

# Good Morning Kashmir

**Office of LG J&K**  
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GI Tagging has offered enormous potential to transform handicraft sector and to boost export. Authenticity of products like Pashmina must be ensured for export.

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# TRAGIC

**Casual Labour Killed, Forester Injured In Pulwama Terrorist Attack**  
**'Terrorists Involved Will Be Neutralised Soon'**



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** A casual labourer was killed while a Forester was injured after they were fired upon by terrorists in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said on Wednesday.

An official said that a casual labourer identified as Imran Yousuf Wani of Charar-e-Sharief succumbed to his injuries at SMHS hospital. "Imran had a bullet injury in thigh and was undergoing treatment at SMHS hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries," he said.

The official said that two employees of the Forest department were shot at and injured in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Adding that terrorists involved will be neutralised soon.

A police spokesman in a statement issued said that Police in Pulwama received information about an incident at Bangender Bridge in which two forest department employees got injured. Senior police officers along with additional reinforcement reached the spot to ascertain the facts, police said.

"Police Station Rajpora received an information through reliable source that terrorists had fired upon a team of forest department of district Budgam causing injuries to 02 employees, who had laid a checkpoint to apprehend the timber smugglers near Bangender Bridge falling under the jurisdiction of PS Rajpora in district Pulwama," police said. However, police

## RAINS WREAK HAVOC IN J&K

### 8 Killed In House Collapses, Landslides Due To Heavy Rain In J&K

**YOGESH**

**JAMMU:** Eight people including, a toddler, teenagers and two women have died in separate incidents of landslides and flash floods triggered by fresh spell of rainfall, which created havoc in the plains and triggered landslides, flash floods in hilly parts of the Jammu region early Wednesday morning.

Police officials said that around 6.00 am in the morning two houses collapsed in Surjan area of Kathua's Bani due to heavy rain.

"Five persons including children and a woman got buried under these houses," said a police officer. Five bodies have been recovered," a police officer said.

"The houses belonging to Mushtaq Ahmed and Abdul Qayum collapsed in Surjan Morha Aruad Block in Bani due to heavy rainfall. Five persons, including children, got buried under the debris of these houses. A rescue operation is underway to retrieve the bodies," said Arjun Mangotra, Station House Officer Bani, who along with the army launched a massive operation to retrieve the bodies.

The deceased have been identified as three-year-old Arbaz son of Mushtaq Ahmed, Sahabaz (14) son of Mushtaq, and his 45 year old wife Zareen Begum, Nazir Bano (11) daughter and Mohammad Asif (14) son of Abdul Qayum.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal also confirmed the incident and maintained that a massive rescue operation was underway for three other persons.

In other three separate incidents, a woman identified as Naseema Begum (50) wife of Mohammad Rafiq of Mandhota Tehsil Bani died after coming under a landslide in the Bani area of the district. A class 7th student identified as Ajay Singh (13) son of Mohinder Singh of Sitti Tehsil was buried under a landslide in Bani, while, one person namely Sham Lal (45) son of Tara Chand of Bhukllari also got buried under a landslide and later his body was also retrieved. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Bani Satish Kumar said that there are reports of flash floods and landslides in other areas and rescue teams have been deputed. He has announced a compensation of Rs 50,000 for the deceased and Rs 25,000 for the injured.

Following the incidents, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also member parliament from Udhampur Kathua constituency, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha



**THE HOUSES BELONGING TO MUSHTAQ AHMED AND ABDUL QAYUM** collapsed in Surjan Morha Aruad Block in Bani due to heavy rainfall. Five persons, including children, got buried under the debris of these houses. A rescue operation is underway to retrieve the bodies,"

## LG Chairs High-Level Meeting On Booting Investment Into UT



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials to review status of Industrial Investment and to discuss strategies on boosting investments in a fast-track mode.

The Lt Governor was briefed on investment in different sectors, status of Land allotment, new Industrial estates, recent steps taken by the Department to fast-track grounding investment, policy initiatives, promoting start-ups among youth especially technology based and scalable

## Army Officer Dies, 3 Others Injured In Siachen Fire Incident



**UMAISAR GULL GANIE**

**LADAKH:** An Army officer was killed and three soldiers were injured in a fire incident that occurred in the early hours of Wednesday in Siachen.

An official said that a fire incident occurred at Siachen Glacier Wednesday morning in which a Captain rank officer died and three soldier were injured.

The deceased has been identified as Captain Anshuman Singh, Regimental Medical Officer.

He said three other personnel suffered smoke inhalation and second degree burns and have been safely air evacuated for further treatment.

"Condition of the injured is reported to be stable," he added—(KNO)

## CS Reviews Condition Of Jmu-Sgr NH



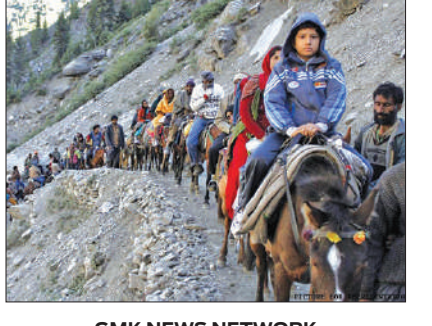
**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** After heavy rains and inclement weather in the Jammu Division, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday took stock of the condition of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway for smooth movement of traffic on the highway.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; IG Traffic; concerned Deputy Commissioners; SP Traffic, National Highway and RO, NHAI besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary urged upon the officers to ensure smooth movement

## Admin Refutes Allegations Of Stone Pelting On Yatries



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** The administration on Wednesday refuted the misleading claims and allegations made in a video circulated on social media regarding stone pelting on yatries.

The administration said that the incident had happened due to the minor dispute among the poniwallas themselves.

The administration has made all the arrangements for the smooth conduct of yatries for the convenience of pilgrims of Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The local people have been on forefront to make the yatra successful by rendering their relentless services since the beginning. This yatra is an example of brotherhood, communal

## Two Infiltrators Killed On LoC In Kupwara



**TASADUQ HUSSAIN**

**KUPWARA:** A day after four foreign terrorists were killed in Poonch district of Jammu, two infiltrating terrorists were killed in Machil sector of Kupwara district by the joint teams of security forces on Wednesday.

A defence spokesman in Srinagar in a statement issued said that based on a specific intelligence provided by BSF, duly corroborated by other intelligence agencies of likely infiltration through Machil Sector, a joint operation by Army, BSF and police was planned and multiple ambushes were laid along the likely routes of Infiltration.

"On the intervening night of 18/19 July, own troops detected suspicious movement along the Line of Control. The movement of terrorists was continuously tracked through



**Barbie**

RELEASING JULY 21

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS OPEN**

9541613868



**OPPENHEIMER**

RELEASING JULY 21

WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN AND DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN



# Hangul Breeding Centre Made Functional In South Kashmir

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**PULWAMA:** The Hangul Breeding centre in Shikargah's Tral has been made functional again as two female Hangul have been moved into the centre, officials said.

Officials said that a Hangul breeding centre was established in Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary on which crores of rupees were spent in 2011.

After its completion, a Hangul was housed in it but it became a victim of a leopard.

An official said that all necessary work was carried out for the last three years so that Hangul can be kept in the centre without falling prey to wild animals.

"We had kept vegetables, salt and other things near the gate of the centre where our cameras had already captured the movement of the Hangul. We tried to habituate them naturally and have had success in moving two female hangul there," the official added.

He said that efforts are on to move male hangul into the centre for breeding.

WildLife Warden, Shopian Division, Intisar Suhail said that moving of these two female individuals of Kashmiri Stag has a huge significance as it is the only place in the world where you have two individuals of critically endangered species of Hangul in captivity.

"Hangul were moving close to the breeding centre for the last several months but as per our motive we were able to lure them and move them successfully into the centre," he said.

He said that this is an off display facility because they want to ensure that the species don't get disturbed by any sort of hindrances. "This is a scientific project for conservation of a wildlife species and no one is allowed inside unless there is some emergency," he added.

"There are three male hangul members in Shikargah forests and efforts are on to move male



hangul into the centre without handling them for breeding programme.

"Number of in-situ and ex-situ measures have been taken to conserve the critically

endangered Hangul species and the establishment of this centre is one of them," he added.

He added that infrastructure for this project monitored by Central Zoo Authority of India

and as per census in Shikargah forests that was carried out in 2021 with the help of camera traps and a population of 14 species including male, female and fawn was found.

Notably, several Bollywood celebrities have visited the sanctuary in the past.

Poached for its meat, antlers and skin, the population of Hangul has been on the decline for the past many decades.

From around 3,000, the figure dropped to 900 in 1989 which dwindled to near about 200 a few years ago but in the last few years have seen an upward trend in their number.

Conservation of Hangul assumes great significance as the species is placed under Schedule-I in the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 (amended up to 2002) and the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. It is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna—(KNO)

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### TRAGIC

said that the injured were immediately evacuated to hospital for the treatment.

Both the injured have been identified as Imran Yousaf Wani son of Mohd Yousaf Wani resident of Mohnu, Chararisherif (bullet injury in thigh) and shifted to SHMS Hospital for specialised treatment and Jahangir Ahmed Chechi (Forester) son of Gh Mohiudin Chechi resident of Gogjipather, Chadoora (minor superficial injuries and discharged after first aid), police said.

Regarding the incident, police said that a case under FIR number 79/2023 under sections 16, 20 UAP (Act), 307 IPC and 7/27 IA Act got registered in PS Rajpora and investigation has been initiated.

"Soon after the incident the whole area was cordoned off by Police, Army and CAPFs and an intensive search operation was launched. During the search of the scene of crime, two empty fired cartridges of Ak-47 ammunition and one bullet head were recovered from the spot. However, the search operation is going on," police said.

Meanwhile, an official said that a casual labourer identified as Imran Yousuf Wani of Charar-e-Sharif succumbed to his injuries at SMHS hospital—(KNO)

### 8 Killed In House

and former chief Minister Gulam Nabi Azad expressed grief over the incidents.

"Saddened to learn about the casualties caused due to incessant rain and house collapse in Bani tehsil of district Kathua. My sincere condolences with the families of the deceased. Army has been called in to help in rescue operations and recover those buried under debris. I am in constant touch with DC Kathua Rakesh Minhas and SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal. All possible assistance being provided," Dr Singh tweeted on Wednesday

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha also expressed grief over the loss of lives in house collapse and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Bani area of Kathua district. In a condolence message, the Lt Governor said: "I am deeply saddened to learn about the tragic incident triggered by heavy rains in Kathua, in which a number of persons have lost their lives and many others are feared trapped under the debris. Rescue and relief operations are currently underway. I have directed the district administration to provide all possible aid to the bereaved families, who have lost their near and dear ones as well as medical assistance to the injured".

Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed shock and grief over the loss of lives in house collapse and landslides triggered by incessant rains in the Bani area of Kathua district. Expressing grief over the tragedy, Azad shared pain and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and the safety of everyone in the situation

Stressing on remaining alert in the wake of flash floods and landslides, the former chief minister said he is concerned about the families living in far-flung areas of Kishtwar, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, and Kathua where the situation is grim due to incessant rains which have triggered landslides and disconnected poor people in terms of road blockades and communication disruption.

Meanwhile, rain lashed various parts of Jammu damaging roads with all major rivers including Tawi, Chenab, Basanter, Devak and Ujh flowing above the danger mark. Authorities advised people to stay away from low river banks and also ordered the closure of all schools in Kathua, Doda, Rajouri and Kishtwar districts because of heavy rain causing swelling of water bodies.

Vaishno Devi Yatra from the new track and the passage of pilgrims on the Amarnath Yatra were also temporarily suspended.

Officials said that the new track to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine has been closed due to inclement weather conditions while chopper

service has also been suspended in Reasi district, while schools in Kishtwar, Doda, Rajouri and upper reaches of Kathua have also been closed given the inclement weather.

They said that a fresh batch of 4,900 pilgrims, which left for Amarnath shrine in Kashmir has been halted at Yatri Niwas Chanderkote in Ramban due to shooting stones and landslides.

Meanwhile, Jammu-Pathankot road in Kathua was also closed in view of the flood-like situation and a bridge on the Tarnah Nallah, Chadwal has suffered damage due to heavy rain. The traffic was being diverted through the border road. Jammu Poonch road also blocked at Tanda Akhnoor and closed for traffic movement. As a precautionary measure Kishtwar-Sinthan Road remained closed for traffic. In Udhampur the rain water entered people's houses.

Minister of State (PMO), Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a Member of Parliament from Udhampur-Kathua constituency, expressed concern over the damage caused due to rain. "Concerned to learn about the damage caused to Chadwal bridge in Kathua due to flash floods, causing inconvenience to traffic. I immediately got in touch with DC Kathua, Rakesh Minhas as well as the NHAI authorities. My office is constantly following up on the matter for expeditious repair and redressal," the minister informed through his Twitter page.

Moreover, in the backdrop of heavy rainfall and rising water levels in rivers and streams, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting to review flood management measures and preparedness across the districts of the division.

The Div Com assessed the damages caused due to the incessant rains and flooding in some areas and asked the Deputy Commissioners to immediately start assessment and share the same with his office.

Calling for swift restoration of essential services affected by the inclement weather, the Div Com directed the DCs to prioritize the repair of damaged roads, disrupted water supply, and power outages.

To enhance the emergency response system, the Divisional Commissioner asked for establishing 24x7 multi-departmental control rooms and Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) in every district.

The DCs were instructed to notify helpline numbers and publicize the same to enable the general public to make distress calls and seek assistance when needed. In anticipation of landslides in hilly districts, the Div Com called upon the Border Roads Organization (BRO), Public Works Department (PWD), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) department to keep their men and machinery on standby for road clearance operations when required.

Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Urban Local Bodies were instructed to keep the drainage systems clean in the city and major towns to prevent blockages and subsequent flooding.

The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Jal Shakti were put on alert and asked to swiftly restore water and power supply in the case of any damage caused by flash floods—(KNO)

### LG Chairs High

startups and achievements in exports of major products like Carpets, papier mache, shawls, chain stitch.

The Lt Governor directed for proactive steps to increase private industrial estates equipped with necessary infrastructure.

Emphasising that the women-led enterprises will shape the future of J&K, the Lt Governor said we must ensure their increasing presence in the economy and designate more exclusive industrial estates for women entrepreneurs like the one established in Udhampur to facilitate women-run businesses and startups.

The Lt Governor underscored that 2023 will be the year of Agro-Industrial revolution powered by Holistic Agriculture Development Plan

(HADP) and increased production in Agriculture & Allied Sectors that will offer vast opportunities to agro-industries.

He directed the officials that the potential of new cold storage, cold chains must be tapped to ensure rapid economic growth flows to rural areas of UT.

In order to scale up further infrastructure, the Lt Governor directed officials to push for greater private investment in inland ports, container depots, food processing units.

Directions were also issued to develop a mechanism for regular meetings with representatives of old industrial estates to resolve their issues.

Highlighting that GI Tagging has offered enormous potential to transform handicraft sector and to boost export, the Lt Governor said authenticity of products like Pashmina must be ensured for export.

The Lt Governor also directed the concerned officials to accelerate the development of basic amenities like connectivity, power and water facilities in the new Industrial estates.

The Lt Governor also called for replicating the best models of Industrial Estates developed in other parts of the country.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner Revenue; Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, Forest Department; Sh Santosh Dattatreya Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner /Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department and senior officers attended the meeting.

### CS Reviews

of traffic on the highway. He enquired from them about the status of the implementation of previous directions issued regarding disallowing of overloaded vehicles to ply on this road.

Dr Mehta took cognizance of the issues including improving the gradient of the road at many places between Ramban and Banihal, removal of muck, widening of carriageway at identified spots, designating the truck holding areas, and completing the 2nd tube of Ramban flyover and progress on Banihal bypass.

He underscored the need of taking strict action against the chronically slow moving vehicles. He asked them to put a check on the overloading in trucks and make sure that no such vehicle is allowed to move ahead thereby creating hiccups for others. He also directed for ensuring that there is no compromise on lane discipline and road side parking of vehicles by traffic authorities.

The Chief Secretary emphasised on the fact that only 60 kms of the road is two lane out of more than 300 kms and therefore should not become a major bottleneck for smooth management of traffic. He also asked for management of traffic in Banihal Market and strict implementation of lane discipline there.

Dr Mehta also enquired about the condition of road from each Deputy Commissioner. He impressed upon them that the weather vagaries should not let the road get closed except for few hours till it is cleared and should be thrown open for traffic expeditiously. He stressed on the executing agencies to handover the 2nd tube of the Ramban flyover by 15th of August and Banihal bypass by the end of this year as committed earlier.

The Chief Secretary was assured by the traffic and NHAI that after the implementation of all these instructions the traffic on the road would largely be smooth and congestion free. They further assured him that the men and machinery has been kept ready at all the critical stretches of the highway so that there is no undue traffic halt.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the Divisional Administration to keep check on the rates of essential commodities. He directed for ensuring their availability as well in the market. He told them to ensure that each shop displays the rate list of commod-

ities so that anybody resorting to overcharging is dealt as per the law.

### Admin Refutes

harmony and unity among the people.

This yatra represents spirituality and has been substantial contributor to economic development of J&K.

The video has been created with malicious intention to create divide among communities, spread disharmony and disturb peaceful yatra.

All the yatris who have embarked on the pilgrimage of Holy Cave of Shri Amarnathji have testified the good quality of services and appreciated seamless yatra.

It is pertinent to mention that administration is committed to ensure safety and security of yatris and all the stakeholders involved with yatra. The administration has taken serious note of the incident and directed police to take strict action against those who are involved in the incident and lodge FIR against rumour mongers. Besides the social media users are asked to refrain from spreading fake news.

### Two Infiltrators

surveillance devices. At around 4:55 am, contact was established with the terrorists. Intense firefight ensued resulting in elimination of two foreign terrorists," the spokesman said.

He said that a thorough Joint Search Operation was launched along with police in the morning, resulting in recovery of four AK series rifles, one UBGL, five UBGL Grenades, nine magazines, 175 AK rounds, six hand grenades, tactical vests and large quantities of war like stores.

"The identity of terrorists is being ascertained. This successful counter infiltration operation is yet another example of exemplary synergy between the security forces. It is also an indicator of repeated attempts by terrorist groups to push terrorists and war like stores into Jammu and Kashmir to disturb the prevailing peace, development and growth in the Union Territory," the defence spokesman said.

A police spokesman in a statement said that Police and security forces demonstrated their readiness to protect the nation against all odds. "In a highly coordinated joint anti-terrorist operation launched by Army, Kupwara Police & BSF, an infiltration bid was foiled by neutralizing two Pakistani terrorists along the LoC in Machil Sector of Kupwara district," the spokesman said.

He said that acting on specific intelligence regarding infiltration bid by terrorists, Police, Army (14 Dogra), and BSF (140Bn) launched a counter-infiltration operation along LoC in Machil Sector of Kupwara. "In this swift and coordinated operation, the joint team naturalized two (02) Pakistani terrorists in the wee hours, when their movement was observed along LoC, thereby ensuring the safety and security of the region. The bodies of the terrorists were retrieved by the joint team from the place of encounter. The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists is being ascertained," the police spokesman said.

He said that the joint team also recovered arms & ammunition including 04 AK series rifles, 09 AK Magazines, 175 AK rounds, 06 hand grenades, a UBGL, 04 UBGL grenades and other incriminating materials from the site of encounter. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation taken up, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar in his message has said that this successful operation not only foiled the infiltration attempt but also dealt a severe blow to the plans of terrorists to disrupt peace and stability in the valley. "The dedication and commitment of Jammu & Kashmir police/security force personnel involved in this anti-terrorist operation have once again demonstrated their readiness to protect the nation against all odds," the spokesman said—(KNO)



# BJP To Reach Out To Pasmanda Muslims On UCC

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**LUCKNOW:** The Nationalist Muslim Pasmanda Mahaj, led by BJP leader Atif Rasheed, is planning to provide information about the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and dispel any rumours or misconceptions about the same.

Pasmanda Muslims, on the other hand, now plan to send their suggestions to the Law Commission.

The organisation will conduct a direct dialogue with Pasmanda Muslims from July 23 in Lucknow, thereafter visiting villages and cities across the country.

The BJP aims to address misconceptions and promote awareness about the UCC. The BJP has been making efforts to garner support from the Pasmanda Muslim community to strengthen its social base.

While the All India



Muslim Personal Law Board and other Muslim organisations have voiced their opposition to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the BJP is directly engaging with the Muslim community, particularly the Pasmanda Muslims, regarding the UCC.

They emphasised that since the code has not been released or read yet, opposing it without proper understanding is unjust.

Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi has expressed the party's intention to reach out to Pasmanda Muslims and ensure they benefit from government policies.

The BJP believes that Pasmanda Muslims can benefit significantly from various central government policies. By dispelling misconceptions and highlighting the advantages, the party aims to win the support of this community.

The BJP is aware of the

potential for misinformation about the UCC, similar to what occurred with the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Hence, they are conducting a campaign to inform Pasmanda Muslims about the UCC and address any concerns or doubts.

Writer and social worker Ahmad Faizi said, "We will involve every section of society that believes in Indian culture."

## Art Exhibition, Program On Artistic Heritage Marks Day-2 Of Youth Cultural Festival



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** On the second day of ongoing Youth Cultural Festival (Amrit Yuva Kalotsav) at Tagore Hall here, a program dedicated to artistic heritage was featured by the artists of Sangeet Natak Akademi.

During the festival, a dialogue on artistic critique took place between the audience and the young students. The afternoon marked the beginning of the Art Exhibition, showcasing mesmerizing performances like Santoor, the enchanting Kashmiri Pandit dance, Kuchipudi, Kashmiri Folk play 'Angreez Pather' by renowned theatre of Kashmir National Bhand Theatre and the soul-stirring play 'Echoes of Life'.

Pertinent to mention, the three day Yuva Kalotsav, inaugurated yesterday, is being organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi in association with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages and commemorates the 75 years of India's Independence.

## Dir. Info, Employees Condole Demise Of Jehangir Ahmad's Mother

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director Information, J&K, Minga Sherpa has condoned sad demise of mother of Jehangir Ahmad, Junior Assistant, DIPR, who passed away after a brief illness.

In his condolence message, the Director Information expressed his deepest condolences with Jehangir and his family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the employees of DIPR also condoned the sad demise of mother of Jehangir Ahmad. The officers and employees of the department offered their deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

### HADP

## Vegetable Cultivation One Of The Focus Areas: Chowdhury Iqbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Wednesday visited Tahab Pulwama and inspected the hi-tech poly house established under CAPEX, 2022-23 at Naira Tahab Pulwama.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) a special project has been approved for the promotion of vertical expansion of vegetable Cultivation. He said the scope for horizontal expansion is decreasing day by day, and under such circumstances farmers should focus on vertical expansion of vegetable Cultivation.

He said to realize this concept on ground, the department of agriculture has established hi-tech poly houses in all the ten districts of Kashmir.

The Director said that the department is having a number of success stories with the introduction of hi-tech polyhouse technology and the department is endeavouring to replicate these success stories in all the areas of the Kashmir division.

Director Agriculture said that our climatic conditions are our strength so far as the agro climatic suitability for vegetable Cultivation is concerned. He said the department is working to explore these suitable agro climatic conditions to achieve socio-economic transformation of the concerned farming community.

Director Agriculture also visited Banhar Wathoora Budgam and took stock of different agriculture activities. While interacting with the farmers, he said amid tomato shortage in many parts of the country we are having abundant quantities of different types of vegetables from Kashmir that are even sent to different parts of the country.

He said a sufficient quantity of different vegetables including tomatoes would be available in markets in the coming days.

## Govt Committed To Extend Support To Transgenders: Dr Mehta



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday held deliberations about the welfare of transgenders of the UT so that they too become integral part of the society and get their share of rights and opportunities.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, Health; Representative of the transgender community besides other concerned officers.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to the demands put forth by the representative of the community. He told them that the administration is committed to provide every possible assistance to the persons belonging to the community to

enable them to become valuable member of the society.

Dr Mehta directed the concerned departments to sensitize their staff towards the special needs of such persons so that they are able to avail all the services smoothly. He advised them to saturate the benefits under self employment, health and other benefits among all the persons belonging to this third gender of the population.

He said that every willing person of the community should be encouraged to come forward and avail the welfare measures. He asked them to frame a list of persons desirous of taking up different enterprises so that administration would help them to secure them in a hassle-free manner.

The Chief Secretary asked them to take part in the social and economic programmes of govern-

ment. He asked them to participate in PRI activities as well.

It was given out during the meeting that the total population of this gender in the UT is more than 4000 souls. It was said that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise", which includes sub-scheme - 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons also.

The focus of the sub-scheme is on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities and intervention, counseling, education, skill development, economic linkages to the transgender persons.

Moreover the Skill development training to the Transgender beneficiaries is also being conducted through PM-DAKSH - a skill development scheme of the Ministry.

## Anti-Eve Teasing Squad Established In Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In order to provide a secured atmosphere to female citizens and to take action against eve teasers and other anti-social elements Jammu and Kashmir police have established an anti-eve teasing squad in Baramulla town.

The squad will be deployed outside Govt Degree College for Women and Government Girls Higher Secondary School Baramulla.

"Female citizens can approach this squad for any issue and to report any crime or violence against them. The squad will conduct patrolling in areas having footfall of women, such as schools, colleges, shopping malls and market places," police said.

"Police is committed to women safety. Female citizens are requested to come forward



with all kind of grievances and we assure them that their safety and security will be ensured at all cost. Female citizens can reach us on following phone

numbers: SHO PS Women's +919596767722; SHO PS Baramulla +919596767710; PCR Baramulla +919596767768," the police said.(IANS)

### AMARNATH YATRA

## Chairman MC G'bal Distributes Jute Bags Among Yatries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** Chairman Municipal Council (MC) Ganderbal, Adv. Altaf Wednesday distributed glass, water bottles and jute bags among yatries at Manigam Base Camp as part of a plastic free yatra campaign.

While interacting with the yatries at transit camp Manigam, Chairman MC welcomed them and urged them to avoid single use plastic at transit camps and enroute during yatra. He urged all to say 'No to Polythene, Yes to Life'.

While highlighting the importance of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Chairman said that they are lucky enough that the holy yatra is conducted from Ganderbal district and they are standing shoulder to shoulder to provide all facilities to the devotees.

"We are highly thankful to Chairman Municipality Adv Altaf Ganderbali and his entire councillors and all employees for providing us all facilities here at base camp Manigam", said yatries.

## Embezzlement Of Public Money

### CBK Files Charge-Sheet Against Former Bank Manager, Clerk In Hajin

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar (Crime Branch Kashmir) on Wednesday produced a charge-report against former Branch Manager and clerk of BCCB Branch Hajin.

As per a statement issued, the charge-sheet was produced in a case under FIR number 23 of 2016 before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bandipora against Abdul Razak Wani (the then Branch Manager, BCCB Branch Hajin) and Ghulam Ahmad Shah (the then clerk, BCCB Branch Hajin) for their alleged involvement in commission of offences punish-



able under Sections 420, 468, 471, 409, 120-B & 201 RPC of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir (now Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar). "The Crime Branch Kashmir received a communication along with enclosures from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, J&K wherein it was alleged that some officers,

officials of the Baramulla Central Co-operative Bank Ltd. have dishonestly and fraudulently misappropriated & embezzled large sums of public money in different branches of the Bank etc," the statement reads.

Accordingly, the spokesman said that a case under FIR number 23/2016 came to be registered in P/S Crime Branch Kashmir in the year 2016 and investigation started to probe into the allegations.

"During investigation it came to fore that Abdul Razak Wani (the then Manager of the Hajin branch of BCCB Ltd.) had entered into a criminal conspiracy with his clerk

Ghulam Ahmad Shah as a result of which said employees of the bank had cheated the depositors, forged the financial documents, records and misappropriated & embezzled large sums of public money running into lakhs of Rupees," he said.

Evidence collected during investigation has established criminal culpability and proved that offences punishable under sections 420, 468, 471, 409, 120-B & 201 RPC have been committed by the duo, the statement further added.

Accordingly, the charge-report (challan) of the instant Case has been presented in the Court for judicial determination, the statement said.



Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

# Fraud Research

The reforms of the education system during the last few decades have reshaped the landscape of education all across the world. However, the institutes of higher education are deteriorating in quality of both research and creativity. Papers by researchers from reputed institutions have found their way into bogus journals. Even, a survey found that a large amount of research misconduct goes unreported. Although this, research fraud is not a new phenomenon, it has a long history and arguably it has existed since the dawn of science. A survey published in June, 2020 noted that gift authorship, where researchers who made little or no contributions to a study are included as co-authors, is perceived to be the most common type of research fraud. There was a time when institutions produced talent in the fields of different subjects. However, there is a lot of things which have gone awry with our institutes of higher learning. Research is a global enterprise. In order to prevent and minimize research misconduct, a global operationalization with clear boundaries and clear criteria would be helpful. The other big problem plaguing our institutes is sheer absence of any research policy. There are stories of research scholars ferrying children of their guides from school, cooking food for the family of their guides, and sometimes within campuses washing cars of their guides. Universities and research organizations typically have their own guidelines on research integrity and responsible conduct of research, and their own procedures to investigate cases of research misconduct. One obvious difficulty is that they have to investigate themselves which may lead to protecting their own reputation leading to a lack of transparency. The result is the piling of sycophant scholars over more sycophant scholars and in between talent goes down the drain. What led to this downfall? It is amazing how the rotten system inside our universities actually lets the talent go to waste and is not able to spawn an environment of quality research. It has come to such a pass that there is literally no place for men of integrity in our universities.



ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

Different people among us are engaged with different professions in diverse fields and every profession has its own substantiveness for the progress, advancement and development of a nation. Each and every profession plays a vital role in this course and no profession is abortive. But it can't be denied that there are some professions that demand more engrossment, attention and respect as such professions are cardinal in every aspect as either the professionals and specialists of other professions exist because of the existence of former professions or such professions are essential for the health and well being of people.

In some European countries, two professions viz. teaching and medicine are treated as the most imperative and most respected professions and the salary given to the people engaged in these two professions is called as honorarium reckoning and acknowledging their honour and their essence as these people presume that nothing can be paid in return which can equivalence the service rendered by these two sectors. Here we can't deny the fact that health professionals are also the products of the teaching sector. The governments of most of the capitalistic countries of the Western world pay special attention to their educational and health sectors besides being cautious about their defence sector and they always try to have their complete control on these three sectors so that these sectors may not turn into commercial hubs. These countries always try to build a strong, advanced and impeccable defence system for themselves and have a catbird seat in the arms and ammunitions as compared to developing and underdeveloped countries of the world. They don't have their dominance and supremacy in the world only because of their modern high-tech warfare tools but they also earn a huge amount by selling their ammunition to developing countries. The manufacturing of these high-tech and modern weapons is the result of their scientific work and modern research which in turn is the

higher level of knowledge and learning. These countries also earn millions of dollars from the people around the world who go for higher education and research work to these countries.

There are two famous quotes associated with the most infamous and fearsome dictator of the past Adolf Hitler. He says that when people are dying during a war and everything is being scoured due to warfare, a nation should try to save and rescue its teachers and ensure their safeguards as they have the power to reconstruct and rebuild their nation. Hitler also said that we should always be cautious of a teacher who has taught three generations because he has the power to bring revolution. To understand the essence and importance of these two quotes we need to know the whole history of the past and eventually, we will comprehend the hidden message of these two quotes. History is witness to the fact that there are examples of nations who advanced by leaps and bounds despite being undemocratic but it has been discerned that such nations had two good qualities - firstly, there was justice or we can say these nations were corruption free and secondly they had great teachers who could impart their modern and scientific education. Germany was the first and biggest example of such nations, then it was Russia and now it is China in the contemporary world which makes the above notion a worldwide fact and there is no need to discuss further about it further to prove its validity. Proceeding further, it can be aptly said that the evolution of the great powers of the world was due to their scientific research work. It was because of this scientific research that great powers like Britain and other European countries made the rest of the world as their colonies after the Industrial Revolution and this Industrial Revolution was in turn also the outcome of scientific advancement in European universities.

Brain drain refers to the emigration or migration of highly educated, skilled and talented individuals from one country to another, usually in search of better opportunities, higher salaries, or improved living conditions. It is the departure of educated or professional people from one country, economic sector, or field for another usually for better pay or living con-

ditions. This phenomenon typically occurs in developing countries and can have negative effects on the country losing its skilled workforce. When teachers, researchers, doctors, engineers, computer experts and other professionals leave their country in search of better avenues and opportunities, it turns their own country impoverished, destitute and deserted as it results in human capital dearth and then there is scarcity of such professionals who could harmonize the education, health, economic and other sectors of their country with the demands of modern times.

An additional impact on these regions that experience brain drain is the loss of revenue. A mass exodus leads to a drop in tax receipts which can stunt economic growth and development. Likewise, when the upper class of a country (who are often the holders of the maximum wealth of a nation) emigrate from their country due to political or economic instability, it results in the capital drain and the cumulative drain of wealth and intellectual class from country results in poverty, backwardness, underdevelopment and marginalization. In the present times, numberless intellectuals from India are residing in developed countries and they play a vital role in their further development thousands of people aspire to migrate to such regions for better living.

10% of the world's high-tech business CEOs come from India and their

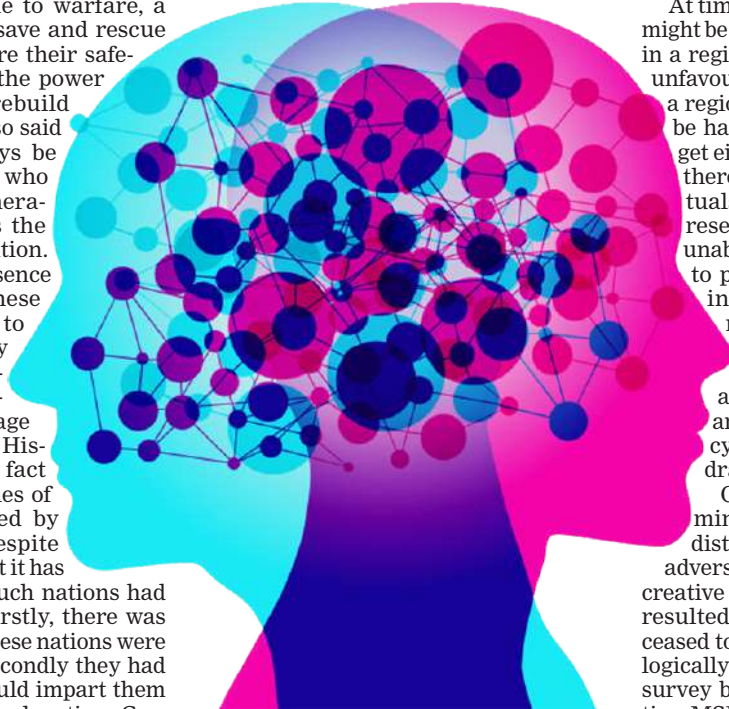
number is increasing which is celebrated throughout the country but it questions the Indian society and the problem of brain drain associated with it. It is pertinent to mention here that keeping in mind the inclusive importance of researchers and health professionals in the collective development of a nation, their migration is the worst kind of brain drain.

At times instead of brain drain there might be the situation of "drained brain" in a region. This means that there are unfavourable conditions prevailing in a region so that the best brains can't be harnessed and their capabilities get either misused or wasted. When there is an abundance of intellectuals, experts, skilled people and researchers in a region they are unable to use their capabilities due to political turmoil or economic instability which may cause mental disturbance resulting in low outcome of their potential. Sometimes lack of basic amenities, corruption, inflation, and lesser value of local currency may lead to the situation of drained brain.

Our region is known for fertile minds since ancient periods but disturbance and corruption have adversely affected the research and creative abilities of our people. It has resulted in drained brains that have ceased to work and are unable to think logically and creatively. According to a survey by the humanitarian organisation MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres) nearly 1.8 million adults in Kashmir Valley - 45% of the population - showed symptoms of mental distress.

The survey found that 41% of the population showed signs of depression, 26% showed signs of anxiety and 19% showed probable symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Besides political disturbance, J&K is one of the most corrupt places among the Indian states/UTs. Between 2018 to 2020 the ACB registered 219 cases against corrupt officials from different departments in J&K. With these numbers at display, Kashmir has turned into a land of drained brains which has badly affected its progress and development. All we need is a peaceful environment and a corruption-free system to reinvigorate our drained brains so that we can keep pace with modern technologically and economically accelerated world.

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# Pakistan: Military & The Mil Bus Inc.

## The Multi Million Dollar Business Empires Which Ruined The Pakistan Economy



BHARAT NANDA

Pakistan has been a pseudo democracy for 75 years of its existence, wherein Pakistan Military has directly ruled the country for over 50 years, while the remaining period it has been closely monitored the 'installed Government of the day'. More so, none of the elected prime ministers of Pakistan could ever complete his/her tenure. Assassinated, hanged, hounded, prisoned, exiled are few options that PMs of Pakistan have been bestowed upon, in case they do not toe the Pakistan Military's diktat. None, barring Imran Khan has ever pointed fingers at Pakistan Military's work culture or its commercial activities.

Pakistan Military has innumerable ventures through its 'holding companies' or 'groups' covering very diverse fields ranging from oil refining, banking, aviation, power generation, natural gas, wind energy, property development, insurance, cement, fertiliser, sugar, cereals, clothing, advertising, restaurants, hospitals, etc. The Army Welfare Trust (AWT), Fauji Foundation (FF), Shaheen Foundation (SF), Defence Housing Authorities (DHAs) are to name a few commercial ventures of Pakistan Military establishment. These companies are the



dominant business group in the country, estimated to be worth over US\$40bn (billion). Figures suggest that these ventures have had a constant growth rate of over 20-30% annually, while the rest of the businesses of Pakistan are suffering losses. This is the highest growth of any business venture ever in Pakistan owing to its Military's ironclad influence, ensuring smooth ride over market aberrations or excessive competition and unfavourable government policies.

Almost all these commercial ventures are listed under the Charitable Endowment Act 1890 and escape paying taxes, which other business conglomerates are made to pay. The biggest beneficiaries are the Generals and their equivalents in all three arms of Pakistan Military Establishment. Over 50% of the Retired Corps Commanders and above officials are directly absorbed in these charitable organizations, while remaining get absorbed in foreign service, plum positions in various government projects, public sector undertakings,

advisors to governments and so on. The functioning and profit from these commercial ventures are tightly controlled by Pakistan Army's General headquarters in Rawalpindi, even though these organizations are supposed to be independent and managed by a board of directors. The housing societies spread across Pakistan allot prime property to military personnel at highly subsidised rates. Even military awards are linked with the grant of farm lands and housing plots.

The Pakistani government depends on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the timely release of portions of the \$6.5 billion bailout package secured for the country in 2019. This year, Pakistan has requested \$1.1 billion from the IMF, however, if the military was to cut costs by just 10 per cent, Pakistan would have had \$1.2 billion to spend. Pakistan Army is perhaps the only military establishment in the world to own a business empire within the nation.

### Economic Consequences:

**Monopoly and Competition:** Military businesses, backed by their resources and influence, can dominate the market, leading to reduced competition. This restricts opportunities for private entrepreneurs and stifles innovation and growth in various sectors of the economy.

**Diversion of Resources:** The allocation of significant resources to military-run businesses diverts funds away from essential public services, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development. This can hinder the overall progress and well-being of the Pakistani population.

**Inequality and Deprivation:** The concentration of wealth and power in military businesses can exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities, leaving ordinary citizens with limited access to resources, opportunities, and economic benefits. This deprivation can further marginalize vulnerable communities and perpetuate a cycle of poverty.

### Impact on Private Sector:

**Unfair Competition:** Private businesses often find it difficult to compete with military-run enterprises, as the latter have access to preferential treatment and resources. This unfair competition hampers the growth and survival of private enterprises, limiting job opportunities and stifling entrepreneurship.

**Investor Confidence:** The dominance of military businesses in certain sectors can deter both domestic and foreign investors. This lack of confidence in the business environment negatively impacts economic growth, job creation, and foreign direct investment.

**Lack of Accountability:** Military businesses often operate with less transparency and accountability compared to private enterprises. This can undermine good governance and create an environment that is prone to corruption and favoritism.

The impact of military-run businesses in Pakistan raises concerns about the deprivation faced by the population. To foster a more equitable and prosperous society, it is crucial to address the issues surrounding these businesses. By promoting transparency, accountability, and fair competition, Pakistan can create an environment that supports the growth of the private sector, encourages entrepreneurship, and ultimately benefits the entire population.

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## Midway To Agenda 2030

# Why Are We Off The Track On Gender Equality?



SUMITA THAPAR

**W**ith only 90 months left to fulfil the Agenda 2030 promises made by our governments 90 months ago, we are far off the track. A United Nations report released this week shows that out of the 114 countries studied, not one has achieved gender equality. Over 99% women and girls live in a country with low women's empowerment and a big gender gap. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 also had painted a grim picture, including on the progress made on delivering the goals for gender equality, which is crucial to achieving each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Tip of the iceberg? Read this: According to the SDGs Report 2023, it would take another 40 years for women and men to be represented equally in national political leadership at the current pace. More than 1 in 4 women (641 million) are still subjected to intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime. Only 57% of women are able to make their own informed decisions on sexual and reproductive healthcare. And if we look at indices and ground realities of each of the SDG goals and targets with a gender lens, the situation becomes even more pathetic. Data are supposed to inform if we are making progress, but if 80% of SDG indicators will remain gender-blind, then such data will not reflect the lived realities of billions of women and girls globally.

### Real democracy and gender equality go together

The Women Deliver Conference 2023 (#WD2023) taking place in Kigali, Rwanda (17-20 July 2023), comes at a very opportune time to take stock, address compounding issues impacting girls and women (such as, climate change, sexual and other forms of gender-based violence, unpaid care work, among others), and to collectively identify and action evidence-based solutions.

According to Dr Maliha Khan who heads Women Deliver, only in democracies do women and girls, including gender fluid persons, have a chance to have their rights. But democratic spaces are closing in many countries of the world.

For Azra Talat Sayeed, a women's rights activist from Pakistan, who also heads the International Women's Alliance, and Roots for Equity, "gender equality is part of the larger development justice agenda. Progress on gender justice is interdependent on progress on social justice, economic justice, health justice, climate justice, redistributive justice, and accountability to peoples." Azra works with the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, including small and landless farmers, women and religious minorities. She was one of the speakers of #90for90 Global Voices who are featured as part of the ongoing Gender Equality Talks (Season-2) series by CNS.

### Dismantle patriarchy

Azra said that, "Our society is intensely patriarchal, and feudalism, capitalism, militarisation, and religious intolerance push it further. Slave era could not have happened without slave labour. Likewise, in today's capitalist and feudal era, labour is impossible



without women's contribution. For example, over 75% of hard work in farm labour is done by women which is in addition to the unpaid care work girls and women do. If women were to be given freedom, this highly subsidized system of production through (cheap or free) women's labour will be exposed and trampled upon immediately."

"So to sustain capitalist and feudal economies, they will maintain control over women's bodies and women's minds. One way they do so is by economic injustices - by

climate injustices, and other forms of exploitation and harassment," asserts Azra. Real hope for a socially just and ecologically sustainable world lies in strengthening people's movements.

Degan Ali of African Development Solutions, echoed similar thoughts while speaking at a plenary of #WD2023. She shared that globally 80% of the coffee producing farmers are women. But despite working very hard, they live on less than USD 2 a day, while big multinational companies of the Global North benefit from

Yadavendra Singh, who runs the Pahal Foundation in India, says that economic empowerment is crucial and a lot more needs to be done to ensure inclusion in societies. "In India, the government has a skill development programme, but where is queer representation in this? Are people being sensitised? Queer people need financial resources and access to entrepreneurial opportunities."

Then again, "while India's New Education Policy mentions the girl child and the transgender child, this does not translate into action

In some regions communities are facing multiple marginalizations. Matcha Phornin, an ethnic minority/indigenous lesbian feminist and human rights defender from Thailand, who is the founder and Executive Director of Sangsan Anakot Yawachon, works on the Thailand-Myanmar border where an armed conflict has been ongoing for several decades. "The mainstream narrative is that indigenous people are living peacefully doing rotational farming, when in reality the government is pushing policies that restrict our right to land. It is supporting development projects that harm our community's rights. They are trying to allow mining companies on our land. We need to tell our own stories, and be part of the decision-making process in what happens here," she asserts.

Feminist movements are not talking enough about the impact of armed conflicts on women and girls. There are areas where armed conflict has been ongoing for years, and there are also new areas where it has emerged. This impacts women and girls and the LGBTQIAP+ community. We are attacked not just by the opposite side but also our own societies' cultural norms, Matcha added.

### Turn words into actions

Grassroots activists unanimously, and rightly, believe that promoting gender equality is a shared responsibility. It requires active participation and support of governments, media, institutions, civil society, and individuals. Collective efforts are needed to foster inclusive societies. We need a holistic approach, more ownership, and not just enabling policies from governments but their genuine implementation at ground level. We also need a social movement to change patriarchal and archaic mindsets.

And as the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "Turning words into action is key. Efforts can regain lost ground by addressing challenges that have emerged since 2015, including gaps in intergovernmental cooperation," urging countries to "bring a clear commitment to rescue the SDGs by setting out their national vision for transformation, grounded in concrete plans, benchmarks, and commitments."

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paying girls and women nothing or paying them very little. More importantly, women's agency in managing her own finances is seldom recognised. Another way to control women and girls is psychological terror - by fuelling and normalising harmful narratives like to be a liberated woman means to be a loose woman", she added.

Azra rightly believes that capitalist economies thrive on exploitation of women's labour. She shared that some of the women farmers she works with only get a portion of the harvest as wages for their labour. Earlier they used to cut wheat and got paid in wheat - which at least provided them with some food. But now the focus is on growing sugarcane. So all they get now is fodder in return for their hard work.

"Women have to be organized to dismantle patriarchy. We need to educate and organize our women to understand what is the source of their hunger, of them not being educated, of them suffering from

their labour. It is the global trade architecture which must change in the first place, she added.

Gozde Ones, who works with the Regional Advocacy for Women's Sustainable Advancement (RAWSA) Alliance in the African and Arab region, told CNS that education is key to achieving gender equality, and governments have a crucial role in ensuring access to education for women and girls, especially in rural and conflict affected areas. "We need education on women's rights for both men and women. Most of the governance is led by men, they can easily decide when to start a war, or when to abolish women's rights (like in Afghanistan). Men need to be educated about gender equality."

### Unpack gender

I spoke with some grassroots activists from LGBTQIAP+ communities to focus on some of their problems that have been pushed under the carpet for long.

Gay rights activist Darvesh

on the ground. Making schools safe spaces for queer children is important and for that schools must understand issues of gender diversity," he said.

### The progress is uneven and insufficient, and policies need to translate into action.

Transgender rights activist Abhina Aher, who is currently working with Thailand-based APCOM to improve health and rights of all gender diverse communities in Asia and the Pacific region, feels the compelling need to unpack gender. "For a layman, gender means girls and women, but it is more than that. We need to talk about marginalised populations, such as women in sex work, people living with HIV, LGBTQIAP+ peoples, and also talk of disability and gender diversity."

### Real solutions are shaped when affected people lead



# Sudan reviews status of works undertaken by LBDDA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan convened a joint meeting of officers of Lolab Bangus Drangyary Development Authority (LBDDA), Tourism, Forest, R&B, JJM and other concerned Departments at TP-Drangyari to review the status of developmental works undertaken by LBDDA.

CEO, LBDDA/ADC Kupwara, Gh.Nabi Bhat, while briefing about the Bangus, said that tourist footfall in district Kupwara has increased manifold after Bangus Festivals. It has enhanced the employment opportunities for the local youth who are coming forward for registration of Homestay and camping sites and various other allied activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director Tourism, Javid Rehman said that the registration process has been simplified and this year only the Tourism Department has received 65 applications for registration under the category of Homestay.

DDC Reddi Chowkibal, Habibullah Baig while speaking on the occasion opined that administration should also consider developing wayside amenities for the tourists along the road stretch from Kralpora to TP Chowkibal.

DDC Rajwar, Suleman Mir on the occasion said that while moving forward with a short term



plan for development of Bangus as an eco-Tourism destination, we should work-out simultaneously on a long term, holistic plan for which a committee of all the stakeholders needs to be constituted at an earliest.

DDC Mawar, Khurshid Ahmad opined that services of some reputed consultancies may be utilized for formulation of master plan of Bangus and other tourist destinations in the district so that vision for eco-Tourism is not compromised at any cost.

The DC also interacted with aspiring entrepreneurs present in the meeting and took their feedback regarding the problems faced by them for promotion of tourism in the district.

In her concluding remarks, DC stressed that participation of local youth is a basic requirement for sustainability of tourism

activities in the district which will provide livelihood to the unemployed educated youth and also provide scope for building tourism destinations in the district.

Ayushi impressed upon all the stakeholders to extend their support in upgrading the eco-friendly tourism infrastructure.

She said that Forest, Tourism and other concerned departments have to work in tandem so that basic infrastructure could be created in Bangus to tap its potential.

The DC directed CEO LBDDA to form a committee for chalking out a mechanism for SOPs formulation for technical examination of various projects that need to be initiated in connection with development of Bangus.

She also impressed upon CEO, LBDDA to identify land for camping sites and

place indent with Forest Department for transfer of land.

She said that cleanliness and Sanitation is the first mandate of eco-Tourism and the local community should come forward for the cleanliness of Bangus and other tourist destinations. She directed LBDDA and Forest Department to formulate a sanitation plan for all the tourist places in the district and impressed upon all the agencies associated with development of tourism in the district to stick to the time-line strictly.

SSP Kupwara, Yougal Manhas; SP Handwara, Sheema Nabi Qasba; ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir; JD Planning, Abdul Majeed; DIO Kupwara; AO to DC; Ex. Engineer LBDDA, DFO Kehmil, DFO Langate, concerned PRIs, and other stakeholders were present in the meeting.

# DDC Pulwama reviews functioning of MC Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Wednesday interacted with the elected members of Municipal Council (MC) Pulwama and also reviewed the functioning of Municipal Council Pulwama in a meeting held at Circuit House, Pulwama.

During the meeting, DDC sought detailed information of various sectors and schemes implemented through MC Pulwama.

Executive Officer, MC Pulwama, Owais Ahmad gave a detailed presentation during the meeting and informed about the assets in the MC Pulwama, types of various levies and fee charged, expenditure made during 2021, 2022 & 2023 under various schemes, achievements under Solid Waste Management etc.

The scenario of centrally sponsored schemes PMAY-U, PM SVANidhi, AMRUT along with status of FC grant, IDMT works, UDS and MTMP works were also discussed during the review meeting.

The DDC was further informed that land measuring 08 kanals have already been identified at Nawa for establishment of Solid & Liquid Waste Facility for which preparation of detailed Project report is under pro-



cess in PW(R&B) department and 2000 No. of Dustbins have already been distributed among various households of the Municipality.

Regarding the ban on Single Use Plastic, it was informed that blanket ban has been imposed and surprise market checks are being carried to ensure implementation.

Dr Basharat also interacted with the Elected Members of MC Pulwama to get feedback about functioning of MC Pulwama and implementation of various developmental schemes and also sought details about issues and problems being faced by people and mechanism for redressal of the same.

President MC, Bilal Rather highlighted the

issues regarding encroachment of paths on the road side, shortage of drinking water and renovation of Dhobi Khul and sought immediate attention for redressal of these.

The DDC directed the I&FC department in collaboration with Municipality, Revenue, Traders federation, and youth, to conduct a mass drive for clearance of Dhobi Kul. The Executive Engineer (I&FC) Division Pulwama was directed to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for rejuvenation of Dhob Kul.

Directions were passed on to the President Traders Union that shops and establishments in the town shall pay Rs. 200 per month as user-cum- sanitary charges and shall settle the

issue of Revision of Rent amicably in 2 weeks time.

The DDC appreciated the work of MC Pulwama for applying for ODF(+) certification under Swachh Survekshan 2022 and reiterated that providing civic amenities and a clean environment is the main job of Municipalities and with the help of elected members and support from District Administration they can achieve success in doing so.

The meeting was attended by the President, Municipal Council Pulwama; Executive Engineer, R&B; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department; Executive Engineer, JKPDCL; Executive Engineer, Irrigation and FC; Tehsildar, Pulwama; Assistant Regional Transport Officer.

# VC-DDC Kupwara flags-off students, teachers for Trekking Expedition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** Vice Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir along with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara Wednesday flagged-off a group of 250 students escorted by 9 teachers for a trekking expedition from Warnow to Wontwari-Rang.

Event was organized by District Youth Services and Sports Department Kupwara. The students (under 19-Boys) belonged to Government Higher Secondary School Maidanpora and Government Higher Secondary School Warnow.



In this trekking expedition students and accompanying teachers will cover a distance of 9- Kilometers and explore the scenic

areas of Jabdi, Tal, Wontwari, and Rang, during the day-long trekking programme.

VC-DDC while address-

ing students and teachers exhorted upon them to take full benefits of trekking expedition as it has a varied scope.

He said apart from physical development, the trekking develops a sense of togetherness among the students. He said that such events will also boost the local tourism of Lolab.

Principal Boys Higher Secondary School Warnow, Abdul Qayoom Khatana; District Youth Service and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Kupwara, Zahoor Ahmad Wani and other teaching staff were present on the occasion.

# DC G'bal reviews preparations for I-Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Wednesday reviewed the arrangements for upcoming Independence Day celebrations in the district in a meeting held at the Conference hall of Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal where the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest followed by the march past presented by contingents drawn from District Police, CRPF, Armed Police, NCC, PTS Manigam, Forest Protection Force and students of various educational institutions. Cultural programs will also be presented by the students during the function.

The meeting reviewed the status of arrangements threadbare including rep-

aration and consolidation of the main venue ground, podium, security, seating, transportation, parking, electricity, refreshment, Medicare and availability of ambulance besides deployment of fire tenders and sanitation measures.

The DC, while highlighting the importance of the Independence Day, stressed the concerned officers to finalize all the arrangements before 13th August, the day of full dress rehearsal.

The meeting also discussed the illumination plan of government buildings and it was also decided that flag hoisting shall be ensured on all government buildings in the district.

Meanwhile, the DC directed the concerned to ensure that all arrangements are put in place timely for the celebration of Independence Day at Sub Division, Block and Panchayat levels.

# Block Diwas: DC Kulgam listens to issues, grievances of public



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** As part of weekly Block Diwas, public outreach programmes were Wednesday held across Kulgam to take first hand appraisal of the issues of the general public at their door steps.

In this connection, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a grievances redressal camp at Kulgam and listened to various issues and demands of people.

The programme witnessed participation of PRIs and people from Yaripora, Qaimoo, Frisal, Aadora, Aawhatoo, Chekpora and other adjoining areas.

During the grievance redressal camp, various public delegations and scores of individuals projected various develop-

mental issues before the DC and sought the timely resolution of their grievances and demands.

All the issues, grievances and demands were patiently listened to and some of the issues were redressed on the spot.

Officers from various departments who were present in the grievance redressal camp also responded to the grievances and issues of people raised during the Block Diwas function.

Among others, the Public Grievance redressal camp was attended by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mir Imtiaz-ul-Aziz, ACD, Mohd Imran Khan besides other district and sectoral officers of the district from various departments.

Grievances redressal camps were also held at Block Divisar and D. K. Marg.

# DDC Kupwara chairs Mega Block, Municipal Diwas in Langate

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Wednesday chaired a Mega Block-cum-Municipal Diwas at Public Park Langate to listen to the issues and grievances of the general public at their doorsteps.

President Municipal Committee Langate, DDC Member Mawar, BDC Chairperson Langate, CMO, CAO, AD Food, AD Fisheries, BDO, BMO Engineers from Jal Shakti, PDD, R&B, besides, PRIs and people in large number attended the Block Diwas function.

On the occasion, the DDC stressed upon all officers and field functionaries to ensure last mile outreach of Government schemes and welfare

programmes so that the people shall come forward to take the benefit under these schemes.

She said that the 3-tier Panchayati Raj System has come into being to ensure smooth development at grassroots level in collaboration with administration.

She urged the PRIs and people to prioritize the works for their timely completion.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to resolve the bottlenecks in coordination with administration and PRIs to ensure uninterrupted and smooth development.

Earlier, PRIs including BDC Chairperson, President MC, local Sarpanchs and senior citizens spoke and raised their developmental issues and grievances pertaining

to water supply, establishment of Degree College Langate etc.

The DDC heard their issues patiently and directed the concerned officers to ensure that all genuine issues are resolved, timely.

Meanwhile, Block Diwas programme was also held at Sogam of Lolab subdivision which was chaired by SDM Lolab, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat.

At Gundigujran Tangdar of Karnah sub division, Block Diwas programme was chaired by SDM Karnah, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather.

During these programmes, PRIs and people in large numbers participated and raised their day to day developmental issues with the officers for resolution.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SHOPIAN

Fax No/ Tell No: 01933-260226 Email: rnbdivisonshopian@gmail.com

### CORRIGENDUM

It is notified for the information of all concerned that due to single tender response for the work advertised vide this office NIT No. 25/3418-25/RnB/SPN/e-tendering/2023-24 Dated:- 04-07-2023 is hereby.

#### Extended as

1	Bid Submission End Date	25-07-2023 up to 3:00 PM
2	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26-07-2023 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama.

#### Instead of

1	Bid Submission End Date	19-07-2023 up to 1:00 PM
2	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21-07-2023 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama.

No: NIT/ 4234-39 Dt: 19-07-2023 DIPK-5411-23 Dt: 19-07-2023 Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

- Subject: -
1. Repairing of washing machine and replacement of damaged parts of different washing machine of Laundry at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar
  2. Hydrostatic testing of old steam boiler in laundry section at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar
  3. Repairs cum up gradation of nitrous oxide panel at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar
  4. Repairs to electrical panel of AHU (Modular OT) at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar.
  5. Servicing and repairs of chiller units for modular operation theatre along with allied works at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar
  6. Complete rewinding to the 3HP motor of 36 KW PTSS CSSD machine and MCCB switch (100 amp) 3 pole at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar
  7. Shifting of scrap/debris from different places to one place adjacent to boiler house at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar
- Ref: This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS/2023-24/36/e-tendering Dated 28.06.2023

### EXTENSION

In view of poor/no response, the Critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows: -

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	25.07.2023 (12:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	25.07.2023 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same. No. MHCHD/TS/ 3293-96, Dt: 19-07-2023 DIPK-5362-23 Dt: 19-07-2023 Executive Engineer MHCH Division Srinagar.



# How human resource development is bolstering India-Tanzania ties

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SOUTH AFRICA:** An agreement to establish the first overseas Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) was the key takeaway of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's recent visit to Tanzania, reported The Citizen. IIT-Madras and the Zanzibar government have signed an MoU to setup this institution.

Tanzania's inclusion in this project is hardly a surprise, the report noted, adding that the two countries have enjoyed a dependable relationship ever since independence thanks to Tanzania's location on Africa's east coast, which is strategically significant to India. Although it is thought to be close to China, it has not wavered in its engagement with India, as per The Citizen.

The Citizen is a South African daily newspaper published in Johannesburg, South Africa. The strategic alignment and growing economic linkages strengthen diplomatic ties, the report stated, adding that Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd and Abu Dhabi Ports Group decided to invest in port infrastructure last year in order to turn Tanzania into a maritime hub.

In 2022-2023, the bilateral trade between the two coun-

tries rose by 40 per cent, totalling USD 6.4 billion. Exports of refined petroleum and drugs from India make up a sizable portion of this. Tanzania is one of the nations that has made the best use of the duty-free tariff preference system and has drawn investment from India in agricultural products among other things. Tanzania's exports to India have increased; formerly, they were mostly made up of gold. Tanzania's top export destination at the moment is India.

Tanzania has USD 4 billion in investments from India. India is one of Tanzania's top five foreign investors. One of the most popular industries for investment is mining, followed by healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and veterinary vaccines. A 55,000-strong diaspora promotes economic exchange and has fuelled the development of the two countries' ties over the years, according to The Citizen. Concessional lines of credit totalling USD 12 billion are extended over Africa by India. In Tanzania alone, it totals more than USD 1 billion. One of the most frequent and effective users of Indian credit lines is the African nation.

These projects supported by India had a significant impact. The water projects serve 28



Tanzanian cities and offer 8 million people with consistent water supply. Indian help was used to establish Tanzania's Command and Staff College. A military training squad from India is located here for academic upgradation. Tanzania is frequently visited by Indian Navy ships. In Zanzibar, Jaishankar attended a reception held on board the INS Trishul.

People-to-people ties, with a special emphasis on human resource development, are an important component of India and Tanzania's cooperation. The choice to establish an IIT campus in Zanzibar is evidence of this. Education and scientific research are crucial parts of Tanzania's development ambi-

tions. The IIT will help Tanzania's human resources grow, providing it a competitive edge in Africa. Students from East Africa will be allowed entry, followed by pupils from the entire continent. The Citizen reported. India is moving on with plans to establish higher education institutions in one of Africa's LDCs. The governments of Tanzania and Zanzibar will invest in the university, and the IIT-Madras will create the curriculum and offer degrees jointly.

People-to-people ties, with a special emphasis on human resource development, are an important component of India and Tanzania's cooperation. The choice to establish an IIT

campus in Zanzibar is evidence of this. Education and scientific research are crucial parts of Tanzania's development ambitions. The IIT will help Tanzania's human resources grow, providing it a competitive edge in Africa. It will welcome East African students, making it a cooperation model as opposed to a donor approach. The third quarter of 2023 will see the launch of programmes at IIT, along with plans for pedagogical approaches. This project will internationalise Indian education, elevating the nation and forging new alliances. Based on the advice of a 16-member committee of the IIT Council, this was decided. As a result, it is a partnership approach as

opposed to a donor model. The third quarter of 2023 will see the launch of programmes at IIT, along with plans for pedagogical approaches. This project will internationalise Indian education, elevating the nation and forging new alliances. This is based on a 16-member committee of the IIT Council's advice to get ready for setting up campuses abroad. The committee suggested that IITs take the initiative in its 2021 report. India's G20 chairmanship and leadership in the Global South are strengthened by this choice.

In 2009, the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology established the India-Tanzania Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and in 2016, the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology established the ICT Resource Centre, as per The Citizen. Impressive results have been shown in terms of Tanzanian youngsters gaining from these efforts. The Mandela Institute is a component of a network of scientific and technological institutes throughout all of Africa.

Tanzania is one of the top recipients of scholarships and funding from the Indian government's ITEC programme for technical and economic cooperation. Its utilisation rate of

84 per cent is one of the highest among African nations. Tanzanian students have some of the best academic records among international students studying in India. One of the countries that utilised the Raman fellowships for science and technology and the agriculture fellowships the most was Tanzania. IIT-Madras was certain it could establish a campus in Zanzibar thanks to its consistent engagement with Tanzania.

The Solar Mamas scheme, which trained rural women to become solar engineers and electrify their villages, was successfully implemented in Zanzibar. Their training facility is located in Zanzibar, which is backed by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. Due to its membership in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, which regularly engages with India and makes the most of development cooperation projects, Tanzania is a neighbour in the Indian Ocean. It has incorporated them into its own development strategies and given the required local assistance.

Zanzibar is the place where Mahatma Gandhi spent a fortnight on his way to South Africa. The ties are providing a level for Indian economic interests, The Citizen reported. (Milap News Network)

## Rajnath Singh, Argentina counterpart Jorge Taiana hold discussions on boosting defence ties

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held a meeting with his Argentinian counterpart Jorge Enrique Taiana. Both Ministers discussed the ongoing defence cooperation initiatives, including measures to enhance defence industrial partnership. Taking to his official Twitter handle, Rajnath Singh stated, "Had insightful deliberations with the Defence Minister of Argentine Republic, Mr Jorge Enrique Taiana on boosting India-Argentina bilateral ties and further consolidating defence cooperation."

Earlier in the day, Jorge Taiana, who arrived in India on Monday, laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in the national capital on Tuesday and paid homage to the fallen heroes. During his visit, Argentina's defence minister is also scheduled to visit Bengaluru. The Argentine Defence Minister visited BrahMos Aerospace and is scheduled to interact with leading think tanks in Delhi. He will also travel to Bengaluru and visit the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) facilities and separately interact with the defence start-ups in an event organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), read Ministry of Defence press release.



India-Argentina relations were elevated to the level of strategic partnership in 2019. An MoU on defence cooperation too has been in force since 2019 while both sides are engaged to conclude further instruments to deepen the engagement. India and Argentina are working closely together to make defence engagements an important facet of their strategic partnership.

India-Argentina relations were elevated to the level of strategic partnership during Argentina's President State Visit to India in February 2019. On June 24, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Argentina President Fernandez had their first bilateral meeting on the

sidelines of the G7 Summit in Munich, Germany.

In June this year, Indian Ambassador to Argentina, Dinesh Bhatia, Chief of Argentine Air Force, Brigadier General Xavier Isaac discussed cooperation in Tejas Combat Aircrafts and a variety of helicopter options manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). "Amb @dineshbhatia joined the @HALHQBLR delegation to meet Brig Gen Xavier Isaac, Chief of Argentine Air Force and @FuerzaAerea\_Arg technical team, to discuss cooperation in #Tejas Combat Aircrafts and a variety of helicopter options manufactured by HAL @makeinindia," the Indian Embassy in Argentina tweeted.

"EAM, acknowledging Argentine interest in the Made in India TEJAS fighter aircraft for Argentine Air Force, highlighted the importance of the proposal in enhancing the strategic quotient of the bilateral relationship," the statement added. (Milap News Network)

Earlier in August last year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar acknowledged Argentine interest in the Tejas fighter aircraft and highlighted the importance of the proposal in enhancing the strategic quotient of bilateral relationships. During his meeting with Argentina Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero, Jaishankar reviewed the ongoing cooperation in the strategic sectors of defence, nuclear energy and space.

Both sides agreed to promote the exchange of visits between the Armed Forces, defence training and collaboration for joint production of defence-related equipment. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Cafiero jointly presided over a Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between the two countries. "India and Argentina reviewed their ongoing cooperation in the strategic sectors of Defence, Nuclear Energy and Space and reiterated their commitment to work together for mutual benefit," the Joint statement said.

"EAM, acknowledging Argentine interest in the Made in India TEJAS fighter aircraft for Argentine Air Force, highlighted the importance of the proposal in enhancing the strategic quotient of the bilateral relationship," the statement added. (Milap News Network)

## Enigmatic voice of Rashid Nizami: Journey through radio, television

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Rashid Nizami, a multifaceted personality hailing from central Kashmir's Srinagar district, is a captivating voice that has left an indelible mark across radio, television, and the stage.

With a passion for acting, hosting, and narrating, Rashid's journey has been a mesmerizing tale filled with numerous accolades, from acclaimed theatre performances to over 1000 requested music and phone-in programs on radio.

A skilled sports presenter and talented actor, his voice has graced documentaries, cultural events, and literary festivals, earning him recognition as a beloved and versatile voice artist in the nation.

From behind-the-scenes contributions to anchoring prestigious events, Rashid Nizami's enigmatic and resonant voice continues to resonate through the ages, making him a cherished and iconic figure in Kashmiri media.

"The stage is where I found my true calling," reminisces Rashid, reflecting on his early years. Joining three leading theatre groups in the state, he sought to learn the art of stagecraft and honed his acting prowess through landmark plays like "Bemisaal," "Koker-nag," and the historical epic "Azadi Ki Ladai."

The applause and accolades he received only fueled his passion for the



performing arts.

Rashid's love affair with the radio began in 1989, setting him on a path that would become a lifelong passion. As a graded announcer of All India Radio Srinagar from 1990 onwards, he became an integral part of the radio landscape, breathing life into numerous radio plays as a B-High drama artist. His requested music and phone-in programs, totalling over 500, endeared him to countless radio listeners.

"Radio has an unmatched intimacy; it allows me to connect with people in a unique way," says Rashid with a warm smile. His voice, soothing and resonant, became a beloved feature of Kashmir's airwaves.

Sports provided another platform for Rashid to showcase his skills. He hosted over 2000 sports programs and formed a renowned broadcaster duo with sports expert Syed Humayun Qaisar, presenting "Sports Time" and

"Kheel Kay Maidan Say," popular Radio sport shows for 19 years.

They captured audiences with engaging presentations and live-running commentary on prestigious events like the Winter National Games' opening and closing ceremonies in 2004 and 2008.

The television industry also embraced Rashid's versatility. He made his debut at a young age, hosting the youth program "Shaheen" and later anchoring shows like "Gharana," "Samanbal," and "Fun te Funkar" on Doordarshan Srinagar.

He also demonstrated his acting talent in serials like "Tanhaiyan" and "Bandish," while his role as Chief Assistant Director in various productions left an indelible mark on television.

"Television allowed me to explore different aspects of storytelling, both in front of the camera and behind it," explains

Rashid, grateful for the opportunities he received.

Rashid's captivating voice extended beyond radio and television, gracing numerous documentaries, cultural events, and literary festivals for Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar.

His melodious narration and commentary style earned him recognition as a talented and sought-after voice artist.

Moreover, he became the voice behind over 700 episodes of compact musical programs for various production houses, solidifying his position as the leading voice in radio and television commercials.

"Being a part of cultural events and lending my voice to creative projects brings me immense joy," shares Rashid. He has also been an anchor for numerous stage shows and live performances, including prestigious events hosted by organizations like the J-K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, NZCC, and ICCR.

As Rashid continues to make his mark in the media industry, he remains a humble and beloved figure, cherished by those who have had the privilege of experiencing the magic of his voice.

"The love and support of my audience have been the driving force behind my journey," says Rashid gratefully. His voice continues to resonate through the ages, leaving an indelible legacy in the hearts of Kashmir and beyond. (Milap News Network)

## Pakistan: Gurdwara Rori Sahib in Jahman village collapses in heavy rains

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PAKISTAN:** The historical Gurdwara Rori Sahib in the Jahman village in Pakistan near its border with India on the Bedia Road has collapsed after the recent heavy rains, Pakistan-based Dawn reported. The Gurdwara, most likely constructed during Maharaja Ranjit Singh's era, was related to Guru Nanak as he visited this place thrice.

The concerned authorities' negligence and illegal occupation of the land left behind by the Sikhs after the partition in 1947 were most likely the reasons behind furthering its fall and the recent heavy rains proved the last nail in its coffin, according to Dawn report. The Gurdwara was once surrounded by about 500 Kanal of dedicated land in the Sikh-majority village of Jahman. The Gurdwara had a pond on its

front, which still exists and is the only piece of land not occupied by land-grabbers.

Constructed with red Nanak Shahi bricks, the Gurdwara had a two-storey structure with a big golden dome on its top. Now only the back wall and a small portion of a side wall have survived while the dome, the central part and the whole front have completely collapsed, as per the Dawn report. Muhammad Sadiq, who was herding his buffaloes on the dirt road near the collapsed structure, said, "The gurdwara collapsed in the first big rain about 20 days back," the report said. He complained against the powerful land-grabber who occupied the land of Gurdwara and also stopped the way to it by digging a four feet wide ditch along the road to block the passage to the Gurdwara.

Sadiq said he does not know



much about the man but only that he belongs to the village Lidhar. Iqbal Qaiser, the Punjabi writer and researcher of Sikh and Jain holy sites in Pakistan and author of two books on the subject has said that the Gurdwara is related to Guru Nanak and he had visited it many times.

Speaking to Dawn, Qaiser said, "The visits are mentioned in the Janam Sakhis (biographies) of Baba Nanak. Baba Ji's maternal grandparents lived in the nearby village of Dera Chahal where his elder sister Nanki was born. It was the village of Malik Meraj Khalid (former caretaker prime

minister) that's why the gurdwara there was repaired by the government but nobody took care of the main gurdwara of village Jahman," says Qaiser while talking to Dawn.

In his book, Iqbal Qaiser wrote the holy place is about 25 kilometres from Lahore and metalled roads lead to the village. He wrote, "The sacred shrine of Guru Dev Ji is located about half a kilometre outside the village. The place where Guru Dev Ji had stayed came to be known as Rori Sahib," the report said. Qaiser said that Guru Nanak Dev visited the place thrice as his maternal grandparents were settled in the nearby village called Dera Chahal. He said that there was a small pool at that time which was later expanded into a tank by one of his followers, Dawn reported.

He said that the construction of the holy site was started

by Bhai Wadhawa Singh and a beautiful darbar was built. He said, "Fairs used to be held on Vaisakhi and 20th of Jaith at the site. There is an endowment of 100 bigha land in the name of the gurdwara." He wrote, "The tank has since again depleted into a small pool and the dome of Rori Sahib is in need of repairs. In case no repairs are carried out within a short time it will become a heap of dust." The book was published in 1998 and it took only 20 years for the structure to collapse since the prediction of Iqbal Qaiser.

As per the news report, Pakistani Rangers had occupied the Gurdwara after 1947 and used it as a frontier post to keep an eye on the border. Qaiser said that Pakistani Rangers kept using the Gurdwara till 1995 and left it when it developed cracks and it was risky to use it further.

Abdul Sattar, an old resident of Jahman, who had seen the Gurdwara in its magnificence, said that it was a proper complete structure until about 15 years back and wondered how the building decayed so quickly, Dawn reported.

Pointing out an outhouse near the Gurdwara, Sattar said that the powerful man had built that house and taken the land surrounding the Gurdwara. He further said that the village people were not happy with the Rangers as they were needlessly suppressive and would peep into villagers' homes, mounted on top of the Gurdwara. The villagers had complained over the issue and the post was shifted near the border. However, it appears that the decision gave a free hand to land-grabbers to grab the property and quickened the decay of the site. (Milap News Network)



# IT spending in India to hit \$112 bn, CIOs to invest more in productivity

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The IT spending in India is projected to reach \$112.2 billion this year, slightly higher than last quarter's update, a report showed on Wednesday.

Despite being cautious, Indian chief information officers (CIOs) will continue to invest in improving employee productivity and customer experience (CX), leading to a 14.6 per cent annual growth in enterprise software spending, according to Gartner.

Talent shortages remain a perennial concern that is projected to drive an 8 per cent annual growth in IT services spending in India. While generative artificial intelligence (AI) is top of mind for many business and IT leaders, it is not yet significantly impacting IT spending levels. In the longer-term, generative AI will primarily be incorporated into enterprises through existing spending, said the report.

Globally, IT spending is projected to total \$4.7 trillion in 2023, an increase of



4.3 per cent from 2022.

"Digital business transformations are beginning to morph. IT projects are shifting from a focus on external facing deliverables such as revenue and customer experience, to more inward facing efforts focused on optimisation," said John-David Lovelock, distinguished VP analyst at Gartner.

The software segment will see double-digit growth in 2023 as organisations increase utilisation

and reallocate spending to core applications and platforms that support efficiency gains, such as enterprise resource planning (ERP) and customer relationship management (CRM) applications.

Vendor price increases will also continue to bolster software spending through this year, the report noted.

While the overall outlook for enterprise IT spending is positive, devices spending will decline 8.6 per cent in 2023 due to the

ongoing impact of inflation on consumer purchasing power.

"The devices segment is experiencing one of its worst growth years on record," said Lovelock.

Even as inflation eases slightly in some regions, macroeconomic factors are still negatively impacting discretionary spending and lengthening device refresh cycles. Devices spending is not expected to recover to 2021 levels until at least 2026," he added.

# PM Modi celebrates inauguration of Surat Diamond Bourse

IAN S

**SURAT:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday celebrated the inauguration of the world's largest office building, Surat Diamond Bourse, in Gujarat's Surat.

The event marked a significant milestone for the diamond industry, as Surat is renowned for crafting 90 per cent of the world's diamonds.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Modi acknowledged the dynamism and growth of Surat's diamond industry, praising the Surat Diamond Bourse as a testament to India's entrepreneurial spirit.

He emphasized that the bourse would serve as a hub for trade, innovation, and collaboration, further bolstering the country's economy and creating employment opportunities.

The Surat Diamond Bourse is a comprehensive



center for over 65,000 diamond professionals, including cutters, polishers, and traders. With a sprawling floor space of over 7.1 million square feet, it is reported to surpass the Pentagon as the world's largest office building.

The bourse's impressive 15-storey complex, covering

an area of 35 acres, features a unique design of nine interconnected rectangular structures emanating from a central 'spine'.

After four years of construction work, which faced some delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Surat Diamond Bourse is set to welcome its first

occupants in November.

The Surat Diamond Bourse boasts more than 4,700 office spaces, which can also serve as small diamond-cutting and polishing workshops. The building includes 131 elevators and provides dining, retail, wellness, and conference facilities for the workers.

# Tata Sons to build battery cell gigafactory in UK with investment of over 4 billion pounds

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Tata Sons on Wednesday announced plans to establish a global battery cell gigafactory in the UK with a capacity to produce 40GW of cells annually.

This investment of over 4 billion pounds is an integral part of Tata Group's commitment to electric mobility and renewable energy storage solutions and establishes a competitive green tech eco-

system in the UK at scale.

N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons, said, "The Tata Group is deeply committed to a sustainable future across all of our business. Today, I am delighted to announce the Tata Group will be setting up one of Europe's largest battery cell manufacturing facilities in the UK.

"Our multi-billion pound investment will bring state-of-the-art technology to the country, helping to power the

automotive sector's transition to electric mobility, anchored by our own business, Jaguar Land Rover. With this strategic investment, the Tata Group further strengthens its commitment to the UK, alongside our many companies operating here across technology, consumer, hospitality, steel, chemicals, and automotive."

Commenting about the announcement of the UK gigafactory, UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, said, "Tata

Group's decision to build their new gigafactory here in the UK -- their first outside of India -- is a huge vote of confidence in Britain. This will be one of the largest ever investments in the UK automotive sector. It will not only create thousands of skilled jobs for Britons around the country, but it will also strengthen our lead in the global transition to electric vehicles, helping to grow our economy in clean industries of the future."

# Truecaller launches AI-powered 'Assistant' in India

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Leading caller identification app Truecaller on Wednesday launched an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered 'Assistant' in the country.

Only available on Android, Truecaller Assistant is an innovation that leverages machine learning and cloud telephony to create a helpful call-screening solution, the company said in a statement.

The new Assistant is a customisable, interactive, digital receptionist that answers the users' calls for them and helps them avoid unwanted callers.

It also responds quickly and understands the users' caller with high accuracy.

"You can see a live transcription of what the caller is saying, so you know who they are and why they're calling," the company said.

Then users can decide if they want to take over the call, ask the caller for more information with just a tap or mark it as spam.

"Until now, Truecaller would show you who's calling but now you can let Truecaller Assistant have a conversation with the caller on your behalf," said Rishit Jhunjhunwala, MD India at Truecaller.

"This is a very exciting next step for us in helping people avoid spam and fraud callers completely. We've rolled this out to a few markets earlier, and we are really happy to offer this to Truecaller fans in India," Jhunjhunwala added.

Truecaller Assistant is available on a free 14-day trial, after which subscribers can add Assistant as part of the Premium Assistant plan that starts from Rs 149 per month (Rs 99 as part of the limited promotional deal).

# OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN KHOVRIPORA.

LIST OF CANDIDATES TENTATIVELY SELECTED FOR THE POST OF SAHAYIKAS (HELPERS) IN RESPONSE TO Advertised Notice

vide Order No 01 of 2023 dated 13-05-2023

S.No	Applica-tion No.	Name of the applicant	Parentage	Husband's Name	Residence /Ward	Name of AWC where selected	Date Of Birth	Qualification 10th			Additional weightage as per HR policy	Total Merit	Phone No.	Remarks
								Max Marks	Marks Se-cured	%age of Marks				
1	111	REHANA JABAR	LATE MOHD JABAR MIR	UNMARRIED	KAMNIWAN/2	KAMNIWAN A	15.03.2000	500	305	61	0	61	6005807232	Selected Married candidate not available
2	73	BILKEES HAMID	AB HAMID BHAT	SHABIR AHMAD TEELI	MANIGAM/6	MANIGAM B	11.07.1989	500	209	41.8	0	41.8	9596233781	Selected
3	110	RUQIYA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD BHAT	IMTIYAZ AHMAD TURKHAN	PANZMULLAH/1	PANZMULLA B	28.03.1998	500	216	43.2	0	43.2	6005753006	Selected
4	32	KAWSAR RAMZAN	MOHD RAMZAN DAR	RAYEES AHMAD LONE	WAJOORA/01	WAJOORA A	23.04.1993	500	179	35.8	0	35.8	9682386120	Selected
5	94	Sumiara Akhter	Hamidullah Wani	Waheed Ahmad Mir	Akura/06	AKURA A	01-11-1991	500	199	39.8	0	39.8	9149817722	Selected
6	72	MEENU AKHTER	GH HASSAN KUMAR	AJAZ AHMAD KUMAR	BON NAMBAL/2	Bon Nambal- A	20.10.1991	500	237	47.4	0	47.4	7006710896	Selected
7	113	AFSHANA SHAHRY	Late GH MOHIUDDIN GANIE	AAMIR HUSSAIN HAKIM	MANZNOO/7	Manznoo- A	04.11.1986	500	317	63.4	0	63.4	6005609096	Selected
8	61	SUMARIA JAN	MUSHTAQ AHMAD BHAT	UNMARRIED	HAPATNARD/5	Hapatnard -A	11.10.2003	500	248	49.6	0	49.6	8492805991	Selected Single candi-date
9	87	SHAHEENA BANO	LATE SHABIR AHMAD GOJREE	MOHMAD AMIN BHAT	HAPATNARD/5	Hapatnard -B	02.01.1991	500	266	53.2	2	55.2	9596445889	Selected Single candi-date
10	25	SHAHEENA AKHTER	GH MOHD GANIE	UMAR BASHIR WANI	GANIEGUND/4	Vail Ganiegund A	01.01.1998	500	257	51.4	0	51.4	8491917606	Selected
11	1	NASREENA JAN	GH MOHIUDDIN WANI	SHAHNAWAZ AHMAD BEIGH	AISHMUQAM/8	Aishmuqam -B	07.12.1987	500	203	40.6	0	40.6	9797256417	SELECTED Ist meritorious withdrew her candidature
12	20	SHAHZADA AKHTER	MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR	FAYAZ AHMAD THOKROO	PALPORA SALIA/2	Palpora (Salia)	02.03.1989	500	208	41.6	0	41.6	6006034620	Selected
13	23	NAGEENA AKHTER	MOHD SHAFI DEEDER	REYAZ AHMAD MUGAL	RESHKULBAL/2	Reshkulbal B	16.09.1990	500	205	41	0	41	8492949391	Selected
14	29	RUKHSANA JAN	MOHAMMED ASHRAF KHATANA	MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHTANA	RESHKULBAL/2	Reshkulbal A	25.02.1997	500	194	38.8	0	0	8899091432	Selected
15	12	SHAYESTA RASOOL	GH RASOOL HAJI	AAQIB AHMAD BHAT	TULHARD/13	Tulhard	01.03.1991	500	333	66.6	0	66.6	8491857855	Selected
16	36	TANVEERA AKHTER	MOHAMMAD SHABAN BHAT	ARIF MUSHTAQ MALIK	CHANDRIGAM/6	Chandrigam-B	10.03.1995	500	266	53.2	0	53.2	7889774686	Selected
17	35	RUKY JAN	MOHD RAJAB BHAT	MOHD ISHAQ ALIE	JAMMO/5	Jummo -B	15.03.1987	500	201	40.2	0	40.2	9622798068	Selected
18	14	SHABEENA JAN	ALI MOHD KOCHERY	UNMARRIED	AMIRPORA NAM-BAL/3	Amirpora Nambal	02.02.1995	500	215	43	2	45	6006205905	Selected Single candi-date
19	56	MAVIA QAMAR	SYED MASOOM ALI	ASHIQ HUSSAIN BHAT	GREND AISH /1	Grend Aish	13.07.1991	500	295	59	0	59	6006652896	Selected
20	6	RUQEE JAN	ABDUL AZIZ MIR	KHURSHED AHMAD GANIE	BALPORA AKU-RA/1	Balpora Akura	10.02.1991	500	182	36.4	2	38.4	7889720895	Selected
21	11	RUBY JAN	ABDUL RAHMAN HAJAM	ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH	MANZIGAM/1	Manzigam	28.02.1991	500	237	47.4	0	47.4	9797865830	Selected
22	51	RAVINDER KOUR	AMREEK SINGH	HARPREET SINGH	SINGHPORA 8	Nowgam B	01.01.1991	500	200	40	0	0	9906863240	Selected
23	2	FANCY JAN	GH MOHD LONE	MUZAFAR AHMAD BHAT	AINOO BRAI/ 2	Ainoo -A	15.10.1989	500	227	45.4	0	45.4	7889626854	Selected
24	30	WASEEMA ASHRAF	MOHD ASHRAF WANI	SHAHNAWAZ AHMAD DAR	LIDROO /4	Lidroo -A	30.10.1993	500	245	49	0	49	6006176463	Selected
25	67	BASHARAT ABASS	MOHAMMAD ABASS BEIGH	JASIF HUSSAIN MIR	PRANBAWAN/9	Pran Bhawan Mattan	01.11.1990	500	295	59	0	59	7780910825	Selected
26	16	SHAZIA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD NAJAR	MOHAMMAD SHAFI MAGRAY	BRAR ANI GAN-DAN/3	Brad -A	06.10.1994	500	175	35	0	35	7889673380	Selected
27	8	JAMEELA BANOO	MOHAMMAD QASIM HAKLA	UNMARRIED	GRENDWAN/2	Grendwan	01.02.2002	500	229	45.8	2	47.8	6005215189	Selected Single candi-date
28	19	IQRA JAN	MUSHTAQ AHMAD BAKSHI	GH JEELANI BAKHSHI	RAMPORA/ 1	Rampora B	14.07.1998	500	187	37.4	0	37.4	6005644675	Selected

Note: Child Development Project Officer will publish the tentative selection list in his/ her office, concerend panch wards/MC wards and also publish list of candidates tentatively selected in local dailies for inviting of objections within Seven days

Sd/ ZEO AISHMUQAM      Sd/ ZEO MATTAN      Sd/ CDPO KHOVRIPORA      Sd/ BDO KHOVRIPORA      Sd/ BDO PAHALGAM

DIPK-5419-23  
DT: 19/07/2023



# WHO Calls For Urgent Action As Deaths From Extreme Heat Surge In Europe

IANIS

**COPENHAGEN:** With 60,000 deaths in Europe last year due to extreme heat, a top World Health Organization (WHO) official has stressed the "desperate and urgent need" to tackle the climate crisis.

The number of deaths from extreme heat "is set to rise year-on-year", the WHO's Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge said on Tuesday.

Current "danger zones" include southern and eastern Europe, Kluge said, urging the public to "regularly check weather reports, follow local guidance, and inform yourself about weather-related health risks from reputable sources", reports Xinhua news agency.

"Beyond adapting to our new reality this summer, we must look to the years and decades ahead," he said.

"There is a desperate and urgent need for regional and global action to effectively tackle the climate crisis, which poses an existential threat to the human race."

In the long run, Kluge believes that the adoption of the Budapest Declaration, which prioritises urgent, wide-ranging action on health challenges related to climate change, environmental pollution, etc., in the WHO European Region earlier this month, will go a long way toward addressing "the worst impacts of climate change on our health



and health systems."

In particular, Kluge believes the declaration will mobilise young people to get involved, "because they are truly engaged on the climate issues they are inheriting and often bursting with ideas and solutions".

"Action on climate change cannot be predicated on a particular government or political party; it truly needs to be a non-partisan issue championed by all sides of the political spectrum," Kluge said.

The WHO official's remarks come as large swathes of southern Europe continue to swelter in record heat.

As temperatures hit a high of 46.3 degrees Celsius in Sicily, fire crews battled blazes in

Greece and the Swiss Alps.

Elsewhere in Europe, crews in Switzerland are battling a wildfire close to the village of Bitsch in canton Valais which authorities said started on Monday afternoon and spread "explosively" overnight.

Another wildfire on the Spanish island of La Palma, which started on July 15, has destroyed 20 homes.

Red alerts, warning people of a very high health risk due to the intense heat, remain in place for most of Italy, Spain, Greece and parts of the Balkans.

The highest temperature ever recorded in Europe was set in August 2021 when the mercury hit 48.8 degrees in the Palermo region of Sicily.

## Nigerian Troops Kill 2 Gunmen, Arrest 5 In Southern State



UNI

**LAGOS:** The Nigerian military killed two gunmen and arrested five others in a recent encounter with members of a rebel group in the southern Delta state, authorities said.

Gunmen from the Indigenous People of Biafra, a separatist group active in southern Nigeria, on Monday attacked a community in the Fuji area of Asaba city, the state capital of Delta, army spokesperson Onyema Nwachukwu said in a statement late Tuesday.

The gunmen "succumbed to the overwhelming firepower" of local army troops dispatched to the community. Two gunmen were killed and others fled the scene, Nwachukwu said.

The troops trailed the fleeing gunmen to their enclave, where five of them were nabbed, he said.

Nigeria, the most populous African country, has been troubled by security incidents, including kidnappings, banditry and extremist attacks.

## Thai PM Candidate Suspended From Parliament In Disqualification Case



IANIS

**BANGKOK:** Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday suspended Prime Ministerial candidate and leader of the Move Forward Party, Pita Limjaroenrat as an MP pending a ruling on his disqualification case submitted by the Election Commission.

The court's decision came after it received a complaint filed by the Commission that the 42-year-old Harvard graduate and former tech executive owned shares in a media company at the time of registering his election candidacy for the May 14 election, which violates electoral rules, reports Xinhua news agency.

In a written statement, the court confirmed that it had accepted the

case and directed Pita to cease his parliamentary duties from Wednesday until a final ruling is reached.

Pita was required to provide an explanation of the allegation to the Constitutional Court within 15 days, according to the statement.

Under the country's Constitutional Law, the Prime Minister does not necessarily have to be an MP.

In a joint session of the bicameral parliament on Wednesday, lawmakers are scheduled to make a second bid to elect a Prime minister, following last week's unsuccessful initial attempt.

In a shock election result, Pita's newcomer party won the most seats and largest share of the popular vote as citizens rejected the conservative military rule that had been

in place since the 2014 coup.

The court had also filed a second complaint against him that involved Move Forward's proposal to amend the draconian royal defamation law, which has jailed hundreds of critics of the monarchy.

Meanwhile, Pita has denied he broke election rules and a statement from Move Forward accused the Election Commission of rushing the case to court.

On July 11, outgoing Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha had announced his retirement from politics after leading the Southeast Asian nation for nine years.

Prayut was elected Prime Minister in 2019, a win largely credited to a military-drafted constitution that entrenched the army's power in politics.

## China Braces For Flooding Caused By Typhoon Talim



IANIS

**BEIJING:** China's Ministry of Water Resources on Wednesday will continue taking precautions against flooding and heavy rains triggered by typhoon Talim in the country's south.

Talim, the fourth typhoon of this year, made landfall in the coastal area of Guangdong province on Monday night, followed by a second landfall in the neighboring Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region early Tuesday, reports Xinhua news agency.

From 8 p.m. Tuesday to 8 p.m. Thursday, Talim is forecast to bring heavy downpours to these two regions and other parts of China, including Yunnan, Guizhou, Hunan, Hubei, Anhui, Chongqing and Jiangsu, said the Ministry.

The Beilunhe River and its tributary in Guangxi had both seen water levels rising above flood-alert marks.

The Ministry is maintaining its Level IV emergency response for flooding with four of its working groups on sites to provide guidance on flood control.

China has a four-tier flood-control emergency response system, with Level I being the most urgent response.

China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters has lowered its emergency response for typhoons and flooding to Level IV.

Guangxi had raised its emergency response for typhoons and flooding from Level III to Level II.

## 10 Rescued After Boat Catches Fire In Tokyo Bay



IANIS

**Tokyo:** The Japan Coast Guard on Wednesday said that 10 people were rescued from a burning boat in Tokyo Bay.

The Coast Guard said an emergency call was made from the vessel at around 1 p.m. reporting that the boat's engine was on fire, reports Xinhua news agency.

The boat has sunk, and no injuries have been reported so far.

According to the Coast Guard, the boat was sailing in the bay some six km northeast of Tokyo's Haneda airport.

## Nearly 8,000 Still Displaced In S.Korea After Deadly Torrential Downpours



IANIS

**SEOUL:** Nearly 8,000 people in South Korea are yet to return home after torrential rains pounded the country last week, despite the monsoon rain coming to a lull on Wednesday, officials said.

Across the country, a cumulative 16,514 people had temporarily evacuated their homes, and of them, 7,843 were still staying at relatives' houses or shelters set up at senior centres, village halls or schools, according to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermea-

sure Headquarters.

The torrential rain that swept the country last week left 44 people dead and six others missing nationwide, reports Yonhap News Agency.

In particular, the flooding of the Osong underground roadway in the central city of Cheongju on July 15 led to 14 deaths, when a nearby river overflowed after an embankment was brought down by rising water levels due to heavy rain.

Downpours have also damaged 1,043 public facilities and 948 other private properties, with the damage centered around South Chun-

gcheong province.

Houses were also destroyed, with 332 reported to have been inundated and 90 others damaged, according to officials.

Farmland over half the size of Seoul, amounting to 32,894.5 hectares, was flooded, and 797,000 livestock died from the downpour.

Meanwhile, President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday designated 13 areas hard-hit from the downpours as special disaster zones, paving the way for them to be eligible for financial support in recovery work, relief funds for victims and other benefits.

## Temperatures In Iraq Likely To Surpass 50 Degrees

IANIS

**BAGHDAD:** A blistering heat wave is expected to hit Iraq in the coming weeks, with temperatures likely to surpass 50 degrees Celsius, a weather observatory said in its forecast.

"Temperatures will peak at 52 degrees Celsius in the last week of July and the first week of August," the Green Iraq observatory said in its forecast.

According to the observatory, the hottest temperature ever recorded in Iraq was 53.6 degrees Celsius in the southern province of Basra in July 2016, reports Xinhua news agency.

As stated by Iraqi law, when temperatures reach 50 degrees, the government grants holidays to its institutions, excluding the security forces and medical services.

## 32 Killed As Bus Collides With Car In Algeria

UNI

**Tunisia:** A total of 32 people were killed in a collision between a passenger bus and a car in the Algerian province of Tamanrasset, media reported on Wednesday, citing the country's civil protection department.

The incident took place early in the morning. After the collision, the passenger bus caught fire, which led to a large number of victims, Al-Nahar TV channel said, adding that nine injured were taken to a hospital.



# 25 injured in Assam clash after discovery of teen's mutilated body

IAN S

**GUWAHATI:** At least 25 people, including three journalists, were injured in a violent clash that erupted in Assam's Silchar town following the recovery of a missing teenager's mutilated body, police said on Wednesday.

The 25 injured also included five police officers and a member of the Central Reserve Police Force.

The 19-year-old victim was reported missing on July 15 from the town's Rangirkhari area.

Her mutilated body was discovered by locals on Tuesday at a construction site in Dwarbond, some 30 km away from Silchar.

Locals informed the police after which the body was taken for post-mortem.

Later in the night, over a thousand enraged locals blocked the road, demanding for the hand over of the victim's mortal remains.

"After the post-mortem at Silchar Medical College and Hospitals (SMCH), when we were transporting the body to the crematorium in under tight security, some protesters stopped the car in the Rangirkhari," Cachar SP Numa Mahatta told IANS on Wednesday.

He claimed that despite their assurances of conducting a thorough inquiry into the matter, the enraged mob unexpectedly attacked them.



"Hundreds of locals began throwing stones at us and damaging our cars. In that episode, five police officers, one member of the CRPF, and three journalists suffered serious injuries, and at one point, we had to open fire to maintain law and order," the officer said.

The victim's family had claimed that the teenager suffered possible sexual assault, as well as an acid attack.

They also alleged that the police delayed the search for her and kept them waiting.

"If they had responded sooner, she may have been saved," the victim's father, Nriprendra Roy told reporters.

Mahatta claimed that while it hasn't been proven whether she was sexually assaulted, the evidence at this point strongly shows that she was murdered a few days ago.

"Things will become clear once we receive the post-mortem report. Investigation is ongoing, and we're trying to identify the criminals," he continued.

The mother of the deceased, Uma Roy, claimed that her daughter, who used to work at a shop in the town, had called her at around 9.30 p.m. on July 15 to say that she was on her way home.

"She didn't answer, and when I tried to contact her again, her phone was off. We started looking for her and kept calling. We filed a complaint the following day, but my daughter was untraceable," she claimed.

Several right-wing organisations have protested against the crime and demanded capital punishment for the suspect.

# PM Modi's rally in Rajasthan's Sikar on July 27

IAN S

**JAIPUR:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting to be held in Rajasthan's Nagaur on July 28 will now be held a day earlier in Sikar.

Earlier, PM Modi was to transfer the amount of Samman Nidhi to the accounts of nine crore farmers across the country in Nagaur, however now he will transfer this fund from Sikar.

This programme, proposed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Fertilizer, was earlier to be held at Kharnal, the birthplace of Veer Tejaji, but now its location has been changed to the district stadium in Sikar.

The responsibility of the programme has been given to Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Chaudhary. The event's nature has been changed



from a government programme to a political rally. PM Modi will now hold the rally in Kharnal on August 16.

Earlier it was to be organised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, but now the responsibility will be taken up by the party.

# 15 die as transformer bursts near Namami Gange project site in Chamoli

IAN S

**CHAMOLI:** At least 15 persons died after a transformer exploded at the project site of Namami Gange, built on the banks of the Alaknanda river in Uttarakhand's Chamoli.

The injured are being shifted to higher centre in Rishikesh.

Chamoli Superintendent of Police, Pramendra Dobhal, said, "We got a call from the village that a security guard has died of electrocution.

When policemen went with villagers for the spot inspection, 21 people were electrocuted and suffered severe injuries. 15 people died in a hospital and the rest are critical," he said.

Minister in charge of Chamoli district Dhan Singh Rawat said that 15 people have died. Helicopters have been sent for rescue.

ADG law and order V Murugesan said that 15 people including a police sub-inspector and three home guards have died due

to electrocution. It is being said that a youth working in the treatment plant died on Tuesday night. When the police reached in the morning, a crowd of other people including the relatives of the deceased gathered. Some work was being done on the power line around 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, when suddenly the current spread to the entire campus, because of which many people got electrocuted. The injured people have been admitted to the district hospital Gopeshwar.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama expressed grief over the incident and ordered a magisterial inquiry. Expressing grief over the incident, Dhama has said proper treatment will be provided to all the injured. Along with this, strict action will be taken against whoever is found guilty in the investigation.

As per media reports, Dhama can also reach the spot and announce the compensation.



# Gujarat biotechnology sector attracts Rs 2000 crore investments

IAN S

**GANDHINAGAR:** The Gujarat government on Wednesday announced the signing of 15 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in the biotechnology sector, with a combined investment worth Rs 2000 crore.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

The focus of these MOUs is primarily on investments in the fermentation-based Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and biofertilizers sector, as well as emerging areas such as precision fermentation and animal tissue cultivation.

The operations of these industries are expected to commence in various districts of the state, including Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, and Vapi-Valsad.

Government said that these MOUs will lead to the creation of approximately 3,000 job opportunities. Thirteen companies from Gujarat and one each from Maharashtra and Delhi participated in the signing.

Among the companies that signed the MOUs, Maharashtra's Ambio Limited and New Delhi's



BioTrends India Pvt Ltd were included, along with local industrial units in Gujarat such as Zydus Lifesciences, Concord Biotech, and Hester Biosciences Ltd. Additionally, Meteoric Bio-Pharmaceutical Pvt. Ltd., an emerging domestic technology player, committed investments of around Rs 500 crore, joined by Endoc Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Gujarat Themis Biosyn Ltd., Steviatich Life Pvt. Ltd., Celexis Biosciences Pvt. Ltd., Kaniva Bioscience Pvt. Ltd., and other industrial units.

To facilitate the growth of the biotechnology sector, the Gujarat government has established the Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM) as the nodal agency.

# Police arrest 11 nepalese burglary gang in Hyderabad

UNI

**HYDERABAD:** In a significant breakthrough, the city police have apprehended 11 members of a 13-member Nepalese burglary gang responsible for a house robbery at OM Towers, Balajinagar, PG Road, Secunderabad.

During the operation, the police managed to recover a substantial amount of stolen property, including a net cash amount of Rs 41,60,410, Diamonds & Gold items weighing approximately 2.8 kgs, and Silver items weighing about 9.56 kgs.

The recovered items also included 18 wristwatches, USD 10, Euros 120, and Dirham 1001, along with nine smartphones, including four iPhones, and two cars, with the total worth of the seized property amounting to Rs five crore.

Acting on credible information, the Ramgopalpet Police successfully apprehended the burglary gang, all hailing from Nepal, on Tuesday at 2100 hours. The arrested individuals are currently being produced before the court at Secunderabad for judicial remand.

While the police managed to apprehend 11 members, two accused in connection with the case are still absconding, as stated in the police release.

The mastermind behind the operation is identified as Shankar Maan Singh Saud alias Kamal (45), who worked as a watchman and hails from Batanpur Village, Dhan Singhpur, Gram Panchayat, Kailali District, Nepal. The remaining accused are known to be his friends and relatives.

According to the complaint filed by Rahul Goel and his family, who are residents of Flat NOs.101 & 102, First Floor, Om Towers, PG Road, Secunderabad, the accused Shankar Maan Singh Saud had been observing their movements, discovering their affluent lifestyle.

Driven by the desire to settle in Nepal with his family, he devised a plan to rob the complainant's house, which he then discussed with the other accused. On the night of July 9, taking advantage of the family's absence from the house, the gang executed their plan by breaking open the main door's lock and committing the burglary.

# 'Rent a cab-bike' to go EV in Goa from Jan 2024

IAN S



**PANAJI:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Wednesday that the state government has proposed to make it mandatory that all new tourist vehicles -- Rent a Cab and Rent a Bike -- shall be electric vehicles (EV) from January 2024.

He also said that it will be mandatory for all government departments to purchase electric light motor vehicles from January 2024.

Sawant said this during the G20 India Energy Transitions working group meeting here. "The Government of India has taken multiple steps to decarbonise transport, including promoting the use of electric vehicles. The National Mission on Electric Mobility aims to improve charging infrastructure and develop a domestic manufacturing ecosystem," Sawant said.

"The Goa government proposes that it will be made mandatory that all new tourist vehicles -- Rent a Cab and Rent a Bike -- shall be electric vehicles (EV) from January 2024.

He said that it will also be mandatory for permit holders having multiple tourist taxis, rent a bike and rent a cab operators, to retrofit 30 per cent of the fleet to EV by June 2024. The Centre has formulated the Goa Electric Mobility Promotion Policy 2021, and EV Concessional Charging Infrastructure Policy 2021 to promote EV ecosystem in the state.

"The state government is leading the promotion and adoption of electric mobility, paving the way for a sustainable and decarbonised transport sector," he said.

# LEAD targets 1 lakh+ low-fee schools, to transform education in India's small towns

UNI

**VIJAYAWADA:** LEAD, India's largest School Edtech company, on Wednesday announced its plans to foray into the low-fee school segment in India.

With this strategic move, LEAD is now India's fastest growing School Edtech company, and is well-positioned to serve all segments of schools, ranging from low-fee schools in Tier 3 - 4 towns and villages, to medium-fee and premier schools in its metros and large cities, the company said in a release here.

LEAD is currently transforming the learning outcomes for nearly 300 schools across Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier in 2023, LEAD completed its acquisition of the local K-12 learning

business of Pearson India. With this acquisition, LEAD now has the largest portfolio of School Edtech products and services to better serve the learning needs of the entire spectrum of 5 lakh+ private schools in India.

Sumeet Mehta, Co-founder and CEO, LEAD, said, "Survey after survey has said that Indian schools are mostly low-fee schools who can't afford expensive, innovative solutions. So, we've got to design solutions for the low-fee schools so that every child can access an excellent education.

With this latest innovation, LEAD now has a solution that will serve the needs of over 1 lakh schools in India."

Comprising more than 100,000 institutions, India's

low-fee school segment is concentrated in its small towns and villages, and represents a key opportunity to shape its future educational outcomes.

Recent analysis of India's School Edtech sector indicates that schools across segments are poised for rapid transformation and digitization, underpinned by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 guidelines that mandate multi-modal teaching-learning in schools; rising data penetration; and accelerated digital adoption due to Covid.

LEAD's entry into the low-fee school segment marks a paradigm shift in India's education landscape, promising to unlock the potential of students, schools and communities.

# Army officer killed, 6 soldiers injured in Siachen Glacier tent fire

IAN S

**SRINAGAR:** An army officer was killed and six other soldiers injured in a tent fire incident in Siachen Glacier area of Ladakh on Wednesday, army sources said.

As per the sources, the fire broke out in a tent at 3.30 a.m. on Wednesday. "Three critically injured jawans were shifted to Chandigarh. The fire was doused before it could get to the ammunition tent. A few tents were reportedly damaged in the blaze.

"Initial cause behind the fire was a short circuit. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances that led to the fire," sources said.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR

### GIST OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

SHORT TERM E-N.I.T. No:- 14/WWD of 2023-24 dt:- 18.07.2023

Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (U.T), invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved & eligible "DEE Class" registered Contractors of Union Territory of J&K.

Position of Funds: 'Available'

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (in lacs)	Cost of EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor
1	Extension of service line by way of laying and fitting of 50/40/25mm dia G.I pipeline at Milat Abad Peerbagh.	0.91	1820	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
2	Providing of water supply to Railway Colony Right side Railway Bridge Rawalpora by way of laying and fitting of 40/25mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.60	1200	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
3	Laying and fitting of 50/40/25mm dia G.I pipeline for improvements of Water supply to Gazi Doori from 150mm dia MP line Alamgari Bazar.	0.53	1060	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
4	Augmentation of water supply to tail end area of Gousia Sector Azad Basti West Natipora by way of laying and fitting of 50/25mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.46	920	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
5	Relainment of 100mm dia G.I pipeline laid from Sazgari Pora to Zadibal through Khushal Sar under Impmt./Extension	0.45	900	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
6	Improvements of water supply by way of laying and fitting of 40/25mm dia G.I pipeline at Khan Colony & Firdous Abad Batamaloo Lane No. 9.	0.28	560	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
7	Improvements of water supply by way of laying & fitting of 20mm dia G.I pipeline at Khushal Sar Dar Mohalla Zadibal and Ali Park to Kathmaidan Zadibal	0.22	440	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
8	Improvements/providing of water supply to Patti Astan Pora and Wali Sahab Colony Rawalpora by way of L/F of 25/20mm dia G.I pipeline	0.20	400	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
9	Improvements of water supply by way of laying and fitting of 25/20mm dia G.I pipeline for Tarabal Nawa Kadal Kawadara.	0.18	360	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
10	Providing of water supply facilities to Usmania Colony Gooripora Rawalpora by way of laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.18	360	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
11	Improvements of water supply to Green Avenue Sector B Peer Bagh by way of laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.14	280	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"
12	Improvements of water supply to Towheed Bagh Humhama by way of laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.13	260	200	Capex	07 days	"DEE"

Note: For further details, bidders are requested to refer to E-NIT No: - WWD / 14 of 2023-24 Dt: 18-07-2023. Instructions published on website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> The dates showing 'bid submission date/closing date etc. are given below:

1	Date of publishing	18-07-2023
2	Document downloading date	18-07-2023 / 1700 hrs
3	Bid submission start date	18-07-2023 / 1700 hrs
4	Bid submission closing date	24-07-2023 / 1600 hrs
5	Date and time for opening bids	25-07-2023 / 1400 hrs
6	Place of opening of bids	Office of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Water Works Division Srinagar

No: WWD/2455-66  
Dated: 18-07-2023

**DIPK-5386-23**  
DT: 19-07-2023



# Rohit re-enters top 10 on latest ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings

UNI

**DUBAI:** Rohit Sharma's 10th Test century in the first Test against the West Indies has seen the India captain re-enter the top 10 on the latest ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings, while young gun Yashasvi Jaiswal has made his maiden appearance on the updated list after a stunning debut.

India cruised to a comprehensive victory over the West Indies in the opening Test of the two-match ICC World Test Championship series in Dominica and both Rohit and Jaiswal were prominent with superb centuries. Rohit set the tone with a solid knock of 103 and this allowed the experienced captain to rise three places and inside the top 10 once again to be rated slightly ahead of compatriot Rishabh Pant (11th) and Virat Kohli (14th) as the highest ranked Indian batter, according to ICC media release.

But there may soon be a new challenger to emerge, with Jaiswal entering the batting rankings in 73rd place following his magnificent innings of 171 from 387 deliveries against the West Indies in what was his first Test for his country. The 21-year-old did not look overawed at Test level as he registered the third-highest score for an India opener on debut and the highest away from home, to deservedly win the Player of the Match award in his inaugural Test appearance. Rohit and Jaiswal



weren't the only Indian players to make ground in the rankings courtesy of their Caribbean adventures against the West Indies, with No.1 ranked bowler Ravichandran Ashwin further extending his lead at the top of the bowling rankings following his 12-wicket haul for the match.

The impressive bowling performance saw Ashwin improve a total of 24 rating points, meaning the experienced right-arter now holds a 56-point lead ahead of Australia captain Pat Cummins in second place on the updated rankings for Test bowlers.

Fellow India spinner Ravindra Jadeja played an important supporting role to Ashwin during that first Test by collecting five wickets of his own and that saw the left-arter rise three places to seventh overall on the bowler rankings.

There was also some movement on the latest T20I rankings following the completion of Bangladesh's home series against Afghanistan, with star spinner Rashid Khan extending his lead at the top of the list for bowlers despite the fact the right-arter took just one wicket during the two-match series.

Yet it was Bangladesh's bevy of consistent performers that reaped the most reward for their 2-0 series triumph, with experienced all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan climbing eight places on the T20I bowler rankings to equal 16th and fellow left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed rising 17 spots to equal 33rd following their impressive displays with the ball.

And stand-in skipper Litton Das rose three places to equal 18th on the list for T20I batters, after he scored a total of 53 runs for Bangladesh across the two matches.

# Naveen inaugurates High performance centres on Gymnastics, Hockey

UNI

**BHUBANESWAR:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday inaugurated the Gymnastics High Performance Centre and the new Hockey High Performance Centre at the Kalinga Stadium.

The Gymnastics High Performance Centre is a joint initiative with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India while the Hockey High Performance Centre is in partnership with Tata Steel and Tata Trusts.

On this occasion Chief Minister also presented a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to Odia gymnasts Rakesh Patra and Tapan Mohanty for qualifying for the upcoming Asian Games 2023.

Speaking at the inauguration event, Patnaik said, "Odisha follows a partnership model for sporting excellence. With the inauguration of the new Hockey High Performance Centre and the Gymnastic High Performance Centre, Odisha's sporting ecosystem has become even more robust, enhancing athletes' abilities to compete and shine in both national and international competitions.

These new centres, he said, will play a pivotal role in discovering untapped talents and nurturing potential medal-winning athletes."

Dedicating Gymnastics High Performance Centre to the gymnasts of India, the Chief Minister said "Odisha is committed to the development of Gymnastics. I am delighted to see our state and AM/



NS India come together towards the development of Gymnastics.

This partnership, he said, will go a long way in creating a vibrant gymnastics ecosystem in the country and help identify and nurture young talent for the future."

Speaking of the new hockey high performance centre, Patnaik said, "We are extremely happy with our partnership with the Tata Group for hockey development at HPC and even grassroots centers.

This will help nurture talent and contribute towards producing elite players for the national teams.

Patnaik further said "We have now developed a more open and holistic sports ecosystem with excellent and modern infrastructure with an aim of helping athletes in achieving sporting excellence."

The Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre has been

set up to promote the sport of gymnastics in India and transform Odisha into a national centre for gymnastics excellence.

It is equipped with advanced equipment and facilities and will train and prepare both senior and grassroots level athletes.

Six athletes of the Gymnastics HPC including one in reserve have been selected to represent India in the upcoming Asian Games 2023, a testament to their talent and the quality of training provided at the Centre.

The MoU was signed in Kyoto by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel to set up the Gymnastics HPC during the visit of the Chief Minister to Japan in April, 2023.

The inaugurated complex of the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre is a residential facility for boy and girl cadets with class room, gymnasium, kitchen and dining, physiotherapy room and other multi-

purpose room, all housed under one roof with a practice pitch alongside.

The Hockey HPC programme that was launched in August 2019 now has hundred players in total, fifty boys and fifty girls, who have progressively increased over the years under the aegis of the expert coaches.

Since 2019, Odisha has emerged to be a hub of high performance centres in the country.

Odisha has high performance centres for shooting, hockey, badminton, weightlifting, athletics, sports science, swimming, football, gymnastics and a centre of excellence in sports management.

The Chief Minister also announced the strengthening of the partnership with Tata group and starting of new HPCs in Archery and Sports climbing. This will further help Odisha sports persons to develop their skills in these sports disciplines.

# UN Women, FIFA team up to promote gender equality at Women's World Cup

UNI

**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Women and FIFA are teaming up during the upcoming FIFA Women's World Cup to advance gender equality in football and prevent abuse and discrimination on and off the field, said UN Women on Wednesday.

The 2023 tournament, scheduled from July 20 to August 20 in Australia and New Zealand, is expected to be seen by over 2 billion people, the largest audience in history for a single women's sport, which offers an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements in sport and to move the needle - both for women's football and for gender equality, said UN Women in a press release.

Globally, women players continue to struggle with fewer professional opportunities, a massive pay gap, fewer sponsorships, less airtime, and unequal playing conditions. When women players do succeed, they regularly face a toxic backlash of abuse online and offline, said the UN body for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

To address some of these challenges and advance in closing the gender gap in football, FIFA raised the prize money for the 2023 Women's World Cup as part of a three-step gender equality plan. "Football Unites the World" campaign will highlight major gender equality issues during the tournament, it said.

Under this umbrella,

UN Women is partnering with FIFA to call for action to "Unite for Gender Equality" and "Unite for Ending Violence Against Women," said the UN agency. The two calls to action will be promoted via the team captains' armbands, pitch-side digital LED boards, large flags presented on the pitch, giant screens in stadiums and via social media. Unite for Gender Equality will be the featured message on July 30 to August 3 and Unite to End Violence Against Women will be the designated message during the semifinal on August 16, said UN Women.

"The women competing in this World Cup are role models for every girl on this planet. Their strength and skills are inspirational. At the same time, this tournament is a reminder that there are too many women and girls who are excluded from the world of sport, and that even for those who do participate too often experience discriminatory treatment and, even in some cases, abuse," said UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous.

"The Women's World Cup shows us how much not only they but the whole world misses out on when we fail to afford women and girls the same opportunities as men and boys. Our partnership with FIFA, including on the global 'Football Unites the World' campaign, reflects a serious commitment and ambition to address that for everyone's benefit," she added.

## WOMEN'S ASHES

# Winning two trophies against Australia is really special, says Heather Knight

IAN S

**TAUNTON:** Despite Australia retaining the Women's Ashes, England captain Heather Knight hailed her side's T20 and ODI series victories as "really special".

A thrilling women's Ashes series came to a close at Taunton with England defeating Australia by 69 runs via DLS method in the third ODI on Tuesday night.

The victory allowed England to clinch the ODI series 2-1, but Australia still retained the Women's Ashes as the multi-format series ended tied at 8-8 following the seven matches, due to the Alyssa Healy-led side being previous holders of the trophy. But more importantly, England handed Australia their first ODI series defeat in a decade.



"I'm hugely pleased, it's a draw isn't it. And we've got two trophies against the world champions, which is really special. I think the fact that we'd gone so close and gone toe-to-toe with Australia, in the Test and that first T20, I think it actually built more belief - even though we didn't get the results," said Heather after the match. England had come close to taking the Women's Ashes, but a three-run loss in the second ODI at Southampton had dashed those hopes.

"I think the way that the group has turned it around after the Ageas Bowl, it was a pretty quiet bus journey, on the way here there was a lot of emotion and disappointment that the Ashes

had slipped away, but I think credit to the group, and to the staff, the way they've turned it around and really turned up in the match," added Heather.

England looked to be heading towards losing Women's Ashes early after being 6-0 behind due to losing the one-off Test and first T20I match. But the hosts staged a remarkable fightback to win four of the remaining five matches.

"I think it was just staying very level, obviously accepting we were in the situation, but that we could do a lot about it. We felt like we were really close, and we had the players to compete with this really good side. So credit to the girls for still believing, and I think the staff as well deserve a huge amount of credit for being

able to keep us believing," stated Heather. For the ODI leg of the Women's Ashes, all three games were sold out and Heather concluded by saying England wanted to enthrall the crowd through their performance in Taunton.

"We wanted to continue playing how we had all series. We wanted to entertain and inspire this crowd that had come out to support us," the England skipper said. "We owed it to everyone to try to do that, and obviously, there was a lot on the line still. So I'm hugely impressed by how the girls have done that and very happy to be finishing with a draw," she added.

# Asia Cup: India vs Pakistan set for September 2 in Kandy, reports

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Team India will play Pakistan on September 2 in Kandy in the 2023 Asia Cup, scheduled to start on August 30, said a report.

According to ESPNcricinfo, the tournament opener will be played in Multan with hosts Pakistan playing Nepal with the final scheduled in Colombo on September 17. "Those matches feature in the latest version of the draft schedule which is likely to see further changes before the ACC announces the final version. The original draft schedule, prepared by the PCB (the hosting board), has already undergone several iterations mainly because of the six-nation tournament being played in Pakistan and Sri Lanka based on the hybrid

model approved by the ACC recently," it said.

"A total of 13 matches will be played in the tournament, all of which are scheduled to start at 1pm Pakistan Standard Time (1.30pm IST). Pakistan are grouped with India and Nepal in Group A while Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are in Group B. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super Four stage with the top two teams in this phase advancing to the final. The Asia Cup, which will be played in the 50-overs format this time, is essentially a preparation run for five of the six teams - barring Nepal - for the ODI World Cup which begins from October 5 in India," it said.

IAN S has learnt that the official announcement will be made on Wednesday evening.

# Indian Women's Hockey Team lose 1-4 to hosts Germany

UNI

**WIESBADEN (GERMANY):** The Indian Women's Hockey Team lost 1-4 to Germany in the first of the two matches against the hosts played here on Tuesday.

Youngster Vaishnavi Vittal Phalke (29) was the lone goal-scorer for India while Nike Lorenz (6', 59') and Jette Fleschütz (14', 43') scored a brace in Germany's win.

The hosts began the match on an attacking note, putting India on the backfoot at the very beginning. They scored back-to-back goals in the first quarter mounting pressure on India's defence.

Germany's first goal came off Nike Lorenz' well-executed PC while the team's second goal came off

a penalty stroke via Jette. Though the visitors tried to bounce back when they were awarded a PC

in the 11th minute, the chance could not be converted, the Hockey India sources said.

However, in the second quarter, the Indian team emerged from the early setback with a well-structured game. While they didn't allow any goals by Germany, they successfully converted a

PC in the 29th minute through Vaishnavi.

With the score reading 2-1 at half time, Germany returned to the pitch with a plan to test the Indian defence. While India lived up to the fight, an infringement by India's defence while halting the German attack in the circle, saw them concede a PC. Jette made no mistake in converting the opportunity and help her team extend the lead to 3-1. Though India found a few chances in the final quarter to score, the German defence was too strong to breach.

# KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER O&M DIVISION BIJBHARA

Phone No.01932-234398, Fax-01932-234398. E-mail:-exenedbij@yahoo.in

## SHORT TERM N.I.T

No:-EDB/37 of 2023-24

Date: - 19-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed tenders duly affixed with- Revenue Stamps worth Rs. 10/= are invited from registered Contractors.

S.No	Description	Adv. Cost. (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Position of Funds
1.	Supply and installation of 3 No. Hoarding Boards of size 6'x3' along the Pahalgam axis in connection with SANJY -23 under Contingency work of SANJY 2023.	Rs. 61500/-	Rs. 200.00	Demanded

Detailed tender document can be had from office of the undersigned on any working day up to 24-07-2023 against cost of tender document. The tenderer shall have to produce Renewed Registration Card, valid PAN, and GSTIN with clearance at the time of obtaining the detailed tender documents.

The tender document shall reach the office of Executive Engineer ED Bijbehara through registered post/speed post or by hand by or before 27-07-2023 up to 1:00 PM The tender document shall be opened on the last date of receipt of tenders or any other convenient date in presence of the tenderers who wish to be present.

Moreover the award of contract shall be subject to conducive atmosphere for conducting of Yatra amid Covid Pandemic and shall be sub servient to further instructions of Govt.

No. EDB/TS/5281-88

Date: 19-07-2023

DIPK-NB-2090-23

DT: 19-07-2023

Sd/-

Executive Engineer, O&M Division Bijbehara



# Rains lash Kashmir, MeT predicts more till Jul 23

OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: Several stations of Jammu division including Katra and Reasi received record-break rainfall in the last 30 hours as the rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir parts since last evening, bringing down the mercury in the Union Territory while the weatherman here has predicted more rainfall till July 23.

The roads as well as the streets got submerged at multiple places across Kashmir after the rains lashed Valley since the wee hours of this morning while in Kupwara district in northern district, a bridge got damaged due to flash flood like situation in this afternoon.

The record-breaking 24-hour rainfall was recorded in Katra where 315.4 mm precipitation was recorded today.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus said that the highest-ever 24-hour rainfall of 292.4 mm in Katra was recorded on July 31, 2019 while today's precipitation has become the highest ever since 1980.

In Reasi also, the rainfall of 304.0 mm was recorded today followed by Udhampur where a precipitation



of 296.4 mm was recorded, he said.

Jammu station has recorded a rainfall of 119.2 mm in the last 30 hours, Lotus said.

Meanwhile, an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng told KNO that there is a possibility of more rainfall in Katra in coming days.

However, he said that this July Reasi and Katra could potentially experience its wettest July, surpassing all previous records. He added that the highest monthly rainfall

total for Katra is 1144.0 mm, which was recorded in 1988.

Keng further said that no heavy rainfall was recorded anywhere in Kashmir today, but in northern districts, moderate rainfall was recorded at some places.

Flash floods were witnessed in Zirhama area of Kupwara during which some roads got partially damaged while a bridge was also damaged in the village.

As per Director MeT, the weather would remain gen-

erally cloudy tonight while there is a possibility of rain in late night, early morning at multiple places in Jammu and scattered places of Kashmir.

Lotus further said from July 20-22, the intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower would possibly occur at many places of Jammu and at scattered places of Kashmir.

He said that the heavy rain would likely occur at some places of Jammu region during July 20-July 23.

Lotus in his advisory said that a risk of flash

flood, mudslide and landslides has increased due to heavy rain and thus simultaneously the people are advised to remain cautious and stay away from streams, rivers and other vulnerable spots.

Meanwhile, the roads and streets got submerged at multiple places in Srinagar and elsewhere while the residents of Saifudin Pora, Rajauri Kadal, in downtown Srinagar, said that ground floors of some residential houses got submerged under water.

The affected residents have appealed to the administration, particularly the municipal authorities, to visit the area and assess the extent of the damage to their homes.

The residents said that the early morning rains resulted in the submergence of the ground floors of several residential houses in downtown's Saifudin Pora. Distressed families said that with every rainfall, their ground floors get flooded due to the lack of a proper drainage system in the area.

They further said that despite repeatedly requests the concerned authorities to address the issue and fix the drainage system, their pleas have fallen on deaf ears—(KNO)

## SSP B'la reviews Muharram preparedness, visits various Imambaras

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of Muharram processions in Baramulla and to take holistic view of the facilities being extended to people during the holy month of Muharram-ul-haram, SSP Baramulla Amod Ashok Nagapure along with SDM Pattan Faheem Bihauqi & SDPO Pattan Mohammad Nawaz reviewed Muharram pre-

paredness and visited various Imambaras, where from Muharram processions are expected to be carried out.

During his visits, SSP Baramulla also interacted with prominent citizens & Intizamiya committees for the hassle-free conduct of Majlis & processions. Special attention was given to crowd management, ensuring the smooth flow of processions, and maintaining public order during the period, a police spokesman

said in a statement issued.

While responding to the suggestions and issues put forth by the representatives of community, visiting officers assured them that all their genuine demands will be looked into on priority. SSP Baramulla urged all concerned stakeholders to cooperate and extend their support to ensure the success of Muharram-ul-Haram observances while maintaining peace and harmony in the district.

## DC G'bal convenes District level CDC meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir who is also the Chairman District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) Wednesday convened a meeting of District level Cooperative Development Committee for implementation of various schemes aimed to strengthen Cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach to the grassroots level.

The chair was informed that the Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and IT, NABARD and CSC e-governance ser-

vice India Ltd has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) enabling PACS to undertake CSC services.

Under this initiative more than 300 e-services in rural areas including banking, insurance, health services, bus/air/rail tickets etc shall be provided by the PACS.

The chair was also informed that in order to diversify the business activities of PACS to make them vibrant economic entities various initiatives like opening up of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, LPG/Petrol/ Diesel distribution outlets are being undertaken by Union/State Gov-

ernment for which all the 13 PACS registered in this district have adopted the model bye laws.

The chair directed all the members of the committee to work in close coordination in order to fulfill the various initiatives undertaken under the guidance of Ministry of Cooperation in order to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem. He assured all possible support from District Administration to achieve the set targets.

The meeting was attended by ACR Ganderbal, CAHO, Ad FCS&CA and other concerned officers and officials.

## Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Mir Baba Hyder (RA) to commence July 27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The sacred occasion of Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Mir Baba Hyder (RA) is scheduled to be celebrated in Tullamulla on 27th, this month.

With the significant event drawing near, the authorities are making extensive preparations, and a main Shab-e-Khawani is set to be performed on 26th July (7th Moharram). Typically, the celebration spans a week from the first day of Maharram (20th July) as devotees gather to pay homage to the revered saint.

To ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for all pilgrims participating in this holy occasion, a crucial meeting was convened, presided over by Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Ganderbal Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Ex-MLA Ishfaq Jabbar, officers from the Wakf Board, and other officials,

graced the gathering. During the meeting, DDC Chairperson Nuzhat Ishfaq issued several instructions, underlining the importance of providing all necessary facilities for the pilgrims.

A key focus of the discussions was to ensure uninterrupted power supply throughout the celebrations and power department was directed to ensure continuous electricity to the holy shrine and its surroundings.

In the quest to maintain impeccable hygiene around the revered shrine, the municipality department received instructions to deploy sufficient employees to ensure cleanliness and proper maintenance of toilets, with the use of suckers to remove waste material efficiently.

DDC Chairperson also addressed the concerns related to street lights in the vicinity of the shrine to enhance the overall safety and ambiance for the pilgrims.

Special attention was given to the repair and maintenance of ladies' bathrooms, catering to the specific needs of female pilgrims, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the celebrations.

Recognizing the importance of access to drinking water, Jalshakti Department Ganderbal was entrusted with the responsibility of providing round-the-clock facilities to ensure devotees have ample drinking water throughout the event.

Nuzhat Ishfaq expressed her sincere desire for the officials to prioritize the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims, ensuring they have a memorable and seamless experience during this joyous occasion.

In addition to the Urs Mubarak celebrations, it was emphasized that similar preparedness and facilitation should be extended for the Urs Rahim Saib Safapora, beginning the following day.

## Tral-Pahalgam road still a distant dream, residents seek LG's intervention

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: The residents of Pahalgam belt in Anantnag district and Tral belt in Pulwama district have been demanding the construction of Tral-Pahalgam road continue to face immense hardships in absence of the Tral-Pahalgam road, the demand which has been projected by the locals years ago.

Residents of Lihindajan, Walarhama, Sallar, Kular, Liver and it's adjacent areas in Pahalgam belt and Bugmud, Karmulla, Panner, Mandoora, Bhatnoor and its adjacent areas in Tral belt said that successive governments promised them that the stretch will be constructed as it will be shorten the distance between Tral and famous tourist destination—Pahalgam, however these promises remained confined to papers only.

They said that just nine kilometre road needs to be constructed from Bhatnoora in Tral to Lehandajan in Pahalgam to connect two vast areas.



The residents said that this route can be later used as an alternative route for Amarnath Yatra and will be the shortest route for people to visit Pahalgam from Srinagar side and vice-versa. Basharat Ahmad a resident of Bugmud said that for decades, they have been taking up this issue with each and every official but on ground no concrete steps are being taken in this regard.

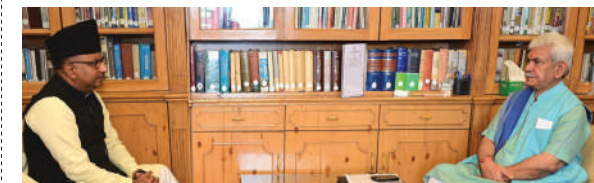
Road connectivity will help the people of both districts to get connected and will help these economically backward areas to earn their livelihood as connectivity will increase

tourism flow in the area.

The residents of both areas requested the higher ups to look into the matter and start work on this stretch immediately so that they could have a sigh of relief. Meanwhile officials said that the government has taken up this issue with union government and they are waiting for a positive development in this regard.

They added that the department has already submitted DPR and the estimated cost of the road is Rs 29 crore, however, they are waiting to get NOC from forest department as well—(KNO)

## Member of Parliament calls on LG



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

The Member of Parliament expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for various development initiatives taken in the fields of Infrastructure, Sports, Health, Education and beautification of public

places, besides the historic welfare steps of increasing Ration quota for priority households and five marla land to identified landless PMAY (G) beneficiaries. He also discussed issues pertaining to public welfare.

Later, Ms. Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal accompanied by former Legislator, Sh. Ishfaq Jabbar also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of various developmental issues of Ganderbal.

## ICAR Foundation Day

### Three days programme concludes at KVK B'pora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The three days programme, commemorating 95th ICAR Foundation cum Technology Day concluded on Wednesday at KVK Bandipora.

During the programme, progressive farmers, farmwomen, budding entrepreneurs and rural youth from different parts of the district including tribal areas participated actively.

Keynote presentations by experts highlighting the importance of technology adoption in agriculture and its potential benefits were delivered during the three days celebrations. Presentations on suc-

cessful case studies of technology implementation in agriculture, showcasing local examples were also delivered during the event by Programme Coordinator, Dr Tariq Sultan and scientists Dr Tahir Saleem and Dr Hilal Ahmad Malik.

Exhibition featuring various agricultural technologies such as high yielding varieties of cereals, vegetables and millets, farm machinery and smart irrigation systems was organized at the Kendra.

During the programme, interactive sessions were also held wherein farmers, rural youth directly interacted with technology providers.

## LG grieved over loss of lives in Kathua

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in house collapse and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Bani area of Kathua district.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor said: "I am deeply saddened to learn about the tragic incident triggered by heavy rains in Kathua, in which a number of persons have lost their lives and many others are feared trapped under the debris. Rescue and relief operations are currently underway.

I have directed the district administration to provide all possible aid to the bereaved families, who have lost their near and dear ones as well as medical assistance to the injured".

## Plant Clinical Camp organised in Budgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with IFFCO Wednesday organized a day-long plant clinical camp at Qazibagh.

Around 100 farmers from the area participated in the said camp. Besides, the programme was attended by Scientists of Kendra, experts from Div. of Soil Science, Div. of Entomology SKUAST-K, officials from the line departments, and representatives from IFFCO.

The purpose of the programme was to discuss and deliberate about the issues faced by the farmers related to the horticulture, field and vegetable Crops for their on-spot redressal.

Senior Scientist and Head KVK Budgam, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone discussed the role of KVK in insect pest and disease management of crops. He further stressed upon usage of new technology and social media for management of insect pests and diseases by getting advisories from the concerned scientists.

Dr Vaseem Yousuf (Scientist Plant Pathology) also replied to the pertinent queries raised by farmers.

During the programme free of cost pea seed was distributed among the farmers. Scientists also visited the farmers' field for on the spot assessment and recommendation for redressal of the problems.

## Night football tournament lights up Apple town, triggers enthusiasm

SAJID RAINA

BARAMULLA: Sopore is witnessing buzzing sports activities during night drawing an impressive crowd to watch matches.

With floodlights illuminating the field, Khushal Sports Stadium has become an epicenter for football enthusiasts in north Kashmir. Locals said that Khushal Sports Stadium which was usually quiet during evenings is experiencing an electrifying atmosphere now.

The bright floodlights painted the stadium with

a magical glow, creating the perfect setting for an unforgettable show of talent, they said.

The tournament organizers, along with local football associations, have planned the tournament to ensure a seamless and exciting experience for all. Enthusiastic cheers, applause, and friendly banter reverberate through the stadium as the players compete passionately under the shimmering floodlights during night.

"I can't believe we have a football tournament under the stars. The floodlights

make it even cooler, and I'm so excited to cheer for my favorite team," said football aficionado Sameer. "The night football tournament has brought so much joy to our town. We love seeing everyone come together like this," said Ayoob Ahmad, a shop owner.

A similar volleyball tournament under floodlights recently concluded in Handwara area of Kupwara.

The tournament became a major attraction for sports enthusiasts as well as locals, drawing a massive crowd to cheer for the competing teams—(KNO)

