told the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

Konstantin Kosachev, the vice president of Russia's upper house Federation Council, said that he expected a "sudden escalation of mutual hatred in the Near East."

"The most difficult period of confrontations is beginning in the region," he wrote on Telegram.

On Haniyeh's death, China's foreign ministry said that China opposes and condemns the act of "assassination."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the "perfidious assassination" in Tehran of his close ally and "brother" Haniyeh.

"May God have mercy on

my brother Ismail Haniyeh, fallen in martyrdom after this odious attack," Erdogan wrote on the X social media platform, denouncing "Zionist barbarity."

"This shameful act aims to sabotage the Palestinian cause, the glorious Gaza resistance and our Palestinian brothers' just fight, and to intimidate Palestinians," Erdogan added.

**Qatar and Egypt say assassinations damage Gaza truce chances**

Qatar strongly condemned the assassination of Haniyeh considering it a heinous crime, "a dangerous escalation, and a flagrant violation of international and humanitarian law."

Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed in a statement that "the assassination and reckless targeting of civilians will lead the region into chaos and undermine the chances of peace."

Egypt said that Israeli escalation indicated a lack of political will from Israel for de-escalation, after the killing of Haniyeh.

A statement from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said this escalation, along with making no progress in Gaza ceasefire talks, was complicating the situation.

Iraq's foreign ministry in a statement described the killing as a "flagrant violation of international law and a threat to security and stability in the region."

**Iran-backed groups condemn Haniyeh killing**

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards military force confirmed the death of Haniyeh and said in a statement that "Iran and the resistance front will respond to this crime," employing a term Tehran uses to refer to allied militant groups across the Middle East. Yemen's Iran-backed militant Houthi group called Haniyeh's killing a "heinous terrorist crime."

"Targeting him is a heinous terrorist crime and a flagrant violation of laws and ideal values," Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a member of the Huthis' political bureau, posted on X.

The Yemeni rebels have been launching drones and missiles at shipping in the Red Sea since November, saying that they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians during the Gaza war.

## Ghost Towns In Kerala After Landslides Crush Vehicles, Flatten Buildings

**Press Trust Of India**

Wayanad, Kerala: Flattened buildings, mud-filled potholes and cracked land dotted with huge boulders - these were the scenes at Mundakkai junction and nearby Chooralmala Town in Kerala's Wayanad on Wednesday. Before the massive landslides devastated parts of the hill district in the small hours of Tuesday, the places were nerve centres of activities for people living in those areas.

The tiny junction in Mundakkai and the moderate town in Chooralmala had been dotted by shops and concrete structures.

Known for its scenic interi-

search in Mundakkai.

He apparently lost his family members and was desperately searching for them, he said.

Many people appeared to be walking with uncertainty over whether their loved ones lay buried beneath the ground they were treading on.

"Mundakkai is now wiped out from the map of Wayanad. Nothing is left here. You can see... there is nothing other than mud and boulders here. We could not even walk properly due to this thick mud...Then how do we search for our beloved ones buried beneath the ground?" another man asked with teary eyes.

According to unofficial fig-



ors and picturesque waterfalls, Chooralmala was a sought-after tourist destination. Sochippara waterfalls, Velloppara, and Seetha Lake were some of the spots that attracted holidaymakers to the area.

With mounds of mud and debris here and there and giant boulders brought down by the flood waters from the hilltop, it would be hard for anyone to believe that the place was a busy junction and a town until a day ago.

People could be seen frantically searching for the dead and injured in the damaged structures and beneath the heaps of debris.

The roofs of buildings were flattened, and damaged vehicles were spotted stuck to boulders in many areas.

"We have lost everything... everyone... Nothing is left for us here," an elderly man could be heard whispering amidst his

ures, there were around 450-500 houses in Mundakkai, but only 34-49 are now left in the area.

Massive landslides triggered by torrential rains struck the picturesque hamlets of Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha in the early hours of Tuesday, killing several people, including women and children.

Various rescue agencies resumed their operations early in the morning to trace people suspected to be trapped in the tragedy, which has killed at least 123 people and left 186 injured.

Fears of mounting fatalities have been sparked by suspicions that several people may still be trapped under the debris.

Wayanad, a hill district in northern Kerala, is known for its lush green forests, rolling hills, and sparkling waterfalls.

## What Hamas Chief Did Hours Before His Assassination

Tehran: During Ismail Haniyeh's last hours in Iran, a close ally of Hamas, he was smiling and clapping at the inauguration ceremony of the new President Masoud Pezeshkian. Photos showed him seated alongside leaders from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Lebanese Hezbollah and Ansarallah of Yemen. Iranian media showed him and President Pezeshkian warmly greeting each other. Haniyeh was also shown embracing Ayatollah Khamenei by TV channels.

Later Haniyeh visited a theme park exhibition featuring 'Axis of Resistance' landmarks just hours before his assassination. He was seen alongside Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Ziad al-Nakhleh.

The 'Axis of Resistance' is an Iran-led coalition of groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas,

Houthis and allied forces in Syria and Iraq. This coalition aims to counter Western influence, particularly from the US and Israel, in the region. The alliance seeks to counteract what it dubs as aggression and interference by these powers, advocating for a Middle East free from external control. Iran plays a central role in providing significant military aid, training, and funding to other members.

The Iranian media has released a video of Haniyeh's visit, hours before his death. He was seen talking to reporters.

Hamas has blamed Israel for the attack. "This assassination by the Israeli occupation of Brother Haniyeh is a grave escalation that aims to break the will of Hamas," senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said in a statement.

## How Haniya Was Assassinated

Haniyeh was hit directly by a rocket in the room in which he was staying, Hamas deputy head Khalil Al-Hayya said at a news conference in Tehran. He said Israel would "pay the price" for the "heinous crime."

Iranian state media IRNA reported that an "airborne guided projectile" had targeted the building at around 2 a.m. local time.

IRNA said Haniyeh's bodyguard was also killed, and that further investigations are underway to determine the details of the operation and the position from where the projectile was fired.

## World Just Saw Its Hottest Day Ever, Here's How It Was Analysed

**Agencies**

On Sunday, July 21, the world had its hottest day on record. Just 24 hours later, that record broke again making last Monday very likely the hottest day in thousands of years.

It may seem improbable for scientists to gauge the world's hottest day given that they don't have temperature monitors in every corner of the world and less than a century of relatively widespread observations. But they've developed a technique that's increasingly useful as the planet heats up.

This month's shocking heat findings, announced by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, are based on "reanalysis," a technique that mixes temperature data and models to provide a global view of the climate. The center creates a nearly real-time picture of the Earth's climate, including temperature, wind and precipitation, for (roughly) every 30-square-kilometer chunk of the planet's surface.

This reanalysis goes back to 1940, and it allows researchers to say with confidence when a record is broken, whether for a day, month or year. Beyond the new daily heat record, the data also shows that 2023 was the hottest year ever recorded and that every calendar month for the past 13 months has been the hottest on record.

Though there aren't thermometers in every corner of the world, Copernicus receives a large amount of weather data that it uses to underpin its reanalysis. "We have this constant flow of information coming into the center," says Carlo Buontempo, director of the Climate Change Service, which is part of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

Scientists at the center receive 100 million readings per day about weather conditions from around the world. Observations come from airplanes, satellites,

ships, radar and surface-level weather stations - all feeding real-time information about temperature, wind, rain and snow information, as well as other factors like air pollution. This information is fed into a model, known as ERA5, which is already equipped with historic information about the global climate.

There are gaps in these observations because the data sources don't cover every part of the world. Weather conditions like cloudy skies may also reduce the amount of data coming from sources like satellites. To fill these gaps, the scientists take the predictions they have already made, based on the long-term ERA5 model, and test them against the observations. That means a forecast that predicts a particular temperature in a particular place will be tested against all the data researchers receive about the weather in that place and nearby, as well as broader forces like ocean currents and air circulation.

This is done repeatedly while assessing how compatible the prediction is with what's actually been recorded. The model also accounts for any errors in the recorded data, and relies on the laws of physics, including the weather patterns, currents and airflow that govern how the global climate works.

In this way, it's possible to create a complete picture that is as accurate as possible. That's what allows scientists to confidently declare records like when the world experienced the hottest day in human history.

Globally, five weather services - the US's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA, the ECMWF, the China Meteorological Administration, and the Japan Meteorological Agency - carry out continuous appraisals of global temperature using this technique. While their models differ slightly, the five groups have come to similar conclusions about record heat in recent months and years.

## BJP MLA Demands Ban On Alcohol In Goa, Other MLAs From Party Disagree

**Press Trust Of India**

Panaji: Goa BJP MLA Premendra Shet's demand to ban alcohol consumption in the coastal state has found no takers among his colleagues in the legislative assembly.

Speaking in the House on Tuesday, Shet had said, "For 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Viksit Goa', the consumption of alcohol should be banned in Goa. We can produce alcohol in the state and export it to other states, but its consumption in Goa should be banned." To buttress his point, the first-time BJP lawmaker,



representing the Mayem assembly constituency in North Goa, said people die in accidents on roads and also in industrial units mainly due to increasing alcohol consumption in the state.

However, his House colleagues didn't seem convinced with his demand.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, BJP woman MLA Delilah Lobo wondered whether Shet wants people to shut down their restaurant businesses.

"Alcohol is also one reason why tourists come here. What shall we do... shall we close down the restaurants?," asked Lobo, who along with her husband Michael Lobo (Calangute MLA), owns a chain of hotels in the coastal belt of North Goa.

AAP MLA Cruz Silva said it is not possible to ban alcohol in Goa. "Accidents are reported on the roads here but Goans are not involved. There are so many restaurants and other businesses that are dependent on the sale of alcohol. Ban on alcohol will affect employment," he said.

BJP MLA Sankalp Amonkar said he was concerned about alcohol abuse and had raised a question in the assembly earlier over de-addiction centres for chronic alcoholic patients in the state, but he didn't agree with Shet's views.

"We have seen people getting addicted to alcohol. I have seen that among my friends and a few (of them) lost their lives to this addiction. But it is not possible to ban alcohol in Goa," he said.



## Just 17 Godowns Built For Agricultural Produce In 23 Years

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has built only 17 godowns for farmers and other beneficiaries in the union territory (UT) under the Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) scheme since its inception on April 1, 2001, per official data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

These godowns, or storage infrastructure projects, were built between April 1, 2001 and June 30, 2024 and have a storage capacity of 98,027 MT. The central government also provided a subsidy of Rs 8 crore for warehousing facilities in Jammu and Kashmir under the AMI scheme.

Lack of storage facilities is the major issue facing the farmers in J&K, which has about 3.3% of the total geographical area under cultivation and has a foodgrain production of 1.5 million metric tonnes, per the Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR).

The UT is also a major producer of apples, which are cultivated on 1.08 lakh hectares with a production of 1.1 million metric tonnes.

Separately, Gujarat built the most godowns (12,376 with a capacity of 60 lakh MT) under the AMI, followed by Madhya Pradesh (8,324 with a capacity of 2.8 crore MT).

Arunachal Pradesh and Goa, on the other hand, fared poorly under the programme, with only one warehouse erected in 23 years with storage capaci-

ties of 945 MT and 299 MT, respectively.

In the last 23 years, the AMI scheme has helped set up 48,512 godowns and warehouses across the country, totaling 93.99 million MT in capacity. A subsidy worth Rs. 4,734.73 crore has also been provided.

The AMI is a sub-scheme of the prestigious Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), under which the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare assists states and union territories to enhance agricultural marketing infrastructure. It also aims at creating scientific storage capacity and promoting pledge financing to boost the farmer's income.

Under the scheme, the Centre provides subsidies at rates of 25 percent and 33.33 percent on the capital cost of the project based on the category of eligible beneficiaries.

Assistance is available to individuals, farmers, groups of farmers/growers, agripreneurs, registered farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, state agencies, etc. The scheme is demand-driven.

Further, the government has approved a Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility, viz., the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), to provide a medium-long-term loan facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest market infrastructure, including warehousing facilities and community farming assets, through interest subvention and financial support—(KNO)

## 25th Muharram Procession: Traffic Advisory Issued For Sgr-Bla Highway

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** In view of the Muharram procession on Thursday, the Traffic Police here have issued an advisory along Srinagar-Baramulla highway to ensure smooth movement and minimize inconvenience to the public.

Vehicular movement from Harhtrath to Narbal along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway will be affected from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM on 25th Muharram. Motorists are advised to avoid unnecessary travel on this route during the procession, reads an advisory.

"To facilitate hassle-free movement, the following alternate routes have been designated: Srinagar bound vehicles from Kupwara, Handwara, Sorepore shall be allowed via Hy-

gan to Sumbal to HMT Srinagar, Srinagar bound vehicles from Baramulla/Uri to be allowed via Hamrey Gate to Pattan to Sumbal to HMT Srinagar, Srinagar bound vehicles from Hamrey, Pattan to be allowed via Harhtrath Bridge to Khanpath to Shadipora to HMT Srinagar, while as North Kashmir bound Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs) shall be allowed via Narbal to Magam to Kungumdera to Khore to Hanjiwera to Pattan, similarly North Kashmir bound Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) shall be allowed via Narbal to Kanihama to Nooripora to Archanderhama to Gund Khoja Qasim to Jeel Bridge to Pattan", it reads.

The Traffic Police Department regrets any inconvenience caused and seeks public cooperation to ensure a smooth procession, the advisory reads.

## Anantnag Woman Turns Entrepreneur With Beekeeping Venture

Agencies

**ANANTNAG:** A 35-year-old woman is emerging as a successful businesswoman by running a beekeeping venture, providing several quintals of honey each year, and earning a handsome amount annually. Nusrat Jan, wife of Nazir Ahmad and a resident of the town of Hillar Shahabad in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, was married immediately after passing the tenth grade. However, her determination and continuous effort have propelled her to entrepreneurial success.

At one time, Nusrat never imagined she would start a business, but with passion and the full support of her in-laws, she stepped out of her home and began a beekeeping venture.

"We had been thinking for two years about how to expand the business. Then we got a government loan and bought a processing plant. My husband was already associated with honey bee farming, and it took me seven years to learn all the processes. Now, our business is flourishing," Nusrat said.

Today, under the name "Rahat Organic Honey", several stalls operate in various locations.

Despite numerous challenges, she never gave up and continued her work diligently. Nusrat said that if her husband had not supported her, it would have been difficult to continue. "Initially, I had very few bee-

keeping boxes, but now I have 400 boxes, which provide several quintals of honey each year," she said, adding that to bring more transparency to her business, she installed a filtration machine last year, which led to further growth.

Nusrat believes that working as a woman in Kashmir is particularly challenging because more people discourage rather than encourage. However, the situation is gradually changing, with women showcasing their abilities in various fields, she added.

"With determination and passion, anyone can start a small business. Although beekeeping is a small enterprise, I am satisfied with my work," she said. "Initially, very few people visited my stalls, but now the number of customers is increasing daily."

Nusrat is also a responsible homemaker. She manages all her household responsibilities and then goes to her factory to oversee her work. "I am managing both my home and my business. Initially, a woman fears stepping into a male-dominated field, but there is nothing to worry about. You have to overcome the fear. This work is male-dominated in Kashmir, which I am now handling well," she said.

After installing a filtration plant in Hillar Shahabad, she set up stalls on the Dooru Verinag Road and Anantnag Koker-nag Road, which are receiving a good response.—(KNO)

## West Pak Refugee Families Celebrate Conferment Of Proprietary Rights

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** West Pakistan Displaced Persons on Wednesday celebrated the approval of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led Jammu and Kashmir administration to grant them proprietary rights on state land.

The administrative council, which met here under Sinha's chairmanship on Tuesday accorded sanction to grant proprietary rights on state land in favour of West Pakistani displaced persons along with displaced persons of 1965.

This shall significantly empower thousands of (refugee) families across Jammu region...the decision fulfills demand of all connected families, which have been requesting for ownership rights since the past so many decades," an official spokesman said.

Post J&K Re-organization Act 2019, domicile rights have been conferred by the Centre to the West Pakistan Displaced Persons.

"Vesting of proprietary rights to West Pakistan Displaced Persons on State land would bring them at par with the displaced persons of Pakistan-Occupied J&K and their long pending demand will also be fulfilled," the spokesman said.

The administrative council also approved conferment of proprietary rights upon displaced persons of 1965 in respect of state land.

The government has always remained committed to provide benefits to the displaced per-



sons of 1965 as has been granted to displaced persons of 1947 and 1971, the spokesman said.

He said the revenue department shall ensure that proper safeguards are built in the operational guidelines to prevent any misuse particularly unauthorised encroachments on the state land.

Pakistan Refugees Action Committee president Laba Ram Gandhi thanked the Lt Governor for the decision and said the news has brought smiles on the faces of the community living in different parts of Jammu for the past over seven decades.

"We are very happy about the development. The land was already with us, some of which was given by the government for our settlement or earned by our people through hardwork. Some two years back, the land was taken away from us and included in state land," Gandhi said.

Gandhi, who led a celebratory rally at Maharaja Hari Singh Park, said the decision of the Lt Governor adminis-

tration came as a big relief to the community which was left disappointed and approached the government for redressal of their grievances.

"With granting of proprietary rights over land, we are now the true citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding as per the official records, there were 5,764 families who migrated from West Pakistan into India and settled in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947.

Gandhi said over 46,000 kanals of state land was given to the displaced community, which had always felt discriminated against before the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

"Before 2019, we were only eligible to vote in the parliamentary elections and had no say in assembly or local body elections. The time has changed and we have got our genuine rights. We can now vote in panchayat and assembly polls and even put up our candidates," he said.

They distributed sweets and raised slogans in praise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sinha.

## Work On Jmu-Sgr Highway To Be Completed By 2026



Agencies

**JAMMU:** Even though the commuting on Jammu-Srinagar national highway (NH-44) has improved a lot with completion of work on several tunnels and four-lane portions, people will have to wait till end of the year 2026 when the work on the highway will be completed.

With every passing day the road connectivity is being improved and travel time between the two capitals have been reduced to six hours.

The 300-km-long NH-44 is the lifeline of Jammu and Kashmir where everyday thousands of vehicles commute between Srinagar and Jammu and vice-versa. Besides being used by locals of Jammu and Kashmir the NH-44 is being used by security

convoys, tourists, pilgrims and truckers carrying goods thus making it one of the busiest roads in the country. The four-lane road is being built at a cost of Rs 16,000 crore and out of this four-laning of 210 km route has been completed, including 10 tunnels of 21.5 km and several crucial bridges and one Ramban Viaduct.

Officials told KNO that there are still five to six major parts where the work is undergoing and will take some more time to get completed. These areas include Banihal town bypass stretch, Ramsu to Khari-link road stretch and beyond, Khooni Nallah to Digdol tunnel, Digdol to Makarkoot tunnel and one stretch near Ramban town, which are taking some more time. One portion near Dalwas is also under construction and a bridge is being constructed there

to make it suitable for traffic.

Project Director National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) Parshutam Kumar said that by the end of 2026 the work on the NH-44 is expected to be completed. "The work on one of the two important tunnels is expected to be completed by June 2025 whereas work on another tunnel will take some more time and is expected to be completed by December 2026," Kumar said.

The work on these two tunnels was started late after four-laning on an existing road couldn't become feasible due to frequent landslides and damage to machinery. The work was shunned after completing a few stretches but on the advice of experts the two tunnels were proposed to bypass stretches from Khooni Nallah upto Makarkoot—(KNO)

## Two Months On, Bsc Nursing Students Wait For College Placements

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Two months after JK-BOPEE approved the forms of BSC nursing candidates, aspirants have been waiting for counselling for College placements.

Several aspirants said that results of BSC nursing for which around 24000 candidates had applied were declared on 13 June 2023.

They said that since then they have been waiting for counselling to get their college placements.

An aspirant Ayyan Ahmad told KNO that exams of many other courses were held after BSC nursing but counselling for those courses has already been conducted.

He said that due to unknown reasons, authorities have been resorting to dilly dally tactics.

Aspirants said that waiting for a long time is taking a toll on their

mental health as by delaying the counseling process they are putting their future in the lurch.

"Many seats are vacant and can be filled through the counseling process but as of now they haven't done it," they said.

They said that the admission process goes under the guidelines of INC and once the last date is over, then no college provides them admission.

He said that in this process both aspirants and private colleges suffer as colleges can't give admissions after the last dates are over.

When last dates are close, authorities conduct a round or two of counselling and most of the students are unable to take admissions anywhere thereby forcing them to lose one year, they added.

They said that they have brought these issues into the notice of concerned authorities several times but to no avail.—(KNO)

## Medicines Worth Lakhs Dumped In Washroom In Gurez Hospital

Agencies

**BANDIPORA:** The expired medicines worth lakhs of rupees have been allegedly dumped in washrooms at New Type of Primary Health Center (NTPHC) in Bagtore village of Gurez.

Expired medicines, including Tab. Iron Folic Acid, Tab. Cefuroxime 500, Tab. Folic Acid, and Tab. Acetylcystine was discarded in the hospital washroom to conceal the hospital's wrongdoing.

"We have to suffer for every single tablet here. In Gurez, the women mostly face iron deficiency, but the authorities prefer expiring the medicines instead of providing it to the people," Aijaz Ahmad, a local resident said.

He appealed to the district administration Bandipora and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to investigate the matter and take action against the doctors, who are found involved in this practice.

In border areas of Kashmir, the people have been demanding better health care facilities for a long while several protests have been witnessed in the past, but according to them, their voices went unheard.



The locals alleged that the shortage of medicines in these border areas forces them to travel 80 km for the want of a normal medicine, but at the same time, the medicines are not provided to the people here, which exposes the seriousness of the administration in ensuring better healthcare facilities.

In Kashmir valley, around 66 percent women are facing anaemic deficiency while a huge number of such women belong to the border areas.

Meanwhile, repeated attempts to contact Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bandipora Dr. Tahira Nazir failed as she didn't receive the phone calls.

However, the Chief Medical Officer (CMOP) Bandipora refused to speak in this regard—(KNO)

## 10 Years On, Vital Bridge In Pulwama Awaits Completion

Agencies

**PULWAMA:** Despite elapsing ten years, a vital bridge on Romshi rivulet in Rohmoovillage of Pulwama district is awaiting completion, thereby leaving the locals to lurch at large.

Locals from Rohmoovillage area said that the Romshi Bridge got washed out during 2014 floods and since then, the people of this area have been facing hardships as the authorities have failed to complete this bridge till yet.

Mudasir Ahmad, a local resident said that this bridge connects Pulwama district with neighbouring Budgam district and is of vital importance but most of the time, the work on the bridge remains on halt due to which it is incomplete for the last 10 years now.

He said that in the last two

years, the work was going on in full swing and the bridge is near completion but just a minor work has been left out.

Waheed Ahmad, another local said that this bridge is funded by the World Bank and was taken up by JKPC 10 years back and was started accordingly, however, the authorities are yet to complete it due to which locals continue to face difficulties.

Locals said that they have brought this issue into the notice of concerned authorities several times but to no avail.

They said that due to efforts of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, the bridge was near completion but due to unknown reasons, the minor work has been left out.

They urged him to personally look into the matter and direct concerned authorities to complete the bridge at an earliest—(KNO)

## DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR SRINAGAR.

Subject: 3rd Tentative Seniority list of Jr Assistants 2210 (LEVEL 4) (25500-81100).

### CIRCULAR

On the basis of available records of this office, wherein objections if any were invited with regard to issuance of 1st and 2nd Tentative Seniority Lists of Jr Assistants 2210 (LEVEL 4) (25500-81100). Vide this office No. Est-5th/NG/E-7456795/4770-4801 Dated: 29.04.2024, and Est-5th/NG/E-7456795/5412-5453 Dated: 05.06.2024 in terms of S.O 334 Of 2022 dated: 13.07.2022, for information of all concerned.

Whereas, Administrative Department has recently issued Circular No. 15-HME of 2024 dated: 24.06.2024, as per the circular the seniority of all the District Cadre posts must be maintained by District Heads/Chief Medical Officers, for their respective districts, strictly as per rules and same has been endorsed to all CMO's and other subordinate offices working under the administrative control of this Directorate, prepare the seniority district Cadre posts as per the circular.

Now the 3rd Tentative Seniority list of Jr Assistants 2210 (LEVEL 4) (25500-81100) posted in this directorate is circulated amongst all concerned through their controlling officers as well as through official website of this directorate viz www.dhskashmir.org.in, for inviting objections, if any, which should reach to this Directorate by person or through email id: estabdhs.kn@gmail.com within 05 days positively from the date of publication of this notification in the newspapers and website. In case no objection is received within the time limit, then this Seniority list shall be treated as final and after which no representation or communication etc, shall be entertained.

No:Est-5th/NG/E-7456795/6898-6929  
Dated: 31 /07/2024

DIPK-3885-24  
DT: 31/07/2024

S/d  
(Dr. Mushtaq Ah. Rather)  
Director Health Services Kashmir

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT  
(AYUSHMAN BHARAT PM-JAY) DISTRICT HOSPITAL SHOPIAN  
Pin Code: 192303 Email Id: ayushmanbharatshopian@gmail.com  
amdhsshopian@gmail.com

### TENDER NOTICE

Subject: Providing of diagnostic services (Histopathology at District Hospital Shopian)

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from reputed diagnostic /registered Centres/ laboratories by the undersigned for finalization of the rates for providing Histopathology/Microbiologist service(s) to the patients admitted under the PMJAY at District Hospital Shopian. As such the facility to conduct the Biopsy at District Hospital Shopian is not available till date.

The interested bidders may collect the tender documents from the office of the Medical Superintendent District Hospital Shopian during the working hours from 31-07-2024 to 05-08-2024. The quotations should reach to the office of the undersigned by or before 08-08-2024. The quotations will be opened in the office of the undersigned on the next working day at 2:00 pm.

No: - DH/Spn/Estt/AB-PMJAY/NHM/2024-25/478-81  
Dated: 31 / 07/2024

DIPK-3884-24  
DT: 31/07/2024

Sd/-  
Medical Superintendent  
District Hospital Shopian



KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday | 01-08-2024

## Fresh turmoil in Gulf

The killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in an alleged airstrike at his residence in Tehran has added fresh fuel to an already explosive situation in the Gulf region. Haniyeh was on a visit to Iran to attend the swearing in of Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian. The assassination has put the latest Israel-Palestinian confrontation on the road to a dangerous escalation with Israel signalling its readiness to launch a ground assault. So far the war has claimed around 40,000 Palestinian lives, among them women and children. Images of war circulating on the Internet has laid open its grotesqueness and spawned anger and outrage. However the world has mostly watched on as the conflict piles up sufferings for the Palestinians. What has been most tragic is the raft of horrors that have been visited upon the children, around 14,000 have been killed so far. But this has hardly helped draw sufficient global sympathy for the Palestinian cause, at least from the western governments. Instead the west has generally drawn a proportionality between Israeli invasion and the Hamas' October 7 raid.

There has been no commensurate outrage as Israel's military machine has gone on killing Palestinians and driven lakhs out of their homes. This is now a recurrent story. The tragedy is repeated and everytime Israel gets away with it. This is dangerous. For the past 76 years, the Palestinian conflict has been the biggest source of Muslim radicalisation in the world. In a world which has been further shrunk by the new communication technology, the scenes of Palestinian deaths and destruction are triggering shock and outrage at a scale unlike ever before. Haniyeh's killing has created a fraught situation. It is difficult to see how the situation cannot escalate and suck the region into a devastating war. It is tragic that the US as the still sole pre-eminent power in the world has done precious little to stop the conflict. In fact, the US president Joe Biden has, in a sense, egged on Israeli president Netanyahu to pursue his apocalyptic goals. And now the situation has reached a point of almost no return.

This casts a responsibility on the major powers to act fairly and reign in Israel and also take firm steps to resolve the conflict. More than anything else, a resolved Palestine will go a long way to help the cause of Mideast peace and also terrorism at the global level.

# Is International Law Significant for Dispute Resolution?

Madiya Mushtaq

International law refers to the body of legislation that governs relations between States. International conflict resolution is the process of controlling or settling disputes between nations so they can each pursue their own objectives, whether they be collective or personal. States are acknowledged as the actors within the legal system by the framework provided by international law. It describes what they have to do to treat people living inside their borders and how they should interact with one other. These duties cover a wide range of topics, including the use of force, behavior during hostilities, immigration and refugee concerns, international criminal activity, disarmament initiatives, and prisoner care.

International law also regulates space operations, international commerce laws, global communication networks, sustainable development strategies for the oceans, and the environment. A treaty is an international agreement signed between States that is subject to international law, regardless of whether it is included in a single document, two or more related instruments, or known by another name. Treaty law, also referred to as the law of international agreements, governs the creation, interpretation, modification, and termination of treaties. The law of treaties, a pillar of international law, is essential for fostering mutual understanding and amicable conflict settlement.

### UNITED NATIONS:

The responsibility for maintaining world peace and security rests with the UN. The various strategies for achieving peace that are delineated in its Charter and evolved in its operations are founded on and distinctly mirror the cumulative evolution of the pertinent theories of war.

The Charter develops three interrelated approaches, heavily influenced by the League of Nations' experience:

- (1) peaceful resolution of disputes, which would leave nations with nothing to fight about;
- (2) collective security, which would give aggressors too much to fight against; and
- (3) disarmament, which would rob them of anything meaningful to fight with.

### PEACEFUL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The foundation of Pacific dispute settlement is the idea that, while it can certainly be used for other objectives like status-seeking and fear-mongering, war is essentially a tool for resolving disagreements. Additional presumptions include the idea that a lack of understanding among decision-makers about the possibility of peacefully resolving issues to the mutual benefit of both sides—a lack of awareness stemming from pride, ignorance, a lack of imagination, or self-centered and cynical leadership—often leads to war. Thus, by conceiving and institutionalizing alternative, peaceful conflict resolution procedures and convincing the nations to employ them, international organizations may be able to help prevent wars.

The International Criminal Court is one of the most significant mechanisms (ICC). The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent court that was created to try people for the most heinous crimes that affect the entire world, like crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. When it comes to encouraging responsibility and making sure victims of human rights atrocities receive justice, the ICC has been instrumental.

### Collective Security

A peace strategy known as "collective security" entails an agreement amongst governments to take joint action against any state deemed to be an aggressor. It focuses on preventing violence by using an overwhelming international force against any aggressor, putting aside issues with resolving conflicts, upholding the law, or ensuring justice.



Creating a more resilient and fair system of international dispute resolution requires resolving concerns about sovereignty and resource inequities, as well as fortifying enforcement mechanisms and guaranteeing impartiality and consistency

Even though collective security was a major component of both the League of Nations Covenant and the United Nations Charter, albeit in slightly different forms, it was an utter failure in both instances.

### Disarmament:

The idea behind disarmament and weaponry limitation is that states have a natural tendency to want to outgun any prospective competitors and that this leads to arms races that ultimately result in conflict. This theory's main flaw is that it frequently tends to mix up cause and effect. Even though arms races gain speed on their own, political tensions that escalate into conflict are what cause them. To put it briefly, tensions rather than armaments contests are what lead to conflict. To believe differently would be to confuse a symptom with the cause. As a result, lowering weaponry levels does not always result in lowering tensions.

### CONFLICT REDUCTION

Due to the lack of success with these key peace initiatives outlined in its Charter, the UN has created two new processes designed to reduce the number of wars. First, "preventive diplomacy," which mostly consists of the secretary-general's diplomatic initiatives and the deployment of peacekeeping troops, has helped to keep local crises under control and avoid escalation, particularly when the superpowers are involved. Second, although not having any legal power behind them, the General Assembly has grown in importance as a key player in the process of what has been dubbed the communal legitimization of state programs. A state's likelihood of receiving universal censure increases the cost of resorting to war.

However, hostilities that the assembly may favorably see as wars of colonial liberation are not affected by this new constraint on war. Furthermore, states could not be expected to refrain from going to war in order to further an interest they believed to be truly necessary despite the assembly's rejection.

### INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

International law also encourages the protection of human rights. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which is a seminal document outlining each and every person's fundamental rights and freedoms. International law has created a number of procedures to guarantee the protection of human rights because it understands how important they are.

Globally, human rights advocacy and protection are greatly aided by international law. It lays out the rights and freedoms to which every person is entitled and offers a framework for holding states accountable for how they treat people living under their control. The relationship between human rights and international law is intricate and multidimensional, involving numerous organizations, treaties, and conventions aimed at preserving human dignity. This paper explores the complexities of this relationship

by examining important elements, historical trends, obstacles, and the influence of international human rights law on international justice.

### Historical Development of International Human Rights Law

The genesis of international human rights law can be found in the wake of World War II, which saw previously unheard-of atrocities and a worldwide resolve to stop them from happening again. A turning point in this process was the United Nations General Assembly's 1948 ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). A comprehensive set of rights and freedoms were established by the UDHR, which also affirmed the equality and intrinsic dignity of all people. Despite not being legally enforceable, this declaration has had a significant impact on later human rights agreements and national constitutions.

A number of international treaties and conventions were created in the wake of the UDHR to impose legally enforceable responsibilities on states. These include the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which were both ratified in 1966 and are considered noteworthy. These treaties, along with the UDHR, make up the International Bill of Human Rights, which lays out a wide range of rights that governments are required to uphold, defend, and implement.

### Key Components of International Human Rights Law

A vast array of liberties and rights are covered by international human rights law, which is frequently divided into categories such as economic, social, and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights. The rights to a fair trial, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and life are examples of civil and political rights. Included in the category of economic, social, and cultural rights are the rights to sufficient living conditions, health care, and education.

Numerous more treaties safeguard particular populations or deal with special problems. As an illustration:

- Women's rights are covered by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Children's rights are the main emphasis of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- People with disabilities are guaranteed rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- Racial prejudice is opposed by the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Prejudice (ICERD).

### Role played by International Communities:

A number of international organizations are essential to the advancement and defense of human rights. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR) and the Human Rights Council, two UN entities that spearhead international efforts to track and document human rights conditions, are at the forefront. The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and many ad hoc courts aims to bring legal action against those accountable for grave human rights breaches, including crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.

Significant contributions are also made by regional groups. The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) both carry out comparable duties in their own regions, while the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) is responsible for upholding the European Convention on Human Rights.

### ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTATION

International law provides processes like arbitration, mediation, and adjudication to handle issues amicably, and it plays a major part in the settlement of disputes between governments. International law in conflict settlement is important, however there are a number of concerns that draw attention to its shortcomings. This article delves further into these arguments, analyzing the theoretical and practical problems that compromise international law's ability to settle disputes.

### Inadequate Enforcement Procedures:

A major critique of international law in the context of conflict resolution is its deficiency in efficient means of enforcement. In contrast to national legal frameworks, international law does not have a central body that can impose rules. The willingness of governments to abide by international rules is a major factor in compliance. This could result in circumstances when strong states reject or ignore international rulings without suffering serious repercussions, eroding the legitimacy and authority of international law.

### Biases and Political Influences:

Political factors are frequently seen as influencing international dispute settlement procedures. Strong nations or those with a lot of geopolitical sway might put pressure on international organizations to influence decisions in their favor. States may be deterred from participating in dispute resolution procedures by this impression of bias and lack of impartiality, which can weaken confidence in the international legal system.

### Limitations of Jurisdiction:

International tribunals and courts have restricted jurisdiction and frequently need the parties in dispute to agree before they may consent to a case. Because of this consent-based jurisdiction, states are free to decline to engage in certain dispute resolution procedures, evading accountability. Furthermore, some issues remain unsolved because they are outside the purview of international courts, especially those involving non-state parties or internal conflicts.

### CONCLUSION

Even while international law is essential to the peaceful settlement of conflicts, these objections draw attention to important issues that must be resolved to increase its efficacy. Creating a more resilient and fair system of international dispute resolution requires resolving concerns about sovereignty and resource inequities, as well as fortifying enforcement mechanisms and guaranteeing impartiality and consistency. The international community can strive toward a legal structure that more successfully settles disputes and maintains justice on a worldwide basis by addressing these problems.

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

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Did you know?

## Research and Rationality: A Sound Approach to Investing

Irshad Mushtaq

Thorough research and a rational approach are essentials when investing in the equity market. Historical performance, comparison returns with Nifty, tax implications, GST charges on brokerage or investments, investment conditions, hidden charges, exit loads, lock-in periods, post-investment services, transparency, and trusted service providers must all be considered. It leads to more returns on right shopping matters in investment.

### 1. Historical Performance

- Review the past 1-3 years of historical returns for any product or stock.
- Compare these returns against benchmarks like Nifty 50 or Sensex to gauge performance.

### 2. Tax Considerations

- Understand the GST applicable on transaction services.
- Consider other taxes like Short-Term Capital Gains Tax (STCG) and Long-Term Capital Gains Tax (LTCG).

### 3. Investment Conditions

- Check for any withdrawal limitations.
- Investigate if there's a lock-in period and its terms.
- Review if there are any morality charges (common in insurance-linked products).
- Be aware of hidden fees, such as management or transaction fees.

### 4. Flexibility and Exit Strategy

- Ensure flexibility in exiting the investment without hefty penalties.
- Consider liquidity aspects—how easily you can convert the investment into cash.

### 5. Objective Decision-Making

- Treat investment decisions like a business transaction, devoid of emotions.
- Prioritize data-driven insights and rational analysis over gut feelings.

### 6. Compound Interest Impact

- Understand the potential growth via compound interest.
- Example:

Interest Rate	5 Lakhs After 20 Years
8%	23 Lakhs
12%	48 Lakhs
15%	81 Lakhs
18%	11 Crore 36 Lakhs

### 7. Research and Guidance

- Perform comprehensive research on chosen investments.
- Seek guidance from trusted financial advisors.

### 8. Post-Investment Services

- Evaluate the post-investment services offered by the platform or advisor.
- Ensure consistent, reliable post-investment support.

### Conclusion

Investment is a careful blend of patience, research, and rational decision-making. By considering these factors, you safeguard your hard-earned money and potentially maximize your returns. Always aim for an informed approach rather than emotional decision-making to secure the best outcomes.

Learn from the insights of writer, investor, entrepreneur and founder of MI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)



## The Illusion of Identity

### Why is the modern characterization of identity misleading?

Azher Ahmad Dar

Identity has been both a source of conflict and a source of progress. The very sense of identity gives rise to a feeling of belongingness, which promotes community spirit and progress at large. At the same time, the very sense of identity can give rise to a kind of exclusivity attached to associating with a particular denomination, be it religious, cultural, political, etc.

During the partition of the country, the very negative side of identity manifested in the form of widespread bloodshed, especially in areas along the border, with huge damage borne by each side. Amartya Sen recalls an incident of communal violence when he was 11 years old in 1947. About that time, a Muslim man named Kader Mia had been out in search of work because he had nothing to feed his family. The very sight of the incident, which had taken the life of Kader Mia, was extremely depressing for Amartya Sen, and using that as a conundrum, Amartya Sen decided to write a book called 'Identity and Violence'.

Defining identity is a complex task that needs the best scholarship. However, we have had a lopsided characterization of identity, which has gotten influenced by the west, and there is a need to look at the alternatives to identity in the sense that identity is not a static concept; it changes its nature and form with a change in the culture and the circumstances at large. However, Samuel Huntington is said to have perpetuated a particular sense of identity that is based on the very edifice of civilization, implying that civilization is the epitome of identity. While that may be true, it is limited in its extent in the sense that the thesis has invented the past by trying to paint the west with so-called phrases such as civilization and freedom, which is ahistorical.

On the one hand, we have had the Michael Sandealian view of identity, which says identity is who we are and what we discover and is given. There is, however, both a problem and a merit in the diagnosis, to the extent that the positive of the same approach is basically recognizing a multitude of cultures and sharing a common lifestyle—communitarianism, so to speak. On the other hand, it is limited in its definition of the word identity, which is given in the approach. There is always a tendency for culture to change course, but that is something that is not recognized by this approach, consequently accepting various regressive aspects of society as they are and not being critical about them, as Amartya Sen has argued in his book 'The Argumentative Indian'. Other than this approach, we have had the one by Amartya Sen, which is thought-provoking and needs appreciation.

Samuel Huntington, in his book 'The Clash of Civilizations' makes a case for the allegedly superior position of the west, highlighted by its



intellectual sojourn in the form of the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, etc. There is an attempt to define the world community as a federation of various communities identified on the basis of the major classificatory distinction, which is religion, into the Hindu civilization, the western civilization, the Islamic civilization, etc.

After doing the compartmentalization of the world into a band of exclusive identities, there is automatically fuel given to the conflicts that manifest in the form of war against terror, which has always been against a specific community, and trying to set a definite narrative about a specific religion, which is biased and poised to create chaos among people of so-called distinct identities. Samuel Huntington's argument is somewhat wrong, keeping the seven deadly sins committed by him aside, one of which is maligning Islam, and showing the west in the so-called fatherly position.

With regard to India, his diagnosis of India being a Hindu civilization is misguided for various reasons. We can't really call India a Hindu civilization with a bleak glimpse of the historical past, which is quite contrary to the thesis, so to speak. The argument overlooks the influence of other sects such as Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jainism on the Hindu way of life. The said thesis has basically given intellectual fuel to the Hindutva movement, which has based its case on transforming India into a Hindu state, which is ahistorical. It basically overlooks the participatory and plural nature of Indian society, which has been dominated by both Muslim and Hindu rulers. We had Asoka, who had made efforts at organizing various Buddhist councils, the last being at Patliputra, which basically served as a platform where various sects could engage in a discursive space, and he had made sure not to interfere in any religion at that time. We

also had Akbar, who is known for his religious tolerance, who abolished the jizya and made efforts to develop a synthetic religion called Din-e-ilahi by drawing on the best principles of each religion. His commander of the army was Hindu, and his brother Darah Shikoooh had studied extensively the Hindu scriptures. Saying that India has been a Hindu civilization overlooks the interactive role of 125 million Muslims in the making of Hindu culture, etc. We have had Rabindranth Tagore, who said that he was proud of his culture being a confluence of three cultures: Bengali, Muslim, British, etc. With regard to the painting and maligning of Islam, he is misguided too, by miniaturizing Muslims and painting them with negative connotations. His thesis is a simplistic reading of history, underestimating the role of various Muslim scientists, mathematicians, etc. We have had accounts of the Arabs transporting the knowledge of astrology, astronomy, medicine, and mathematics to the whole world. Saying that Islamic civilization has been regressive is biased to the extent that it bases religion as a factor for classifying Muslims, which is solitary and reductionist, as an approach. In the same way, there's always been a simplistic reading of human psychology to indicate that it is selfish, negative, etc.

We can comfortably say that the western scholars adopt an egoist and a passionate approach towards studying everything, which confirms the contention that they are always in ivory towers. Amartya Sen, in his book, comes up with a rather new approach, which is against cultural determinism. He calls identity a matter of choice, juxtaposed to the usual diagnosis of the discovery aspect of identity. Just because one is born in a specific community does not mean that it becomes his natural identity, which implies that the levers of reason have to be applied to critically scrutinize

each and every facet of the tradition instead of stumbling and having a conformist kind of attitude. He continuously quotes the example of Akbar, who is said to have said that it is the reason that must triumph over the unquestioned tradition. Amartya Sen, during his childhood, told his grandfather, 'I have no feelings whatsoever for religion. What should I do?' The reply was that it would come naturally with the course of time. However, it did not come, and Sen says that it was because he used the weapon of reason to critically analyze each religion. We had had a partition, the basis for which were allegedly two distinct identities that were said to be exclusive to each other. One surprising fact, however, is that it was VD. Savarkar who gave the call for the two nations before Jinnah's two-nation theory. However, invoking only religious identity was a major fault. It is wrong to characterize the nation into two clear-cut compartmentalized sects, because our other identities include being poor, rural, female, male, community, etc. Why precedence was given to religion is biased. Other identities could have been invoked to develop a sense of unity and bring peace.

However, the argument always runs that religion is a dominant classification by which we categorize people. According to Amartya Sen, there is also the role of reasoning in arriving at the identity a person chooses. It is incumbent upon everyone to use critical arguments to weigh the relative importance of the form of identity, whether precedence is to be given to religion, solidarity, human fellowship, poverty, etc. It is always the case that a man is a mixture of various identities, and attaching a single one is misleading and misguided. I will illustrate it with an example that is supplied by the very simplistic implication of Asian values as opposed to western values. Lee Kuan Yew is the champion of Asian values, especially for the eastern part of Asia, and has supported the prominence of the authoritarian form of government on the basis that it gives a boost to economic growth. What it has done is a simplistic reading given by the West to say that the East is regressive because it supports authoritarianism. That is too ahistorical, by trying to generalize the Lee thesis to the whole of Asia, or the east, for that matter. For example, the origins of Indian secularism are said to be from the west, which is wrong, as it has had the influence of Akbar and Asoka and is diametrically opposite to the western counterpart of secularism. Asia, in particular, has its history of the civil state, and it is a strong fact that China and India laid the foundations of western globalization by supplying knowledge of astronomy, trade, etc. to the west. We had Albern, who in the 12th century extensively studied and appraised Indian culture, especially Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Ramanujan, etc., who had made huge strides in the scientific discipline. There is, however, a dichotomy that is al-

ways shown as Eastern values vs. Western values, which is very naive and wrong. So, only the western identity should not be characterized by the so-called fancy phrases as free and civil. A major source of western civilization is the Roman and Greek civilizations, which unfortunately were not truly civil in the conventional sense that everyone was given equal and full citizenship rights, as evident in Aristotle's diagnosis of body polis. However, with the rise of post-colonialism and decolonization, there is an ongoing resistance to modernism, which has always been called a project of the west to perpetuate hegemony over the former colonies, in the form of Neo-imperialism. How much of it is true is really an interesting question. However, there is somehow no credibility in the argument, which even calls for a wholesale protest against the flow of ideas, culture, etc. There is nothing imperialistic about liberty, freedom, or the spread of culture and ideas across the world. The very spread is not detrimental to the welfare of the poor countries, but quite the contrary. Second, just like the flow of ideas from the east to the west from the 10th century onwards supported the flourishing of the west, in the same way, the flow of cutting-edge technologies and ideas from the west to the east will wake them up from the deep slumber of poverty, deprivation, etc. The question is not whether markets are efficient; the question is rather whether the international power system is balanced or imbalanced, in the form of trade restrictions, arms trade, etc.

Globalization as a project has been good, but the institutional mechanism has largely failed. We can conclude by saying that identity does not work in silos; it is always an amalgamation of different identities, which characterizes man and identity at large. Also, there has to be an end to the debate about western superiority, as that is meant to give rise to sectarianism and conflicts. The failure of the UN is a clear indication of the same. There is a pressing need to revisit the kind of identity that the leaders want the world to lock into, which should promote the welfare of everyone, and to look at the world as a kind of collection of people, not a federation of exclusive communities. The very idea of dividing people on exclusive lines leads to both identity disregard, which makes man economic, and consequently conflicts for various resources. It also fits a person into only one identity, which is simplistic and misleading. The idea of debating whether Western values are regressive in nature has taken much of the time of these poor countries, which has led to a failure on their part to delve into various alternatives. The very idea of engaging these countries intensely in this rhetoric is very much a project of the West.

The author is currently a student of political science and economics at the University of Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

## A Healthy Relationship With Time Means a Fulfilling Life

Lybi Ma

Time is a precious resource. Sometimes it's taken for granted, but often we feel there's never enough of it. We often rush through our days, constantly trying to get more done in less time, leading to stress, anxiety, and burnout. Other times we get lost in activities like scrolling on our phone or playing computer games, leaving us feeling like we've wasted hours on things that aren't important to us. Still other times we devote ourselves to activities such as our job and later regret we didn't spend more time on other things that matter, like friends and family. Often, we feel the scarcity of time—either in the present or upon looking back—and we feel a lack of control over it.

But the truth is we have more control than we think and the issue is not the amount of time we have, but more our relationship with that time. Most of us have an adversarial relationship with time, feeling there's never enough or we can't catch up. But we are all capable of shifting the way we think and feel about time and the way we manage it.

Having a healthy relationship with time means: understanding how we spend our time, setting boundaries, and learning to relax and enjoy the present moment. There are concrete things we can practice to have a more healthy relationship with time:

Be aware of how you spend your time. The first step to having a healthy relationship with time is to be aware of how we spend it. Track your time for a week or two to see where it's going. Often people find this to be an eye-opening experience. Once we know where our time is going, we can start to make changes.

Get clear about your values and priorities. Be honest with yourself about your



priorities. We all have the time—we just need to prioritize it, because the time isn't unlimited. We choose to spend our time based on what is important to us, but many of us do this unconsciously, rather than making conscious choices. Sit down and make a list of the most important things you want to spend time on in your life. If it helps, imagine you only have a month left to live. What would you have wanted to spend that last year of your life

doing? Then make a second list in order of priority. This will help you make choices in the future and feel like you have the time you need for what's most important.

Make adjustments and set boundaries. Once we know how we spend our time, and what we want to be spending time on, we can start to make adjustments and set boundaries. This means saying no to or canceling things that are of lesser importance and making time for the things

that are. It can also mean saying no to new commitments when you're already feeling overwhelmed or that you aren't spending enough time on the things that matter.

Notice judgments that don't align with your values or simply aren't true. Oftentimes we judge things such as relaxing, having fun, or resting, as a waste of time. But many of these activities allow you to enjoy your life and recharge for everything else you do. Make sure you don't allow

these types of judgments to interfere with what you need and want.

Don't let things get too familiar. Most of us have experienced the feeling that time is flying by faster and faster every year. This is likely because we don't notice things when they get familiar. It's like driving past your neighborhood on the way home, without seeing any of it. This can be counteracted if we consciously notice things more, working to really see our surroundings as if for the first time. It can also help to break up our routines—drive a different route home. Sit at a different place at the table. Rearrange the furniture. Bring up new topics or have new experiences with people you spend a lot of time with. If we are creative, even the smallest novelties will slow time down and make us more present.

Learn to enjoy the present moment with gratitude. One of the best ways to have a healthy relationship with time is to learn to enjoy the present moment. This means taking time to appreciate the little things in life, such as a beautiful sunset or a good conversation with friends. It also means taking time for yourself to do things you enjoy, such as reading, listening to music, or spending time in nature. Every hour we are alive is a gift, and it helps to have our attention on using it intentionally and joyfully. Try to make it a practice to savor every moment.

Having a healthy relationship with time is essential for living a happy and fulfilling life. By learning to prioritize and manage our time more effectively we feel less overwhelmed, more in control, make choices based on our values, and enjoy the present moment more fully. Taking these simple steps can radically affect how you experience time and thus our lives overall.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today



# 'Narrative Claiming Vapes, E-Cigarettes Healthier Alternatives Are Misleading'

Press Trust Of India

Health and child rights experts have raised alarms about the increasing portrayal of e-cigarettes and vapes as healthier alternatives to traditional tobacco products, warning that these products are also being used as a gateway to traditional tobacco use. They cautioned that this "misleading narrative" is a strategic attempt by the industry to target and trap the young population, particularly those aged 10 to 19 years.

India has rightly banned these products, and this ban has potentially saved at least 24 million young people from falling into the trap of addiction, they said.

"E-cigarettes and vapes are as dangerous as tobacco and drugs for our country. Once a child is addicted to these products, they can easily be drawn to other forms of tobacco," said Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), at a webinar organised by the Tobacco Free India, a citizens' initiative, on Sunday.

The webinar was moderated by Arun Anand, a writer and senior journalist.

The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, enacted in 2019, bans all such products, including e-cigarettes and vapes.

This law was implemented as India was already the second-largest market for tobacco, attracting many US-based companies looking to tap into the Indian market for vapes and e-cigarettes.

Kanoongo, head of India's child rights body, emphasized that India has a huge young population. Every fifth person is an adolescent (10-19 years), and every third is a young person (10-24 years).

At least two million new people start using tobacco products every year, causing approximately 1.3 million deaths and contributing to more than one per cent of the GDP burden annually in our country.



"Estimates suggest that the ban on these new nicotine products will prevent at least five percent of our young population from becoming addicted to either these nicotine products or both nicotine and tobacco products. This ban has potentially saved at least 24 million young people from addiction, significantly protecting the health and development of our country," he added.

Dr Naveen Thacker, President of the International Pediatric Association (IPA), voiced concerns about the tobacco industry's tactics.

"The industry is falsely promoting e-cigarettes and vapes as 'healthy' and harmless alternatives to traditional tobacco, with a relentless focus on targeting the youth. This is a blatant lie. These products are just as harmful, and their deliberate targeting of children is unmistakable," he stated.

Dr Thacker underscored the critical need for heightened awareness among children and parents to prevent the use of these hazardous products among young people. "The industry uses social media and e-commerce platforms to trap young children, leveraging influencers and even experts to lure them.

Their targeting of young people is evident with flavours like bubble gum and sugar candy, being illegally sold in 6,000 enticing varieties. The misconception that they are safer than traditional tobacco must be eradicated," he added.

Dr Sudhanshu Kumar, Associate Professor at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, remarked, "The industry consistently argues against such legal provisions, claiming they will reduce government revenue and promote the black market. However, saving lives must take precedence, and this approach is the only effective solution. Many other countries are now striving to follow our lead."

He asserted that stringent regulations are crucial to safeguarding the population from the dangers of e-cigarettes and traditional tobacco products.

"Our commitment to these regulations must remain unwavering," he added.

Dr Pragya Shukla, Head of the Department of Clinical Oncology at Delhi State Cancer Institute and a renowned public health expert, emphasised the importance of countering industry tactics that portray e-cigarettes as healthy and market them to children.

# 'Neurodivergent Children More Likely To Develop Chronic Fatigue As Teen'

Press Trust Of India

Children more likely to be diagnosed with neurodivergence, such as autism or ADHD, are at twice the odds of experiencing chronic disabling fatigue in late teenage, thereby "dramatically" affecting their quality of lives, a study has found. In attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), one has shorter attention spans, along with displaying restlessness and impulsive behaviour.



Researchers explained that neurodivergent children often experience heightened stress levels. As a result, the increased inflammation could be contributing to chronic, or persistent, fatigue -- one of the many often seen to co-occur with neurodivergence.

Other conditions can include the chronic pain condition, fibromyalgia, and digestive and gut issues. Fibromyalgia is marked by muscle pain throughout their body, often accompanied by fatigue and mood changes.

However, the researchers, including those at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), UK, said inflammation is not the only contributor, as previous studies have shown that neurodivergent children experience higher levels of loneliness and are more likely to be bullied.

These children are also more vulnerable to pain, owing to differences in their pain perception when compared with the general population, along with malfunctions in the dopamine system, known to be involved in cognition and motivation, the authors said in the study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Open.

Therefore, they called for future research that could disentangle the complex mechanisms driving chronic fatigue in neurodivergent children.

For the study, parents or caregivers of children aged seven or nine years

filled out questionnaires, the responses to which were used for developing an autism or hyperactivity score, respectively.

While a higher autism score indicated more chances of diagnosis, a higher hyperactivity score was indicative of greater behavioural issues, including conduct and emotional ones.

Once the children turned 18, they were asked to complete a questionnaire for assessing their chronic disabling fatigue, involving questions around their energy levels and motivation. The researchers received over 4,500 responses.

Children indicating autistic traits at age seven were about 78 per cent more likely to experience chronic disabling fatigue when they turned 18, while those showing ADHD-like behaviour at age nine were over twice as likely to experience the condition in late teenage, the authors found.

"These results show the importance of trans-diagnostic screening for (processes common across multiple disorders) in children and the need for better support for neurodivergent children," lead researcher Lisa Quadt, a research fellow in psychiatry at BSMS, said.

**These children are also more vulnerable to pain, owing to differences in their pain perception when compared with the general population, along with malfunctions in the dopamine system, known to be involved in cognition and motivation, the authors said in the study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Open.**

# Study Finds Unique Patterns Like 'Fingerprints' In Brains Of People Born Blind

Press Trust Of India

In people born blind, the primary visual cortex, the brain's region known to process visual information, develops unique patterns different from those in people with sight, researchers said, likening these patterns to an "individual fingerprint." They said that the connectivity in the visual cortices of people who can see did not show such varied changes and were "usually fairly consistent."

"The connectivity pattern in people born blind is more different across people, like an individual fingerprint, and is stable over time -- so much so that the individual person can be identified from the connectivity pattern," said lead author Ella Striem-Amit, an assistant professor of neuroscience at the Georgetown University, US.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), included a small sample of people born blind, who underwent repeated functional MRI scans for over two years. Upon analysing the scans, the researchers found the unique connectivity patterns showed "remarkable stability" over time. "Our study found that these patterns did not change significantly based on the task at hand -- whether participants were localising sounds, identifying shapes, or simply resting. Instead, the connectivity patterns were unique to each individual and remained stable over the two-year study period," said Lenia Amaral, a postdoctoral researcher at the Georgetown University.

The findings suggested that life experiences shape the different ways in which one's brain develops, especially if they grew up without being able to see, the authors said. "Brain plasticity in these cases frees the brain to develop, possibly even for different possible uses for the visual cortex, among different people born blind," Striem-Amit said.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the District Information Officer Kulgam

Ph/Fax: 01931-260032  
email: diokulgam@gmail.com

### DASTI QUOTATION

Sealed short term quotations are invited from cultural organizations for performance of Cultural Programme at DPL Kulgam on the Independence Day Celebrations 2024.

The selected parties have to give the demo of their cultural programme before the final performance on 15 August 2024 at DPL Kulgam on 12th August.

The quotations shall reach the office of the undersigned by or before 5th of August 2024 upto 04 pm.

Terms and Conditions:-

1. The price quoted shall be inclusive of GST and less than government approved rates.
2. The bid shall be opened in the next working day on completion of stipulated time on 5th Aug.

More information can be obtained from the office of District Information Officer, Kulgam during office hours upto 5th of August

No: DIC/INF/Kul-326-27/2024

District Information Officer Kulgam

DIPK-3849/24  
dated: 31-07-2024

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Tel: - 0194-2416178 email: exengineer12@gmail.com

### Extension Notice 4

Reference:-

1. STDGBL E-NIT NO 03 OF 2024-25 DATED 21-06-24.
2. STDGBL E-NIT NO 06 OF 2024-25 DATED 21-06-24.

Name of the work:-

1. Stage Contract for Loading\_Unloading\_Manual carriage and Transportation of Material at SD store Safapora under the jurisdiction of STD Ganderbal.
2. Stage Contract for Loading, Unloading and Transportation of Power Transformers in respect of STD Ganderbal.

Due to poor / zero response to above quoted e-NIT's the same are hereby extended and the key dates are as under -

No	Bid Submission date	End/Technical Bid Opening date	Financial Bid Opening date
01	07-08-2024 02:00PM	08-08-2024 02:00 PM	Will be communicated to qualified bidders

No:-STD/GBL/TS/321-23  
DIPK-NB-1138/24 Dated: -31-07-2024

-sd-  
Executive Engineer  
STD Ganderbal.

Government of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office of the Financial Commissioner (Revenue)

www.jkfc.ric.in Email: jkfinancialcr@gmail.com  
Fax No.0194 -2452234 Tel- 0191-2471219

Subject: - Verification of Character & Antecedents of the candidates Selected for the post of Driver in Revenue Department advertised by the JKSSB Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021- Release of withheld recommendations thereof.

Reference: JKSSB Letter No. JKSSB-Scry/07/2023-03 (E-7259835) dated 28.06.2024.

### NOTICE

Pursuant to the selection and recommendation made by the J&K Service Selection Board vide No. JKSSB-Scry/07/2023-03 (E-7259835) dated 28.06.2024 and duly forwarded by Administrative Department to this office vide No. Rev-NG/13/2023-7152177 dated 23.07.2024; the selected candidate as per list annexed to this notice, who has been recommended for the post of Driver Grade-II vide Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021, is hereby informed to submit his e-mail address & mobile number in the office of Financial Commissioner Revenue J&K, Rail Head Complex Jammu/Tankipora Srinagar, for registration under Employee verification system (EVS) Portal for obtaining of necessary verification of character and antecedents within a period of 21 days positively, from the date of issuance of this notice, in terms of circular instructions issued by the General Administration Department vide No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022 under endorsement No. GAD-MTGORBIV/79/2021-09-GAD dated 20.05.2022.

If the candidate fails to submit his e-mail address & mobile number within stipulated time period of 21 days, it shall be presumed that he/she is not willing to opt the appointment as per above selection in the Revenue Department, and shall forego the right of appointment without any further notice.

By order of the Financial Commissioner Revenue, J&K.

Bhumika Sharma (JKAS)  
Administrative Officer,  
With Financial Commissioner (Rev)  
J&K, Jammu.

NO: FCR-Estt/1/2024-06-(7400424) DIPK-3867/24 Dated: 31.07.2024

### Annexure-A to letter No. JKSSB-Scry/7/2023-03 (E-7259835) Dated 28.06.2024

S. no.	D.V. S.no.	Roll no.	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Date of Birth	Category	Total Score	Selection Category	Address	Qualification Possessed	Year of passing	Name of Institute
1	28-KMR	4670131076	MOHMAD HANIEF MIR	NAZIR AHMAD MIR	09-03-1989	OM	68	OM	Baghi Hyder, Chadoora, Budgam	12 <sup>th</sup> Pass	2008	JKBOSE



## Mcap Of BSE-Listed Companies Jumps To Lifetime Peak Of Rs 462.38 Lakh Cr



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI**— The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped to a lifetime peak of Rs 462.38 lakh crore on Wednesday helped by a four-day rally in benchmark indices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex settled higher by 285.94 points or 0.35 per cent at 81,741.34 -- its all-time closing high.

In the last four trading sessions, the BSE benchmark jumped 408.62 points or 0.50 per cent, making investors richer by Rs 5.45 lakh crore.

Investors' wealth climbed Rs 5,45,337.02 crore in the past four days to reach a record high of Rs 4,62,38,008.35 crore (USD 5.52 trillion) on Wednesday.

"Sebi's crackdown on Futures & Options trade is eminently desirable and can go a long way towards making the ongoing rally healthy and less speculative."

"The irrational exuberance of the retail investors, particularly the newbies who entered market after the Covid crash, will do more harm than good to the overall market in the long run," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Finan-

cial Services, said.

Therefore, these regulatory measures are to be welcomed, he added.

Among the Sensex stocks, JSW Steel, Asian Paints, Maruti Suzuki India, NTPC, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Bharti Airtel, ITC and Tech Mahindra were the major gainers.

Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, Infosys, Mahindra and Mahindra, Bajaj Finance and Axis Bank were the laggards.

At the market close, the BSE smallcap gauge fell 0.14 per cent to the broader market. However, BSE MidCap gauge jumped 0.86 per cent. During the day, both the indices hit their all-time high level.

Among the indices, Utilities surged 1.57 per cent, Power by 1.46 per cent, Metal by 1.12 per cent, Healthcare by 0.91 per cent and Commodities by 0.74 per cent.

Energy, Telecommunication and Realty were the laggards.

As many as 2,051 stocks advanced, while 1,897 declined and 88 remained unchanged.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 3,462.36 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

## FM Says Budget Balanced, Takes Care Of All Segments

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI**— Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the Union Budget strikes a fine balance between growth, employment, and fiscal consolidation, and promotes cooperative federalism.

Replying to the discussion on the Union Budget 2024-25 in Rajya Sabha, the minister said the government is on track to achieve the pre-announced fiscal deficit target of 4.5 per cent by 2025-26.

Sitharaman, also a former defence minister, said the Agniveer Scheme to recruit people in the age group of 17.5 to 21 years, is aimed at keeping the armed forces fit, young and battle-ready.

The minister, who presented her seventh Union Budget, also said the economic document proposes unflinching support for cooperative federalism.

"I would like to underline that our unflinching commitment to cooperative federalism. The total resources proposed to be transferred to the states in 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 22.91 lakh crore. This actually entails an increase of Rs 2.49 lakh crore over 2023-24," the minister said.

She said capital expenditure is pegged at Rs 11.11 lakh crore.

"This is the biggest ever allocation for capital expenditure and it shows increase of about 17 per cent over the RE and provisional actuals of the FY 2023-24," she said, adding that during the Congress-led UPA era, the capex allocation was Rs 13.19 lakh crore between 2004-05 to 2013-14.

"Whereas during our tenure from 2014 to 2024, the allocation for capex has been Rs 43.82 lakh crore from 2014-15 to 2023-24," she said.

On criticism that she only



Whereas during our tenure from 2014 to 2024, the allocation for capex has been Rs 43.82 lakh crore from 2014-15 to 2023-24," she said.

referred to two states in her budget speech and ignored the rest, Sitharaman said the budget is for all states, in past also, including the UPA era, the names of all states were not mentioned.

She emphasised that if a state has not been mentioned in the speech, it does not mean there is no allocation for it.

Several opposition members had raised issues related to the devolution of taxes to states.

To this, Sitharaman it is wrong to calculate devolution based on gross tax receipts, and then claim that the Centre is devolving less than what is suggested by the Finance Commission.

The minister also said tax revenues have seen impressive

growth. Also, efforts on metering have improved billing and collection efficiency in the power sector, that has also resulted in non-tax revenues increasing from Rs 5,148 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 6,500 crore in 2023-24.

Sitharaman also said the PLI schemes continue to remain attractive for the manufacturing sector.

The budget is an exercise to make India an attractive destination for manufacturing companies, she added.

She also said the government is complying with the fiscal deficit trajectory. It will bring down the deficit to below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26 from the targeted 4.9 per cent for the current fiscal.

The finance minister highlighted that for agriculture and allied sectors the budget has allocated Rs 1.52 lakh crore, which is Rs 8,000 crore more than the previous year.

For comparison, in 2013-14, the last year of Congress-led UPA, only Rs 30,000 crore was allocated for agriculture.

She also took on Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for misleading statement regarding appointment of DGPs in states.

While participating in the discussion, Chidambaram criticised the Agniveer scheme and asked the government to withdraw it.

## 'Software Glitch' Halts Online Transactions Of Cooperative Sector Banks

Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD**— A software issue has affected online transactions of nearly 300 banks, mostly in the cooperative sector, across India for the last three days, officials in Gujarat said on Wednesday.

In a separate statement, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) termed it a possible ransomware attack. It has temporarily isolated the software in question from accessing retail payment systems, and restoration work is underway on a war footing, it said.

Chairman of the National Cooperative Union of India Dileep Sanghani said online transactions of at least 17 district cooperative banks in Gujarat, including the Amreli District Central Cooperative Bank (DCCB), were affected due to the issue in 'C-Edge' software.

According to the website of C-Edge, it is a joint venture between Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) and State Bank of India (SBI).

"The software company officials are saying it's a technical fault. Banks have been suffering since July 29. We are given an assurance that a solution will arrive by today evening. So we are waiting," said Sanghani,



chairman of Amreli DCCB.

"Nearly 300 banks in India, including 17 district cooperative banks in Gujarat, which have installed this software, have been experiencing issues for the last two-three days. All online transactions, such as RTGS and UPI payments, are affected. Money is deducted from the sender's account but does not get credited in the receiver's account," said the former state minister.

Mangilal Bahediya, CEO of the Ahmedabad District Cooperative Bank, said the software has been shut across India following a 'cyber attack'.

"There was an unsuccessful attempt to hack the software and as a precautionary measure, online transactions have been stopped. Banks which are using that software are affected due to this technical issue. There is nothing to worry and we have learnt that RBI will bring a solution very soon," said Bahediya.

## Key Infra Sectors Growth Slows Down To 20-Month Low Of 4% In June

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI**— The growth in production of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to a 20-month low of 4 per cent in June this year due to a decline in the output of crude oil and refinery products, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The core sectors' production grew by 6.4 per cent in May 2024.

The growth of core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 8.4 per cent in June 2023.

The previous low level of growth was recorded in October 2022 at 0.7 per cent.

During April-June this fiscal, the output of core sectors rose by 5.7 per cent against 6 per cent in the same period last fiscal.

The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which measures overall industrial growth.



Crude oil, and refinery products' output contracted by (-) 2.6 per cent and (-) 1.5 per cent, respectively, in June.

The growth rate in the production of natural gas, fertiliser, steel and cement slowed down to 3.3 per cent, 2.4 per cent, 2.7 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.

However, the production growth of coal and electricity rose by 14.8 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively.

Commenting on the data, Icara Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that the core sector expansion slid to a 20-month low due to a moderation in growth or deepening contraction in five of the eight constituents, barring coal, fertilizers and cement, compared to May 2024.

"With the dip in the core sector growth, we expect the IIP (index of industrial production) to post a rise of 3.5-5 per cent in June 2024," she said.

## Maruti Suzuki Q1 Profit Jumps 47% To Rs 3,650 Cr

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI**— Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday reported 47 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 3,650 crore for June quarter FY25, riding on the back of cost reduction efforts, favourable commodity prices and foreign exchange gains.

The auto major had logged a net profit of Rs 2,485 crore in April-June FY24. Net sales increased to Rs 33,875 crore in June quarter as compared with Rs 30,845 crore in the year-ago period, according to an exchange filing.

The profit increased on account of cost reduction efforts, favourable commodity prices and foreign exchange gains, it stated.

Addressing an investor conference, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Executive Director Corporate Affairs Rahul Bharti said the gains from favourable commodity prices and foreign exchange were partly offset by higher discounts, which rose to an average of Rs 21,700 per vehicle in the first quarter from Rs 14,500 per vehicle in the fourth quarter of last fiscal.

The country's largest carmaker said it sold 5,21,868 vehicles during the first quarter, up 5 per cent as compared to the same period previous fiscal. It sold 4,51,308 units in the domestic market in June quarter, an increase of 4 per cent year-on-year.

## India Smartphone Shipments Dip 2% In Q2 2024

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI**— India's smartphone shipments fell two per cent year-on-year in June quarter, hurt by the heatwave and slower demand, as per a report by global research firm Counterpoint that showed Xiaomi reclaimed top spot in volume share and Samsung led in value terms.

Notably, 5G smartphones captured their highest-ever share of 77 per cent in the overall shipments, according to Counterpoint's Monthly India Smartphone Tracker.

Another key takeaway was that India's smartphone market hit its highest ever Q2 value driven by the ongoing trend of premiumisation.

"India's smartphone shipments fell 2 per cent YoY in Q2 2024 (April-June)," it said.

The decline was influenced by a heatwave, a seasonal slump, and slower demand from Q1 2024.



"In response, OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) hosted sales events in Q2 to clear inventory, leading to a reduced sell-in and a period of degrowth," it said.

On the market's volume dynamics, Senior Research Analyst Shilpi Jain explained that heatwave conditions in various regions led to lower footfalls in offline channels and delayed smartphone purchases as consumers prioritised appliances like air-conditioners and refrigerators.

This reduced demand led to an inventory build-up. However, summer sales at online channels, good harvest and ag-

gressive promotions towards the end of the quarter provided relief to OEMs, helping close the quarter on a better note than at the beginning.

"During the quarter, Xiaomi reclaimed the top spot with a 23 per cent YoY growth in its shipments, driven by a streamlined and focused portfolio that spans from the entry-level to affordable premium segments," Counterpoint said.

Xiaomi reclaimed the top spot with an 18.9 per cent shipment share, and Vivo followed closely with 18.8 per cent share.

On value dynamics, Research Analyst Shubham Singh said: "In Q2 2024, India's smartphone market achieved its highest ever Q2 value, driven by the ongoing trend of premiumisation." Consumers continued to upgrade to higher-value smartphones, supported by better trade-in values and easy financing schemes.

This resulted in a 24 per cent YoY growth in the ultra-premium (over Rs 45,000) segment.

## Pr Secy APD Reviews Progress On Establishment of KKGs



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR**— Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shaileendra Kumar, today chaired an interactive meeting with Krishi Udhymis of Kashmir and Jammu Divisions at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi here to review the progress on establishment of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) across J&K.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal; Krishi Udhymis of various districts and other con-

cerned officers of APD. Highlighting upon the importance of Kisan Khidmat Ghars, the Principal Secretary directed the officers to give final touch to all the preparations so that the KKGs can be made functional by the designated time of first week of August.

He underlined that in coming days, the KKGs will become hubs where from farmers could get easy access to Government schemes, modern trends and technologies in agriculture and allied sectors as well as other agriculture inputs.



## J&K Bank Donates Hydraulic Trolleys, Stretcher Trolleys And Wheelchairs To SKIMS

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR**— J&K Bank has made a substantial contribution to the healthcare sector by donating advanced hydraulic trolleys, stretcher trolleys and wheelchairs to SKIMS, Srinagar for the convenience of patients under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.

The Bank's Divisional Head (Kashmir) Shabir Ahmad handed over the patient-mobility equipment to Director SKIMS Dr Ashraf Ganai in the presence of Zonal Head (Srinagar) Raja Zaffar, Cluster Head Asmat Ara, Medical Superintendent (SKIMS) Dr Farooq Ahmad Jan besides senior officials from both the Bank and the SKIMS.

Pertinently, this donation is part of a project under the Bank's broader CSR initiative, which aims to enhance patient mobility and convenience in various government and charitable hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. The project will see the provision of hydraulic patient-transport trolleys, stretcher-on-trolleys and foldable wheelchairs to major healthcare institutions belonging to the government and a few charitable organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Head (Kashmir) Shabir Ahmad said, "By supplying patient-transport trolleys and wheelchairs, we aim to enhance accessibility to

healthcare services along with convenience. This initiative directly addresses the need for improved patient transportation within hospitals, facilitating smoother and more dignified movement for patients."

"This initiative goes beyond mere equipment provision; it embodies our commitment to community welfare and inclusive healthcare. By actively engaging with local healthcare stakeholders and addressing their needs, we seek to make a meaningful and sustainable impact on the lives of individuals and families in Jammu & Kashmir, ultimately contributing to the region's healthcare services," he added.

Thanking the Bank for the much-needed equipment for better patient-care, Director (SKIMS) Dr Ashraf Ganai said, "We are deeply grateful to J&K Bank for their generous support under CSR. Today's contribution is very vital as it enhances our capacity to provide efficient and dignified patient-care. The advanced equipment will ensure that our patients receive timely and comfortable transportation within the hospital."

The initiative is expected to benefit hundreds of thousands of patients visiting these health facilities each year, complementing government efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure in J&K.

## Fiscal Deficit Stood At 8.1% Of Full-Year Target At June-End: CGA Data

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI**— The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first quarter touched 8.1 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on Wednesday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit -- the gap between expenditure and revenue -- was Rs 1,35,712 crore as of June-end, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 25.3 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of the financial year 2023-24.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at Rs 16,85,494 crore during the current fiscal.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the union government for the first three months of 2024-25, CGA said the net tax



revenue was Rs 5,49,633 crore or 21.1 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal. The net tax revenue collection was 18.6 per cent at end-June 2023.

The central government's total expenditure in the first quarter stood at Rs 9,69,909 crore or 20.4 per cent of BE. The expenditure had just crossed 23 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period. Of the total expenditure, Rs 7,88 lakh crore was on the revenue account and Rs 1,81 lakh crore was towards the capital account.

Of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 2,64,052 crore was on interest payments.

Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowings that are needed by the government.



## Assassination in Iran

United States getting sucked into another Middle East war will be real as Israel could not effectively defend itself without US coordination and support.

In a statement Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei said revenge was "our duty" and that Israel had "prepared a harsh punishment for itself" by killing "a dear guest in our home."

Bitter regional rivals, Israel and Iran risked plunging into war earlier this year when Israel hit Iran's embassy in Damascus in April.

Iran retaliated in an unprecedented drone and missile strikes on Israel, but international efforts succeeded in containing that cycle before it spun out of control.

Haniyeh's killing also could prompt Hamas to pull out of negotiations for a cease-fire and hostage release deal in the 10-month-old war in Gaza, which U.S. mediators had said were making progress.

And it could inflame already rising tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, which international diplomats were trying to contain after Israel carried out a rare strike Tuesday evening in the Lebanese capital that it said killed a top Hezbollah commander. Hezbollah has not confirmed if commander Fouad Shukur was killed. The strike killed three women and two children, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House to Haniyeh's death. A key question was whether Israel told the U.S., its top ally, ahead of time.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said that Washington must also bear responsibility for the Israeli strike that killed Hamas leader.

"This terrorist act is not only a flagrant violation of the principles and rules of international law and the United Nations Charter, but also a serious threat to regional and international peace and security," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the responsibility of the US government as a supporter and accomplice of the Zionist regime in the continuation of the occupation and genocide of the Palestinians, in committing this heinous act of terrorism," the statement added.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken however denied any knowledge saying, "This is something we were not aware of or involved in."

A top Hamas official, Khalil al-Hayya, told journalists in Iran that whoever replaces Haniyeh will "follow the same vision" regarding negotiations to end the war — and continue in the same policy of resistance against Israel.

International diplomats trying to defuse tensions were alarmed. One Western diplomat, whose country has worked to prevent an Israeli-Hezbollah escalation, said the strikes in Beirut and Tehran have "almost killed" hopes for a Gaza cease-fire and could push the Middle East into a "devastating regional war."

The killing of Haniyeh abroad comes as Israel has not had a clear success in killing Hamas' top leadership in Gaza.

Haniyeh left the Gaza Strip in 2019 and had lived in exile in Qatar. Israel has targeted Hamas figures in Lebanon and Syria during the war, but going after Haniyeh in Iran was vastly more sensitive. Israel has operated there in the past: It is suspected of running a years long assassination campaign against Iranian nuclear scientists. In 2020, a top Iranian military nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, was killed by a remote-controlled machine gun while traveling in a car outside Tehran.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard warned Israel will face a "harsh and painful response" from Iran and its allies around the region. An influential Iranian parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy was to hold an emergency meeting on the strike later Wednesday.

Hamas' military wing said in a statement that Haniyeh's assassination "takes the battle to new dimensions and will have major repercussions on the entire region."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will continue its devastating campaign in Gaza until Hamas is eliminated. Israel's bombardment and offensives in Gaza have killed more than 39,300 Palestinians and wounded more than 90,900.

After months of pounding, Hamas has shown its fighters can still operate in Gaza and fire volleys of rockets into Israel. But it is unclear if it has the capacity to step up attacks in retaliation over Haniyeh's killing.

Instead, the impact may be regional. Besides a direct retaliation on Israel, Iran could work to increase attacks through its allies, a coalition of Iranian-backed groups known as the "Axis of Resistance," including Hezbollah, Hamas, mainly Shiite militias in Iraq and Syria and the Houthis rebels who control much of Yemen.

As a show of support for Hamas, Hezbollah has been exchanging fire almost daily with Israel across the Israeli-Lebanese border in a simmering but deadly conflict that has

repeatedly threatened to escalate into all-out war. Yemen's Houthis and Iraqi and Syrian militias have also fired rockets and drones at Israel and at American bases in the region.

A strike Tuesday night southwest of the Iraqi capital Baghdad killed four members of one Iranian-backed militia, Kataib Hezbollah, which has targeted U.S. bases previously. It accused the U.S. of being behind the strike.

A U.S. defense official said American forces had carried out a "defensive airstrike" against combatants who, "based on recent attacks in Iraq and Syria ... posed a threat to U.S. and coalition forces."

### Who was Haniyeh?

Haniyeh, 62, was born in a refugee camp near Gaza City, and joined Hamas in the late 1980s during the First Intifada, or uprising. As Hamas grew in power, Haniyeh rose through the ranks — being appointed part of a secret "collective leadership" in 2004.

He became political chief of Hamas in 2017. The following year, he was named a "specially designated global terrorist" by the United States.

Despite that designation — and unlike Hamas' military leadership — Haniyeh travelled globally, meeting with world figures as the political head of the organization.

During the war with Israel in Gaza he has taken a central role in hostage and ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas.

Earlier this spring, he said Hamas was willing to strike a deal — but it would require Israel withdrawing from Gaza and a guarantee to cease fighting in the enclave permanently, demands that Israel has called "unacceptable."

Earlier, Haniyeh's three sons, Hazem, Amir and Mohammad, were killed on April 10 this year when their car was hit by an Israeli airstrike. Hamas reported that Haniyeh also lost four of his grandchildren — three girls and a boy.

### Iran Raises Red

had promised "harsh punishment" for Israel in retaliation for the killing of Hamas's political leader.

"The criminal and terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest in our house and made us bereaved," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that "it also prepared the ground for a harsh punishment for itself."

He said it was Iran's duty to avenge the assassination of Haniyeh, who was in the Iranian capital for the inauguration of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

"We consider it our duty to avenge his blood in this bitter and difficult incident that happened in the territory of the Islamic Republic," Khamenei said, as he offered his condolences to Haniyeh's family and the Palestinian group.

Iran has announced three days of public mourning across the country for Haniyeh.

A funeral ceremony will be held in Iran on Thursday, after which Haniyeh's body will be transferred to Doha, Qatar, Hamas said in a statement on its Telegram channel.

He will be buried in the Qatari capital on Friday, the group announced.

### Srinagar's 'World

the momentous occasion. "Truly delighted to see Srinagar being awarded the certificate of 'World Craft City' by World Crafts Council (WCC). It's a great honour for the ancient city known for its priceless cultural and artistic heritage. It will go a long way to preserve and promote J&K's crafts and craftsmanship," he said.

The LG appreciated the World Crafts Council for its endeavours to inspire and promote the artistic traditions of the cities across the world.

J&K is proud to have an inclusive cultural ecosystem, which always inspired the weavers and craftspeople. I believe in honouring the Srinagar city, the World Crafts Council has also honored the 5000-year rich Indian civilization which kept alive creative traditions and always promoted gifted artisans for their ingenuity and craftsmanship, he observed.

"I want to see Jammu and Srinagar becoming the best art cities of India. I want to see both the cities claim the title of best home for the artists and favourite destination for seekers of priceless art," the LG said.

The LG highlighted the efforts of the UT Administration to preserve and promote the unique cultural and artistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the artisans and craftspeople of J&K.

Jammu Kashmir is known as a Crown Jewel of India not only because of its geographical position but also because of its quest for spiritual wisdom and its ageless Indian cultural assets, which can be witnessed in the infinite variety of creative products, the LG observed.

He reiterated the commitment of UT Administration to support the artisans in marketing and exports of handicrafts, handloom products and promotion of all craft forms.

We are giving greater attention to training of young generation of craftspeople so they can be part of this

traditional occupation, the LG said.

He said the UT Administration is also determined to ensure that their creative products are financially attractive and the work is professionally satisfying.

The LG commended the efforts of Handloom and Handicraft department and the Industries and Commerce department for leading the change in the vital sector of J&K's economy.

"I am sure the recognition of Srinagar now as 'World Craft City' will not only provide a new identity to Srinagar in the global market but craftsmanship will re-establish its position as a prestigious occupation," the Lt Governor said.

Speaking on the occasion, Sa'ad Hani Al-Qaddumi, President World Crafts Council International, congratulated the J&K Government on the recognition of Srinagar as 'World Craft City'. Srinagar has joined the well-deserved ranks amongst the craft cities across the world, he said.

On the occasion, the LG released a publication depicting the 60-years journey of the World Crafts Council.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, J&K KVIB; Heads of Departments, members of the World Crafts Council, and artisans and craftspeople in large number were present.

### 'Committed To Transparent

commitment of J&K Administration to improve the grievance redressal mechanism, the LG said the initiatives like J&K SAMADHAN Portal and App which were launched recently are aimed at providing an easy way to lodge the grievance and its efficient and speedy redressal.

"We have also imparted greater transparency to the public service delivery process. Our aim is to empower citizens with special attention to the needs of the marginalised section of the society," he said.

In the "LG's Mulaqaat", several grievances of the complainants were redressed on the spot by the Lt Governor.

Abdul Rashid Sheikh, on behalf of residents of Bamloora village of Ganderbal, expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for providing resolution to the grievance regarding irrigation water facility to their village.

Ulfat Bi from Poonch District who had applied for construction of house under PMAY scheme also thanked the LG led UT Administration for addressing her long pending grievance.

On the grievance of Ubaid Fayaz Najar of Bandipora District pertaining to the issuance of OBC certificate, the LG instructed the concerned Department to take appropriate measures and facilitate the eligible beneficiaries in hassle-free manner.

Responding to the complaint of Rakesh Kumar from Samba, the LG directed the Health functionaries to review the functioning of the oxygen plant installed at District hospital Samba as well as other Government health Institutions to ensure they are operating smoothly.

On the sidelines of the LG's Mulaqaat, the LG also reviewed the implementation of the directions passed with regard to the preparations for Independence Day Celebration.

Mohammad Aijaz, Secretary, Public Grievances Department conducted the proceedings of the LG Mulaqaat. Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

### 'J&K Has Become

handicrafts sector. One District One Product proved to be a game changer," he said.

Sinha said that Srinagar has witnessed a major transformation in the last five years with the resurgence of night life and the restoration of peace.

While speaking during the function regarding celebration on recognition of Srinagar as World Craft City, at SKICC Srinagar, Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir's atmosphere and mood has changed post- 2019.

"Srinagar has undergone a major transformation. Apart from flourishing art and crafts, night life has resurged in the city. Polo view, Dal Lake banks, Lal Chowk and Jhelum river front are now the busiest places in the city," he said.

Sinha said the city has bagged the prestigious title of World Craft City, three years after UNESCO designated Srinagar as a creative city.

"This will empower our artisans and ensure holistic and sustainable development of Srinagar. The World Craft Council honoured 5000 years of rich Indian civilisation, which kept alive creative tradition with gifted artisans and their craftsmanship," he said.

Sinha said artisans are the most valued people in Indian culture adding the government was taking various measures to uplift them.

"The government is taking care of artisans' sustainable livelihood. The artisans make innovative products and designs so that they follow global trends. I want to assure them that the government will support them," he

said. Sinha said as many as 60 crafts were registered currently with the handicrafts department with 380000 registered artisans.

"Of 380000 artisans, 76000 artisans are associated with Pashmina. Till 2020, we had only 300 cooperative societies registered and it has now surged to 5682. Jammu and Kashmir's Export Preparedness Index has gone up from 55th rank to 17 position now," he said.

The lieutenant governor said Srinagar achieved a major milestone of "World Craft City".

"Srinagar and Jammu is promoting a variety of tangible art forms and achieving new milestones in innovation and excellence in quality. I want to see both these cities as the best art cities of India and destinations of priceless art," he said.

### Heatwave Returns

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius, which was 5.0 degree above normal.

Pahalgam and Kokernag, the famous tourist destinations, have recorded a maximum temperature of 30.8 degree Celsius and 32.3 degree Celsius respectively. At both the places, the mercury settled 5.0 degree Celsius and 4.6 degree Celsius above normal.

However, the twin stations including Kupwara and Gulmarg continued to witness respite from the heat wave as the mercury settled at 35.2 degree Celsius and 24.0 degree Celsius respectively.

Jammu division however, didn't witness the heat wave, the data revealed. In Jammu, the mercury settled at 36.2 degree Celsius while in Banihal, it settled at 31.2 degree Celsius.

Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah however recorded a maximum temperature of 29.6 degree Celsius, 33.6 degree Celsius and 33.4 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, the weatherman has forecasted generally cloudy with spells of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Kashmir division and most places of Jammu division for the next five days from August 01 to August 05.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that a spell of rain and thundershower are expected at scattered places on August 06 and August 07 while a spell of rain and thundershowers are expected at isolated places from August 08 to August 10.

In its advisory, the MeT stated that intense showers for a brief period is expected with possibility of flash floods, cloud bursts, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones over vulnerable places of J&K and heavy rainfall at few places of Jammu division.

Moreover, the recent thundershowers at multiple places and heavy rains at some places have brought some relief and brought respite to the people especially farmers, the officials in the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) said.

They said that the recent rainfall has brought relief to the farmers while the water level has also increased in the river Jhelum, adding that the situation at present is under control and that if the rains occur in the next few days, the situation would improve further. (KNO)

### Kashmir On Brink

warned that an official declaration of "agricultural drought" may be imminent if rain does not arrive by next week.

Director of Agriculture Kashmir, Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal expressed concerns about the ongoing dry spell's impact on crops.

"The lack of rainfall is causing severe damage to the crops, and if the situation does not improve soon, the department may be forced to declare an 'agricultural drought' based on the evaluation parameters," he said.

Iqbal said the department is closely monitoring all the parameters, and if it does not rain by next week, it may declare an agricultural drought.

The prolonged dry conditions have raised alarm among farmers and officials alike, with concerns growing over the severe impact on crop growth and overall productivity in the region.

Officials from the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department said the dry weather has led to a reduction in the water level of the Jhelum River and has affected about 10% of irrigation schemes. They said the overall water capacity of the Jhelum River has decreased by 30% compared to normal levels.

Director Agriculture previously said that while there was some moisture in the ground, the absence of rain in the coming week could negatively affect both paddy and vegetable crops.

Professor Dr Raihana, Chief Scientist with the Faculty of Agriculture at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (SKUAST) of Kashmir, said the prolonged dry spell has caused stress to plants. "The extended dry conditions have led to burning tips on paddy crops and drying leaves on vegetable plants," she said, adding that producing 1 kg of rice requires 3,000 to 5,000 litres of water.

Farmers said the lack of precipitation and above-average temperatures

have adversely affected crop growth and development, which poses a serious threat to the region's agricultural-based economy. Videos circulating on social media depict farmers showing their drying paddy fields and wilting saplings.

The meteorological department in Kashmir has forecast generally cloudy weather with spells of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places in the Kashmir Division and most areas in the Jammu Division from August 01 to 05.

As the prolonged dry weather conditions continue to challenge their livelihoods and the overall agricultural economy in the valley, farmers are anxiously awaiting relief from the hot and dry weather. (KNO)

### AIIMS Jammu

the hospital sees around 300 patients daily, and this number is expected to increase to around 3000 per day with the formal commencement of OPD services, he informed.

Following the launch of OPD services, the hospital will focus on inpatient department (IPD) services, elective surgeries and other specialities, the Executive Director said. "Given the scale and prestige of this institute, which serves Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and parts of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the hospital has imported equipment from the USA, Germany, and other countries to provide unparalleled healthcare facilities," he said.

Officials said that AIIMS Jammu is also detailing appointment procedures, available radiodiagnostic services, and operational aspects of a 24x7 diagnostic lab. The lab is equipped with the most advanced 3-Tesla MRI, 128-slice CT, and digital X-ray services, designed to enhance convenience and efficiency for the community, ensuring timely and accurate diagnostics and treatment.

They said the institute has already hired staff, and further recruitment and facility enhancements are underway. All necessary security arrangements have been made on the advice of the Home Ministry. AIIMS Jammu will eventually open approximately 50 departments, including 30 general and 20 super specialities, they added.

Currently, AIIMS Jammu offers an MBBS program lasting 5 years and 6 months, with a total seat capacity of 62, which will increase to 100 once the institute is fully operational.

The AIIMS Jammu Nursing College has admitted 60 candidates for BSc Nursing. The institute also offers 45 Postgraduate seats across Medicine, Surgery, and Dentistry, with Super Specialisation courses (DM/MCh) expected to commence in January 2025.

Officials said that 500 nurses from various states and Union Territories, including Jammu & Kashmir, have undergone specialised training at AIIMS Delhi before joining AIIMS Jammu. "The super-speciality hospital will have 750 beds, including 46 trauma and emergency beds, 193 ICU beds, 20 operation theatres, a helipad, and a 1,000-seat auditorium. It will also feature MRI, CT and CATH labs equipped with state-of-the-art technology," they said.

The departments at AIIMS Jammu will include General Medicine, General Surgery, Cardiology, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CVTS), Neurology, Neurosurgery, Gastroenterology, Gastroenterological Surgery, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Urology, Nephrology, Pediatric Surgery, Burn and Plastic Surgery, Nuclear Medicine, ENT, Dermatology, Dentistry, Community and Family Medicine (CFM), Anesthesiology, Anatomy, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pathology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Psychiatry, Radiology, and Pulmonary Medicine.

### J&K Okays Revised

do not form the water course thus allowing for subsequent development of segregated lands. This decision is an amplification and simplification of earlier Administrative Council Decision No. 17/01/2022 Dated 29.01.2022 and subsequent Government Order No. 18-JK(Rev) of 2022 dated 04.02.2022 vide which a 3-Tier Committee was empowered to carry out the delineation/demarcation exercise in this regard.

Under the new scheme of things, the procedure has been decentralized, empowering the Deputy Commissioner to carry out delineation based on the District Level Committee's recommendation, regardless of the size of the land involved for State Land. For private lands, the Deputy Commissioner can delineate up to 200 kanals per Khasra on the recommendation of the District Level Committee, while the Divisional Level Committee and Divisional Commissioner can delineate 200-500 kanals per Khasra. All other proposals will be approved by the UT Level Committee.

This decentralized approach will ensure efficient, transparent, and timely delineation. The process will be conducted simultaneously in various districts using modern and scientific technologies like Digital Elevation Model/Digital Terrian Model and Hydrological/Hydraulic Modelling etc.

This decision is expected to lead to substantial industrial expansion and attract new investments. Additionally, it serves as a crucial step towards planned urban development in the segregated areas.

### Financial Position

people, she added. Sitharaman said the Union Budget strikes a fine balance between growth, employment, capital investment, and fiscal consolidation, among others.

Replying to the discussion on Union Budget 2024-25 and Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in Rajya Sabha, the minister also said the Budget proposes unflinching support to cooperative federalism.

"I would like to underline our unflinching commitment to cooperative federalism. The total resources proposed to be transferred to the states in 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 22.91 lakh crore. This actually entails an increase of Rs 2.49 lakh crore over 2023-24," the minister said.

Referring to the general budget, she said the capital expenditure in the last 10 years of the Narendra Modi government stood at Rs 43.82 lakh crore, which is compared to Rs 13.19 lakh crore during the decade-ago rule of UPA.

Sitharaman also said the PLI schemes continue to remain attractive for the manufacturing sector.

The budget is an exercise to make India an attractive destination for manufacturing companies, she added.

She also said the government is complying with the fiscal deficit trajectory. It will bring down the deficit to below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26 from the targeted 4.9 per cent for the current fiscal.

The finance minister highlighted that for agriculture and allied sectors the budget has allocated Rs 1.52 lakh crore, which is Rs 8,000 crore more than the previous year.

For comparison, in 2013-14, the last year of Congress-led UPA, only Rs 30,000 crore was allocated for agriculture.

Earlier on Tuesday, she said, "We have provided substantial financial support of Rs 17,000 crore in the Union Budget of UT Jammu and Kashmir this year. It includes Rs 12,000 crore towards financing the cost of Jammu and Kashmir Police."

"That's the burden we want to take on our shoulders, so that Jammu and Kashmir has more flexibility to spend money on development activities," the Finance Minister added.

### Safety Audit

on July 27. Water from a flooded drain gushed into the basement where a library was set up.

"Deputy Commissioner (Srinagar) Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat ordered a safety audit of all coaching centres in the district," a spokesperson said.

The decision was taken in light of the Old Rajinder Nagar incident, he said.

The deputy commissioner has directed a comprehensive inspection of all buildings housing coaching institutions.

The inspection will focus on areas such as using basements for classes, adherence to fire safety norms, compliance with building by-laws, prevention of overcrowded classrooms, verification of coaching centres operating from residential buildings, and the adequacy of escape routes in buildings, the spokesperson said.

A thorough safety audit of coaching centres, particularly in Srinagar, will be conducted to avert any potential accidents, he added.

Bhat has also constituted committees of officers from relevant departments to assess the compliance of such coaching institutions with safety standards.

The committees have been directed to submit their reports within a reasonable timeframe.

### Srinagar Airport

experience of passengers and visitors, while minimising human interference.

He said that the main feature of this parking system is that it is inherently designed with reasonable and logical tariffs calculated on the basis of dwell time which will make it fair and transparent.

"The system will have time stamping at four designated points within the airport and parking to enhance accountability and ensure accuracy," the statement reads.

It reads that the vehicle will be mapped at entry point and will be allowed a reasonable time of 14 minutes to enter the airport for drop off and pick up of passengers.

"If the vehicle doesn't cross the airport exit within the free time of 14 minutes, it will be charged 15 slab of parking fee for commercial vehicles," it reads.

It added that if the vehicle enters the parking area of the airport, the charges will be applicable based on the time spent in parking.

"The permissible free time from parking exit to airport exit will be 5 minutes. Further to enhance convenience and to provide seamless experience, the parking system will be integrated with Fastag technology allowing for quicker exits," it reads.



# Indian Athletes Continue To Shine At 2024 Paris Olympics

Press Trust of India

**PARIS:** Several Indian Olympians from various sports are putting up excellent displays at the ongoing 2024 Paris Olympics. Here's the latest from the Wednesday's rounds of the Summer Games from the French capital:

**BOXING: Confident Lovlina Advances To Quarters; One Win Away From Second Olympic Medal**

Tokyo Olympics bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) began her quest for a second successive Games medal confidently as she out-punched Norway's Sunniva Hofstad in her opening bout here on Wednesday.

Borgohain prevailed 5-0 in the contest and she is now just one win away from adding to her Tokyo bronze, which was claimed in the



69kg category, and achieve a feat that is unprecedented in Indian boxing.

But her path is not an easy one as she will take on top-seeded Chinese Li Qian in the last-eight stage on August 4. A win in this bout would ensure at least a bronze medal for her.

**WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL ARCHERY: Deepika Kumari Secures Round of 16 Spot**

After an abysmal start to the Paris Olympics campaign from the Indian Archery contingent, Deepika Kumari finally showed some fight and promise by securing her place in the the

Round of 16 of Women's Individual Archery on Wednesday. Deepika started off her day sealing a thrilling 6-5 win against Estonia's Reena Parnat and then put away Netherlands' Quinty Roeffen in the Round of 16 with ease in a 6-2 win.

**BADMINTON: PV Sindhu Storms Into Women's Single Pre-Quarters**

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu on Wednesday cruised into women's single badminton pre-quarterfinals in the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024. The ace Indian shuttler defeated Estonian opponent Kristin Kuuba 21-5, 21-10 in her second and last Group M match to qualify for the Round of 16.

Sindhu, who had beaten Maldives' Fathimath Abdul Razzaq 21-9 21-6 in her first match, topped the group. The winner of each of the 16 groups

qualifies for the round of 16.

The Indian ace has previously won a silver medal in the 2016 Rio Games and a bronze in the Tokyo edition.

**Lakshya Sen Enters Men's Single Badminton Pre-Quarters**

Lakshya Sen on Wednesday stormed into the men's badminton singles Round of 16 in the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024. The encounter against Indonesia's Jonathan Christie was considered the most crucial one for Sen but the latter thumped the third-seeded shuttler 21-18, 21-12 to storm into the next round.

The All England defending champions took off with a healthy lead but Sen fought back and had a narrow 11-10 lead going into the break in the first game. The Indian shuttler continued his momentum to register a 21-18 win.

## Afghanistan To Host South Africa In 3 ODIs In Sharjah



Agencies

Afghanistan will face South Africa in a bilateral series this year for the first time when they host the Proteas in three one-day internationals in the United Arab Emirates, the Asian country's cricket board (ACB) said on Wednesday.

The matches will be held from Sept. 18-22 in the Sharjah Cricket Stadium and will follow Afghanistan's one-off test match against New Zealand, which has been scheduled for Sept. 9-13 in Greater Noida, India.

"The recent International Cricket

Council meeting was quite productive for us," ACB chairman Mirwais Ashraf said.

"Apart from confirming dates for the one-off test match against New Zealand, we reached an agreement with Cricket South Africa for a series of three ODIs in September."

Afghanistan and South Africa have played twice in ODIs, with both matches coming in World Cups in 2019 and 2023.

The teams have also met three times in T20 World Cups, in 2010, 2016 and the semi-finals of this year's edition, with the Proteas winning each time.

## Delhi Court Puts Bookies, 2 Others On Trial In Match-Fixing Case

Agencies

Delhi's Patiala House Court on Wednesday put Rajesh Kalra, Sanjeev Chawla, Krishan Kumar, and Sunil Dara on trial in a 2000 match-fixing case. This case pertains to match fixing between the Indian and South African cricket teams. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Neha Priya formally framed charges against accused persons. They denied charges and claimed trial.

The court has listed the matter for trial and for recording prosecution evidence from October 14. The court has summoned some prosecution

witnesses to record their statements.

South African Cricket team captain Hansie Cronje was also accused. He expired some years ago. Another accused Manmohan Khattar is absconding. On July 11, the court framed charges against four accused, including bookie Sanjeev Chawla, Krishan Kumar of T Series and two others. Chawla was extradited from the United Kingdom in the year 2020.

The court had said that Chawla has emerged as the mastermind of the cheating. South African team captain was also accused in this case. However, proceedings were abetted against him after his death.

## J&K On A Roll In Junior Boys Football Nationals

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Junior Boys football team secured a brilliant victory against Uttarakhand on Wednesday in the ongoing Junior Boys National Football Championship for Dr. B.C. Roy Trophy 2024-25 at Nagaon, Assam.

The J&K youngsters secured a 3-0 win over their opponents, with Aazim scoring a brace and Mujtaba adding the third.

Earlier, the J&K boys trounced Gujarat 5-2 in their opening game of the national championship.

Meanwhile, in the Junior Girls National Football Championship, the J&K girls have been on the losing end of their matches. On Wednes-



day, they lost 5-1 to Chandigarh. Prachi Sharma scored the lone goal for J&K. This was the team's third straight loss in the national tournament.

"We deeply appreciate the efforts of both teams. The boys showed remarkable skill

and teamwork, while the girls displayed great resilience and spirit despite the challenging conditions. We are confident that they will perform even better in the remaining matches," the J&K Football Association said in a statement.

## Inter School Volleyball & Kho Kho Tournaments End In Bijbehara

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Inter School Zonal Level Under-17 Tournaments in Bijbehara concluded on Wednesday, with BHSS Bijbehara lifting the Volleyball title and Oxford High School Bijbehara triumphing in Kho Kho.

Organised by ZPEO Bijbehara at BHSS Bijbehara, the Volleyball final match saw hosts BHSS Bijbehara defeat HSS Arwani, and in Kho Kho, Oxford HS Bijbehara won over BHSS Bijbehara.

On the concluding day, almost 48 students participated in Kho Kho and Volleyball finals.

On the concluding ceremony DYSSO Anantnag Raja



Yaqoob was the chief guest along with the Principal BHSS Bijbehara Nasreena Akhter, who distributed trophies among the winners and runner-up teams.

Best performers of Kho Kho were Furqan Jahangir

of BHSS Bijbehara, Musaab Mir and Ahsan Javaid of Oxford Bijbehara

In Volleyball, the best performers were Umer Ahmad of BHSS Bijbehara, Owais Shabir and Umer Manzoor of HSS Arwani.

## Short TAKES

### India's Thrilling Day 6 at Paris Olympics: Complete Schedule

India's athletes are set for an action-packed Day 6 at the Paris Olympics, with critical events spread throughout the day.

In golf, Gaganjeet Bhullar and Shubhankar Sharma are in the Men's Individual Finals starting at 12.30 pm. Meanwhile, shooting events featuring Swapnil Kusale and others begin at 1.00 pm.

Hockey sees India face Belgium at 1.30 pm, and Nikhat Zareen competes in women's flyweight boxing at 2.30 pm. Key archery and table tennis matches, as well as sailing races, round out a thrilling day.

### Paris Olympics Medals Tally: China Leads On Day 5

The Paris Olympics continues to draw global attention as the competition enters Day 5. Leading the medals tally is China with an impressive 16 medals, including 8 golds.

Close on its heels is Japan, boasting 13 medals with 7 golds. Host nation France remains a strong contender, securing a total of 21 medals.

The United States, despite having fewer gold medals, tops in overall achievements with 27 medals. India's current standing is at 35th place with 2 bronze medals.

### Canada Loses Appeal in FIFA Drone-Spying Scandal

Canada's bid to overturn a six-point deduction in the Paris Olympics women's soccer tournament ended in failure on Wednesday, as ruled by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The panel of three judges confirmed the punishment initially imposed by FIFA.

The scandal erupted when two Canadian assistant coaches were found using drones to spy on New Zealand's practice sessions ahead of the tournament's opening game. Canada can still advance to the quarterfinals with a win against Colombia.

### Djokovic Seals Win To Progress to Paris Olympics Quarterfinals

Novak Djokovic remained comfortably on course for a first Olympic gold medal to add to his record-breaking collection of titles on Wednesday as fellow superstars Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz aimed for a place in the doubles semi-finals.

Djokovic, who has won three of his 24 Grand Slam titles on the clay courts of Roland Garros, defeated German left-hander Dominik Koepfer 7-5, 6-3 to become the first man to reach four Olympic singles quarter-finals.

### France Set up Argentina Showdown in Men's Football Quarterfinals



France set up a potentially explosive quarter-final showdown with Argentina in the men's Olympic football tournament after beating New Zealand 3-0 in their final group game on Tuesday.

Argentina had sealed their last-eight spot earlier in the day and France joined them in the knockout phase with Jean-Philippe Mateta, Desire Doue and Arnaud Kalimuendo scoring for the hosts against New Zealand in Marseille.

France finish on top of Group A with three wins out of three and no goals conceded.

## Death Threats Force Argentina's Angel Di Maria To Abandon Rosario Return

Agencies

**ROSARIO:** Argentinian midfielder Angel Di Maria said death threats against his family in Rosario had forced him to change his mind about returning to his boyhood club Rosario Central.

Di Maria was targeted in what Argentine authorities have previously described as an attempted display of power by criminal organizations in Rosario, which has seen an increase in drug and gang related violence.

The 36-year-old, who retired from international soccer after winning his second Copa America trophy earlier this month, said he had wanted to end his club career in his hometown after leaving Portuguese side Benfica.

Reports of a death threat note thrown into Di Maria's family property surfaced in March and Di Maria said his family had not reported another threat to the police out of fear.

"There was a threat at my sister's business, a box with a pig's head



and a bullet in the forehead, and a note that said that if I returned to (Rosario) Central, the next head was that of my daughter Pia," Di Maria told a television station in Rosario on Tuesday.

"Those months were horrible... we could only sit there and cry each night over not being able to carry out that dream return."

Argentina captain Lionel Messi was also a target of threats last

year. Argentina's federal security forces were deployed to Rosario in March and Governor Maximiliano Pullaro said earlier this month that protocols were implemented to ensure the safety of public figures.

"It is disrespectful to talk about security and protocols for me when people from Rosario cannot go out to work, cannot wait for the bus without being robbed or killed for a backpack," Di Maria added.

## France Captain Kylian Mbappe Buys Ligue 2 Club SM Caen

Agencies

**PARIS:** France captain Kylian Mbappe has taken over as majority shareholder of Ligue 2 club Caen, Mbappe's company Interconnected Ventures announced in a statement on Wednesday.

The new Real Madrid player, who came close to signing for Caen when he was younger, has acquired 80 percent of the shares through Coalition Capital, the investment

entity of Interconnected Ventures, replacing US investment fund Oaktree as majority shareholder. No figure has been released officially but French media reports put the acquisition fee at 15-20 million euros (\$16-21.6 million).

"This transaction marks a significant step in the club's strategic development and reinforces its natural ambition to remain one of the most successful clubs in



French football," the club said in a statement.

"This acquisition will provide Caen with additional strategic resources to strengthen its sporting policy, modernise its infrastructure and develop innovative projects."

Mbappe's close friend Ziad Hammoud will take over as chairman of the club.

"We are determined to create an environment

where young talent can flourish and where the club can defend its identity with strength and ambition," Hammoud said in the press release.

The 25-year-old World Cup winner, who now becomes one of the youngest

owners of a professional club, was courted by Caen when he was just 13, before he joined Monaco and then Paris Saint-Germain.

"You'd have to think

that the time he spent at Caen in his youth left its mark on him! How proud we are to see a champion like @KMBappe investing in @SMCaen," the mayor of Caen Aristide Olivier posted on social media.

Founded in 1913, Caen finished fifth in the top flight in 1992 and reached the League Cup final in 2005 but have played in France's second tier since 2019.





مجیب میر

Mujeeb Mir

(1st August 1970 - 1st February 2005)

إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ  
بے شک اللہ صبر کرنے والوں  
کے ساتھ ہے

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ