


# Good Morning Kashmir

Srinagar • Sunday 26, March 2023 • Vol: 14 • Issue No:73 • Page:12 • Price: ₹ 5/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

**Anurag Thakur**  
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Rahul Gandhi is not the first to face disqualification. Wonder whether legal wizards of Congress have checked rules? Instead, they are brazenly defending their hatred for OBC which caused his conviction thus showing utter disrespect towards judiciary & people.

## 1 killed, 6 injured in mortar shell blast in Jammu

Yogesh

Jammu: A person was killed and six others injured in a mortar shell blast that took place in a scrap factory on Saturday afternoon in the Industrial Estate, Bari Brahmana of Samba district.



Around 3 pm, a massive explosion took place in Scrap Enterprises, a company owned

by Subash Chandra and Sons, which deals with scrap material

## Anti-Hijack Drill conducted at Jammu Airport

GMK News Network

Jammu: The National Security Guard (NSG), country's elite security forces, conducted a full



fledged Anti-Hijack Drill at Jammu airport on Saturday. An official statement issued by Defence Ministry reads that

# J&K To Get Specially Designed Vande Bharat Express Next Year: Railway Minister

'Srinagar-Jammu rail link to open by end of 2023 or in beginning of 2024'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar: Union Minister of Railway, Communications and Electronic & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir will have specially designed 'Vande Bharat' train in the mid of 2024 while the train services from Jammu-Srinagar will be started by the end of 2023 or in the first two months of next year.

Addressing a news conference here at Srinagar railway stations, Vaishnaw, said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed the railway infrastructure and other related things as he is determined to improve the railway infra in Jammu & Kashmir.

Similarly in J&K, a dream project Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla is near completion, saying that after hectic efforts of project monitoring, funding and solving technical problems, the project will be made functional by the end of 2023 or in the first two months of 2024.

"The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) is in good progress and the



project worth over Rs 35000 crore will be completed by the end of December 2023 or in January or February of 2024," he said.

He further said that J&K also will have specially designed Vande Bharat train, saying that keeping in view weather conditions and other related things, the specially Vande Bharat train will be opened in the mid of 2024.

The Union Minister also

said that the telecom facility, 4G-5G facilities will be ensured across J&K, adding that every single village will have telecom towers and optical fiber facility will reach every nook and corner.

About the Chenab railway bridge, the Union Minister said that the all the test have been successfully conducted and some more tests will be conducted tomorrow—(KNO)

## Railways achieve 85% electrification of route in JK

Yogesh

Jammu: Indian Railways achieved a significant milestone in railway electrification with the completion of the electrification of the Broad Gauge (BG) route in Jammu & Kashmir of Ferozpur Division. This will improve rail connectivity and the speed of trains in the Union Territory. An official said that with 85% of route kilometres electrified, Indian Railways is rapidly progressing to accomplish Mission 100% Electrification and become the largest green railway network in the world.

"Under Indian Railways' mission of 100% electrification, total electrification of 298 RKM of Broad Gauge (BG) route in Jammu & Kashmir UT has been completed," he said, adding, "This will improve rail connectivity and the speed of trains in the region. Indian Railways is rapidly progressing to accomplish Mission 100% Electrification and become the largest green railway network in the world."

By achieving 100% electrification in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir of Ferozpur Division, the eco-friendly mode of railway transportation has been ensured, thus reducing dependence on imported crude oil which in turn has resulted in saving of precious foreign exchange for the nation, the official said.

"Under Indian Railways' mission of 100% electrification, total electrification of 298 RKM of Broad Gauge (BG) route in Jammu & Kashmir UT has been completed,"

**The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) is in good progress and the project worth over Rs 35000 crore will be completed by the end of December 2023 or in January or February of 2024."**

## Special Anti-Corruption Court sentences ASI to one year in jail

GMK News Network

Srinagar: The Special Judge Anti-Corruption Srinagar on Saturday sentenced a public servant to one year in Jail.

As per a statement issued, an accused ASI Mushtaq Ahmad Shah then posted at Police Station Charar-e-Sharief, Budgam has been convicted U/S 5(2) PC Act and 161 RPC and sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment

## Two terrorist associates held in B'pora: Police

GMK News Network

Srinagar: Police alongwith security forces have arrested two terrorist associates linked with LeT in Sumlar area of Bandipora and recovered incriminating materials & two Chinese grenades from their possession.

A police spokesman said in a statement issued said that acting on specific information regarding movement of terrorist associates,

## J&K to have consumer forums, ombudsman for electricity-related complaints

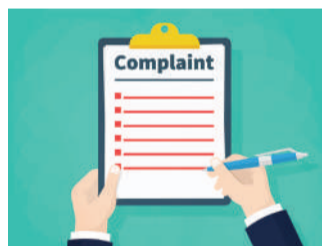
Nasir Azam

Srinagar: The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir would soon have consumer grievance redressal forums and an ombudsman for resolving electricity-related problems of consumers.

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UT of J&K and Ladakh has unveiled regulations for establishing consumer grievance redressal forum(s) and for the appointment of an electricity ombudsman by the Commission.

In a notification, the JERC said that every distribution

licensee shall establish electricity consumers' grievances redressal forum(s) at the company level to ensure redressal



of the grievances of the complainants. These consumers can approach these Forums over non-supply,

## No truck halts at Nagrota, Qazigund: CS

GMK News Network

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Saturday impressed upon the traffic authorities to completely do away with the halting of trucks at Nagrota and Qazigund on Sgr-Jmu National Highway and instead let them ply smoothly without putting any forced halt to their movement either way between Jammu and Srinagar.

Dr Mehta made these remarks in a meeting with different stakeholders called for reviewing the progress of construction of National Highways under Prime Minister Development Programme across the UT.

In addition to the Principal Secretary, PWD the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Forest; Divisional Commission-

ers; concerned Deputy Commissioners; Representatives from NHA, NHIDCL, BRO, and many other concerned officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed upon the executing agencies to



complete all these road projects providing interconnectivity to different regions in the stipulated timeframe. He enjoined upon them that the significance of these roads is very high and deserves all efforts to be com-

pleted on time.

He directed the concerned authorities to strictly stick to the timeline of completing the Expressway to Akhnoor in all respects by May this year so that the travel time to reach there

gets reduced to half an hour. He made out that this road is going to play a vital role in bringing this circuit on the tourism map of J&K and increase the footfall to this location considerably.

Regarding the

## Rahul trying to become 'martyr': Ravi Shankar Prasad

IANS

Patna: After Rahul Gandhi said that he will not apologise to anyone, BJP leader and former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the Congress leader is trying to become a "martyr".

Speaking to media persons in Patna, Prasad said: "Congress party could have obtained a stay on the decision of Surat court. They have deliberately not obtained the stay order to utilise the issue during the Karnataka assembly election. He is trying to become a martyr..."

"Rahul Gandhi did the press conference in Delhi in a well planned manner. He wants to present himself sac-



rificial and take benefit in the Karnataka assembly election," the BJP leader asserted.

"The Congress party has a number of prominent lawyers. Why they did not obtain the stay. Today, Rahul Gandhi has again

## Jammu-Srinagar Highway reopens for traffic

GMK News Network

Srinagar: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway that was closed for vehicular traffic due to shooting stones and mudslides at Mehar Cafeteria Ramban on Friday evening, has reopened, officials said on Saturday. Traffic officials said stranded trucks moving towards Kashmir valley and both-side passengers traffic has also been allowed on the highway.

After incessant night long rains in Ramban - Banihal sector, the highway was closed at Mehaar, Cafeteria Morh of Ramban and Chamlawas, Shalagarh and Sherbibi of Banihal area due to the shooting stones and mudslides.

"After clearing the debris on NH-44, stranded vehicles are being allowed to move to their destinations," Jammu and Kashmir Traffic police said.

The highway is the lifeline of the Kashmir valley and the main road link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

## Nearly '8,000' students shift admission from Private to Govt schools in Valley

Bhat Imran

Srinagar: In a major development, nearly 8,000 school students in Kashmir division have shifted their admissions from private to government schools.

An official said that in the ongoing mega enrolment campaign for

cases were recorded. "As of now, there would be nearly 8,000 such cases wherein students have shifted admissions from private to government schools of Kashmir division."

The official said that the enrolment drive was initially started for a period of ten days starting from March-15-2023. "However, it has



academic session 2023-24, 'nearly 8,000 students have migrated from private to government schools.'

"Such admissions include dozens of dropouts and Children with Special Need (CwSN) students," he said.

The official added that till Friday late evening, more than 7,000 such

been extended for five more days. "In a mass enrolment drive many students who were registered in private school have shifted their admissions in government institutions," the official said.

It also said, "The government schools are likely to take

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Sunday, 26 March 2023

# MOVIE WATCHLIST

<b>JOHN WICK CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>PATHAAN</b>	<b>TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR</b>	<b>SHAZAM: FURY OF THE GODS</b>
			
10:30 AM, 2:30 PM (Eng) 3:20 PM (Hindi)	11:00 AM (Hindi)	3:00 PM (Hindi)	11:15 AM (English)
A	U/A	U/A	U/A

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**Mayor, Chairperson Waqf reviews Ramadan arrangements in Shrines of Srinagar**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR: Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu, Chairperson Waqf Board Dr Darakshan Andrabi and Commissioner SMC Athar Aamir Khan Saturday conducted a joint tour of Shahri e Khas and conduct

visits to various shrines and religious places. During the visit, the officers took stock of arrangements regarding sanitation, electricity and water supply especially during the holy month of Ramadan. The dignitaries paid a

visit to major shrines like Dargah Hazratbal, Jenab Sahib Soura, Naqashband Sahab (R.A) Khanyar. Senior officials from various departments like SMC, revenue, Waqf Board and other allied departments accompanied the dignitaries during the visit.

**DC Ganderbal reviews power scenario in district**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

GANDERBAL: In view of ongoing Holy Month of Ramadan, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir Saturday chaired a meeting of PDD to review the power supply scenario in Ganderbal district.

to distribute the load equally to avoid overloading and continuous power supply is provided to the consumers.

The DC directed the Executive Engineer PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the consumers during the month, particularly Sehri and Ifitari times in all areas of the district.



At the outset, The DC sought details from the officials regarding power supply scenario in the district. Executive Engineer PDD presented a detailed action plan regarding the arrangements being put in place to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the consumers in the district during the ongoing holy month.

While giving details, the Executive Engineer said that power cuts are caused due to overloading of several receiving stations especially during peak hours saying that field and technical staff is making all efforts

tration is committed to provide round the clock power supply to the consumers and directed the Executive Engineer to ensure unscheduled power cuts are avoided. He also stressed them to take prompt measures to ensure the time-bound redressal of the genuine concerns regarding power supply so that people may not suffer.

Meanwhile, the DC appealed to the people to make judicious use of electricity during the peak hours of Sehri and Ifitari times to avoid overloading of receiving stations which is the main cause of power disruption.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani, SE, KPDC, Exen PDD Division Ganderbal, AEEs, AEs and other concerned.

**DC Kupwara inaugurates Amritsarovar River front at Kupwara**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC)Kupwara, Dr. Dofode Sagar Dattatray Saturday inaugurated Amritsarovar River front at Goos in Kupwara district which has been constructed by Rural Development department under MGNREGA with a project cost of Rs 17.89 lacs.

River front Amritsarovar has been constructed at the gateway of Lolab valley and presents a picturesque scene because of lush green forests and gushing water of Nallah Lolab and has become an attraction for local residents and visitors due to its scenic beauty and recreational facilities.

and flood control department. River front is already having reservoir, seating facilities, boating facilities, fishing and sightseeing of flora and fauna of nearby forest area.

BDC chairman, Hayhama, Ali Mohammad Sheikh, ACD Kupwara, Hilal Ahmad Mir, BDO Haihama Dr. Tariq Ahmad Padder were present at the occasion.

Facilities of a recreational LED park with laser-show, open Gymnasium, cafeteria, walk-way and a floating restaurant are being constructed near the river front. These facilities are being constructed under convergence with the tourism department

of the area" Deputy Commissioner said adding that "We have identified 40 places in Kupwara district where such river fronts will be developed"

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara said that there are several beautiful places like Lolab, Keran, Tangdhar, Teetwal, Bungas, Drangyadi and Macil in Kupwara district which have great potential for tourism related activities.

"In the coming days we expect good footfall of tourists in the district owing to its natural beauty tourism potential, particularly

border tourism" DC said.

The Spot chosen for water front Amritsarovar at Goos is very beautiful, mesmerizing and picturesque and covered by thick, green forests. Gushing water of Lolab Nallah is adding to the beauty of the spot and is attracting every passerby, besides this place is gateway of Lolab valley.

On the occasion Deputy Commissioner asked the ACD Kupwara to organize the plantation drive on empty places of the river front and construct a walk-way upto Goos village.

**DLSA G'bal organizes awareness Prog on "Solid Waste Management"**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, in collaboration with Municipal Council Ganderbal and Pollution Control Committee Ganderbal, Saturday, organized an awareness programme on solid waste management at the Conference Hall of District Court Ganderbal.

This was the last day of three-days long campaign on Solid Waste Management which started on 23rd March.

The programme was held under the supervision of Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Ms. Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Administrative

Judge for District Ganderbal, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, and under the guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, Mr. Ritesh Kumar Dubey, and Secretary District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The event aimed to educate and encourage the participants to adopt sustainable practices in managing solid waste. The programme was attended by Gulafroz Khan Legal Assistant, DLSA Ganderbal, Bilal Ahmad, Divisional Officer of Pollution Control Committee Ganderbal, Social Activist, Bilal Bhat, Law Students of Central University Tulumulla

Ganderbal, staff members of Pollution Control Committee & Municipal Council Ganderbal and PLVs of DLSA Ganderbal.

The programme was spearheaded by advocate Abid Jeelani, who highlighted the importance of proper waste disposal and management and the negative impacts of improper practices on the environment and public health.

Gulafroz Khan, Legal Assistant, DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized the need to reduce, reuse and recycle waste materials as a part of sustainable waste management practices. She further outlined the legal framework and regulations concerning solid waste management that

must be adhered to by all stakeholders. Bilal Ahmad, Divisional Officer of Pollution Control Committee encouraged everyone to be more responsible and take active steps to ensure proper waste disposal and management practices are implemented.

Bilal Bhat, Social Activist also spoke on the occasion and said that the authorities aim to promote the segregation of waste at the source, reduce waste generation, maximize resource recovery through recycling and composting, and ensure the safe disposal of residual waste.

The primary goal is to enhance the quality of life for the present and future generations by minimizing

the negative impacts of waste on human health, natural resources, and the environment.

Students enthusiastically participated and highlighting the importance of environmental sustainability and waste management laws and regulations and their enforcement.

The main objective of DLSA Ganderbal is to educate people in order to raise their consciousness about the importance of proper solid waste management and to encourage individuals and communities to adopt sustainable waste management practices that minimize the adverse effects of waste on human health and the environment.

**.....from FRONT PAGE**

**1 killed, 6 injured**

for its further reuse.

A person identified as Mohan Lal from Rajouri got killed in the explosion while six others were injured. All six persons who sustained injuries have now been sent to Government Medical College (GMC) in the Jammu area.

Sharing details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Samba Benam Tosh said that there is no mystery in the blast. "It's unfortunate that we lost one valuable life in the incident but there is no mystery in it. The company deals with scrap, and one of the mortar shells that are brought here after neutralising them exploded," the SSP said while denying any terror angle in the incidents.

Tosh, however, said that an FIR has been registered in the incident and action will be taken against those found guilty.

The police said the injured are from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bishnag, Ramgarh, Ramnagar and Bari Brahmana—(KNO)

**Anti-Hijack Drill**

this exercise involved all key stakeholders from Indian Air Force, AAI, State Government, Jammu and Kashmir police, CISF, IOC and other key players.

The drill involved entire spectrum of events including negotiations with hijackers followed by intervention and overpowering of hijackers by a potent team of NSG, the statement said.

The exercise gave a unique opportunity to validate processes by inter agencies during such crisis, the statement said.

An Air India aircraft which landed at Jammu in the afternoon was utilised for the realistic drill and the exercise was successfully conducted bringing valuable lessons and training for all stakeholders, it added—(KNO)

**Railways achieve 85%**

He said switching to electric traction has provided the following benefits included environmental-friendly mode of transport, reduced dependence on imported diesel fuel, thereby saving precious foreign currency and reduced carbon footprints. "It also reduced operating cost, haulage of heavier freight trains and longer passenger trains with high haulage capacity of electric locomotives leading to increased throughput, increased sectional capacity by eliminating detention on account of traction change and saving of specific energy consumption," he said—(KNO)

**Special Anti-**

for one year and pay a fine of Rs 10,000 under each offence.

It was further announced that in case of default in payment of fine, the accused shall undergo further imprisonment for one month under each offence. The accused convict has been taken into custody and sent to Central Jail Srinagar for serving the sentence, the statement said.

The accused Mushtaq Ahmad Shah was trapped while he was posted at Police Station Charar-e-Sharief, Budgam on 19-09-2008 following a complaint lodged by one Ab. Rashid Chopan R/o Fresdub, Charar-e-Sharief, Budgam in Police Station VOK (now ACB).

"It was averred that the complainant had purchased 03 quintals of rice from Govt. Ration Depot Nagam, Charar-e-Sharief and was transporting the same in a Sumo towards their home. On his way he was intercepted by ASI Mushtaq Ahmad Shah of Police Station Charar-e-Sharief, Budgam who took him along with rice to Nowhar, Charar-e-Sharief where he demanded and accepted bribe of Rs. 500/- from the complainant but returned only 02 quintals of rice to him," the statement said.

It added that the accused Mushtaq Ahmad handed over remaining one quintal of rice to a Shopkeeper

and demanded further bribe of Rs 1000 from the complainant. The complainant persuaded the accused who agreed to accept Rs 500 only to settle the issue. The bribe was agreed to be paid on 19-09-2008, it said.

However, the Complainant lodged a complaint with VOK (now ACB) and accordingly a team of officers of VOK was constituted to lay trap for the accused public servant. The team laid a successful trap and arrested the accused public servant ASI Mushtaq Ahmad Shah red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe. The tainted money was recovered from his possession, the statement said.

"Special Prosecuting Officer Ghulam Jeelani on behalf of Anti-Corruption Bureau has contested the case resulting in the conviction awarded by Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Srinagar, Chain Lal Bavoria," the statement said—(KNO)

**Two terrorist**

Police alongwith Army (14RR) & CRPF (3rdBN) at a checkpoint established at Sumlar near Fisheries Farm Bandipora intercepted two suspected persons identified as Abrar Ahmad Wani @Abu Qadir and Danish Pervaiz, both residents of Sumlar Bandipora.

During checking, two Chinese grenades & other incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 40/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Bandipora and further investigation has been initiated.

**Rahul trying to become**

told a lie that he had not said anything in London... When his party wins election, Rahul Gandhi thinks the Election Commission is genuine and when he loses, the Election Commission becomes bad," Prasad said.



**No truck halts at Nagrota**

Delhi-Katra Expressway the Chief Secretary directed for continuing the momentum of work besides meeting timelines set for completing different sub-projects. He asked them that this Road project is of national importance as it leads to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi visited by millions of pil-

grims every year. He said that the work on such a prestigious project should be given due priority for completing it at the earliest.

Dr Mehta also sensitized the executing agencies about the significance of the executing agencies about the significance of Uri-Poonch Highway. He told them that the work on this project should be taken in hand at the earliest so that it is also completed on time bringing respite to people besides providing alternate route between the two divisions of the UT.

As far as the movement of traffic on National Highway is concerned the Chief Secretary directed for ensuring its smooth movement all across the road by properly maintaining the 6 kms difficult stretch between Ramban and Banihal. He advised them to use necessary manpower and machinery efficiently besides exploring few dry days for traffic to make the travel on this road pleasant and hassle free for all times to come.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the work done on the Srinagar-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam Highway (NH-444). He stressed on completing the stretches near all the towns of Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama so that the road is complete before the onset of Tourism season this year. The highway is going to drastically reduce the time taken for traveling to and fro and to reach to Srinagar. He also took stock of the progress made in execution of Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway, Chenani-Sudmahadev-Goha- Khellani and Akhnoor-Poonch Highways and stressed on their early completion.

He directed the Deputy Commissioners to facilitate the executing agencies in performing their work smoothly. He observed that these highways are directly linked with the economic upliftment of people as the trade and commerce would also see growth by enhanced movement of people. He pointed out that tourism sector is going to be the biggest gainer by their completion.

Dr Mehta enquired from the executing agencies about the bottlenecks affecting the pace of their

ness in seeing them completed well on time. He fixed timelines for each of the road project for its completion.

**J&K to have consumer**

disconnection of supply, new service connection, meter-related issues, and billing-related issues. "They shall ensure that consumers can also have a remedy in the event of failure or delay on the part of the distribution licensee in redressing their complaints," the regulations state.

These Forum(s) shall settle the grievances of the consumers within a period of 30 days normally and not exceeding 45 days in any case, the regulations further state.

The Forum shall be headed by the Managing Director of the licensee, the Director Finance of the licensee, an independent member, and not more than four as consumer/prosumer members.

The independent member shall be an individual possessing a minimum bachelor's degree preferably in engineering ( electrical /mechanical/ electronics/ computer )/ law/ public administration/ journalism/ economics /political Science or equivalent having at least 5 years of experience in power sector related matters.

The members as consumer and prosumer representatives shall be appointed by the licensee with the consent of the Commission who have attained the minimum age of 35 years and who have been consumers /prosumers of licensees.

The Regulations state that the Commission may appoint the electricity ombudsman or ombudsmen to discharge the functions as mandated under the Electricity Act-2003.

"The Commission may appoint or designate electricity ombudsman or ombudsmen separately for each licensee or a common electricity ombudsman or ombudsmen for two or more distribution licensees considering factors such as the number of representations received, disposal of representations within the specified time limit, ease of access for the consumers and the geographical area," the regulations further state.

According to the regulations, a complainant may prefer a representation before the ombudsman if he/she is aggrieved by the non-redressal of the grievance by the Forum within the period specified.

The complainant can approach the ombudsman if he /she is not satisfied with the order passed by the Forum, and if he/ she is aggrieved by the non-implementation of the Forum's order by the licensee—(KNO)

**Jammu-Srinagar**

Kashmir-bound trucks laden with essential supplies and other vehicles pass through the highway.

**Nearly '8,000' students shift**

a lead in admissions this year as in the past one week, hundreds of students enrolled in private schools have shifted their admission to government schools."

The official said that most of the fresh admissions were of the Kindergarten and primary classes.

"From past few years, the department has been more focused on developing infrastructure and academics in Kashmir in order to provide quality education to the students," the official said.

Pertinently, the School Education Department had ordered the heads of all government schools and teachers to start a door to door campaign from March-15 to enroll students in public schools.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Tassaduq Hussain Mir said this while announcing enrollment campaign for Academic Session 2023-24—(KNO)

work. He instantly passed on directions to the concerned government departments for taking the measures to address them. He made out that both the executing agencies and different government departments should work in coordination with each other and held regular deliberations for resolving issues without wasting time. He asked them to own these significant national projects and show eager-



## Jammu Police detains couple for alleged links with fugitive Amritpal's close aide

YOGESH

Jammu: In continuation with the ongoing raids to arrest fugitive 'Waris Punjab De', an organisation founded by actor Deep Sidhu, who died in a road accident in 2021.

Earlier, district magistrates of Kishtwar and Ramban districts cancelled arms licenses of two bodyguards accompanying Waris Punjab De chief and pro-Khalistan Sikh leader Amritpal Singh.

Sources, the licenses of Talwinder Singh and Virender Singh, bodyguards of Amritpal Singh were issued in Kishtwar and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Both the licenses were issued for personal safety but found violating the rules as they were found protecting someone by becoming their bodyguards.

The officials added that weapons were also procured from the Union Territory and were given licenses for self-defense—(KNO)

Amritpal closely since he returned to India last year and took over the reins of 'Waris Punjab De', an organisation founded by actor Deep Sidhu, who died in a road accident in 2021.

Earlier, district magistrates of Kishtwar and Ramban districts cancelled arms licenses of two bodyguards accompanying Waris Punjab De chief and pro-Khalistan Sikh leader Amritpal Singh.

Sources, the licenses of Talwinder Singh and Virender Singh, bodyguards of Amritpal Singh were issued in Kishtwar and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Both the licenses were issued for personal safety but found violating the rules as they were found protecting someone by becoming their bodyguards.

The officials added that weapons were also procured from the Union Territory and were given licenses for self-defense—(KNO)

They have been detained for reportedly having links with Papalpreet Singh (a close aide of Amritpal Singh).

According to police sources, the mobile phones of the couple have also been seized for further investigation. "The matter is being investigated by Punjab Police and they will be questioning the couple into the case," they added.

Papalpreet reportedly had been working with

## Delegation of S.O.S International calls on Lt Governor

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A delegation of S.O.S International, an organisation for PoJK Displaced Persons, called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan Saturday.

They also submitted a memorandum containing various issues of PoJK displaced persons including the complete implementation of 'PM Central Assistance Scheme for PoJK DPs' and armed forces



The members of the delegation led by its chairman, Sh Rajiv Chuni expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor on behalf of whole PoJK Displaced community for the welfare initiatives launched by the UT administration for the displaced persons.

recruitment drive for youth of PoJK displaced community.

The Lt Governor gave a patient listening to the members of the delegation and assured them that the issues presented by them would be looked into earnestly for its redressal.

## DC Baramulla chairs meeting of DTF on Measles-Rubella elimination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: To give impetus to the progress towards Measles-Rubella Elimination in the district, a meeting of District Task Force (DTF) was held Saturday at DC Office here under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding implementation of road map formulated by the Government for Measles, Rubella elimination from the country by 2023.

On the occasion, the DC said that our district has adequate healthcare infrastructure to manage the universal immunization programme and surveillance activities to achieve the target.

The DC urged upon the Health functionaries of the district to take all possible measures and give focused attention towards the Measles, Rubella elimination in the District.

Dr Syed Sehrish stressed on active participation of educational institutions in spreading awareness and sensitizing students about the infection of Measles and Rubella. She urged the officers to adopt the multi pronged interventions to

identify the target at the right time to arrest the disease at the right time.

The DC also highlighted the importance of acquiring complete knowledge about the preventive measures of Measles-Rubella disease, and asked the officers to identify the target groups, conduct surveys and prepare separate plans for vulnerable groups.

She further asked them to put in a committed effort in order to achieve the objective of the campaign i.e to rapidly build up immunity for both Measles and Rubella diseases and ensure that all the children should receive MR vaccine during the campaign.

Meanwhile, the DC also reviewed the quarterly performance of District Quality Assurance committee. She asked for disseminating the quality assurance guidelines and tools and methodology to be followed at District and sub district level.

Joint Director Planning M Yousuf Rather, Chief Medical officer Baramulla Dr Bashir Ahmad Malik, Chief Education officer Baramulla Balbir Singh Raina, Dy CMO Dr Jozy Bashir, Block Medical officers, Senior Doctors were present in the meeting.

# Edu Deptt warns private schools of action for unilateral hike in fees

AGENCIES

Srinagar: The School Education Department (SED) has warned private schools of Valley's North and Central Kashmir districts of strict action for unilateral hike in tuition fees and other charges collected from the parents under different heads.

As per the circular instructions issued by the Joint director Central and North Kashmir districts, the private schools have been warned to refrain from giving unilateral hike in fees and remain careful in future, while going for a revision or hike in fees.

"Parents of students studying in Private Schools of Central and North Kashmir districts are openly coming in Social Media, Print and Electronic Media to express their anger and grievances with regard to overcharging of various fees like Admission fee, Tuition fee and Bus fees collected by the Private Institutions from the students in Brazen violation of rules and regulations and cannons prescribed by the (FFRC) Fee Fixation Review Committee established by the Govt of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory," the circular reads.

school managements have become so arrogant that they withhold the results of the students who don't pay advance fees of the current month which is yet to finish.

"They don't bother or feel it necessary to consult the Parent Body, Working Committee or any official

Education Officers concerned and the Parents Body of that school and move a proposal for any such hike.

"With this, the menace of overcharging of fees, exorbitant admission fees are streamlined as per standard of school, the facilities provided by school, quality of education, transport facilities, playground," the circular reads.

The Joint Director has issued instructions to all the Chief Education Officers and Zonal Education Officers of all the six districts including

Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara to mobilize themselves and re-activate their institutions.

"Make surprise visits to your school jurisdictions and take cognizance of complaints received in this behalf and take a strong notice of violations to curb this menace with Iron hand and restore confidence and faith of General Public, Parents and students in the law of the land and law enforcing agencies," the circular reads—(KNO)

Cold storage units maintain supply-demand chain, prove beneficial for fruit growers in Kashmir

machinery to get the hike of charges examined, discussed, justified, and finally accepted by one and all," the circular reads.

The joint director has warned the Private School Managements to remain careful in future, while going for a revision or hike in fees and shall immediately consult the Chief Education Officers or Zonal Edu-

lateral hike of fees by the unbridled School Managements, who are always in search of opportunities to give a hike to the fee in any Head/Sector without any plausible justification and slap this Hukum-I-Tughlak to the parents through WhatsApp/SMS/Telephonic-Calls," the circular reads.

The department has observed that the private

will".

Though the number of cold storage units is still very less and can store just little produce but main thing growers need to do is to focus on smart packing and grading, he said.

"Our apples are the most delicious in the world but we are still using traditional ways of packing and grading due to which customers are preferring the



apples from other countries that are packed smartly," he said. "We have been still using hay and other things in packing and using high quality apples in upper layers while low quality and less shining apples in lower layers are creating problems for all."

He said: "We need to learn to pack apples in small

date more growers.

He said that their unit has a capacity to store three lakh apple boxes and around 40 percent of the produce is still here.

Some growers have sent their produce to markets where it fetches about Rs 1200-1300 per box compared to Rs 300-500 in 2022 autumn of 2022. He also said that

lakh metric tonnes of apple every year, a figure that in some years touches 25 lakh metric tonnes.

The 2017 economic survey in J&K said that half of Kashmir's population is directly or indirectly dependent on the apple industry and over 3.5 lakh hectares are under apple cultivation—(KNO)

## Growers need to focus on smart packing, grading: Experts

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar: The cold units most of whom are in Lassipora area of Pulwama have proven very beneficial for fruits growers as it has provided them a choice to sell their produce as per their will besides maintaining chain of supply and demand. Experts said that apples kept in cold storage in Kashmir are sold at better prices, as the growers see it fit on demand.

However, during harvesting season, farmers are pumping tons of apples into cold storage units across the valley, but the already set up cold storage units didn't meet the demand, which suggests that the valley needs more cold storage units. Azhar Anjum, Manager of one of the cold storage units, said that cold storage units have come in handy for Kashmiri apple growers who witnessed a very low demand for the fruit despite bumper crops last season.

He said that cold storage units are very beneficial as it increases the shelf life of apples by 6-8 months and helps in maintaining the chain of supply and demand.

He said the cold storages have "revolutionized" the horticulture sector as it gives a choice to a grower to sell his produce "as per

date more growers.

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## Sorry State of Education

# In Bandipora's Kanibath, over 110 students study in two-room Govt School

SAJID RAINA

Bandipora: The government middle school in Kanibath village of Bandipora paints a grim picture of the education sector in Kashmir as the school has just two classrooms for more than 109 students.

The parents, whose wards are enrolled in the school said that the school also lacks the basic infrastructure, proper accommodation and a playground.

"Keeping students of eight classes in two rooms is very difficult and injustice. In the noisy conditions, it is impossible for students to study with full concentration," the residents said.

Sehrish Shafi, a class 8 student said that due to lack of space they are facing many difficulties here and

are not able to study properly. "Students from two separate classes study in the



same room due to which the students of both the classes have to face problems," she



## Dulloo visits Seed Multiplication Farm Chinore, inspects functioning

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Saturday visited Seed Multiplication Farm, Chinore to review functioning of the unit.

He was accompanied by Director Agriculture Jammu, K. K. Sharma during the inspection of field operations of Rabi crops. ACS inspected the latest machinery being used at the farm like combines, seed drills, trans-planters, multi-crop-threshers, tractors, potato planters, ridgers and offsets.

Dulloo directed the farm management to devise a strategy to minimize the yield gaps and focus on up gradation of the farm on modern scientific lines with utilization of latest machinery and area expansion under irrigation to explore the full potential for seed production. He instructed the staff to work hard for achieving self sufficiency in HYV seed production of vegetable/fodder in addition to cereal crops.

ACS emphasized that departmental farms must act as demonstration models in the field of latest production practices for the farmers.

Director Agriculture apprised the ACS of the developments made in the quality seed production of crops at the Farm despite being located at vulnerable international

border. He also informed that foundation and breeder seed of high yielding elite varieties of wheat, oats, mustard and pulses are being multiplied at the farm in the current Rabi season on an area of 2265 acre for further supply to the farmers during next rabi season.

Meanwhile, ACS visited the Hydroponic Exotic Vegetable farm at Marh established by Sajjan Gupta, an agri entrepreneur. He enjoined upon the officers to promote such interventions on large scale by motivating the young entrepreneurs and creating good market linkages.

Dulloo also visited a private Hi-Tech Kisan Silage Unit Gajansoo located near SM Farm Chinore which is the biggest unit of J&K UT producing more than 7000 tonnes of high quality silage. Director Agriculture Jammu also briefed the ACS about the progress on establishment of Centre of Excellence (CoE) under Indo-Dutch Project for Potato Seed production

Joint Director Inputs, A. S. Reen, Joint Director Apiculture & Mushroom R. K. Hitaishi, JD Farms, Vivek Kohli, Assistant Agriculture Chemist, Pradeep Sharma, Assistant Agrostologist, Varinder Ambardhar, Farm Manager SMF Chinore, Kuldeep Raj, PDO, Narinder Pal Singh besides others also accompanied the ACS.

## DC Srinagar reviews progress of works on Highway Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting of Officers, representatives of Beacon and NHAI working on part of Srinagar Ring Road project at Rambirgarh-Pratabgarh, Slip Roads, Srinagar Narbal Road & Loops at Lasjan Intersection here at Con-



ference Hall of DC Office Complex to resolve land issues of major developmental projects taken up to improve Highway connectivity in District.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was given first hand appraisal about the progress of work on Srinagar-Baramulla Uri(NH-1) KM-16+500 to 17+400 section of Srinagar Ring Road project at Rambirgarh-Pratabgarh involving 57 kanals and 12 marlas of land acquired under the Project.

After holding a detailed discussion on the matter, the DC asked for constituting a Committee comprising the Officers of Sericulture, Social Forestry, Beacon and its consultant to assess the cost of trees on the acquired land. The Committee shall submit the report within a week's time so

that necessary compensation in respect of trees is given to the affected to accelerate the pace of work on the project.

While reviewing the present status of construction of Slip Roads and Loops for smooth flow of traffic at Lasjan intersection, the DC was informed that the structure estimate received from Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam has been forwarded to Project Director NHAI.

The DC was further informed that estimates for left out land and left out structures coming in the Project have also been received from Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam and forwarded to NHAI for its authentication.

On the occasion, the DC asked the NHAI to speed up the process at their end in order to ensure time bound execution of works.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Officers and concerned executing agencies to speed up the pace of works being carried out on the projects and complete them under set timelines. He called upon them to ensure all major developmental projects are carried without any further delay for the larger public interest.

The DC said that the projects are of immense public importance and are being strictly monitored by higher authorities for the earliest completion. He said timely completion of these projects will prove helpful towards overcoming traffic jams and improving road connectivity to ensure smooth plying of traffic on the highway.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Collector PWD, Tehsildar Shalteng, Tehsildar Panthchowk, Project Director NHAI, Deputy Officer Commanding Beacon and other concerned.



Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

# RAMADHAN - THE MONTH OF GIVING

**R**amadhan is the month of abundance and mercy. It is the best time for Muslims to pray and repent from sins. This month gives a chance to quit all the bad habits and start a good life. People who are indulged in crimes can correct themselves in this sacred month. Muslims can improve their actions so that they can find a place in Jannah. Ramadhan brings lots of happiness and peace to the lives of people. People in the valley have great enthusiasm and love for the month of Ramadhan. They prepare themselves and make arrangements for this month. The Muslim families make delicious dishes for sehri and iftiyari. Dates, sharbat, and fruits are required to break the fast. Rice and non-veg is consumed in large quantities. Where wealthy Muslims prepare grand iftiyari, the poor people have not a single bread to eat. Some people have the courage to ask for food but some families feel shame to beg. There are neighbors and relatives around us who have nothing to eat during the month of Ramadhan. The below-poverty-line families have no source of income. In this sacred month, they are not in a position to feed their families. They feel so sad and helpless. In this sacred month, it is the responsibility of shopkeepers to keep discounts for groceries so that the poor man can buy them. The Muslim communities must come forward to help needy people including orphans and the handicapped. The people in societies must distribute packets of food to needy people. Moreover, the elite classes must give bigger charities to help people. The LG administration must direct the concerned authorities to provide food in the month of Ramadhan. It must make sure that no single person sleeps without food during the month of Ramadhan. This will win the trust of the Muslim community and improve the relations between people and the present Government.

AUBAID AKHOON



*"OMR-based exams may be efficient, but subjective exams provide a more comprehensive assessment of student learning."*

**A**ssessments are a critical component of education, providing valuable insights into student learning and informing teaching practices. However, choosing the right assessment method can be challenging, with various factors to consider, including efficiency, accuracy, and the nature of the subject matter.

One popular assessment method is OMR-based exams, which rely on multiple-choice questions and automated scanning to reduce grading time and costs. OMR-based exams are an efficient way to assess knowledge in subjects such as math and science, where there are clear right and wrong answers. However, they may not be suitable for assessing higher-order thinking skills or the ability to communicate effectively.

In contrast, subjective exams require students to provide detailed responses, demonstrating their understanding of complex concepts and critical thinking skills. While these exams may be more time-consuming to grade, they provide

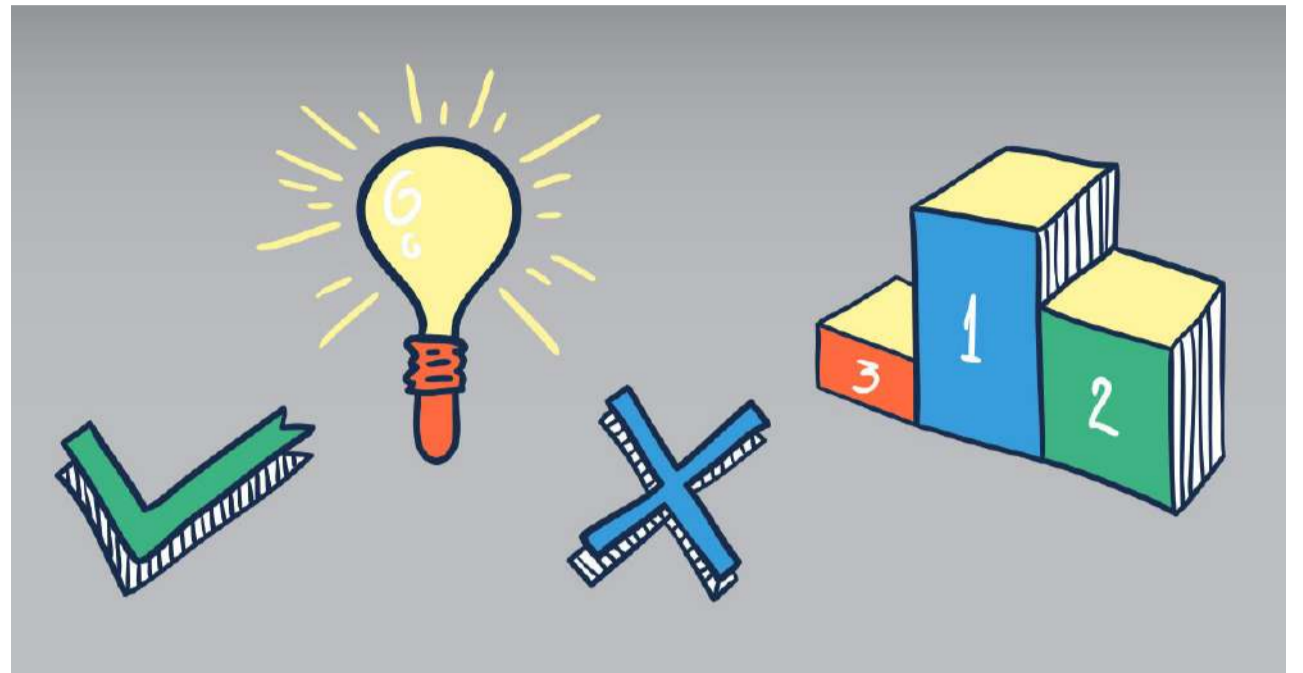
a more comprehensive assessment of student learning in subjects such as literature, philosophy, and social sciences.

So, how can educators balance efficiency and accuracy when choosing an assessment method? The key is to consider the learning objectives and the nature of the subject matter. For example, OMR-based exams may be suitable for assessing basic knowledge and understanding,

design phase, leading to poorly written questions or answer choices. Additionally, subjective exams may be subject to grading biases, requiring additional checks and balances to ensure fairness and objectivity.

To ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of assessments, educators should consider using a combination of assessment methods, including both OMR-

effective education. While OMR-based exams offer efficiency and cost-effectiveness, subjective exams provide a more comprehensive assessment of student learning. By carefully considering the learning objectives and subject matter, educators can balance efficiency and accuracy, providing valuable insights into student learning and supporting their academic growth.



while subjective exams may be more appropriate for assessing higher-order thinking skills and complex concepts.

Moreover, educators should consider the limitations of each assessment method. OMR-based exams may be subject to human error during the

based and subjective exams. By balancing efficiency and accuracy, educators can provide a well-rounded assessment of student learning, supporting their development and growth.

Bottom line: choosing the right assessment method is critical for ensuring

*"Using a combination of assessment methods can provide a well-rounded assessment of student learning."*

*The author can be mailed at akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com*

# POLLUTION PERVADES: UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

KHURSHEED AHMED RATHER



*"Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we've been ignorant of their value."*  
- R. Buckminster Fuller

**T**his quote highlights the idea that pollution is not just a problem in and of itself, but also a symptom of our failure to properly value and utilize our resources. If we were more mindful of the value of our natural resources and

household waste, polythene, and excessive use of pesticides in agriculture, which can be pernicious for the environment. Pollution touches every corner of the planet, imperiling our health through the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. The sources and types of pollution are exceedingly diverse, as are the solutions to combat them. Hazardous chemicals in paints, cleaning compounds, dyes, electronic products, and numerous other household substances can cause pollution if not managed appropriately. Ecosystem functions are also at risk.

Air pollution is a significant concern caused by indoor air pollution from the use of solid fuels for cooking at home and outdoor pollution resulting from burning fossil fuels, forest fires, and burning waste. Tobacco smoke also contributes to air pollution, leading to respiratory and heart diseases in humans, and even lung cancer. Air pollution is also suspended in water bodies, endangering aquatic life and forcing animals to leave their habitats and move to new places.

Water pollution occurs when a body of water becomes contaminated, usually by chemicals or microorganisms, making it toxic to humans and the environment. With the massive use of plastic, it is estimated that 4.8-12.7 million tons of waste enter the ocean every year. Garbage from people discarding used items such as food packages is washed into the sea by rivers. Water pollution has severe effects on human health and well-being, and steps must be taken to reduce water pollution and protect the quality of our drinking water.

To control water pollution, boiling water is an effective way to purify it. Avoid pouring cooking fat or any other fat, oil or grease down the sink and use only minimal amounts of soap and/or bleach when washing clothes or dishes. Only run the dishwasher or washing machine when you have a full load, minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and do not dispose of these chemicals motor oil, or other automotive fluids into the sanitary sewer or storm sewer system.

farming practices such as heavy use of inorganic pesticides, and strip mining, deforestation, and other destructive practices. When people do not dispose of their waste properly, it can end up in the soil, contaminating it and making it dangerous for plants and animals.

To control soil pollution, farmers should use the required amount of fertilizers and pesticides in the paddy field and avoid excessive use of them. Organic farming should be encouraged by using organic soil-friendly fertilizers and natural fertilizers. It is also vital to avoid deforestation and create awareness about the significance of proper waste disposal. Soil pollution affects human health in various ways, and we should take appropriate measures to combat it. Cleanliness, a virtue that mirrors faith, holds the power to transform our society. As denizens of this planet, we bear the weight of responsibility to maintain a pristine environment, for our actions impact the entire ecosystem. Neglecting our duty towards nature invites detrimental consequences, impeding our path



took steps to harvest and utilize them in sustainable ways, we could prevent much of the pollution that plagues our planet. Pollution is the insidious accumulation of pernicious effects that inflict harm upon all aspects of society, including humans, plants, and animals. Our society is culpable for polluting the environment in multifarious ways, such as

To control air pollution, filters for chimneys in homes and factories can be used. It is also essential to avoid products that use chemicals or have a strong smell, such as paint or perfume, and to plant trees to release oxygen. Water is a vital resource for all life on Earth, and water pollution can cause health problems in humans, such as cancer or cardiovascu-

lary diseases. Soil can be defined as the organic and inorganic materials on the surface of the earth that provide the medium for plant growth, making it an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem. Without soil, life for humans, animals, and plants would be challenging. Soil pollution occurs due to the discharge of hazardous waste and sewage, unsustainable

to a wholesome existence. Hence, to lead a fulfilling life amidst our community, we must endeavor to uphold cleanliness and hygiene standards, for it is the cornerstone of a healthy society."

*Author is pursuing B.A from Govt Degree College, Kangan. He can be mailed at qamir3672@gmail.com*

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Good Morning Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner, Editor in Chief:  
**Javed Ashraf Shah**

Associate Editor:  
**Mir Suhail**

Bureau Chief Jammu:  
**Harbans Nagokay**

Manager:  
**Kirmani Aafaq**

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998  
Regd No: 109555  
Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:  
goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:  
B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar- 190001

Printed at:  
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:  
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer  
Waseem Dar



# The conundrum of TB, tobacco use and NCDs in Asia Pacific



SHOBHA SHUKLA



BOBBY RAMAKANT

**A**sia Pacific region had over 6.7 million new TB cases and over 883,000 people died of TB in 2021, as per the latest Global TB Report of the World Health Organization (WHO). The top 5 biggest risk factors that caused TB disease in 2021 in Asia Pacific region were undernourishment (1.2 million new cases), alcohol (486,000 new TB cases), diabetes (234,000 new TB cases), and HIV (209,000 new TB cases).

**PREVENTING TB RISK FACTORS IS ALSO TB PREVENTION**

“Breaking the chain of infection transmission is one of the critical cog-in-the-wheel towards ending

TB. Alongside making latest treatment therapies of latent TB infection accessible to those who are at a higher risk of progressing to active TB disease, we also need to focus on stronger tobacco and alcohol control, diabetes prevention and care, TB-HIV collaborative activities, as well as ensuring food security for everyone in the region. TB is preventable – but each of the 6.7 million people who got TB disease in Asia Pacific in 2021, is a grim reminder that we could have done better to prevent TB,” said Dr Tara Singh Bam, Asia Pacific Director of International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) and Board Director of Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT).

If we are to end TB by 2030, we need urgent and stronger collaborative actions so that while we scale up TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services to all those who need it, we also reduce (with a goal to eliminate) TB risk factors such as tobacco, alcohol, and undernourishment, prevent and reduce NCDs, among other vital steps to strengthen health systems.

**LOCAL ACTIONS ARE KEY TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL GOALS**

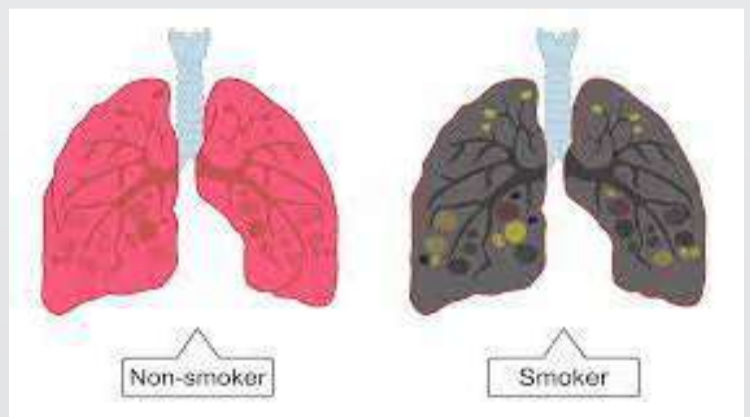
In many countries in Asia and the Pacific region, despite policies for collaborative activities between national programmes of TB, tobacco, NCDs, or food security, an alarming number of people have suffered due to active TB disease, and quite a significant number died. “At the local level, it is paramount for frontline workers and other local leaders who work on TB, and prevention of tobacco, alcohol, NCDs or undernourishment, to join forces effectively. Local or sub-national governments

have a critical responsibility to ensure forging of stronger partnerships between these programmes that address TB risk factors. Reaching out to every case of TB disease and those who need treatment for latent TB is as important as reducing (and eliminating) risk factors that cause the disease,” said Dr Tara Singh Bam.

That is why sub-national government leaders (such as Mayors, Governors or Members of Parliament) of over 80 cities across 12 countries of Asia Pacific who co-lead APCAT had adopted a strong Declaration at the 7th Asia Pacific Summit of Mayors last Decem-

ber calling for stronger united action towards eventually ending tobacco, TB, viral hepatitis, and preventing the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), among other decision points.

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DHS, GDC Doda host debate competition on 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: District Health Society and Government Degree College Doda organised a debate competition under the banner of 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' at Community Hall Doda Saturday.



The aim of the programme was to sensitise young people to the adverse effects of drugs on addicts and society.

The competition was inaugurated by District Magistrate, Vishesh Mahajan, who is also Chairman of the District Level Committee of Narco Coordination (NCORD).

The need for mass awareness about the Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign to eradicate the drug menace from society. He said that young people can play an active role in making society free from this evil.

The District Magistrate

reiterated that the administration is committed to making the district drug-free and has already taken major steps towards achieving this goal. The District Police have intensified their efforts to break the supply chain and con-

vict drug peddlers. He informed that drug testing kits will be introduced in educational institutions to detect addicts at an early stage. He expressed his firm commitment that no drug peddler will be spared or sheltered and all drug addicts will be rehabilitated and rejuvenated in the district.

The programme was attended by CMO Doda, Dr Hamid Zargar; Incharge Principal GDC Doda, Dr Aijaz Wani; DEPO Doda, Ayaz Mughal; Dy CMO Doda, Dr Om Kumar; Nodal Officer for Drugs Rehabilitation/De-addiction Centre GMC Doda, Dr Zia Showkat, faculty of GDC Doda, doctors and students.

Dr Zia Showkat also gave a detailed presentation on the causes and effects of drug abuse, routes of administration and types of drugs. He informed that 250 patients/addicts are currently undergoing treatment at their De-addiction Centre at GMC Doda.

Kathua administration to host 'Festival of Youth' on March 27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: District Administration Kathua is going to host "Festival of Youth" on March 27 as part of its efforts to revitalise the district's Youth Clubs. Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Pandey chaired a meeting to finalise arrangements for the festival. The event aims

to mobilise young people and provide them with support and sustainable self-employment opportunities under the Youth Club initiative of Mission Youth.

The festival will include sports such as volleyball, kabaddi and tug of war, as well as cultural events. Youth Volunteers of the district will

be exposed to self-employment opportunities available under various government schemes and programmes.

Other highlights of the festival will include plantation drives, street plays, a marathon, a cycle rally and counselling on the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. There will also be awareness on self-employment

schemes and programmes of different departments.

The event is being organised in collaboration with several district offices. Deputy Commissioner Rahul Pandey has directed these officers to work in convergence to make the event a grand success. The "Festival of Youth" will take place at Sports Stadium Kathua.

DECC conducts awareness cum counselling sessions in Udhampur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: District Employment & Counselling Centre Udhampur organised awareness and counselling sessions at Government Degree College Majalta and BDO Office Ramnagar. The sessions focused on career counselling and self-employment schemes such as Mission Youth Schemes and those run by other departments including PMEGP, Handicraft, Handloom, Fisheries, Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry.

More than 300 unemployed youth participated in the programmes. Deputy Director Employment, Anshuman Singh, accompanied by Employment Officer, Imitiyaz Ali and Career Counselling Officer, Navdeep Kour, encouraged the youth to take advantage of the self-employment schemes offered by different departments in Udhampur District.

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR SRINAGAR

Subject: Final Seniority list of Supervisory Pharmacist of Kashmir Division.

NOTIFICATION

DATED: 23/03/2023

Whereas, the 2nd tentative seniority list of Supervisory Pharmacist was prepared / circulated vide this office No: Est/II/NG/224/3356-84 dated 07.03.2023 for information of all concerned through their controlling officers with the remarks that objections if any with regard to the service particulars shown against each should reach to this Directorate within 07 days from the date of issuance of this circular.

Whereas, the said seniority list was made available in official website of this Directorate www.dhskashmir.org.in.

Whereas, no representation has been received by this Directorate within stipulated period even till date.

Now therefore, Final seniority list of Supervisory Pharmacists 2210 Divisional Cadre is hereby prepared / circulated amongst all concerned through their controlling officer for information. The final seniority list is also made available on the official website of this Directorate www.dhskashmir.org.in:

Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of the Pharmacist, D.O.B, D.O.1st Appointment, D.O Promotions as Senior Pharmacist, Date of promotion as Supervisory Pharmacist, Place of posting. Lists 111 pharmacists.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu hosts cultural competition for tribal youth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Program, Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu held a cultural competition for tribal youth. The program is organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports) in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. 220 tribal youth from nine Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

are currently on a seven-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

The chief guest at the event was Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Ali Khatana. He welcomed the tribal youth to Jammu and Kashmir and spoke about the government's efforts to improve conditions in Naxal-affected areas. He also praised the work of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in organising programs for the development of rural youth.

State Director NYKS Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh, Nisar Ahmed Bhut thanked Khatana for attending the event and spoke about the government's focus on providing opportunities for rural youth. NYKS is holding various awareness, cultural, vocational and sports programs across the country to involve youth in nation-building activities.

The cultural event was judged by Vice Principal Government Girls Higher Secondary School Rehari, Sushma Rani; retired lecturer, Akram Khan and retired APS, Ravi Kant Sumbria.

DLSA Samba organises 3-day solid waste management awareness programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: Under the guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority Samba, Sonia Gupta and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Samba, a three-day awareness programme on "Solid Waste Management" was organised by Secretary DLSA Samba, Rekha Kapoor Nischal. The three-day "Solid Waste Management" programme which concluded on Saturday, was organised by DLSA Samba in collaboration with Municipal Corporation Samba and District Pollution Control Committee Samba at three educational institutions in District Samba.

Three events were held as part of the "Solid Waste Management" programme. The first event was held at Dogra Law

College, Bari Brahmana with Jodhraj Kumar, Executive Officer of Municipal Corporation, Bari Brahmana and Naveed Choudhary, Field Inspector of Pollution Control Committee, Samba as resource persons. The second event was held at Government Degree College Samba with Naveed Choudhary and Rameshwar Singh, I.E.C Head of Municipal Corporation Samba as resource persons and Vishal Sharma, Panel Advocate of DLSA Samba conducting the proceedings. The third event was held at Government Degree College Rangarh with Anuradha, Scientist A of Pollution Control Committee Samba as the resource person and Hitesh Sharma, Panel Advocate of DLSA Samba conducting the proceedings.

DC Kathua chairs NCORD Committee meet, reviews status of PSA cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Pandey chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review anti-drug measures and the status of PSA cases. The meeting discussed issues related to drug addiction and measures taken by law enforcement agencies to curb the problem. Assistant Drug Controller,

reported that out of 416 medical wholesaler/retail shops, 364 have installed CCTV cameras for surveillance of over-the-counter drug sales. The DC directed the Police Department to ensure that CCTVs with DVRs in medical shops are functioning and their records can be used for proper vigilance.

The DC stressed the need for awareness drives and programmes to educate people, especially school and college students. CEO

Kathua reported that awareness on the drug menace and its ill effects is being done in schools during morning assemblies.

To counter illegal transportation and distribution of drugs, the DC directed concerned departments to exercise enforcement, especially in private courier services. The DC also called upon ASP Kathua to use decoy methods at vulnerable points across the district to identify culprits involved in drug trafficking.

Advertisement for Shafsons Hawal Bereaved. Includes a portrait of a man and text in Urdu/Hindi: 'انتقال پر ملال', 'یہ نثر نیابت دکھ اور انہوں کے ساتھ مشہور کی جاتی ہے کہ کم عمر 23 مارچ 2023 بروز', 'بھارت کو نڈر ایچ اے ایف ولف محمد اصغر اشرف انتقال کر گئے۔ انا قائلہ وانا ینائے زویجون۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس عطا کرے آمین۔ اور ان کے لواحقین کو یہ ناقابل صدمہ برداشت کرنے کی ہمت عطا فرمائے آمین۔ اس سلسلے میں مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 27 مارچ 2023 بروز سوموار صبح سات بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع گلشن باغ خول میں انجام دی جائیگی۔ اس کے بعد تہنیتی مجلس ان کے گھر واقع گلشن باغ خول سرینگر میں دن بھر ہوگی۔ نوٹ: مسطورات سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ میوہ وغیرہ نہ لائے۔ سوگواران: خاندان 9797977625, 7006271006

Office of the Principal AL-AQSA GRAND SCHOOL Ferozpora (Zone Tangmarg) Recognized by J&K Govt. Manaqing committee of Al-Aqsa Grand School Ferozpora Tangmarg. Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of the Member, Parentage, Residence, Qualification, Occupation, Designation. Lists 8 members.

SHAFSONS HAWAL BEREAVED. It is to inform that Haji Mohammad Shafi Khan resident of Hawal, passed away on 25th, March, 2023 / 3rd, Ramzan-ul-Mubarak at his residence Rose Lane Botshah Mohalla Lal Bazar near Salfia Mosque. His congregational Fateh Khawani Shall be observed at his ancestral graveyard near Hakeem Shah Astana, Gajwara on 28th, March, 2023 Tuesday at 10.30 AM, and Taziya Majlis shall be held at his residence. FROM SONS AND RELATIVES, Contact Nos 8899058084, 9419019575, 9419421330, 9419005176, 9419017186



# Kashmiri women at UNHRC praise PM Modi, expose terrorism by Pakistan

GENEVA: Two Kashmiri women from Kashmir, who are taking part in the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, have praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for rapid development in the Kashmir valley after the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35 (A) from Jammu and Kashmir.



Tasleema works for women's empowerment and rehabilitation of terror victims, whereas Bushra Mahajabeen is a terror attack survivor.

Meanwhile, another Kashmiri woman, Bushra Mahajabeen, in an interview with ANI recalled her incident when she lost one hand due to the terror attack.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Mahajabeen said, "I have already said about myself and I also shared my story of 2003, when I was very small. That year, some terrorists suddenly entered our house and targeted my sister. I held one of the terrorist's rifles in order to save my sister, but there was another member of that terror group who was

sitting right behind me, just shot me and I lost my one hand. And it is very difficult to work with one hand. My family has also suffered a lot."

In the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the activist from J-K said, "More families are expected to come forward, sharing their experiences as stability and prosperity return to Kashmir."

Further sharing details of the situation returning to normal in the Union Territory, the activist said, "As violence in Kashmir is on the decline and life returns to normal, there is a visible change in the attitude of the common Kashmiris."

Also sharing the "tough times" her family had

experienced before things changed for the better in the UT, she said, "For the first time, numerous Kashmiri families have shared their inability to speak about atrocities committed by terrorist organisations. In 2003, my sister was brutally killed by militants and I was shot multiple times. Life has never been normal since that day," said the activist.

She added, "Today, we are willing to speak up and soon. We spend decades in anonymity. Out of fear of retribution by militants and existing patriarchal structures all these years, the information vacuum was exploited by giving false impressions on the developments in Kashmir." (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

# China threatens US Navy after its warship's action in South China Sea

Seoul: China on Friday reacted angrily to the presence of a US warship near the islands it claims in the South China Sea region, reported CNN.

"The actions of the US military have seriously violated China's sovereignty and security and seriously violated international law," Tan Kefei, spokesperson for the Defense Ministry, said in a statement.

China threatened "serious consequences" Friday after the United States Navy sailed a destroyer around the disputed Parcel Islands in the South China Sea for the second day in a row, in a move Beijing claimed was a violation of its sovereignty and security, reported CNN.

"The guided-missile destroyer USS Milius broke into China's Xisha territorial waters again without the approval of the Chinese government, undermining peace and stability in the South China Sea," Tan said.

The warning comes amid growing tensions between China and the United States in the region, as Washington pushes back at Beijing's growingly assertive posture in the South China Sea, a strategic waterway it claims virtually in its entirety.

On Thursday, after the US sailed the USS Milius guided-missile destroyer near the Parcel Islands, China said its navy and air force had forced the American vessel away.

The "guided-missile destroyer USS Milius



asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Parcel Islands, consistent with international law," a statement from 7th Fleet spokesperson Lt Jg Luka Bakic said, reported CNN.

The warship conducted what the US Navy calls a "freedom of navigation operation," or FONOP, Bakic said, "challenging the restrictions on innocent passage imposed by the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan, and Vietnam."

All three claim the Parcel Islands, known as the Xishas in China, a group of about 130 small atolls, the biggest of which are home to Chinese military bases.

The US statement also said the Milius challenged China's claim to "straight baselines enclosing the Parcel Islands," meaning Beijing's claims to waters between the islands, even when those waters are outside the international-

ly recognized 12-nautical-mile limit from a coastline for territorial waters, reported CNN.

China claims almost all of the vast South China Sea as part of its territorial waters, including many distant islands and inlets in the disputed body of water, many of which Beijing has militarized.

Other claimants besides Taiwan and Vietnam include Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, which has seen a UN tribunal rule in its favour in a dispute with Beijing over islands in the Spratly group.

But Beijing has rejected the UN ruling and built up military bases on those disputed islands in the Spratlys - known as the Nansha Islands in China - as it has done in the Parcel Islands.

Beijing regularly makes statements that any US Navy operations in the South China Sea inflame tensions and show that

Washington, and its partners who keep a naval presence in the waterway, are damaging the region's security, reported CNN.

In recent years, the South China Sea has emerged as a major potential flashpoint in the Asia Pacific.

Not only does the strategic waterway hold vast resources of fish, oil and gas, but about a third of global shipping passes through it worth about USD 3.4 trillion in 2016, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies' (CSIS) China Power Project, reported CNN.

China also conducts regular military exercises in much of the South China Sea and maintains a large presence of coast guard and fishing vessels in the disputed waters which has frequently stoked tensions with other claimants. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

# Over 300 including PTI supporters arrested - over Saturday's violence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Several government officials were among more than 300 people detained by the capital police in connection with two separate cases filed over Saturday's violence in the city during the former premier's appearance at the Federal Judicial Complex (Federal Judicial Complex) in the Toshakhana case, reported Dawn.



According to police, 332 people have been arrested in connection with violence cases filed with the Counter Terrorism Department and Golra police stations on various charges, including terrorism. During interrogation, they discovered a significant number of government officials among the arrested people.

Police officials said that the government officials are from various federal and provincial agencies, including provincial police, adding that during interrogation, it was revealed that they attended the PTI rally with party leader Imran Khan.

They claim that some of

them are die hard supporters and activists of the PTI and its chief, and that they are also facing charges of violence on the occasion.

According to the police, they are also informing the departments of these arrested government officials with a request to take departmental and disciplinary action against them for their participation in violence and appearance in the mob gathering against the government, reported Dawn.

Furthermore, while examining the Safe City footage, more government officials were identified in the violence and rally,

according to police, who added that these officials are being tracked down.

A number of overseas Pakistanis, dual nationals, and foreigners have also been arrested, according to the officers, who added that the embassies and high commissions of the countries where they are residing have been contacted in writing so that appropriate action can be taken regarding their involvement in the violence.

According to the officers, a large number of natives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir were also arrested, and the native town police of these

arrested individuals are being contacted to check their criminal records.

Separate teams are working to apprehend more individuals who have been identified through Safe City footage but remain at large, they said, adding that the identification process through the footage is ongoing.

Police officers say investigators in the two cases are also working on identifying and tracing those who supported the PTI on the occasion, including monetarily, by providing cars and other facilities and bearing other expenses.

Despite repeated efforts, officials from the police Public Relations Office, including PRO Taqi Jawad of the capital police, were unavailable for comment on the issue, Dawn reported.

Notably, in the violent confrontation, a contingent of law enforcers and PTI supporters used anti-riot gear against each other, with teargas shells lobbed by both sides to push the opposing side back. PTI supporters allegedly pelted the police with stones while also lobbing petrol bombs, setting their vehicles on fire.

The Islamabad police filed an FIR, including terrorism charges, against Khan and dozens of PTI leaders, according to Dawn.

In a tweet, the police accused PTI supporters of "incitement, arson, vandalism and attacks on police".

Police said, "As many as 58 police officers were injured during the violence and vandalism while 12 cars, 20 motorcycles and a police chowki (checkpoint) were set on fire". (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

# Pakistani politicians ignore Gilgit-Baltistan's problems, treat people like orphans

PAKISTAN: Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan has been fooled for the past 75 years as the political parties just play with the sentiments of people and fighting their federation's war, instead of giving attention to their actual problems, Pakistani vernacular media, Himalaya Today Edit reported. Gilgit-Baltistan gets grants-in-aid like alms. Currently, the Developmental and Non-Developmental Grant in Aid is Rs.18.48 billion, which is less than the budget allotted to some districts of the federation. The vernacular media wrote further that despite this, Gilgit-Baltistan are cursed and threatened about stopping the funds.

The main reason for this situation is the political leadership whether it is ruling or in the opposition. Both act as facilitators of the federation, and Islamabad used them as tissue paper, the report read further. Gilgit-Baltistan has always been treated like orphans. In the current situation, instead of fighting the federation's war in Gilgit-Baltistan, the need is to stand united for the rights and interests of

Gilgit-Baltistan with the slogan 'Sab Se Pehle Gilgit-Baltistan' as there is no other option than this.

Gilgit-Baltistan is ruled by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and the Himalaya Today Edit urged PTI and the opposition parties should stop fooling and playing with the sentiments of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. Today, the condition of Gilgit-Baltistan is very bad and its economy is on the verge of collapsing, the report said, adding that it cannot afford to fight the war of federation here. However, if the federation wants to fight its war in Gilgit-Baltistan, it should first give a written guarantee of safeguarding and protecting the rights and interests of the province. Hence, 'Sab Se Pehle Gilgit-Baltistan' slogan is the best and most effective idea to repair and recover our damages, according to vernacular media.

Not only economically, but Gilgit-Baltistan is also witnessing a rise in human rights abuses. While giving an intervention during the 52nd Session of the Council, Nasir Aziz Khan, the central spokesperson for the United

Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP), said, "Our organization would like to draw your attention to the serious human rights abuses that are taking place in Pakistan and its administered Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Human rights violations have been reported in Pakistan for many years, with a range of issues including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, discrimination against minorities, and limitations on freedom of expression and assembly."

UKPNP Chairman, Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, in his intervention, informed the UN Human Rights Council that Article (19)-1 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights guarantees everyone the right to hold opinions without interference. "The people of Pakistani-administered Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, however, have not had this freedom since 1947. Pakistan is systematically violating the land rights of the people of Pakistan in its peripheries," he said. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

# Iraqi, Indian NSAs agree to enhance defence cooperation, counter-terrorism efforts: Sources

NEW DELHI: National Security Adviser of Iraq, Qasim Al-Araji is on an India visit at the invitation of his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval and both agreed to enhance defence cooperation and counter-terrorism efforts and strengthen security linkages, according to sources.

The National Security Adviser of Iraq, who is in India from March 22 to 25, also exchanged views on the recent developments in their respective regions, as per the sources. The visit of the Iraqi NSA is the first Cabinet Minister-level visit from Iraq to India in the last seven years.

Iraqi NSA was earlier the Minister of Interior in 2016-18. He has been the NSA since July 2020. Iraq has been the largest supplier of oil to India since 2017 accounting

for almost 25 per cent of the oil imports. Iraq is India's fifth largest trade partner (imports from Iraq: USD 32.00 billion; exports: USD 2.4 billion; total trade: USD 34.40 billion). Opportunities for Indian oil and gas companies in upstream, mid and downstream sectors are vast.

India organized an Artificial Limb Fitment Camp at Al Kafel Hospital in Karbala in November-December 2018 which was very well received. Prosthetic limbs/Jaipur Foot were provided to more than 600 amputees on a charity basis. A second camp is being planned shortly.

It is estimated that around 33,000 Iraqis travel to India, mostly for medical treatment (estimated to be fetching USD 170 million

to Indian hospitals, second after Bangladesh).

There is a historical connection between the people of the two countries. India is home to the second-largest Muslim community in the world, including a large population of Shias. A large number of pilgrims from India visit the Holy Shrines in Najaf and Karbala and Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani in Baghdad every year.

During the visit, the Iraqi NSA visited Bharat Electronics Limited and witnessed several examples of the 'Make in India' initiative. The Iraqi NSA also interacted with various Indian defence industry leaders at an interaction organized by the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

# Pakistan court extends Imran Khan's protective bail in 5 cases till Monday

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court, on Friday, extended Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former Prime Minister Imran Khan's protective bail till Monday in five cases registered against him in Islamabad, including two for "vandalism," ARY News reported.

The former premier had been granted protective bail in the five cases on March 17 when he secured protective bail in a total of nine.

In the court, the former premier arrived at the LHC in tight security. A two-member bench comprising Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh and Justice Anwaar Hussain heard Imran's plea and extended the bail till March 27.

During the hearing, Khan's counsel told the judges that the PTI chairman was seeking protective bail in order to go to Islamabad where several political cases have been registered against him, according to ARY News.

Earlier on Friday, the LHC Registrar's Office raised objections to

two protective bail applications filed by Khan.

The former prime minister in his pleas stated that he wanted to appear before the investigation team in the FIRs registered against him and pleaded with the LHC to grant him protective bail fearing arrest. On Tuesday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) granted protective bail to the PTI chief in two cases, reported Dawn.

An FIR was registered against Khan at the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and the Golra police stations in Islamabad accusing the PTI chief and party workers of their involvement in attacking cops and creating a situation of unrest outside the FIC in Islamabad during the Toshakhana case hearing on March 18.

Khan arrived at the LHC on Tuesday around 1 pm. According to a Dawn correspondent in court, the ex-premier's vehicle entered LHC through the Mosque Gate.

Fawad Chaudhry, a PTI aide, party lawyers, and private secu-

urity guards accompanied the PTI chairman.

Khan has renewed his claims that his life is in danger, saying that the incumbent rulers wanted to kill him and that a "trap" was set up at the Islamabad Judicial Complex on Saturday during the Toshakhana hearing. Last year, the PTI chief survived an assassination attempt and blamed it on senior government and military figures.

Justice Sheikh of the LHC also heard a separate petition filed by the PTI on Tuesday seeking records of cases against the former prime minister.

The police presented a report in court during the hearing, stating that six cases had been filed against Imran Khan in Punjab. Three of these FIRs were filed at the Race Course police station in Lahore. In contrast, others were filed at the Sarwar Road police station, the New Airport police station in Rawalpindi, and the Madina Town police station in Faisalabad, according to Dawn. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

# Swiss banks may impose sanctions on secret Chinese accounts

BEIJING: Since Russia launched its special military operation in Ukraine, the Switzerland government has moved in to impose sanctions on Moscow and its residents by freezing their Swiss bank accounts and so is monitoring closely Chinese wealth, which could be the next target, Global Watch Analysis reported.

After an intel report came that China is considering selling weapons such as drones and munitions to Russia, the Swiss bank has started "closely monitoring" Chinese wealth.

China has become a possible threat to every country as the number of events came which brought the possibility of sanctioning China closer. Incidents like the Chinese Spy balloons and the possibility of sending weapons to Russia. Even, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has also warned China, saying it has intelligence that Beijing will supply lethal weapons to Russia. At the same time, the US is also preparing to share intelligence with its allies, according to Global Watch Analysis.

In one of the press conferences, Blinken warned China of the consequences if Beijing is considering supplying weapons to Russia.

While addressing a press conference here, Blinken said, "With regard to China and its support for Russia's aggression in Ukraine, as we said from the start and... going back to the very beginning of Russia's aggression was China engaged in lethal material support for Russia's aggression or was engaged in systematic evasion of sanctions to help Russia that would be a serious problem for our countries."

"When I saw senior foreign policy official Wang Yi (China) raised with him our concern on information that Chinese is considering supplying weapons to Russia, I said it would be a serious problem in our relationship with China and there would be consequences," he added. The Swiss bank has not disclosed the size of Chinese assets in the country but the documents released to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalism in 2014 showed that at least 20,000 wealthy people from mainland China and Hong Kong own offshore companies involving high-level Chinese "red-second generation families." And five family members of the Politburo Standing Committee members own companies in offshore financial centres such as the British Virgin Islands and the Cook Islands, reported Global Watch Analysis. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)



FM reviews PSBs' performance amid banking crisis in US, Europe

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a meeting on Saturday to review the performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on various financial health parameters.



global financial stress from both the short and the long-term perspectives.

The Finance Minister underlined that PSBs "must look at business models closely to identify stress points, including concentration risks and adverse exposures".

Sitharaman also exhorted PSBs to use "this opportunity" to frame detailed crisis management and communication strategies.

After detailed deliberations, the Finance Minister advised PSBs to remain vigilant about the interest rate risks and regularly undertake stress tests.

During the review meeting, an open discussion was held with the MDs and CEOs of PSBs on the global scenario consisting of the failure of the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and the Signature Bank (SB) along with issues leading to the crisis in Credit Suisse.

Sitharaman also said that PSBs "must leverage the full potential of branches opened in International Financial Services Centres in GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) Gujarat to identify international opportunities, including prospects related to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)".

The meeting was attended by Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad; Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS) Vivek Joshi; and MDs and CEOs of PSBs.

"best" corporate governance practices, adhere to regulatory norms, ensure prudent liquidity management and continue to focus on having robust asset-liability and risk management.

The Finance Minister emphasised on preparedness along with due diligence through adherence to the regulatory framework by focusing on risk management, diversification of deposits and assets base.

Further, he also informed Sitharaman that PSBs are vigilant of developments in the global banking sector and are taking all possible steps to safeguard themselves from any potential financial shock.

The MDs and CEOs of PSBs apprised the Finance Minister that they follow

Snap acquires Th3rd that creates digital 3D counterparts of people, products

AGENCIES

SAN FRANCISCO: Snap, the parent company of Snapchat, has quietly acquired a 3D-scanning studio called Th3rd for an undisclosed sum.

A company spokesperson told TechCrunch that four team members from Netherlands-based Th3rd have joined Snap as part of the acquisition.

According to Th3rd's website, it creates digital 3D counterparts of people or products.

"These high-resolution digital 3D models are your building blocks for huge amount of applications, like photos, videos, visualizations, animations, 360 degree photos, holograms, VR and AR," reads the description.

Founded in 2014, Th3rd has been investing in AR-powered commerce in recent years and is building out its platform to leverage the technology.

In April last year, it introduced tools that turn retailers' photos into 3D assets.

eral augmented reality (AR) companies in the last few years.

In May 2021, Snap acquired AR startup WaveOptics that supplied technology to power Snap's Spectacles AR glasses for \$500 million.

In March 2021, Snap acquired Fit Analytics and in July, it acquired 3D and AR commerce company Verthebrae.

Snap disclosed it acquired AR company Forma. Snap this week launched a new business unit that will offer its augmented reality (AI) solutions to retailers and businesses so they can integrate them into their apps.

The new "Augmented Reality Solutions for Business" (ARES) division will enable businesses to adapt Snap's AR features for their apps and websites in order to attract customers and create more immersive experiences.

Meanwhile, Snap has introduced its new AI chatbot for Snapchat. It is powered by the latest version of OpenAI's GPT technology.

Samsung, Apple chiefs to attend China Development Forum

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Executive Chairman Lee Jae-yong is visiting China to attend the China Development Forum where Apple CEO Tim Cook is also reportedly present, according to sources.

Lee arrived in Beijing to attend the high-profile annual forum, slated to run at the Diaoyutai State

Guesthouse from Saturday till Monday, reports Yonhap news agency.

The meeting will run under the theme of "Economic Recovery: Opportunities and Cooperation", focusing on "opportunities in the Chinese market, stabilisation of global industrial chains, and green transition", according to the organiser, the Develop-

Severe solar storm hits Earth, strongest in last 6 years: Report

WASHINGTON: The Earth witnessed a powerful solar storm in nearly six years, causing auroras all over the US, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said.

NOAA had earlier announced moderate G2 storm and G3 conditions between March 23 and 25.

However, the Earth witnessed a geomagnetic storm of magnitude G4, causing the NOAA to update its warning. "Geomagnetic storm responses increased and G4 levels first reached Earth on March 24 at 12:04 EDT," it read.

"CME influences continue and geomagnetic response escalated to the G4 (severe) storm level on 24 March at 12:04 am EDT (24/0404 UTC).

The G3 Warning remains in effect until 5:00 am EDT (24/0900 UTC)," it added.

NOAA said that the severe G4 storm can affect the power grid system with possible widespread voltage control problems; and spacecraft operations with increased possibility of surface charging, and atmospheric drag risk on Low Earth Orbiting

(LEO) satellites.

According to NOAA a powerful geomagnetic storm causes severe disturbances to Earth's magnetic field, spewing solar material from coronal mass ejections (CME) - large expulsions of charged plasma from the Sun's upper atmosphere or the corona.

The solar storm was the result of a "stealth" CME. It came from a coronal hole wider than 20 Earths that was spewing out solar winds at speeds over 2.1 million km/h, Live Science reported. And the storm was the most intense in the last six years.

The storm's unexpected ferocity not only made auroras visible as far south as New Mexico in the US, but it also forced spaceflight company Rocket Lab to delay a launch by 90 minutes, Space.com reported.

We can expect more extreme space weather events like this powerful geomagnetic storm as the sun builds towards a peak in its 11-year solar activity cycle, expected to occur in 2025, the report said.(AGENCIES)

ISRO begins countdown for launch of LVM3 rocket carrying OneWeb satellites

AGENCIES

CHENNAI: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday began the countdown for the launch of its LVM3 rocket carrying 36 satellites of the UK-based Network Access Associated Ltd (OneWeb) scheduled for today.

"The countdown started at 8.30 a.m and is progressing smoothly," a senior ISRO official told IANS.

During the countdown, the rocket and satellite systems will be checked, while fuel for the rocket will also be filled.

The Indian rocket LVM3 standing 43.5 metre tall and weighing 643 tonne will blast off at 9 a.m. from the second launch pad at the rocket port in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh carrying OneWeb's final instalment of 36 Gen1 satellites weighing 5,805 kg.

The satellites will be slung into low earth orbit (LEO).

The LVM3 is a three stage rocket with the first stage fired with liquid fuel, the second by solid fuel and the third is the cryogenic engine.

The ISRO's heavy lift rocket has a carrying capacity of 10 ton to the ALEO and four ton to the Geo Transfer Orbit (GTO).



The upcoming rocket mission code named as LVM3-M3/OneWeb India-2 Mission by ISRO.

Just over 19 minutes after the rocket's blast off, the process of satellite separation will begin. The separation of 36 satellites will happen in phases.

The OneWeb is backed by India's telecom major Bharti Group and with the successful launch of the satellites on March 26, the company will complete the global footprint of its Gen 1 constellation.

OneWeb has 582 satellites now in orbit. On March 26 the total number is expected to go up to 618.

By completing the constellation, OneWeb is

taking a pivotal step forward in delivering global coverage including India, the company had said.

The upcoming launch will be the 18th one for OneWeb.

The first batch of 36 satellites was launched on October 23, 2022, from Sriharikota rocket port in Andhra Pradesh with the LVM3 rocket formerly known as Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MkIII (GSLV MkIII).

ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) has signed a contract with OneWeb to launch 72 satellites in two phases for a launch fee of over Rs 1,000 crore, OneWeb Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal had

said last October.

OneWeb Gen-1 is a 150 kg class satellite. A The constellation comprises 648 individual satellites. Out of that 588 Active Satellites equally divided among 12 planes operate at an altitude of about 1200 km above the Earth's surface.

Each plane is separated in altitude by 4 km to prevent inter-plane collision.

The payload is a bent-pipe system operating in Ku and Ka band. The forward link receives Ka-band signals from the gateway via the satellite Ka antenna. The return link receives Ku-band signals from the User Terminals (UTs) via the satellite Ku antenna, ISRO said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir. JAL SHAKTI (IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL) DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR. STANDARD BID DOCUMENT FOR... OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Irr. & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, SRINAGAR. E-NITNo:40 Fresh of NIT 36 of 2022-23 Dated:18 /03 /2023

In 3 months, Twitter's paid Blue service earns just \$11 mn for Elon Musk

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: As Elon Musk wants all Twitter users to pay for Blue badges, latest data has revealed that Twitter Blue has only earned \$11 million in mobile subscriptions to date since launching the service three months ago.

According to a report in TechCrunch, which quoted data from app intelligence firm Sensor Tower, the take-up of Blue service "has been fairly underwhelming".

"While \$11 million is a small figure, we should caveat that this estimate does not cover web-based subscriptions. The figures cover the 20 markets where Blue has been launched prior to this week," the report mentioned.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR. OFFICE OF THE EXCISE COMMISSIONER, J&K EXCISE & TAXATION COMPLEX, RAILHEAD JAMMU. Selection of candidates for the post of Junior Assistants in Excise Department, advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2020 Dated: 14-12-2020 under item No. 122.



# 34 migrants missing as boat capsizes off Tunisia's coast

AGENCIES

**TUNIS:** Thirty-four migrants were reportedly missing after a boat capsized off Tunisia's south-eastern coast, according to an official.

The boat, carrying 38 migrants from sub-Saharan countries, left Tunisia's Sfax province on Thursday heading for the European coast, Xinhua news agency quoted the official as saying on Friday.

Four migrants have been rescued, and the search for the missing is currently underway, he noted.

The Tunisian Coast Guard has reportedly stopped 56 boats from leaving the country, bound for Italy, in the past 48 hours.

Housssem Jebabli from the Tunisian National Guard said that more than 3,000 migrants had been detained attempting to leave the coun-



try, reports the BBC. This is the fifth migrant boat to sink in two days and authorities believe it was heading for Italy. Tunisia has become a launch pad for migrants

to leave, bound for Europe. UN data reveals that at least 12,000 migrants who arrived in Italy this year left from Tunisia, compared to 1,300 in the same time period last year.

Last month, Tunisian President Kais Saied accused sub-Saharan African migrants living in the country of causing a crime wave and described them as a demographic threat.

# UK, EU adopt new post-Brexit 'Windsor Framework' deal

AGENCIES

**LONDON:** A new deal aimed at easing post-Brexit trade tensions in Northern Ireland was formally adopted by the UK and the European Union (EU), the two sides announced in a joint statement.

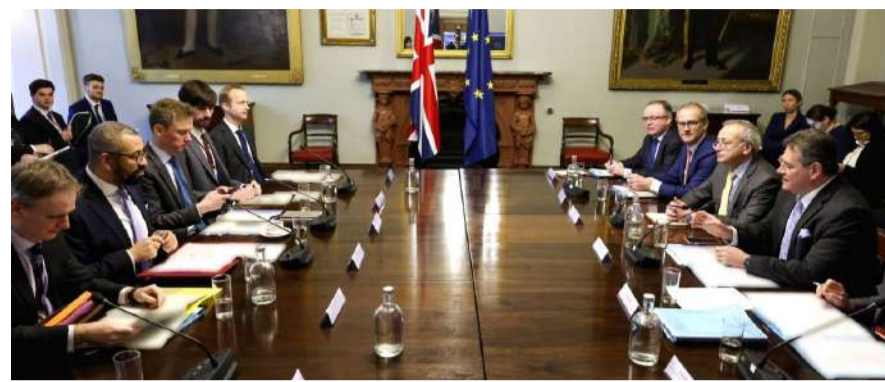
British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic signed off the "Windsor Framework" deal during their meeting in London on Friday, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to their joint statement, both the UK and the EU had taken a "positive approach" and "reaffirmed their intent" to use the framework to resolve any future trade issues.

The content of the new deal was finalised in February after long negotiations.

It aims to resolve the trading issues created by its predecessor, the Northern Ireland Protocol, which imposed border checks on British goods arriving in Northern Ireland.

Following the signing of the deal, Sefcovic said the EU would continue



listening to everyone in Northern Ireland and continue its commitment to the peace process, the BBC reported.

He said both sides had "listened, understood and acted for the benefit of both our interests".

"Now the Windsor Framework is the result of that genuine engagement and shared vision," he said.

On his part, Cleverly said the negotiations had been "thoughtful, professional and in the spirit of friendship and cooperation".

"What we achieved was something which protected the EU's single market, protected the UK's internal market but most

importantly protected the elements of the Belfast Agreement," he said.

As a central element of the new deal, the "Stormont Brake" -- taking on the Irish name of the Northern Ireland Assembly -- is intended to give Northern Ireland's lawmakers more say over EU rules set to apply in the region.

While Northern Ireland's political parties broadly support the framework, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has questioned how the "Stormont Brake" will operate.

As a sign of protest, the party has refused to join the power-sharing government at the Stormont for

over a year, undermining political stability.

Reacting to Friday's development, DUP MP Gregory Campbell said the ratification was "not the final word".

"It has to come back to the people of Northern Ireland," he said.

"That's the bottom line. The unionist community don't buy into this process - what part of that does he (Rishi Sunak) not get?"

"That's what they have to address - both communities have to buy in and we don't buy into this one so we have to alter, change or adapt it," he said.

"If it's take it or leave it - we're not going to take it."

# Will continue to address concerns of Punjabi community in Canada: Minister

**TORONTO:** Responding to the concerns of a Sikh MP over internet suspension in Punjab, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said her country is closely following the developments in the state, and will continue to address the concerns of the community.

Authorities in Punjab have started to ease internet suspension in Punjab imposed as part of a manhunt for Waris Punjab De chief and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh, who continues to evade arrest.

"My colleagues and I have heard from constituents regarding the ongoing mass suspension of internet services in Punjab, India. Canadians have families and friends who are visiting Punjab, who do not have access to the internet," MP from Malton-Mississauga, Iqbal Singh, rose in the House to ask Joly.

In response, Joly said: "We are aware of the evolving situation in Punjab and



we are following it very closely... We look forward to a return to a more stable situation and you can always count on the government of Canada to make sure that we will continue to address the concerns of many members of the community."

Gaheer raised the issue in Parliament after a cross-section of Canadian Sikh MPs expressed their concerns on internet and SMS shutdown, which reportedly affected businesses, colleges and digital payments for everyone in the state.

"As Canadian members of Parliament, we're trying to ensure that there is some safety for Canadians who are

visiting there," Conservative deputy leader Tim Uppal told The Globe and Mail.

"I am receiving calls from my residents and am deeply concerned," Sonia Sidhu, the Liberal MP for Brampton South, which boasts of a large Sikh population, said on Twitter.

"I hope the situation is resolved soon (and) Canadians travelling to the region are able to connect with their families and friends in Canada," Sidhu wrote.

According to 2021 Canadian census, Punjabis number approximately 950,000 and account for roughly 2.6 per cent of the country's population. The Punjab government had extended the suspension of mobile internet and SMS services in Tarn Taran and Ferozepur districts till Friday noon. It had lifted curbs in Moga, Sangrur, Ajnala subdivision in Amritsar and a few areas in Mohali. Mobile internet services in the rest of Punjab resumed on Tuesday. (AGENCIES)

# FAO pledges to actively follow up on new Water Action Agenda

AGENCIES

**UNITED NATIONS:** As the conclusion of the three-day UN 2023 Water Conference, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reaffirmed its commitment to actively follow up on agreed actions included in the new Water Action Agenda.

"At the critical point of the 2030 Agenda, all sectors must work together in an efficient, effective and coherent manner to co-create, co-design and co-advocate solutions, and to accelerate action on data and information, innovation, finance, capacity development and governance to implement the Water Action Decade," FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu said while moderating a high-level dialogue at the UN headquarters in New York.

The Water Action Decade (2018-2028) was created by the UN General Assembly to complement the process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, moving away from silos and integrating efforts at the global level, reports Xinhua news agency.

The meeting moderated by Qu aimed to take stock of the advancement in the objectives for the decade formulated by the UN sec-

retary-general's plan. More than 20 member states also took the floor to deliver national statements underscoring how water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

For Qu, the 2023 UN Water Conference provided great opportunities to discuss, collaborate and collectively identify solutions for efficient and effective action to realise water-related goals and targets to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

"Through our new FAO Water Journey we are raising attention on the crucial importance of water for agriculture and food security, as well as to all other SDGs," he emphasised.

The conference was a call to action for every single person on the planet to accelerate change to solve the water and sanitation crisis around the world, he added.

Currently, 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries, of which more than 733 million people -- approximately 10 per cent of the global population -- live in countries with high and critical water stress.

Water scarcity, drought, floods, pollution and other impacts of the crisis are

# Yemen govt warns of return to full-scale conflict as Houthis escalate attacks



AGENCIES

**ADEN:** Yemen's internationally-recognised government warned of a possible return to all-out military conflict in the war-ravaged Arab nation following an escalation of attacks by the Houthis militia in the oil-rich province of Marib.

Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani said in a statement late Friday that scores of Houthis rebels launched a large offensive against the government-controlled areas in the province's Harib district, forcing hundreds of local residents to flee, reports Xinhua news agency.

Despite recent diplomatic efforts towards peace, heavy clashes between the Yemeni army and the Houthis militia were reignited in Marib during the past three days, with Tuesday's overnight fighting in Harib leaving 19 people from both sides dead, and several others injured.

Eryani called on the UN

and the international community to condemn the Houthis' actions and apply pressure to push them towards peaceful resolutions, preventing a return to full-scale war.

He said that the Houthis' offensive against Marib has caused significant destruction, with villages in Harib coming under missile and artillery fire.

The latest assault confirmed the Houthis' "persistent use of political and military escalation tactics, aiming to take advantage of the ongoing state of neither war nor peace that has persisted since the truce's expiration in order to secure strategic gains on the battlefield", the Minister said in the statement.

The resurgence of fighting also threatens the fragile peace process bolstered by the recent agreement between the warring Yemeni sides to exchange hundreds of war prisoners under the auspices of the UN.

# UN continues to provide quake-related aid to Turkey, Syria

**UNITED NATIONS:** The UN its partners continue to provide aid to Turkey and Syria in the aftermath of the devastating February 6 earthquakes that killed more than 57,300 people in the two neighbouring nations, said the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

To date, UN agencies and humanitarian partners have reached nearly 535,000 people with shelter support and approximately 1.4 million people have received water, sanitation and hygiene support, and about 47,000 people have been provided with health services, Xinhua news agency quoted the OCHA as saying. The International Organization for Migration estimates that 3 million people were displaced by the earthquakes in Turkey.

About 1.7 million people are living in informal settlements, some of which lack proper water and sanitation services. There are more than 345 organisations on the ground distributing hot meals to about 1.25 million people every day, said the OCHA.

"More funding is urgently needed to help more than 5 million people affected by the earthquakes in Turkey," the Office said, adding that as of Friday, the flash appeal was about 20 per cent funded.

In Syria, OCHA and its humanitarian partners continue to scale up their

response in earthquake-affected areas across the country.

To date, 1,035 trucks carrying humanitarian aid

from seven UN agencies have crossed into north-west Syria from Turkey, via the three available border crossings, it added.

## HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

e-Auction Notice No: 44 OF2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, Sealed EOI "Expression of Interest" is invited on "As is where is basis & the Principle of Cavat Emptor" (Let the buyer be aware) for auction for Dead Stock / Serviceable / Un Serviceable / Scrap items ( List Enclosed)

owned by the Govt Medical College, Srinagar lying in the premises of Government SMHS Hospital & Government AMT Scholl Shireen Bagh Srinagar and Sub District Hospital Hazratbal. The bidder may check and ascertain the condition of the items. Details of the items to be auctioned are provided in Tender Documents.

The items are located at

- Government SMHS Hospital.
- Government AMT Scholl Shireen Bagh Srinagar.
- Sub District Hospital Hazratbal

The prospective bidders may visit the premises and inspect the lot on any working day during office Hrs. Complete bidding process will be on line. (Price bid not to be submitted in physical form) The Critical key dates of the auction are as below :-

- The EOI document for the above job can be seen from 24-03-2023 (14: 00 hrs.) on the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The EOI documents can be downloaded from the above website from 24-03-2023 (14:00 hrs) to 07-04-2023 (13:00 hrs).
- Any clarification / inspection will be entertained / allowed from 24-03-2023 (14:00 Hrs) to 31-03-2023 (10:00 Hrs).
- The bids will be uploaded from 31-03-2023 (10:00) to 07-04-2023 (14:00hrs) and uploaded bids on the website will be opened on 07-04-2023 (15:00 hrs) in Office of the Convener, Rate Contract Committee, Govt. Medical College Srinagar in presence of bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day or as feasible with department at the same venue.

No: NIT/e-auction/44 OF2022

Convener

Dated: 24-03-2023

Rate Contract Committee

DIPK-18832-22 DT: 25-03-2023

Government Medical College Srinagar

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION (KPDCL) SOPORE

Fax No.- 01954-222626

email: xenstdsopore@gmail.com

NIT No.-STDS/67 of2022-23

Dated: 23-03-2022

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from registered A class Electric Contractors, registered with J&K state Government, Central Public Works Department, Railways and other state or central governments or any other relevant government agency enlisted with CPWD, MES, Railway, DGBRO of appropriate class, for Creation of 1000 KVA, 33/0.433 KV Substation at JKHPMC Facility at Mazbugh, as per terms, conditions, technical specifications, Drawings and schedules forming part of this tender document.

A	Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	24th of March 2023 ; 03:00 PM
B	Clarifications start date	24th of March 2023; 10 a.m
C	Clarifications end date	24th of March 2023; 03:00 PM
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	24th of March 2023 ; 03:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	5th of April 2023 ; PM : 02:00 PM
F	Online Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	6th of April 2023 ; 02:00 PM
G	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.1000.00 (One Thousand Only)
H	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	2% of the Estimated Cost
I	Estimated amount	INR Rs 65.00 lacs

- The Successful bidder need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft and CDR (Preferably State Bank of India/J&K Bank) pledged to Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Sopore, payable at Sopore before opening the financial bid.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Sopore. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
- An ink signed and stamped hard copy of the complete SBD document including Technical Specifications, Drawing and Schedules is required to be submitted along with Bid documents to the office of Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Sopore by Registered post/Courier/By Hand only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://jktenders.gov.in.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- After issuance of LOI, L1 bidder has to submit complete plan of works to be taken up without which no LOA will be issued. Expenditure of the same is deemed to be incorporated with in the advertised cost.
- The BOQ quantity of Enit is final, any excess quantity or item required will be allowed only as per site requirement and recommended by engineer in charge after prior approval from the competent authority.

No: STDS / TS / 1873-75 Date: 23-03-2023 DIPK-NB-7001-22 DT: 25-03-2023

Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division (KPDCL) Sopore



# PM Modi inaugurates much-awaited Whitefield metro line in Bengaluru

AGENCIES

**BENGALURU:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the much-awaited Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapuram (KR Puram) metro line in Bengaluru, built at a cost of Rs 4,249 crore.

After inaugurating the 13.71 km metro line having 12 stations, the Prime Minister took a ride with school kids, Bengaluru Metropolitan Railway Corporation Limited (BMRL) staff and construction workers.

The stretch will provide much needed succour to people by reducing traffic congestion in the city.

Prime Minister Modi chose to stand in the metro for interacting with students. The students, who got an opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Modi, were thrilled.

He also spoke to women drivers of Metro and sat with BMRL staff, construction workers during the journey. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and others accompanied him in the metro journey.



Prime Minister Modi also address the BJP Maha Sangam public rally in Davanagere city in central Karnataka later in the day.

Prime Minister Modi will arrive in Shivamogga airport from Davanagere and fly back to New Delhi.

Prime Minister Modi will arrive in Shivamogga airport from Davanagere and fly back to New Delhi.

## Delhi court adjourns hearing on Sisodia's bail plea in ED case for April 5



AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** A court here on Saturday adjourned the hearing on former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia's bail plea in connection with the now-scrapped excise policy case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

On Tuesday, Sisodia moved a plea seeking bail plea in ED's case.

Before the bench of Special CBI Judge M.K. Nagpal of the Rouse Avenue Court on Saturday, Senior Advocates Dayan Krishnan and Mohit Mathur appearing for Sisodia informed that the ED has not filed its reply in the bail application.

Representing the ED, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Zohab Hossain stated that the reply is on the way.

"We'll have to go through the ED reply, only then we'll be able to make submissions," Krishnan said. The court then adjourned the matter to April 5.

On Friday, the court reserved its order on Sisodia's bail matter in the same case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The date for pronouncement of the order was fixed for March 31.

On Monday, Sisodia was sent to judicial custody till April 3 in the CBI case.

After the CBI arrested the AAP leader on February 26, the ED also arrested him in the same case on March 9.

During the last hearing in the ED case, the court was apprised by the probe agency that important details have come up during Sisodia's custody and he had to confront with other accused persons.

It had informed the court that voluminous data from the former Deputy Chief Minister's email and mobile is also being forensically analysed.

Sisodia's counsel, however, opposed the central agency's remand plea saying that there is not a whisper from the agency regarding the proceeds of the crime, which is fundamental to the case.

His lawyer further contended that there was no justification in seeking extension of custody and that he was confronted only with four people during his earlier custody of seven days.

During the hearing, the ED had sought his 10-day custody saying that they need to unearth the modus operandi, the entire scam and confront Sisodia with some other people.

## World Bank approves \$108 million loan to improve Assam's disaster preparedness

UNI

**NEW DELHI:** The World Bank's Executive Board of Directors has approved a \$108 million loan to Assam to improve disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting, a statement said here on Saturday.

The project will benefit around six million people and is part of a larger \$500 million investment program for Assam, the World Bank said.

The Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project will help the state reduce vulnerability to floods and river erosion by building green infrastructure in the Beki and Buridheing river basins, protecting around 100,000 people, the statement said.

The project will also help strengthen the state's response to disasters through improved flood forecasting and accurate early warning systems, including through mobile alerts, it said.

It will provide safer evacuation and shelter facilities including access to climate-resilient flood shelters to at least 10,000 people. It will also help government agencies to respond faster during crisis with upgraded state and district emergency operational centers, it added.

"The 2022 floods adversely impacted millions of people in Assam," said Auguste Tano Kouame, the World Bank's Country Director for India. Kouame added, "This project will build on Assam's disaster risk management approach thus contributing to climate-resilient growth while protecting lives and property



for the people of Assam."

The project will support Assam tackle the immediate challenges of floods and erosion while also helping manage its complex river systems, the release said.

The Brahmaputra River system is the economic lifeline of Assam, and a critical part of the state's rich natural resources and cultural heritage. But flooding, riverbank erosion, sedimentation and loss of biodiversity have significant economic and environmental impacts on the state, leading to loss of livelihoods for its people. The Assam government has projected an increase in extreme rain fall events by 5-35 per cent and an increase in the rise of flood events by more than 25 per cent due to climate change.

"Water resource management combined with disaster preparedness is a critical way to protect natural resources and increase economic growth," said Greg Browder, Anup Karanth, and Satya Priya, the Task Team Leaders for the project.

"The project will contribute to designing climate resilient villages and develop flood shelters that provide sufficient space for community members and livestock," they said.

The \$108 million loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 11.5 years and a grace period of 4 years.

## Perception of UP changed under BJP, state growing in all sectors: CM Yogi

UNI

**LUCKNOW:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the perception of the people in the country and the world towards Uttar Pradesh has changed in the last six years and no one views it with suspicious eyes which is a big achievement.

Addressing a press conference on completing one year in the office during second stint as the CM, Yogi said, "Perception of the people towards UP has changed in last six years. Now nobody makes negative comments about UP, in fact a new glow comes on the faces of the people whenever there is mention of the state and this is the biggest achievement. Earlier people used to view UP with suspicious eyes."

He released a book based on the achievements of six years 'Chhah Saal-UP Khushaal' along with a poster at Lok Bhawan Auditorium on the occasion.

The CM said now UP is known for the festivals and words like its mafia, goonda raj and jungle raj have become things of the past. "Today the youth of UP do not face an identity crisis. In fact they are offered jobs with respect as per their abilities. The double engine government is taking forward its programmes with double speed," he said.

He expressed his gratitude toward Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said under his inspiration and guidance, UP has carved out a distinct identity for itself in the country and the world. He also expressed his gratitude to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadhakari and other members of Union Cabinet, office bearers of central and state organisations.

He said that the mutual coordination between the government and the organisation contributed in taking the works of the double engine to the masses. They worked with diligence even in odd circumstances," he said.



The CM said UP has come a long way in last six years, which explains the meaning of absolute majority government and stability. "The BJP government achieved this through mutually coordinated dialogue in UP. In the last six years our government made efforts at every level to implement the action plan for the overall development of UP with the inspiration of the PM. The result is in front of everyone. In order to increase the identity of UP as a state with limitless possibilities, we identified 10 sectors on which the entire team worked," he said.

He said there is stability not only in the government but also in the administration. "For the first time district magistrates and police chiefs are completing his tenure. Earlier officers were shuffled like playing cards. When there is stability in governance, there is stability in administration too and 25 crore people of UP are getting its benefit today," he said.

Yogi said that out of 6 years, the government worked while fighting against the Covid pandemic for three years. "UP had many achievements during this period. UP, which was once perceived as a state that cannot develop once, is in the race for number one in implementation of all the flagship schemes of the PM today," he said.

He said, "The infrastructure in UP is being discussed all over the country. There is transparency in provision of jobs for the youth. In the private sector too, efforts are on to create a lot of jobs and employment opportunities. UP is providing an annual pension of Rs 12,000 to more than one crore destitute women, old women, and the differently-abled.

The CM said this is the same UP, where the parents used to worry about how to educate and marry their daughters. "Today 14 lakh daughters have benefited from the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana whereas marriages of 2.25 lakh daughters have taken place under the CM Samohik Vivah Yojna," he said.

He said the youth of the state are getting jobs and employment opportunities as well as moving towards economic independence. "The work done in the MSME sector for self-employment is visible while Vishwakarma Shram Samman is giving a new identity to the artisans and craftsmen of the state," he said.

Yogi said the government has set a target of distributing two crore tablets and smart phones among the youths. "This is for the first time when tablets and smartphones are being provided to the youths and we have already benefited 20 lakh youths from this. Today there is no district of UP where the youth have not got government jobs," he said.

He said jobs were provided without discrimination and in a transparent manner. "We achieved success in furthering the prospects of jobs and employment to crores of youth. One District One Product (ODOP) has provided employment to every worker. UP has presented the standard of how to work with challenges in times of adversity," he said.

The CM said Rs 3.5 lakh crore has been deposited to the accounts of the farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). "If the amount of loan waiver extended to the farmers is included this amount exceeds Rs 4 lakh crore. Welfare of villages, poor,

youth, women and farmers and every section of the society is the priority of the government instead of caste or religion," he said.

He said earlier the state was known as a state of nepotism which is no longer the case. "There had not been a single riot in 6 years. Establishment of law and order in the state, which was considered impossible, has been made possible today. The process of recruitment of 1.64 lakh police personnel was completed in a transparent manner. Reforms were made in the police system. Seven Police Commissionerates have been formed in UP. Fire tenders were established at every tehsil level in UP," he said.

Yogi said, "Infrastructure facilities of the police have been improved. Good barracks have either been built or are under construction in every police station and police line. Work is in progress to set up a cyber police station at every range and district level."

He said forensic labs are also being set up at every range level. "The capacity of police training has increased three times. Cyber and forensic lab is being set up in Lucknow. Three battalions were formed for the establishment of SDRF. The 54 battalions of the defunct PAC were reconstituted. The number of women personnel was increased from 10,000 to 40,000. This in itself is an example of women empowerment," he said.

The CM said his government worked tirelessly to deliver the schemes of the central and state governments and that is making efforts to complete the work of the Ganga Expressway before the Prayagraj Kumbh in 2025.

He said, "Eastern UP is today connected with Purvanchal Expressway and Bundelkhand Expressway. The work of the Ganga Expressway is going on at a fast pace to connect western UP with central parts. Our effort is to complete the work of Ganga Expressway before Prayagraj Kumbh 2025. Devotees will be welcomed by the Ganga Expressway."

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI PHE DIVISION CHADOORA.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

e-N.I.T No:- 72/PHEDC of 2022-23 dt:- 24.03.2023

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora on behalf of LL Governor of J&K (U.T), for Annual State Contract for maintenance of Water Treatment Plants falling under the Jurisdiction of PHE Division Chadoora, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved & eligible "DEE" Class registered Contractors of U.T. of J&K.

Status of A.A.A.: "Accorded" Position of Funds: Available

Major Head of Account: "M&R"

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Stage Period	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Annual stage, maintenance, Repairs and Other Emergent Works of Sub Division Chadoora "M&R"	5.00	250	Current Financial Year 2023-24	"DEE"
2	Annual stage, maintenance, Repairs and Other Emergent Works of Sub Division Charisharief "M&R"	5.00	250	Current Financial Year 2023-24	"DEE"
3	Annual stage, maintenance, Repairs and Other Emergent Works of Sub Division Lal-Nagar "M&R"	5.00	250	Current Financial Year 2023-24	"DEE"

- Date of publishing 24-03-2023
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-03-2023 at 1600Hrs onwards.
- The Bids shall be uploaded on the website: <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-03-2023, 1630Hrs to 31.03.2023 upto 1600Hrs.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- Bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora on 01.04.2023 at 1100 Hrs.
- The lowest bidder e'll shall be intimated to deposit all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 09 within 03 days from opening of financial bids.
- Cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in the shape of treasury Challan/receipt pledge to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora (under Major Head 0215) and uploaded the same.
- E-tender documents can be seen at & downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bidddocuments contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, conditions and other details.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 of the table above payable at Srinagar pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora Earnest money will have to be in FDR/CDR form and shall have to be valid for Four (4) months after the opening of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents in the form of Treasury Challan shall be in separate envelope with cover marking cost of document pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora
- Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora on 01.04.2023 at 1100 Hrs. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process
- The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(g).
- Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid. Details of Document required is available along with downloadable tender document on <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.
- All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.
- No EMD/ Additional Security deposit is required for unbalanced bid, however if needed same shall be taken from successful bidder with the approval of next higher authority. However, bid security declaration "Self Attested" be uploaded with the bid as per Appendix II as per Finance Deptt. Govt. of U.T. of J&K Letter No. A/Misc. (2018)-III-895/J dated 22-12-2020.

The bid uploaded without challan of Tender Document Fee shall be rejected straightaway.

- Relevant documents
- Registration card with renewal certificate, GST with latest Return. (Sep. to Dec. 2021)
- Scanned copy of CDR & Treasury Challan pledged to Executive Engineer PHE Division Chadoora.
- Bid Security Declaration Self Attested.

The bidders are instructed to read carefully the BOQ. The bidders should accordingly bid rates for all items in above or below percentage.

No. PHEDC/9819-32  
Dated: 24.03.2023

DIPK-18797-22  
DT: 25-03-2023

Sd/--  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora.

## Differences between govt and judiciary doesn't mean confrontation: Rijju

UNI

**CHENNAI:** Asserting that the Union government would support the Indian judiciary to be independent, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju on Saturday said any differences between the government and judiciary should not be construed as confrontation as it would send the wrong message to the world.

Speaking at a function in which Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud laid the foundation stone for the additional court building on the Madurai District

Court campus in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Regupathy,

Supreme Court judges, Acting Chief Justice of Madras

High Court T. Raja, and High Court judges in Madurai, Mr Rijju denied media speculations of a clash between the government and the judiciary.

Stating that differences were inevitable in a democracy, he said, however, they must not be construed as confrontation as it sends a wrong message across the world.

"We have differences, but it doesn't mean there is confrontation", Mr Rijju said and made it clear that there was no problem between different organs of the State. There are signs of robust democratic actions, which are not a crisis".

Referring to media reports of differences between the government and the Supreme Court and the Legislature and Judiciary, the Union Minister said "we must understand that we are in a democracy."

"There are bound to be certain differences in terms of some outlook but you can't have conflicting positions. This doesn't mean confrontation. We are the largest democracy in the world", he asserted.

Averring that everybody could not think alike, Mr Rijju said "We are not ruled by a dictatorial king, so the difference of opinion can't be termed as a crisis in Indian democracy."

"We can criticise each other but when it comes to national interest we must be one," he added. Mr Rijju had a word of praise for Tamil Nadu saying the judicial infrastructure in the State was comparatively better than in many States in India and that he would be happy to see all the courts in Tamil Nadu use Tamil language in its proceedings.

"In the High Court there is a challenge", Tamil is a classical language and we're proud of it. We would like to see it being used. With the increase in technology, advancement of legal transcripts, maybe someday Tamil language can be used in the Supreme Court also," he added.



# Outstanding sportspersons call on LG Sinha



**GMK SPORTS DESK**  
**JAMMU:** A delegation of outstanding sportspersons from J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan Saturday.  
 S. Chandeeep Singh, Inter-

national Para Taekwondo Medallist; Sh Danish Sharma, International Judo player & Coach and Ms Appu Jamwal, Wushu National medallist while calling on the Lt Governor discussed with him the implementation of J&K Sports policy.

The Lt Governor assured the outstanding sports persons that the Jammu Kashmir Government is committed to safeguard the interests and promote the welfare of the Sportspersons through the J&K Sports Policy 2022.

## WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS India's Nitu Ghanghas clinches gold



**AGENCIES**  
**NEW DELHI:** India's Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) clinched the Women's World Boxing Championship gold after beating Lutsaikhan Altan-setseg of Mongolia 5-0 in the finals at the jam-packed IG Stadium, here on Saturday.

The two boxers started proceeding on attacking note. However, it was the Indian, who landed her punches well on the Mongolian's face resulting in Nitu winning the first round 5-0.

The second round was close enough but Nitu managed to keep the lead 3-2.

In the third round, the Indian gave her all and bagged the championship gold with some smart display of boxing.

Throughout the tournament, Nitu played some remarkable games. She had three consecutive Referee Stops Contest (RSC) wins under her belt in the competition.

## India could play three ODIs in June, two extra T20Is on West Indies tour: Report

**AGENCIES**

**NEW DELHI:** India could be playing three ODIs in June against an opposition yet to be decided, and also are in line to play two extra T20Is on their tour of the West Indies in July-August.

As per a report in Cricbuzz, the BCCI is contemplating having another short home series in June, in the ODI format, which could be held in the window between India playing against Australia in the World Test Championship (WTC) final from June 7-11 and departing for the West Indies in first week of July.

"Although nothing has been firmed up as yet, options are being explored to see if a three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka or Afghanistan in the second half of June, more precisely after the World Test Championship (WTC) final, is possible," it said.

The report also mentioned that the BCCI's discussions with various boards have taken place on this some time back but the outcome is still not known.

"Should that series come to fruition, the BCCI will have to identify a short-term broadcaster



as the new broadcast deal is unlikely to have been signed by then. The current deal ended with the last ODI against Australia on March 22," it added.

Regarding the tour of the West Indies, with the possible addition of two extra T20Is, the tour will feature ten games -- starting with two Tests, three ODIs and five T20Is, instead of three matches in the shortest format of the game.

The report added that the additional games were finalised bilaterally on the sidelines of the recent ICC meetings in Dubai.

"BCCI and CWI have a healthy bilateral relationship that is based on mutual respect and understanding of each other's needs and role in world cricket," Ricky Skerritt, the CWI President, was quoted as saying in the report.

India are expected to start the tour of West Indies with a Test tentatively around July 10-12 and the schedule for the series is expected to be finalised after the AGM of the CWI on Saturday.

"The schedule will be out soonest," Skerritt said.

After the tour of the West Indies, India will travel to Ireland to play three T20Is in the third week of August.

India will then feature in the 50-over Asia Cup in September, followed by three-match ODI series against Australia at home, right before the ODI World Cup in October-November.

## Tim Paine hints at taking up coaching role post retirement as a player

**HOBART:** Former Australia Test captain Tim Paine has hinted that he is likely to take up a coaching role following his retirement as a player from all forms of cricket in recent times.

The 38-year old Paine had captained Australia in 23 Tests since the Sandpaper gate in Cape Town in March 2018. He played his last domestic match for his state team Tasmania against Queensland in Sheffield Shield at the Blundstone Arena last week.

"I came in the doors at Cricket Tasmania when I was 12 years old... 26 years ago, which is a long time. It's an emotional time when you move on from something that you love doing and you care deeply about, but I'll still be involved in the game of cricket,"

Paine was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au, while adding he's in discussions with Cricket Tasmania over coaching role.

Paine had stepped down as Australia's Test captain days before the start of the 2021/22 Ashes at home when he was accused of sending lewd text messages to a Cricket Tasmania official earlier on in his career.

He then played for Tasmania as well as Hobart Hurricanes in the Big Bash League (BBL) despite not having a state contract.

"I just wanted to have one more year with Tassie and finish on a positive note with some good memories. To come back and do that, it was nice to finish on my home ground," the wicket-keeper added.

Paine, who received his Baggy Green from Ricky



Ponting at Lord's in July 2010, revealed it had been an emotional time for him ever since his retirement news was made public.

"My phone has been

have sent," he said.

He signed off by saying playing a part in Tasmania clinching its first Sheffield Shield title in 2006-07 in the company of Damien Wright and Michael Di Venuto will be a cherished memory for him as a player.

"To play in that (Tasmanian) team with Damien Wright, Michael Di Venuto and Dan Marsh and guys I looked up to and them having long careers and never being able to win, I think that was a real moment I'll never forget," Paine said.

"For myself and George Bailey and 'Hilly' (Ben Hilfenhaus) to come into that side and help those older guys win a Sheffield Shield was something I'll hold very closely for the rest of my life," he concluded. (AGENCIES)

## IPL 2023: It's going to be a number of months before I'm 100 percent, says Glenn Maxwell

**BENGALURU:** Ahead of the 2023 IPL starting from March 31, Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has admitted that the leg injury he suffered last year would take at least a couple of more months so that he can be 100 percent fit.

Maxwell had broken his left fibula at a friend's birthday party immediately after the conclusion of Australia's campaign in the Men's T20 World Cup at home in November last year. He had to undergo surgery and rehabilitation to make

a competitive comeback to cricket through the ODI series against India, where he played the opening game in Mumbai.

As a result of that freak injury, Maxwell missed Australia's ODI series against England and the entire season of the Big Bash League (BBL) that followed for Melbourne Stars. He was in danger of missing the IPL but has now recovered enough to turn out for RCB in IPL 2023.

"The leg's okay. It's going to be a number of months before I'm 100 per cent. Hopefully,

it's (leg) good enough to get through the tournament and still does the job," said Maxwell in a video posted by RCB on their social media accounts.

Maxwell was one of the mainstays for the franchise in the IPL 2022 season and made 301 runs in 13 innings, along with six wickets off his part-time off-spin.

With IPL 2023 making a return to the home and away format, Maxwell is excited by the prospect of RCB playing their home matches in the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. (AGENCIES)

## IPL 2023: Coach Sanjay Bangar advises new RCB players to take up next step in their careers

**BENGALURU:** Ahead of the 2023 season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), Sanjay Bangar, the head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), has advised the newbies in the side to take up the next step in their careers, from the domestic competitions to the high-profile T20 tournament.

RCB had qualified for the playoffs of the IPL 2022 after finishing fourth in the league stage. In the tournament, they lost to eventual runners-up Rajasthan Royals in the second qualifier at Ahmedabad.

Amongst their new Indian players in IPL 2023 are bowlers Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Avinash Singh Manhas along with R Sonu Yadav and Manoj Bhadange.

"I could have sensed what you have been growing through. Avinash, Himanshu, Rajan, guys take that step up from domestic cricket, for you to take that step up from hinterland, domestic tournaments right into the IPL."

"Dream big, put in the best efforts, and let things unfold in front of you. It will be gradually growing into the first session but we will get the workload going from hereon so that we are best prepared when the game comes on the 2nd (April)," said Bangar in a video shared by the franchise on their social media accounts.

Bangar, the former India batting coach, also told the players to take inspiration from someone like Dinesh

Karthik, whose scintillating finishing exploits for the franchise last year paved his way to being in India's squad for Men's T20



World Cup last year in Australia.

"We've been following your progress throughout the year and it is very heartening to see that the guys have smashed hundreds in the various leagues or somebody's picked up a 10-wicket haul or somebody scored a double-hundred, maybe 400 runs, somebody has fulfilled your long-cherished dream of playing for the country in the World Cup event, someone like DK (Dinesh Karthik)," the RCB coach said.

"Dinesh wanted to somehow make it to the team. Harshal (Patel) was a part of the World Cup squad. So all in all, what I feel is that the kind of energy we bring in here and especially on the first day of our new beginning, for some of you, the experience of stepping onto that team bus would have been fantastic for the

first time," he added.

Asked about the impact player rule, which will be there from this season onwards, Bangar felt it

## 1st ODI: Sri Lanka's World Cup chances suffer huge blow after heavy defeat to New Zealand



**AGENCIES**  
**AUCKLAND:** Right-hand medium pacer Henry Shipley claimed a five-wicket haul as New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by 198 runs to go 1-0 up in the three-match ODI series. This is the biggest win by Black Caps over Sri Lanka (in terms of runs) in men's ODIs.

Shipley's brilliant effort of 5-31 and two wickets apiece claimed by Daryl Mitchell (2-12) and Blair Tiddner (2-20) helped New Zealand bowl out Sri Lanka for 76 in 19.5 overs after posting 274 in 49.3 overs on being asked to bat first.

With this win, New Zealand have topped the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League standings. They have 160 points from 22 games. If they manage a 3-0 sweep in the series, they will overtake Australia, to go No. 1 in the ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings.

Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka took the field after winning the toss. New Zealand got going on the back of crucial top-order contributions from Finn Allen (51) and co. Despite losing a flurry of wickets in the middle overs, the Kiwis got to 274 with the help of some lower-order hitting from Glenn Phillips (39) and Rachin Ravindra (49). Chamika Karunaratne

was the pick of Sri Lanka bowlers with his 4-43.

Sri Lanka's top order was wrecked, thanks to a destructive spell from fast bowler Shipley. They lost half their side in the first 10 overs and never recovered, eventually getting bowled out for 76.

This was their heaviest loss against New Zealand by the margin of runs (in this format) and the fifth-heaviest defeat overall.

This loss further jeopardises Sri Lanka's quest for a direct qualification. They are placed 10th in the Super League standings, with 77 points and two more games to play.

Only the top eight sides in the Super League get a direct qualification to the World Cup, which will take place later this year in India.

Even if Sri Lanka win the next two ODIs in the series, they will have to bank on other results for direct qualification.

Brief scores:  
 New Zealand 274 all out in 49.3 overs (Finn Allen 51, Rachin Ravindra 49, Daryl Mitchell 47, Glenn Phillips 39; Chamika Karunaratne 4-43, Kasun Rajitha 2-38, Lahiru Kumara 2-45) beat Sri Lanka 76 all out in 19.5 overs (Angelo Mathews 18; Henry Shipley 5-31, Daryl Mitchell 2-12) by 198 runs.

**CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR**  
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 Website: www.cusrinagar.edu.in

**NOTICE**

This is for the information of all the aspiring candidates, desirous of seeking admission to various Post-Graduate (PG) programmes for academic session 2023-24, in various streams of studies under different faculties, in our constituent colleges, that the admission shall be done on the basis of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-PG) score, to be conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA), and programme specific eligibility criteria for the programmes that has been already notified in Admission Notification No. 02 of the year 2023. dated:-24-03-2023.

The candidates are advised to go through the admission notification and information bulletin available on the website of www.cusrinagar.edu.in/cuet.nta.nic.in thoroughly before submitting the online application form for admission and follow the instructions, available on the website, carefully before filling-up the relevant fields/columns of the registration form.

No: CUS/Adm-PG(CUET)/2023/1622-27  
 Dated:-25-03-2023

Assistant Registrar  
 (Coordinator Admissions)

DIPK-18836-22  
 DT: 25-03-2023

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DISTRIBUTION), ELECTRIC DIVISION BIJBEHARA, KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED**

Contact No/ Fax: -01932-234398 E-mail:- exenedbj@yahoo.co.in  
 NT: -EDB/e-tender/104 of 2022-23 Dated:- 24-03-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are hereby invited from Aska Company or any authorized dealer, or any authorized dealer of other company making products compatible with Aska light or Registered Class-A Electrical Contractor for execution of various works as mentioned below under "SANJAY 2023".

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Treasury Receipt/ Challan (MH0801)	EMD @2% of Adv. Cost.
1	Servicing /over hauling/testing, Operation & Maintenance at different Yatra Padavas of Inflatable lights including cost on account of providing of fresh lubricants and replacement of worn out/damaged balloons and spares for ensuring smooth functioning of these lights during SANJAY 2023.	19.10	1000	40000

1	Publishing Date & Time	24/03/2023 (1700Hrs)
2	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	24/03/2023 (1700Hrs)
3	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	24/03/2023 (1700Hrs)
4	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	10/04/2023 (1400 Hrs)
5	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	24/03/2023 (1700Hrs)
6	Bid Submission End Date & Time	24/04/2022 (1300 Hrs)
7	Bid opening date & Time	25/04/2022 (1300 Hrs)
8	Venue of opening Bids	Electric Division Bijbehara

Please Read Document Carefully  
 Position of Funds: Demanded

The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation upto working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted.

No: -EDB/TS/5312-19  
 Dated:- 24/05/2023

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 Electric Division Bijbehara

DIPK-NB-7000-22  
 DT: 25-03-2023



# Leh-Manali Highway opens in record 138 days



YOGESH

**JAMMU:** Making history yet again in 2023, Border Road Organization (BRO) opened the strategic 427 kilometers Leh-Manali Highway (NH-3) on Saturday in a record 138 days.

Officials said that even

though the road is open and snow clearance is mostly complete in the initial days, only army convoys and essential supply vehicles will be allowed.

Accordingly, a convoy of essential supplies has traveled from Manali to Leh after four months of

the closure of the Manali Leh Highway.

The BRO officials said that first, a trial army convoy will pass through the road up to Srachu and subsequently by civil traffic movement.

They said that front-line projects Himank

and Deepak have made this feat possible as this road will be open in record 138 days which in 2021-22 was opened in 144 days.

With the opening of this strategic road, all three roads to Ladakh will be opened by BRO—(KNO)

# SARAS AAJEEVIKA Kashmir concludes with a record turnover

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The second edition of SARAS Aajeevika Mela held in Kashmir, which featured products manufactured by over 300 rural craftswomen associated with Self Help Groups of DAY NRLM concluded on March 25, marking it as the first of its kind 11 day women-led fair in Srinagar.

The Mela hosted artisans from all over the country and offered a wide variety of finest handicraft and handloom products from the remotest areas of Rural India to the visitors.

The Mela which began here at the Banks of Dal Lake on 15th March continued till today, offering the visitors a myriad collection of hand made products and cuisines from across the country.

More than 170 women artisans from different parts of rural India participated and showcased their products on 70 stalls provided by the JKRLM for exhibition and sale. Women from self-help groups from 17 states /UTs displayed handicraft, handloom and natural food items from different rural areas in the vibrant stalls handled and managed by



Women SHG members.

Some of the prominent items displayed at the stalls were the handmade cloth from Jammu-Kashmir with sozni and ariwork, antique coin jewellery from Maharashtra, organic soaps and herbal cleaning agents from Sikkim, Phulkari suits from Punjab, Chikankari kurtis from Uttar Pradesh, handmade jewellery from Himachal, handloom from Bihar and many more.

At the food court an array of dishes, traditional delicacies and street favourites were served. There were Vada Pav from Maharashtra, Momos from Sikkim, traditional wazwan from Ganderbal and the most liked Shahi kheer from Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing the valedictory function Additional Mission Director Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Reyaz Beigh said "Organizing



SARAS Aajeevika Mela is a remarkable feat achieved by JKRLM as being the host of a huge event where in the participation of SHG members from 17 States/UTs was made possible".

He said such fairs provide a marketing platform to artisans who are unable to get good price for their products

He further expressed his gratitude and acknowledgement towards the Commissioner Secretary Rural Development & Panchayati, Raj Mandeep Kaur and Mission Director JKRLM Indu Kanwal Chib for their consistent support and persuasion in making the Saras Aajeevika Kashmir a grand success.

He thanked all the line departments for their contribution in making the Mela a success. Also he thanked the entire team of JKRLM for their relentless efforts for making SaRAS Aajeevika Mela a

grand success.

The fair drew a massive crowd on the last day. The SHG members returned home with a smile on their faces as they registered a good income. Sharing the views Priyanka from Vikas SHG based in Jani Block of Uttar Pradesh said that attending SARAS Aajeevika Kashmir has boosted her morale to scale up her business. Adding further she said she will carry back home the learnings from the Mela and the sense of hospitality rendered by the organisers of the Mela, the visitors and the common Kashmiri they met in and around the Mela.

Meanwhile, prizes in various categories were given during the closing ceremony.

In the best products category Budgam secured the first position while as Srinagar district bagged first in the best food stall category while as best presentation stall award was given to Kerala State respectively.

The closing ceremony was attended by District & Block Programme Managers of JKRLM and many other officers and officials from the line Departments.

# RTO Kashmir adds more routes for minibus operators in Srinagar

'Integrated bus service for Nishat Bagh to Soura Buchapora soon'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a bid to streamline the public transport movement system, Regional Transport authorities on Saturday said they have added more routes under the route integration plan for minibus operators in Srinagar.

Regional Transport Officer (RTO) for Kashmir Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari said that under the route integration plan, they had added more integrated routes for the convenience of commuters in Srinagar. "Under the route integration plan, we have added direct bus service from Chadoora to Soura," he said, adding, "We are also adding the services from Panthachowk to Soura as well."

Bukhari said they have already started the services on these routes but that there is a lesser flow of passengers as many people use their personal vehicles for travel. "We have extended the route integration plan and ser-



vice timing as well, and in a new change, our last bus leaves at 6:50 pm from Budgam station towards Hazratbal," he said.

RTO Kashmir said that with the introduction of the route integration plan, they are now working on the route numbering system. "We reassure the people that public transport will be available on the notified routes as long as people want to avail," he said.

"Even if anybody from Chadoora belt wants to offer Taraweeh prayers at Dargah Hazratbal, just

give me a signal, and I will run the bus. That is not an issue for me. Transport is available and it is up to the people if they want to avail it or not," he said.

Bukhari also said that they are likely to add the integrated bus service for Nishat Bagh to Soura Buchapora as well.

The authorities at RTO Kashmir earlier this month while rationalizing the bus service in Srinagar clubbed many routes in a single route and allocated minibus operators with a specific route number—(KNO)

# 3 drug peddlers arrested in Bla, Kulgam: Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested three drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Baramulla, a police party of PP Mirgund at a checkpoint established at Check Razak Khan Mirgund arrested a drug peddler identified as Shaqoor Ahmad Parray son of Abdul Rehman Parray resident of Rambirgarh Srinagar, a police spokesman said in a statement issued here.

During the search, 90 grams of Charas was recovered from his possession. He has shifted to the police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Meanwhile, a police party of PP Wussan at a checkpoint established at Goshugh Pattan arrested a drug peddler identified as Mudassir Hussain Batooson of Ghulam Hassan Batooson. During the search, 75 grams of Charas was

recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to the police station where he remains in custody, police said.

"In Kulgam, a police party of PS Kulgam at a



checkpoint established at Kaharwat Crossing intercepted a suspicious person who after noticing the police party tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. He has been identified as Javed Ahmad Rather son of Abdul Hamid Rather resident of Sungim. During the search, officers were able to recover 120 grams of Charas from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Kulgam

where he remains in custody," police said.

Meanwhile in another action, a police party led by SHO PS Devsar during patrolling intercepted a suspicious person carrying a nylon bag, who after noticing the police party left the bag and flee from the spot by taking advantage of nearby dense orchards. His identity was later ascertained as Mohammad Ashraf Malik son of Abdul Rahman Malik resident of Malwan, police said, adding that on searching the bag, 5 Kgs of Ganja was recovered. Moreover, efforts are on to effect his arrest, police said.

Regarding the incidents, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and investigations have been initiated.

"Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace," police said.

# Unscheduled power cuts irk Tangmarg residents



WARIS FAYAZ

**BARAMULLA:** Unscheduled power cuts in Tangmarg and its adjacent areas of north Kashmir's Baramulla district are giving a tough time to the residents in Ramadhan.

Locals said their lives and businesses have been severely affected due to pesky power cuts.

"These frequent power cuts have become a daily affair. To demand 24x7 electricity is a dream. We just demand regular and scheduled power supply," said Umer, a local.

He said that the power

department should follow the curtailment schedule.

The areas facing the outages since last week include Tangmarg, Warapora, Hajibal, Waniloo and other adjacent areas.

The residents also said that they brought the issue into the notice of the concerned officers several times to no avail.

They urged the administration to look into the matter and solve the issue at the earliest.

"I am in a meeting", Assistant Executive Engineer, Power Development Department, Tangmarg said, when contacted—(KNO)

# Waqf Board Chair Suspends 31 Employees, Orders Enquiry

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, the Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board on Saturday suspended 31 employees for neglecting their duties at various shrines in Srinagar.

According to a statement issued, during a surprise inspection conducted by the chairperson, it was discovered that numerous employees were absent without authorization. However, the majority of the suspensions were due to the employees' inability to maintain cleanliness at the shrines, mosques, and associated sanitary complexes/ablution points.

Dr. Darakhshan took action following her visit to the shrines of Makhdoom Sahab, Aasari Shareef Hazratbal, and Naqshband Sahib in Srinagar. The Tehsildar of J&K Waqf Board has been instructed to investigate the incident and submit a report to the Chairperson within three days for further action.

# Power shutdown announced in Kashmir areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Power Controller Kashmir has informed that the power supply to Grid Station Lisser shall remain affected on March 26 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to receiving station Panzgam shall remain affected on March 27 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to receiving stations Ahmadnagar, Umerhair and Gulabagh shall remain affected on March 26 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to receiving stations TRC, Nedous and Rajbagh shall remain affected on March 26 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to receiving stations Barbarshah and Basant Bagh shall remain affected on April 02 from 10 am to 2 pm.

# Dr Sehrish Kick starts distribution of beehives, colonies among beneficiaries



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** In order to encourage the beneficiaries of Baramulla district, Agriculture Department Baramulla Saturday organised a distribution camp of Beehives and colonies among Self Help Groups and FPOs under Capex Budget 2022-23 at Khawjabagh here.

The distribution camp was kick started by District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar in presence of Joint Director Planning, Chief Agriculture officer and other

concerned functionaries.

On the occasion, Dr Sehrish Asgar distributed 300 Beehives and colonies among the unemployed youth of the district. It was informed that the total number of Beekeepers in the district stands 210 and Number of colonies are 7810 in which 730 Quantils are yielded annually.

In her address at the event, the DDC stated that beekeeping as an enterprise can be a significant step for boosting the income and livelihood opportunities for the youth including landless farmers.

Considering the huge

area under horticultural crops like apple and other fruit crops in the UT, keeping bee hives in the crop fields can increase pollination efficiency and improve the crop yield and quality, Dr Sehrish added.

Moreover, the DDC also stressed on expanding agriculture activities by cultivation of mushroom produce and beehives to increase the income of local people under the Model Tribal Village programme.

Later, She also distributed the registration certificate of National Beeboard among farmers.

# Over 1000 youth participate in Mega Job Fair in Rajouri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI:** District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the District Employment and Counselling Centre, hosted a Mega Job Fair as part of its youth club activation programme. The fair aimed to provide a platform for young people to secure their livelihoods

shortlisted for jobs and 5 were issued appointment letters on the spot.

Vikas Kundal emphasised the importance of such initiatives in providing opportunities for young people to enhance their skills and secure employment. He urged them to take advantage of government schemes and initiatives to support

a platform for young people to showcase their skills and talents.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the job applicants at the fair. He listened to their concerns and provided valuable insights and advice on how to approach their job search. His active engagement with the applicants demonstrated his



and was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal.

The event was a great success, with over 1000 unemployed youth participating and 27 private agencies present. 440 candidates submitted their resumes and 246 were registered. Of those, 114 were

entrepreneurship and self-employment.

The job fair was organised in collaboration with various private organisations and included opportunities in fields such as IT, healthcare, hospitality and finance. It successfully brought together job seekers and employers, provid-

commitment to supporting young people in securing employment and building a prosperous future.

While interacting with the applicants and employers, he highlighted the importance of such events in providing a platform for young people to showcase their skills and talents.