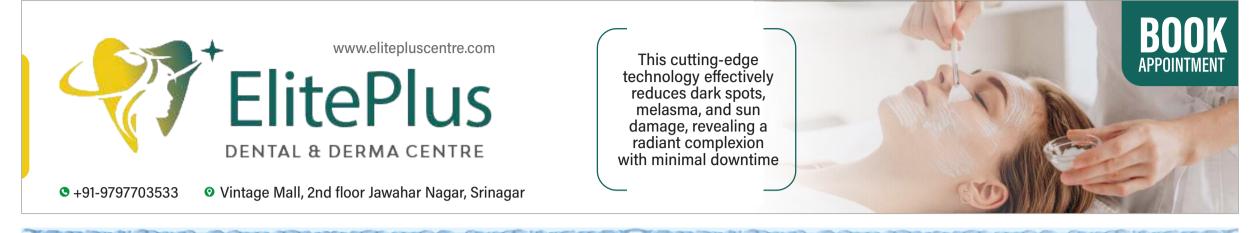
**UCAN** OF PUBLICATION

# **KASHMIR OBSFRVFR**

Sunday 22 December 2024 | Srinagar | Vol: 27 | Issue: 302 | Pages: 12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



# **CHILLAI KALAN BREAKS RECORDS Coldest December Night In 3 Decades**

### Second-lowest In 133 Years

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The 40-day harsh winter period, Chillai Kalan, began with an intense cold wave across Kashmir, as Srinagar recorded its coldest December night in over three decades at minus 8.5°C. This marks the second-lowest December temperature recorded in the last 133 years.

all-time lowest The December temperature in Srinagar was recorded on December 13, 1934, at minus & 12.8°C, while the now-third lowest was minus 7.9°C, observed on December 13, 1986.

The intense cold wave continues in Kashmir for weeks, with no major weather activity expected until the end of the

**DHSK** Issues

Guidelines

**Safety** 



month. In Qazigund, the mercurv dropped to minus 8.2°C, the lowest of the season so far. Pahalgam, a popular tourist

he Directorate of Health Services

advisory to safeguard the public,

potential health risks, symptoms to watch

particularly high-risk groups, during the

winter season. The advisory outlines

Kashmir (DHSK) has issued a detailed

destination, recorded minus 8.6°C. The coldest place in the Valley was Anantnag, where the temperature plunged to minus 10.5°C, followed closely

by Shopian at minus 10.4°C and Pulwama at minus 10.3°C. Kulgam recorded a minimum of minus 6.8°C.

for, and measures to mitigate the impact of extreme cold weather.

The advisory defines a cold wave as a weather phenomenon marked by a significant drop in air temperature, sometimes accompanied by frost and hazardous

The Department (MeT) has predicted light snowfall in some Chillai Kalan extends from higher reaches of | More on P10

conditions like icing. DHSK has urged people to stay informed about weather updates and district-specific warnings to prepare adequately for the challenging conditions. Among those identified as high-risk groups are homeless | More on P10

to March 02.

December 13, 1934:

December 13, 1986:

TEMPERATURE

Anantnag: -10.5°C

Shopian: -10.4°C

Pulwama: -10.3°C

Qazigund: -8.2°C

Pahalgam: -8.6°C

Meteorological

Kulgam: -6.8°C

RECORDINGS

-12.8°C

-7.9°C

**New Business Rules In The Works: NC Led Panel Finalises Draft** 

#### WHEN THE COLD STRIKES

#### **The Silent Danger Of Heart Attacks During Extreme Cold**

**Observer News Service** Srinagar: As Kashmir enters the grip of winter, with temperatures \_> already dropping sharply, a silent danger begins to creep in. For many, the **Constriction of** season brings **Blood Vessels** more than just a chill-it Increased Blood Clotting

brings a hidden danger that Shivering strikes without **Stress on the Body** warning. As the mer-

cury falls, heart attacks become an unexpected and deadly companion of winter's frost

Extremely cold weather appears to increase the risk of dying from heart failure by 37 percent, according to international

Association journal Circulation. But why does this happen? Kashmir Observer spoke with experts to understand the reasons behind this alarming trend. According to when doctors, it's cold, blood

research published in

the American Heart

vessels constrict (narrow), which Inactivity makes the heart work harder to pump blood through the body. This can increase blood pressure

and put extra strain on the heart, leading to a higher risk of heart attacks, especially in individuals with existing heart conditions. "Cold | More on P10

No GST Hike On **Kashmir Shawls: Omar** 



PM Modi Arrives In Kuwait

First Indian PM To Do So In 43 Yrs

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Minister Kuwait: Prime Narendra Modi on Saturday arrived here in the Gulf nation on a two-day visit where he will meet the Indian diaspora and hold talks with Kuwaiti leadership to "strengthen the India-Kuwait friendship across

various sectors"

Modi is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His visit to Kuwait will be the first of any Indian Prime Minister to the Gulf nation in 43 years. "Landed in Kuwait to a warm

were unveiled by the Union welcome. This is | More on P10

#### Agencies

Srinagar: The cabinet subcommittee, constituted by the National Conference-led government, has prepared a draft of business rules, which is currently under discussion, sources said. Sources said that the CSC, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and comprising Ministers Javed Rana and Sakina Ittoo, has developed the draft of business rules, and it is being discussed at various levels.

According to sources, the CSC has examined the business rules that were in effect in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, as well as the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019, which Home Ministry in 2020, along with subsequent amendments made in 2023 and 2024.

Two of the three ministers on the CSC, who wished to remain anonymous, stated that the work of the CSC is in its final stages and that it would soon submit its report to the cabinet. "The cabinet sub-committee is

expected to meet again soon to finalize its recommendations," they said, adding that the CSC has only met once.

According to the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the Lieutenant Governor must make business rules on the advice of the council of ministers. As per | More on P10

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: In a major relief for artisans and traders in Kashmir's iconic handloom industry, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has confirmed that there will be no hike in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on shawls this year. The announcement comes amid growing speculation about potential increases in taxation on Kashmir's traditional products, which include the highly prized Pashmina shawls.

Addressing the issue on X (formerly Twitter), the Chief Minister sought to put an end to the rumors surrounding the GST hike. "There had been a lot of speculation that GST on shawls will be hiked, so we had come prepared to ensure that wouldn't happen. Thankfully, it wasn't taken up, and we will also ensure that in the future also, something like this is not



considered," he said.

The clarification has been warmly welcomed by artisans and business stakeholders within Kashmir's handloom and handicraft sector. The industry, renowned globally for its exquisite craftsmanship, was anxiously awaiting confirmation on the GST issue, fearing that an increase would further burden a sector already | More on P10

On the first day of the drive,

scrutiny of more than 100 SIM

card vendors was conducted to

verify that cards are being issued

### IT Raids Uncover Rs 800 Cr Hawala Network KCI Emporium Under Scanner Over Dubai Property Links

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The Income Tax Department conducted raids on the KCI Emporium Group, a prominent business entity in Kashmir, as part of a broader investigation into illegal financial activities linked to Dubai property investments. The operation, carried out on Wednesday, simultaneously targeted premises in Srinagar, Mumbai, and Delhi.

Preliminary findings revealed that certain individuals from Kashmir had been involved in hawala cash transactions to fund investments in Dubai-based properties. Among the evidence seized were records indicating property deals within the Kashmir Valley amounting to over Rs 50 crores, with a significant portion involving large cash



components. Additionally, more than Rs 1 crore in cash was confiscated during the searches.

The investigation has uncovered a larger network connecting middlemen and investors across India , with total Dubai property investments exceeding Rs 800 crores. Individuals from Srinagar to Hyderabad are now under scrutiny by the Income Tax Department for tax evasion and the use of unaccounted funds in real estate deals.

The Income Tax Department said that a probe under the Income Tax Act, 1961, and the Black Money Act, 2015, has been underway in this regard.

Farooq Shaw, owner of KCI Emporium, which operates showrooms in five-star hotels across India and abroad, is under scrutiny for his alleged involvement.

The raids also targeted the residences of Waseem Ahmad Dar, a 39-year-old property dealer, and Taha Majeed Dar, a 35-yearold employee of the Power Development Department, in Srinagar's Hyderpora area.

KCI Emporium is a residential complex located in Nishat, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Developed by KCI Projects Pvt. Ltd., the project offers residential apartments | More on P10

# **Centre Okays Rs 85 Cr For** J&K's Colleges, Varsities

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The Union Ministry for Education, has approved projects worth Rs 85 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for nine higher education institutions in Jammu & Kashmir.

The decision, taken during the third Project Approval Board (PAB) meeting announced on December 20, 2024, underscores the government's commitment



towards transforming higher education infrastructure and fostering inclusivity and ex-

ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday extended his heartiest congratulations to the Vice Chancellor, faculty, staff, scholars and students of University of Jammu for

## **SIM Card Vendors Under Police Scrutiny In Kashmir**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday conducted comprehensive inspection of SIM card vendors in several districts of Kashmir to prevent their misuse and ensure strict compliance with the established regulations, officials said.

out in Srinagar, Ganderbal,

Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama

and Bandipora districts of the

Valley, a police spokesman said.

sure that SIM cards are issued

strictly in accordance with the

prescribed rules, he said.

The initiative is aimed to en-

Special teams from each po-

lice station in all the five zones of

Srinagar district were deployed

to carry out the drive within

their respective jurisdictions.

only to individuals with genuine credentials, the spokesman said. The drive is part of an ongoing effort to promote lawful usage of SIM cards and strengthen accountability of the vendors, he said. The drives were carried

The spokesman said similar drives were also conducted in Ganderbal, Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama and Bandipora districts of the Valley with focus on verifying adherence to know your customer (KYC) norms, proper documentation, and preventing unauthorised issuance of SIM cards.

During the drive, credentials of SIM cards issued to various subscribers by the vendors were checked randomly viz-a-viz that of the end users, | More on P10

cellence in the region. Among the sanctioned | More on P10

attaining the coveted | More on P10



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

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 22-12-2024

# **Scholarships This Week**

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

#### **Scholarship Name 1: PROMYS** India (Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists) 2025

Description: PROMYS India (Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists) 2025 is offered by PROMYS, an Indian residential mathematics summer program, in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) to the students of classes 9 to

Eligibility: Applicants must be at least 15 years old on May 11, 2025. They must be enrolled in classes 9 to 12 or pre-university courses in a government-funded, governmentaided, private, unaided, independent school, sixth-form college, home schools, or other types of secondary and higher secondary schools.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will receive a full scholarship covering tuition fees and other benefits.

Last Date to Apply: 15-01-2025 Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ PROM2

QR Code: https://d2w7l1p59qkl0r. cloudfront.net/static/images/schomedia/promys-india-programin-mathematics-for-young-scientists-20251733744904.png

#### Scholarship Name 2: Tata **Capital Pankh Scholarship Program 2024-25**

Description: An initiative of Tata Capital Limited aimed at providing finan-

cial support to students belonging to economically weaker sections of society to help them fulfill their academic dreams

Eligibility: Indian students who are currently studying in Classes 11, 12 general graduation (B.Com., B.Sc., B.A., etc.), diploma and ITI courses at recognised institutions are eligible. Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in the preceding class. The annual family income of the applicants from all sources must be less than or equal to INR 2.5 lakh.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to an amount ranging from INR 10,000 to INR 12,000 or 80% of course fees (whichever is less) Last Date to Apply: 15-01-2025 Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url www.b4s.in/observer/

TCPS27 QR Code: https://d2w7l1p59qkl0r. cloudfront.net/static/images/schomedia/tata-capital-pankh-scholarship-program-2024-251734416803.

#### Scholarship Name 3: 'LIFE'S GOOD' Scholarship Program 2024

Description: LG Electronics India Private Limited invites applications from students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate courses at select colleges/institutes across India. Eligibility: Students must be undergraduate/postpursuing graduate courses (any academic year) from select colleges/institutes across India. First-year students must have scored a minimum of 60% marks in their class 12th examinations, while students in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years must have achieved a minimum of 60% marks in the previous academic year. Preference will be given to meritorious students, female students and students with an annual family income of not more than INR 8 lakh.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 100,000 for one year	
Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2024	
Application mode: Online applica- tions only	
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/	
LGIGS1 QR Code: https://d2w7l1p59qkl0r.	
cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-	
media/life-s-good-scholarship-pro- gram-20241734417085.png	
gram-20241/3441/003.pmg	

ام	مجسثريث درجهاول إكنكا	نگام ایگزیک	<b>ازدفتر نائب تحصيلداراک</b> درخواست منجانب: به طاریق احمد مير ولدغلا	
		ماحر ميرسا ك		Th
ہرخاص دعام	اشتهار بمرادآ گابی		حصول آ ربې اےسرٹفکيٹ ۔	he
	/		معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر ميس سائل صدر	he
-:-	ل افراد کنبه بذیل درج	ارى حلقه تفصيا	د فتر ہازہ میں پیش کیا ہے جسب رپورٹ پٹوا	reg
آمدانی	ىپىشە	عمر	نام صاحب كنبه معه ولديت	ge
LPC	سرکاری ملازم	37 سال	طاريق احمد ولدغلام احمد مير	Af
	کھر کام	35 سال		R/
	ز تعليم	07 بال	مہدالطاریق دختر ۔۔۔	
			اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فر د کنبہ میں موجود نہیں	
			=/LPC ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص	
		ااعتراض دفنة	اعتراضٍ ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندراند را پز	My   Za
ئب تخصيلدار	تحر الصدرنا		بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔	na
JNA7780	878931			tic
		Ction N		Zio
	ional Commercial M	lanager, N	orthern Railway, Firozpur for and on meligible and registered bidders for	D/    R/

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

he name and DOB of my daughter has been wrongly written er school records as Shah Zuha Mariam DOB:27/08/2013 while er correct Name and DOB is Zuha MARIYAM DOB 27/08/2014) hich needs to be updated. If anybody has any objection in this gard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Inenious School Of Education Mallabagh Srinagar within 7 days. fter that no objection shall be entertaind. r Ab Rashid F/o Zuha Mariyam o Mugal Lane Zakura Crossing mdl **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

y name has been wrongly written in my school records as ainab Ul Gazali D/O Mushtaq Ahmad Dar while my correct ame is which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objecon in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office the New islamia modal school palhallan pattan within 7 days fer that no objection shall be entertained. ara Muchtae

behalf of Presid	sional Commerc	-Auction Notice cial Manager, Northern Railway, Fire es E-Auction from eligible and regist		D/O	a Mushtaq Mushtaq Ahmad Dar Palhallan Ghat		fko
	Auction Start 06.01.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.		0/F1, 20498/F1,		PUBLIC N the following persons propose to er the name and style "Chinar Wel	register a non-prof	
EAFZR- SLR24-90	07.01.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	14662/F1, 11906/F1, 14662/F2 & 1- Allotment of contract for leasing of Train No./SLR compartment: 14600 14601/F2, 14614/R1, 12032/ 14614/F1, 12474/F1 & 12412/F1.	parcel space in 6/F1, 14601/R1,	S. No	ties Kashmir under the society re Name with address Ansar Ahmad Bhat R/o Tantray	Occupation	Status in society Chairman
	0	n, please visit Railway website www.	3909/24	02	Pora Palhallan (9858276102 Tauseef Bashir R/o Parray Mohalla Palhallan 7889593776	MBA	Vice Chairmai
THE J/	NEW CAP	IMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUC MPUS,BEMINA,SRINAGAR	ATION		Asmat Ansar W/o Ansar Ah Bhat R/o Tantray Pora Palhallan		Treasurer
No:139009103 S	ppeared in SSE/ ession: Annual	PUBLIC NOTICE HSE-U/HSE-II (Class 10 <sup>th</sup> under Roll Regular 2023 year: 2023 through		4	Mehraj-ud-din Dar r/O Rangi <u>Bulgram Pattan</u> Bisma Qadir R/o Palpora Pati	Graduate Passout social work Artisan/ Social	Secretary Member
<b>committed by as</b> in The Jammu & Ka	wani instead of k ashmir Board of Sc	ool Education. The error has been han. Now I have applied for correction chool Education, New Campus, Bemina, ction in this regard may file the same in		6	Palapora Shazia Mohammad R/o Tan- travpora Palhallan	Work Artisan	Member
the office of the seven days from th	Assistant Secretar	y, Certificates Kashmir Division within tion of this notice, after their expiry of	No. 4	7		Graduate Passout	Member
This is publishe The correct partic Name:-	d for the informa ulars be recorded Adeeba Showkat	ation of the general public. as under:			objection in this regard may be re of societies Kashmir withn 7 days		
Mother's Name:- Date of Birth:-	howkat Ahmad Wani Shaheena 16/10/2005 Illahi Bagh Srinagar 9906567756		Media Line	aj			elfare Society r Ahmad Bhat 9858276102

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION DOORU

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO 400F R&B/Dooru/2024-25 /E-TENDERING/ EED/T-1/ 3718-23 DATED: 21-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K .Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invited e-tenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs) S. No Name of Work Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs) Earnest Money (In Rs) Time of Completion Maior Head of Account Class of Contractor

Development of play field near ADV Road at Bathunoo Larkipora 46.93 (39.84+7.09) 1100 93860 6 months Capex AAY/BEE Class only

Position of AAA ; Accorded Position of TS: Accorded

The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		21/12/2024	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	22/12/2024	(9:00 Am)
		То	02-01-2025	(06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	22/01/2024	(9:00 Am)
4	Bid Submission End Date	То	02/01/2025	(06:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		03/01/2025	(11:00 AM)
		In the office of E	xecutive Engineer PWD(R&B) Div	vision DOORU.
			<b>o</b> , , ,	

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU [Tender Inviting Authority! (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date (NIT No and Name of work/ Item No. should be mentioned on Treasury Challan) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority).

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs 500/- whichever is lower. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.

6. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding 18%GST.

7. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through email message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

9. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid

b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.

c) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

d) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited. e) The tenders shall be opened and allotted to 1st lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/available on Beams.

10. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www. jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form. d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

No.EED/3718-23 SD DATED: 21/12/2024. DIPK-9856/24

**Executive Engineer**, PWD (R&B) Division DOORU

#### Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT PULWAMA

Subject:-Extension of last date for advertisement of Sanginis (AWWs)

Due to Poor response against the advertisement published for engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) published in Daily Newspapers vide No:-CDPO/Poshan/Adv/2024/666-79 Dated:- 05.12.2024 the last date for submission of application forms of below mentioned locations is now extended up to 25.12.2024.

Government of Jammu& Kashmir	
Office of the Superintendent ITI, Sopo	re.

www.itisopore.com email-id:sitisopore@gmail.com

#### Admission Notification

Offline applications are invited from the desirous female candidates for seeking Admission in Govt. ITI Sopore for the Academic Session-II-January 2025 in following trade of Six month duration being run under SCVT Scheme.

The prescribed admission forms can be had from the Trainings section of ITI Sopore against payment of Rs. 100 (Rupees Hundred Only) w.e.f 23.12.2024 and the last date for submitting offline forms is fixed as 23.01.2025.

Candidates having minimum age of 14 years as on 1st January 2025 with no upper age bar can apply. The candidates are required to attach Xerox copies of the following documents (Self attested) along with filled in admission form:-

- Marks Certificate of Qualifying Examination.
- Date of Birth 2.
- 3. Relevant Category certificate (if any).
- 4. Aadhar Card
- 5. Domicile Certificate (It can also be submitted at the time of admission)

S.No	Name of the Trade	Scheme	Duration	Intake Capacity	Eligibility
02	Data Entry Operator (Women Wing)	SCVT	06 Months	24	10thPASS

Important Note:-

- Selection will be made purely on the basis of Academic Merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination. 1.
- 2. Only female candidates can apply for trade.
- 3. The candidates shall have to submit Original Discharge Certificate of last attended institute at the time of admission.
- 4. Minimum class attendance of Eighty percent is mandatory for appearing in the final SCVT examination.

DIPK-9835/24 dated: 21-12-2024

Name of the Project Name of Panchayat/ Vacancy of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) 5.No Name of District Municipality Ward No. Of Panch Ward/ Name of AWC MC ward Pulwama Pulwama Tahab Ward No:03 Tahab A Ward No:02 Ward No:01 02 03 Pulwama Pulwama Chandgam Chandgam B Ashmander A Pulwama Ashmander Pulwama 04 Ward No:10 Pulwama Pulwama Murren E Murran Sd/=

Child Dev. Project Officer Poshan,Pulwama

No:-CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2023/730-42 DIPK-9834/24 Dated: 21.12.2024

#### Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail, id, xenmhdhandwara@gmail.com

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender (Short Term)

#### e-NIT No: M&HDH/TS/2024-25/eNIT/40

#### Date: 19-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from OEM / authorized dealers of OEMs or registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimat ed Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees )	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Time of Comp letion	AA	Technica l Sanction
01.	Comprehensive Maintenance Contract with Operation of Oxygen Generation Plants installed at DH Ganderbal.	33.30	2000	67000	365 days	28/DHSK of 2024 Dt:- 19.10.2024	MHED/ K/TS/92 Dt:- 06/11/20 24

Note:-

#### Position of funds: - Available with intending Department.

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 19/12/2024 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 19/12/2024 (18.00 hrs).

- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 20/12/2024 (10:00 hrs) to 30/12/2024 2. (16:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- 3. Opening of Bids: The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 31/12/2024 at 14.00hrs

No: MHDH/TS/3265-71 Dated:-21/12/2024 DIPK-9840/24

Sd/-Executive Engineer, M&HD. Handwara

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT

Superintendent

Govt ITI Sopore



# KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 22-12-2024

## **Skill Development Training For Youth Concludes Successfully**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The closing ceremony for the software developer training and service technician home appliances training was held at Hotel Hill Star, Buchwara, under the aegis of the Srinagar Sector, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The event was attended by Awadhesh Kumar, Second-In-Command of 61 BN CRPF, Rinki Kumari DC, Sajid Dar, Former Head Coach of the Indian Women's Football Team, Saleem, Director of Wyath Services, and officials of Wyath Service Private Limited.

The training program saw the successful completion of 20 students, including 12 girls. This initiative, designed to enhance the skills of youth, aims to contribute to building a resilient, inclusive society and foster na-

tional development. The program is part of CRPF's ongoing commitment to promoting community development and creating employment opportunities for the youth of

In his address, Awadhesh Kumar assured that CRPF would continue to support youth empowerment initiatives in the future.

in the successful completion of the skill development program and thanked all to developing specialized skills in the youth.

Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed gratitude to the Director of Wyath Services for their cooperation trainers for their dedication



PEOPLE LIGHT DIYAS as part of a custom to celebrate Misha Sahab's Urs in Rainwari, Old City, on Saturday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

### WORLD MEDITATION DAY: **CRPF Organizes Meditation** Session In Alliance With 'Art Of Living'

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: The Regional CRPF Wives Welfare Association, Group Centre CRPF Srinagar, in collaboration with the Art of Living, today hosted a meditation session at the GC CRPF campus in Humhama, Srinagar, to mark World Meditation Day.

The one-hour group meditation session was conducted by an Art of Living faculty member Manjeet Singh while DIG GC CRPF Rajesh Kumar, officers, Jawans, and their family members enthusiastically participated in it. The aim of the session

was the introduction of participants to meditation and how it can help diminish stress levels and promote overall mental wellness.

The event also included practical techniques for calming the mind, improving focus, and fostering emotional resilience.

Notably, DIG Rajesh Kumar shared insights, stressing how meditation has been instrumental in managing the challenges of a demanding profession. "Meditation helps us stay calm, focused, and balanced despite the immense challenges we face

in our line of duty," he said. Manjeet Singh, faculty member, Art of Living, while speaking at the event highlighted meditation impor-tance for soldiers. "Meditation builds inner strength and resilience, essential for our brave soldiers and their families," he said.

On the occasion, a CRPF officer Ashok Kumar said, "As a soldier, our job often takes a toll on our mental health. This session is like a breath of fresh air."

Another participant said, "It was a very much-needed experience for all of us." After this session, I am feeling more relaxed and comfortable.

# **PM's Cut-out Adorned** With 'Pheran' In Srinagar

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: A life-size cut-out of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on display in Srinagar's Lal Chowk was adorned with a 'pheran' - a traditional Kashmiri cloak - on International Pheran Day on Saturday.

A local poet from Budgam district in central Kashmir, Jamal Ali Karbalai, alias Jamal Budgami, draped a beige pheran over the life-size cut-out of the Prime Minister, attracting a large number of onlookers, including tourists.

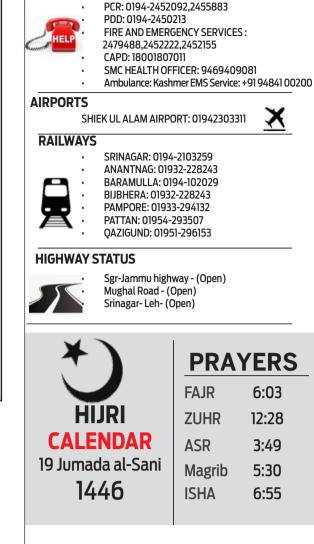
Fans Association, told reporters. Izband seeds are traditionally placed on hot charcoal or in a Kangri



(Kashmiri fire-pot), where they explode and release a fragrant smoke. The smoke is believed to ward off evil. "We want the pheran to become famous worldwide and are celebrat-

ing Pheran Day along with Modi ji, Budgami said.

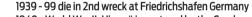
He added that the aim behind adorning Modi with a pheran "is to make him focus on Kashmir more seriously.



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

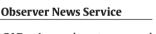
# This Day In History

- 1790 Supposedly impenetrable Turkish fortress of Izmail stormed and captured by Suvorov and his Russian armies during the Russo-Turkish War (1787–1792).
- 1807 US Congress passes Embargo Act, prohibiting American ships from trading in all foreign ports, as a result of involvement in hostilities between France and Britain.
- 1810 British frigate HMS Minotaur sinks killing 480 1814 - Samuel Marsden of the Church Missionary Society arrives in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand to establish the country's first mission station; Sheep, cattle, horses and poultry are introduced.
- 1849 The execution of Russian writer Fyodor Dostoevsky is called off at the last second.
- 1851 The first freight train is operated in Roorkee, India. 1882 - 1st string of Christmas tree lights created by
- **Thomas Edison** 1890 - Cornwallis Valley Railway begins operation
- between Kingsport and Kentville, Nova Scotia. 1915 - Organized baseball & Federal League sign a peace treaty at Cincinnati.
- 1917 Flanders declares its independence, under Pieter Tack 1930 - Convention of Economic Rapprochement/Oslo Agreesments signed between some European countries in response to the Great Depression.



- 1940 World War II: Himarë is captured by the Greek army.
- 1941 Japans invasion leader lands on Luzon, Philippines 1941 - Tito establishes 1st Proletarian Brigade in Yugoslavia
- 1942 World War II: Adolf Hitler signs the order to develop

**SRINAGAR:** In order to spread





**DC Presides Over Awareness Camp** 

"We have been celebrating Pheran

Day for the last four years, and this is the second time we've adorned Modi ji with a pheran. We also lit 'izband' (harmala seeds) and showered sweets on him," Budgami, who claims to be the chairman of the All India Modi



### December 19, 2024

#### RASM-E-CHAHARUM

With Profound grief and sorrow, We inform the sad demise of Mr.Manzoo Ahmad Shah, S/o Gul Mohammad Shah, R/o New Colony Bijbehara Near Oxford High School. May Almighty Allah accord peace to the departed s His congregational Fateha khawani will be held on (Monday) 23 december at 10:30 am at at ancestral graveyard astan aalia baba naseem din gazi bijbehara

> For directions please call Reese at 9419008192,7780890649

awareness about Mission YUVA programme to promote entrepreneurship at grassroots level, an awareness programme was held here at Harwan Block of Srinagar District.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat presided over the awareness programme organised by District Employment Office in collaboration with District Administration Srinagar.

Besides, members of District Development Council Srinagar including Ali Mohammad, Shabir Ahmad, Mohammad Shaban and Shaista Jan, the awareness programme witnessed overwhelming participation of local vouth.

Addressing the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the objectives of the Mission YUVA. He said initiative had been launched by the government for creating new



micro-enterprises, expanding existing ones & collectives, and promoting new enterprises based on innovative ideas in J&K with a view to create sustainable employment opportunities at grassroots level.

He added that the strategy is to build an ecosystem for developing entrepreneurial culture, facilitate capacity building, and provide opportunities to create job providers rather than job seekers.

The DC also highlighted the importance of Mission Yuva in equipping young minds with essential

skills and opportunities through door to door surveys for enhancing self-employment opportunities.

He urged the youth to adopt a proactive approach and take benefit from different self-employment schemes.

During the programme, experts elaborated on various aspects of Mission YUVA including 4C's including Culture, Capital, Capacity and Connectivity

During the programme, a short video film was presented regarding the Mission YUVA.

#### the V-2 rocket as a weapon.

- get permission to use synthetic rubber for baseball core.
- 1950 2 self-propelled trains of Long Island RR collide, killing 77.
- 1956 Last British & French troops leave Egypt.
- 1963 Official 30-day mourning period for President John F. Kennedy ends.
- 1963 Cruise ship Lakonia burns 180 miles north of Madeira with the loss of 128 lives.
- 1964 First flight of the SR-71 (Blackbird).
- 1971 UN General Assembly ratifies former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim as Secretary-General.
- 1971 USSR performs underground nuclear test.
- 1972 6.25 earthquake strikes Managua Nicaragua, 12,000+ killed
- 1974 2nd cease-fire between IRA & British; lasts until approx April 1975.
- 1974 Referenda in Comoros-3 islands for independence. 1 stays French.
- 1974 Irag announces plans to increase its oil production capacity.

### From KO Archives

## Kangri Claims Its First Victim

#### **Observer News Service**

**RINAGAR-**With the new millennium a leap al-Slay, Kashmiris still have to cling to a kangri, thanks to the' development' the place has witnessed.

One Mohammad Sultan Lone of Lal Bazar; Srinagar died here last night after his kangri overturned while he was asleep. Police believes that smoke from the smouldering bedding suffocated the man to death.

Lone, a government employee went to bed taking a kangir to warm up his bedding. He fell asleep and during the night hours the kangri over-turned, setting his bedding on fire. The smoke that accumulated in the room is being cited as the apparent cause of his death, Police Station Soura has started investigations into the matter.

The family members came to know about his death only in the morning hours when they went up to his room to enquire as to why he had not woken up. They found him dead in the burnt out bedding. He had also suffered some burn injuries

(Kashmir Observer, 22 December, 1998)

#### eomckhrew@gmail.com **Government of Jammu & Kashmir DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER** MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHREW SWTS/

ima

Subject:- Declaration of Municipal Committee Khrew as Manual Scavenging free and invitation of objections thereof.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

In pursuance of Government Order dated: 20.10.2023 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(C) No 324/2020 filed by Dr. Balram Singh and the Guideline for Survey of Manual Scavengers issued by the Government of India vide letter dated: 1st Feb. 2024, the survey of Manual Scavengers has been undertaken and completed and no Manual Scavengers have been found within the territorial jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Khrew.

In accordance with this, objection, if any regarding this declaration are hereby invited from the general public or claimants. Such objections must be submitted in writing to the Office of the undersigned or before the office of the District Social Welfare Officer Pulwama within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice

The objections may be submitted in person or sent via mail on eomckhrew@ gmail.com/Dswopulwama@gmail.com. After the stipulated period no objections whatsoever shall be entertained, Municipal Committee Khrew will be officially declared/notified as Manual Scavenging Free.

No. MC/KH/2024/1430-34	Sd/-
Dated: 19/12/2024	Executive Officer
DIPK-NB-2908-24	Municipal Committee
DT: 21/12/2024	Khrew.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, ANANTNAG** (NEAR HEAD POST OFFICE, ANANTNAG)

Email Id: dicplananantnag@gmail.com Contact No.: +91-1932-294595

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

M/s Bhasin Fabricators, I.E Vessu registered provisionally with this office under No: 01/014/11/08952/Prov dated: 18-08-2020 for the Line of Activity "Manufacturing / Fabrication of Pre-Fabricated Huts, tanks, Stainless Steel, Gates/ Grills, Iron / Steel Frame for Doors / Windows, Bridges and Bridge Section, Fabricated Metal Products" as the proprietary concern of Chander Bhan Bhasin S/o: Ascharaj Lal Bhasin R/o: Gogji Bagh Srinagar.

The validity of HM -1 of the instant unit has been extended up to 24-04-2025 vide order No: 04 DI&C of 2024 dated: 22-04-2024.

The proprietor has mooted an application to the office of the General Manager, DIG, Anantnag, wherein he has requested to change in line of activity to "Storage and Warehouse Facility" and change in name and style to " Bhasin Tranguil Warehouse".

Any person(s) / Organization, Department having any objections in this behalf should convey in writing to the General Manager, District Industries Centre Anantnag within Seven (07) days from the date of publication of this Notice. After expiry of the time frame no Objection shall be entertained

No: DICA/Dev/2024/2238 General Manager, Dated: 19/12/2024 DIPK-9826-24 District Industries Centre, DT: 21/12/2024 Anantnag

# NEWS

# **Five Dead In Car Ramming In Crowded German Christmas Market**

#### Agencies

Berlin: At least five people were killed and more than 200 others were injured after a car rammed into a crowded Christmas market in the city of Magdeburg, the capital of the central German state of Saxony-Anhalt.

Governor Reiner Haseloff on Saturday said the preliminary death toll had risen from two to five and that many people were critically wounded.

Officials described the incident as an intentional attack

very worried about them." Speaking of the suspect, Haseloff said police believed him to have acted alone. "As far as we know, there is no further danger to the city," he told reporters.

#### Suspect identified

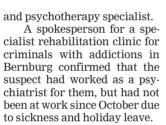
The interior minister for Saxony-Anhalt, Tamara Zieschang, identified the suspect as a 50-year-old from Saudi Arabia who arrived in Germany in 2006. He was previously unknown to security services. Local media said the suspect was Taleb A., a psychiatry

and announced that the driver had been taken into custody at the scene. An investigation is under way.

Local media reports indicate the car involved was seen driving at high speeds before striking the crowd at about 7pm [18:00 GMT] on Friday.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited the scene on Saturday and offered his condolences to the families of the victims.

'What a terrible act it is to injure and kill so many people there with such brutality," he said. "Nearly 40 are so seriously injured that we must be



Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry has condemned the "The Kingdom affirms its position in rejecting violence and expresses its sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and to the Federal Republic of Germany," it said in a statement.

Pak Ballistic Missile Programme **Threat To US: White House** 

attack.

#### Press Trust Of India

Washington: Asserting that Pakistan developing sophisticated missile technology will give it the capability to strike targets well beyond South Asia, including in the US, a top White House official said on Thursday that the Asian country's actions are an emerging threat to the United States. Such a remark by the top White House official comes a day after the US slapped sanctions on four Pakistani entities, including the stateowned flagship aerospace and defence agency — National Development Complex (NDC) - on charges of them contributing to Pakistan's ballisticmissile programme. The other three entities are Akhtar and Sons Private Limited, Affiliates International and Rockside Enterprise. All three are based in Karachi. Based in Islamabad, the NDC is responsible for the ballistic-missile programme. It has worked to acquire items to



Such a remark by the top White House official comes a day after the US



# **Pope Says Gaza A Cruelty, Not War**

Catholic bishop of Jerusalem, known as a patriarch,

had tried to enter the Gaza Strip on Friday to visit Catholics there, but was denied entry

#### Agencies

Vatican City : Pope Francis on Saturday again condemned Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, a day after an Israeli government minister publicly denounced the pontiff for suggesting the global community should study whether the military offensive there constitutes a genocide of

the Palestinian people Francis opened his annual Christmas address to the Catholic cardinals who lead the Vatican's various departments with what appeared to be a reference to Israeli airstrikes on Friday that killed at least 25 Palestinians in Gaza. 'Yesterday, children were

bombed," said the pope. "This is cruelty. This is not war. I

wanted to say this because it touches the heart."

The pope, as leader of the 1.4-billion-member Roman Catholic Church, is usually careful about taking sides in conflicts, but he has recently been more outspoken about Israel's military campaign against Palestinian militant group Hamas.

In book excerpts published last month, the pontiff said some international experts said that "what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide".

Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs Amichai Chikli sharply criticised those comments in an unusual open letter published by Italian newspaper Il Foglio on Friday. Chikli said the pope's remarks amounted to a "trivialisation" of the term genocide.

Francis also said on Saturday that the Catholic bishop of Jerusalem, known as a patriarch, had tried to enter the Gaza Strip on Friday to visit Catholics there, but was denied entry.

The patriarch's office told Reuters it was not able to com-

# **Terrorism Roars Back In Pakistan**, **10 Years After A Campaign To End It**

Agencies KARACHI, Pakistan - Ten years have passed since Mr Ajoon Khan's son died in a ghastly attack by the Pakistani

Taliban that killed about 150

school in Peshawar led to rare political unity in support of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy for Pakistan and a vast military operation in the country's former tribal areas near Afghanistan.

The efforts forced

ban and other Islamic militant groups has surged in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in north-western Pakistan.

ment on the pope's remarks

about the patriarch being de-

immediately reachable for com-

ment on Saturday, the Jewish

Sabbath, and the Israeli mili-

tary did not immediately re-

spond to a request for comment.

Hamas-led Palestinian mili-

tants attacked southern Israe-

li communities on Oct. 7, 2023,

killing 1,200 people, mostly ci-

vilians, and taking more than

250 hostages back to Gaza, ac-

cording to Israeli authorities.

paign, which it says is aimed

at eliminating Hamas, has

killed more than 45,000 people,

mostly civilians, according to

authorities in the Hamas-run

Gaza Strip. The campaign has

displaced nearly the entire

population and left much of

third of the dead have been

militants and it says it tries

to avoid harm to civilians but

is battling militants who it ac-

cuses of embedding among the

population in dense urban ar-

eas. Hamas rejects this

Israel says that at least a

the enclave in ruins.

Israel's retaliatory cam-

The war began when

Israeli officials were not

nied entry

Experts attribute the increase to the Afghan Taliban's seizure of power in neighbouring Afghanistan in August 2021.

# **Delhi L-G Gives Nod To ED To Prosecute Kejriwal In Excise Policy Case**

#### Agencies

New Delhi: Ahead of the upcoming 2025 Delhi Assembly polls, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has granted permission to the Enforcement Directorate to prosecute AAP national convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case.

On December 5, the ED sought permission for sanction of prosecution against Kejriwal. The move comes after months of investigations into the Delhi Government's excise policy, which has been at the centre of controversy and allegations of corruption.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court on Friday granted the ED additional time to file its reply to the petition filed by Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. The petition challenges the trial court's decision to take cognizance of the chargesheets in the Delhi excise liquor policy case.

The matter has been scheduled for hearing on February 5, by the Bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri.

Recently, the Delhi High Court had issued a notice on a plea by Kejriwal and Sisodia, challenging the trial court's decision to take cognizance of the ED's chargesheet against them in the alleged excise policy case.

scrapped excise policy. According to the ED, the excise policy was deliberately designed with loopholes to benefit AAP leaders and foster cartel formations. The ED accused the

Kejriwal and Sisodia are

currently out on bail in both

the Enforcement Directorate

and Central Bureau of Investi-

gation cases related to the now-



AAP leaders of receiving kickbacks from liquor businesses in exchange for preferential treatment, including discounts, license fee waivers, and relief during the Covid-19 disruptions.

The ED further alleged that the "scam" involved awarding wholesale liquor distribution rights to private entities with a fixed 12% margin, in return for a 6% kickback. Additionally, AAP leaders were accused of influencing the outcome of elections in Punjab and Goa in early 2022.

# **Election Rule Tweaked To Restrict Public Inspection Of Electronic Records**



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi The Central Government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well ethnic as video recordings of candidates to prevent their misuse. Based on the recommendation of the Election Commission (EC), the Union Law Ministry on Friday amended Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict the type of "papers" or documents open to public inspection.

sults and election account statements are mentioned in the Conduct of Election Rules, electronic documents such as CCTV camera footage, webcasting footage and video recording of candidates during the Model Code of Conduct period are not covered. "CCTV coverage, webcasting of polling stations are not carried out under Conduct of Election Rules but are the result of steps taken by the EC to ensure a level playing field," a former EC official explained. An EC functionary said, "There have been instances where such electronic records have been sought, citing the rules. The amendment ensures that only papers mentioned in the rules are available for public inspection and any other document which has no reference in the rules is not allowed for public inspection." EC functionaries said the misuse of CCTV camera footage from inside polling booths could compromise voter secrecy.

# Srinagar | Sunday | 22-12-2024

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

slapped sanctions on four Pakistani entities, including the state-owned flagship aerospace and defence agency – National **Development Complex** (NDC) — on charges of them contributing to Pakistan's ballisticmissile programme.

advance Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile programme.

"So candidly, it is hard for us to see Pakistan's actions as anything other than an emerging threat to the US," the official said

mostly children at a people. military-run school in Peshawar, in north-western Pakistan.

But the pain of loss is unrelenting - it grows only deeper with time. Mr Khan, a lawyer, said he could never forget the parents sobbing and pleading outside the school gates, the soldiers storming the building, the children and the teachers fleeing in terror. "It has been nearly a decade, but it feels like nothing has changed," said Mr Khan last week, just before the Dec 16

anniversary of the death of his son, Asfand, who had been in the 10th grade. "If you look at the secu-

rity situation in the country, it feels that our children's sacrifices were in vain." The brutal assault on the

tants to retreat across the bor Simultaneously,

# **If you look at the** security situation in the country, it feels that our children's sacrifices were in vain."

der and brought a degree of relative peace to Pakistan.

Large-scale terrorist attacks were significantly reduced, with fatalities dropping from 2,451 across 1.717 attacks in 2013 to 220 in 146 attacks in 2020. But the hard-won gains from Pakistan's counter-insurgency offensive a costly endeavour in money and lives - are now in jeopardy.

Over the past few years, violence by the Pakistani Tali-

western province of Baluchistan have regained momentum, increasingly targeting security forces and Chinese nationals involved in projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, China's infrastructure investment programme.

separatist groups in the south-

The separatists accuse Pakistan's government of allowing China to extract the region's wealth.

S

According to Rule 93, all "papers" related to elections shall be open to public inspection.

The amendment inserts "as specified in these rules" after "papers".

Law Ministry and EC officials separately explained that a court case was the "trigger behind the amendment.

While documents such as nomination forms, appointment of election agents, re-

uwait City: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met two Kuwaiti nationals who translated and published India's two iconic epics, Mahabharata and Ramayana in Arabic.

The Prime Minister also signed copies of the Arabic versions of the two epics.

Modi reached Kuwait on Saturday for a two-day visit. He is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His visit is the first of anv Indian Prime Minister to the Gulf nation in 43 years.

The last Indian prime minister to visit Kuwait was Indira Gandhi in 1981.

"Happy to see Arabic translations of the Ramayan and Mahabharat. I compliment Abdullah Al-Baroun and Abdul Lateef Al-Nesef for their efforts in translating and publishing it. Their initiative highlights the popularity of Indian culture globally," Modi said in a post on

# **PM Modi Meets Kuwaiti Publisher of** Mahabharata & Ramayana



X along with pictures.

During Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address in Octostanding of Indian literature ber, he highlighted their work and said that "this work is not just a translation, but a bridge

Service (IFS) officer Mangal Sain Handa.

'Delighted to have met Shri @MangalSainHanda Ji in Kuwait this afternoon. I admire his contribution to India and his passion for India's development," Modi posted on X.

On Friday, Handa's granddaughter Shreya Juneja requested Modi to meet her Nanaji to which Modi replied,' Absolutely! I look forward to meeting @MangalSainHanda Ji in Kuwait today.'

"Humble request to Hon'ble PM @narendramodi to meet my 101-year-old Nanaji, ex-IFS officer, in Kuwait during tmrw's interaction with the Indian Diaspora. Nana @Mangal-SainHanda is a great admirer of yours. Details have been emailed to your office," Shreya Juneja, granddaughter of Handa posted on X on Friday.

# **Devotee Drops iPhone in Temple Hundial**, **Minister Says It's Temple Property**

devotee who has accidently dropped his iPhone into the hundial of a temple here is in a peculiar situation. He wants it back, but the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department politely declined his request, saying it has now become temple property.

Immediately after realising his mistake, the devotee later identified as Dinesh, approached the officials of the Sri Kandaswamy temple, Thiruporur, and pleaded that his iPhone which inadvertently fell into the offering box when he was making a donation be returned to him.

On Friday, after opening the offering box, the temple administration contacted him saying the gadget was found in the hundial and he was free to retrieve only the data from it. However, Dinesh refused to accept and insisted that his phone be returned to him.

When this issue was taken to the notice of the HR & CE Minister P K Sekar Babu on Saturday he replied "anything that is deposited into the offering box, even if it be an arbitrary action, goes into god's account.' "As per the practises and tradition at the temples, any offerings made into the hundial directly goes into the account of the deity of that temple. Rules do not permit the administration to return the offerings back to the devotees," Babu told reporters here.

He would discuss with the department officials to see if there was any possibility to compensate the devotee and accordingly make a decision, the Minister said after inspecting the construction of the Arulmigu Mariamman temple in Madhavaram, here, and the renovation of temple tank belonging to the Arulmigu Kailasanathar temple in Venugopal Nagar, here at an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 crore.

This incident is not the first such one in the state. According to a senior HR & CE official a devotee S Sangeetha from Alappuzha in Kerala unwittingly dropped her 1.75 sovereign gold chain into the hundial of the renowned Sri Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple in Palani in May 2023.

between two great cultures. It is developing a new under-

> in the Arab world. On his arrival, Modi was warmly received by Sheikh Fa-

N E W S MAKER

> had Yousef Saud Al-Sabah First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Interior of Kuwait. Modi also met Kuwaitbased retired Indian Foreign

# STATE

## **Army Has Enhanced Operational Presence In Jammu Region, Says GoC 16 Corps**



#### Agencies

JAMMU: The Indian Army has expanded its operational footprint in the Jammu region, including the strategic occupation of the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal range, according to Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the White Knight Corps, also known as 16 Corps.

During a visit to Rajouri, Lt Gen Sachdeva participated in a 'Kaumi Ekta Meet,' an initiative aimed at recognizing the role of local people and veterans in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Speaking at the event, Gen Sachdeva, said, "In recent times, the Indian Army has significantly enhanced its operational capabilities. We have strengthened our patrols and posts, even in the highest mountains and ridges. This progress has been made possible thanks to your unwavering support."

The Corps Commander said new posts have been established in the upper reaches and that the movement of security forces at night has increased to bolster security and peace in the region. "Helicopters, UAVs, and various types of sensors are being utilized as part of technology-driven efforts to ensure peace," he added.

Lt Gen Sachdeva highlighted the Army's pivotal role in fostering military-civilian co-

**Wular Lake** 

ordination to create a stable environment in the region. He reiterated the Army's commitment to promoting peace, security, and development in

Jammu and Kashmir. During his visit, the Corps Commander praised the synergy between the civilian population and security forces, particularly in the sensitive border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. He highlighted the Indian Army's increased operational presence, including strategic deployments in the Pir Panjal range, and its close collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and civil administration.

Acknowledging the contributions of veterans and local leaders. Lt Gen Sachdeva credited their efforts for the improved security scenario in the region. He commended the Ace of Spades Division for fostering trust through welfare programs and community engagement.

"The coordination between the military and civilians has been instrumental in creating a stable environment," he said. Lt Gen Sachdeva also attended the Mendhar Cricket Premier League (MCPL) felicitation ceremony, where he lauded the enthusiasm of the youth for sports as a unifying force. "Such events are crucial in channeling energy positively and promoting community harmony," he said—(KNO)

# 41,141 Km Roads Built, 410 Bridges Completed In J&K This Year

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed substantial advancements in infrastructure development so far this year, encompassing road network expansion, tunnel construction, ropeway projects, and road safety initiatives, reveals an official data.

According to the data accessed, the Union Territory now boasts a total road network of 41,141 km, including 1,735 km of national highways, 696 km of state highways, and 37,351 km of other district and village Roads. Of this, 30,326.48 km is black-topped. Notable projects like the

Jammu-Srinagar 4-lane high-way, Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels, and the Parvatmala ropeway initiative are transforming connectivity in the region. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 2,131 habitations (99%) have been connected, with 17,839 km of roads completed. The 4-laning of the Jammu-

Srinagar National Highway is progressing steadily, with work on four sections completed. The Udhampur-Ramban sec-

tion is 99.90% complete, and the Ramban-Banihal section is nearing completion. Additional enhancements, including

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: The Jammu and

Kashmir government Satur-

day announced winter break

for schools of summer zone

in Jammu region from Decem-

As per an order issued by Di-

rectorate of School Education

Jammu (DSEJ), the government

and recognized private schools

of the summer zone of Jammu

division shall observe a ten-

ber-26 to January-04.

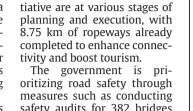


a 13.60 km realignment in the Ramban-Banihal section and a 2.39 km viaduct/tunnel in the Nashri-Ramban section, are under construction. On the Jammu-Akhnoor highway, a 5 km flyover from Bhagwatinagar to Muthi is complete, with the remaining

work targeted for March 2025. Major projects such as the 4-laning of Srinagar-Baramulla, double-laning of Akhnoor-Poonch and Chenani-Sudhmahadev-Kishtwar roads, and the Srinagar and Jammu Ring Roads are ongoing.

Significant progress has also been achieved in tunnel construction.

The Chenani-Nashri and Qazigund-Banihal tunnels are operational, improving connectivity along NH-44. The Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels, critical for all-weather connectivity, are under active construction. In addition, 18 ropeway proj-



safety audits for 382 bridges and installing crash barriers, parapets, and protective walls.

Technology-based road engineering is employed for 15% of PMGSY roads, ensuring quality and safety standards. Freight vehicles in the region now average 250 km per day, reflecting improved road conditions and connectivity.

Under the NABARD and CRIF schemes, 1,467 road and bridge projects have been sanctioned since 2014-15, including 194 projects in 2023-24 worth 1,023 crore. Of the 294 projects sanctioned under CRIF, 173 have been completed

# **Over 70,000 Migratory Birds Visit Pampore Wetlands This Season**

#### Agencies

PULWAMA: The Pampore wetlands have transformed into a thriving sanctuary for migratory birds, attracting over 70,000 avian visitors from diverse species. This yearly phenomenon captivates locals and tourists, offering stunning views and opportunities for eco-tourism. The Chatlam Wetland Con-

servation Reserve, the largest of these wetlands, spans 852 kanals and currently accommodates nearly 50,000 birds. Species observed here include Mallards, Gadwalls, Common Teals, Northern Shovelers, Pintails, Greylag

To ensure the welfare of birds during the harsh winters, particularly during the freezing 'Chillai Kalan' period, the Department of Wildlife Protection undertakes supplementary feeding with greens and other essential nutrients. Water bowls and pools are also created to provide safe

on the presence of migratory birds due to the fire incident in

Chatlam wetlands," he said.

havens for birds during icy conditions, he said. "To protect the wetlands, the department has launched 24×7 anti-poaching drives and is establishing a dedicated control room

at Meej Balhama for continuous



Geese, Eurasian Wigeons, Ruddy Shelducks, Common Pochards and Red-Crested Pochards.

The remaining wetlands-Fashkoori kanals), (305 Krunchoo (128 kanals), and Moonibugh (106 kanals)-together host over 20,000 birds. Local residents have enthusiastically embraced these feathered visitors, frequently photographing their charm. People from different walks of life can be seen visiting Chatlam and other wetlands in the area to catch a glimpse of these birds, while dozens of bird lovers can be seen

taking pictures. An official of the wildlife department, credited the area's conducive environment and improved safety measures for this surge. "The birds feel safe here and even explore residential areas in Chatlam," he said remarked, urging residents to use department-provided bins for proper waste disposal to preserve a clean and pollution-free habitat.

He said that over 70,000 birds have visited these spots so far, and the number can increase as migratory birds continue to flock here. "There wasn't any impact

monitoring," the official said, adding that "Extra Forest Protection Force personnel have been requested to strengthen protection efforts, and plans are in place to set up another control room to further enhance surveillance."

The Department of Wildlife Protection is embarking on a novel initiative to promote eco-tourism in the wetlands of Pampore. The move aims to ensure year-round engagement with these ecologically significant areas.

To attract visitors during the typically low summer tourist season, particularly in June and July, activities such as boating are being considered as part of a proposed nature park in the Chatlam area.

The wetlands of Pampore serve as critical habitats for migratory birds, attracting thousands of avian species every year. Annual migrations to these wetlands begin in October, reach their peak in November, and continue until December and January before the birds start their return journey in April. These migrations are a major draw for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts.—(KNO)

**Sub-Zero Temp Freezes** 

Agencies

year, the lake is completely fro-It feels like the lak turned its back on us," Abdul Rashid, a resident of Lankreshipora, Bandipora said.

**Pulwama Residents Demand Restoration Of Dhobi Kol** 

Agencies

day winter vacation with effect from December-26-2024 to January-04- 2025.

DSEJ in order further said that any default on part of the Head of the schools or teaching staff in observance of this schedule shall attract action under rules

**Govt Announces 10-Days Winter Break** 

For Jammu Schools From Dec-26

Pertinently, the School Education Department earlier had announced winter vacations in phased manner from December-10 and December-16

respectively in the Kashmir division and winter zones of the Jammu division.

Principal Secretary School Education Department Suresh Kumar Gupta in an order had said that for students' upto 5th standard, the vacations shall begin from December-10 to February-28 and in case of students from 6th standard to 12th standard, the vacation shall begin from December-16 to February-28-2025.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** JAL SHAKTI (1&FC) DIVISION HANDWARA **RAJWAR ROAD HANDWARA 193221** Email: xenirrigationhandwara@gmailcom **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER** 

**SRINAGAR:** With the onset of Chilay-Kalan-the harshest 40day winter period in Kashmir, Asia's second-largest freshwater lake, Wular in northern Kashmir Saturday turned into a frozen expanse.

The freezing of Wular Lake has jeopardized thousands of fishing families who earn their primary livelihood from it.

The lake, known for its bounty of fish, lotus stems (Nadru) and chestnuts, supports numerous families in the region.

For decades, these resources have provided sustenance and income to the locals. However, for the first time in living memory, the lake has frozen to such an extent that even the extraction of Nadru, a challenging task during normal winters. has become impossible.

Earlier this month, fishermen and lotus stem collectors braved the sub-zero temperatures to extract Nadru from the lake, returning home each evening with bundles of their hard-earned harvest.

"We used to extract Nadru even in harsh winters, but this

He said that the frozen lake is not only an economic blow but also a cultural shock for the community, which has lived in harmony with Wular for generations.

"I have never seen Wular frozen like that in my 50 years. We were not prepared for this. The ice has taken away our livelihood." said Gulzar Ahmad. another local fisherman.

He said that the locals have relied on traditional fishing methods and resource collection even in past winters, but the current conditions have rendered these practices ineffective.

He said that the frozen surface makes access to the water-body nearly impossible. "We don't have alternative sources of income. This situation is pushing us into despair," he said.

Notably, the extreme cold has heightened winter challenges for residents, freezing water bodies, water supply lines, and creating a layer of frost across the valley—(KNO)

PULWAMA: The residents of Pulwama town Saturday demanded restoration of 'Dhobi Kol'. Dhobi Kol—a brook that once used to sup-

port dozens of families in the laundry business has been left with a deteriorating condition.

The brook flows through prominent locations in Pulwama including the old bus stand and Murran Chowk. The locals said that Dhobi Kol was once a significant resource for their livelihoods but has suffered from neglect and pollution.

"Despite repeated pleas from the public over the past 30 years, comprehensive restoration efforts have been lacking," the locals said.

Aadil Ahmad, a local of Pulwama town while lamenting on the issue said that the brook has turned into a waste dump due to inadequate cleaning.

Another local, Javid Ahmad Reshie pointed out that shopkeepers along the canal were responsible for the degradation of the brook by dumping waste into it. He emphasized the need for public cooperation and civic awareness to prevent further pollution.

Recently, a portion of the brook near Raipora Chowk was recently uncontaminated by the district administration led by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom.

Residents urged the government to take strict action against individuals polluting the canal.

An official confirmed that the canal's complete restoration is under active consideration by the government, raising hopes among the locals for its revival and preservation-(KNO)

### Govt Changes Duty Timing Of GMCs & GDCs In J&K

#### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Following the announcement in change of working days and duty timings for Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) and Government Dental Colleges by Jammu and Kashmir government, the Medical Faculty Association (GMC) Srinagar on Saturday expressed its gratitude to the administration for the reforms.

In a statement issued by the Medical Faculty Association, Government Medical College, Srinagar extended its gratitude to the Minister for Health and Medical Education, Higher Educa-

tion, School Education & Social Welfare Ms Sakeena Masood (Itoo).

"For her visionary guidduty timings from 1st December to 28th/29th February in Government the medical fraternity. The medical Colleges and government Dental colleges recent modification in the timing order reflects her of J&K would be Monday to Saturday 10:00am to deep understanding of the challenges faced by health-4:30 pm. Meanwhile, the MFA care professionals and her statement also extended

in Jammu and Kashmir.

resolve to create a more supportive environment," thanks to the J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dullu for his read the statement. Earlier in the day, J&K's consideration and efforts in addressing the matter with Health and Medical Education Department had orthe urgency it required. dered changes in working days and duty timings in has reinforced the confi-Government Medical Col-

leges and Dental Colleges

lights the government's dedication to improving According to the order, the working days and the working conditions of medical professionals. His role in facilitating this positive change is deeply appreciated," MFA said in a statement.

"His empathetic understanding of the needs of the medical faculty and his commitment to their well-being have been pivotal in ensuring this relief. We are truly grateful for his exemplary leadership and for championing the cause of the medical "His unwavering support fraternity, whose tireless efforts underpin the dence of the faculty in the healthcare system," MFA administration and highstatement said.

e-NITNo:08-IFCD/HND/2024-25Dated:20/12/2024 For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders on percentage basis areinvited from approved and eligible contractors register with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the following works:

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head	Cost of Tender document	Tender ID No.
01	Renovation and repairmen of Irrigation Pond at ChalporaWadiporaB.Block Handwara.	₹6.48	₹12960	18 Days	CEE/DEE	PRI Grants	₹700	2024_IFC_ 268552_1.
02	Construction of Soil Erosion protection wall near ShakarSar ward 05 Check Sodal Block Magam.	₹1.792	₹3584	08 Days	DEE	PRI Grants	₹200	2024_IFC_ 268552_2.
03	Construction of Irrigation Yain near L.oGh. MohdWani at KhirmanNandram at Mustafa colony Handwara Block Handwara.	₹2.914	₹5828	12 Days	DEE	PRI Grants	₹300	2024_IFC_ 268552_3.

Position of AAA: Sanctioned vide District Development Commissioner Kupwara's AAA order No. 210 DDCK of 2024 Dated 18-12-2024 Position of T.S.: Framed

Under Budgetary Provision of Approved Plan. Position of funds:

The NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from website www.jktenders.gov.infrom:

Publishing Date	20 -12-2024 1800Hours
Download Date Start	20 -12-2024 1800Hours
Tender Submission date Start	20 -12-2024 1800Hours
Tender Submission date Ends	30-12-2024 1400 Hours
Date of Opening	30 -12-2024 1500 Hours

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Tenders must be accompanied with cost of tender ur of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Handwara payable at Treasury Office.

The Tenders for the works shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninetv) days from the date of opening of Tenders. 2.

The Tenders shall be deposited in Electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in 3. 4.

The Tender uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the schedule date and time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer Ial Shakti (I&FC) Division Handwara, in presence of the Tenderers who wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of the opening of the Tender/date of submission of Hard copies, the same will be on the next working day at the same time and

The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

1.

- Any Tenderer withdraws his Tenders/tender during the period of Tender validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the Tender
- 5.1. 5.2. Failure of Successful tenderer to furnish the required performance security within the specifi The tenderer shall have to execute the agreement within 07-days after fixation of contract. ed time limit
- Instructions to Tenderer regarding E-Tendering process: -

- 7. 7.1. Tenderers are advised to download Tender submi on manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "Tenderers manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov in acquaint Tenders submission process.
- 7.2. To participate in tendering process Tenderers, have to get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology act. 2000Tenderers can get digital certificate from approved vendor
- 7.3. The Tenderer have to submit their Tenders online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial Tender will be accepted in physical form
- Tender will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above. Tender will be used online as per time schedule mentioned above. 7.4. 7.5. work REG. Card duly renewed, verified and submitted hard copies thereof physically to tender receiving authority before date of opening of Tender. Morover tenderers should upload their E-Mail address/WhatsApp No. Mobile No. for the purpose of any type of correspondence.

Note: - Scan all documents on 100dpi with black and white options.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under MH 0702 in respect of Irrigation and Flood Control Works and BID Security must be uploaded with the Tender the original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document)) and relevant documents to be submitted to the tender receiving authority
- 10. 11. The date of start of the work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be
- Penalty for delay in completion: Since these works are of emergent nature the contractor has to complete the work within stipulated time. In case the contractors delays the execution/completion of work then he shall be prohibited from further participation in tendering in this office for the time as deemed necessary by this division & any other action viz Fortification of earnest money deposit, performance security /no payment of partial work or whatsoever the case may be. 12 Advance Payments: - No mobilization advance equipment advance shall be paid.
- Retention Money: 10% shall be deducted from each running bill of the successful contractor which shall be released after virtual completion of work in all respects The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. 13
- 14.
- 15. No excess amount shall be paid if the work done claim is found in excess to the advertised amount. And any excess work that is otherwise done by the contractor shall be the risk of contractor himself/AEE Concerned.
- 16. In case L1 backs out, the divisional office shall be at liberty to take a final call (fresh/re-tender) in the interest of general public /beneficiaries/ Department.
- 17. If the successful bidder/ allotee fails to execute the work within stipulated time, the agency shall be recommended for blacklisting/ barred from future participation in tendering.
- 18 The Successful bidder has to provide 5% performance security in shape of CDR. FDR, at the time of allotment of work/ award of contract
- The Bid shall be out rightly rejected if the rates quoted for any item are unrealistic. For abnormally low bids the bidders have to give detail price analysis interms of clause 5.6.4 of Manual of procurement of works 2019. 19.
- 20 The payment shall me made only after funds are available under proper head of account by this office and further this office would not be involved in any litigation process by way of filling cases in any court for non-payment.
- 21. The successful bidder L1 have to attend the divisional office for the purpose of negotiation of rates/allotment/agreement within 07 days from the opening of tender In case he fails to do so it shall be presumed that he is not interested in executed the said work further course of action as warranted under rules shall be taken by this office
- All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD form 25 (Double agreement form). NO: IFCD/HND/Car

Dated:-20/12/202

amp:4311-24 24	DIPK-9850-24	Sd/- Executive Engineer.
	DT: 21/12/2024	I&FC Division Handwara

ance and steadfast commitment to the welfare of

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com

# District Magistrates' Role in Environmental Degradation of J&K

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

**F G The NGT's orders** issued in the last 3 to 4 years make it clear that District Magistrates in J&K have failed to enforce the Minor Mineral concession Rules 2016, guidelines of State Environmental Impact Assessment, Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1974, Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2016

Deputy Commissioner Budgam vide his official communication number DDCB/ Permission / 11140 - 41 gave his endorsement for lifting 15000 metric tons (MTs) of riverbed material in Sukhnag nallah for a period of 20 days with effect from 20.10.2024 to 12.11.2024 against an advance royalty payment of Rs 165750. There were 18 guidelines given to the permit holder by the District Mineral Officer (DMO) which are mentioned in the order. This includes the direction for the leaseholder not to get involved in any illegal methods and to abide by J&K Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2016 and Mines and Mineral (Dev & Regulation) Act 1957. Like other rules and orders, these rulings are orders misused in such a way that the illegal riverbed mining work never comes to an end. Even as I am writing this article, illegal mining is going on in Sukhnag Nallah, Beerwah which is a designated Trout Fish stream of J&K.

n November 2nd 2022, the

#### What is a Disposal Permit?

According to Rule 2 sub rule XIX the disposal permit is defined as:

"Means a permit granted for removal of minor minerals from the Agriculture , Horticulture , State , Kahcharai, Shamilat , Forest land, where minor minerals have been deposited due to weathering. However, Kahcharai and Shamilat lands shall be governed by J&K Land Revenue Act."

According to Section 3 (e) of Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act of 1957 the Minor Minerals are defined as:

"Building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand other than sand used for prescribed purposes, and any other mineral which the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare to be a minor mineral."

But in most cases, "Disposal Permits" are given for lifting such riverbed material or clay / soil which hasn't been deposited due to weathering, landslides or flooding. Under the garb of these disposal permits, illegal riverbed/clay mining is done in rivers, mountains and Karewas of J&K. This is simply the misuse of official positions by Deputy Commissioners and other Govt officers/engineers. With respect to Kahcharai and State Land, permissions are given by Revenue Department officers like Deputy Commissioners, SDMs and Tehsildars in clear violation of J&K Land Revenue Act 1996, as the mining changes the



shape and size of the land parcel which doesn't then match with the land revenue record whether the maps (lathas) or digital mapping.

#### Environmental Clearance

From 2019 onwards, the Geology and Mining Department has eauctioned mining blocks in rivers and streams. The leaseholders/project proponents are supposed to follow J&K Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2016 and also obtain Environmental Clearance from the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority. There are more than 70 specific and standard conditions that have to be adhered to by project proponents. The Specific Condition No.53 of the environmental clearance document mandates that Riverbed Mining must be conducted manually and further mentioned that JCBs, L&T cranes etc should not be allowed at all. But this order isn't enforced on the ground neither by District Magistrates nor by District Mining Officers.

This author had to seek intervention of the National Green Tribunal to stop the use of the heavy machines in Doodh Ganga , Shali Ganga, Sukhnag , Romshi, Sasara and other streams during last 4 years and the District Magistrates failed to even act on my repeated pleases and requests.

In Pulwama, the work has been controlled after the intervention of Dy CM Surinder Choudhary recently whom I had alerted through social media. But the illegal work in Sukhnag Budgam continues with RBM worth Rs 20 to 30 lakhs being looted on a daily basis without even having the required Environmental Clearance.

The work in Shali Ganga and Doodh Ganga was halted on the orders of NGT but even after getting the order, I had to ensure its enforcement as well. The work and job which Govt officials have to do is being done by me and my associates. What kind of governance is this?

With respect to Sukhnag river in Beerwah, it was not even e-auctioned and riverbed mining has been done by the Geology & Mining Department and all the illegal work is done under the garb of Disposal Permits for which green signal has been given by local administration.

#### NGT on Clay Mining

In June this year, the NGT took serious note of illegal clay mining in the Karewas of Budgam, issued a notice to the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Government, represented by the Chief Secretary, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and construction company NKC Projects Pvt Ltd. This action follows allegations of environmental damage and disruption to local agriculture land due to the construction of the Srinagar Ring Road. The notice was issued by a three-member Principal Bench of the NGT, chaired by Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi Judicial Member, and Dr Afroz Ahmad, NGT's Expert Member. The application was moved by residents of Wathoora, Budgam, including Bashir Ahmad Bhat, through their counsels, Advocate Saurabh Sharma and Advocate Bijay Kumar as their apple / plum orchards were hugely impacted with dust pollution and water logging around under-construction Srinagar Ring Road project. The matter was referred to the J & K Pollution Control Committee which submitted a report before the NGT recently and the farmers' allegations have been upheld. The report that was reflected in the NGTs order dated 12.12.2024 reads:

"The Air Quality Monitoring was carried out by the Air tab J&K PCC , Kashmir within the orchard of the applicant. As per the report the value of PM10 is 148.18 ug/m3 and of PM2.5 is 68.07 ug/m3 which is above the prescribed standards."

The J&K Pollution Control Committee's report is self explanatory and it is a clear indication that illegal mining in Karewas is causing dust pollution and air pollution in the area and this is affecting the apple and plum orchards of farmers in many areas of Budgam.

#### Conclusion

I believe the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is doing the work which is supposed to be done by District Magistrates and local administration vis a vis enforcing the laws and rules governing minor minerals and their extraction. The NGT's orders issued in the last 3 to 4 years make it clear that District Magistrates in J&K have failed to enforce the Minor Mineral concession Rules 2016, guidelines of State Environmental Impact Assessment, Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1974, Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2016. This is reflected in the fact that NGT has imposed huge penalties on J&K Govt and made them give administrative approval for a mega project worth Rs 140 Crores for restoration of Doodh Ganga. The DCs, by failing to act in many cases, have made themselves collaborators in the crime as well and the cause behind this negligence must be investigated. I would request the NGT to apprise the CBI as well because the destruction caused in our rivers is massive and there has been huge corruption in giving disposal permits by Govt authorities across J&K.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman J&K Climate Action Network

# **Can Trump Save Dollar Hegemony?**

If Trump were to retaliate against the BRICS with 100% tariffs, the move could backfire.

#### Jeffrey Frankel

n 2023, the leaders of Brazil and the other BRICS countries at the time — China, India, Russia, and South Africa — discussed collaboration on a new shared currency. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been a vocal proponent of an alternative to the US dollar, the dominant global currency for the past 75 years, and Russian President Vladi mir Putin publicly promoted the idea during the BRICS summit in October by brandishing a symbolic BRICS banknote. The bloc's new members — Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates — would presumably also be included in the new joint currency.

The proposed challenge to the dollar has already drawn the ire of US President-elect Donald Trump, who has threatened to impose punitive tariffs of 100% on countries that move away from the greenback. Two weeks ago, Trump warned BRICS countries against creating or supporting an alternative reserve currency. "We require a commitment from these countries that they will neither create a new BRICS currency nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar, or they will face 100% tariffs," he declared on Truth Social, his social media platform.

This ultimatum follows Trump's threats to impose a 25% tariff on Mexico and Canada if they fail to curb fentanyl smuggling into the United States, a 60% tariff on Chinese goods, and a 10-20% tariff on other trade partners. Despite Trump's bluster, these increasingly extreme threats will not result in one of his self-proclaimed successful "deals".

While Trump's rhetoric suggests he views a BRICS currency as a serious threat, such a project is likely to fail anyway, regardless of his actions or ultimatums.

If the proposed currency is intended to exist alongside BRICS countries' national currencies,

it will not gain traction. A successful international currency requires a home base. That is why English, not Esperanto, became the world's lingua franca, and why the special drawing right (SDR) — the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset, whose value is based on a basket of major currencies — has not been successful as an international currency.

For a BRICS unit to compete with the US dollar, then, member countries would need to form a full-fledged monetary union, relinquishing their national currencies and establishing a unified mon currency pegged to the euro, and the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union, which consists of English-speaking islands like Anguilla, Antigua, and Barbuda. These work because their members are small neighbouring countries that share cultural and historical roots. The largest member of the CFA, for example, is Côte d'Ivoire, whose GDP is smaller than that of Buffalo, New York.

The notable exception, of course, is the eurozone. But although it consists of relatively large economies, its 20 members also share borders, maintain integrated economies, and are bound

#### **We require a commitment from these** countries that they will neither create a new BRICS currency nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar, or they will face 100% tariffs

central bank to oversee the new money.

But the BRICS econ-omies differ too much from each other for a monetary union to function effectively. Successful monetary unions are typically formed by small, interconnected economies that trade extensively with one another and share common goals, cultural ties, correlated business cycles, and relatively integrated labour markets.

When member economies are too dissimilar, one may enter a recession while another overheats. In a monetary union, member states must give up control over their money supply, interest rates, and the exchange rate, limiting their ability to respond to cyclical economic fluctuations. In the absence of alternative adjustment mechanisms such as increased labour mobility and a strong political commitment, these disparities can lead to significant discord and needless macroeconomic instability.

Examples of successful monetary unions include the CFA franc zones, comprising West African and Central African states that use a comby a shared commitment to the vision of a peaceful, unified Europe. Even so, European countries like the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Norway have chosen to remain outside the eurozone, and peripheral members such as Greece have struggled to adapt to the constraints of the euro's monetary straitjacket.

Some regional blocs have long discussed adopting a common currency but made little progress. In 2001, the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council announced plans to establish a currency union by 2010, but the plan failed to materialise. If even the small, culturally aligned, and cyclically correlated GCC countries have been unwilling to relinquish their monetary sovereignty, the proposed BRICS currency stands little chance.

Many of the BRICS+ countries are large. They span four continents. They speak different languages. And their borders have historically been sources of conflict rather than economic integration. China and India, for example, were locked in a protracted military standoff along their shared Himalayan border before reaching a fragile truce in October.

There is also little correlation among the BRICS economies' business cycles. Rising world energy prices benefit oil-producing countries like Russia, Brazil, Iran, and the UAE, while putting pressure on energy-importing countries such as China and India. This dynamic makes the BRICS far less suited for a monetary union than the GCC countries.

To be sure, a gradual global shift away from the dollar is already underway. This process, while slow, has gained momentum in recent years, driven partly by the US's increasingly frequent use of financial sanctions. But if the Trump administration were to retaliate against the BRICS with 100% tariffs, the move could backfire, prompting central banks to turn to the renminbi, smaller currencies, or even gold for their international reserves.

Trump's clumsy efforts to enforce the international use of the dollar are at odds with his other stated objectives, such as improving the US trade balance by devaluing the dollar against the renminbi and the currencies of other countries that run bilateral surpluses with the US. Talking down the dollar aligns with other inflationary Trump promises, such as his threats to weaken the Federal Reserve's independence and his proposed mass deportations. But an international reserve currency that is prone to inflation and depreciation is hardly attractive. Trump's tariff threats won't resolve that contradiction.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP | Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam | Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K Editor: Sajjad Haider News Editor: Farzana Nisar | Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq | Online Editor: Syed Hamid Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen, | Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali | RNI Registration No: 69503/98 | Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja | Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +911947969705 | Editorial: (0194) 2502327 | Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net



# Handling Substance Abuse in Kashmir In conversation with Dr Akhtar Purvez

#### Syed Mohammad Burhan Rizvi

Substance abuse is a serious problem affecting a large number of people especially youth in Kashmir and is taxing the already existing healthcare and social systems in the region. With this alarming trend, Kashmir Observer sat down with Dr. Akhtar Purvez, an addiction specialist and physician-scientist, author.

Born in Kashmir, he is currently in Lincoln Memorial University, USA, as Clinical Adjunct Professor. He brings with him a wealth of expertise in addiction medicine and health policy advocacy.

On his recent visit to the Kashmir Valley, Dr. Purvez shared his opinion on the diverse realities of substance abuse, its prevalence, causes, and the urgent need for concerted action. He highlighted evidence-based strategies for prevention, education, and community support in this interesting exposé. Just recently, Dr. Purvez spent some time at the Valley discussing potentially heated topics about drug abuse.

Let's get in on this important discourse with Dr. Purvez, who throws light on the very serious situation regarding substance abuse in Kashmir and measures that can be taken to tackle such an issue.

#### KO: You would know that we commonly refer to it as drug addiction, but it compasses much more. Please help us understand the terminology better:

AP: According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or DSM-5, a substance use disorder (SUD) is a medical condition that involves a pattern of substance use that leads to clinically significant impairment or distress. It is a chronic disease characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use despite adverse consequences.

#### KO: What is the prevalence of SUD?

AP: Here are the numbers. Worldwide, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that approximately 5.5% of the global population aged 15–64 used drugs at least once in 2020. In the United States, in 2021, about 61.2 million people aged 12 or older (21.9% of the population) used illicit drugs in the past year.

In India, a 2019 survey by the

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment found that about 2.8% of Indians aged 10–75 years (31 million individuals) were current users of illicit drugs. In Kashmir, recent studies indicate a significant rise in substance abuse.

A 2022 survey by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar revealed that Jammu and Kashmir has even surpassed Punjab, known as the drug menace capital of India. Official figures from the Jammu and Kashmir Government indicate that 41,110 affected sought treatment for drug abuse in Kashmir in 2022, nearly double the number from the previous year, which was 23,403.

## KO: What are the Common Sources of Substance Abuse?

AP: Substance abuse often stems from prescription medications especially drugs prescribed for chronic pain, such as opioids, can lead to dependency if misused. These include medications like codeine, hydrocodone, oxycodone and morphine. Some of these are usually prescribed for short-term use for post-operative pain or after acute injuries.

Then there are illicit drugs that are substances obtained from street dealers, including heroin and synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

# KO: What is the extent of annual drug-related deaths? What are the global and regional Statistics?

Worldwide, WHO estimated approximately 500,000 deaths globally in 2019 due to drug use, with opioids accounting for the majority.

In the United States, In 2022, there were about 107,500 overdose deaths. If we put that in perspective, that means a staggering number of almost 300 deaths PER day. That is, despite very advanced infrastructure and systems in place there to limit morbidity and mortality.

In developing countries, the situation is worse. In India, specific national statistics on drug-related deaths are limited; however, the increasing prevalence of substance abuse suggests a rising trend.

In Kashmir valley, while exact figures are scarce, the surge in substance abuse indicates a growing number of drug-related fatalities.



#### KO: What are the substances commonly abused and associated with higher mortality?

Certain substances are more frequently abused and linked to higher death rates: A common, and damaging culprit includes heroin, prescription painkillers, and synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Then there are stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine.

Other groups include benzodiazepines that are often prescribed for anxiety but can be addictive.

In the U.S., synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl, were involved in over 70,000 overdose deaths in 2021.

### KO: What are the risks associated with substance use disorder

AP: Substance use poses several risks that include health complications such as cardiovascular diseases, liver damage, and mental health disorders. An overdose can potentially lead to death.

In addition, there are multiple social issues such as strained relationships, unemployment, theft, and other legal issues.

#### KO: What is the Impact of online information and social media

AP: While the internet may be a useful source of reliable informa-



tion, it can also provide false and biased information that may be harmful. In addition, social vinedia may provide easy access to information about the sources, availability and access to substances and drugs that might be abused.

#### KO: What is the relationship of the lack of healthcare access and substance abuse rates

Limited access to healthcare can lead to higher substance abuse rates due to untreated mental health issues. Individuals may turn to substances for relief. There may also be a lack of preventive services including absence of education and early intervention. an essential part and a cornerstone in many situations. KO: What kind of Support can healthcare systems and organizations offer?

prolonged self-medication includ-

AP: In general, various forms of

self-medication may result in drug

resistance, especially with antibiot-

They may cause organ damage inadvertently or deliberately con-

sumed medications such as acet-

aminophen like Crocin and NSAIDS

They may also lead to depen-

dency, leading to addiction and se-

rious health complications. A single

episode, especially involving higher

dose, mixed substances including

alcohol may result in respiratory ar-

KO: What are the avenues to reduce

AP: To minimize risks, patients

should consult healthcare profes-

sionals before taking any medication.

They should follow prescription in-

structions and adhere to prescribed

dosages and durations. They also

need to avoid sharing medications

with others. In addition, we need to

avoid mixing prescription medica-

tions with unknown herbs, other

KO: What would be the educational

resources and campaigns that may

help reduce the extent of abuse and

limit morbidity and mortality:

substances and alcohol

like ibuprofen (Brufen).

risks of self-medication

rest and death.

ics.

ing abusive and other substances

AP: To combat substance abuse, healthcare systems should offer accessible treatment and counseling services. Pharmacies should monitor prescription drug use and provide patient education. In many developed countries, they also have to put each patient's prescription information into a database that is available to healthcare providers also.

AP: Effective measures are varied

and include public awareness cam-

paigns that highlight the dangers

of substance abuse. We also need

school programs that educate youth

about drug risks. Community work-

shops will help provide information

and support. In addition, mental

health support programs would be

NGOs may run education, rehabilitation programs and support groups.

Governments can implement policies to control drug distribution and fund prevention programs. For example, a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP or PDMP) is embedded in the system in many developed countries including in the United States.

Before a prescription for a scheduled medication is prescribed, the patient's full prescription history has to be reviewed.

Media plays a role in spreading awareness and accurate information. For example, they need to play a role by producing and showing documentaries and feature movies that highlight these serious issues.

Addressing substance abuse requires a multifaceted approach involving education, healthcare access, legalization and community support. Human lives are precious, and we

should do everything we can to protect and preserve them.

Dr. Akhtar Purvez is an accomplished Kashmir-born physician- scientist and an addiction specialist who is a Clinical Adjunct Professor at Lincoln Memorial University in the United States of America, He is a healthcare policy advocate, researcher and author of two best-selling books 'Managing Chronic Pain in An Age of Addiction' and 'The Brain behind Pain'.

# HUMILITY IN APOLOGY The Power of Saying 'I Am Sorry '

#### Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

The simple act of saying "I am sorry" carries an immense power, one that can mend broken relationships, heal emotional wounds, and foster reconciliation. Apology, when offered sincerely, reflects a profound humility and an acknowledgment of one's responsibility in causing hurt or harm. It is not merely a social nicety; it is a courageous act of self-awareness and moral strength. This essay delves into the transformative power of apology, the humility it entails, and the impact it has on individuals and society as a whole.

**The Essence of Apology:** At its core, an apology is an acknowledgment of a mistake or wrongdoing.

It is a personal expression of regret, often accompanied by a willingness to make amends. A genuine apology requires the individual to confront their own flaws, admit their responsibility, and express a heartfelt intention to avoid repeating the mistake. It is an act of vulnerability that demonstrates respect for the feelings and dignity of others.

In its simplest form, an apology consists of three key elements: acknowledgment of the mistake, expression of remorse, and a commitment to change. These components signal sincerity and show that the individual values the relationship over their ego or pride.

**Humility in Apology:** Saying "I am sorry" requires humility, a trait that stands in stark contrast to arrogance and defensiveness. Humility involves recognizing that one is not infallible and that making mistakes is an inherent part of being human. It also requires the courage to prioritize relationships over self-justification.

Humility in apology is particularly powerful because it disarms anger and opens the door for dialogue.

When someone admits their fault with a

humble heart, it becomes difficult for the aggrieved party to remain resentful. This humility also fosters mutual respect, as it shows that the apologizer values the relationship enough to put aside their pride.

**The Transformative Power of Apology:** The act of apologizing has a ripple effect, extending beyond the immediate situation to impact personal growth, relationships, and even broader social dynamics.

**1. Healing Emotional Wounds:** An apology can act as a balm for emotional wounds, soothing the pain of betrayal, misunderstanding, or neglect. It provides validation to the aggrieved party, assuring them that their feelings matter. This validation can accelerate emotional healing and restore trust.

**2. Strengthening Relationships:** Apologies strengthen the bonds between individuals by fostering understanding and empathy. They demonstrate a willingness to take responsibility, which builds trust.

In relationships, whether personal or professional, the ability to apologize sincerely can mean the difference between a temporary setback and a permanent rift.

**3. Promoting Personal Growth:** On a personal level, the practice of apologizing helps individuals grow emotionally and morally. It requires self-reflection, which cultivates greater self-awareness.

Over time, this habit of introspection can lead to a deeper understanding of one's actions and their impact on others.

**4. Resolving Conflicts;** Apologies are essential in conflict resolution. They help deescalate tensions and create a foundation for constructive dialogue. Whether in families, workplaces, or communities, a sincere apology can diffuse anger and pave the way for mutual understanding.

Why Apologizing Can Be Difficult? Apology: Despite its numerous benefits, apologiz-



ing is not always easy. Several factors contribute to the reluctance to apologize:

1. Fear of Losing Face-Many people fear that apologizing will make them appear weak or incompetent. This fear stems from a misunderstanding of humility, which is often confused with humiliation.

2. Ego and Pride-Ego is one of the biggest barriers to apologizing. Admitting a mistake requires setting aside one's pride, which can be challenging for individuals who equate self-worth with being right.

3. Lack of Emotional Awareness-Some individuals struggle to recognize when their actions have hurt others. This lack of emotional awareness can prevent them from seeing the need for an apology.

4. Miscommunication-In some cases, the reluctance to apologize stems from a genuine belief that one is not at fault.

Miscommunication or differing perspectives can make it difficult to acknowledge a mistake.

**The Role of Sincerity;** A key ingredient in a powerful apology is sincerity. A half-hearted or insincere apology can do more harm than

good, as it may come across as dismissive or manipulative. Sincerity involves genuine remorse, an honest acknowledgment of the harm caused, and a clear intention to make amends. An effective apology also avoids justifications or excuses. Statements like "I'm sorry, but..." dilute the sincerity of the apology and can make the recipient feel invalidated.

**Cultural and Religious Perspectives on Apology:** Different cultures and religions emphasize the importance of apology as a moral and social duty. In Islam, for instance, seeking forgiveness is a core tenet. The Quran encourages believers to seek forgiveness from Allah and from those they have wronged. Similarly, in Christianity, confession and repentance are central to spiritual growth and reconciliation. In many Eastern philosophies, such as Buddhism, the concept of atonement is deeply linked to the idea of karma. Acknowledging one's mistakes and making amends is seen as essential to restoring harmony and balance.

These cultural and religious teachings underscore the universal significance of apology as a pathway to inner peace and social harmony.

**Practical Tips for Effective Apologies;** Making an effective apology requires thoughtfulness and empathy. Here are some practical tips:

1. Be Specific-Clearly state what you are apologizing for. This shows that you understand the impact of your actions.

2. Express Genuine Regret-Use language that conveys genuine remorse, such as "I deeply regret..." or "I am truly sorry for..."

3. Avoid Defensiveness-Resist the urge to justify your actions or shift blame. Focus on the feelings of the other person.

4. Offer to Make Amends-Where possible, take concrete steps to address the harm caused.

This reinforces the sincerity of your apology. 5. Choose the Right Time and Place(environment) Apologies are most effective when delivered in a private, calm setting where both parties can communicate openly. **The Impact of Forgiveness on the Recipient:** While the focus of this essay is on the power of apology, it is worth noting that the recipient's response is equally important. Forgiveness is a powerful act that complements the apology and completes the cycle of reconciliation. Forgiveness does not mean condoning the wrongdoing but rather choosing to release resentment and move forward.The humility required to apologize often inspires a similar humility in the recipient, creating a virtuous cycle of mutual respect and understanding.

The Role of Apology in Society: On a societal level, the practice of apologizing has the potential to address larger issues of injustice and inequality. Public apologies from leaders and institutions can validate the grievances of marginalized communities and pave the way for healing and reconciliation.For example, apologies for historical injustices, such as colonization or systemic discrimination, are important steps toward restoring trust and fostering social cohesion. While apologies alone cannot undo the harm, they are an essential starting point for meaningful dialogue and change.

The power of apology lies in its ability to transcend individual egos and foster connection, understanding, and healing. It is an act of humility that acknowledges the shared humanity of all people. While saying "I am sorry" may seem simple, it requires courage, sincerity, and emotional intelligence. In a world often marred by conflict and misunderstanding, the humility to apologize and the willingness to forgive are invaluable virtues. By embracing the power of apology, individuals can not only mend their relationships but also contribute to a more compassionate and harmonious society.

(Author besides being a Surgeon at Mubarak Hospital, is a Counsellor very active in positive

perception management of various moral, social and religious issues. He can be reached at drfiazfazili@gmail.com & twitter @drfiazfazili)

# LIFE & TIMES

# **'Man-made Products - Buildings, Plastics - Could Be Storing 8.4 Bn Tonnes of Carbon'**

Press Trust Of India

bout 8.4 billion tonnes of carbon is estimated to have been accumulated and stored in long-lasting products from around the world made by humans, such as plastics and buildings, between 1995 and 2019, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands said this 'fossil carbon' added to the 'technosphere' -- the sum of all human-made objects, both in use and discarded -- equals around 93 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions from around the world in 2019.

They added that the carbon locked up in the 'technosphere' has a huge potential to add to greenhouse gas emissions.

Increasing the lifetime of products and recycling rates are two ways to reduce the amount of fossil carbon entering waste streams, the researchers suggested.

"Over these 25 years (1995-2019), 8.4 billion tons of fossil carbon have accumulated, with approximately 0.4 billion tons added each year, with a huge potential



Over these 25 years (1995-2019), 8.4 billion tons of fossil carbon have accumulated, with approximately 0.4 billion tons added each year, with a huge potential for further contribution to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions

for further contribution to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Cell Reports Sustainability.

Ecological economist and senior author Klaus Hubacek, University of Groningen, said, "We have publicly available data on accumulated more carbon in human-made stuff on the inputs and outputs of mate-

planet than there is carbon in the natural world, but we completely overlook it. and those stocks get bigger and bigger.

at stocks rather than just flows," Hubacek said. To estimate these stocks, the researchers used rial from different economic sectors for 2011 -- the only year for which such data exists at the global level. The team then calcu-

lated the amount of carbon flowing in and out of the sectors by using the average carbon content of different products. For example, plastics are estimated to contain 74 per cent fossil

carbon on average.

The analysis considered not only final products such as durable plastics and bitumen (used in roads) but also fossil carbon-based feedstocks that are used as intermediate products in different industries, the

researchers said. They found that in

2011, nine per cent of fossil carbon was accumulated in long-lasting products within the technosphere -- and if this were to be emitted as the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, it would roughly equal the European Union's emissions that year (3.7 gigatonnes vs. 3.8 gigatonnes).

Further, buildings and infrastructure were found to account for the highest stored amounts of fossil carbon (34 per cent).

In terms of the type of products, rubber and plastic products accounted for 30 per cent of the accumulated fossil carbon, followed by bitumen (24 per cent), and machinery and equipment (16 per cent), the researchers found.

The 2011 figures were extrapolated to estimate how much fossil carbon flowed into the technosphere between 1995 and 2019, using monetary data during the time

# **One In Every 127 People Globally Had Autism In** 2021, Study Estimates

#### Press Trust Of India

A study has estimated that one in every 127 people globally, or 6.18 crore individuals, had autism in 2021, with the neurodevelopmental condition featuring among the top 10 causes of

Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) Study, the largest and most comprehensive ones to assess health loss around the world over time. according to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, US, which coordinates it.



non-fatal health burden in youth aged under 20 years.

The disorder is associated with repetitive behaviour and affected social skills. Signs, which can begin to show as early as 12 months of age, include poor nonverbal communication, such as avoiding eye contact and not responding to their name.

Published in the Lancet Psychiatry journal, the results showed that globally, autism cases among men were over twice of those in women -- 1,065 cases for every one lakh men and 508 for every one lakh women.

"An estimated 61.8 million individuals (one in every 127 people) were on the autism spectrum globally in 2021," the authors wrote.

Regions such as high-income Asia Pacific, including Japan, revealed the highest prevalence (1.560 per one lakh population), while Tropical Latin America and Bangladesh reported the lowest, researchers said.

The findings underscored the importance of early detection and support to autistic young people and their caregivers globally, the authors said.

The estimates come from the

#### Tel -0194-2416090 email:eomcganderbal@gmail.com

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL GANDERBAL

Sub: Declaration of Manual scavenging free and objections thereof.

#### NOTICE

In compliance to the letter No: DULB/Plg/996/2024-25/38018-59, dated: 19.12.2024 issued by Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir regarding declaration of Manual Scavengers' free town and In pursuance of order dated: 20.10.2023 of Hon'ble Supreme Court WP (C) 324/2020 titled by Dr. Balram Singh and the Guideline for Survey of Manual Scavengers issued by the Government of India vide letter 1st Feb-2024, the survey of Manual Scavengers have been undertaken and completed and no Manual Scavengers have been dated: found in the Town

In accordance with this objections, if any regarding the declaration are hereby invited from the general public or claimants. Such objections must be submitted in writing to the office of undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The objections may be submitted in person or sent via email: eomcganderbal@gmail.com. After the stipulated time period, no objections will be received the town will be officially and formally notified as Manual Scavenging Free Town

> **Chief Executive Officer** Municipal Council Ganderbal

Sher-e-Kashmir University of
Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir
Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar - 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender E-NIT No. (77) of 2024-25 Dated:18.12.2024

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2025 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/

S.No			,		Cost of Tender	Time of
		Cost (in lacs)	(IN KS.)		documen t	completion
1.	Refurbishment of Boys Hostels for	35.01	70,020	A & B Class	1000/-	40 Days
	Better Ambiance at FoA Wadura,					
	SKUAST-K. (HADP)					
2.	Refurbishment of Girls Hostels for	15.36	30,720	B & C Class	750	30 Days
	better Ambiance at FoA Wadura,					
	SKUAST-K. (HADP)					

b) Position of T.S: Sanctioned

c) Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the depart stal website www.iktopdors.gov.ip.ac.por.following.schodulo

uetans	ictuits can be downloaded norm the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule.			
1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	18.12.2024		
2	Date of start of downloading	10 17 2024		

"The message is to look

2.       Date of star to downloading       10.12.2024         3.       Pre-bid meeting date       NA         4.       Bid submission start Date       18.12.2024         5.       Bid submission end date       24.12.2024 (18.00 PM)         6.       Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)       26.12.2024 (11.30 AM)         7.       Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)       27.12.2024		No: MC/Gbl/2024/11927-930 DIPK-NB-2930/24 Dated: 21.12.2024
	1/-Estates officer SKUAST-Kashmir	
Government of Jammu & Kashmir		TENDER NOTICE No:-17/e-Tendering OF 2024-25
ANANTNAG MUNICIPAL COUNCI	L	For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K State/ Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e- tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contracto whose Registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-
Subject: Tender Notice for hiring of machinery/vehicles for snow clearance during 2024 winter	ers.	Sl. No.     Name of work     Estt. Cost of work     Earnest Money     Class of     Time of comple-     Cost of Tender Document     Head of Account       incld. Depttl. materials     (Amount in lacs)     Contractor     tion.     in the shape of Treasury
e-Auction Notice No. AMC/Winters/2024/ Dated: .12.2024		01 Construction of cement concrete 23.94 Rs.47880/- BEE/CEE 45 Days Rs.1000/- Capex Budget 2024-25 (AFA) 12 lane No: 02 Hamdania Colony Scringar Phase-I
For and on behalf of the Government of J&K UT, term e- tenders (in a two-cover system) are invited from the firms/ agencies for hiring of machinery/vehicles for clearance of snow during 2024-25 winters within Municipal limits of Ana		The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-
<ul> <li>Scope of Work: Deployment of Back Hoe Loaders/Excavators, Tractors with attachments and tippers for snow clearance</li> <li>Limits of Anantnag.</li> <li>Snow removal during and after snowfall events to maintain clear pathways/Roads/lanes.</li> <li>Clearing snow accumulated in intersections, turns, and other critical areas.</li> <li>Emergency response to heavy snowfall or unexpected weather events.</li> <li>24/7 availability of Machinery during snowfall events and Immediate deployment upon request from Anantnag Mun</li> </ul>		01.       Date of issue of Tender Notice       21-12-2024         02.       Period of down loading of bidding documents       23-12-2024 from 1100 A.M. to 13-01-2025 upto 4.00 PM         03.       Bid Submission Start Date       23-12-2024 from 11.30 AM         04.       Bid Submission end Date       13-01-2025 upto 4.00 PM         05.       Date & time of opening of Bids on line       14-01-2025 at 11.30 AM in the office of Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division         No. II, SMC, Daresh Kadal or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender       Opening Authority
S. NoName of the vehicleRate to be quoted in Indian rupeesAvailability01.Back Hoe Loaders/ExcavatorsPer Hour including Fuel.24x702.Tractors with attachmentsPer Day/Night including Fuel.		06. List of soft copies to be uploaded Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with Sl. No. of NIT/ work Scanned copy of CDR/ FDR (Earnest Money)
O3         Dumpers         Per Trip including Fuel.           The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities(BOQ) set of terms contract and other details can be sought/downloaded from the official website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scherbelow;           O1.         Date of issue of tender notice         21.12.2024           O2         Online tender down/start date         21.12.2024		Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card Scanned copy of Enlistment card with its validity, verification Cell No. and e-mail address BOQ
(cover list)         05.       Date and time of opening of financial document online (coverAfter evaluation of cover 1st in the office of Chi 2nd)         06.       Submission of CDR         06.       Submission of CDR         07.       Officer Anantnag Municipal Council.         07.       The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bid of Rs. 10,000/= (Ten Thousand Only) pledged to the state of	ds/ offers with CDR to Accounts Officer	to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar as admissible under rules. 04- The Additional Performance Security (if any) shall be released as per the report/ recommendation of AEE concerned and the Earnest Money will be released after the issuance of Allotment. 05. In case of tie bids the department shall identify the tied bidder and shall select the L1 based on the draw lots, in presence of tied bidders, if they chose to the present 06. The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.
MC Anantnag without which offers shall be liab 07. Tenure of engagement As per requirement w.e.f. 27th December 2024 to DIPK-NB-2935/24 Chie	ole for rejection. o 31st March 2025. Sd/= ef Executive Officer,	No: 3980 DIPK-9885/24 Dated:-21.12.2024 sd
	Council Anantnag.	

# BUSINESS

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 22-12-2024

# GST At 18% On Used EV **Car Sale By Business; ATF Stays Out Of Its Ambit**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

JAISALMER- The goods and services tax council on Saturday decided to levy an 18 per cent GST on margin value on sale of used electric vehicles by businesses and agreed to keep jet fuel (ATF) out of the 'onenation-one-tax' regime.

The GST Council in its 55th meeting also decided to clarify on taxability of popcorn, saying caramelised popcorn will continue to attract tax at the rate of 18 per cent. However, pre-packed and spiced popcorn will attract 12 per cent, while 5 per cent will be levied on unpacked and unlabelled ones.

It has been decided to regularise the issues for the past on "as is where is" basis... "It is a clarification being recommended by the GST Council to settle the disputes arising out of interpretation," an official

statement said. The panel, headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising representatives of all states and UTs, deferred decisions on reducing tax rate on insurance products as also on levy of the tax on food delivery by aap-based platforms.

## **GST Council Meeting Takes Key Decisions To Support Small-Scale Sector**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/JAIS-ALMER- The 55th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, on Saturday, made key decisions aimed at supporting the small-scale sector and preventing market monopolisation, the Kerala Finance Minister's office said here.

The council also introduced measures expected to boost the business sector, a significant step taken during the meeting, according to an official release. Kerala has been demanding for a long time to ensure accuracy in the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST). One of the key decisions was to mandate that bills for online services clearly specify the state where the service is provided, it added.

Currently, many inter-state transactions lack proper documentation of the service's location, resulting in the state of consumption not receiving the applicable tax. This change is expected to address the issue and ensure more accurate tax distribution, the release said.



on fortified rice kernels used for public distribution to 5 per cent from 18 per cent, Sitharaman told reporters after the meeting of the Council here. The Council also decided that no GST will be payable on penal charges levied and collected by banks and NBFCs from borrowers for non-compliance with loan terms.

The panel deferred a decision on reducing the rate of tax on insurance premium, pending comments of the sector regulator, she said.

A group of ministers examining the issue had recommended exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies from GST and premium paid by senior citizens for health insurance cover. It had also suggested GST exemption on premium paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with cov-The panel cut the tax rate erage of up to Rs 5 lakh.

In the previous GST Council

meeting, it was decided that if

unregistered individuals rent out

**GST Council Postpones Decision** To Cut Tax On Insurance, Rate **Panel Defers Report Submission** 



**Press Trust Of India** 

JAISALMER: A GST Council meeting on Saturday postponed a decision on reducing taxes on health and life insurance, while the much talkedabout GoM recommendation of rate rejig in 148 items was not tabled before the Council. Some members of the Council, chaired by Union Finance Minster Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, felt that

more deliberations were required before a final decision could be arrived at with regard to insurance taxation. Bihar Deputy Chief Minis-

ter Samrat Chaudhary, who heads the panel on GoM on insurance, said one more meeting is required to take a call on taxation of group, individual, senior citizen's policies.

'Some (Council) members said more discussions required. We (GoM) will meet in January again," Chaudhary told reporters here. Besides, the report of the

GoM on rate rationalisation,

which had recommended tweaks in 148 items, was not tabled before the Council.

"We will submit the GoM report on rate rationalisation in next meeting of Council," said Chaudhary who is the convenor of the panel.

The ongoing Council meeting will also deliberate on bringing Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) in Goods and Services Tax fold.

Several proposals of Fitment Committee, comprising officials from the Centre and states' GST departments would come up for review before the Council.

One of the proposals include cutting taxes on food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato, to 5 per cent (without input tax credit), from the current 18 per cent (with ITC)

It is likely to have proposed a rate hike on sale of used EVs as well as small petrol and diesel vehicles to 18 per cent from the current 12 per cent. This hike would bring used and old smaller cars and EVs at par with old larger vehicles,

according to sources. Also, the Group of Minis-

ters (GoM) on GST compensation cess is likely to get a six-month extension till June 2025, to submit their report. The compensation cess regime comes to an end in March 2026, and the GST Council has set up a panel of ministers, under Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to decide the future course of the cess.

The GoM on insurance had recommended exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies from GST. Also premium paid by senior citizens towards health insurance cover has been proposed to be exempted from the tax.

Besides, GST on premiums paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh is proposed to be exempted.

However, 18 per cent GST will continue on premiums paid for policies with health insurance cover of over Rs 5 lakh.

# **GoM To Consider Cess On GST By States Hit By Natural Calamities**

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAISALMER- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the GST Council decided to form a group of ministers (GoM) to consider allowing states to levy cess under Goods and Services Tax to overcome financial distress

after natural calamities. Briefing media after the 55th GST Council meet-ing here, she said, "Everybody agreed, even Andhra Pradesh's minister agreed that a Group of Ministers be Littar Pradesh



be named, whether every disaster can be given a consideration. "So the Group of Ministers will decide on all these details and then the council will decide," Sitharaman said. Earlier in the day, Andhra

Pradesh Finance

calamity cess on certain luxury goods.

The cess will be on luxury items and state specific levy," Keshav said. In September-October, Andhra Pradesh was

"To give us a leverage to come back to normalcy, we have suggested a 1 per cent cess. There was a general consensus to set up GoM," Keshav said.

The GST law provides for levy of special taxes for a sales of residential properties specified period to raise adacross the nine cities are likely ditional resources during any natural calamity or dis

## J&K Bank Launches 'Kisan Adhikar Abhiyan' To Achieve **KCC Saturation**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Reinforcing its commitment to the agriculture sector of Jammu and Kashmir and empower the farming community, J&K Bank has launched the "Kisan Adhikar Abhiyan", a mission-mode campaign aimed at achieving 100% saturation of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. Initiated in collaboration with the twin Directorates of Agriculture and Horticulture from both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, the campaign began on December 20 and will run till

January 31, 2025. The campaign's primary objective is to bring all eligible PM-Kisan beneficiaries un-der the KCC fold and enhance the credit limit of existing KCC accounts, ensuring financial inclusion besides timely and adequate credit access to meet agricultural needs. Daily camps will be organized by the Bank's branches across J&K in collaboration with the Agriculture and Horticulture departments, with a focus on identifying and onboarding eligible beneficiaries who have not yet availed the facility.

The Kisan Credit Card scheme is a flagship scheme of the Bank that offers farmers timely and affordable credit to manage their agricultural and allied activities, thereby reducing their dependence on informal and high-cost lending channels.



Besides providing short-term credit for crop cultivation, KCC also helps farmers meet expenses related to consumption, post-harvest management, and allied activities such as dairy, poultry, and fisheries.

Under this campaign, the Bank aims to not only saturate KCC coverage but also enhance existing credit limits based on revised scales of finance, reactivate dormant KCC accounts and issue Digital KCCs (RuPay Cards) for seamless access to financial services. Also, by simplifying processes like land verification, the Bank is striving to make credit access more convenient and efficient for farmers.

The campaign also emphasizes the Bank's pivotal role as an institutional enabler in fostering agricultural growth and rural development. And through its collaboration with the Directorates of Agriculture and Horticulture, the Bank seeks to create a healthy ecosystem for the farming community to ensure that the benefits of institutional credit are extended to every eligible farmer across J&K.

units in the preceding Septem-

Samir Jasuja, CEO & Founder

of PropEquity, said the sales

have declined on annual basis

He said the sales are likely to

"A closer look at the num-

bers reveals that despite the

drop, the supply to absorption ratio in 2024 remains the same

as in 2023 which indicates that

rise quarter-on-quarter on the

because of high base effect.

back of festive demand.

ber quarter.

### 'Housing Sales In Dec Qtr To Fall 21% In Top 9 Cities; Demand Up 25% In NCR'

#### **Press Trust Of India**

NEW DELHI: Housing sales are estimated to fall 21 per cent annually across nine major cit-ies during October-December period to 1.08 lakh units on high base effect, according to

PropEquity. Real estate data analytics firm PropEquity on Saturday released the sale numbers for India's top nine housing markets - Delhi-NCR , Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Thane. It has estimated sales to rise only in Delhi-NCR. As per the data, the total

the fundamentals of the real estate sector are strong and healthy," Jasuja said. Housing sales are estimated to fall in Hyderabad by 47 per cent to 12,682 units during October-

December 2024 from 24,044 units in the year-ago period. In Bengaluru, sales cou

to decline to 1,08,261 units in

buildings to businesses, the tenant would be required to pay GST on the rent under the reverse charge mechanism. However, this created an additional burden for traders under the composition scheme, as they are not eligible to claim input tax credit for such payments.

To address this, the GST Council meeting has decided to exempt traders registered under the composition scheme from the reverse charge tax liability on rent, the release added

The Council meeting also intervened in key issues such as the tax rate on food in hotels with premium room rents, taxes on medicines for specific cancer treatments, and the imposition of late fees on GST returns

In response to Kerala's demand for accurate IGST settlement, the GST Council has formed a committee of officials to examine various aspects of the IGST process. This committee is tasked with providing recommendations to improve the accuracy of settlements.



hit by floods.

formed and West Bengal, Telangana, volunteered (to be a part of it)." The Group of Ministers will decide what this cess should

Payyavula Keshav said that there was a consensus that a GoM be formed to look into the demand for a 1 per cent

Minister

Subject:

**Reference:** 

Earlier in 2018, the GST Council had decided to set up a GoM to look into similar demand made by Kerala.

the current quarter as against 1,37,225 units in the same period last year. However, sales are likely to

drop 13 per cent to 14,957 units from 17,276 units, while Chennai might see a 9 per cent drop to 4,266 units from 4,673 units.

# **Trump Adds Europe To List Of US Trade Partners He's Threatening With Tariffs**

#### **Associated Press**

WEST PALM BEACH: President-elect Donald Trump on Friday added the 27 countries that make up the European Union to the list of trade partners he's threatening with tariffs - unless the group takes steps to import more US goods.

"I told the European Union that they must make up their tremendous deficit with the United States by the large scale purchase of our oil and gas," Trump posted shortly after 1 a.m. on social media. "Otherwise, it is TARIFFS all the way!!!"

In 2023, the United States' trade imbalance with the EU on goods was USD 209 billion, according to the Census Bureau. There were USD 576 billion in imports from Europe and USD 367 billion in exports from the United States.

Trump's transition team did not respond to questions seeking greater clarity on the message, which for all its bluntness was unclear on next steps.

When Trump threatened Canada and Mexico with 25 per cent tariffs in November, the leaders of both countries spoke with him to try and resolve any tensions. But the European Union lacks a single figure who can make the pur-

chase commitments of natural gas and oil on behalf of its 27 member states that

ther strengthen an already

strong relationship, in-

Trump is seeking. EU Commission spokesman Olof Gill said in reaction to Trump's post that "we are ready to discuss with President-elect Trump how we can fur-

was difficult to parse what Trump was trying to say relative to European trade, given that natural gas exports to the continent are already up after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. "What we really need to chalk all of this up to is Trump laying the ground-

work for future nego-

tiations," Lincicome said.

More than half of the liquified natural gas imported by the EU and the United Kingdom in 2023 came from the United States, according to the US Energy Information Administration. The volume of LNG going to the EU and UK has tripled since 2021.

On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm issued a statement based off a new study that unfettered exports of LNG could increase prices domestically and increase carbon emissions. Trump ran for president on the idea that increased oil and natural gas production would reduce costs for US voters who were left frustrated by a 2022 inflationary spike that still lingers.

Trump's demands on Europe to buy more oil and natural gas were not especially new. He also made them during his initial term as president and in 2018 reached a deal with Jean-Claude Juncker, thenpresident of the European Commission, to sell more LNG to Europe.

The problem with that agreement, as noted by the University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, is that the US "cannot force companies to send products to a specific region or country" and the EU cannot force its members to buy American fossil fuels.





Email: coejakbopee@gmail.com, helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com, jakbopee@gmail.com

Provisional Selection List of the candidates for admission to the DNB (Post MBBS DNB/Post Diploma DNB/Post MBBS Diploma DNB) Courses-2024 in the Government/Private Colleges/ Institutions of the UT of J&K after conduct of the First Round of Counseling (Physical). Notification No. 189-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 16-12-2024.

#### **NOTIFICATION NO. 197-BOPEE OF 2024** DATED 19-12-2024

In pursuance of the Notification No. 189-BOPEE of 2024 dated 16.12.2024, the Board has conducted Physical Counseling for admission to DNB (Post MBBS DNB/Post Diploma DNB/Post MBBS Diploma DNB) Courses-2024 in the Government  $ar{I}$ Private Colleges / Institutions of the UT of J&K on 19-12-2024.

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

The candidates shall have to report to the respective Colleges/Institutions allotted to them for completion of the admission process w.e.f. 20.12.2024 to 27.12.2024 along with following documents in original:

- Domicile Certificate.
- MBBS Degree /Diploma Certificate where applicable. П.
- III. NEET/PDCET Score Card 2024 wherever applicable.
- IV. NOC from Health and Medical Education Department
- Any other document as may be required by the College Authorities. V.

The Colleges shall submit the shortfall, if any, on 27.12.2024 upto 05:00 p.m. positively to enable the Board to take further appropriate action in the matter.

The provisionally selected candidates shall have to mandatorily report for admission to the allotted Colleges/Institutions by or before 27.12.2024 upto 04:00 p.m. along with their relevant certificates in original, failing which they shall not be eligible for further rounds of counseling, if any, conducted by the Board.

Note:

- The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be liable to be cancelled in case any information 1. furnished by any candidate(s) proves to be false / fabricated and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against those candidates. If any candidate(s) is found to have concealed any information, his/her selection/admission shall be cancelled
- 2. ab-initio and fine/penalty shall also be imposed upon him as may be deemed proper by the Board in accordance with the laid down rules
- 3. It is the responsibility of the Head of the Institution to verify the eligibility/documents of the provisionally selected candidates in their institution before allowing them to join in their respective institutions. All the Heads of the Institutions/Colleges are requested to keep their admission counters open on Holidays/Off
- 4. days to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission well in time and the candidates should in their own interest, avoid waiting for the last day for completing the admission formalities as the delay in such matters has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.
- The Heads of the Institutions shall keep record of the admissions and send the shortfall of the candidates, if any, who 5. have not completed their admission within the prescribed time mentioned above through E-mail viz. coejakbopee@ gmail.com & helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com on 27.12.2024 upto 05:00 p.m. positively along with hard copy duly signed by the Head of the Institution.

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

-	C	0	E
E	σ	υ	E

No: - BOPEE/Exam-68/2024(7607232)	Sd/-
Dated 19-12-2024	(Gurvinder Raj Verma)
DIPK-NB-2891-24	Controller of Examinations
DT: 21/12/2021	J&K, BOPEE
-	

cluding by discussing our common interests in the energy sector."

Gill noted that the EU is already "committed to phasing out energy imports from Russia and diversifying our sources of supply. We're not going to go into any details about what that might entail in the future, given that the new administration isn't

even in place yet." Scott Lincicome, a vice president at the libertarian Cato Institute, said it



"This is for better or worse a lot of what we're going to

see for the next four years." While there is a USD 209 billion trade imbalance, a more complicated relationship lies beneath those numbers. A company such as German automaker BMW can import parts needed to assemble vehicles at its factory in South Carolina, such that

the trade totals also reflect

the flow of goods within

European companies that

employ US workers.

#### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### **Coldest December**

north Kashmir until tomorrow (Sunday)morning.DrMukhtarAhmad, Director of the MeT Department, said the weather is expected to remain dry between December 23 and December 26.

"From late December 27 to the forenoon of December 28, light rain is likely in Jammu plains, with light snow in higher reaches of Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal region," he said. "The weather is expected to remain dry again on December 29 and 30, with light snowfall possible in a few higheraltitude areas thereafter."

The MeT has issued an advisory predicting a slight rise in minimum temperatures by 1-2°C over the next two days, followed by another drop of 2-3°C by December 26. Tourists, travellers and transporters have been advised to exercise caution, given the sub-freezing temperatures, icy road conditions and the possibility of fresh snowfall in higher reaches. **DHSK Issues** 

#### individuals, the elderly, economically disadvantaged people, disabled individuals, pregnant and lactating mothers, children, outdoor workers, managers of night shelters, farmers, and individuals who use illicit drugs. These groups are particularly vulnerable to the adverse health effects of prolonged exposure to extreme cold.

The DHSK has warned that intense cold can lead to serious health conditions such as hypothermia, frostbite, and other cold-related injuries like immersion foot and chilblain. Hypothermia, a medical emergency, can be life-threatening if not addressed promptly. Symptoms of hypothermia in adults include shivering, memory loss, exhaustion, slurred speech, confusion, drowsiness, and fumbling hands. In infants, it manifests as bright red, cold skin and low energy. The advisory stressed the importance of immediate action, including moving the affected person to a warm shelter, removing wet clothing, and warming their body with blankets or skin-to-skin contact. Emergency medical attention is essential for severe cases.

The DHSK has recommended several preventive measures to prepare for and combat the cold wave. These include stocking adequate winter clothing and emergency supplies such as food, water, and medicines. People are advised to wear multiple layers of loose-fitting, warm clothing, cover extremities like the head, neck, hands, and feet, and eat a healthy diet rich in Vitamin C to boost immunity. Drinking warm fluids regularly and keeping the skin moisturized are also advised to maintain body heat and protect against dryness.

The advisory also issued crucial warnings, urging people to avoid prolonged exposure to cold, refrain from consuming alcohol, and not ignore signs of shivering which indicates the body is losing heat. It warns against massaging frostbitten areas or burning candles or wood in unventilated spaces, which could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. DHSK has also urged residents to remain vigilant for symptoms of frostbite or hypothermia and to seek medical attention immediately if such symptoms occur. The detailed guidelines are a timely reminder for the people of Kashmir to take every possible precaution to protect themselves and their families from the cold wave, particularly the

#### vulnerable sections of society. **The Silent Danger**

weather increases the workload on the heart, leading to higher stress levels. For those who are already susceptible to heart attacks, this can lead to more significant issues," said Dr Irfan, a cardiologist at GMC Srinagar

Dr. Irfan identified eight factors that can lead to heart attacks.

The first is uncontrolled blood sugar. When individuals cannot keep their sugar levels in check, it can increase the risk of a heart attack. He noted that in many cases, patients are unaware that their sugar levels have risen.

The second factor is uncontrolled blood pressure. If patients do not take their medication on time, they become more vulnerable to heart attacks. Many patients mistakenly believe that if diagnosed with essential hypertension, they can stop taking their medication, but they often need to continue lifelong treatment, which they sometimes neglect, leading to heart attacks.

Other reasons include excessive smoking and an unfavorable lipid profile, especially high cholesterol in the body.

Dr. Irfan emphasized that these four factors are the primary contributors to heart attacks. Furthermore, a lack of physical exercise, inadequate fiber intake from fruits and vegetables, family history of heart diseases, and mental stress are significant contributors. In Kashmir, mental stress appears to be a significant issue; as the mental stress level increases, so does the risk of heart attacks.

The medical experts maintain that 40-days of extreme cold in the Valley is crucial for such patients and people should take extra care of their patients. Dr. Upendra Kaul, Kashmir's top cardiologist, told Kashmir Observer that reason for the increase in heart attacks and other ailments can be attributed to multiple factors including less physical activity during winters, excessive food.

"Because of this the weight goes high which raises the cholesterol level among the people. People have to realise that whether it's summer or winter, they shouldn't skip exercise. The people of Kashmir should make it a habit. They need to burn their calories every day," Dr. Kaul added.

Cold temperatures can increase blood clotting, which can lead to blockages in the arteries, increasing the risk of a heart attack or stroke.

Experts also said that patients with respiratory illness are also prone to developing heart ailments during winter.

The doctors said that air quality in Kashmir has been deteriorating over the past few years due to the increasing number of vehicles, construction activities, brick kilns, cement production and other factors that emit pollutants, which have polluted the air.

"This could be contributing to a rise in the number of heart attack cases in the valley," they said. "There is an urgent need to control air pollution to reduce the number of heart attack cases in the community and save precious human lives." Notably, the warning signs of a heart under stress are often ignored, leaving many vulnerable to the cruel effects of the cold. With the chill deepening the question remains: how do we protect ourselves when winter's icy grip tightens around us? 43 years, and it will undoubtedly strengthen the India-Kuwait friendship across various sectors. I look forward to the programmes scheduled for later today and tomorrow," Prime Minister Modi posted on X.

On his arrival, Modi was warmly received by Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Interior of Kuwait.

"A new chapter in the making! PM @narendramodi arrives in Kuwait to a ceremonial welcome. Warmly received by H.E Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah First Deputy PM, Minister of Defence & Interior of Kuwait, H.E. Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, FM of Kuwait & several other Ministers & dignitaries at the airport," Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

During the visit, Modi will hold discussions with the leadership of Kuwait and also interact with the Indian community.

In his departure statement, he said his talks with top Kuwaiti leadership would be an opportunity to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership between India and Kuwait.

"We deeply value the historical connection with Kuwait that has been nurtured over generations. We are not just strong trade and energy partners but also have shared interest in peace, security, stability and prosperity in the West Asia region," he said.

Modi said he was looking forward to his meetings with the Emir, the Crown Prince and the prime minister of Kuwait.

He will also attend the opening ceremony of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup here in Kuwait.

The last Indian prime minister to visit Kuwait was Indira Gandhi in 1981. India is among the top trading partners of Kuwait. He would also meet

the vibrant Indian diaspora here. The Indian community is the largest expatriate community in Kuwait. Indians constitute 21 per cent (1 mil-

lion) of the total population of Kuwait and 30 per cent of its work-force (approx 9 lakhs). Indian workers top the Private Sector as well as domestic sector (DSW) work force list, according to Indian Embassy in Kuwait. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the diaspora has filled Kuwait's canvas with the colours of Indian skills and assured that

India has the manpower, skills and technology needed by a 'New Kuwait'. "It takes you four hours to reach

here from India but it took four decades for an Indian PM to travel to Kuwait," he said.

Greeting the gathering for the series of festivals that would be celebrated over next few weeks, Modi said, "You all have come from different parts of India, but looking at all of you, it feels like a mini India has gathered here."

"Every year, hundreds of Indians come to Kuwait; you have added Indian touch to Kuwaiti society. You have filled Kuwait's canvas with colours of Indian skills, mixed with the essence of India's talent, technology and tradition," he added. including the procedure to be adopted in case of a difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and the Council of Ministers or a Minister.

A senior bureaucrat said that the Union Government framed business rules for Jammu & Kashmir in 2020 by invoking the proclamation dated October 31, 2019, issued under Section 73 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. "Under the Proclamation, the President of India assumed all the powers and functions of the government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and all powers vested in or exercisable by the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The said proclamation also suspended Section 55 of the Reorganisation Act to the extent of acting on the advice of the council of ministers," he said. (KNO)

#### No GST Hike

facing several challenges.

A potential rise in GST could have posed severe difficulties for the handloom sector, which is grappling with issues such as a decline in demand, growing competition from machine-made imitations, and rising production costs. Business chambers in Kashmir had previously voiced concerns, highlighting the negative impact that a higher GST rate would have on the industry, which is a major source of livelihood for thousands of artisans and traders in the region.

Earlier on Friday, responding to certain reports appearing in a section of media regarding the proposed revision of tax slab in the upcoming GST Council meeting, a spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir government clarified that the UT administration had already taken up the matter with the Union Ministry for Commerce & Industry.

The spokesperson said they have requested the Union government to lower the GST rate structure from the existing 12% to 5% uniformly, including shawls priced above Rs 1,000 to reduce the tax burden on this artisan-driven industry and support marketability.

PDP President Mehbooba Mufti had expressed concern over the news about proposed GST hike on Kashmiri shawls, warning that such a move could spell the end of the traditional craft. She appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the issue, accusing the central government of trying to reduce the region's economic independence by making its people reliant solely on tourism.

"The Kashmiri shawl is renowned worldwide. However, previous decisions, such as the National Conference government's ban on Shahtoosh, caused significant economic losses. Now, increasing the GST on shawls to 28 percent will effectively kill this art form," she said.

Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) president and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone also strongly opposed the news about increase in GST on handmade Kashmiri shawls, terming it an "oversight" with potentially devastating consequences for artisans and the centuries-old shawl industry.

#### **IT Raids Uncover**

and has been in the spotlight for reasons beyond its real estate offerings, sources told Kashmir Observer. Gibran Makhdoomi, the promoter/ director of KCI Projects Pvt. Ltd., and

Parvez Ahmad Nengroo, the former Chairman of J&K Bank, are key figures associated with the project. Nengroo is allegedly involved in a loan scandal tied to the KCI project.

The controversy centers around allegations that J&K Bank extended undue financial favors to KCI Projects Pvt. Ltd., leading to substantial financial losses. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) are currently investigating the matter.

#### Centre Okays

projects, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University in Rajouri will receive Rs 20 crore to strengthen its infrastructure.

Additionally, five new girls' hostels will be constructed in the focus districts of Bandipora, Baramulla, Kulgam, Ramban and Udhampur, each allocated Rs 10 crore to promote gender equity. Three Government Degree Colleges in Bandipora, Sogam Kupwara and Nowshera will also receive Rs 5 crore each for infrastructure development and upgradation.

PM-USHA, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Education, has been designed to address critical gaps in the higher education sector by enhancing infrastructure, curriculum reform, accreditation and employability. Aligned with the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the scheme aims to ensure equitable access to quality education, particularly for underrepresented groups, thereby fostering a more inclusive and dynamic higher education ecosystem. These recent sanctions are part of a broader vision to make education a driver of social and economic transformation, bridging regional disparities and empowering students with the skills needed for a rapidly changing world.

The Higher Education Department of Jammu & Kashmir had earlier submitted a comprehensive proposal for 47 institutions, with a total estimated cost of Rs 585 crore. Including the latest approvals, 18 institutions including Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and several colleges, have been sanctioned under PM-USHA across three PAB meetings held in 2024. The cumulative funding now stands at 155 crore, marking a significant milestone in addressing the infrastructural and academic needs of the region. The establishment of new hostels and upgraded facilities will not only enhance the quality of education but also support gender inclusion, a critical aspect of NEP 2020's vision for equitable development.

NEP 2020 emphasizes a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education, prioritizing equity, inclusivity and excellence. PM-USHA serves as a key enabler in realizing this vision by bridging infrastructural gaps and promoting reforms that align with global standards. The projects sanctioned for Jammu & Kashmir are expected to create an environment conducive to innovation, learning and employability, ensuring that students from all sections of society have access to quality education. A++ Grade from NAAC, securing an exceptional score of 3.72.

In a social media post, the Lieutenant Governor said the outstanding accomplishment of the University of Jammu has made J&K proud.

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X, "The University of Jammu has achieved the prestigious A++ Grade with a CGPA of 3.72 on a seven-point scale by NAAC. Heartiest congratulations to the Vice Chancellor, faculty, staff, scholars and students for this outstanding accomplishment. You've made J&K proud."

Jammu University's reform-driven futuristic vision underscores its commitment to fostering academic excellence, goal oriented research, innovative capacity & holistic development of students to make them enlightened citizens. My best wishes to all for success in your mission," he added.

Vice Chancellor JU, Prof. Umesh Rai in a press conference said, "This is a marked improvement over the last accreditation Cycle (Cycle III), wherein it had attained an A+ grade with CGPA of 3.51, thereby exhibiting its commitment to quality sustenance and quality enhancement".

"The A++ grade reflects the unwavering commitment of our faculty, officers, staff, scholars, students, and alumni. It is a testament to our shared vision of transforming the University of Jammu into a global hub for academic and research excellence," said Prof. Rai.

He elaborated on the transformative initiatives undertaken by the University, including the promotion of interdisciplinary research, strengthening academic frameworks, and adopting best practices.

"This recognition by NAAC is not just a milestone but a motivation to further our commitment to quality, innovation, inclusivity, and enhancing societal impact," he emphasized.

Prof. Rai acknowledged the support of the Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, Manoj Sinha; Chief Minister and Pro Vice Chancellor, Omar Abdullah; Higher Education Minister, Sakina Itoo; and Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council Prof. Dinesh Singh.

"Their visionary guidance has been instrumental in enabling the University to achieve this remarkable feat," he added.

The Vice-Chancellor also thanked the NAAC Peer Team for their rigorous evaluation and insightful recommendations during their visit.

"This is not the culmination of our journey but the beginning of new aspirations to set higher benchmarks in the field of higher education," Prof. Rai added.

#### SIM Card Vendors

the spokesman said. Special police teams directed the vendors for proper maintenance of records regarding issuances of SIM cards to subscribers as per telecom guidelines and security protocols governing the subject. Necessary legal action will be initiated against SIM card vendors found violating the rules governing the subject, the spokesman said. Police remain committed to safeguard the public and maintain the integrity of communication networks to prevent misuse of SIM cards for criminal activities, he said, adding that inspections will continue in the coming days to achieve the mandatory objective of security of all citizens. headline

#### **PM Modi Arrives**

the first visit by an Indian PM in

India has manpower, skills and technology needed by 'New Kuwait', he added.

#### **New Business**

Section 55 of the Act, the Lieutenant Governor shall make rules on the advice of the Council of Ministers for the allocation of business to the Ministers and for the more convenient transaction of business with the Ministers, Lone underscored the cultural and historical significance of the Kashmiri shawl, describing it as more than a mere product. "The Kashmiri shawl embodies our history and serves as an ambassador of our artistry. It provides livelihood to thousands of skilled artisans," he said.

LG Lauds



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets. Kashmir Observer, with 27 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world. Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

https://www.youtube. com/c/kobserver



### • OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

# THE OTHER SIDE



VOX POP UNRAVEL KASHMIR

# SPORTS

# **Boxing Day Test: Jadeja Says Top-Order Needs To Fire**

#### **Press Trust of India**

**MELBOURNE:** Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has called for an improved performance from India's batting unit in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, saying the lack of runs from the top-order builds pressure on the lower-order.

Jadeja played a crucial role in the rain-hit third Test against Australia at Brisbane, scoring a gritty 77 in the first innings which helped India secure a draw.

"Top-order runs are very important when you play outside India, especially in Australia and South Africa. When the top order doesn't score runs, the responsibility and pressure increase on the lower order," he said, during an interaction at the MCG on Satuwrday.

"Hopefully, the top-order and the middle-order does well in this Test. As a team, we need the top order to perform. If everyone contributes in the batting unit, the team will do well.

India's top-order struggled

DREAM

in Brisbane, barring opener KL Rahul, who scored a valiant 84. The rest of the top and middle order crumbled, but Jadeja, playing his first match of the tour, kept India afloat.

The match was eventually saved by the last-wicket stand

between Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep, who produced a heroic partnership to avoid the follow-on. While Washington Sundar

was preferred in the opening Test in Perth, Ravichandran Ashwin featured in the second

Test in Adelaide. Jadeja said missing the first two matches worked to his advantage as it allowed him to acclimatize to the conditions and prepare for the Gabba Test.

"I got a nice few days to un-

derstand and get used to the conditions. I was here so many days, I used to bowl and bat on the tracks here. I got more familiar with the conditions here," he said.

"All my handwork in the nets helped me in the match and I played as per my plans."

India had secured a massive 295-run win at Perth, but Australia levelled the series with a commanding 10-wicket victory in the Pink Ball Test at Adelaide.

With the series tied 1-1, India needs just one win in the remaining matches to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Jadeja emphasized the significance of the Boxing Day Test.

"It's good that we are 1-1 after three Tests. The next two games will be very interesting too. If we win even one Test. we'll retain the trophy because we won the last two series.

"It's a good opportunity to make that one good effort. We'll see what happens in the last match but this is a very important and crucial match for us.'

# **Short TAKES**

### **Anmolpreet Smashes Fastest** List A Hundred By An Indian

A nmolpreet Singh smashed the quickest List A hundred by an Indian, a 35-ball effort, to guide

Punjab to an easy nine-wicket win over Arunachal Pradesh in a Group C Vijay Hazare match here on Saturday. Anmolpreet, who went unsold in the recent IPL



auction, broke the record of former India all-rounder Yusuf Pathan, who had scored a hundred off 40 balls for Baroda against Maharashtra in 2009-10.

This knock is also the third fastest List A hundred behind Aussie Jake-Fraser McGurk, who smashed a 29-ball ton for South Australia against Tasmania in 2023-24, and South African AB de Villiers' 31-ball hundred against the West Indies at Johannesburg in 2014-15.

The right-handed Anmolpreet made 115 off 45 balls (12x4, 9x6) as Punjab chased down a target of 165 in just 12.5 overs, reaching 167 for one.

After the early fall of skipper Abhishek Sharma (10), Anmolpreet and Prabhsimran Singh (35 not out, 25b) milked 153 runs for the unbroken second wicket alliance to guide Punjab home.

Earlier, Arunachal were bowled out for 164 with pacer Ashwani Kumar and leg-spinner Mayank Markande taking three wickets apiece.

Brief scores: Arunachal Pradesh: 164 all out in 48.4 overs (Tech Neri 42, Hardik Varma 38; Ashwani Kumar 3/37, Mayank Markande 3/31) lost to Punjab: 167/1 in 12.5 overs (Anmolpreet Singh 115 not out) by 9 wickets.

### **Arrest Warrant Against Ex India Batter Robin Uthappa**

An arrest warrant has been issued against former Andia batter Robin Uthappa in connection with an alleged case of defrauding employees and the government, related to a Provident Fund (PF) case.

As the director of Centaurus Lifestyle Brands Private Limited, Uthappa is accused of defrauding employees and the government by deducting PF contributions from salaries but failing to deposit the funds into employee accounts.

The company allegedly owes Rs 23.36 lakh in damages, which authorities are seeking to recover from Uthappa.

Accused of cheating, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Shadakshiri Gopala Reddy issued a letter on December 4, 2024, directing the Pulakeshi Nagar Police to arrest Uthappa.

The police went to Robin Uthappa's house to issue a notice. Since he does not reside at that address at present, a warrant has been executed for the former cricketer.

Uthappa has represented India in 59 international matches and has been a popular figure in the cashrich Indian Premier League.

#### Man City Loses Again In 2-1 **Defeat To Aston Villa**

Manchester City's stunning slump continued Saturday with a 2-1 loss to Aston Villa in the

# J&K Defeat Telangana 3-0 In Santosh Trophy Final Round



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's football team secured its first final round Group A victory in the 78th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy 2024-25 on Saturday, defeating hosts Telangana 3-0 at Deccan Arena in Hyderabad. The J&K team got off to the third goal.

morning match, with Hayat Bashir finding the back of the net in the 5th minute. The squad took a 1-0 lead into the second half, before Arun Nagial calmed the nerves by making it 2-0 in the 70th minute. Captain

a quick start in the early

Goalkeeper Majid also had an excellent outing, ensuring J&K registered its first win of the tournament. Aakif was named player of the match for his outstanding performance.

J&K, which had lost the opening two games of the final round, drew 1-1 against Manipur in its previous match.

J&K Football Association congratulated the team for the win, dedicating it to head coach Mehrajudin Wadoo, who, "despite suffering the heartbreaking loss of his beloved mother, remained a pillar of strength for the team."

"His telephonic guidance and steadfast support during such a challenging time exemplify extraordinary sportsmanship, resilience, and professionalism. This victory is dedicated to Mr. Mehrajudin Wadoo, as a tribute to his strength, ex-

### **New Zealand Cricket Delegation** In Pakistan To Asses Security **Arrangements Ahead Of ODI Tri-Series**



#### **Press Trust of India**

KARACHI: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has sent a delegation to Pakistan to inspect security and other arrangements for a scheduled tri-series in January next year.

Besides hosts Pakistan and New Zealand, South Africa is the third team in the event. Pakistan is hosting the multi-team event as a curtain raiser to the ICC Champions Trophy in February and March. The New Zealand delegation, including security expert Reg Dickason and New Zealand Players' Association representative Brad Rodden are in Karachi and Lahore to discuss security arrangements and other preparations for the event. Around the same time, a high-powered delegation from the ICC also arrived in Pakistan to inspect ongoing preparations and other arrangements for the eight-team Champions Trophy.

routine ahead of major events as Pakistan was going to be the centre of top

cricket teams in February and March. The New Zealand and ICC delegations keenly inspected the ongoing renovation and facelift process at the stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi on which the PCB is spending an amount of 12 billion rupees to

Aakif Reshi sealed the game cellence, and unwavering in the 88th minute, scoring commitment to the game and his team," the FA said.

# **J&K Enter Quarter-Finals Of Sub Junior Softball National**

#### **Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** The J&K boys have won three league matches on the trot to seal a spot in the quarterfinals, while girls defeated formidable Maharashtra to enter the last eight stage of the ongoing 37th Sub Junior Na-

tional Softball Championship. The tournament is being organised by the Softball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, under the auspices of Softball Association of India and J&K Sports Council at MA Stadium, Jammu. In the boys section, Jam-

mu and Kashmir thrashed Haryana by sixteen homes to two (16-2) in a one-sided affair; defeated Jharkhand by twelve homes to nil (12-0) and defeated Chandigarh in an easy contest by nine goals to one (9-1), thus qualifying for the quarter-finals.

The ICC delegation also visited the National Stadium in Karachi before going to Lahore and Rawalpindi.

A PCB official said the visits were

them ready for the Champions Trophy.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said on Friday (December 20, 2024) that the board was ready to welcome and host all teams as construction work on the stadiums would be completed before given deadlines.

He also said that state-level security would be in place for all the teams visiting Pakistan and he will supervise this personally as federal minister for interior.

The NZC delegation also visited Rawalpindi Stadium and Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium as part of their assessment. Pakistan will host New Zealand and

South Africa for an ODI tri-series just days before the Champions Trophy, slated to bee held rfrom February 19 to March 9.

Goals from Jhon Duran and Morgan Rogers at Villa Park consigned the four-time defending champion to a ninth defeat in 12 games. Pep Guardiola's team has won just once during that run.

Phil Foden pulled a goal back for City in stoppage time, but it wasn't enough to spark a late comeback.

City dropped to sixth in the standings – nine points below leader Liverpool, having played two games more

#### Villa climbed to fifth.

City's remarkable fall shows little sign of stopping, with Guardiola admitting last week that he had not been good enough to turn his team's form around.

Defeat meant his once dominant team is without a win in any of its last eight away games in all competitions. While its title defense is unravelling, a place in the top four and Champions League qualification could also be in jeopardy.

A sixth league defeat is City's worst record since the 2020-21 season.

# **Top Footballers Have Had Enough, As FIFA's New Tournament Sparks Revolt**

#### Agencies

MANCHESTER: One of the most striking moments of soccer in 2024 was when Rodri hobbled onto a stage in Paris on crutches to receive the prestigious Ballon d'Or for best male player of the year.

The Manchester City and Spain midfielder had been one of the most outspoken critics against the increasingly congested soccer calendar, warning that the lack of downtime was detrimental to players' performance and health. Then, just a month before the Oct. 28 award ceremony, he tore his ACL during a seemingly routine run in a Premier League game against Arsenal.

Though such injuries have occurred throughout the history of the sport and aren't necessarily linked to overplaying, Rodri's season-ending injury became a visual representation of the physical toll of modern soccer at a time when the busy match schedule is facing legal challenges and the possibility of strike action.

Top footballers are now rou-

tinely playing more than 60 games per season for club and country, while the game is getting faster and more intense. Injuries are on the rise. Already pushed to their limits, some players say FIFA's newly expanded Club World Cup, to be held in the United States next year, is the last straw.

Players say they are "at breaking point, that they are at the limit, that it's actually too much," Alexander Bielefeld, from global players' union FIF-PRO, told The Associated Press.

#### FIFA's New Addition To The Calendar

The new Club World Cup is a supersized version of what used to be a short tournament with only seven teams. The new edition includes 32 teams from around the world and will be held every four years, starting next summer in the United States from June 14 to July 13. As its name suggests, it's envisioned to be club version of the World Cup for national teams.

That means top players will have a monthlong tournament on top of their domestic league



season three out of every four years. With more games also added to the Champions League in Europe this season as well as the next World Cup in 2026, the soccer calendar is filling up quickly.

"It's something that worries us because we are the guys who suffer," Rodri said in September, just days before he was injured. He said players may have no choice but to refuse to play if the trend continues. FIFPRO says a significant number of players routinely play 60-70 matches a season. The union's recommended limit is 55.

Last season Julian Alvarez played 75 games for former club Manchester City and Argentina in 10 different competitions spanning the Premier League, Champions League, Copa America and Olympics.

The season before, Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes played 70 times, including a run of 20 consecutive games.

#### **Injuries Are A Concern**

The Men's European Football Injury Index, an annual report by global insurance broker Howden, found there were 4,123 injuries in the top divisions of England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France last season. It said the number of injuries had risen year-on-year since the index was first published in 2021 and that "it would be fair to expect a continuation of this upwards trajectory." Tony Strudwick, medical di-

rector for West Bromwich Albion and former head of performance for Manchester United, said injuries are on the rise despite advancements in sports science and medicine.

"That to me looks like there's a mismatch between what the players can physically tolerate and what they've been exposed to," he told The AP. "During the last eight seasons, incidents of hamstring injuries, in particular,

have increased." Strudwick said the risk of too many games was ultimately injury and burnout. But he said players are unlikely to raise the issue with their clubs or nation-

al teams. "Players are very reluctant to say they don't want to play and

they're very, very tired. It takes a relatively brave person to do that," he said.

Manchester City played 61 games in the 2022-23 campaign when it won a trophy treble of the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

This season that number could rise to 71 because of an expanded group stage and potential playoff in the Champions League and the Club World Cup. A heavy workload is also an issue in women's soccer, FIFPRO said earlier this week, though it

noted that while some top players have a packed schedule, others don't get to play enough. If successful, the Club World

Cup could rival the Premier League and Champions League as one of the most lucrative and watched tournaments in club soccer. It has been backed by

clubs and next year's event is set to feature many of the biggest names in the sport, including Lionel Messi, Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Jr.

Coming at the end of many leagues' regular season, FIFA said the dates would be "harmoniously aligned with the international match calendar" to ensure sufficient rest for players ahead of the start of domestic campaigns.

The governing body has also set up a player welfare task force to be led by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

FIFPRO, which says it represents more than 66,000 players around the world, is not convinced. In October, its European division teamed up with domestic leagues and filed a legal complaint in Europe against how FIFA adds new and bigger men's competitions to the calendar.

FIFA hit back, noting that European clubs often fill their summer breaks with exhibition matches around the world. It accused some European leagues of acting with "hypocrisy, and without consideration to everyone else in the world.

# **OUTPOST**

# SRINAGAR | SUNDAY | 22.12.2024 KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>®</sup> 12

#### Zakir Hussain laid to rest in San Francisco, percussionist Sivamani pays musical tribute



Bhushan in 2002, and the

In his career spanning

six decades, the musician

worked with several re-

nowned international and

Indian artistes, but it was

his 1973 musical project

with English guitarist John

McLaughlin, violinist L

Shankar, and percussionist

TH 'Vikku' Vinayakram that

brought together Indian clas-

sical and elements of jazz in

Sivamani after Hussain's

death in a Facebook post said

he would go to San Francisco

not leave us like this. This

is just unbelievable...I'm

on the way to San Fran-

cisco. I want to see you..

one last time..I want to hold

your hands .... my brother,

my Guru..I'm devastated..

life will never be the same

poured in on social media

as the news of Hussain's de-

mise spread. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi called him a true genius who revolution-

ised the world of Indian clas-

Ricky Kej remembered Hus-

sain for his "immense humil-

cians and personalities India

has ever produced. Along

with being the best himself,

Zakirii was known for...being

responsible for the careers of

numerous musicians, who

are now forces to reckon

of skill and knowledge and

always shared and encour-

aged the entire music com-

munity through collabora-

tions and his actions. His

legacy will live on forever,

He was a treasure trove

with themselves.

ity, approachable nature".

Grammy winner musician

"One of the greatest musi-

sical music.

Messages of condolence

again," Sivamani had said.

"No Zakir Bhai, you can-

to see him for the last time.

a fusion hitherto unknown.

Padma Vibhushan in 2023.

#### Agenceis

akir Hussain was laid to rest on Thursday at ⊿a San Francisco cemeterv as renowned percussionist A Sivamani and other artistes performed on their drums at a little distance away in a tribute to the tabla maestro.

Hussain, one of the world's most accomplished percussionists, died at a San Francisco hospital on Monday due to complications arising from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a lung disease. He was 73.

He was laid to rest at the Fernwood cemetery in San Francisco on Thursday.

Hundreds of his admirers gathered at Hussain's funeral to pay their last respects. Sivamani and several other musicians played drums at a little distance away to pay him a tribute.

Sivamani told PTI Video. "Rhythm is God, that is you Zakir bhai. I learned a lot in our journey from 1982 till now. Every moment you are here with us in the rhythm. Every time I hit the rhythm, you are there. We love you Zakir Bhai. Have a lovely journey. Please give my pranam to all the masters.'

Hussain, the son of the legendary tabla player Alla Rakha, revolutionised the instrument, taking it beyond the limits of classical music to other forms, including iazz and Western classical.

The celebrated musician, one of India's most well-known, received four Grammy Awards in his career spanning six decades, including three at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year.

Hussain is survived by his wife Antonia Minnecola and daughters Anisa Oureshi

# India's Forest Cover Grows by 1,445 Sq Km: Report

ndia's total forest and tree cover has increased by 1,445 sq km since 2021, reaching 25.17 per cent of the total geographical area in 2023, according to the latest government data.

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, released on Saturday, also said that India has achieved an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes compared to 2005 levels. As part of its climate plans or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to meet the Paris Agreement goals, the country has committed to creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes through additional for-

est and tree cover by 2030. The country's total forest cover increased to 7,15,343 sq km in 2023, reaching 21.76 per cent of its geographical area, the report stated.

The tree cover increased by 1,289 sq km and now constitutes 3.41 per cent of the country's geographical area, it said. Together, the forest and tree cover amount to 8,27,357 sq km or 25.17 per cent of India's geographical area. This marks an overall increase of 1,445 sq km from 2021, with forest cover alone

rising by 156 sq km. According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), forest cover refers to all land that has a tree canopy density of more than 10 per cent and spans over an area of one hectare or more, regardless of the type of ownership or legal status.

ests as well as man-made plantations, orchards and tree patches in urban and rural areas that meet the size



and canopy density criteria. Tree cover is defined as patches of trees and isolated trees outside the Reserved Forest Area (RFA) that are less than one hectare.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the most positive finding of the report is that India has already created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes

India's carbon stock in 2023 is estimated at 7,285.5 million tonnes, which is an increase of 81.5 million tonnes compared to 2021. The fast-growing South

to have 31.71 billion tonnes of carbon stock in forest and tree cover by 2030.

India's total bamboo-

bearing area is now estimated at 1,54,670 sq km, an increase of 5,227 sq km compared to 2021.

states, Chhat-Among tisgarh (+684 sq km), Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), Odisha (+559 sq km) and Rajasthan (+394 sq km) recorded the highest increases in com-

bined forest and tree cover. For forest cover alone, the largest gains were seen in Mizoram (+242 sq km), Gujarat (+180 sq km) and Odisha (+152 sq km).

In terms of the total area, Madhya Pradesh leads with the largest forest and tree cover (85,724 sq km), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km) and Maharashtra (65,383 sq km). For forest cover specifically. Madhya Pradesh remains on top (77,073 sq km), followed by Arunachal

Pradesh (65,882 sq km) and Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km). When considering forest cover as a percentage of the geographical area, Lakshadweep ranks first (91.33 per cent), followed by Mizoram (85.34 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62 per cent).

The FSI also analysed forest cover changes in the Western Ghats and Eastern States Area (WGESA) over the past decade and found an overall loss of 58.22 sq km in forest cover.

During this period, very dense forests increased by 3,465.12 sq km while moderately dense forests and open forests decreased by 1,043.23 sq km and 2,480.11 sq km respectively.

In the hill districts of the country, the forest cover is 2,83,713.20 sq km, which makes up 40 per cent of the total geographical area of these districts. The latest assessment shows an increase of 234.14 sq km in forest cover in hill districts.

The latest ISFR report showed a decrease of 327.30 sq km in forest cover in the northeastern region.

The total forest and tree cover in the region stands at 1,74,394.70 sq km, accounting for 67 per cent of the region's geographical area.

The country's total mangrove cover stands at 4,991.68 sq km, a net decrease of 7.43 sq km since 2021, according to the report. Moderately dense forest and open forest categories saw declines of 1,043.23 sq km and 2,480.11 sq km, respectively, over the last decade, despite gains in very dense forest, the report stated.

The FSI has been assessing forest cover since 1987 and tree cover since 2001. The National Forest Policy 1988 mandates that 33 per cent of the geographical area of India should be under forest or tree cover.

#### Man Loses Mother's Cancer **Treatment Fund In Online** Game, Dies By Suicide

#### Agenceis

Chennai: A 26-year-old youth, who lost his mother's cancer treatment fund on online rummy game, tragically ended his life. Police identified the youth as Akash, a catering delivery worker who started playing online rummy during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently became addicted to it.

He used to live with his mother, a cancer patient, and his brother after the death of their father a few years ago. Akash's

Recently, mother found that 30,000, which she had saved for her cancer treatment, was missing. Upon

phone with him.

locate him

investigation.

questioning, Akash admitted that he had used the money to play online games.

Violators face imprishis mother and brother, Akash went missing from months, a fine of up to their home on Friday evening, taking his mobile The family searched for him at the homes of close

> Additionally, the TNO-GA Act bans advertisements promoting online gambling or games of chance in any form of media within Tamil Nadu. Pattali Makkal Kat-

chi (PMK) president and former Union Minister, Anbumani Ramadoss, have called on the government to take stringent measures against online games like rummy, which are reportedly driving many youths to despair and suicide.

# 52 kg gold, Rs 10 crore cash recovered from abandoned car in Bhopal jungle

#### Agenceis

The Income Tax Department has recovered 52 kg of gold and Rs 10 crore cash from an abandoned car in Bhopal following hour-long searches in connection with a disproportionate assets case linked to former RTO Constable Saurabh Sharma, an official said on Friday.

The searches were conducted on the premises associated with Sharma, who ventured into the real estate business after taking voluntary retirement from the Transport Department of the



gle of Mendori village, which Colony, where the raid was Establishment (SPE) and Inlocated near a dense forconducted on Thursday

come Tax Department at the

late night on Thursday, is said to be worth Rs 42 crore. The seizure has brought

further attention to Sharma and Gaur already under investigation in a disproportionate assets case.

During the search. I-T team also recovered documents related to investments in multiple properties, a hotel, and a school. Properties linked to Sharma are spread in several districts in the state.

Sharma, a resident of Gwalior had joined the MP government's transport department on a compassionate appointment after his ever, his lifestyle gradually changed completely and his assets saw a drastic growth during 12 years of his service, which initially raised suspicion, the police said.

After clashes with bureaucrats and complaints regarding a school allegedly built on government land, Sharma retired early to focus on real estate ventures.

Both Sharma and Gaur have been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. with ADG Lokayukta Jaideep Prasad confirming that investigations are ongoing.

nd cash found in the a





nounced its intention to take strict action against those promoting online gambling and betting apps in the state.

Citizens are encouraged to report online gambling activities or offer suggestions on regulating online games through www. tnonlinegamingauthority. com or via email at tnoga@tn.gov.in.

The TNOGA, 2022, prohibits online gambling, betting, and games of chance. After being scolded by

onment of up to three 5,000, or both. Financial institutions and payment gateways are also prohibited from facilitating transactions related to online gambling.

friends but was unable to On Saturday morning, his body was found on the terrace of their residence. The Kottupuram Police in Chennai have registered a case and begun an

Over the past four years, 48 people have committed suicide in Tamil Nadu due to addiction to online betting apps

and online loan frauds. The Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority (TNOGA) had earlier an-

Officials believe the gold

compared to 2005 levels.

Asian country is estimated



This includes natural for-

and Isabella Qureshi. Hussain received the Padma Shri in 1988, the Padma

and his influence will be felt for generations. He left us too soon," Kej had written on X after his demise.

state government. Sources said the car was

est area and Kaliasot Dam, around 15-20 km from found abandoned in the jun-Sharma's residence in Arera

The raid was conducted jointly by Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta's Special Police

residence of Sharma and his associate, Chandan Gaur. The gold found in the car

Sharma has been described as a 'simple man' during his joining. How-

doned vehicle may be part of the illicit wealth amassed by Sharma and Gaur.

# **KASHMIR'S** RASSED HUSBANDS

SCAN TO WATCH THIS ON KASHMIR

OBSERVER