



## LG reviews implementation of Social Welfare Schemes in UT of J&K

# Socio-Economic Empowerment of Underprivileged is our Top Agenda: LG Manoj Sinha



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a meeting,

today at Civil Secretariat, to review performance of the Department of Social Welfare, functioning of various verticals and implementation of Central and UT's

welfare schemes. "Social safety net, social and economic empowerment of underprivileged is

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## 'No more tomato shortage in valley, prices go down'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: There is no more shortage of tomatoes and the prices have also come to the ground in Kashmir.

Chairman Kashmir Fruit Association Bashir Ahmad Basheer told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the prices of local tomatoes in mandis here are around Rs 60 to 70 per kg.

As the local tomato ripens up, the prices will drop further, he said, adding that the local crop was very less due to continuous rains which led to "considerable" damage to it.

"We might receive supplies from outside, but the rains should stop and the weather should remain friendly," Bashir said.

Elaborating on the recent price hike, Bashir said, "The prices were touching the sky only because of the flood situation in Himachal. The demand was high and supply was very less." He said the price will further lower in the coming 10 to

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## Need to skill our workforce in use of advanced technologies and processes: PM Modi

■ HT News Network

INDORE, JUL 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said there is a need to skill the workforce in the use of advanced technologies and processes. Addressing the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting at Indore via video link, he also said that globally, mobile workforce is going to be a reality.

In this era of the fourth industrial revolution, technology has become the core driver of employment and will remain so, Modi said.



"We all need to skill our workforce in the use of advanced technologies and processes. Skill-ing, re-skilling and upskilling are the mantras for the future workforce. In India, our Skill India Mission is a campaign to connect with this reality," he said.

"We need to prepare a responsive and effective strategy to address the rapid changes. In this era of the fourth industrial revolution,

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### Police arrest 3 in scuffle at Amarnath Yatra base camp

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested three people who were allegedly involved in a scuffle last week at Sheshnag base camp of the Amarnath Yatra, police said on Friday.

They said the scuffle broke out on July 15 and led to minor injuries to ponywallas and a few yatis.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said the situation was brought immediately under control.

"On July 15, at Sheshnag, there was a scuffle between ponywallas

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#### High Court Upholds Termination Of Judicial Officer

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: The Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, consisting of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Mohan Lal, recently upheld the termination of Judicial Officer Mohammad Yousof Allie. The termination was due to his fraudulent acquisition of an RBA (Reserved Backward Area) certificate.

During the hearing, the Division Bench noted that the RBA certificate in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is equivalent to a caste certificate in other regions. This means that individuals with an RBA certificate are eligible for reservation benefits.

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#### Police busted gang of motor lifters in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: Police have busted a gang of motorbike lifters by arresting four burglars and recovered stolen vehicles in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Police Station Pattan received a written application from one John Mohammad War, a resident of Palpora Pattan stating that some unknown thieves had stolen his motorbike parked in front of his Shop situated at Jamia Mohalla Pattan, and he went to offer Friday prayers, police said on July 14.

But on return, he found his motor-cycle was missing and had been stolen by some unknown thieves.

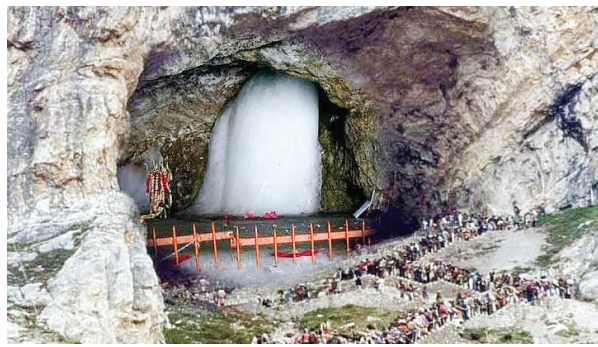
On receipt of the application, FIR No. 231/2023 U/S 379 IPC stands registered

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#### Over 3 lakh record breaking number of pilgrims performed spiritual Amarnath yatra

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: Due to the improvement in infrastructure & allied services by government, Shri Amarnathji Yatra registered over 3 lakh record breaking number of pilgrims who visited Holy Cave just within twenty one



days which is comparatively much higher than the previous year number at the same time.

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#### CBK files chargesheet against nine for securing jobs in SKIMS on forged certificates

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) has produced the chargesheet against nine people in the court of forest magistrate for alleged involvement in fraudulently securing jobs in Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science (SKIMS) Soura.

In a statement, CBK said that its Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Srinagar produced the chargesheet in Case FIR No. 26/2015 U/Ss 420, 468, 471 & 120-B RPC



of P/S CBK against nine people for their alleged involvement in fraudulently

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#### Amid reports of leopard sighting, man injured in "animal attack" in Badamwari

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: Amid growing reports of leopard sightings in Badamwari area of Srinagar, a man suffered injuries after an "unidentified" animal attacked him on Friday morning even as the Wildlife department has scaled up surveillance in the area.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir

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#### Ensure all facilities for smooth observation of Muharram congregations & other events: Div Com Kashmir to Officers

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today visited Imambara Zaidal, Imam Bara Hassanabad and Imambara Magam to take spot appraisal of the facilities made available by the respective administrations for hassle free obser-

vation of Muharram congregations and other events.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC during visits to Imambaras of Zaidal and Hassanabad, and Deputy Commissioner

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## Manasbal Lake To Get Makeover, Will Have More Facilities To Attract Tourists: Dr Abid

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JUL 21: The picturesque valley of Manasbal witnessed the grand inauguration of the Manasbal Festival-2023, as the Secretary of Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, reaffirmed the government's commitment to boost tourism in the region.

The festival aims to showcase the mesmerizing beauty of Manasbal and attract both national and international tourists to this magnificent



destination.

Speaking at the event, Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, highlighted the significance of the Manasbal Festival in promoting tourism in the region. He emphasized that this unique festival is a stepping stone towards projecting Manasbal as a prime tourist spot.

He said that Yehya department is committed to unveiling the hidden gems of Jammu & Kashmir to the world, and

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## J&K lacks robotic surgical system, doctors say technology need of the hour

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 21: Jammu & Kashmir lacks a robotic surgical system due to which patients are left with no option but to visit the hospitals outside the union territory.

Robot-assisted surgery uses specialized technology that enhances the capabilities of the surgeon's hands. It allows sur-



geons to perform procedures in hard-to-reach areas through small incisions. The specialized technology also enables precise movements and enhanced magnification.

The doctors while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said a robotic surgical system is the need of the hour at tertiary

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## Bungus Valley Continues To Lure Tourists In Large Numbers

Visitors demand dustbins, proper infrastructure to attract more guests

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JUL 21: Bungus Valley, the virgin tourist destination of northern belt in Kashmir, continues to witness huge tourist arrivals amid pleasant weather conditions in the region.

After the February 2021 renewed ceasefire pact, peace is prevailing at borders. The no-go zones earlier have been opened up for tourist activities. For the first time in the last couple of years, normal human activities like night camping, bonfires, trekking, and other related activities have started to happen.

Visitors, while echoing their thrill and excitement about visiting Bungus valley told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that there is no comparison to its beauty and authorities need to ensure that plastic waste and others aren't thrown in the open.

"This is a natural beauty and its ecosystem shouldn't be disturbed by human

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### Social, Economic.....

our top priority. The benefits of overall progress and economic growth must reach marginalised sections of society and it is our moral and constitutional duty to address the needs of the last man in the queue and ensure dignity to all," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed the officers to ensure 100% saturation of all welfare schemes and impact assessment of ongoing schemes. The process for the documentation and sanctioning of the eligible applications should be responsive, seamless and simplified, he added.

Bring about change in the delivery mechanisms by making field functionaries more accountable, participative and integrate efforts to achieve social objectives. Right to education, empowerment of women, joyful childhood, greater security and quality life to elderly to be ensured, the Lt Governor told the officers.

While reviewing the implementation of welfare schemes for women and children, the Lt Governor said the safety and security of Women and Children in UT is utmost priority for administration.

He directed for a dedicated integrated mechanism for conducting awareness programmes and ensuring cases are reported, investigated and stringent action is taken. All possible assistance must be provided to those in distress, he added.

The meeting also discussed the welfare measures for persons with disabilities, Trans-genders, old aged and senior citizens, SCs/STs, Pahari community and other beneficiaries.

"Adequate attention and sensitivity required to increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups under SC, ST, OBC Development Corporation and Women Development Corporation and Self Employment Schemes so that they can be made equal partners in development," the Lt Governor said.

He directed for impact assessment of rehabilitation efforts of the drug abuse victims. Create avenues for their self-employment, handholding for livelihood generations and capacity building to integrate them back into the society, he added.

The Lt Governor instructed the Social Welfare Department to organize two Mega Camps for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with the Government of India, one each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

He further directed for involving Deputy Commissioners and PRI members for 100% saturation of disability certificates to all the eligible beneficiaries.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the implementation of schemes and programmes like Mission Vatsalya; Ladli Beti; Marriage Assistance Scheme; infrastructure up-gradation of children and senior citizen homes; working of One Stop Centres; Drug demand reduction and de-addiction activities; Community Mobilization and IEC activities of the department.

Discussions were also held on recruitment of Sanginis and Sahayikas; rehabilitation of children on streets; close monitoring of help-lines; clearing pendency, penetration of new Anganwadi centres at grassroot level; implementation of Poshan Tracker and participation of inmate of children homes in Independence Day events.

Ms. Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner/Secretary, Social Welfare Department gave a detailed overview of the working of the department.

She further briefed the meeting on the Constitution of various Committees; best practices of the department; achievements of students from Residential School for Visually Impaired; compensation under POCSO etc.

All children homes are branded uniformly across UT as Palaash (for Boys), Pareesha (for Girls) and Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA) as Phulwadi, it was informed.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Sh Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Heads of Departments and senior officers of Social Welfare Department.

### ‘No more.....

15 days. He also said that the untimely rains damaged many vegetables.

"We are selling it at Rs 60 to 70 per kg here in Srinagar mandi, and in markets, the price is around 100 to 110 rupees. We have issued a rate list through newspapers and the people should call the concerned department if they find anybody selling at higher prices," he said.

Many local vendors of Srinagar City said tomatoes are now available in good quantity in the market and that the shortage has now "almost ended".

They attributed the soaring tomato prices to two main factors: delayed monsoon onset and unseasonal rain and flooding in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka during harvest periods.

Meanwhile, an official release by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), a copy of which lies with KNO reads, "The Department of Consumer Affairs has directed NCCF and NAFED to sell tomatoes at the retail price of Rs 70 per kg rate from July 20, 2023, in view of the declining trend in tomato prices."

The tomatoes procured by NCCF and NAFED had been retailed, initially, at Rs 90 per kg and then reduced to Rs 80 per kg from July 16, 2023. The reduction to Rs 70 kg will further benefit the consumers, it reads.

### Need to skill.....

technology has become and will remain the core driver of employment," the prime minister said. Globally, mobile workforce is going to be a reality in the future. Therefore, it is now time to globalise the development and sharing of skills in the true sense. The G20 must play a leading role in this, he added. Modi lauded the efforts of the meeting participants for initiating the international referencing of occupations by skills and qualifications requirements. "The amazing work done by frontline health and other workers in India during the Covid-19 pandemic showed their skills and dedication. It also reflected our culture of service and compassion. Indeed, India has the potential to become one of the largest providers of skilled workforce for the world," he said. Fortunately, this meeting is happening in a country that has had an experience of creating a large number of technology jobs during the last such technology-led transformations, the PM said. "Your host city (Indore) is home to many start-ups leading to a new wave of such transformation," he said. (Agencies)

### Over 3 lakh....

With the addition of 13,797 yatris who performed darshans today the cumulative total stands now at 3,07,354.

The galoring figures are testimony to the fact that government has developed physical infrastructure of electricity, health, roads, sanitation and treks besides ensured transportation services from road transport, helipad service and Pony services.

Almost thirty government departments have been looped in to ensure seamless facilities to makes yatris feel at home.

The enhanced facilities from accommodation, food, water health care, Pony service generated positive response from devotees who undertook yatra and encouraged others to embark on Amarnath pilgrimage, this year.

To make Amarnath pilgrimage a memorable life time experience for devotees, the potential of available resources were capitalized to the brim which ensure stress-free and tireless yatra.

This year government made twin axis- Pahalgam and Baltal to glow with lights from base camps to Holy Cave which helped to carry-on yatra during evening hours.

The construction of two State-of-Art 100-bedded hospitals for the treatment of yatris and all the associated people is another epitome of high level seriousness shown by the government for boasting allied infrastructure. Besides, other existing health infrastructure, every camp is manned by the expert health teams who on daily basis examine hundreds of yatris providing them medicine and advice.

Since the influx of yatris is swelling with every passing day, government made it sure that transportation facilities be provided to yatris from Jammu to base camps in Kashmir.

Besides, the helipad service is also available to the yatris who are willing to take this opportunity & facility.

To keep strict vigil on the nitty gritty of yatra for smooth and peaceful conduct, the government established Integrated Command & Control Centre which is integrated with RFID. This data based science helps in effective crowd control management, traceability, avoidance of traffic jams and management besides coordination among all stake holders on a real time basis.

As this yatra surpassed three lakh mark in a short span of time, the government takes pride for serving yatris with every available resource putting them to optimum utilization.

Yatris who paid obeisance at Holy Cave were overwhelmed by the organized facilities and management of yatra. Every single soul who got opportunity to pay obeisance at Holy Cave expressed gratitude to administration, security agencies, service providers and local population who embraced them with open arms. The local people serve yatris Kashmiri Kehwa and warm water to help them to cope up with cold temperatures.

Shri Amarnathji Yatra has become centre of attraction for citizens of nation and also to foreign citizens this year.

Two California, USA citizen, a Ukrainian women, a group of 35 Nepali citizens and a group of 30 citizens from Malaysia are among the pilgrims who paid obeisance at Holy Cave of Shri Amarnathji.

These foreign religious tourists acknowledged the organized arrangements and facilities created by government which made them happy to feel the spiritual essence of pilgrims.

The Divisional News Room working under the supervision of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and the Department of Information & Public Relations are working in tandem with each other to disseminate information about the available facilities and the satisfaction of pilgrims after experiencing the support from stakeholders.

### CBK files....

securing jobs in SKIMS Soura after having committed criminal conspiracy, cheating, and forgery of certificates.

The case owes its origin to an official communication received by CBK from the Director, SKIMS Soura, who complained that pursuant to SKIMS Soura order No. SIMS-23 (P) of 2015, among others, Shakoor Ahmad Tantray, Mohammad Shahid Murtaza, Shazia Hassan, Mudasir Bashir Sofi, and Shameem Ahmad Naik were appointed as Nursing Orderlies subject to ver-

ification or genuineness of their academic credentials, D.O.B. certificates, etc.

However, as per the verification report furnished by the Joint Secretary (Verification), J&K State Board of School Education, Kashmir, it transpired that the academic or D.O.B. certificates submitted by the above-named individuals were fake and forged.

Accordingly, Case FIR No. 26 of 2015 came to be registered in P/S CBK, and an investigation was started to probe into the allegations.

During the investigation, it was determined that, in addition to the five accused, two more individuals identified as Aamir Hassan Khan and Jehangir Ahmad Dar had also produced fake or forged certificates for securing the said job at SKIMS Soura.

It also came to light during the investigation that two persons, Rashid-ul-Hassan Gojjar and Mohammad Akbar Lone (now deceased), were responsible for forging and fabricating the mark cards for monetary considerations.

Evidence collected during the investigation has established individual and collective criminal culpability and proved that offences punishable under U/Ss 420, 468, 471, and 120-B RPC have been committed by the nine accused people.

Accordingly, the charge-report (challan) of the instant Case has been presented before the Court of Forest Magistrate, Srinagar, for judicial determination.

### J&K lacks.....

care health facilities as it has multiple benefits.

They said robotic surgery has multiple benefits and if such a system will be established at SKIMS, GMC Srinagar and other tertiary care health facilities, the patients need not go outside J&K for treatment.

Noted urologist Dr Salim Wani told KNO that robotic surgical systems will allow surgeries to be done with precision, miniaturization, small incisions, decreased blood loss, less pain and quicker healing time.

It is the need of the hour to have such a system in place at the earliest because it is the future of surgery without which surgeons will be "worthless and obsolete", he said.

"It will help in urological, gynaecological, colorectal, neurosurgical and cardio-thoracic procedures with excellent results. Kidney transplantation and open heart procedures are also done with excellent results," he said, adding that there was an acute need for procurement of this cutting-edge technology, which was not in place in J&K anywhere yet.

Dr Mufti Mahmood, former Head of the Department, Surgery, at GMC Srinagar and Director Urology at Paras Hospital Srinagar, said robotic-assisted surgery is revolutionizing healthcare across the globe. "Robots help surgeons to perform more accurate surgeries. It has a focus on precision care. A surgeon will perform an eight-hour robotic-assisted surgery without getting tired," he said.

Dr Sajad from GMC Srinagar said robotic surgery including Artificial Intelligence helps surgeons to improve efficiency. "These advanced technologies offer quicker recoveries, no complications, and less hospital stays. These surgeries will be affordable for patients in J&K," he said.

The doctors said their departments have repeatedly requested the government to bring this advanced technology to Jammu & Kashmir.

The SKIMS, GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu have virtually trained the surgeons for robotic-assisted surgeries; however, the facilities are yet to be made available.

A top official told KNO that the tenders for the procurement of the Robotic Surgery System have been floated and efforts are on to have such facilities as soon as possible.

### Amid reports.....

News Observer (KNO) that today morning they received a report of an animal attack on a person in the Badamwari area and upon probing about the identity of the animal, the injured person was not able to describe or recognize the animal who attacked him.

"We spoke to the victim who claimed that an unidentified animal attacked him, there are injuries on his hand and knee, but he is not sure which animal attacked him," he said.

The official said they are ascertaining the claims and nature of injuries.

He added that a surveillance team was on patrol after the attack, an official too was attacked by an animal, stating that the animal could likely be a rabid dog.

"We are on it to get it fully confirmed and we have also called the Srinagar Municipal Corporation", he said.

The official said that they have already scaled up the surveillance measures in the area. Notably, on Monday reports of a leopard sighting were received from the Badamwari area following which Srinagar police asked the locals to remain indoors and not venture out unnecessarily.

The wildlife department also installed camera traps in the area.

### Ensure all.....

Budgam, SSP Budgam during visit to Imambara Magam, Budgam besides other officers and officials from line departments.

During the visit, Div Com issued on spot directions to the line Departments for ensuring elaborate arrangements and sustained efforts facilitating the smooth observance of

proceedings of Muharram-ul-Haram. The Div Com took department wise appraisal of arrangements including electricity, water supply, sanitation, medicare, street lighting, macadamization, repairs of drainage and manholes, besides others at Imam bara Zadibal and Imambara Hassanabad.

Representatives, elders from the Shia community and other public representatives thanked the Div Com for paying a visit to Imambaras and ensuring that all facilities are made available for the holy occasion. They however raised a few issues with the chair and sought their immediate redressal which includes lifting of muck from drains, immediate repairing of a few identified street lights and high mast lights around Imambaras, macadamization at certain places, lifting of lowly hanging wires, fumigation, encroachment on roads by shopkeepers, roadside parking etc.

The Div Com took strong note of the discrepancies and sought immediate redressal of all the issues by the line departments within a couple of days to ensure that mourners may not face any difficulty.

Meanwhile, it was informed that adequate facilities/arrangements for providing smooth water supply, electricity, medicare, sanitation, etc. to the people are in place.

The Div Com directed SMC for deployment of mobile and sucker jet pumps to drain water at Sheribhat Chowk. He also directed the concerned for removal of encroachment on footpaths by shopkeepers besides roadside parking to ensure smooth passage to religious processions.

At Magam, the Div Com took stock of various arrangements including supply of scheduled electricity and water supplies, installation and restoration of street lights, development of roads and other facilities in the town area.

The Div Com directed the concerned Officer to ensure hassle-free arrangements for smooth conduct of mourning processions and congregations during the holy month of Muharram ul Haram.

The chair was informed that installation and restoration of high mast and street lights at all Imam Baras and roads is being carried out on war footing for public convenience. Besides, repairing and macadamization works are also going on in full swing in all areas for smooth passage of Muharram processions.

The Div Com also met locals who raised their demands with him.

The Div Com directed concerned officers to facilitate prompt services and better facilities to the people during these auspicious days of Muharram.

### Bungus Valley.....

involvement. We are glad to see that the place is being opened for sightseeing and camping purposes. All those visiting this place must ensure waste is not thrown into the natural meadows and water stream flowing within," the visitors said.

Kupwara, a frontier district sharing its borders with neighboring Pakistan over the last three decades has seen the worst of times given the untimely ceasefire violations and heavy shelling. People mainly border residents have been the worst victims due to the border situation.

Benish Batool, a Handwara resident, said that it is quite refreshing to be here in Bungus. "It really feels amazing to be here in the lap of nature amid the soothing water flow sound pleasing the ears. Bungus has the potential to be the premier tourist destination of the region. Authorities need to develop it like efforts have been in places like Gulmag, Pahalgam and others," she said.

Aftab Ahmad, a Poonch resident, who was accompanying his college colleagues said that this place is no less than a heaven. "It is my first time here and honestly feels unmatched. This place has no match in terms of natural beauty. This place caught all our attention forcing all of us to have a night stay," Aftab said.

He also advised that people need to take care of their belongings. "No one should throw plastic bags and other waste into the open. It will result in devastation to this beautiful place. Authorities need to take care of it and ensure no threat is caused."

Another visitor who was accompanying the college said that there is no doubt about the beauty of this place. "Authorities as well as people need to be very empathetic towards this place. We all must work together to save its virgin beauty. Any external potential threat caused to it will leave long lasting harm," he said. He also said that authorities need to develop it as a tourism destination without causing any harm to its natural habitat.

Many other visitors while echoing same said that everyone needs to take care of this place collectively.

### Manasbal Lake.....

the Manasbal Festival plays a pivotal role in achieving this goal.

"With its enthralling landscape and

abundant water sports opportunities, Manasbal is becoming increasingly popular among tourists. The festival has seen a massive influx of water sports enthusiasts from across India, further contributing to the region's growth in tourism."

Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq, Deputy Directors Tourism Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer, Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority and other concerned accompanied the Secretary during his visit.

He revealed that the Tourism Department's ambitious plan for the fiscal year includes targeting 300 new destinations, and Manasbal is a proud addition to this list.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah also highlighted the strategic location of Manasbal on the axis between Sonamarg and Baltal, making it potentially attractive to the pilgrims visiting the revered Amarnath Cave Shrine. With its scenic landscapes and tranquil environment, Manasbal offers a serene retreat for visitors.

During the inauguration, Secretary Tourism declared open a plethora of water sports activities, setting the stage for an adrenaline-filled extravaganza. Participants from different states exhibited their skills, showcasing the diversity of talent and passion for water sports in India.

On the occasion, Secretary also presented certificates of participation among water sports players.

### Police arrest 3.....

(amongst themselves), which resulted in minor injuries to ponywallas and a few yatris. The situation was immediately brought under control," a police tweet quoting the ADGP said.

He said a case was registered at Police Station Pahalgam under relevant sections of the law, and three accused have been arrested.

ADGP said some individuals uploaded a misleading and baseless video on social media claiming that stones were pelted on yatris.

He said these individuals tried to malign the image of the J&K Police.

Kumar said in this regard, cognizance has been taken and an FIR has been registered in Police Station Pahalgam.

"The general public is advised not to pay any heed to these rumours," J&K Police has and will always be committed to providing safety and security for yatris and ensuring a peaceful yatra," Kumar said.

### High Court.....

However, the court found that the petitioner, Mohammad Yousuf Allie, had obtained the RBA certificate fraudulently.

The court referred to a report dated January 30, 2018 from the Deputy Commissioner, which clearly exposed the fraudulent nature of the RBA certificate acquired by the petitioner. Furthermore, the petitioner had not challenged this report before any judicial forum. Additionally, a subsequent report dated July 07, 2018, which could have been relevant, was already declared invalid by the Court.

Given these circumstances, the Division Bench concluded that the petitioner's entry into service itself was through fraudulent means. Consequently, the termination of the petitioner and the absence of a departmental enquiry were deemed not in violation of Article 311 of the Constitution. The court pointed out that the Supreme Court had previously held the same.

Based on these observations, the Division Bench dismissed the petition filed by Mohammad Yousuf Allie, upholding his termination from the judicial service due to the fraudulent procurement of the RBA certificate.

### Police busted.....

in Police Station Pattan, and investigation taken up. During the course of the investigation, some suspects were called to the Police Station for questioning.

Meanwhile, the name of one suspect, identified as Mohammad Abbas Daint, a resident of Kusumbagh Hakbarah Hajin Bandipora, came to the fore, and accordingly, he was called to Police Station Pattan, where, during questioning, he confessed that he had stolen the motorbike.

In a statement, the police said that he disclosed that he had also stolen three other Motor Bicycles and was supplying the same to one Sajad Ahmad Pahlloo, a resident of Madwan Hajin, who was assigned to change the parts of these stolen motor bicycles, and after making modifications, he was selling them.

During further questioning of the suspects, they further disclosed the names of two other persons identified as Lateef Ahmad Fafoo and Sajad Ahmad Wagay, both residents of Gund Prang Madwan Hajin, who are involved in the theft of motor bicycles.

All the stolen motor bicycles were recovered from Gund Prang and Madwan Hajin Bandipora, police said, adding that the accused are being questioned in order to recover more stolen property from them.







# DC Srinagar inspects proposed site for establishment of District Export Hub; Finalises the Project

ODOP-DEH initiative has the potential to create epicentres of economic growth: DC Srinagar

**SRINAGAR, JUL 21:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today visited the proposed "District Export Hub" under the ODOP-DEH initiative being established at Kashmir Haat with an aim 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 strengthening support at embassy level to facilitate exporters and importers.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Designer Craft Development, Functional Manager DIC, Assistant Director Exports, Executive Engineer R&B, Officers from JKTPD and other concerned.

On the occasion, the DC took a detailed round of various compartments of the proposed District Export Hub and inspected the facilities and the works required to be taken for its repairs and upgradation to develop it on the State of the Art pattern. While reviewing the DPR regarding the



upgradation works of the District Export Hub, the DC asked the concerned R&B Engineers to finalise the DPR and incorporate necessary alterations in it so that upgradation works are started at

the earliest for setting up of DEH. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said the initiative is aimed to give a fillip to the Export volume and to boost the local Economy, particularly

focusing on identifying and promoting specific products or industries within the District that have good export potential, thereby likely enhance production, improve quality, and facili-

tate marketing and export of these products.

The DC also said One District One Product - Districts as Export Hubs Initiative (ODOP - DEH) is not a scheme but rather an initiative aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country.

"The idea is to select, brand, and promote one product from each district (One District - One Product) of the country for enabling holistic socioeconomic growth across all regions", he added.

The DC further underlined that ODOP has been merged with 'Districts as Export Hubs Initiative' being run by the Department of Commerce (DoC) with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder. While the initiative has the potential to create epicentres of economic growth.

The DC also hoped that the initiative will also address the challenges for exports of identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding of local Artisans for increasing exports.

## Three South Kashmir Villages Consume Contaminated Water, Residents Say

**SRINAGAR, JUL 21:** The residents of three villages in south Kashmir say they are consuming contaminated water as the authorities have failed to repair a filtration plant that was damaged in the 2014 floods.

The residents of Zahid Bagh, Rakh and Darbagh villages said that the scheme was started in 2012 and started facing glitches after two years.

The filtration plant of the supply got defunct in the 2014 floods, since then, around 500 households have been suffering, they said, adding that authorities have failed to take cognizance of the issue.

They said dozens of households in Darbagh and Zahid Bagh are yet to be connected with the pipeline.

According to locals, the scheme is functioning without filtration plants, leaving them with no option but to consume the contaminated water.

"In the absence of a filtration plant, water from Nallah Tongri, which is highly contaminated, is directly being supplied to us," Sameer Ahmad, a local, said.

The locals also alleged that not even 30 percent of the funds sanctioned for the scheme were spent on it. "Even the funds sanctioned after the 2014 floods were not utilized but went in the pockets of contractors and officials who were hand in glove with them," they alleged.

They demanded that the pending households must be connected with the scheme.

The residents have sought the intervention of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama for installing a fresh filtration plant.

## At National Conference, Ladakh UT describes LAHDC, PRIs key players

**JAMMU, JUL 21:** The Union Territory of Ladakh on Friday made a keynote address and absorbing presentation at a two-day National Conference on Rural Wash Partners Forum (RWF) amongst the distinguished experts congregated to deliberate upon multiple themes pertinent to different aspects of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) implementation and the challenges related to it at the national capital.

As per official communiqué issued here, Rural Development Secretary, Amit Sharma, UT of Ladakh speaking at the National Conference organised at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi as a part of ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission addressed the theme on "Efficient and Effective Operation and Maintenance for JJM and Grievance Redressal Mechanism".

During his presentation, Sharma emphasized the pivotal role of local self-government institutions, including Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, in ensuring the successful implementation and triumph of the program, alongside its robust grievance redressal mechanism.

The gathering appreciated the vision shared by Ladakh UT which they termed as worth replicating in other UTs and states as one of the best practices especially in light of the fact that there is substantial achievement in Jal Jeevan Mission O&M of the Union Territory, although being a tough hilly arid terrain, usually termed as Cold Desert.

Lot of brainstorming happened during different sessions held throughout the day wherein valuable insights were shared on multiple thematic topics crucial to the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission, read the handout. It further stated that one of the highlights of the event was a detailed presentation by the Secretary was the holistic vision of Ladakh Union Territory led by its Lieutenant Governor Brig. B. D. Mishra (Retd) and Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal who strongly believe in the theory of inclusive growth with prominent role of PRIs especially LAHDC and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Apart from Secretary Rural Development Ladakh Amit Sharma, other session lead speakers were Amit Saini, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Maharashtra, Pashim Tiwari from AILSG and V.K. Madhvan from WaterAID, Kailash Karthik, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam and Amit Kataria, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India who provided valuable contributions during the discussions in this Panel Discussion.

## 7 days police remand for self-styled journalist arrested over terror funding charges

**SRINAGAR, JUL 21:** J&K Police has secured seven-days police remand for custodial examination of a self-styled journalist who was arrested yesterday in an alleged terror funding case.

Police said self-styled journalist Muzamil Zahoor of Indergam Pattan Baramulla was arrested during the investigation of a case wherein recovery of Rs 31.65 lakhs was effected. Five accused have already



been arrested in the case.

Police said he had received funds in lakhs meant for terror activities from Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"He is a self-styled journalist as well. He had opened a fake account on forged identity in a bank for transactions related to furtherance of the activities of the banned LET outfit," a police spokesman said. "He had received funds in lakhs meant for terror activities in this account from the main terror hawala operator of LeT. Incriminating material has also been seized from accused at the time of his arrest."

Police said seven days Police remand of the accused was taken for custodial examination. The five accused already arrested in the case include Umar Dar and Salik Mehraj both residents of Soiteng, Bilal Ahmad Siddiqi of Kufsoor Rajbagh, Zamrooda Habib Sanatnagar Srinagar and Yasmeen Raja of Tulbagh Pampore.

## District Magistrate Srinagar imposes ban on sale, purchase and carrying of "Sharp-edged weapons" in public places

Surrender sharp-edged weapons within 72 hours or face action

**SRINAGAR, JUL 21:** In wake of recent stabbing incidents in many areas of Srinagar District including Qamarwari, Bemina, Kralpora, Batmaloo, Nowhatta, Kothibagh, Rambagh, the District Magistrate (DM) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday imposed ban on sale, purchase and carrying of "Sharp-edged weapons" in public places of the District.

In this regard, an order has been issued by the District Magistrate, Srinagar under Section 144 Cr.PC, vide No. DMS/Jud/144 Cr.PC/2023, dated 21.07.2023 reads that "Whereas, vide communication No. CS/07-23/31489-91 dated 12/07/2023 Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar has reported that during past few months there have been multiple incidents of stabbing/attacks using sharp edged weapons in District Srinagar".

The order stated that "the SSP Srinagar vide above cited letter has drawn an outline of stabbing incidents in the pockets of Qamarwari, Bemina, Kralpora, Batmaloo, Nowhatta, Kothibagh, Rambagh etc of District Srinagar, during past 3 months of the current year".

The DM order observed that "Whereas, the safety and security of the public is of paramount importance and incidents involving the use of sharp-edged weapons in public places pose a significant threat to the lives and safety of the citizens". Whereas, it has become imperative to check the practice of carrying sharp edged weapons by people in territorial juris-



diction of District Srinagar so as to prevent the occurrence of such incidents". The order also added

Accordingly, as per the DM order "Whereas possession of sharp-edged weapons "whose blade is more than 09 inches long or whose blade is more than 02 inches wide" for any purpose other than domestic, agricultural, scientific, and industrial purposes is a cognizable offence under Arms Act 1959". The DM Srinagar order further reads that "I, District Magistrate, Srinagar, by virtue of powers vested in me U/S 144 Cr.PC do hereby impose ban on sale, purchase and carrying of sharp-edged weapons in public places, in the territorial jurisdiction of District Srinagar with immediate

effect. "The ban shall be applicable to the business establishments engaged in sale/purchase of such weapons. "Sharp-edged weapons" shall include any object or instrument that possesses a blade, edge, or point capable of causing injury or harm to individuals, including but not limited to knives, swords, daggers, box cutters, and razors. "Public places" shall encompass streets, parks, recreational areas, public transport facilities, markets, schools, religious places, government buildings and any other locations accessible to the general public", the order also added.

The order further reads that "the ban shall apply to all individuals except law enforcement agencies, Individuals possessing such weapons for legitimate occupational purposes (e.g. butchers, carpenters, electricians, chefs etc)".

Moreover, the order also advised the people that "Any individual possessing sharp edged weapon(s) shall surrender the same in the nearest police station within next 72 hours after which such weapons shall be seized by District Police Srinagar and appropriate action shall be initiated under the law". As per the DM order "Any violation of this order shall be dealt with firmly, and appropriate legal action will be taken as per section 188 of Indian Penal code, 1860".

Besides," The Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar shall implement the order in letter and spirit", the order of the DM also added.

## Advisor Bhatnagar reviews performance, functioning of J&K Drugs and Food Control Organisation

**SRINAGAR, JUL 21:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired a meeting and held a comprehensive review of the performance and functioning of J&K Drugs and Food Control Organisation (JKDFCO).

The meeting also held detailed deliberations on organization's achievements, challenges, and the strategies to strengthen its effectiveness across Jammu and Kashmir for ensuring availability of safe and quality drugs and food products across the region.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar; Commissioner, Food And Drugs Administration, Shaheel UI Rehman Rather; Drug Controller J&K, Joint Commissioner Food Safety, Deputy Drug Controllers and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

Addressing the officers, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that abuse of pharmaceutical preparations is one of the reasons for initiation of youth into drug abuse. He delved upon the offi-

cers to establish a strong mechanism for monitoring of drugs besides enforcement should be strengthened across all districts.

Calling upon the officers to cement the existing complaint mechanism, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers to develop a mobile application for complaint receiving as well as redressal of the same. With respect to Jan Aushadi kendras and Amrit pharmacies he emphasized on establishing them in all the district hospitals. He added that these are the



effective ways of bringing down the medical bills of poor patients.

Advisor reiterated his decision of having a foolproof mechanism of keeping check on

Scheduled and psychotropic drugs. While taking cognizance of the pendency of drug licenc-

es he directed for strictly complying with the PSGA designated timelines. He said that no delay, whatsoever on part of authorities is acceptable and should be viewed seriously.

During the meeting the State Drug Controller gave a detailed presentation on the performance and achievement registered by the organisation. She gave out that the performance of this organization is much better than before and is going to improve further by implementing more reforms recommended today.



## DC Anantnag reviews preparations for Independence Day, 2023 celebrations

### HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JULY 21: In anticipation of the Independence Day, 2023 celebrations, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid accompanied by top administrative officials, today conducted a comprehensive review of the preparations at Dak Bungalow Khanbal, here.

The DC commenced the meeting by emphasizing the significance of Independence Day and its importance in commemorating the nation's freedom struggle. He highlighted the need for meticulous planning and seamless execution of all arrangements to ensure a grand and memorable celebration.

During the extensive inspection, the DC assessed



the security measures that have been put in place to guarantee the safety and well-being of all attendees. He lauded the efforts of the district police force and the paramilitary personnel for

their dedication and commitment to ensuring a secure environment during the event.

Furthermore, the DC took stock of the cultural programs and events that have

been planned to showcase the region's rich heritage and patriotic fervor.

He emphasized the inclusion of various cultural activities representing the diversity of our great nation and urged the organizing committee to involve local artists and performers. The review also encompassed an assessment of the infrastructure and facilities for the convenience of the attendees, including seating arrangements, traffic management, and medical aid centers.

The DC directed the concerned authorities to make appropriate arrangements to ensure the smooth flow of the festivities. Additionally, environmental sustainability and waste management were key focal points of the discussion.

## DDC Pulwama reviews pace of progress achieved on works under CAPEX Budget 2023-24

### HT News Network

PULWAMA, JULY 21: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a review meeting of the district officers at circuit house Pulwama to review the pace of progress achieved on different works under the District Capex Budget 2023-24.

Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Shah Nawaz Ahmad Khan informed the chair that against total 2460 proposed works, 2275 have been tendered, out of which 637 have been allotted under PRI, BDC, and DDC Plan, and till date five num-



ber of works have been completed.

It was further informed that Rs 2626.78 lacs stands released by the Finance department against the approved budget of Rs 5428.5 lacs.

Taking review of the works taken up under this year's CAPEX, the DDC stressed upon the con-

cerned officers to complete the process of tendering by ending July and within two days the allotted works shall start on ground besides this the ongoing works shall be completed within 15 days.

He stressed upon officers to ensure 100 percent expenditure in the set time line by accelerating the pace

of the works scheduled for completion during the current year.

The DDC further directed that uniform utilization of funds shall be ensured across the financial year without waiting for last quarter of the year. It must be ensured that all the procurement related works are completed by the ending July after fulfilment of all Codal formalities and procurement rules.

The DDC further directed that any land issue facing in starting the works on ground shall be submitted to ACR within five days so that same is resolved at an earliest.

## DC Kulgam reviews progress on PWD, PDD, JKPCC, RDD work projects under District Capex

### Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 21: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers to review the progress of works being executed by PWD (R&B), RDD, PDD, JKPCC departments under District Capex.

The DC directed the executing departments to pace up the speed to achieve maximum target works within the stipulated time.

During the meeting, it was informed by the concerned from JKPCC that residential quarters at Lirao are near to completion and



will be ready to put in use very shortly.

It was also shared that Gujjar Bakerwal hostel is at final stage of completion and direction was passed by the DC to complete the project within days to put it on service.

While taking stock of physical and financial

achievements made under District Capex and other schemes, JD planning shared that there are 2421 approved works under District capex which includes 2270 new works and 151 ongoing works. 1770 works have been Administratively approved for execution. While reviewing prog-

ress under centrally sponsored schemes, the DC instructed concerned officers to achieve the set targets so that the potential outcome can be achieved.

He stressed to utilize the working season properly to complete works well in time.

Dr Bilal urged the concerned to work religiously and to induce extra efforts to achieve the desired results.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; JDP, Zahid Sajjad; ACR, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; SE KPDC, Executive Engineer from KPDC and other officers.

## Gurez Festival 2023: DC Bandipora convenes preparatory meeting

Series of events to be conducted in run upto the Grand Event

### HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JULY 21: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed today convened a meeting to review the preparations of Gurez Festival-2023.

Director Tourism, Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq also participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

The meeting discussed threadbare various issues regarding the preparations of Gurez festival including tourism promotion activities, water sports activities like River Rafting, Kayaking, accommodation, Home stays, and various other activities to be held during Gurez Festival.

The DC directed the concerned officers to take up all necessary logistics in advance to avoid any inconvenience during the festival.

He stressed that the event should showcase the true essence of Gurez, its tradition and culture; besides, there should be proper promotion of the



festival to achieve the ultimate objective of making Gurez a year-round tourist destination.

Dr. Owais directed all the concerned to work in close coordination and ensure fool-proof arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the Gurez festival.

Director Tourism on the occasion said that Gurez Valley is one of the prime tourist destination and the

department of tourism is always on forefront with district administration for its betterment.

The meeting also discussed upcoming inauguration of Shina Cultural Centre at Dawar Gurez and it was decided that the event shall be conducted jointly.

SDM Gurez, Dr. Mudassir on the occasion said that Sub Division administration in coordination with District Administration has already taken lead to prepare for Gurez Festival so that spots of improvement are identified well in advance.

Among others the meeting was attended by Nodal Officer Coordination Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi, ACR Shabir Ahmad, JDP Imtiyaz Ahmad, District Information Officer Bandipora, CEO, DYSSO and others.

Deputy Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Deeba Khalid, Assistant Director, Tourism, Gulmarg, besides officers from 109 Brigade Dawar participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

## Women`s Polytechnic students complete Training course at DIPR

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: A batch of 7 students of Office Management and Computer Application course, from Women's Polytechnic, Bemina, Srinagar, under the supervision of Project Coordinator Mrs. Raziya Majeed, today, completed 15 days on the job training course at the Divisional Office of Information Department Kashmir. The training programme com-

menced from July 7, 2023 and during this period the students were imparted training about the functioning of different wings of the department including Divisional Office, PR Section, Field Publicity Wing and Cultural Unit.

During the training, the students were acquainted with the official procedure, file handling, file maintenance, receipt, dispatch, note writing, handling of different computer software applications, being used in the

department, grading of documents, e.mail, budgeting, accounting, biometric attendance, EPM, job of PA and personal section etc.

They were also given a demonstration of the working of technical Units of the department like photo Unit and Field Publicity Wing, as to how the officials of these sections are carrying out their duties while on job outside the office.

## Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag HQ Awantipora

GIST  
GIST for E-NIT S. No. 24 /MIDA of 2022-23 Dated : 21.07.2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders in two cover system valid for 180 days, are invited from Original Pump Manufacturers (OPM's) or their authorized Dealers/ representatives or registered, reputed and experienced Mechanical/electrical contractors/other firms / SSI unit holders/ workshop holders duly registered for the below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost ("Rs" in Lacs)	Cost of tender document/ (In Rs.)	Earnest money @2%	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6
I.	Construction of Drought pumping station by way of Providing, Fitting, Testing, installation and Commissioning of various Electro mechanical components of LIS Kakapora	48.917	500/=	98000/=	90 Days

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site [\(jktenders.gov.in\)](#) as per the dates shown below:-

I	Publish Date	21.07.2023	at	1600	hrs
ii	Document Down load/sale start Date	30.07.2023	at	1300	hrs
iii	Clarification start date	22.07.2023	From	1000	hrs
iv	Pre-bid Meeting date	30.07.2023	at	1200	hrs
v	Bid submission start date	30.07.2023	From	1300	hrs
vi	Clarification end date	30.07.2023	upto	0010	hrs
vii	Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	12.08.2023	upto	1600	hrs
viii	Date and time of Bid opening	14.08.2023	At 1200 hrs	or any date convenient to the Deptt.	

All the terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in e-Nit & PWD form No.25-double.

NO MIDA/1516-22  
Dated : 21.07.2023  
DIPK-5559/23

Sd /=  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag  
HQ Awantipora

## Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Deputy Director Gamma Unit K-01 Srinagar Forest Protection Force

e-NIT NO:- 05 OF 2023-24 DATED:- 20-07-2023  
Retender of e-NIT NO 04 OF 2023-24 DATED 24-06-2023 & e-NIT NO 02 OF 2023-24 DATED 29-05-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited on Percentage Basis from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./ Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:

S.No	Name of Work	Location	Adv. cost (Rs. in INR)	Bid Security (EMD) Rs	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Time of Completion
1	Providing of Cabins for the Purpose of Store/Record Keeping at FPF HQR Complex Bemina Srinagar. Scheme CAPEX (Year 2023-24)	K-01 Srinagar	Rs. 1,51,100/-	2% of Estimated Cost of Work	"D"	Rs. 200/-	30 DAYS

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded 08/JDK-FPF of 2023 Dated:- 24-05-2023
Position of TS	Accorded 08/JDK-FPF of 2023 Dated:- 24-05-2023

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:-[www.jktenders.gov.in](#).

Publishing Date:	20-07-2023
Download Start Date :	20-07-2023 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	20-07-2023 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	31-07-2023 Upto 04:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	01-08-2023 at 11:30 AM at Delta Headquarter Forest Protection Force Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: [https://jktenders.gov.in](#).
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest in the shape of CDR/ FDR pledged in favour of Dy. Director, Gamma Unit K-01 FPF Srinagar.
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e., Bid Security Deposit (EMD) Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document), Tender Application Form, Affidavit cum Undertaking & Etc.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- 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. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all Taxes and it should be saved within same name as it contains.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three Percent may also be demanded.
- Penalty for delay in completion: In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up-to maximum of 10% of the contract shall be requisite as deemed suitable by the Competent Authority.
- The Performance Security shall be released after completion of DLP.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

NO:-DD/FPF/K-01/e-NIT/05/385-89

Dated:- 21-07-2023

DIP No:DIPK-5543/23

SD/=   
Deputy Director,  
Gamma Unit K-01 Forest Protection Force,  
Srinagar.



# Ashok Kumar Parmar assumes charge as Pr. Secy SDD

## Assesses functioning of Deptt, also takes stock of various ongoing projects

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JULY 21: After assuming charge of Principal Secretary Skill Development Department (SDD), Ashok Kumar Parmar today chaired a meeting to assess the functioning of Skill Development Department at Civil Secretariat, here.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary also took stock of progress made during the current year under Capex budget for Skill Development projects. The meeting also included a comprehensive review of the Central Sponsored schemes that are currently being implemented in the Skill Development Department.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director Skill Development Mission Leena Padha; Director Skill Development

Department Sudershan Kumar; Additional Secretary, Skill Development Department Narayan Dutt; Heads of different institutes and other officers of Skill Development Department.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Principal Secretary emphasized on importance of timely execution and effective utilization of funds to boost skill development opportunities in the region. He instructed controlling officers to expedite the process of according Administrative Approvals, technical sanctions, and tendering of pending civil works to accelerate the implementation of various Skill Development projects and ensure that they benefit the intended beneficiaries promptly.

Principal Secretary highlighted the critical importance of fostering robust inter-depart-



mental coordination, particularly with the Industries & Commerce Department, Labour & Employment Department, Entrepreneurship Development Institute and private industry players, to achieve superior outcomes in the field of skill development.

He added that this collaborative approach aims to bolster Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory workforce, empower the youth, and drive economic growth.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary also discussed

the need of launching of a dedicated web portal, aimed at bridging the gap between job providers, industries and skilled workers. He added that by creating this online platform, industries and traders can efficiently communicate their

workforce requirements, while job seekers can access various opportunities catered to their skills and expertise. He further said that this web portal will serve as a one-stop solution, streamlining the hiring process and catalysing job placements.

Recognizing the dynamic landscape of the job market, Ashok Kumar underscored the significance of introducing modern technologies in technical institutes, with a specific focus on institutions like the Central for Invention, innovation, incubation and training. He remarked that the possibility of integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cyber security into the curriculum will empower students with cutting-edge knowledge and skills, equipping them to meet the demands of emerging industries and secure Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory digital

future.

Ashok Kumar further emphasized the need to optimize the utilization of resources and monitor the progress of these schemes meticulously. He urged all officers to work with utmost integrity, efficiency, and zeal to create a positive impact and foster skill development in the region.

The Principal Secretary further expressed his confidence in the collective efforts of the team and reiterated commitment of the Department to advance the Skill Development initiatives in line with the Government's vision for a skilled and empowered workforce. The Principal Secretary further expressed his confidence in the collective efforts of the team and reiterated commitment of the Department to advance the Skill Development initiatives.

## Regional Transport Authority meeting held at Ramban

■ M S Nazki

RAMBAN, JULY 21: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam, who is also the chairman of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA), today chaired a meeting of the Authority in his office chamber and discussed the cases related to issuance of fresh route permits to the applicants.

It was decided in the meeting that three wheeler auto permits will be given for rural routes on priority basis and three wheeler contract carriage permits for city route cases will be decided after the parking facility is augmented.

Meanwhile, some cases regarding change of routes were also discussed and eligible cases were approved. For all J&K contract carriage cases, applicants are advised to apply as per SO 653 Dated: 5 December, 2022.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Sharma, besides Members of RTA including Additional SP, Gourav Mahajan and ARTO, Samrinder Singh attended the meeting.

## NABARD organises awareness programme at Sangaldan

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN JULY 21: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Ramban today organised an awareness event at Sangaldan under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and on the theme 'Achievements @ 75 transforming lives and NABARD's Contribution' in Jammu & Kashmir.

BRANCH Managers J&K Bank, JCC Bank, UMEED beneficiaries, CFL Sangaldan, RSETI Ramban and FPO Sangaldan members participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, DDM Arushi Sharma highlighted the role of NABARD in organising training and capacity building programs for SHG members to boost their income resources under Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP) and Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP).

During the interaction session, the FPO members were asked to brief about benefits of the CSS- FPO scheme to other participants. Credit related concerns of all participants were responded to by Bank Managers.

Bankers also explained various low-cost social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) along with procedure for availing the benefits of the same. Later, a financial literacy awareness campaign was also organized. Bankers also explained various low-cost social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) along with procedure for availing the benefits of the same. Later, a financial literacy awareness campaign was also organized.

## DC Reasi reviews Independence Day arrangements

■ HT News Network

REASI, JULY 21: Deputy



Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal, today reviewed the arrangements for Independence Day-2023 celebration here at a meeting held in the DC Office complex.

During the meeting, it was decided that the main function will be held at Sports Stadium, where the VIP will unfurl the National Flag. Threadbare discussion was held with regard to the security arrangements, traffic regulation, seating arrangements, Full Dress Rehearsal, decoration, PAS, Power and water supply,

transport arrangements, sanitation, Medicare facilities, Barricading at the

venue of the function and other vital issues.

The PDD and Jal Shakti Departments were directed to ensure proper management of power and water including water tankers at the venue. The CMO was asked to make available medical facilities along with staff and ambulances at the venue.

The DC exhorted the officers to complete the preparations well in advance so that national function could be celebrated with traditional fervor.

## Phone Live- in Grievance Program receives overwhelming Public response in Rajouri; More than 60 calls received

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JULY 21: The 5th episode of Phone Live-in Grievances redressal program held today witnessed a tremendous response with more than 60 calls received from the public in Rajouri.

The program is aimed at providing residents of the district with a platform to share their grievances and get direct solutions from the district administration. The residents from different parts of the district expressed their concerns on a range of issues. Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal patiently listened to each caller and provided them with valuable guidance and support to resolve their issues.

The DC took note of the issues raised by the residents and assured them that all necessary measures would be taken to address their concerns in a timebound manner. The DC also urged the residents to continue to provide their feedback and suggestions, as it would help in improving the overall governance and development of the



district.

The phone-live in grievances program is part of the district administration's ongoing efforts to improve public service delivery and strengthen the relationship between the government and citizens.

The success of the phone live-in grievances program has been widely appreciated by the public as it provides them a platform to voice their concerns and seek redressal of their grievances directly from the District Administration. The program has also helped in improving the transparen-

cy and accountability of the district administration.

The 5th episode of the phone live in grievance program was a huge success as the efforts of the District Administration to connect with the people of Rajouri have been widely appreciated by all. The program is aimed at providing residents of the district with a platform to share their grievances and get direct solutions from the district administration.

The residents from different parts of the district expressed their concerns on a range of issues.

## Arrangements for Independence Day celebration discussed at Bhandarwah

■ HT News Network

BHADARWAH, JULY 21: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhandarwah, Choudhary Dil Mir today convened a meeting here in Dak Bungalow to discuss the arrangements for the Independence Day 2023 function Bhandarwah.

The meeting decided that the Chief Guest will unfurl the National Flag at 8.55 AM and take salute at the march past parade of the contingents to be drawn from JKP, IRP, NCC senior division, NCC Junior division and government and private schools. The day will start with playing of Shenai wadan by the Information department Bhandarwah early in the morning.

The arrangements for



security, provision of first aid, sanitation, seating arrangements, power supply, the arrangement for drinking water and issuance of invitation cards were discussed in detail. It was further decided that the Government buildings would be illuminated on the National Festival. The

full dress rehearsal would be held on Aug 13, 2023 at 10.30 AM

Among others, the meeting was attended by SDPO\ XEN R&B, BMO, AEE Jal Shakti, AEE PWD, Principal Boys and Girls, AEE PMGSY and representatives of several other departments.

## Juhi for pro-active approach in dealing with rain, flood damages

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JULY 21: Vice Chairperson, District Development Council Udhampur, Juhi Pathania has called for a pro active approach, while assessing and processing the relief cases for damages caused due to incessant rains and flash-floods. She was speaking at a meeting of senior officers of local administration, PRLs and prominent people in Khoon. Excessive landslides caused whopping losses to houses, roads, public infrastructure and animal stock of people. Pathania issued instructions for immediate restoration of civil supplies and meeting the shortage of essential commodities like



LPG, kerosene, household articles and power and clean drinking water.

Mrs. Pathania, while making a fervent appeal, has sought unfolding of immediate crash measures so as to restore power, drinking water, ration supplies and spur up human and animal healthcare facilities in the area to mitigate the miseries and hard-

ships of the people. While taking up the cases projected by locals/PRLs regarding house collapses due to landslides, she called for immediately processing the relief cases under SDRF. She also called for clearing Gadena to Kutt, Babey to Laa, Jagwal to Jansal roads. She took a strong note of the slipshod execution of work by contractors.

## DC Kishtwar discusses arrangements for Independence Day 2023

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JULY 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav today chaired a meeting of line departments and other stakeholders here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to discuss the arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day-2023.

The meeting was informed that the main function would be held at district headquarter Kishtwar, while local administration would hold celebrations at Sub-Division, Block and Tehsil levels.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the district heads of different depart-



ments to ensure their presence as well as the subordinate officers and officials in the Independence Day function both at the district headquarter as well as SDM, Tehsil and Block levels.

It was decided in the meeting that the venue for the main Independence Day function shall be Historic

Chowgan Grounds.

Meanwhile, the arrangements for flag Hoisting, March past, Cultural items, sitting arrangements, stage setting and Venue preparation and refreshment for the I-Day celebration were discussed in the meeting. It was informed that the day would begin with the playing of

Shanai Vadan. Besides, directions were given to concerned officers to make foolproof security arrangements and adequate provision of drinking water, power supply, Medicare facility, sanitation, transport, traffic regulation, illumination of government buildings, deployment of fire

tenders, seating arrangement, besides distribution of invitations etc.

The Deputy Commissioner assigned the responsibilities for different arrangements to each department and constituted several Committees to monitor the process.

The CEO Kishtwar and

District officers were directed to furnish the list of meritorious students and officials/employees with exemplary works with brief description/notes from their departments who will be felicitated on the eve of I-Day celebration.

Senior officers of Civil and Police administration besides other stakeholders gave valuable suggestions to make the I-Day celebration a grand event in the district. The meeting was attended by ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; ASP, Rajinder Singh; ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak; PO ICDS, Dr. Rishi Sharma; ACD, Sunil Bhutyal, besides other District officers and representatives of different departments.

## DEO reviews Summary Revision of Municipal Electoral Rolls in Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JULY 21: To review the progress of ongoing Summary Revision of Municipal electoral rolls, District Election Officer Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya today convened a meeting of officers of Urban Local Bodies here in his office Chamber.

Deputy District Election Officer, Gurdev Kumar, SDM, Chenani, Parvaiz Naik, all EOs and officials attended the meeting. During the meeting, the DEO exhorted the functionaries to complete the summary Revision including addition of new voters/left out voters and deletion of duplicate voters before the assigned due date. The DEO asked the officers to activate men and machinery and complete the process within the given timeline. The Dy DEO was asked to submit a report on a daily basis. The officers and Officials associated with the ongoing Municipal Summary Revision were asked to work with dedication and zeal to ensure that the whole exercise.



EDITORIAL

## Blanket Ban on Sharp-Edged Weapons at Public Places: Bold Step Towards Peace

In wake of rising concerns over public safety and to address the growing menace of violence in society, the recent order by the District Magistrate (DM) of Srinagar to ban the sale, purchase, and carrying of sharp-edged weapons in public places is a commendable and crucial move. This decision reflects the administration's commitment to ensuring the security and well-being of its citizens. By taking this bold step, the DM has not only shown his concern for public safety but has also taken a significant stride towards fostering a peaceful and harmonious environment in the region.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has long been grappling with a history of incessant political instability and unrest. The proliferation of sharp-edged weapons has been a major concern, contributing to acts of violence, criminal activities, and communal tensions. These weapons pose a grave threat to the lives of civilians, law enforcement officers, and even innocent bystanders. The DM's order is a proactive measure to curb potential violence and reduce the likelihood of tragic incidents that have plagued the region for far too long.

By implementing this ban, the authorities aim to create an atmosphere of safety and security, essential for fostering economic growth, social development, and tourism in the region. It sends a strong message that violence and lawlessness will not be tolerated, and anyone found violating this ban will face the full force of the law. However, it is crucial to ensure that stringent measures are in place to enforce the ban effectively and to prevent the weapons from resurfacing through illegal means.

In the wake of recent incidents of stabbing in broad daylight in the summer capital, the decision to ban sharp edged weapons in public places has come with some relief.

Education and awareness campaigns will play a pivotal role in garnering public support for the ban. It is crucial to communicate the rationale behind the order and its implications clearly to all citizens. Emphasizing the benefits of a safer society and the collective responsibility to maintain peace will help in gaining widespread acceptance for the ban.

Furthermore, a comprehensive approach to tackling Social violence should also include investment in social programs, community engagement initiatives, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Addressing the root causes of violence, such as unemployment, poverty, and lack of opportunities, will help in reducing the propensity for individuals to resort to violence.

While this ban marks a significant milestone, it should not be seen as a standalone solution to the complex issue of violence in the region. The DM and other stakeholders must continue to collaborate on comprehensive strategies to address the broader challenges of peace and stability in Srinagar.

In conclusion, the recent order by the DM of Srinagar to ban the sale, purchase, and carrying of sharp-edged weapons in public places is a decisive and crucial move towards ensuring the safety and well-being of the citizens. This bold step will contribute to fostering a more peaceful and secure environment in the region. However, it is imperative to approach the ban holistically by addressing cultural sensitivities, investing in social programs, and promoting community engagement. With collective efforts and a commitment to lasting change, Srinagar can pave the way for a brighter and more peaceful future.

# Anti-Christ-The Biggest (Trial) And Signs Of Resurrection



MOULANA NADWI



God like in Animals, has created the biological growth and movement in plants and trees and the modern and contemporary sciences had also recognized the philosophy of life in plants and trees. Glorious Quran has mentioned this fact 14 hundred years ago, when there was hardly any scientific and technological invention." Indeed We offered the trust to the Heavens, the Earth and the Mountains but they apologized to carry." [33:72]. This means that there is such a movement and life within them by which they apologized before their creator and owner to carry this burden. Just like in human body, the blood circulatory pulse and moderate heart rate is essential to establish Human Existence. In the same way, in earth, God has kept certain positive and negative magnetic waves from North to South and South to North. Their own moderation is necessary for earth and they are in motion just like the human pulse and the movement of heart. Change of seasons and maintaining the natural speed of atmosphere is based on these magnetic waves which continuously travel in this atmosphere. If this atmospheric system of earth will run and keep going according to Divine power, then this whole universe will stuck to justice system. However, if in this natural system human hands began to intervene, the entire atmospheric system would suffer deterioration that is what man is doing now?

American scientists have proposed a conspiracy theory of HAARP TECHNOLOGY in 1910 and until 1930 more research was carried on it. Finally in 1980, HAARP was experimentally presented which went successful. HAARP TECHNOLOGY ,High Frequency Auroral Research Program was conducted by United States Military from 1990 to 2014. It is high-frequency Transmitter located in Gal-

konda Alaska and its scientific purpose was to study the Ionosphere, a region of the Earth's atmosphere where charged particles interact with the Earth's Magnetic Field. The radio waves interacted with the charged particles in the atmosphere, creating artificial Auroras and heating the Ionosphere which allowed scientists to study its properties and address a range of scientific questions related to the Ionosphere, such as how it affects satellite communications, responds to solar activity and how it influences the weather patterns.

It was also intended to have military applications, such as improving communication and navigation in the polar regions and detecting underground structures. Despite the programs stated scientific objectives, HAARP Technology is being conspicuously used for certain nefarious purposes.

**WEATHER MANIPULATION:-**HAARP was used to control the weather, causing natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and artificial Tsunamis. Earthquakes can be caused by increasing earth's temperature while as with change in seasons, floods can be caused by rain wherever desired and rains can be stopped wherever needed. This is the miracle of this technology which is sponsored and supervised by America. Since Western Atomic Powers have badly failed to maintain their supremacy in the Nuclear World they have shifted their scientific and technological knowledge to the other to get control over the world's Economic and Fiscal Economy. So that it would be easy for them to destroy a certain land by rains and floods, and with lack of rain could made regions barren. This has been technically experimented at various places with successful results which had upset the western world who are afraid of America.

This will be the Anti-Christ Trial (Dajjali Fitna) about which prophets were scaring their Ummah and prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) not only specifically mentioned rather described it as a sign of Resurrection.

**MIND CONTROL:-**HAARP was used for mind control or brainwashing purpose, based on the idea that radio waves could

influence human behavior. It is used in the migration of wildlife by causing unnatural effects on the crust and aerial surfaces of the earth. Rotational movement of earth creates day and night and its speed can be slowed by changing wind speed and can bring latitude in day-night system which has been mentioned in the light of Hadith as a sign of resurrection. When this happens, the day will be like a week, one week like one month and one month will be like one year. Earth will start rotating in the opposite direction by which the sun will rise from its place of setting that is from west instead of east. This is among the biggest signs of resurrection.

Abu Dhurr narrated that, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) said, "Sun goes and prostates beneath the throne, then it asks for permission (to rise) and permission is given to it. Soon it will prostrate, but it will not be accepted from it. It will ask for permission (to rise) but permission will not be given to it; It will be said to it," Go back to where you come from, so it will rise from its place of setting." [Sahi-Al- Bukhari].

God has made mountains as pegs being firmly fixed in the earth to stabilize it, otherwise it would fly in the space as straw are flown in the wind. But human beings are erasing and excavating mountains to end up this firm stay and easing the burden on earth. This will destroy the natural balance of earth and it will hang itself left and right. In this way the earth and the mountains will loose their identity.

"Have we not made the earth as a bed, And the mountains as pegs". [78:6-7]. "And the mountains He has fixed firmly. [79:32] The destruction which the Glorious Quran has called the "Great Earthquake of Resurrection" will occur and the mountains will be like Wool Fluffed up.

"When the Earth is shaken with its Final Earthquake" [99:1-8]. Man is doing all this with his own hands and raising resurrection for himself. Hadith mentioned that Dajjal will bring fake paradise and Hell with him and will open the gates of this fake paradise and luxurious equipments, sustenance and financial to those who believes in him, whereas whoever

does not listen/obey him will be subjected to all kinds of doom and punishment. Doors of sustenance will be closed, comforts and convenience of life be snatched and has to face drought. These prophecies have been already made by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) and are compiled in Hadith Books. This way, there will be plenty of earthquakes near the Judgment day caused by the disturbance of the balance established by the mountains that resulted by the excavation and erosion of mountains. Huge explosions carried underground are raising earth's temperature and contributing to plenty of earthquakes.

Automatically, this will breakdown the solidity, strength of the earth and ultimately its bars will open up as mentioned in the signs of resurrection. These were some Highlights of Dajjali Fitna which were mentioned in the light of Hadith and have manifested in the form of HAARP TECHNOLOGY. However it is not yet known what further action will be taken on it but this Dajjali Fitna (Anti-Christ tribulation, trial) is backed by those Jewish Zionist powers who have big impact on world politics and possess bad grip on global economic system, rather the world politics and governance are their tools and dancing to their cue. Although in the nuclear world, they were ruling the entire globe, have suffered disappointment and failure. So they want to destroy the world economic system with this new technology, but forget the AL-JABBAR ( The All-Compelling ) and AL-QAHHAR (The ALL-Prevailing One ) divine power will crush all their bad intentions and ambitions, because Allah loves His creation and will not tolerate the destruction of His creatures. Rather all these Anti-Christ powers will be destroyed as their day of reckoning is approaching. There is fixed time for everything in God's will and He erases and keeps the rest. So there is no need to worry and get disappointed. Everything belongs to God and He has power and control of the heavens and the earth.

**HIGHEST POSITION ONLY SUITS TO THE LORD (ALLAH). WHO CAN TURN ORDINARY STONES INTO GEM-PEARLS.**

## "Empowering Kashmir's Youth: Rebuilding Values, Inspiring Change"



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON



Once known as the "Valley of Peace," Kashmir has undergone a transformation that has led to a rise in social challenges, including vulgarity, hooliganism, licentiousness, sexual exploitation, womenfolk molestation, acid attacks, drug addiction, killings of innocents, theft, bribery, revenge on love affairs, child kidnapping, dowry demands, late marriages, disobedience towards parents, and a general breakdown of societal values. This article aims to shed light on the prevailing issues and proposes collective responsibility and individual initiatives to combat these challenges. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of self-defense training for women and addresses the impact of external influences on the region's social fabric.

The Unfortunate Reality: The deterioration of social values in Kashmir is a cause for concern. Incidents of vulgarity, violence, and moral degradation have become increasingly common, jeopardizing the well-being and safety of its residents. The erosion of traditional societal norms can be attributed to several factors, including the long-standing violent conflict that has engulfed the region and the influence of globalization.

### Effects of the Conflict:

The decades-long conflict in Kashmir has left a profound impact on its society. The constant state of unrest, violence, and political instability has disrupted the social fabric, leading to an increase in frustration, anger, and disillusionment among the youth. The lack of opportunities for growth and development has made them vulnerable to negative influences, which manifest as drug addiction, criminal activities, and a disregard for social norms.

### The Influence of Globalization:

"By celebrating Kashmir's rich cultural heritage, we can build a stronger society that is resilient against negative influences."

(Aubaid Ahmad Akhooon).

The rapid process of globalization has brought with it both positive and negative consequences. While it has opened doors to new ideas, technology, and economic opportunities, it has also exposed societies to external influences that can be detrimental. The intrusion of Western culture, with its emphasis on individualism, consumerism, and sometimes explicit sexuality, has had an impact on the values and behavior of the younger generation in Kashmir.

### Collective Responsibility:

"To combat social challenges in Kashmir, collective responsibility is the key; we must all work together to restore values and rebuild society." – Aubaid Ahmad Akhooon. To address the deteriorating social situation, it is crucial for all stakeholders, including the government, community leaders, educators, and families, to shoulder their responsibilities. Strengthening social institutions such as the family unit, educational institutions, and community organizations can play a pivotal role in restoring a sense of discipline, respect, and moral values within society.

It is only through collective efforts and individual initiatives that Kashmir can reclaim its status as a Valley of Peace and build a brighter future for its residents. By addressing these issues head-on, Kashmir can overcome the current social crisis and pave the way for a more prosperous and harmonious society.

### Empowering the Youth:

"The conflict in Kashmir has left scars on society, but by investing in education and skill development, we can empower the youth to shape a brighter future."

(Aubaid Ahmad Akhooon).

Investing in the empowerment of young people is vital for shaping a better future for Kashmir. Encouraging education, vocational training, and skill development programs can provide avenues for personal growth and economic independence. Additionally, promoting extracurricular activities, sports, and arts can help channelize their energy into constructive pursuits.

### Self-Defense and Safety:

Self-defense training for women in Kashmir is not just about safety; it's about empowering them and instilling confidence in the face of adversity."

(Aubaid Ahmad Akhooon).

Considering the rising concerns for the safety of women in Kashmir, it is imperative to provide self-defense training

for girls and women. Empowering them with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves can act as a deterrent to potential perpetrators and instill confidence among women in the face of adversity. Martial art techniques taught at the domestic, community, and educational levels can equip them with the means to defend themselves if faced with challenging situations.

### Preserving Cultural Identity:

"Preserving Kashmir's cultural identity is crucial in the face of globalization; it strengthens the youth's sense of belonging and shields them from negative influences."

(Aubaid Ahmad Akhooon)

While external influences may have an impact, it is crucial to preserve and promote Kashmir's rich cultural heritage. By celebrating local traditions, art, music, and literature, the younger generation can develop a stronger sense of identity and pride in their heritage. This can act as a shield against negative influences and provide a foundation for a more harmonious and inclusive society.

Bottom line: The challenges facing Kashmir's society today are a reflection of its tumultuous history and the wider impact of globalization. However, by recognizing the collective responsibility and empowering the youth, there is hope for positive change. Combating social challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that encompasses strengthening social institutions, investing in education and skill development, promoting cultural identity, and prioritizing the safety and empowerment of women. It is only through collective efforts and individual initiatives that Kashmir can reclaim its status as a Valley of Peace and build a brighter future for its residents. By addressing these issues head-on, Kashmir can overcome the current social crisis and pave the way for a more prosperous and harmonious society.

"In the struggle for peace, strengthening social institutions and promoting a sense of discipline and moral values is essential for the progress of Kashmir."

The author is a renowned Motivational Speaker and an Associate Editor of the weekly publication 'Education Quill.' He currently serves as the Senior EDP Head at DD Target PMT Kashmir, a reputable institute renowned for its coaching classes in the medical/JEE/Foundation Classes.



# How To Become An Ethical Hacker



VIJAY GARG



Originally, the term 'hacker' referred to a talented programmer who was knowledgeable about machine code and computer operating systems. A 'hacker' is now defined as someone who regularly engages in hacking activities and has adopted hacking as a lifestyle and philosophy of choice. Hacking is the practice of altering the characteristics of a system in order to achieve a goal that is not intended by the designer.

The buzzword 'hacking' carries negative connotations, but only until the job of an ethical hacker is completely understood. Ethical hackers are the "white hat" hackers, the good guys in the cyber industry.

Instead of utilizing their extensive computer expertise for criminal purposes, ethical hackers find gaps in data computer security for businesses and organizations all over the world in order to defend them against hackers with less than honorable intentions.

If you're a professional who enjoys the thrills of the computer world and enjoys a good challenge, a career in ethical hacking may be appealing. You have the option to utilize your expertise to hack into computer systems and get paid well for it. It is not simple to get started in the area, as it is in many others, but if you put in the work first, you will be able to design a highly successful career for yourself. Furthermore, ethical hackers are always on the good side of the law!

Cyber warfare is exceedingly widespread, and many high-profile companies have had big hacking incidents. In this day and age, global spending on IT security is approaching the trillion-dollar barrier. The need for ethical hackers is at an all-time high and is expected to rise further.

#### Who is a Hacker (Ethical Hacker)?

Ethical hackers are recruited or paid to safeguard computer networks from unlawful breaches by unethical hackers that illegally infiltrate computer systems in order to acquire private and sensitive data. An ethical hacker's profession entails breaking

into his company's system in the same way as a hacker does use advanced technology. The goal of an Ethical Hacker is to find any flaws in his employer's system. When a flaw is discovered, it is repaired. The ethical hacker, as a member of the security team, also verifies that the system is firewalled, security procedures are in place, and sensitive files are encrypted.

#### Hacker (Ethical Hacker) Eligibility

A Bachelor's degree in Information Technology (B.Sc in IT / Computer Engineering, for example) or an advanced certificate in network security is required for an Ethical Hacker.

**A certification from a reputable institute increases your chances of being employed by some of the biggest brands in the IT industry. International accreditations include:**

**Certified Ethical Hacker (EC-Council)**

**Certified Hacking Forensic Investigator (EC-Council)**

**GIAC Certified Penetration Tester (GPEN) by SAN and GIAC**

Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCIA) can further improve job prospects.

Aside from ambition, the applicant must have substantial expertise in network security and a functional understanding of multiple operating systems. Microsoft and Linux servers, Cisco network switches, virtualization, Citrix, and Microsoft Exchange are all areas of competence. A working understanding of the most recent penetration software is required.

#### How to Become an Ethical Hacker?

If you lack computer science skills, getting a degree is the best method to become an ethical hacker.

##### STEP 1

After completing a 10+2 class with Math and Physics as the core courses, the aspirant must apply for a degree or diploma study in Computer Science, Information Science, or a similar information technology sector. Many private and public engineering colleges provide this service.

However, certain prestigious colleges with restricted seats, such as Thapar Engineering College, PEC, BITS Pilani, and all IITs, may admit applicants based on their performance in admission exams like the Joint Admission Exam, etc.

##### STEP 2

In addition, applicants without a formal degree who are interested in this profession can pursue Ethical Hacking Certifications.



#### One can:

##### Obtain an IT security certification

Obtain an IT security certification; enroll in a four-year computer science school

Enroll in a two-year program that is especially concentrated on IT analysis and security.

##### STEP 3

Aspiring professionals can apply for vacancies in various commercial and non-commercial organizations dealing in Computer system security design and related services industry, Internet service providers, and related services firms after completing their graduation/certification and gaining knowledge of information security and system administration.

#### Ethical Hacker Career Scope

The future of ethical hacking is limitless. Government, business enterprises, health care, entertainment, finance, law enforcement, forensic laboratories, detective firms, CBI, National security agencies, and others are all rapidly developing in this domain.

Thus, people with a Graduate degree in computer science and some form of certification in the subject of hacking or anything similar have a strong chance of finding a lucrative career.

A surge in cybercrime and penetration into large corporations' computer systems has compelled many firms to hire ethical hackers to secure their network security from any potential danger. As a result, Ethical Hacking as a career option is a sure bet in the next few years.

Talented Ethical Hackers can pursue a

career with some of the biggest brands in the IT industry, such as Wipro, Dell, Reliance, Google, Accenture, IBM, and Infosys.

An ethical hacker's job titles include security consultant, forensics investigator, security investigator, network security system administrator/manager, web security administrator, and application security executive.

There is no turning back for Ethical Hackers once they are hired. Database administrators may rise to managerial jobs after gaining expertise.

#### Other Job Roles for Ethical Hackers

##### Applications Security Executive

The experts who validate the secure design and development of IT applications are known as application security specialists/executives. They work on the cyber security team. They also assist developers in adhering to a secure SDLC procedure.

##### Data Security Specialists

Data security professionals plan and implement security assessments across computer hardware and software platforms. They safeguard the system from cyber threats.

##### Security Auditor

The security auditor's job is to evaluate and investigate the organization's financial systems. In addition, they audit and evaluate security measures and processes. They collaborate with the company's IT specialists, managers, and executives.

##### Security Certified Programmer

A security-certified programmer is an expert who creates computer programs that protect computer systems and data.

#### Web Security Manager

Web security managers are in charge of developing, implementing, and maintaining security procedures to protect information. To ensure the security of their firm, they must monitor all activities and infrastructure.

#### Types of Hackers

##### Cybercriminals

Cybercriminals are persons or groups of people who utilize technology to perform harmful acts on digital systems or networks in order to steal valuable corporate information or personal data and profit.

##### Ethical Hackers

Ethical hackers, sometimes known as "white hats," are security specialists who do these security audits. Their proactive effort contributes to an organization's security posture.

##### Hacktivists

Hacktivists are criminal gangs that band together to carry out computer assaults in favor of political objectives. Hacktivists often target whole sectors, but they may also target single businesses that they believe do not share their political beliefs or policies.

##### Script kiddies

A playscript A kiddie, skiddie, kiddie, or skid is an incompetent person who utilizes scripts or programs written by others for harmful intentions.

##### Ethical Hacker Salary Prospects

Once you've started working as an ethical hacker, you'll use all of your technical and security knowledge to try to break the network security of the company or organization that hired you. The company will want a full analysis of your results as well as recommendations for improving network security. This effort shields them against the hacking operations of people with nefarious and unlawful intents.

In the current market, an entry-level Ethical Hacker may expect to earn Rs. 5 lacks per year. Candidates with better academic degrees and professional experience, on the other hand, can earn up to Rs. 30 lacks per year, depending on the job function.

##### Ethical Hacking Top Recruiters

These top recruiters either employ people with excellent compensation packages from colleges or hire a trained ethical hacking specialist for their company.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

P SUDHIR



The NATO summit meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, registered a new level of aggressiveness of the western military alliance led by the United States. Though the central issue of the summit was the war in Ukraine, the declaration of the summit goes much beyond and expresses its interests in other parts of the world outside Europe and makes clear its intent to pursue global domination.

## NATO SUMMIT HAS LED TO MORE MILITARISATION OF EUROPE AIDED BY U.S.

### A LONG WAR SUITS PENTAGON TO CONSOLIDATE ITS HEGEMONY ONCE AGAIN

As in the Madrid summit declaration last year, the document talks of a "360-degree approach" which relates to security threats in land, air, maritime and cyberspace domains.

As far as the Ukraine conflict is concerned, the tone is bellicose with no mention whatsoever of any prospects for peace negotiations. It demands that a pre-condition for peace is "Russia's complete and unconditional withdrawal" from all Ukraine territories. The summit committed in a separate

agreement to large-scale increase in supplies of arms and equipment to Ukraine.

As for President Zelenskyy's demand for immediate NATO membership of Ukraine, the NATO leaders did not accede to the demand. This was for tactical reasons as Ukrainian membership of NATO would trigger Article 5 of the NATO treaty, which would draw the United States and other NATO partners directly into the war with Russia. The declaration assures that Ukraine is now virtually part of the NATO alliance and says, "Ukraine has become increasingly interoperable and politically integrated with the Alliance". The United States wanted a situation where Ukraine keeps fighting and bearing the brunt of the war destruction and casualties while sustaining its fight with the help

of sophisticated and advanced weaponry provided by the NATO countries.

The NATO summit saw Finland joining as a new member and the accession of Sweden to the treaty being cleared after Turkey withdrew its objection. With the joining of these two countries, the land border with Russia has more than doubled. The NATO summit also approved a document setting out details of troops and weapons' deployment throughout eastern Europe and its plan to increase

NATO's rapid reaction force from 40,000 to 300,000 soldiers. Thus, the encirclement of Russia with NATO troops on its borders has rapidly expanded.

It is this eastward expansion of NATO, which was the source of the conflict in Ukraine in the first place. The United States and western powers had reneged on their promise not to expand NATO eastwards after the unification of Germany.

The Vilnius declaration talks of its strategic interests in every part of the globe, including the Middle East, Africa and the Indo-Pacific region, thus betraying its global plan for hegemony.

The other key focus of the declaration is on China. China is accused of using "a broad range of political, economic and military tools to increase its global footprint and project power". It is accused

of damaging the alliance's security with "malicious hybrid and cyber operations" and trying to control key technological sectors, critical infrastructure, strategic materials and supply change. China is charged with violating the "rules-based international order" – a reference to the mechanisms which were established after the Second World War, to maintain US hegemony over the world.

It is this targeting of China which saw the participation of the Quad and AUKUS countries' polit-

As far as the Ukraine conflict is concerned, the tone is bellicose with no mention whatsoever of any prospects for peace negotiations. It demands that a pre-condition for peace is "Russia's complete and unconditional withdrawal" from all Ukraine territories. The summit committed in a separate agreement to large-scale increase in supplies of arms and equipment to Ukraine.

ical leaders at the Vilnius summit. The prime ministers of Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the president of South Korea attended the summit. The United States hopes to create a NATO in the east to counter and isolate China.

India was not a participant in the summit even though it is a member of the Quad. Since the Vilnius summit was to deal primarily with the Ukraine conflict and Russia, India could not have attended such a meeting given its neutral position. However, the NATO summit projecting the western alliance's Indo-Pacific strategy is something that India has already come fully on board.

The NATO summit marks the growing militarisation and aggressiveness of the United States and its allies. Both Germany and Japan which had been demilitarised after the Second World War have now embarked upon the path of rearmament and building up military power. President Biden would like the war in Ukraine to be prolonged even through the much-vaunted counter-offensive of the Ukrainian armed forces has not made any headway. A prolonged war suits the US quest to consolidate its hegemony over Europe and to rally them in the ensuing struggle with China. It is in this context that the Modi government is seen more and more to be acquiescing in the United States' aggressive plans. (IPA Service)

Courtesy: People's Democracy



# India, Sri Lanka Adopt Vision To Strengthen Maritime, Air, Energy: PM Modi

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: To boost the economic partnership between the two nations, India and Sri Lanka adopted a vision document that would strengthen people-to-people connectivity and Maritime cooperation, trade, and power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday.

"Today, we have adopted a vision document for our economic partnership. The vision is to strengthen maritime, air, energy and people-to-people connectivity between the two peoples. The vision is to accelerate mutual cooperation in tourism, electricity, business, higher education, and skill development," PM Modi said.

In a joint press statement along with Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi on Friday, PM Modi also said that the two nations have decided to start a ferry service from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. "We agree on the enhance-



ment of air connectivity between India and Sri Lanka. To increase trade and travel by people, we have taken the decision to start passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka," PM Modi said.

The two sides decided on resuming passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka and work towards early resumption of ferry services between Rameshwaram and Talaimannar, and other mutually agreed places.

"This vision is the long-term commitment of India. We would soon hold a con-

sultation on economic cooperation, Prime Minister Modi added.

Moreover, the two sides also exchanged a joint declaration of intent on Animal husbandry. India and Sri Lanka also exchanged MoU on Renewables, Economic development of projects in Trincomalee district and UPI usage.

Further, to establish land connectivity between Sri Lanka and India for developing land access to the ports of Trincomalee and Colombo, both leaders decided to cooperate in the development of ports and logistics infrastructure at Colombo, Trincomalee and Kankesanthurai with an aim to consolidate region-

al logistics and shipping, as per mutual understanding.

During his address, PM Modi also recalled resilience shown by Sri Lankans during the economic crisis.

He also pointed to President Ranil Wickremesinghe completing one year in office, as he congratulated him and further added by saying that security of the two countries are intertwined.

"I welcome Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and his delegation to India. As he completes one year in office, I congratulate him on this. The people of Sri Lanka faced many challenges last year but like a close friend we stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Sri Lanka in the time of crisis," PM Modi said.

The Sri Lankan President is on a two-day visit to India at the invitation of PM Modi. The talks were held in Hyderabad House in the national capital. Sri Lanka is an important partner in India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision SAGAR.

# Centre Sent So Many Teams To Bengal, Why None To Manipur: Mamata Banerjee

■ HT News Network

Kolkata: Slamming the Centre over the Manipur crisis, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said the BJP's 'Beti Bachao' scheme has now turned into 'Beti Jalao' (Burn our daughters).

Mamata Banerjee questioned why the Centre never bothered to send central teams to Manipur, where ethnic strife has claimed over 160 lives so far.

"We want to express our solidarity with Manipur. The BJP had sent so many central teams to Bengal (after the panchayat polls), why no central team was sent to the northeastern state?" she questioned. Addressing the party's annual Martyrs' Day rally here, Banerjee expressed her solidarity with the newly formed opposition alliance I.N.D.I.A. and asserted that their mission is to remove the saffron camp from power.

She warned that the return of the BJP government would signal the demise of democracy. The TMC boss gave a clarion call to oust the BJP and refuted



claims of personal ambitions by saying, "We have no other demand, neither we want any chair except ousting BJP from the Centre in 2024."

"I am happy that these 26 opposition parties have come together. We will organise protests against the Centre under the banner of the opposition alliance - I.N.D.I.A. The alliance will fight and TMC will stand by it like a soldier," she said. Ms Banerjee said if the BJP returns to power for the third consecutive time at the Centre, "Democracy will cease to exist in the country."

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien has written to the Rajya Sabha Chairman demanding that his entire speech on July 20

in the House be put on record as he had "rightfully" questioned the government on the alarming situation in Manipur.

Parts of the MP's speech in the House were expunged.

"Phrases from my point of order on 20 July 2023 were expunged by the exercise of the Presiding Officer's discretion. The Point of Order made by me on July 20, 2023, was an attempt as leader of one of the largest opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha, to duly and rightfully question the Prime Minister and the Government in power about the alarming and distressful law and order situation in the state of Manipur," Mr O'Brien

wrote. "The Point of Order made by me and the questions asked therein were within the true essence of democracy and anything but 'Unparliamentary'. I had simply asked for the Prime Minister to speak up on Manipur in Parliament," he said.

Derek O'Brien said last year, the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a booklet listing down words and expressions that were to be regarded as "unparliamentary" including commonly used words such as ashamed, abused, betrayed, corrupt, drama, hypocrisy, and incompetent.

"A close perusal of the above mentioned makes it apparent that recent additions to this list are replete with words that have been explicitly used in recent years by the Opposition to describe the Union government," he said.

The TMC MP alleged that the act of declaring words used to criticise the government in power as "anti-union" or "unparliamentary" is a blatant attempt at muzzling the opposition.

"The problem is not that the Constitution does not guarantee free speech.

## Met Office warns of hyper monsoon activities in HP

■ HT News Network

Shimla, July 21 (UNI) Indian Meteorological Department on Friday warned that ongoing Monsoon activity likely to increase in this Himalayan state of North India with effect from today as subsequent 48 hours there is possibility of very heavy rainfall in the districts of Chamba, Kangra, Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Bilaspur, Solan and Sirmaur & heavy rainfall in districts of Una, Hamirpur, Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti.

Statement issued by IMD said light to moderate precipitation occurred in past 24 hrs. Issuing fresh forecast bulletin the Weathermen said there is possibility of rain and thundershowers in most places along with thunderstorm till next four days. The heavy downpour may occur in low and mid hill districts of state during this period.

The average Maximum and Minimum temperatures are likely to be normal during next 4 to 5 days.

Issuing Advisory IMD said expected incessant rainfall may disrupt the traffic and other essential services in hilly district of the state.

Current Flashfloods along watershed area and water-logging and flood may further increase the weather vagaries in district of Kangra, Chamba, Shimla, Mandi, Kullu, Sirmaur, Solan, Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti.

## Both Houses of Parliament adjourned till Monday amid opposition uproar

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, July 21 (UNI) With opposition parties staying firm over debate on Manipur horror and in no mood to relent over other issues such as Centre's Delhi ordinance, the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament remained virtually paralysed for second consecutive day of the ongoing Monsoon session.

Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha would now meet at 11 AM on Monday.

With opposition members pressing for discussion on Manipur violence and a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two Houses have been barely allowed to function and take up any legislative business.

While members of the ruling party have maintained that they are ready for discussion on Manipur, the opposition parties have accused the government of running away from the debate.

## Mamata vehemently critical of BJP

■ HT News Network

Kolkata, July 21 (UNI) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday came down heavily on the saffron brigade, alleging that the BJP's 'Beti Bachao' slogan has now turned into 'Beti Jalao'. Addressing a mammoth rally at Esplanade on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, Banerjee lambasted the BJP over the ongoing violence in Manipur, Bilkis Bano and wrestlers' sexual harassment cases. "You (BJP) gave 'Beti Bachao' slogan, where is your slogan now?" the Chief Minister asked and expressed her solidarity with the people of Manipur. "Today, Manipur is burning, the whole country is burning," stated Banerjee, who on Thursday was aghast at the horrific video from Manipur showing the brutal treatment of two women by a frenzied mob and said, "My heart burns and cries for Manipur."

## Adani group in SL to discuss multiple project

■ HT News Network

Colombo, July 21 (UNI) Gautam Adani visited Sri Lanka where he met with Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his powerful older brother Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday. From Colombo, the billionaire businessman went on to visit Manner the proposed site of the renewable energy project on a Sri Lankan air force helicopter, according to Tamil Guardian News. Great Honour to have met H.E. President Ranil Wickremesinghe to discuss a fascinating set of projects in Sri Lanka including continued development of Colombo Port West Container Terminal, 500 MW wind project, and extending our renewable energy expertise to produce green Hydrogen' the billionaire industrialist announced on



Twitter. In December, the group submitted a proposal to the Board of Investments of Sri Lanka (BOI) and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) to develop a USD \$1 billion renewable wind power project in Mannar.

The proposal would see the development of a 1,000 MW wind energy project in Mannar and has also expressed interest in a second wind energy project in Poonakary both situated in

the Tamil homeland.

The Adani group now disputed renewable energy project in the Tamil North-East, is not the company's first venture on the island.

Last year Adani Ports inked a deal worth a reported US\$700 million to build a new container terminal in Colombo's port. The deal was controversial for several reasons. It came at a particularly difficult time for Indo-Lanka relations.

# Varanasi Court Allows Survey Of Gyanvapi Mosque Barring Spot Sealed Earlier

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Varanasi District Court today allowed a "scientific survey" of the entire Gyanvapi mosque premises by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), except the barricaded 'wazukhana' where a structure claimed by Hindu litigants to be a 'shivling' exists, allowing a petition by four women worshippers who want to find out as to whether the Mosque had been constructed over a pre-existing structure of the Hindu temple. The court asked the ASI to submit its scientific report by August 4.

The order is likely to be challenged in higher courts. The Supreme Court last year directed the sealing of the 'wazukhana' area.

"I have been informed that my application has been approved and the court has directed to conduct an ASI survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex, excluding the Wazu tank which has been sealed," Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the petitioners in the case, said, according to news agency ANI.

The application was moved in May this year by four women worshippers, who claimed the Gyanvapi Mosque, located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple, had signs of an ancient Hindu temple. The application stated that Swayambhu Jyotirlinga existed at the site for lakhs of years, however, the same was destroyed/damaged several times



by "Muslim Invaders who had hatred against infidels and idol worshippers beginning with the attack of Mahmud Ghazni in 1017 AD".

The application further states that "one of the most fanatic and cruel Mughal Emperors, Aurangzeb" issued Farman (decree) in 1669 to demolish the Temple of Lord Adivisheshwar at the site in question and in pursuance of his command, his subordinates carried out the order by demolishing the aforesaid Temple.

Mr Jain earlier said he argued that the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi mosque dispute can be resolved only by

an archaeological investigation of the entire mosque complex.

Hindu Petitioner To Withdraw From Gyanvapi Cases Over Alleged Harassment Hindu Petitioner To Withdraw From Gyanvapi Cases Over Alleged Harassment The Mosque committee had opposed the plea, saying an ASI survey could damage the complex.

The Supreme Court had on May 19 deferred the "scientific survey", including carbon dating, of a "Shivling" said to have been found at the Gyanvapi mosque complex during a videographic survey last year. Earlier this year, the mosque committee



reality, the program will end on Saturday with a massive tree plantation.

"30 crore saplings will be planted in one day throughout the entire state under the tree plantation drive and the program will be completed by planting 5 crore saplings on the occasion of Independence Day," he said.

He said, "We all have to actively participate in the programme. Similarly, we have to collect rainwater because the higher the groundwater level, the more pure water we will get. On the contrary, the lower this level goes, the more complaints of arsenic and fluoride will be seen.

This will also increase the risk of diseases."



# Saudi Arabia, Iran summon Swedish diplomats over Holy Quran protests

■ HT News Network

Middle East powerhouses Saudi Arabia and Iran have summoned Swedish diplomats to denounce Stockholm's permission for protests that desecrate the Holy Quran on free speech grounds.

The separate moves by both majority-Muslim countries, announced in statements late on Thursday, came amid heightened tensions between Sweden and Iraq over a Sweden-based Iraqi refugee who last month desecrated the Holy Quran outside Stockholm's main mosque.

In the latest such incident on Thursday, the refugee, Salwan Momika, stepped on the Holy Quran but did not burn it, triggering renewed condemnations and calls for protest across the Muslim world.

Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest sites, said it would hand the Swedish charge d'affaires "a protest note that includes the kingdom's request to the Swedish authorities to take all immediate and necessary measures to stop these disgraceful acts", according to a foreign ministry statement.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said Sweden's ambassador to Tehran had been called in to censure the permit granted to Momika's protest and to warn Stockholm of the consequences of such actions.

"We strongly condemn the repeated desecration of the Holy Quran and Islamic sanctities in Sweden and hold the Swedish



government fully responsible for the consequences of inciting the feelings of Muslims around the world," Kanani said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said a joint strategy will be formulated from the platform of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to counter such heinous acts, Radio Pakistan reported.

Strongly condemning the desecration, the premier said a campaign will be initiated to get reversed the decision of allowing the desecration of Holy books — the Holy Quran, Bible and Torah — the report said.

It quoted Shehbaz saying: "The desecration of sacred books, persons and rituals is not freedom of expression but [is done]

to constantly torment the world."

Terming it a part of a political and satanic agenda, PM Shehbaz said that the entire Muslim and Christian communities "must stop this conspiracy together", Radio Pakistan reported.

It further quoted the prime minister as saying that the "decision to allow the desecration of the Torah and Bible encouraged desecrators" and promoted hatred, which was against international law.

According to Radio Pakistan, the premier termed such incidents as "fatal to world peace" as well as "abhorrent and condemnable, both legally and morally".

Sweden moves Iraq embassy functions to Stockholm Later today, Sweden announced that the staff and operations

of its embassy in Iraq had been relocated to Stockholm, citing security concerns after protesters stormed the embassy in a pre-dawn raid this week.

"The embassy's operations and its expatriate staff have been temporarily relocated to Stockholm for security reasons," the foreign ministry told AFP.

News that Swedish authorities would permit the latest demonstration to go ahead had led hundreds of Iraqis to storm and torch Sweden's Baghdad embassy in a chaotic pre-dawn attack.

Iraq's government condemned the attack. It also retaliated against the protest in Sweden by expelling its ambassador, vowing to sever ties and suspending the operating licence of Swedish telecom giant Ericsson.

'Provocative'

On Thursday, the 57-member OIC denounced the Stockholm protest as "another provocative attack" that could not be justified under the right to freedom of expression.

Turkiye's foreign ministry called on Sweden to take "dissuasive measures to prevent hate crimes against Islam and its billions of followers". Protesters sit on top of a building next to the Swedish embassy in Baghdad on Thursday. — Reuters.

In Lebanon, the leader of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement Hassan Nasrallah called for the expulsion of the Swedish envoy there and the recall of Lebanon's ambassador to Sweden.

## Dengue death toll rises to 155 in B'desh in 2023

■ HT News Network

Dhaka, July 21 (UNI) The Bangladeshi government has confirmed another nine deaths from dengue fever, bringing the total number of fatalities in the country since January to 155, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported.

The deaths include 108 in July and 34 in June.

During the first 20 days in July, according to the figure reported by the DGHS under the Ministry of Health, 19,569 more dengue cases were recorded after 5,956 people were infected with the mosquito-borne disease last month.

A total of 1,755 fresh dengue cases including 845 in Dhaka were reported in the 24 hours till 8:00 a.m. local time Thursday, the DGHS data showed.

The total number of dengue fever cases reported since the start of January reached 27,547.

Against such a grim situation, Bangladesh health authorities have strengthened measures to check the breeding of mosquitoes and conduct anti-larval operations.

## Seoul warns Pyongyang of 'end of N Korean regime' in event of nuclear attack

■ HT News Network

Seoul, July 21 (UNI) The South Korean Defense Ministry on Friday threatened Pyongyang with "the end of the North Korean regime" in the event of a nuclear attack against Seoul, after the North said that the deployment of US nuclear assets in the region could be a sufficient reason to use nuclear arms.

On Thursday, North Korean Defense Minister Kang Sun Nam criticized the deployment of a US nuclear ballistic missile submarine in South Korea earlier in the week, saying that Pyongyang could potentially consider it a sufficient basis for the use of nuclear arms for self-defense.

"In the event of any North Korean nuclear attack against the South Korea-U.S. alliance, it will face an immediate, overwhelming and decisive response from the alliance, and through this, and [we] strongly warn again that through this, [the attack] will result in the end of the North Korean regime," the ministry was quoted as saying by the Yonhap news agency.

The US's USS Kentucky, an Ohio-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine, on Tuesday made port in Busan, in the south-east of South Korea. On the same day, the meeting of the two countries' Nuclear Consultative Group (NCG) took place, during which South Korean Presidents Yoon Suk-yeol and his US counterpart, Joe Biden, reaffirmed their commitment to deterring North Korea.

## One stabbed to death, 3 injured in S Korea

■ HT News Network

Seoul, July 21 (UNI) One person was stabbed to death and three others were injured near a subway station in South Korean capital Seoul on Friday.

An unidentified assailant stabbed one person to death near the exit of a subway station in western Seoul.

Three people were wounded and taken to a nearby hospital.

The police arrested the suspect at the scene and were investigating the details of the crime.

## Police arrest kidnappers, rescue child in Afghan

■ HT News Network

Kabul, July 21 (UNI) Police in north Afghanistan's Samangan province have arrested three persons on the charge of involvement in kidnapping and rescuing a teenager from their hostage, a statement of provincial police said.

Units of police, according to the statement, were able to spot and release a 13-year-old boy from the kidnappers' clutch and arrest three kidnappers on Thursday.

Police arrested four men on the charge of killing a woman in the northern Takhar province on the same day.

## US Senator Markey tells Actors, Writers on strike near White House 'stay strong'

■ HT News Network

Washington, July 21 (UNI) More than 100 protesters from the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) are rallying not too far from the White House where Senator Ed Markey came out to tell them to stay strong, a Sputnik correspondent reported.

The strike against studios and streamers, announced by SAG-AFTRA started last week. The union has said the other side is unwilling to offer workers a fair deal and to protect their livelihoods. The workers are striking for better pay and protections against artificial intelligence. "It is absolutely imperative that the workers stay out here until they get a fair deal," Markey said on Thursday to the demonstrators gathered at the Black Lives Matter plaza. "Stay strong!" The protest is peaceful and there is not an enhanced police presence in sight.

## Israeli military threatens arrest of reservists in judicial protest

■ HT News Network

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military may arrest reservists who have pledged not to report for duty as part of protests at the government's judicial overhaul plans, Army Radio reported on Thursday after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded a crack-down. The seeping of the constitutional disputes into the conscript military has jarred Israelis who long saw it as an apolitical melting pot for a fractious society. On both sides of the schism, worries have been voiced about war-readiness.

A short dramatic film being circulated on-line showed an infantryman in battle desperately radioing for air strikes, only to be asked by the pilot: "Are you for or against the reforms?"

Culture Minister Miki Zohar posted the film but then removed it after the military spokesperson denounced it as "meant to create rifts within the IDF (Israel Defence Forces)".

Still, Zohar insisted on Twitter, the film had a "mes-



sage of unity".

MPs prepare divisive bill for final votes

The military spokesperson's office has not formally provided figures for the reservist protests. But Army Radio, a popular Israeli broadcaster managed by the Defence Ministry, said "a few hundred" reservists had announced they would refuse call-ups.

Most of these are from the air force, Army Radio said. After ending their commissions, air force pilots and navigators are required to do weekly training and, according to veterans of the corps, make up around half of crews sent on combat sorties.

Sanctions being consid-

ered include arrest, suspension and dismissal, Army Radio said — but noted that, because air force reservists are designated as volunteers, they may be treated differently to reservists whose call-ups are obligatory. On Monday, Netanyahu said his government would act against what he described as insubordination in the ranks that risked inviting attack by Israel's foes and undermining its democracy. Protesters say his religious-nationalist coalition has lost its democratic mandate by trying to curb judicial independence with reforms that Netanyahu — who is on trial on graft charges he denies — argues will balance.

## S Korean fishermen hold maritime rally against Japan's nuke wastewater discharge plan

■ HT News Network

Seoul, July 21 (UNI) South Korean fishermen on Friday held a maritime protest rally against Japan's planned discharge of contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the ocean.

A group of local fishermen gathered on the seashore of the southwestern coastal county of Jangheung, carrying a rally called "flower bier" about 200 meters along the coast to protest against the contaminated water release plan.

"The flower bier is used for a (traditional) ritual to carry coffins when people die. We marched with the flower bier to say that if the Fukushima nuclear wastewater is released into the ocean, all humankind will die," Kim Young-chul, executive chief of the Federation of Korean Fishermen's Associations, told Xinhua by phone.

The placard of "oppose



discharging Fukushima nuclear contaminated water" was attached to both sides of the bier carried by the fishermen, Kim said.

The same placards were also hung on the sides of about 30 fishing boats that staged a maritime demonstration in waters off the county for some half an hour. "I'd like to ask questions to the Japanese government. Why is it seeking to release the contaminated water into the ocean if the water is really safe as Japan claimed? Why is it seeking to dump it through a one-kilometer-long tunnel after dilution if the water is safe enough to drink?" said Kim.

He noted that if it is a really safe and edible water, Japan can just choose to use it inside its territory for agricultural, industrial and drinking purposes.

Japan has been pushing for dumping the contaminated wastewater this summer from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, which was hit by a massive earthquake and an ensuing tsunami in March 2011.

The move has aroused strong opposition and doubts from domestic fishing groups, neighboring countries and the South Pacific island countries, as well as the international community.

## UK Tories win parliamentary by-elections to replace Boris Johnson

■ HT News Network

London, July 21 (UNI) The UK Conservative Party has managed to win a by-election to the House of Commons, the lower house of the UK parliament, to replace former Prime Minister Boris Johnson after he left the body, UK media reported on Friday. On Thursday, the United Kingdom held elections in three constituencies to replace conservative Members of Parliament who have stood down. The observers believed that the Tories would lose all three seats, which would make current Conservative leader Rishi Sunak the first prime minister in 55 years since Labour's Harold Wilson in 1968 to lose three seats in a by-election on the same day, the Sky News broadcaster reported. However, the Conservative candidate still managed to win in Johnson's former constituency of Uxbridge and South Ruislip in west London, while the gap with the Labour representative was just 495 votes, the report said. The winner said that a key factor in the fight was voter anger over the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) charge, which is effectively a tax on the most polluting cars, whose extension to the constituency was being actively promoted by Sadiq Khan, the Labour mayor of the capital, the report read. The Liberal Democrat candidate won the by-election in the county of Somerset in southwest England very convincingly, getting almost twice as many votes as his Conservative rival, Sky News reported.

## 101 killed, 180 injured in Pakistan's monsoon season

■ HT News Network

Islamabad, July 21 (UNI) About 101 people were killed and 180 others injured during the ongoing monsoon season starting from June 25 till date across Pakistan, the country's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said.

The country's east Punjab province was worst hit in the rains, with 57 fatalities and 118 injuries, the NDMA said on Thursday, adding that 53 houses were also destroyed in the heavy rains that lashed the province, including the provincial capital of Lahore.

The Lahore's rains, which were called "record-break-



ing" by the country's caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, caused urban flooding in the city, inundating several areas and disrupting road traffic for hours.

Rawalpindi city of the province also received heavy rains for over 12 hours on Wednesday, resulting in a rise in water levels in streams and drain-

ages to an alarming level, and the local municipal authority had to call in the army to help them in meeting any untoward situation.

At least 12 people were killed Wednesday after a wall of an under-construction bridge collapsed on laborers living in make-shift tents, due to heavy rain in the city.

According to a district

administration spokesman, rainfall gauging stations recorded up to 200 mm of rain in several areas of the city, causing urban flooding and roof collapse incidents.

A total of 25 people were killed and 41 others were injured in separate rain-related accidents in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the NDMA said.

The torrential rains also damaged 60 houses and perished 43 livestock in the province, the authority added.

In the country's south Sindh province, 10 people were killed and two others were injured when lightning struck a house during a thunderstorm earlier in June.



# J&K Bank becomes the 1st Scheduled Commercial Bank in India to achieve PCIDSS V4 Certification

## HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: In a major boost to its cyber-security system, J&K Bank has become the first Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) in the country to attain the esteemed Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCIDSS) Version 4 Certification for both Issuance and Acquiring Business. PCI DSS is a globally recognized set of security standards established by leading payment card brands such as Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, JCB etc.

and governed by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC).

Proudly announcing the groundbreaking achievement, the Bank's MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash extended his heartfelt congratulations to the dedicated teams involved in achieving this exceptional certification. He said, "This remarkable accomplishment reaffirms Bank's unwavering commitment to customer-privacy and security-excellence. Being the first SCB as PCI DSS (V-4.0) compliant in the country is a great badge of honour for us as a financial institution and I

would like to congratulate every member of our exceptional team whose hard work and commitment have made this achievement possible. Their unwavering dedication to our customers' safety and satisfaction has been instrumental in attaining this recognition."

"While revolutionising the scope and scale of banking industry, the fast-paced digitization continues to increase exposure of banks to cyber security risks. In such a situation, this highly prestigious certification is a great acknowledgment of our in-place information-security protocols", he



added.

While reaffirming Bank's commitment to the clientele and stakeholders of Bank, MD & CEO emphasized that achieving the PCIDSS V4 certification marks a pivotal moment in its journey towards becoming a Bank with unparalleled security and unflinching trust in the realm of digital banking. "With security of our customers' financial data as a top priority, this certification is also a testament of J&K Bank as a reliable financial partner with unwavering commitment to safeguarding the interests of its valued customers", he

said, adding that the Bank will continue to innovate and invest in the latest technologies to uphold and enhance the trust of its valuable customers.

Notably, this certification process involves a comprehensive audit conducted by a team of Qualified Security Assessors (QSA) Certified by PCI Security Standards Council to evaluate an organization's adherence to stringent security controls and protocols during payment card transactions.

## Director Agriculture Kashmir visits SMF Tapper Kreeri

### Tapper Farm becoming a Model Seed Multiplication Farm: Chowdhury Iqbal

#### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited seed multiplication farm (SMF) Tapper Kreeri and took stock of various agriculture activities there.

During the visit, the Director inspected different blocks, hi-tech poly houses at the farm and discussed various innovative interventions and technologies adopted at the farm.

Speaking to the experts and staff of the farm, Director expressed satisfaction over the transformation of

the farm and appreciated their role in the successful implementation of different modern technologies.

The Director said that the S.M Farm Tapper is becoming a model farm so far as seed multiplication of different vegetable crops is concerned. He said the impact of climate change, limited natural resources are immediate challenges confronting our cultivation process. He asked the concerned officers to strategize the cultivation operation in an environment friendly manner with minimum stress on natural resources. Earlier, Farm Manager SMF



Tapper Charan Gurdev Singh gave a detailed presentation of various agriculture activities at the farm. He also informed the Director regarding the new technologies that have been adopted during the cultivation

of present crops for the first time at the farm. The Technical Officer Seed Multiplication Farm Tapper Dr. Sharan Gurdev Singh presented various ideas for the cultivation of different crops during the coming

season. He informed the Director regarding the some new programs of vegetable Cultivation that have been devised in line with the geographical conditions of the area and would be implemented in coming days. Later, the Director also visited the field of some progressive farmers at Palhalan Pattan area of district and assured them of every possible technical guidance from the department during the cultivation of different agricultural crops.

He took feedback from different farmers regarding the implementation of different Centrally sponsored

schemes by the department in the district. Director Agriculture was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla Yadvinder Singh and other senior officers of the department. Later, the Director also visited the field of some progressive farmers at Palhalan Pattan area of district and assured them of every possible technical guidance from the department during the cultivation of different agricultural crops. He took feedback from different farmers regarding the implementation of different Centrally sponsored schemes by the department in the district.

## Rs 41k Fine imposed on erring traders at Shopian

#### HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JULY 21: The Court of Adjudicating Officer, Additional District Magistrate Shopian, Yar Ali Khan today imposed a fine of Rs 41,200 on Food Business Operators (FBOs) including manufacturers, wholesale dealers and retailers. The fine was imposed for violation of the sec 51 and 52 of FSS Act-2006 as the erring traders restored to violations by selling misbranded and sub standard food.

The proceedings of various blocks of the district related to the Food Safety and Standards Act-2006 were listed before the Adjudicating Officer.

The Adjudicating Officer also warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food Safety and Standards Act and rules by the food business operators of the district will be dealt with more strictly in coming time.

It is pertinent to mention here that the concerned Enforcement Agency was directed by the Adjudicating Officer under FSS Act-2006, to take stern action against the violators so that consumers can be provided safe food.

## General Lok Adalat to be held at Kulgam on 5th August, 2023

#### Farooq Rafter

KULGAM, JULY 21: According to Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam, a General Lok Adalat will be held within the District Court Complex Kulgam on 5th of August, 2023.

Cases pertaining to bank recovery, electricity dues, criminal compoundable offences, traffic challans, family disputes, land acquisition cases and other public utility services shall be taken up for adjudication.

The interested litigants are informed to approach presiding officers of the concerned courts of District Kulgam where their cases are pending for disposal to refer them to the said forum by or before August 04-2023, so as to list their cases in the proposed Lok Adalat for their amicable settlement.

## CUK condoles demise of Biotech student

#### HT News Network

Ganderbal, July 21: Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Registrar, Prof. M. Afzal Zargar, I/c Controller of Examinations, Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Nika, Finance Officer, Dr. Mehraj ud Din Shah, Deans of Schools, Heads and Coordinators of Departments, faculty members, administrative staff, research scholars and students, Friday, condoled the demise of Ms. Qudrat Farooq, student of 4th semester, B.Sc.-M.Sc. Biotechnology, of the varsity.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath and other functionaries expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

## Session on Career Opportunities in Food Technology held at IUST

#### HT News Network

Awantipora, July 21. The Department of Food Technology, Islamic University of Science and Technology organised an expert session on the topic of Career Opportunities in Food Technology. The featured guest for the event conducted as part of the university's Industry Connect initiative was Mr. Hakim Asrar Ahmad, who holds the position of Manufacturing Director at Nestle Bangladesh Ltd. in Bangladesh.

Mr. Hakim Asrar Ahmad discussed manufacturing operations and factory management at international food industries like Nestle. He deliberated upon the start-up potential in the food industry and appreciated the department for organising such capacity-building programs for future food technologists.

## GDC Reasi organises cleanliness drive

#### HT News Network

REASI, JULY 21: NSS Unit of Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College Reasi on Friday organised a cleanliness drive at Sullu Park.

As many as 35 NSS volunteers of the college participated in the cleanliness drive organised at Sullu Park under the supervision of NSS Programme Officer, Prof. Ajay Kumar and cleaned the area near the Bowley.

Later, they also visited the office of the Range Officer Soil Reasi and collected plants under the Meri Mati Mera Desh Programme which will be planted on 26th July, 2023 in different locations to mark Kargil Diwas.

## Forest Department launches massive Joint Patrolling & Search Operations in Forest, Town areas of Pulwama

#### HT News Network

PULWAMA, JULY 21: In view of the recent firing incident by unknown gunmen on the forest patrolling team of Forest Department in Pulwama District and subsequent death of one Forest worker and injuries to another Forest officer, the Forest Department has launched massive patrolling and search operations in all forests of Pulwama and intensified surveillance in town areas. At sunrise itself, large number of Joint Forest teams comprising of hundreds of personnel of Forest Territorial Department and Forest Protection Force, Shopian directly led by Conservator of Forests (CoF) South Kashmir, Irfan Ali Shah conducted joint flag marches in Forests of Pakherpora, Sangerwani, Keller, Gulabteeng, Yarwan and Kehroot. Deputy Director, Forest Protection Force Shopian Muneer Ahmad; DFO Shopian, Ayoub Sheikh and Range officers, Assistant Directors Forest Protection Force and other senior officers participated in these operations. The department has since two days intensified checking of suspected vehicles in Pulwama and connecting roads and set up night nakas as well in Nawa, Murran, Rohmoo, Tokna, Lajoora, Awantipora and Qouil. Forest Department officials also raided and checked many bandsaw units in Kakapora area for any illicit timber. The CoF has directed Forest officials to take all possible measures for ensuring strengthening of the Forest protection network including functioning of Forest Control Rooms, increasing mobility of frontline staff, joint patrolling with FPF personnel, increase in frequency of monitoring by field staff and reporting by them.

## Director Horticulture led JIT conducts visit to M/S Shaheen Foods & Spices at Khanmoh, Srinagar

#### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: The Director Horticulture Kashmir, G R Mir led the Joint Inspection Team (JIT) on a visit to M/S Shaheen Foods and Spices at Khanmoh, Srinagar, to conduct the second Joint Inspection of the unit.

During the visit, Director Horticulture highlighted the importance of establishing more post-harvest units, as significant quantities of fruits are lost due to post-harvest and transport-related losses. By encouraging



the establishment of such units, the horticultural sector can significantly reduce wastage and enhance economic gains for farmers.

Later in the day, Director

Horticulture proceeded to Walnut Nursery Zawaora, Srinagar, where he assessed the various ongoing activities. He paid particular attention to the inspection of the Post Entry Quarantine (PeQ) facility under development as part of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Moreover, Director G R Mir also visited the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Zawaora, where he gained insights into the center's functioning and its contributions to the horticulture sector's growth. The Director was accompanied by a team of horticulture experts, including Joint Director, Z. A. Bhat, Chief Horticulture Officer Srinagar, and the District Horticulture Officer Srinagar.

## Admin urged to Provide uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, other basic facilities during Muharram

#### HT News Network

Srinagar, July 21: Prominent Social and Political activist of Batamalo Constituency, Mir Umar has appealed District Administration Srinagar to provide all basic facilities in Shia dominated areas of the constituency during Muharram.



According to Press Statement, Mir

Umar demanded that uninterrupted power supply must be maintained in entire Kashmir valley and especially Shia dominated areas of Batamalo constituency including Gundhassi Bhat, Ali Abad, Koshipora Zaina-sions, koot, Sajad Abad Chat-tabal, Sha-heed Gunj, Guru Bazar and other areas in all Muharram days.

## DC launches Meeras Mahal Museum Website at Baramulla

Website to Showcase the Rich Cultural Heritage of Kashmir: Dr Sehrish

#### HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JULY 21: In order to provide an ethnographic lens into the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir valley and ensure access of people to ancient ornaments, coins, traditional dresses and utensils, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today launched Meeras Mahal Museum Website www.meerasmahalmuseum.com. to showcase the best representatives of the total collections.

After inaugurating the website, Dr Sehrish highlighted the importance of the Meeras Mahal Museum established at Sopore and said that the establishment of Museum is a step towards preserving heritage of the



said area.

She said that the website aims at spreading awareness about Kashmir's ethnic culture, especially from the hinterland, to not just the local community but also the global audience and the diaspora.

It is worth mention-

ing here that Meeras Mahal was set up by Atiqa Bano, a renowned educationist of Kashmir in 2001. The museum today has over 7000 items to display. The museum houses a collection of ancient ornaments, coins, traditional dresses, and utensils.

## DC Kupwara chairs DCDC Meeting

#### HT News Network

KUPWARA, JULY 21: In order to increase the viability of PACS and diversify their business activities to make them vibrant economic entities at grass-roots level, a meeting of District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) was Friday held at DC Office Complex Kupwara under the Chairpersonship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. During the meeting, it was informed that there are a total of 22 PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) in the district wherein 19816 members are associated. 22 Panchayat Halqas of the district are covered by PACS. It was also apprised that a total of 89 Cooperatives stand registered in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC deliberated on the objectives of the meeting and stressed on the committee members to make best efforts to strengthen the cooperative movement in Kupwara district so that people can take benefits of Cooperative societies.

The DDC emphasised for making PACS



as vibrant economic entities. She directed all 22 PACS to operate as Jan Aushadi Kendras for improving access to generic medicines in villages.

She also directed that 22 PACS be on-boarded as CSCs (Common Service Centres) and Accountants to be trained to work as Resource Persons to operate CSCs.

Ayushi further directed the Cooperative Department to share the list of PACS with the Agriculture Department for formation of FPOs.

DDC Kupwara asked concerned departments for Convergence and handholding of milk FPOs and Cooperatives to streamline the process of milk procurement and processing in the district.



# Inflammation May Increase Dementia Risk by 35%, New Study Finds

A new study links inflammation to the development of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia affect millions of Americans. Biomarkers for inflammation were linked to higher risk of dementia. The medical community has increasingly identified the role of inflammation in the development of Alzheimer's Disease and dementia – now a new study from the UK further establishes that link. Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia affect millions of Americans, killing more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. Despite the prevalence of dementia among the elderly and its burden on the healthcare system (costing hundreds of billions of dollars each year), researchers have yet to determine a clear cause. Trusted Source of the disease. The greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer's disease is aging, but there is also a cluster of other risk factors identified as potential causes, including genetic predisposition, inflammation, cardiovascular health, and brain chemistry (plaques and tangles. Trusted Source). Isolating a single or predominant cause of the disease has proved difficult; finding a cure has proved even more elusive.



Biomarkers show inflammation's effect on dementia risk. A new study from the UK Trusted Source, published July 19 in the journal PLOS ONE, sheds light on the link between inflammation, cognition, and dementia. Utilizing health data from over 500,000 individuals, obtained through the large, population-based study, the UK Biobank (UKB), researchers were able to take large amounts of data and compare them with cognitive outcomes and dementia risk. Specifically, researchers looked at certain blood bio-

markers indicative of inflammation and how these correlated with various cognitive tasks. They found a small, but statistically significant, association between higher levels of these biomarkers, worse cognitive performance, and higher risk of dementia later in life. "Elevated levels of blood inflammatory markers are often found in elderly individuals and this condition is termed 'inflammageing.' Inflammageing carries a high susceptibility to chronic diseases and premature death. We found associa-

tions between elevated systemic inflammation biomarker levels, concurrent and later cognitive performance, and future dementia risk," Dr. Krisztina Mekli, lead author of the study and a genetic researcher at the University of Manchester, told Healthline. For the UKB, more than a half-million participants willingly consented to have their health information used for scientific and research purposes. The cohort included both men and women, recruited between 2006-2010, and were between 40-69 years old at the time. Participants in the UKB were also included as part of a longitudinal study that followed them over the course of years to capture any subsequent health events. Mekli and her team sifted through massive amounts of data to look at one specific question: does the presence of certain inflammatory biomarkers affect cognitive ability and dementia risk. They found that the answer was yes. Dr. Paul Newhouse, Director of the Center for Cognitive Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, who was not affiliated with the study, told Healthline, "What this work suggests is that even in a very large study, they can show a small but measurable effect of chronic low-level inflammatory markers in the body."

# This Vitamin C Rich Fruit Can Help You Get Rid Of Constipation Naturally

Constipation is a condition where you are not able to relieve yourself properly or when you have less than three bowel movements per week. This can cause discomfort and also take a toll on the every day life of the person. Suffering from constipation often involves spending an unusually long time in the loo trying to empty the bowel and still sometimes failing to do so. Constipation is one of the most common health issues which can be due to multiple reasons and affect you at any age. Making dietary changes is one of the ways you can get relief from constipation. There are certain foods having properties that are effective in treating constipation.

One of them is green kiwi. According to nutritionist Lovneet Batra, eating green kiwi can be helpful if

stool. The nutritionist, through her Instagram Stories, explains

grams of dietary fiber per 100 gm. She says that fiber "plays a physicochemical role during constipation" and can help provide a smooth passage of stool. The fruit also contains a protease enzyme called actinidine which stimulates motility in the upper gastrointestinal tract. Other remedies for constipation While green kiwi can come in handy, it is not the only food you can eat to tackle constipation. Earlier, Lovneet Batra shared six natural remedies to treat constipation. These include amla juice, yogurt and flax seeds powder, ghee and milk, oat bran, water, and leafy green vegetables.

Yogurt contains a strain of friendly bacteria called bifidobacterium lactis which regulates the digestive system while flax seeds are rich in fiber. Drinking amla juice with water can also be beneficial in providing relief from constipation while oat bran too is an effective remedy given its high fibre content. It is advised to eat more leafy greens such as Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and spinach as they are high in folate, vitamin K, and vitamin C. One can also consume a cup of hot milk with a teaspoon of ghee before going to bed to improve the movement of stools. Drinking plenty of water is another easy way you can improve constipation. Constipation is a common digestive issue faced by many. Expert recommends adding this nutritious fruit to your diet for relief.



## Summer Diet: 5 Foods To Eat & 5 To Avoid To Stay Cool During Hot Summer Weather

Our diet has a significant impact on our health throughout the year, including the summertime. The hot summer weather affects our body's functions, including our metabolism, digestion, and fluid balance. As a result, what we choose to eat during the summer months can help keep us cool, or it can make us feel hot and sluggish. Foods that can cool us down in the summer are those that have a high water content. Eating these foods can help keep our core body temperature down, and make us feel more comfortable in the heat. On the other hand, consuming heavy, fatty, or spicy foods can make us feel hot and uncomfortable in the summertime. These foods can also increase our blood pressure, making us feel sluggish and less productive. In this article, we list foods you should eat and foods you should avoid during the hot summer months.

**1. Watermelon**

Watermelon is the perfect fruit to consume during hot summer weather as it is made up of about 90% water. Consuming watermelon helps to keep the body hydrated and cool. It is also a good source of vitamin C, A and potassium which helps in maintaining electrolyte balance in the body.

**2. Cucumber**

Cucumber is another hydrating food that is rich in water content and low in calories. This vegetable aids in regulating body temperature and flushing out toxins. Cucumbers can be consumed in salads, smoothies, or as a side dish.



### 5. Yogurt

Yogurt is a cooling food that provides probiotics to the gut. Consuming yogurt helps in reducing body heat, inflammation, and gut-related issues. It can be consumed as a snack, in smoothies, or as a dressing.

**Foods to Avoid:**

**1. Spicy and fried foods**

Spicy and fried foods should be avoided during hot weather as they increase body temperature and cause dehydration. Consuming these foods can also lead to indigestion and heartburn.

**2. Alcohol**

Alcohol should be avoided as it dehydrates the body and increases body temperature. It can also lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

**3. Coffee**

Coffee should be avoided as it is a diuretic that can dehydrate the body. Consuming coffee can also lead to increased body temperature and sweating.

## Malnutrition During Pregnancy May Raise Chance Of Type 2 Diabetes: Study

Malnutrition during pregnancy may raise the chance of acquiring type 2 diabetes in later life, according to a number of studies. In comparison to those born one year before or later, people born during a famine have a risk of diabetes that is more than twice as high, according to a 2013 study by Peter Klimek and his team. In a recent study, Klimek and his team for the first time were able to measure not just the incidence, or the number of new cases, but also the overall number of diabetes patients (prevalence). "Among men born during the two most severe famine periods, 1939 and 1946/1947, the rate of new cases of diabetes is up to 78 percent higher in 2013 to 2017 than in comparable years, and up to 59 percent higher among women," explains Klimek, from the Complexity Science Hub and the Medical University of Vienna. The effect is strongest in those born in 1939. The incidence rate rose from 3.9 percent to 6.9 percent among men and from 3.4 percent to 5.4 percent among women. Additionally, both groups have an increased incidence of concomitant conditions such as heart failure, arterial hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease. Scientists believe this is a result of genetic programming that occurs during pregnancy, which increases the risk of these diseases. As a result



of deficiency, the unborn child's metabolism adjusts to a nutritionally poor environment. If this does not prove true later in life, a maladaptation occurs that leads to increased metabolic and cardiovascular diseases in these birth groups. "One strength of our study is the new, large dataset on which it is based," says Klimek. This covers 99.9 percent of the Austrian population between 2012 and 2017, and all insured patients aged over 50 and under 100 were examined. Of these approximately 3.5 million people, 746,184 were treated for diabetes. The comprehensive dataset allowed researchers to measure age-specific and regional incidence rates directly for

the entire population, without additional assumptions that would be required for modeling. "Our results clearly demonstrate that public health efforts to address diabetes should not focus solely on lifestyle factors. The importance of reproductive health, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and in the early postnatal period, must also be considered," Klimek said. The unborn child's metabolism adjusts to a nutritionally poor environment. If this does not prove true later in life, a maladaptation occurs that leads to increased metabolic and cardiovascular diseases in these birth groups. "One strength of our study is the new, large dataset.

### NEWS

## Is it ok to share the same soap with your family?



### Is soap self-cleaning in nature?

If you have watched the hit sitcom 'FRIENDS', then you may recall the scene in which Joey questions Chandler why he minds sharing the same spoon, but finds it ok to share the same soap. "Because soap is soap. It's self cleaning," Chandler says. Well, if you too are wondering whether it is ok to share a soap with other people in your house, then this article may help you reach a conclusion.

### 02 Truth about bar soap and germs

Yes, there can be germs on a bar of soap. One April-June 2006 study in the Indian Journal of Dental Research found that bar soap harbored two to five different types of germs. Further, a July 2015 study in the American Journal of Infection Control, done in a hospital setting found that about 62 percent of bar soaps were contaminated, while just 3 percent of liquid soaps were. Bacteria lurking on soap could potentially spread from person-to-person from share.

### 03 What germs can be there on a soap bar?

According to health experts, some of the germs in question sitting on soap could include E. coli, salmonella and shigella bacteria, as well as viruses like norovirus and rotavirus and staph. Some can spread by getting into wounds or scratches on the skin, while others are spread from feces.

### 04 Can soap bars transmit diseases?

Even after the possibility of the presence of germs, researchers have found that soap does not appear to transmit disease in general. In a rigorous study published in 1965, scientists conducted a series of experiments in which they intentionally contaminated their hands with about five billion bacteria, noted The New York Times. The bacteria were disease-causing strains, such as Staph and E. coli. The scientists then washed their hands with a bar of soap and had a second person wash with the same bar of soap. They found that bacteria were not transferred to the second user and concluded: "The level of bacteria that may occur on bar soap, even under extreme usage conditions (heavy usage, poorly designed non-drainable soap dishes, etc.) does not constitute a health hazard."

### 05 Infection that can spread

While sharing a bar of soap is mostly safe, there is one infection that may transmit by sharing the same soap. In one 2008 study of University of Florida football players, those who shared soap were more likely to have recurring infections of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), an antibiotic-resistant staph infection. Due to this infection, the US CDC also recommends not sharing



# Bumrah 'bowling with full intensity', set to test fitness in practice matches

Jasprit Bumrah's return to action could be imminent, with the fast bowler now "bowling with full intensity in the nets" according to a BCCI medical update. Bumrah, whose last competitive cricket came in September 2022, has been undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru since undergoing back surgery in New Zealand in March 2023.

According to the BCCI's release, Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna - another fast bowler recuperating from a stress fracture - are both bowling at full intensity. "The duo will now play some practice games, which the NCA will organise. The BCCI Medical Team is pleased with their progress and will make a final decision after assessing them following the practice games."

ESPNCricinfo understands the



NCA is mindful of Bumrah's workload, and has organised practice games, so that he can play under a physio's supervi-

sion, rather than asking him to play in the 50-overs inter-zonal Deodhar Trophy. If he pulls up well in the practice games, he

could be in contention for the three-match T20I series in Ireland, which is scheduled to run from August 18 to 23.

## 'It's more about application': Mandhana

**NEW DELHI:** Among those who have found run-scoring difficult is the India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. A free-flowing stroke-maker, Mandhana hasn't hit top gear so far on tour. The 58-ball 36 she made in the second ODI helped break a sequence of 11, 1 and 13.

Bangladesh have done their homework by not giving the opener much pace to work with upfront. That was reflected in her mode of dismissals: out to spin in four of the five innings. It's unlikely Bangladesh would want to change that ploy come Saturday when both sides square off in the final ODI.

Mandhana admitted she hasn't been able to apply herself the way she would have liked. But she revealed she was doing all that she could to shred that patchy form.

"I think I've been batting well in the nets; in matches as well, I've been getting starts," Mandhana said. "It doesn't happen a lot of times that I'm middling the ball



but not getting runs for the team. I've been working on it.

"In the last match, I was pretty positive in the way I was able to get the team off to a decent start, but I threw my wicket

away. It's more about application. Batting-wise, it's going well but it's just that my application hasn't been the way I've always applied myself. That's something I've been working on."

Mandhana, like the rest of the Indian team, hasn't had much cricket in recent months. After the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) in March, the team had two months off. While a targeted squad of players had a month-long conditioning camp, the senior players were called in for just two weeks.

Mandhana had a middling run in the WPL, a tournament where she made several dazzling starts but failed to kick on. Ultimately, Royal Challengers Bangalore, the team she led, finished fifth in the six-team event, with Mandhana finishing with 149 runs in eight games at a strike rate of 111.19, which is far below her T20I strike rate of 123.49.

"After the WPL, we didn't have a lot of tournaments. I've put in a lot of work in the last three months, both in terms of my cricket and batting. I haven't been able to convert into big scores but the kind of work I've put in, it will reflect soon and I'll get consistent scores."

"These wickets need a lot more application than a flat track. I won't say it suits our style of batting, but it's about how we adapt."

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