



Maximum : 08°  
Minimum : 04°  
Humidity : 95%

SUNSET : 05:22 PM  
SUNRISE : 07:17 AM



## QUICK Take

### India bats for two-state solution for Palestine issue



AGENCIES

**UNITED NATIONS:** India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj, addressed the United Nations General Assembly during the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. In her speech, she reiterated India's enduring ties with the Palestinian populace, emphasizing support for a negotiated two-state resolution and underscoring India's unwavering stance against terrorism.

"Allow me to reaffirm" **P-04**

### CS commends JJM for reaching milestone



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

**JAMMU, NOVEMBER 29:** Chief Secretary DrArun Kumar Mehta today appreciated the role of all the field functionaries and administrative staff of the UT Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) for achieving the big milestone of providing Functional Tap Water Connections (FHTCs) to 75% of the households in J&K.

The Chief Secretary was speaking at the 7th **P-04**

### DGP sanctions Rs.19.62L scholarship for cops' wards



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

**JAMMU, NOVEMBER 29:** To boost the morale and instill competitiveness among the wards of serving Police personnel, Director General of Police R. R. Swain has sanctioned a meritorious scholarship of rupees 19.62 lakh in favor of 290 wards of serving police personnel.

Vide PHQ order, meritorious scholarship of rupees 3,15,000 has been sanctioned **P-04**

## Peace pre-requisite for development; J&K's dark phase destroyed youth's future: LG

MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

**JAMMU, NOVEMBER 29:** Regretting that the dark phase of J&K destroyed the future of the youth, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today said peace is the pre-requisite for the development of a progressive society. "Peace is the pre-requisite for the development of a progressive society. Volunteers of Bharat Scouts and Guides must spread the message of peace around the world, work with the spirit of social goodwill, and contribute to the journey of Viksit Bharat," he said.

Sinha was interacting with a delegation of J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides who presented him with the sticker flag during the celebration of its Foundation Day here at Raj Bhawan today.

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

Speaking on the occasion,



The Lt Governor said more than 63 lakh Scouts and Guides are inspiring examples of unity in the diversity of our nation, and in the last seven decades, they have strengthened the bond of friendship among youth.

"J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides team is selflessly serving the society, contributing in capacity building and cultivat-

ing values like discipline and dedication to the nation among youth and have displayed exemplary courage during relief operations.

"A strong economy makes a nation stronger. India has emerged as 5th largest economy and our youth has an important role in achieving the goal of 3rd largest economy in the next four

years," he said.

The Lt Governor asked the Scouts and Guides to move ahead with confidence and work on five goals- Act together to promote ancient values, contribute to the journey of Viksit Bharat, move together for the nation's unity and integrity, educate youth about potential and challenges of **PAGE 04**

**THE DARK PHASE OF J&K HAD DESTROYED THE FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH.** Today, our youth are marching forward with new resolve to realize their aspirations. Now is the time for Scouts and Guides to embark upon the new goals and engage actively in social development and work for the cause of social equity,"

## PM Modi abolished Article 370, ended terrorism: Amit Shah



AGENCIES

**KOLKATTA:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi abolished Article 370 and ended terrorism in the country.

"PM Modi has ended terrorism from the entire country. Modi ji abolished Article 370 for which Bengal's son Shyamaprasad Mukherjee had sacrificed his life to remove it from Kashmir. Ended leftist extremism. India's tricolor was sent to the moon through Chandrayaan 3. A new Parliament was built and Modi ji took the country's economy from 11th to 5th.... But West Bengal has been left behind because of didi's (Mamata Banerjee) politics of appeasement," Shah said addressing a rally in Kolkata.

Shah noted that nobody can prevent the Central Government from

implementing the the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Lashing out at the Mamata Banerjee-led government, he accused them of indulging in "appeasement politics" and urged people to vote to power the BJP government in the next assembly polls.

Shah said that the CAA is the "country's law" and the Narendra Modi-led Central government is going to implement it at any cost.

"Citizenship (Amendment) Act is the country's law, no one can stop it and we will implement it," Amit Shah said.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 aims to facilitate the grant of citizenship to migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014. **PAGE 04**

## Div Com reviews power scenario; calls for strict adherence to curtailment schedule



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

**SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 29:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today reviewed the power scenario in the valley and the availability of electricity to consumers in all districts.

He directed concerned officers to strictly adhere to the power curtailment schedule to avoid any crisis.

Div Com enjoined concerned officers of PDD to keep a strict vigil on power theft and discourage people from using crude electric devices.

Given inclement weather, Div Com reviewed the exigency plan of KPDC for the restoration of electricity in case of heavy snowfall. He also reviewed the buffer stock of transformers, electric poles, and the functionality of workshops.

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

Besides, Div Com also chaired a meeting to deliberate on the revision of market value guidelines & rules and the revision of **PAGE 04**

## A CS from Kashmir after a decade; all eyes on Dulloo now

ISHFAQ-UL-HASSAN

**SRINAGAR:** Hopes, expectations, and happiness summed up the mood in the valley after Atal Dulloo was appointed chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir.

A 1988 batch IAS officer, he is the first Kashmiri in more than a decade to head the bureaucracy in the union territory. The last Kashmiri chief secretary was Iqbal Khanday who remained indisposed most of the time during his tenure.

The local connect has spurred hopes of a turnaround in Kashmir. Leading the chorus is the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). Kashmir Inc. has pinned a lot of hopes on Dulloo who they say can help to take J&K out of the present crisis.

"He is a son of soil who knows Kashmir in and out. He is a panacea of all ills", Javid Tenga, president of KCCI, told The Kashmir



Monitor.

Hopes of the business community symbolize the overall sentiment in Kashmir. It was Dulloo who was the face of the fight against COVID-19. His leadership and competence were put to the test during the crisis. Like always, he came out as a winner.

Unlike other parts of the country, Kashmir did not witness any panic or overcrowding of hospitals during Covid waves. Dulloo, who was Financial Commissioner to the Jammu and Kashmir government, Health and Medical Education Department in 2020, ensured enough beds **PAGE 04**

## J&K attains feat in JJM, crosses 75% coverage of rural households



Jal Jeevan Mission

MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

**SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 29:** To achieve 100 percent saturation of rural areas in tap water connectivity in J&K, 14.03 lakh (75%) out of 18.69 lakh rural households have so far been covered under Tap Water Connections by the J&K Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The Mission has been working overnight to achieve the targets and so far out of 6596 work components, more than 5600 components (85%) like Tube wells, Bore Wells, Rapid Sand Filtration Plants, Overhead Tanks, Ground Service Reservoirs and pipe **P-04**

## J&K first in country to issue QR-based labels for handicrafts; 20k Pashmina shawls, 9k carpets GI-tagged

FIRDOUS HASSAN

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory/State in India to issue QR-based labels for all its crafts. Jammu and Kashmir government has GI-tagged 20,000 Pashmina shawls and 9000 carpets in the last two years.

To preserve the authenticity of Pashmina and hand-woven carpets, the government introduced GI tags for both these crafts in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

Official documents said that so far 20,126 Pashmina Shawls and 9,700 carpets have been issued GI labels.

GI tagging is a recognition granted to products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, reputation, or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that



place of origin.

This recognition guarantees that customers are receiving genuine, high-quality products while also protecting traditional production techniques and adding value to the products.

As per the official document, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory/State in India to issue QR-based labels for all its crafts.

This innovative approach not only ensures the authenticity of the products but also con-

tributes to the overall promotion of local craftsmanship.

Documents also revealed that the granting of GI tag has subsequently enhanced the exports of these two particular handicrafts in the last two years.

It said in the last four years handicrafts worth Rs 4,740 crore have been exported to various countries.

Official data revealed that handicrafts worth Rs. 1116.37 crore were exported in FY 2022-23 against Rs. 563.13 Crore in FY 2021-22.

Pertinently, in the first quarter of this year, handicrafts worth Rs 208.21 crore were exported from Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the world.

The official document further said that an export strategy is being prepared by the government to double exports in the coming five years.

"Export Strategy for Pashmina, Carpets, Paper Machie, Walnut, and Sozni being prepared with an aim to double exports in 5 years. MoU Signed with NIFT for contemporary design and Packaging **PAGE 04**

## Srinagar Export Hub to be made operational soon: DC

MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

**SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 29:** A meeting of the District Level Export Promotion Committee (DLEPC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here.

The meeting was called to finalize the Draft Export Action Plan aimed to enhance the Export of Goods from the Srinagar District to boost the local economy and institutionalize the Export Ecosystem through the establishment of the Srinagar Export Hub.

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

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



On the occasion, the DC was apprised that Rs 10.65 crore plan has been earmarked under Silk Carpet having different components including Strengthening of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, Setting up of Raw Material Banks, Replacement of Old worn-out Carpet Looms, Skill Up- **PAGE 04**



# Comm Secy S&T chairs Public Darbar

Monitor News Bureau

**AWANTIPORA:** Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology (S&T), Saurabh Bhagat presided over Public Darbar here today to assess the developmental needs of the public as well as take stock of their issues and grievances.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom; Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama, SSP Awantipora, ADC Awantipora, and other District officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary outlined the Government's commitment to directly engage with the people, emphasizing the primary goal of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and Public Darbar for assessing the developmental needs of the public.

Highlighting the potential of District Pulwama in milk, saffron, and industrial sector, Saurabh Bhagat underscored the significant role of institutions like AIIMS and IUST in Awantipora in contributing to the area's development. Emphasizing the need for awareness about Government schemes, he stated that these programs aim to inform the public, stressing that the overall goal is to achieve saturation of schemes.

The Commissioner Secretary further emphasized the importance of connecting with the public to understand their needs and address them effectively. He highlighted that services are now accessible online, aligning with the broader



objective of fostering a developed and connected region.

During the darbar, the public projected demands and issues before the Commissioner Secretary. The Commissioner Secretary during the sidelines of darbar

also inspected stalls established by various departments. Commissioner Secretary toured each stall, gaining insights into the diverse schemes implemented by these departments for the welfare of the public.

The Commissioner Secretary also

administered the pledge of SANKALP to the participants of darbar. He also distributed mementos among the dedicated members of the Pani Samiti, recognizing their invaluable contributions to community welfare.

## KU VC inaugurates seminar on texts, shrines and sufis

Monitor News Bureau

**SRINAGAR:** To explore the literary contributions of Sufi scholars in Kashmir with special focus on those associated with Shaikh-ul-Aalam (RA), engaging in examination of the texts and delving into the wisdom encapsulated within the Sufi teachings, the Shaikh-ul-Aalam Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies (SACMS), Kashmir University (KU) organised a day-long seminar on 'Texts, Shrines and Sufis in Kashmir with Special Reference to Shaikh-ul-Aalam (RA)' here Wednesday.

During the inaugural session KU, Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan lauded SACMS for its efforts in disseminating the teachings of Shaikh-ul-Aalam (RA) and emphasised the importance of reaching a wider audience, especially the youth.

"Shaikh-ul-Alam possessed profound spiritual insight while guiding others on the Sufi path. He is revered for his wisdom, piety and ability to guide seekers of truth and spiritual enlightenment," she said, adding that he played a significant role in transmitting the teachings and practices of Sufism to his disciples



and followers.

Registrar, Kashmir University, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir while exploring the socio-cultural dynamics of Shaikh's era examined the impact of his verses on shaping the current behaviour and mindset of the people in Kashmir.

In his keynote, Former Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literatures, KU, Prof Shafi Shauq highlighted Shaikh-ul-Aalam's lasting impact on the Kashmiri consciousness through his poetic expressions.

Earlier, in his welcome ad-

dress, Chairman, SACMS, Prof Aadil Amin Kak highlighted Kashmir as a culturally rich valley, emphasising the importance of texts, shrines and sufis as defining features of Kashmir's identity.

On the occasion, two issues of the centre's annual journal, The Alamdar and a book in Urdu edited by Prof G N Khaki (former Chairman, SACMS) and Dr Ifshana Qayoom (Research Fellow, SACMS) were released. The book published by SACMS is focused around various aspects of Shaikh-ul-Aalam's life and thought.

## PW Academy to introduce AI & coding skills platforms

Monitor News Bureau

**SRINAGAR:** Physics Wallah (PW), India's leading edtech unicorn, is set to introduce a comprehensive curriculum from nursery to 8th grade through its school partnership arm, PW Academy, with an aim to foster holistic development right from an early age.

As part of this initiative, PW aims to target 2,000 schools for the curriculum implementation in the next academic year. In addition to this, the curriculum will be supplemented with the two free upskilling platforms: PW Nurture, offering training in reasoning, mathematics, and verbal skills, and PW Curious Junior, designed to help children develop their coding skills.

The curriculum will be implemented in schools in three series. The 'Bloom' series, spanning from nursery to class 2, focuses on nurturing and laying solid foundations for 21st century skills. The 'Eunext' curriculum, covering class nursery to 8, includes subjects such as Mathematics, Science, and English. Furthermore, the 'Spark' curriculum is tailored for students in classes 6 to 8, with an extension for classes 9-10, and will impart knowledge in the field of AI and coding, reflecting PW's

commitment to technological advancement.

Imran Rashid, Chief Business Officer of Physics Wallah, stated, "We have consistently been dedicated to ensuring equal access to high-quality education. This initiative highlights a significant stride in numeracy and literacy, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) by introducing a comprehensive curriculum covering students from nursery to class 8. Our objective is to empower young learners, fostering the development of vital skill sets and nurturing critical thinking abilities right from the start. This will not only prepare them for a successful future but also instill in them a lifelong love for learning and a deep sense of curiosity."

At present, Physics Wallah (PW) is empowering more than 100 schools in tier 3 and tier 4 cities with the JEE/NEET test program. PW's school partnership arm, PW Academy, aligns with its broader vision of providing high-quality education to students, including young girls, in remote regions of India where access to affordable coaching for competitive exams and early skill development is limited.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS  
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

**EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender Fresh NIT No.173 of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No. 13912-17 Dated:29.11.2023**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M/H Of Account	Class Of Contractor
1.	Upgradation of Children Park by way of repair/ Supply and Installation of new equipments including laying of G.I pipe fittings for P.C Block WMDA in Financial Year 2023-24.	Rs.4.99 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.9980/-	45-Days	Capex Budget 2023-24	DEE
2.	Upgradation/ Repairs of damaged Two Wooden (Ferry Boat) at Manabhal for the year 2023-24 under Capex Budget (2023-24).	Rs.5.00 Lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.10,000/-	45-Days	Capex Budget 2023-24	DEE/CEE

Position of AAAA

Accompanied

Postponed funds:-

Available:-

1.	The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-11-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29-11-2023 from 2:00PM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	29-11-2023 from 2:00 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06-12-2023 upto 4:00PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	07-12-2023 at 10:35AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in the shape of Treasury Receipt/ Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal. Note:-The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1. The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/ETDR at the time of tendering, pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. 5% of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ETDR by the successful bidder, pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The Performance Security i.e. 5% shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security after award of the contract for the work is issued.

2.1 Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on WebSite www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bid of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).

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

5. Earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

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

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A) Instruction to bidders regarding tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 For participation in bidding process, bidders shall upload Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders are urged to place their certificate to be approved by the tendering authority.

6.3 The bidders shall submit their bids online through the tendering authority's website. The bidders shall be responsible for the physical form of the bid.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned in the Para 1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically to the tendering authority before the date specified in Para 1.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

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

6.6(B) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering which the PW/D Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. The item rate method the unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

9. The Sagar rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above/below at par the bottom of the BOQ percentage template for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation on Taxes:- deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor of the gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B-E Tendering portal to store and upload documents as required.

13. In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.

14. Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the Contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the Performance Security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

15. Instructions to Bidders (ITB)

15.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/qualification information with their bids:-

a) Copies of original documents defining constitution/legislature, place of registration and principal place of Business with

b) Cell No. and Correspondence address

c) Scanned copy of E-Challan/Treasury receipt.

d) Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS portal

e) Scanned copy of Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

f) Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. July-September 2023/Qualifying Monthly, October-2023.

Illustrations:-

The bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest quarter i.e. July-September 2023/Qualifying Monthly, October-2023.

g. Bidders are advised to quote rate without GST. GST @18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority.

All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer (Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card)

15.2 The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

15.3 Non attendance of pre-bid meeting without because of disqualification of the bidder.

15.4 All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language

15.5 Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document(s) which has not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

16. The tender bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

17. All other terms and conditions as per PW/D Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

DIPK:12991/23 Dated:29/11/2023

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT PATTAN

E-MAIL: ICDSPATTAN00081@GMAIL.COM

### ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed Performa (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halgas/M.C. Wards for the engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Pattan on "Honorary basis". The application form along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of the undersigned i.e. Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Pattan by or before 07<sup>th</sup> of DEC, 2023 against proper receipt.

S.No	District	Project	Name of Panchayat	Vacancy of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)	
				Panch Ward No.	Name of Anganwadi Centre
01			Suchpalpora	Ward No. 7	Gowdani
02	Baramulla	Pattan	Chandersser	Ward No. 7	Dadpora Pethpora
03			Nilapalpora	Ward No. 5	Bhat Mohalla Nilapalpora

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No. 222-JK (SWD) OF 2022, Dated:30-11-2023 i.e.

> Women candidates in the age group of 18-47 years shall be considered for the post.

> The candidate should be a domicile of the Panch of J&K.

> The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.

> Minimum qualification qualification should be 10+2 and maximum graduation.

> Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be granted purely on academic merit basis & three shall not be any interview.

> In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retired AWW the said candidates shall qualify for additional two percent points.

> Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

> In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:-

♦ Panch Ward Certificate and Voter list issued by BDO.

♦ Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsil/DC concerned.

♦ Date of Birth Certificate.

♦ Academic Qualification Certificates with class 12<sup>th</sup> Marks card.

♦ Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.

♦ Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.

♦ Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.

♦ If candidate belongs to family of retired AWW, copy of document proof.

> All documents submitted along with the application form for engagement of Sangini ( AWW) are correct, without any mismatch duplicity or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.

> Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Sanginis (AWWs) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.

> The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK ( SWD) OF 2022 dated: 30-11-2022 and is well versed with salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sangini ( AWW)

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost."

Child Dev. Project Officer  
Poshan Project Pattan

DIPK:12989/23 Dated:29/11/2023

## DLSA organises awareness prog at GDC Sogam

Monitor News Bureau

**KUPWARA:** District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), Kupwara today organised an awareness programme on "Women Led Development in the context of recently held G20 meetings" at Govt Degree College, Sogam.

The programme was organized in collaboration with District Hub for Empowerment of Women and Department of Skill Development.

The programme was attended by Female Students, Faculty Members, staff members of the college and Para Legal Volunteers.

Resource Persons Tawseef Raja (Asst. LADC, DLSA Kupwara), Advocate Nibash Hassan (Panel



Lawyer), Shuguftha Banday (Gender Specialist, DHEW) delivered elaborative speeches on the said topic.

Vice Principal Degree College, Sogam also enlightened the audience with her ideas during her speech.

Students, College Administration hailed the efforts of District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara for organising awareness programmes in educational institutions and remotest corners of the district.

## 3 held for illegal transportation of minerals

Monitor News Bureau

**SRINAGAR:** Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have seized 03 vehicles and arrested 03 persons in Baramulla.

A police party of PP Mirgund under the supervision of SDPO Pattan assisted by IC PP Mirgund, seized 03 vehicles (tippers) and arrested their drivers for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Check Razak Khan.

They have been identified as Ashiq Husain Hajam son of Gh Hassan resident of Chayira Budgam, Mohammad Farooq Parray son of Abdul Ahad resident of Bundgam Magam & Mohd Jaffar Bhat son of Mohd Ishaq resident of Khonchipora Tangmarg. They have been shifted to the police station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections



of law has been registered in Police Station Pattan and investigation has been taken up.

"Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units," a police statement said.

## VC IUST inaugurates cricket tournament

Monitor News Bureau

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

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Romshoo said that sports should form an integral part of the daily schedule. He said that fit human resources are productive in their work and directed the

concerned to ensure provision of latest facilities in the gym and at other Sports facilities at the IUST etc. Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, IUST, commended the efforts of Directorate of Sports and Physical Education for organizing Sports activities regularly. Dr Hilal Assistant Director Sports welcomed the guests and introduced the teams.

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





# DC Kulgam chairs NCORD committee meet

Monitor News Bureau

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

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

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

He said that efforts with cooperation, coordination and collaboration are vital to contain the drug peddling and



break the supply chain, besides taking stringent action against the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs.

DC urged all stakeholders to work religiously for eliminating the drug menace in the district. After reviewing the functioning of Drug Addiction Centre and ATF Centre the DC asked the CMO to introduce OTP followup mechanism of patients. He also instructed Agriculture Department for implementing alternative cropping strategy in areas affected by illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in the district.

Police authorities informed the chair that during the ongoing month, 16 FIRs have been lodged and 19 arrests of drug peddlers were made. DC said that drug abuse is a serious problem and it is essential to tackle the issue from multiple perspectives, including deterrence, treatment and enforcement. During the meeting it was informed that massive poppy destruction drives were carried and poppy on 738 Kanals was destroyed in current year season in district.

## 3 persons held with counterfeit gold biscuits

Monitor News Bureau

**BUDGAM:** Police Station Khanshab received information from reliable sources on Tuesday that a group of individuals are involved in the illicit trade of counterfeit gold biscuits.

Acting swiftly, the suspected vehicle bearing registration number JK04F-5047 was intercepted near Gogijpathri Crossing in the Khanshab area with 03 persons on board. They have been identified as Fayaz Ahmad Dar son of Ab. Ahad Dar resident of Malwa Kunzar, Farooq Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohammad Dar resident of Arizal Khanshab and Shabir Ahmad Dar son of Jalalu Din Dar resident of Arizal Khanshab.

During search, 239 counterfeit gold biscuits were recovered from their possession. During questioning, they were unable to substantiate the authenticity of the items and were arrested subsequently.



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

"Preliminary investigation suggests that these persons were allegedly selling these fake gold biscuits to buyers at exorbitant rates and deceiving them," a police statement said.

## DC Kupwara chairs inaugural RDSS meeting



Monitor News Bureau

**KUPWARA:** Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of PDD was kick started today in Kupwara district with DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan chairing inaugural meeting at DC office complex Kupwara today.

Inaugural meeting of RDSS was attended by Chief engineer KPDCL Muzaffar Mukhtar, Project Manager NTPC Anjum Khurshid, SE project wing, EXen PDD Kupwara, EXen PDD Handwara, AEEs, and other concerned engineers and officers.

While chairing the meet-

ing, the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, gave 15th February as timeline for completion of survey under RDSS and stressed that timelines for every component of the projects be met, strictly. However, she assured that district administration will facilitate all ROW Issues.

Chief Engineer KPDCL directed the concerned engineers to stick to the timeline and strictly follow the guidelines while implementation of the GOI scheme. Objective of RDSS is to improve the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers

through a financially sound and operationally efficient power distribution.

The Scheme aims to reduce the Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% and Average Cost of Supply (ACS)-Average Revenue Realised (ARR) gap to zero by 2024-25.

The Scheme has two major components including Part 'A' - Financial support for Prepaid Smart Metering, System Metering and upgradation of the Distribution Infrastructure and Part 'B' - Training & Capacity Building and other Enabling & Supporting Activities.

## Comm Secy FCS&CA listens to public grievances

Monitor News Bureau

**GANDERBAL:** Commissioner Secretary, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Zubair Ahmad today presided over a grievance redressal camp held in the conference Hall of Mini Secretariat here.

The camp served as a platform for PRIs and locals to voice their concerns and seek resolutions. They apprised Commissioner Secretary of their development concerns and other demands.

During the camp, Zubair actively engaged with attendees, listening to their grievances, and provided immediate solutions where ever possible in coordination with concerned departments.

Speaking on the occasion Commissioner Secretary said that main aim of conducting Public Darbar is to have a convergent bridge between the administration and the people, adding that this hands-on approach reflects the commitment of the government for ensuring an effective and responsive administration.

The Public Darbar witnessed overwhelming response from the PRIs and public during which they apprised the Commissioner Secretary of various issues and demands including up-gradation of Government high schools, Dewatering at Government Girls Higher Second-



ary School Malshahibagh, playground at Malshahibagh, additional ration stores, desilting of canals at Salora, early commissioning of water supply schemes, settlement of revenue records at Malshahibagh, upgradation of water supply and power infrastructure and other issues of public importance.

Commissioner Secretary expressed

gratitude to the PRIs and locals for their active participation and reiterated the government's commitment to continuous improvement in public services.

While taking the feedback regarding the timelines fixed for vital development projects especially of JalShakti department during previous public darbar, Executive Engineer informed that the de-

partment has now completed three water supply schemes vizKulan, Nelanajwan and Akhal which will be commissioned within ten days. Besides LariPreng Scheme will be completed by ending December which will cater the major areas of the district. The locals highly appreciated the timely commissioning of these water supply schemes.

## ADDC presides over weekly Block Diwas at Imamsahib

Monitor News Bureau

**SHOPIAN:** The Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today visited Imamsahib and listened to public issues and demands at the weekly Block Diwas programme held at Imamsahib Shopian.

SDM, Zainapora, Mushtaq Ahmed, Tehsildar, Chitragam, Najam-Ud- Din, officers from line departments, a large number of people hailing from adjoining areas of Imamsahib, besides PRIs, attended the Block Diwas programme.

The people projected several demands and problems being faced by them. They demanded basic amenities which include uninterrupted power

supply, inclusion of left out eligible families under PMAY, better drinking water facilities, road connectivity and other issues of public importance.

After listening to their demands and issues, the ADDC assured the PRIs and general public of the area that all their genuine issues would be addressed in a time bound manner.

He directed the officers to work in coordination so that equitable development of all the areas would be ensured.

The ADDC directed concerned officers to resolve the genuine demands of the public on priority and submit the detailed report of pending issues so that the same could be projected to higher authorities for consideration.

## Arrangements reviewed for smooth conduct of JKSSB exams

Monitor News Bureau

**GANDERBAL:** In order to review the arrangements for the upcoming JKSSB OMR based written examination of Panchayat Secretaries, a meeting was today convened by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad here at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

At the outset, the ADC sensitized all the officers about their roles and responsibilities for the smooth conduct of the SSB examination across the district.

Threadbare discussion was held upon the arrangements to be put in place at 15 examination centres across the district. During the meeting, Police

and Education departments were entrusted to ensure fool-proof security and proper seating arrangements at all the Centres.

The meeting also discussed the arrangements for drinking water, heating, electricity, transport; manpower, videography etc at all centres of the district.

The ADC instructed nodal officers to visit the examination centres and ensure all arrangements are put in place well in time and impressed upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination and ensure smooth and successful conduct of examination.

The meeting was attended by ASP, CEO, Executive Engineer PDD, Tehsildars, AIO and other concerned officers and officials.

## SP College students complete EVS tour

Monitor News Bureau

**SRINAGAR:** The educational tour of Integrated MSC Environmental science (5th /6th) semester of SP College students to district Rajouri and its adjoining areas has concluded successfully today. The group comprising of 25 students and 05 faculty/non-teaching staff were received by the Principal SP College Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi in the campus.

He appreciated the efforts of all the stakeholders in making the educational tour successful. The touring party apprised the principal of the knowledge and experience acquired during the tour in understanding the various facilities available in the region and enabled them to study the ecological set up of the area.

The tour Incharge Dr. Gowhar Hamid Dar, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science summarized the activities carried on the tour for the benefit of the students to make them understand the critical aspects of biodiversity and challenges in the area.



He further thanked all the stakeholders including the authorities at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, KVK SKUAST Jammu, Fisheries Department, Forest Department etc.

Among others who accompanied the students on the tour included Prof. Abdul Rouf Farooqui, Dr. Imran Khan, Laxmi Digra and Moham-mad Shafi Guchoo.

## Baseball competition concludes at GCOPE Ganderbal



Monitor News Bureau

**GANDERBAL:** The Inter-District Provincial level Baseball competition and selection trials organized by DYSSO Ganderbal concluded successfully at GCOPE Ganderbal after a five-day event. District Ganderbal emerged victorious in all three age groups for both boys and girls, showcasing outstanding performances by the student players.

Sheikh Shafiqat Iqbal, DYSSO Ganderbal, expressed high praise for the excellence displayed by the student players throughout the competition. He personally

oversaw all necessary arrangements to ensure the successful completion of the event. The final match of the U/14 girls age group witnessed a competitive showdown between the Host District and District Pulwama, with the former emerging victorious.

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

The closing ceremony featured the distribution of trophies to the winner and runner-up teams by senior officials of the department, marking the end of a remarkable sports event.

## VBSY held in 10 Panchayats of Block Kund & Manzgam

Monitor News Bureau

**KULGAM:** Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continued on fifth day in the district, as IEC campaign in 10 more panchayats of Kund and Manzgam blocks was organised with the aim to reach out to the underserved population to saturate the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Panchayat Halqas including Kanchloo, Nagrass, Unil, Kraloo, Pachgam, Hallan, Manzgam- A, Manzgam-B, Chogalpura and Avil Panchayats were today taken up during the fifth day of the Yatra with events witnessing enthusiastic and vibrant participation of stakeholders.

ACD, Mohammad Imran and SDM DH Pora, Bashir Ul Hassan supervised multiple activities organized under the nationwide campaign. Officers and officials continued to aware people about government schemes and interacted with people and motivated them to register for schemes and get benefits under various employment and welfare



based schemes.

Beneficiaries, who have availed services, also shared their experiences under Meri Kahaani, Meri Zubaani initiative and expressed gratitude for the seamless services delivery.

Drone and soil health card demonstrations, health camps for NCD, Anaemia screening and other on-the-spot services were provided on the occasion. Assistance under different government schemes, felicitation events, painting and drawing compe-

titions were also held on the occasion, across the Panchayats.

Welfare, employment, insurance, social security and income generation based schemes were highlighted by all departments who had installed stalls. IEC Vans were pressed into service also. Block officers and officials from line departments, PRIs, students and locals participated in large numbers in Viksit Bharat Yatra programmes in aforesaid panchayats.

## Seminar on drug abuse held at Shopian

Monitor News Bureau

**SHOPIAN:** RNA Media Group in collaboration with District Administration Shopian today organised an awareness programme, titled "Rising drug abuse, defeat the death trap" here in the Auditorium Hall of IMGDC Shopian.

SSP, Shopian, Tanushree was the Chief Guest, on the occasion. SSP in her address highlighted the need to protect our youngsters from this menace. She said drug abuse poses a serious challenge to our society and urged upon the audience to act vibrantly against this menace.

She said that it is the responsibility of the parents to closely monitor their children and urged them to help their wards choose different career avenues through which they can channelize their potential and energy in a positive way.

The speakers threw light

on drug abuse and its repercussions on the health and betterment of the society. Students of various educational institutions took part in the debate competition and also spoke and highlighted the causes and consequences of drug abuse. A film show regarding drug abuse was also presented. Trophies and certificates were distributed among the best speakers.

The event was attended by and Principal, IMGDC, Shopian, Prof. Mohammad Shafiq, Former SSP (Patron RNA), SGM Indrabi, President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, Hakim Khalid, Former Dean Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Hameed Naseem, President Industries Estates Agler Shopian, Ashiq Shingloo, RNA management, DSWO, Ibrar Ahmad, Dsp. Hqr. Javid Ahmed, prominent civil society members, activists and other respectables/youth of Shopian.



## Peace pre-requisite

modern technology, launch an awareness campaign for environment protection.

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

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

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

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

## PM Modi abolished

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 was notified on December 12 and came into force on January 2020.

Citing political violence, corruption, and appeasement in the state, the union minister said thief Minister Mamata Banerjee has destroyed West Bengal.

"Mamata Didi came to power by removing the communists with the slogans of Sonar Bangla and Maa Mati Manush, but there was no change in Bengal. Even today infiltration, appeasement, political violence, and corruption are happening in Bengal. Communists ruled Bengal for 27 years, and Mamata Banerjee's government was formed in the third term. Both of them together ruined Bengal. Mamata Banerjee has not been able to stop infiltration in Bengal. Voter cards and Aadhar cards are being distributed openly to infiltrators in the state and Mamata Banerjee is sitting silent," Shah alleged.

The Union home minister further said that the people of the state will avenge the 'political murder' of the BJP leaders in the 2026 assembly polls.

"Bengal is gripped by infiltration, appeasement, political violence and corruption...In the entire country, election violence is highest in Bengal. 212 BJP workers killed in West Bengal, people will avenge these murders with their votes in 2026 assembly polls as BJP will form a government with two-third majority in 2026," the minister added.

Shah also alleged that the 'Trinamool syndicate' does not allow vast sums of money sent by PM Modi to reach the poor of Bengal.

"Modi Ji sends lakhs of crores of rupees for ensuring welfare in Bengal, but the 'syndicate raj' in Bengal doesn't allow the funds to reach the poor!" the BJP leader said.

Further, listing out the work done by the BJP government at the Centre, Shah said that West Bengal has been left behind from the development due to Mamata Banerjee.

Shah also said that the people of the state want the BJP government in West Bengal.

"The people of Bengal are saying, 'Didi, Aapka Samay Ab Samaapt Ho Chuka Hai' (Didi, your time is up now!)," he said.

Shah also appealed to people to elect the BJP government in the next assembly elections.

"The people of West Bengal have blessed the BJP with around 2.30 crore votes and 77 seats...their enthusiasm states clearly that they have decided to bring the BJP Government in 2026! You should remember that to bring the BJP government to power here in 2026, you'll have to lay its very foundation in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections...Give so many seats to BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha polls that Modi ji says I have become PM due to Bengal..." Shah said.

## Div Com reviews power

rate for the upcoming calendar year. Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the ongoing campaign of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

He maintained that mobilization of the general public to encourage them to participate in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to familiarize them with the welfare schemes of the government is the moot objective of the ongoing campaign.

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

The Deputy Commissioners informed that the Information dissemination and awareness regarding various centrally sponsored schemes is in full swing through the medium of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Van and people are being educated regarding different welfare schemes and procedures to avail benefits from schemes.

## A CS from Kashmir

and COVID centers to meet the challenge. When the country was reeling under the Remdesivir shortage, he ensured that sufficient stocks were available in Jammu and

Kashmir.

Not only Covid management but J&K's vaccine delivery and saturation were even hailed by the Bombay High Court. In 2021, the Bombay High Court asked the central government to look at the door-to-door vaccination program carried out successfully by Jammu and Kashmir, and Kerala.

AB-PMJAY Sehat was one such scheme that turned out to be a game-changer in Jammu and Kashmir. J&K has the highest saturation of the insurance scheme in the country. And the credit goes to Dulloo who laid the foundation for the biggest relief to people.

Dulloo has so many firsts to his credit. He earned a name for successfully conducting the 1996 assembly election, which was first after the onset of terrorism in 1990. He was awarded a silver medal for holding the polls. He was bestowed with a state award for meritorious service in 2013.

"We are facing numerous crises. There is no business. Business confidence is very low. We are reeling under a power crisis. Being a Kashmiri, Dulloo might know the situation. Therefore, we feel he will come to our rescue," said Tenga,

## J&K attains feat

networks have started with the completion of 1376 works as on date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Srinagar Export

gradation and Capacity Building Training, Publicity and Promotion of GI Tagging of Carpets, Marketing, and Promotion, Market Research/Study, Setting up a Common Facility for Carpet Washing and Drying on Modern Lines.

Similarly, under the Pashmina product, a provision of Rs 5.50 crore has been kept to set up a Common Facility Centre for Pashmina Dehairing with Plant and machinery (P&M), Fixed Cost on power supply connection or/ and Generator set/solar System, Common utilities like Water/ETP/STP, etc.

Likewise, the setting up of a Common Facility Centre under DEH product Paper Maché has been also proposed with the cost of Rs 3.0 crore having interventions like Tools and Equipments (Colour Mixing Machine), Computer Aided Design Centre, and Publicity and Promotion of GI Products.

On the occasion, the DC/Chairman District Level Export Promotion Committee (DLEPC) accorded approval to the Draft Export Action Plan of Srinagar for its submission to the concerned and provided adequate market linkage to the Industry through the Srinagar Export Hub.

While highlighting the objectives of the "District Export Hub" being established at Kashmir Haat under the ODOP- DEH initiative, the DC said it is aimed to boost the Export of Goods from Srinagar District with adequate market linkage to the Industry, provide guidance regarding exports, consultancy, IT solutions, data management, etc under one umbrella, besides strengthen support at embassy level to facilitate exporters and importers.

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

The (ODOP - DEH) is not a scheme but rather an initiative aimed at fostering balanced development in the District.

The idea is also to enable holistic socio-economic growth of the local Artisans and Exporters of the District. The Initiative is being run by the Department of Commerce

(DoC) with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.

General Manager, DIC, Director IICT, GM Trade Promotion Organization, Assistant Director Export Handicrafts, Lead District Manager, and others concerned while the representatives from MSME, Sector Specific Export Promotion Council, Quality & Standards Implementation Body, JKTPO, and others concerned were present in the meeting.

## J&K first in country

," it said.

The official document said GI tagging has provided greater recognition and protection to the handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir subsequently boosting the local economy.

An official of the handicrafts department said they are chalking out strategies to further push the exports of Kashmiri handicrafts.

"From holding exhibitions countrywide to promoting the craft through various mediums, the government is preparing a strategy to increase our production as well as its sale worldwide," he said.

## India bats for two-

our longstanding bond with the Palestinian people, rooted in deep historical and human connections, and our consistent backing of Palestine's pursuit for statehood, peace, and prosperity," stated Kamboj. "India maintains a firm stance of zero tolerance towards terrorism. We strongly advocate adherence to international humanitarian laws," she added.

Kamboj condemned civilian casualties, labeling the loss of innocent lives as entirely unacceptable. Stressing the importance of accountability from all parties involved, she urged for responsible actions.

Calling for collective international efforts to de-escalate tensions, Kamboj denounced acts of terrorism and emphasized India's belief in the two-state solution. "India has consistently supported negotiations for a two-state resolution to the Israel-Palestine matter, leading to the establishment of an independent, secure, and viable Palestinian state alongside Israel, within recognized borders, fostering peace," she asserted, reiterating India's support for a fair and lasting resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"We strongly believe that a negotiated two-state solution addressing final status matters through direct and substantive dialogues between both sides will bring about the enduring peace desired and deserved by the Israeli and Palestinian people," she added.

Regarding the October 7 attacks, Kamboj expressed India's concerns and extended prayers for the safe return and well-being of the hostages. "The recent terror attacks in Israel on October 7 were abhorrent and merit absolute condemnation. Terrorism and hostage-taking have no justification," Kamboj firmly stated. She demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages. Additionally, she highlighted India's humanitarian aid, including 16.5 tonnes of medical supplies, and mentioned the involvement of India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in communicating with regional leaders.

Kamboj pledged India's ongoing support for the Palestinian people through bilateral development partnerships encompassing various sectors such as healthcare, education, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, and information technology.

## CS commends

Apex Committee Meeting of the JJM also attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Revenue; Deputy Secretary, JJM, GoI; MD, JJM; Secretary, JSD; Director, Rural Sanitation; Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Department besides other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta observed that the Mission has fast paced since 2022 when its progress was not very encouraging. He made out that through better synergy and coordination from the top to the grassroots level, the Mission went on to progress smoothly and obtain the desired outcomes.

He maintained that such an enormous task is the first of its kind in the UT where works to the tune of nearly Rs 12000 Cr have to be executed in the UT under this mission. He expressed that by timely guidance, supervision, capacity building, and handholding of the field staff the mission accomplished what it has done to date.

The Chief Secretary recalled that from 31st of March last year when the proportion of works allotted was a mere 261 (4%) and works started were just 197 (3%), the Mission today proudly avows that it has allotted 6399 (97%) and started 5636 (86%) works out of the total of 6596 works as on date.

Dr Mehta acknowledged that the journey was uphill but the firm resolve on the part of the current administration of this Department has made it happen for all to see. He also complimented the PRI members and Pani Samities for playing their role in ensuring quality work on the ground.

He advised the Department to carry out the pre-audit of the works carried out under this Mission to ensure the quality of works and erase any chances of misgivings.

He made out that the exceptional transparency ensured through he-tendering and digital payments after seeking necessary Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction would make the task easier to do.

The Chief Secretary also asked the Mission to develop an online application to locate and receive feedback from people about the work completed under it. He called for bringing a layer on the Gati Shakti portal designating the assets and pipe network laid under this mission.

He also asked for continuous handholding and capacity building of locals especially the women and school-going children so that the quantity and quality of water are provided as per the set parameters of this nationwide mission.

In his presentation, the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra informed the meeting that the Mission is going on smoothly meeting renewed deadlines on time. He revealed that by this pace of work, the Department is set to achieve 95% of FHTCs in the UT by year-end and full accomplishment of the Mission by March 2024.

He further pointed out that of the total households of 14.01 lakhs provided with tap water connections in the UT, 8.26 lakh (44%) have been connected since the start of the Mission. He assured that works for connecting the remaining 4.68 lakh households are fast apace and are going to be achieved by March next year by all estimates.

It was further given out that every tap water connection provided under JJM is being reported on the IMIS portal with full beneficiary details in the public domain. It was said that 98 labs in the UT have been strengthened/upgraded for water testing purposes besides 10 labs have been granted NABL accreditation.

Moreover, the meeting was apprised that 33000 women have been trained for the use of Field Testing Kits (FTKs) in checking the quality of water and reporting the results online through the WQMIS portal. Under the Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance, the UT is figuring at 3rd rank at the National level, as was informed during the Apex Committee Meeting.

## DGP sanctions

in favor of 31 wards of serving police personnel for securing 80% and above marks in the annual examination of graduation/post-graduation during the academic session 2022-23. Rupees 18000 has been sanctioned to a ward for securing 94.5% marks in MBA, while 12000 each has been sanctioned in favor of 12 wards for securing above 80% marks in different post-graduation examinations. Similarly, rupees 8500 each have been sanctioned in favor of 18 wards for securing above 80% marks in different graduation examinations.

Vide another PHQ Order, a meritorious scholarship of rupees 16,47,000 has been sanctioned in favor of 259 wards of serving police personnel for securing above 80% marks in the annual examination of the 12th class during the academic session 2022-23. Rupees 7200 each has been sanctioned in favor of 78 wards of serving police personnel who have secured 90% and above marks in the annual examination of class 12th during the academic session 2022-23, while rupees 6000 each has been sanctioned in favor of 181 wards of serving police personnel who have secured 80%-90% marks in the annual examination.

The meritorious scholarship amount is sanctioned out of the Central Police Welfare Fund.

The meritorious scholarship schemes of Jammu and Kashmir Police include scholarships for wards of serving/deceased/martyred Police personnel/SPOs for doing exceptionally in different classes. Special reward is also given to the students who perform exceptionally in the college/universities and technical courses. Rewards are also given to the wards who crack competitive exams like UPSC, JKPS, NEET, NET, CSIR, etc

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## EDITORIAL

### New Sporting Era

Jammu is currently abuzz with cricket fever as it is hosting matches of the Legend League Cricket (LLC) Season-2. The LLC is a Twenty20 cricket league featuring retired cricket players. Last year, the LLC had recorded 16 million-plus unique viewers on the digital streaming platforms in India and its digital footprints have also crossed 600 million fans across the world. Therefore, it is now a significant international cricket event for the Union Territory of J&K after several decades. The tournament has attracted renowned international players, marking what many are calling "the beginning of a new sporting era for Jammu and Kashmir." Beyond the immediate impact on the local economy, the tournament sends a powerful message about the region's sporting prowess and its capacity to host international events. The Legends League cricketers gracing the tournament include notable names like Martin Gupthill, Kevin Pietersen, Ben Dunk, Devon Smith, Rusty Theron, Tilakratne Dilshan, Harbhajan Singh, Nikhil Chopra and more. These seasoned players bring their wealth of experience and skill to the cricketing landscape of Jammu, providing local enthusiasts with an opportunity to witness world-class cricketing action on their home turf. Moreover, the international players took a refreshing break from their intense tournament schedule to enjoy a leisurely round of golf at the scenic Jammu Tawi Golf Course on Tuesday. The photographs of the cricket players on the golf course had gone viral on social media. This not only showcases the camaraderie among these cricketing legends but also highlights the sporting facilities and attractions that Jammu has to offer. It suggests that the region can become a regular host for national and international tournaments. It is no secret that golf tourism can diversify J&K's tourism offerings. The region's natural beauty combined with world-class golf courses can attract a niche segment of travelers who seek both luxury and leisure. The influx of golf tourists brings in revenue through high-end hotel bookings, dining, shopping and other leisure activities. This additional revenue stream can bolster the local economy, support small businesses and create employment opportunities in the hospitality and service sectors. The government's emphasis on achieving excellence in organizing international sporting events aligns with the broader goal of promoting sports culture and nurturing talent at the grassroots level. Hosting events like the Legends League Cricket not only showcases the region's capabilities but also encourages active participation in sports, contributing to the holistic development of individuals and the community. The exposure to international standards, interactions with cricketing legends, and the overall excitement generated by such events are crucial elements in shaping the sporting aspirations of the youth in Jammu and Kashmir. The presence of international cricket stars provides inspiration for aspiring young cricketers in the region. It serves as a platform for talent identification and encourages youth engagement in sports. Hosting an international cricket event puts Jammu on the global sports map. It showcases the region's infrastructure, hospitality and organisational capabilities to a wider audience. It will also help Jammu in attracting future international sporting events.

# Towards a Brighter Tomorrow: India's G20 Presidency and the Dawn of a New Multilateralism



Narendra Modi

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

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

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

of the many. This required a fundamental reform of multilateralism as we knew it.

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

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

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

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

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

A key area driving this progress is robust Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Here, India was decisive in its recommendations, having witnessed the revolutionary impact of digital innovations like Aadhaar, UPI, and Digilocker first-hand. Through G20, we successfully completed the Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, a significant stride in global technological collaboration. This repository, featuring over 50 DPIs from 16 countries, will help the Global South build, adopt, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

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

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

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

Given the monumental resources required, G20 emphasised the importance of better, larger, and more effective Multilateral Development Banks. Concurrently, India is taking a leading role in UN reforms, especially in the restructuring of principal organs like the UN Security Council, that will ensure a more equitable global order.

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

The New Delhi Declaration embodies a renewed spirit of collaboration across these key priorities, focusing on policy coherence, reliable trade, and ambitious climate action. It is a matter of pride that during our Presidency, G20 achieved 87 outcomes and 118 adopted documents, a marked rise from the past.

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

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

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

## The Pannun Report and agenda-setting by Anglosphere media

Kanwal Sibal

A planted article in the Financial Times (FT) on an FBI-thwarted plot to assassinate the known terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on US soil by suspected Indian agents has made headlines in the Indian media. The FT is habitually anti-Indian. The article is by a journalist with a strong Hong Kong connection. He puts together bits of information culled from multiple unidentified sources to produce a report full of innuendos, insinuations and surmises.

Our press takes the veracity of the article for granted and amplifies it locally to serve the objectives of those behind this article of putting India on the defensive and answerable to unsubstantiated US allegations. The play seems to be to dent India's image as a law abiding democracy and "expose" its disregard for the rule of law. In other words, India is not a fully deserving partner of the US for certain circles within the country's establishment.

India is being attacked in US political, media and academic circles for violation of human rights. The US government too raises human rights issues with India, unmindful of its own far more gross violations of human rights within the country. Black Lives Matter, indiscriminate killing of innocent citizens in malls, schools and streets because of highly lax gun laws and ideological obsession in American society with gun possession, elevated to a constitutional right, is not an ill of Indian society. The imputed attempt to eliminate a US citizen on US soil would be, for those behind this propaganda offensive, another aspect of such disregard for human rights norms.

The obvious question that needed asking is whether it is normal for several people to leak information about a case to which they are privy disregarding the need for discretion when the FBI is involved. Why does the journalist have to be fed dribbles of information to build a story when a single source could provide it, if the intention was to make the India connection prematurely public for political reasons?

There is no way to judge the credibility of the journalist's sources. It is all left to the professional integrity of the journalist and the newspaper, which is questionable in both cases. The journalist is visibly delighted he has obtained a scoop and has advertised this boldly on social media. This is not normal behaviour.

The intriguing question is why the FT has been used to publish a story involving the US and India. It is interesting to note that Chrystia Freeland, the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, a journalist, was a Deputy Editor of FT and then Editor of FT Week-End, FT's correspondent in Moscow and Managing Editor of FT USA. She was also Deputy Editor of Globe and Mail in Canada.

It is worth recalling that it was made out that Justin Trudeau had to make his statement in parliament quickly as the Globe and Mail had obtained the story about the suspected Indian hand in the Nijjar killing and was about to publish it, forcing pre-emption. Any Freeland connection there?

A similar tactic seems to have been followed in the Pannun case. The story of the purported India connection is leaked to the press and the ground is created to seek a reaction from the US National Security Council (NSC) and a spokesperson from the organisation, Adrienne Watson, makes a vague statement about the issue having been raised with India which, she said, expressed surprised and concern and agreed to look into the matter.

Our spokesperson says, in turn, that the US shared some information about organised crime, gun running and terrorism with India, and as this concerns India's national security and that of the US, both sides agreed to follow up on it.

The question remains why after the Canada episode, which has caused a virtual collapse of our ties with the Trudeau government, and



*Countries like Russia or China try to promote narratives of their own but their international reach is constrained because Russian or Chinese is not the language of the international elite.*

the knowledge that the capacities of the Five Eyes are brandished in our face, the government of India would take the risk of getting involved in any form of killing of a US citizen, however odious he may be, on US soil and risk a very serious blow to burgeoning India-US ties. The government is not devoid of common sense.

If in Canada's case our reaction was unusually strong, it was because Trudeau's provocation was formal, at the highest political level, and was strong without precedent. In the case of the US, it is a report in a UK paper to which an NSC spokesperson has made some unclear comment. It did not require the same kind of reaction from us. Nor was there any need for a frontal denial as if we accept we are answerable as there is no frontal accusation. There is no need at this stage to get into an open spat with the US government, as both sides would want to deal with the issue discreetly, whatever the reality.

This episode raises a larger question. The West continues to have the power to create a narrative globally on issues of interest to them. They can shape the thinking about other countries at the international level by the kind of coverage they give to them.

In general, the western media is judgmental, fault finding, intrusive, interfering, politically biased in reporting on the non-western world. This stems from the West's colonialist inheritance, the belief

that the rest of the world has to measure up to its superior values, whether political, economic or social.

The Anglosphere, in particular the media of the US and the UK, exercises inordinate power in this regard. Such narratives are built through the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, the Economist, The Financial Times, the BBC, CNN, news agencies such as Reuters, AP, AFP, and so on.

The global spread of the English language aids this narrative-setting. The political, economic and academic elites in English speaking non-western countries are very susceptible to these externally promoted narratives. Stories are picked up from the mainstream western media and amplified locally in these countries as part of the free flow of information, forgetting that this flow is one-sided.

What the local media in non-western countries may say about the western countries, good or bad, is ignored as it has no international resonance.

Countries like Russia or China try to promote narratives of their own but their international reach is constrained because Russian or Chinese is not the language of the international elite. Unlike in the case of India, Russia and China do not use the English language internally and do not have a thriving local English language press linked to west-

ern sources.

While Russia and China cannot build their own media narratives at the international level in their own language, they have tried to do so by developing English level international channels of their own. RT of Russia is particularly good. It is therefore not surprising that it and other Russian media have been banned in Europe altogether in the wake of the conflict in Ukraine. Freedom of press is a principle to be defended to preserve the media hegemony of the West, not when that hegemony is contested.

The Chinese exercise draconian censorship and western mainstream media or even the social media do not get access to China. The very limited knowledge of English amongst the Chinese also limits influence peddling by western media amongst the Chinese elite, unlike in the case of India where our society is very closely plugged into the western information eco-system.

The FT article and its front line coverage in the Indian media as if its content is not questionable reflects the power of agenda-setting by the Anglosphere media. The purpose of the FT article would not have been served if it had been relegated to a small item in the back pages.



# Workers tell Modi: When we have you as PM...



## Agencies

**New Delhi** : "My PMO officials also were sitting there. But worry is not lessened by just getting information," the PM said.

A worker from Bihar, Saba Ahmed told the prime minister that though they were stuck in the tunnel for days, they did not feel any fear or nervousness. "We were like brothers, we were together. We used to take a stroll in the tunnel after dinner. I used to tell them to do morning walks and yoga. We would like to thank the Uttarakhand government,

especially the CM, VK (Singh) sahib," Ahmed said.

Modi also lauded Minister of State of Road Transport and Highways of India Gen (ret'd) V K Singh, saying he showed his training of a soldier.

"The workers used to take morning walks in an over 2 km stretch of the tunnel they were trapped in and also practised yoga," Ahmed told the PM. Another worker Gabbar Singh Negi from Uttarakhand thanked the PM and CM Dhami, the company he works for, the Central government and rescue teams that

worked day and night on the rescue operation.

"When we have you as the PM and people were saved from other countries, we were in our country and therefore we had nothing to worry about," Ahmed told PM Modi.

Modi said he wanted their medical check-up to be done first before speaking with them and the doctors had told him that all the workers were in good health and fit. He also told them that the chief minister will make arrangements for them on their onward journeys back to their homes.

## Israel, Hamas exchange more prisoners on 5th day



## Agencies

**Gaza** : As a part of an extended truce deal, Israel released 30 Palestinian prisoners, reported The Times of Israel.

The Israel Prisons Service confirmed that it facilitated the release of 30 Palestinian inmates as part of the deal to free Israeli hostages in Gaza.

According to Qatar, the list includes 15 women and 15 minors, The Times of Israel reported.

Earlier today, Hamas released 12 more hostages, including two foreign nationals, on the first day of the extended truce between Israel and Hamas, as reported by the Jerusalem Post.

The hostages mainly in-

clude the elderly and certain family members.

As part of the deal, Israel has halted aerial surveillance above the enclave for some six hours daily to allow Hamas to locate all the hostages, who are held in separate locations, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Moreover, to date, 60 female and child hostages have been released from Gaza.

Meanwhile, under a separate agreement, one Filipino and 25 Thai citizens have been released, as has one Israeli who also holds Russian citizenship, according to the Jerusalem Post.

Last month, four women were also freed, two of whom were Americans and another two Israelis.

## Benjamin Netanyahu visits IDF intelligence branch

## Agencies

**Ramallah** :Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the IDF intelligence branch document and technical unit collection unit at the Gilot base.

The prime minister was briefed by chief intelligence officer Brig Gen Avi Keinan and the commander of the collection unit on the research into documents and technical inputs that IDF units have seized from the Hamas terrorist organisation.

The seized information was processed and distributed to the entire intelligence community.

Netanyahu said that the intelligence is showing Israel something "amazing," specifically that the civilians in Gaza above are protecting all of the terrorists below.

"They [Hamas] built an underground city to protect themselves and are sacrificing the civilians above," he said.

"This is exactly the opposite of that the Israel Defense Forces are doing. The IDF is an army in which the soldiers protect the civilians; here, it is the civilians that are protecting the terrorists. We will most certainly reveal this to the world because it must be understood who we are facing."

"We are committed to completing these missions," added Netanyahu.

"Freeing all of the hostages, eliminating this terrorist organisation above and below ground and - of course - that Gaza must not return to being what it was, that it will no longer constitute a threat to the State of Israel."

## Govt offices in EU can ban religious symbols: court

## Agencies

**BRUSSELS**: Government offices in the EU can ban employees wearing religious symbols such as Islamic headscarves, even when they do not have contact with the public, the Court of Justice of the EU ruled.

Such a rule can be imposed "in order to put in place an entirely neutral administrative environment," the court said.

The judgement derived from a case lodged by a worker in a Belgian local government office who challenged a ban on her wearing an Islamic headscarf, feeling that it infringed on her freedom of religion and she was being discriminated against.

The Luxembourg-based

court said a prohibition "of any sign revealing philosophical or religious beliefs... is not discriminatory if it is applied in a general and indiscriminate manner to all of that administration's staff and is limited to what is strictly necessary".

The ruling - valid for public sector offices across the EU - backs up previous EU court judgments that found such bans can be legal in private sector workplaces.

It said national courts should decide the applicability of such prohibitions, and that public offices could also have policies limiting such bans to public-facing workers, or decide to authorise the wearing of visible religious or philosophical signs of belief.

## HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH AT SRINAGAR

### Auction Notice

No. AC/HCL/SGR-359. Dated 29/11/23.

There are some obsolete/unserviceable/Scrap items viz-a-viz furniture/ computers/ printers/ UPS's/ photosate machines/fax machines/type writers/AC's and electronic gadgets etc. located in the premises of High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar wing, which would like to be auctioned through an open auction mode to be held for **furniture items** on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. and for **computer/ electronic gadgets** on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. sharp with following terms and conditions.

- For the furniture items**, all the stock holders will be permitted to examine the auction material on the date fixed for furniture items i.e. 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 o'clock who would thereafter submit their respective bid for upliftment of the furniture material by 1:00 p.m. on the very date.
- For the computer/ electronic gadgets**, all the stock holders will be permitted to examine the auction material for **computer/ electronic gadgets** on the date fixed for **computer/ electronic gadgets i.e. 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 o'clock** sharp who would thereafter submit their respective bid for upliftment of the material by 1:00 p.m. on the very date.
- That before putting the material on auction, all the bidders shall deposit an amount of **Rs.10,000/-** as security deposit with the office of the undersigned.
- The successful bidders shall deposit the full bidding amount on the auction by **3:00 p.m.** and would lift the material and remove from the site at his/her own costs within two days from the date of auction for which purpose he/they will be provided Gate Pass, failing which security amount shall forfeit.
- The security amount deposited by the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to them on the very date of auction.
- The Auction Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh Srinagar shall reserve the right to accept/reject any or all bids without assigning reason/notice thereof.

Account Officer  
High Court of J&K and Ladakh  
Sgr.

DIPK:13035/23 Dated:29/11/2023

## SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

BALGARDEN, KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR 190010

PHONE: 0194-2470466 FAX: 0194-2476931

EMAIL: COMMISSIONER-SMC@JK.GOV.IN

### NOTICE FOR INVITING PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation is a civic body governed by J&K Municipal Corporation, Act, 2000. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation has to perform multifarious duties and functions to provide civic facilities including sanitation, road works, drainage, Birth & Death registrations. Installation and maintenance of street lights etc. To sustain these services it is essential for SMC to mobilize resources. The electricity bills related to marriage-halls, street lights. Ward offices, yards etc are huge.

Further in accordance with the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment, 18 vital functions, have been recently transferred, have to be taken care by the Corporation.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation is empowered to impose levy on the consumption of electricity at the rate of Two Paisa for every Unit of electricity consumed by any person within the Municipal area under Section 84 (2)(e) of Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation in its 14<sup>th</sup> General Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 passed the proposal of imposition of levy on the consumption of the electricity at the rate of Two Paisa per unit of electricity consumed in Srinagar City. The two Paisa per unit is a very nominal levy but if collected across the city it will help the Municipal Corporation to take care of the electricity expenses partially and will also act a contribution of our citizens towards the betterment of city facilities.

To proceed further under the aforesaid Provisions of the J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 the notice is hereby published for calling attention of the general public for comments in respect of Imposition of levy on consumption of electricity under Section 84(2) (e) of J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, within the period of 15 days from publication of this notice. The comments can be sent through email on [commissioner-smc@jk.gov.in](mailto:commissioner-smc@jk.gov.in) or [council-smc@jk.gov.in](mailto:council-smc@jk.gov.in) or in person at the address of Secretary, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Central Office, Karan Nagar, Srinagar.

SECRETARY,

DIPK NB:4508/23 Dated:29/11/2023 Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

## COURT OF ASSISTANT COLLECTOR 1ST CLASS ANANTNAG EAST

**In the case of:-** Ab Majeed Bhat S/o Ab Gani Bhat R/o Krangsoo, Tehsil Mattan, District Anantang. **(Applicant)**

- V/s**
1. Sheikh Nisar Ahmad S/o Sheikh Gh. Ahmad and Ors.
  2. Nuzhat Jan Nisar D/o Sheikh Nisar.
  3. Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat S/o Gh. Mohiuddin Bhat R/o Krangsoo.
  4. Mst. Sarwa Begum W/o Ab. Kabir Wani R/o Batakoot Tehsil Pahlagam.

**(Non-applicants)**

**In the matter of:- Implementation of Hon'ble Court order dated 19.09.2023 and substituted (Dupart) Notice to;**

1. Ab Majeed Bhat S/o Ab Gani Bhat R/o Krangsoo, Tehsil Mattan, District Anantang.
2. Mst. Sarwa Begum W/o Ab. Kabir Wani R/o Batakoot Tehsil Pahlagam at present Krangsoo.
3. Dr. Mohammad Isaq S/o Gh Hassan R/o Azadpora at present Krangsoo.
4. Gh. Mohiuddin S/o Ab Ahad Bhat R/o Krangso. (Father of Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat).

**Whereas**, the instant case is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Court of Munsiff Anantang.

**Whereas**, in compliance to Hon'ble Munsiff Court Order dated 19.09.2023, a team comprising of revenue Officers and Officials was constituted for effective implementation of the Court order.

**Whereas**, the team visited the spot on 15.11.2023 and a full dress exercise was undertaken in order to ascertain the factual position and to carry out effective implementation of the Hon'ble Court order.

**Whereas**, vide bullet point No. 2 of Hon'ble Court order dated 19.09.2023, the revenue agencies are warranted to remove any sort of encroachment over Shaimlat land under the occupation of both the parties to suit, prima facie encroachments of Shaimlat Gair Mumkin Koul bearing survey number 55 were found to be made by above mentioned persons and consequential notices dated 17.11.2023, stand served to them.

**Whereas**, as per the execution report by Lumberdar concerned the encroachers have refused to accept the notices therefore the notices were affixed at the conspicuous places and photographs depicting the same have been recorded.

**Now therefore**, in view of facts stated herein above a substituted mode of service of notice is adopted through the medium of print media and general publication for compliance of the notice mentioned supra to the effect of removing illegal encroachments over the Shaimlat land forthwith failing which action as warranted under law shall be taken.

No. T/M/OQ/1240/23-24

Dated:- 28.11.2023.

Sd/  
Assistant Collector 1<sup>st</sup> class  
Anantnag East

DIPK:13015/23 Dated:29/11/2023

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIAN

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

**Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No.31/JSDS of 2023-24**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jand K U.T, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt. for the following works:-

S. NO.	NAME OF WORK	Advertised amount (Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs.)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
1	Balance work of RWM, supply main sub mains and distribution system for WBS Zrakhan.	46.25	139000	20 days	AAY/BEE	500/-	4215 (NRDWP)	Ex. Engineer

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website [www.jkenders.gov.in](http://www.jkenders.gov.in) from :-

1.	Publishing date	29.11.2023	04:00 PM
2.	Download Date Starts	29.11.2023	04:00 PM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	29.11.2023	04:00 PM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	05.12.2023	12:00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	05.12.2023	01:00 PM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website [www.jkenders.gov.in](http://www.jkenders.gov.in) and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned dates by the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIAN in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan(MH-0215) in favour of Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIAN / latest GST clearance certificate /Registration card duly renewed along with Verification/BID Security in the form of EMD as per above. The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/FDR pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR and other documents in original shall be deposited within two days post opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned latest by 30 days after award of the contract. The check list of documents is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check list.
- In case the bid of the bidder is unbalanced, the bidder has to upload additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below failing which the tender shall be rejected. The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date. The additional performance security deposit will be released after successful completion of the work.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz. Quoted percentage on BOQ.	Additional Performance Security
01.	Upto and Including 15% Below	Nil
02.	> 15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of Advertised Cost
03.	> 20 % upto and including 25% Below	10 % of Advertised Cost
04.	> 25% upto and including 30% Below	15 % of Advertised Cost
05.	> 30 % Below	20 % of Advertised Cost

- Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/FDR / Treasury Challans as required; there EMD will be forfeited besides they will be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to any reason what so ever.
- The tenders shall remain valid for **90 days.(Ninety Days)**

- As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-  
a. Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.  
b. The successful bidder fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract.
- The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject the bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT. In case of delay in completion of work due to contractors fault beyond stipulated time of completion the contractor shall be liable to pay liquidated damages at the rate of 0.5 % of the contract value (half percent) per week of delay. However, such liquidated damages shall not exceed 10% of the total contract value of the item, or a part thereof, delayed.
- The contractor has to dump the sufficient quantity of pipes in the Divisional store as directed by Engineer-in-Charge for use in exigencies. The payment for supply item will be paid as per relevant item of BOQ.
- No price escalation will be paid for completion of the work within stipulated time or extended date of completion due to any reason whatsoever.
- Retention money/Security deposit shall be 10% of the contract value. The Security Deposit is to be recovered at the rate of 10% of bill amount from Running Account Bills and shall be released after completion of the defect liability period i.e; 06 months after the issuance of completion certificate by the Engineer-in-Charge.
- All items of works shall conform to Specifications as per Relevant IS codes and as directed by the Engineer-in-Charge.
- The contractor shall be solely responsible for carrying out the mandatory tests required or as decided by Engineer-in-charge for the quality control at his own costs. The cost of conducting all tests shall be borne by the contractor and shall be deemed to have been included in the quoted percentage rate tendered. Nothing extra shall be payable on this account. **In case of pipes supplied by the contractor, 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection release Note has to be submitted for subsequent check by QC/PD Srinagar.**
- In case of tie for the position of 1st lowest bidder the bids should be out rightly rejected and the work shall be put to fresh tenders
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be.
- The Contract shall be terminated, In case contractor fails to start /complete the work, within the stipulated time period, his CDR/Earnest Money/additional performance deposit shall be forfeited after termination of the contract. Besides, defaulting contractor shall be **barred/ Prohibited** from taking part in future tendering process in PHE Department at least for Six Months
- The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a fundamental breach of the contract. The fundamental breach of contract will include:-  
a) Continuous stoppage of Work for a period of 07 days without authorization of Engineer in-charge.  
b) The contractor fails to start /complete the work, within the stipulated time period.  
Pursuant to the process of termination of defaulted contract, the employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender for the balance work at the risk and cost of defaulter contractor. Besides, his Performance Security/Retention Money shall be forfeited after termination of the contract and defaulting contractor shall be debarred from taking works in PHE Department at least for one year.

- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to torrential rains/heavy snow fall/cyclone/floods etc. shall be the responsibility of the bidder till the work is finally handed-over to the Department.
- The taxes viz. Income tax, GST & Cess shall be deducted from the bidders' claims as admissible under rules.
- The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities), in no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling percentage rate inclusive of all taxes & it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

DIPK:13010/23 Dated:29/11/2023

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SHOPIAN

**GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL**  
**DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA**  
TELE/FAX: 01933/295537;  
EMAIL ID: XENPHEMECHSOUTHAWP@GMAIL.COM

### CANCELLATION NOTICE

**Subject:** Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at water supply schemes Keharpura Kongam nag & Kasana Mohalla of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora under JJM.

**Reference:** This Office ENIT No.: 33 of 2023-24 Dated: 18-11-2023 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/4905-17 Dated: 18/11/2023.

Due to some typographical error in the BOQ of the aforementioned works advertised vide this office ENIT under reference are hereby cancelled and shall be retender afresh.

Inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

DIPK:13037/23  
Dated:29/11/2023

Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division



The soluble fibre in oatmeal slows down digestion and the absorption of carbohydrates, helping to stabilise blood sugar levels and prevent spikes.

# 10 Benefits Of Consuming Oatmeal

**O**atmeal is a whole-grain cereal made from oats. It can be prepared by boiling oats in water or milk until they become soft and porridge-like. Oatmeal is commonly consumed as a breakfast food and is often flavored or topped with fruits, nuts, honey, or other ingredients.

Oatmeal can indeed facilitate weight loss due to several reasons. Firstly, it is a high-fibre food, which promotes feelings of fullness and reduces hunger cravings, ultimately contributing to lower calorie intake. Secondly, oatmeal has a lower energy density compared to other breakfast options, meaning you can consume a larger volume of it for the same caloric content. Lastly, oatmeal has been associated with improved metabolism and increased fat-burning capabilities.

Additionally, oatmeal offers numerous health benefits that can positively impact overall health. It is a good source of complex carbohydrates and provides energy with a slow release, keeping you full and energised for longer periods. The beta-glucan fibre present in oatmeal has been linked to cholesterol reduction, improved heart health, and better blood sugar control. Keep reading as we share benefits of consuming oatmeal.

10 Health benefits of consuming oatmeal:

1. High in fibre

Oatmeal is a rich source of dietary fibre, which aids digestion, prevents constipation, and promotes a healthy gut.

2. Weight management

The fibre in oatmeal helps you feel full for longer, reducing the urge to snack between meals and aiding in weight management.

3. Heart health

Oatmeal contains high levels of antioxidants and soluble fibre, which help lower cholesterol levels, reduce the risk of heart disease, and maintain healthy blood pressure.

4. Lower blood sugar levels

The soluble fibre in oatmeal slows down digestion and the absorption of carbohydrates, helping to stabilise blood sugar levels and prevent spikes.

5. Improved energy levels

Oatmeal provides a sustained release of energy due to its complex carbohydrates



and the slow digestion process, preventing energy crashes.

6. Enhanced immune system

Oatmeal is packed with important nutrients, such as vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, which support a healthy immune system and protect against illness.

7. Reduced risk of chronic disease

Regular oatmeal consumption has been

linked to a reduced risk of developing chronic diseases, including Type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and even obesity.

8. Brain health

Oats contain nutrients like vitamin E, B vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids, and folate, all of which contribute to brain health, memory, and cognitive function.

9. Healthy skin

The vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants in oatmeal promote healthy skin by reducing inflammation, fighting against oxidative stress, and improving overall skin appearance.

10. Improved digestion

Oatmeal contains both soluble and insoluble fibre, which promote regular bowel movements, prevent constipation, and support a healthy digestive system.

However, it is important to note that while oatmeal can be a helpful component of a weight loss plan and provide certain health benefits, it should not be considered a sole solution for weight loss or overall health improvement. A balanced diet, regular exercise, and a holistic approach to lifestyle choices are essential for achieving long-term weight loss and optimal health.

## Risk Of Pink Eye Is High During Flu Season



**P**ink eye, also known as conjunctivitis, is an inflammation of the conjunctiva, the thin clear tissue that lines the white part of the eye and the inside of the eyelids. It can be caused by viruses, bacteria, allergens, and irritants. The common symptoms of pink eye include redness, itching, watering, discharge, and a gritty sensation in the eye.

While pink eye can occur at any time of the year, it is believed that there may be a slightly higher risk of catching it during flu season in winter due to increased indoor activities and close proximity to others in enclosed spaces. Viral pink eye can be associated with respiratory infections, including the flu. In this article, we will discuss the many ways in which we can lower our risk of catching pink eye this flu season.

Follow these strategies to reduce your risk of pink eye:

1. Wash your hands regularly

Proper hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent

the spread of pink eye. Use soap and warm water, and scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.

2. Avoid touching your eyes

Refrain from touching your eyes with dirty hands or objects, as this can introduce bacteria or viruses that cause pink eye.

3. Disinfect frequently touched surfaces

Viruses and bacteria can survive on surfaces, so regularly sanitise objects and surfaces that are frequently touched, such as door-knobs, light switches, and phones.

4. Avoid close contact with infected individuals

Pink eye can easily spread from person to person, so avoid close contact with anyone who has the condition.

5. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing

Use a tissue or your elbow to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets that can transmit pink eye.

6. Avoid sharing personal items

Refrain from sharing items such

as towels, pillowcases, or makeup brushes, as they can spread the infection.

7. Keep your hands away from your face

Be mindful of keeping your hands away from your eyes and face, especially during flu season. This can greatly reduce your risk of catching various infections.

8. Practice good respiratory hygiene

Utilise proper respiratory hygiene by coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your elbow to prevent the spread of infection.

9. Avoid rubbing your eyes

Rubbing your eyes can introduce bacteria or viruses into your eyes, increasing the risk of pink eye. Instead, use eye drops or artificial tears if your eyes feel dry or itchy.

10. Stay up to date with vaccinations

Get vaccinated against common respiratory illnesses, such as the flu, to reduce the chances of developing pink eye or other complications.

## 10 Reasons Why You Should Consider Waking Up Early In The Morning



**W**aking up early in the morning can have several potential health benefits. Waking up early can help regulate your body's biological clock and establish a regular sleep schedule. This can lead to better sleep quality and more restorative sleep.

Many people find that they are more productive in the morning as they have a fresh and clear mind. This can improve efficiency and the ability to focus on tasks. Along with this, waking up early gives you more time to ease into the day and can contribute to a more positive mood.

Waking up early allows you to include physical activity in your daily routine, which can have numerous health benefits. Read on as we share the many benefits of waking up early in the morning.

10 Benefits of waking up early in the morning:

1. Increased productivity

Waking up early allows you to start your day with a clear mind and an opportunity to plan and prioritise your tasks. This can significantly increase your productivity throughout the day.

2. Enhanced mental health

Starting the day early gives you time for self-reflection, meditation, and exercise, which can improve your mental well-being, reduce stress levels, and enhance your overall mood.

3. Regular exercise

Early mornings provide a great opportunity to incorporate exercise into your daily routine. Regular exercise not only helps in maintaining a healthy weight but also strengthens your muscles and improves cardiovascular health.

4. Improved sleep quality

Waking up early can help regulate your sleep-wake cycle, leading to improved sleep quality. Having a consistent sleep routine is essential for better overall health.

5. Healthier diet choices

With extra time in the morning, you can prepare a nutritious breakfast and focus on making healthier food choices throughout the day. This can lead to better weight management and overall improved health.

6. Increased focus and concentration

Waking up early gives you uninterrupted time to focus on important tasks without distractions. This can improve your concentration and cognitive abilities throughout the day.

7. Better time management

By waking up early, you have more time to plan your day and manage your time effectively. This can help reduce stress and increase your overall efficiency.

8. Improved physical fitness

Early mornings offer a cooler and less polluted environment for physical activities like jogging, running, or cycling. This can help improve cardiovascular health,

stamina, and overall physical fitness.

9. Boosted immune system

Getting up early and exposing yourself to natural sunlight can help regulate your body's internal clock and increase the production of vitamin D. This can strengthen your immune system and protect you from various illnesses.

10. Increased overall well-being

By waking up early, taking time for self-care activities, and focusing on your personal goals, you can enhance your sense of purpose, motivation, and overall well-being. This can positively impact all aspects of your life, including your physical and mental health.

However, it is important to note that individual preferences for sleep schedules differ, and what works for one person may not work for another. It's crucial to prioritise getting enough sleep, regardless of the time you wake up.



# International Cricketers Play Golf, Visit Shrine



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

**JAMMU:** Jammu has suddenly become a tourist hot-spot with several national and international cricketers roaming around the city, while fans made a beeline outside hotels to have a glimpse of favourite stars.

A day after the Legends League Cricket's first game at

the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu, the cricketers including Harbhajan Singh (Member Parliament Rajya Sabha), S Sreesanth and several others offered prayers at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop Trikuta hills in Katra, Reasi. Former Indian cricketer, Suresh Raina, whose ancestors belongs to Jammu and Kashmir, visited Kul Devi Temple bordering Ramghar of

Samba district.

Some International players, including Kevin Pietersen, Ben Dunk, Devon Smith, Martin Guptil, Nikhil Chopra, Rusty Theron among others enjoying their rest day at Jammu Tawi Golf Course.

Speaking to media persons in Katra, Harbhajan Singh said, "I'm here to pay obeisance and bow my head in the

feet of Mata Vaishno Devi. I'm feeling glad that I got a chance to seek blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi."

About cricket pitch at MA Stadium, he said, "The ground was very good and the viewers were very excited because cricket match has been organised in Jammu after years," adding, "We enjoyed the match even we lost

yesterday. We and the crowd enjoyed cricket."

Earlier, praising Jammu as a "lovely place," former New Zealand cricket captain Ross Taylor, who is leading Southern Superstars said he believes that the refurbished Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of the city could be a venue for the Indian Premier League.

The cricketer is here along

with over 100 former greats of the game for Season 2 of the Legends League T20 cricket, which brought the competitive cricket to the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of more than three decades.

The first of the four matches were played at the 20,000 capacity stadium under floodlights Monday evening and attracted an enthusiastic turnout

of fans from all parts of the region, including the Kashmir Valley.

Legends League cricket co-founder and chief executive officer Raman Raheja thanked the crowd for turning up in good numbers and said "the objective of the league is to take cricket where the game has not taken place for a very long time."

## "Going For Rs 12-13 Crore": Ashwin's Bold IPL Auction PREDICTION



AGENCIES

**MUMBAI:** Less than a month remains for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 auction. With the player retention list already out, there is a clear idea about who the big stars are who might be in the auction pool. International stars like Jofra Archer, Ben Stokes have been released by their respective franchises while Indian cricket team stars like Shardul Thakur have also not been retained. The IPL 2024 auction will take place in Dubai on December 19 and all eyes will be on how the final squads will shape up after the 10 franchises splash the cash.

Ahead of the IPL auction, star India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, gave his take on how the franchises might strategise at the IPL 2024 auction. Among the batters, Rajasthan Royals

player Ashwin backed power-hitter Shahrukh Khan to back big bucks.

Shahrukh Khan played for Punjab Kings at the 2022 IPL. In 14 matches, he scored 156 at a strike-rate of 165.96.

"I can definitely see a war between CSK and Gujarat for Shahrukh Khan. Gujarat have let go of Hardik Pandya, Gujarat needs a player who can finish the innings, a sort of power player, and they need a power player. Shahrukh was at Rs 9 crore at Kings, and I think he showed his skills pretty well. Is it a decent release? Because I think he might end up going for Rs 12-13 crore again," said Ravichandran Ashwin on his YouTube channel.

"CSK might even take a chance of missing out on Mitchell Starc to get Shahrukh Khan because they don't have a local player or a presence. They went for Shahrukh Khan in the mega auction, and that's why I'm guessing so."

## Extension On Cards, BCCI Wants Dravid To Coach Team In South Africa



AGENCIES

**MUMBAI:** The BCCI is likely to offer another two-year contract to Rahul Dravid but, as of now, the governing body wants the head coach to guide the team during the tour of South Africa as the modalities are being worked on. Dravid, under whose coaching India finished runners-up in both the World Test Championship (WTC) and the ODI World Cup, has had a good record in the past two years and many people in the BCCI believe that keeping him would allow the senior team to have continuity.

"The BCCI secretary Jay Shah had discussions with Dravid during last week. Obviously, the fine print of the new contract is yet to be worked out.

"But BCCI wants Dravid to go to South Africa with the Test team," a senior BCCI office-bearer told PTI on conditions of anonymity. So, will he be ready to go for one tour without signing the contract? "The contract will be worked out but the Test series is important and even if he doesn't go for the T20I series in SA, he can join (the team) from the ODIs," the source said.

In the case of VVS Laxman, he might coach the team during the first phase of the series, also allowing him to have a first-hand measure of the 'A' team.

"Laxman's hands are full with the NCA work plus there's another U19 World Cup coming up. There's A team tour to South Africa.

"He is also involved in cricketing matters with regards to construc-

tion of a new NCA facility which is at full swing," the source added. Dravid, however, hasn't yet intimated his decision as he also has multiple offers to become Team Director/Team Mentor from IPL franchises which is hefty money with much lesser involvement.

However, he may also weigh in on the good work produced by his team which also involves batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey and fielding coach T Dilip.

It would be interesting to see the nature of Dravid's tenure extension, whether it will be for a year keeping the next T20 World Cup in mind or till 2025 which covers the entire ongoing WTC cycle and the Champions Trophy, which is scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan for now.

## Another Record For Manchester City's Unstoppable Haaland



AGENCIES

**LONDON :** Yet another goals record on Erling Haaland's bulging CV had Pep Guardiola sounding -- tongue-in-cheek -- like he was growing tired of answering questions about his prolific scorer.

The 23-year-old became the fastest to score 40 Champions League goals with his strike in the 54th minute that sparked City's 3-2 comeback victory over RB Leipzig that clinched them top spot in Group G with a round of group games remaining.

Three days earlier, Haaland had become the fastest to net 50 Premier League goals in a 1-1 draw with Liverpool.

"Again? I have to tell you again?" Guardiola laughed, when asked for comment. "A thousand million times, I'm really impressed. They won today. Another record. Congratulations. He's a fantastic player. I tell you many times, we're really, really pleased.

"We love him, not just for the goals he scores, but for many many other things."

It took Haaland just 35 matches to reach 40 goals, smashing Ruud van Nistelrooy's mark of 45 games.

But more importantly to Guardiola, it kick-started City's comeback after a woefully sluggish first half left them trailing by two goals for the first time in a Champions League game since 2018.

Guardiola said he hoped his players would learn from the roller-coaster game.

"To win in that game not comfortably, to realise, to put in front of the mirror and say 'We have to do better,'" he said.

"But February (the round of 16) we'll be there top of the group, I don't know who we're going to face but the second leg will be (at home), and we showed again that we are able to make a comeback."

City took a different route to Etihad Stadium at Guardiola's request. The manager wanted his team to see the trinity statue of Colin Bell, Francis Lee and Mike Summerbee that was unveiled earlier in the day.

"I encouraged the club to drop us, the bus, there and we can walk," Guardiola said. "So another gesture for the three important (players)... really really nice."

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## Shami All Set To Take Brands By Storm

AGENCIES

**MUMBAI:** Last month, Puma roped in Shami as its brand ambassador, joining the likes of Virat Kohli and Usain Bolt on its roster.

Four months ago, Mohammed Shami walked out of a hair restoration clinic in Gurugram grinning ear to ear. India's ace fast bowler had finally triumphed over his biggest fear -- male pattern baldness.

With an enviable hairline, and a thick mop of hair, Shami was now ready to take on the brand endorsement circuit by storm. Or so it seemed.

If the bevy of sponsors didn't make a beeline to sign him up back then, they would surely be doing so now. Talent management firms spoken to say they are already looking at him with high interest.

Gliding in to crease in his typical silky-smooth run-up, and with that God-gifted seam position, Shami has married skill, experi-



ence and hard work to make quite a few batsmen look like novices in

this showcase cricketing event. From Ben Stokes in Lucknow

to Angelo Mathews in Mumbai, few have escaped Shami's

dextrous throws.

Against World Cup semi final fastest New Zealand, Shami was in the thick of action once again.

The 33 year old picked up an astonishing seven wickets to extinguish the last ounce of a Kiwi comeback.

In doing so, he became the first Indian bowler to pick seven wickets in ODIs.

Childhood coach Mohammed Badruddin demystifies Shami's skillset to elucidate the reasons for his stupendous success in this World Cup.

"It's all in those wrists," Badruddin tells Business Standard.

"The reason he has been successful is because he releases the ball late, and does not rush through his action. This helps him get that late swing off the track," he explains.

"With those malleable wrists, he makes subtle changes, to bowl either inswing or outswing, and the batsmen are not able to pick them."