

**P7 STATE**

**TOP SECURITY BRASS MEET, DISCUSS DRONE ACTIVITY, YATRA**

Amid controversial second draft report of delimitation commission, security agencies of J&K were seen in a huddle on Wednesday during a security meeting held in Jammu.



**P5 OBSESSION WITH MERIT**

I was talking to my mother who is a teacher in a public school, when the news of the cancellation of Class 12 CBSE Board Exams broke out. With a sigh of relief, I told this to her, expecting that she would appreciate the government's decision, looking at the misery



**P8 SPORTS**

**ODI BATTING RANKINGS: KOHLI STAYS AT NO. 2; ROHIT 3RD**

India's new white-ball captain Rohit Sharma remained in third place but closed in on teammate Virat Kohli, who also held on to second spot, in the latest ICC



**Quote!**

Stay hungry, stay foolish  
-- Steve Jobs

**NEWS DIGEST**

**2-Way Traffic On Highway On Feb 10**

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for both way traffic on Wednesday, officials said. "On 09-02-2022, subject to fair weather and **More on P6**

**Cyber Police Recovers 73 Smartphones**

SRINAGAR: Cyber Police Kashmir Zone Srinagar has recovered missing smartphones worth lakhs of rupees which were handed over to the rightful owners. "Cyber Police **More on P6**

**NC MP Meets Finance Minister Sitharaman**

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Member of Parliament Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi called on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and sought regularization and removal of pay anomalies of daily-wage and contractual **More on P6**

**CBSE 2nd-term 10, 12 Exam In Offline Mode**

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education will conduct the second-term board examination for classes 10 and 12 in offline mode from April 26, officials said on Wednesday. "The board after discussion with various stakeholders and taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation in the country has decided **More on P6**

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Contact Circulation Incharge: **Ishad Ahmad: 7006276927**

**INTERVIEW 'No One Will Suffer Because Of Private Practice Ban'**

Zaid Bin Shabir

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

The Doctor's Association Kashmir(DAK) has welcomed an expert panel Chawla Committee report—which had highlighted some undebated issues—on its recommendations of laying a complete ban on Private practice, suggesting that it has hampered development of J&K's medical infrastructure. Notably, on the directions of the High Court, the expert panel had visited Kashmir to ascertain the availability of healthcare

facilities, human resources and identify the shortcomings. In its newly published report, the expert panel has suggested several recommendations that have been aimed at bringing changes in the working of medical facilities in J&K including more powers to the Principles of GMC as well as a ban of the private practice by the doctors. The report has revealed that the panel has found out that medical colleges whose faculty members are practicing in the private sector, do not develop research and academics.

**PRIVATE PRACTICE SHOULD BE BANNED IN PRINCIPLE.** It should be incorporated into the college statutes and should be made an offense; those already recruited can be offered a golden handshake if they are unwilling to stop the private practice."



"Private practice should be banned in principle," reads the report. "It should be incorporated into the college statutes and should be made an offense; those already recruited

can be offered a golden handshake if they are unwilling to stop the private practice." However, in an exclusive interview with Kashmir Observer, senior physician and spokesperson Doctor's Association Kashmir, Dr. Riyaz Dagga explained why DAK has welcomed the Chawla committee report and why ban on private practice will bring a change into Kashmir's health sector.

**Why should private practice of government doctors be banned?**

Our hospitals like Government Medical Colleges or SKIMS aren't just hospitals. They're also institutes for medical education. At these institutes, we don't just treat our patients but also carry out extensive research on diseases and viruses. Now, when our doctor starts his private practice early in the morning and ends it before the hospital hours, he's completely exhausted by the time he arrives at the hospital. And because of that, he's unable to provide the necessary patient care and **More on P6**

**Day Before UP Votes, PM Modi Says BJP Will Win All 5 States**

KO Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday exuded confidence about winning assembly elections in all five poll-bound states—Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Manipur—saying that the BJP will emerge victorious and form governments with an absolute majority.

In an exclusive interview to ANI, the Prime Minister said, "I have seen in all states that there is an inclination towards the BJP and we will win the elections with a full majority. The people of all these five states will give BJP the opportunity to serve them." Reiterating his party's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', the Prime Minister said that whether it is election time or not, the BJP, despite the fact that it is in power or in coalition, strives for the welfare of the people. "When we are in power, then with great energy and on a large



scale we work with the mantra 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (with everyone's participation, we ensure the development of all)," the Prime Minister told ANI. With political spheres in all five poll-bound states heating up, the Prime Minister denied any atmosphere of anti-incumbency in states where BJP received the opportunity to work, adding that there is an atmosphere of "pro-incumbency." "Wherever BJP got the opportunity to work with

stability, there the environment is of 'pro-incumbency' instead of 'anti-incumbency'. The BJP always emerges victoriously with 'pro-incumbency' in elections," the Prime Minister said. Citing an example of Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP emerged victorious consecutively in 2014, 2017, 2019 elections—both in assembly polls and Lok Sabha elections, defying the trend of political parties not coming to power again in the state, the Prime Minister said, "The people of Uttar Pradesh have already thrown away the old theory of 'ek bar aao, ek bar jao' (come to power once and then go). The BJP has itself experienced that it was accepted in 2014, then the people saw our government's work and we again got elected in 2017, and similarly in 2019 as well. Now in 2022, they will again see our work and again accept us." Noting that the BJP believes in collective **More on P6**

**Can Students Wear Hijab to College? 3-Judge Bench To Hear Case Today**

Agencies

BENGALURU: Amid raging tensions over the wearing of Hijab by female Muslim students in Karnataka, a three-judge bench of the Karnataka High Court will hear the case in this matter on Thursday. The bench, headed by the Chief Justice of Karnataka will take a decision if schools/colleges can allow students to wear hijabs in the classroom. Earlier, the case was referred to a larger bench on Wednesday.

The single judge of the Karnataka High Court hearing the case related to the Hijab ban in school-college campuses referred the matter to the Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi on Wednesday with a view that the CJ may decide



on constituting a larger bench to look into the case. Justice Krishna S Dixit who was hearing since Tuesday a batch of petitions against Hijab ban in classrooms, maintained that these matters give rise to certain constitutional questions of seminal importance in view of certain aspects of personal law.

"In view of the enormity of questions of importance which were debated, the court is of the considered opinion that the Chief Justice should decide if a larger bench can be constituted in the subject matter," Justice Dixit said. "The bench was also of the view that the interim prayers should also be **More on P6**

**J&K Reports 681 Covid-19 Cases, 4 Deaths**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 681 new Covid-19 cases while four persons succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Wednesday.

They said 359 of the fresh cases were from Jammu Division and 322 from Kashmir valley, taking the total tally to 448786. Giving district-wise details they said Srinagar reported 139 cases, Baramulla 39, Budgam 39, Pulwama 10, Kupwara 30, Anantnag 16, Bandipora 10, Ganderbal 20, Kulgam 11, Shopian 8, Jammu 184, Udhampur 15, Rajouri 12, Doda 80, Kathua 36, Samba 8, Kishtwar 5, Poonch 9, Ramban 9 and Reasi 1. Regarding the deaths they said that all of them were reported from Kashmir, taking the overall toll in J&K to 4732—2316 in Jammu and 2416 in the Valley. A number of **More on P6**

**Decision On School Reopening Soon: Govt**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Wednesday said that the State Executive Committee (SEC) will soon take a decision regarding re-opening of schools.

"As such I would like to request the eligible students and their parents that vaccination in 15-18 groups must be done so that we can open the schools with more surety," Asad said. He however stressed the need for strict compliance to Covid-19 Appropriate Behavior, underlining that efforts should be to bring down the virus cases to zero. "From last few days, if you see, there has been a significant decrease in Covid-19 cases. For this, I would like to thank people of Srinagar and media that there was complete compliance with the Covid-19 Appropriate



Behavior (CAB). If we see, people are wearing masks," he said talking to reporters here, adding, "If you see, in third wave there was expectations that there would be four thousand cases per day and all these predictions were proved wrong by the people of Srinagar. Our highest single day spike was 1700 and from there on cases started to decline and now you see the cases are around hundred. **More on P6**

**India Rejects China-Pak Statement on J&K**

NEW DELHI: India today rejected the references to Jammu and Kashmir in the joint statement issued by China and Pakistan during Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to Beijing, asking the two neighbouring countries not to interfere in matters that were internal to this country. New Delhi also vehemently opposed the reference made to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the **More on P6**

**610 KP Properties Restored in J&K: Govt**

6,000 Transit Accommodations To Come Up At Rs 920 Crore Rs For Migrant KPs in Kashmir: MHA Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: As many as 610 Kashmiri Pandits were given back their properties left behind in Jammu and Kashmir following eruption of militancy there in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said in the Rajya Sabha that 3,000 state government jobs were

created for Kashmiri migrants under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015 (PMDDP-2015) with an outlay of Rs 1,080 crore. The Jammu and Kashmir government has appointed 1,739 migrants and selected an additional 1,098 migrants under PMDDP-2015. "As per the information provided by the **More on P6**

**PDP General Secretary Quits Party**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior PDP leader Ghulam Nabi Hanjura on Wednesday resigned as the general secretary of the party but will continue as its basic member, a party leader said. Hanjura was not available for comment. The PDP leader said that Hanjura has resigned as the general secretary of the party but he will continue to be associated with the party. "In his resignation message, Hanjura has said while he resigns from the post of the general secretary, he will continue to work as a basic member of the PDP," the leader said, without giving the reasons for the senior leaders' move. **More on P6**

**Instagram Restores Page Of Army's 15 Corps, FB Waiting**

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: After blocking for over a week, social media giant Instagram restored the handle of Chinar Corps, the Indian Army's strategically located formation in the Kashmir valley, while Facebook has assured a timely solution, officials said in Srinagar on Wednesday. After the issue of Instagram and Facebook taking off the pages was highlighted, the social media website got in touch with the officials at the Kashmir-based XV Corps, popularly known as Chinar Corps, following which the Instagram page, having around four lakh followers, was restored this morning. The company had objected to some of the posts, alleging that they

were against the rules laid down. After e-mail interactions with the technical team of Facebook, the Instagram account was restored while the account on Facebook would be restored soon after all the material from the previous handle was shifted to a new handle, the officials said. On Tuesday, a senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, had said that the matter had been taken up with authorities concerned in Facebook, but there had been no response from their side. The pages on Facebook and Instagram were created to negate the lies and propaganda flowing from across the border and also to apprise people of the real **More on P6**

**Toyota To Domino's Kashmir Controversy Entangles More Companies**

Reuters

NEW DELHI: Global automaker Toyota Motor and fast food chain Domino's Pizza are among half a dozen companies that have apologised to India for social media posts from their Pakistani partners expressing support for separatists in Kashmir, as more companies got caught up in the diplomatic fracas. The apology comes after a rare diplomatic escalation between South Korea and India on Tuesday over social media posts by Hyundai Motors' Pakistani partner, which caused an uproar and calls to boycott the carmaker.



Japan's Suzuki Motor, majority owner of India's biggest carmaker Maruti Suzuki, Honda Motor and Isuzu Motor, South Korea's Kia Motors and Yum! Brands' KFC also issued apologies as criticism grew on Twitter over the social media posts. The affray highlights the risks global companies face

while navigating sensitivities amid rising nationalism in South Asia, and is prompting them to take steps to strengthen their social media policies to protect their brand. The row erupted on Sunday, a day after several companies posted messages on social media to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5. Toyota, the world's biggest carmaker, said on Twitter that any political statements made by its dealers or other partners were not authorised and do not reflect its corporate stance. "We regret any hurt this may have caused," the company said, adding it was **More on P6**

**Dry Weather In Valley For Next Few Days**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature in Kashmir, barring Srinagar, settled below the freezing point, even as the Meteorological department predicted mainly dry weather over the next few days, officials said on Wednesday. Srinagar recorded a low of 0.6 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's 1.4 degrees Celsius, they said. However, the city was the only recorded place in the valley where the mercury settled above the freezing point last night, they said. The ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 10.0 degrees Celsius a notch down from **More on P6**



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# New Antiviral Drug Combo Highly Effective Against Coronavirus: Study

Press Trust Of India

Combining the antiviral remdesivir or molnupiravir with the experimental drug brequinar blocks the reproduction of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that causes COVID-19, in lung cells and in mice, according to a study. The research, published recently in the journal Nature, suggests that these drugs are more potent when used in combination than individually. Though they have not yet been tested in clinical trials, the combinations of drugs identified in the study have the potential to become very promising COVID-19 treatments, the researchers said.



Among the 122 drug candidates, the researchers identified a panel of host nucleoside biosynthesis inhibitors, including the experimental drug brequinar. Nucleoside biosynthesis inhibitors work by blocking the body's own enzymes from making nucleosides, which prevents the virus from reproducing. Brequinar is currently being tested in clinical trials as a COVID-19 treatment and as part of a potential combination therapy for some cancers. Cherry and collaborators hypothesised that combining brequinar with a nucleoside analogue, such as remdesivir or molnupiravir, could work "synergistically" to create a more potent effect against the virus. Synergistic interactions occur when the total effect of two or more drugs is greater than the sum of the individual effects of each drug. "We thought that using these nucleoside analogues while also reducing the levels of the host's nucleoside building blocks might work together to super destroy the virus," Cherry said.

"It is really amazing that when you combine them, the virus is completely dead," she added. The researchers tested the drugs in lung cells as well as in mice, and found that these combinations were highly effective against multiple strains of the coronavirus, including the Delta variant. The team is now in the process of testing the drugs against Omicron. The researchers found that Paxlovid—an oral antiviral that was also recently authorised by the FDA—could be combined with remdesivir or molnupiravir for an "additive" effect against SARS-CoV-2. The next step would be for these drug combinations to be tested in clinical trials. "As new strains of the virus emerge, the need for new treatments will remain critical," said Mathew Frieman, from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, a co-principal investigator of the study. "We now know that there are a number of powerful drug combinations that have the potential to alter the trajectory of the virus," Frieman added.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost my Driving License bearing DL NO: JK1820120003521. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sartaj Ahmad Malik  
S/O Assadullah Malik  
R/o Fathpora Anantnag  
rma

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the route permit of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03K-3837. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ishrat Jan W/O  
Jahangeer Ahmad Dar  
R/O Levedora Qazigund  
rma

**The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education**  
BRANCH OFFICE BEERWAH

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars

Name Manzoor Ahmad Hurra  
S/o Mohd Bqir Hurra  
Residence -Mullashulla

**Details of Marks Certificate lost**

- Secondary School Examination (class 10th) Roll No-2178450 Year session- 2014
- Higher Secondary School Examination (class 12th) Roll No-2109503 Yer and Session 2016

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Beerwah  
fko

**The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education**  
BRANCH OFFICE BARAMULLA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Higher Secondary School Examination (class 12th) Name: Ishfaq Majeed Wani  
Father's Name: Ab Majeed Wani  
Roll No: 314304 Session 2013-14 Year 2013

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Baramulla  
fko

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN, GREEN VALLEY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, JADIPORA – KULGAM**

List of Managing Committee / Body. Date: \_\_\_ / 02 / 2022

S. No.	Name of the Member	Parentage	Designation in MC	Qualification	Occupation	Residence
01	Ab. Rehman Seh	Mohd. Abdullah	Chairman	10 + 2	Retired Govt. Employee	Jadipora
02	Ayaz Ahmad Teeli	Gull Mohd. Teeli	Secretary	M.A / B.Ed	Private Job	Kharapora Srandoo
03	Javid Ahmad Dar	Ab. Aziz Dar	Principal	B.Sc / B.Ed	Private Job	Kulpora
04	Sayar Ahmad Bhat	Ab. Rashid Bhat	Parent Member	/B.A / B.Ed	Private Job	Kulpora
05	Najeeb Ul Islam	Gh. Mohamad	Koul Parent Member	/M.A	Private Job	Kulpora
06	Ab. Aziz Dar	Ali Mohd. Dar	Member	Matric	Retired Govt. Employee	Kulpora
07	NaveedMuzafer Seh	Muzafer Ahmad	Member	10 + 2	Private Job	Jadipora

If anybody having any objection against above-mentioned persons. He / She can submit objection report in the office of the DSEK within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after date of expiry.

Sd/ Chairman  
rna

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE KASHMIR SRINAGAR**

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
e-NIT No: 67 of 2021-22 Dated: 08.02.2022.

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major A/c Head
1	2	3	4	6	7	
01.	Installation of Store/Hut at Mughal Garden Cheshmashahi Srinagar.	8.32	500/-	25- days	CEE/DEE (Civil)	M&U Capex

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

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	08/02/2022 from 03:00 PM to 14/02/2022 up to 04:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date.	08/02/2022 from 03:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	14/02/2022 up to 04:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	15/02/2022 at 02:00 PM

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-Challan/copy of receipt from Treasury favouring of Executive Engineer, Floriculture Department Kashmir (Tender inviting authority) indicating name of work by crediting the requisite charges to the MH: 0406-02-112-Public Gardens (Floriculture Department Kashmir) in favour of Executive Engineer (Tender inviting authority)
- All Bidders have to submit/upload Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest Money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure "A" below)
- The lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Department of Floriculture Kashmir Srinagar (Tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if-  
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. Any bid received beyond 15% above the advertisement cost of the work will be rejected.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
1.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.  
1.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.  
1.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form  
1.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.  
1.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of following necessary documents:-  
I. Tender document fee in the shape of Treasury Challan,  
II. Registration,  
III. Renewal of Registration (Current financial year)  
IV. Copy of GST Registration,  
V. Copy of GST Clearance of Current financial year,  
VI. PAN Card,  
VII. Bid Security Declaration.  
However, hard copy from the successful (first lowest) bidder shall be obtained on call. In case of clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The successful contractor shall pursue and seek the material carriage permission himself from the concerned competent authority after obtaining the permission letter from the Divisional office. (If applicable)
- Furthermore, the successful contractor shall also get the handover/takeover himself after completion of the desired work from the concerned Garden officer/F.O./A.F.O after obtaining handover/takeover letter from the AEE concerned.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

Sd/ (Er. Jugal Kishore)  
Executive Engineer  
Department of Floriculture, KASHMIR

No: EE/FDK/3385-90  
Dated: 08.02.2022  
DIPK-17788/21

از نیابت ہر وہ شورہ  
مضمون درخواست منجانب :- عاصف یوسف ولد محمد یوسف وانی ساکنہ ترکہ بند پورہ  
بعض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس آر آ 126  
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل دفتر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پناہی  
حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نفاذ الاثر ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے مہیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل  
سائل کو پیش پورہ تحصیل کر کے اس کو دار سے کیے کی سالانہ آمدنی مبلغ  
84000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہیں بڑا افراد پر مشتمل ہے  
فیاض احمد چارولہ غلام رسول  
ترکھان 40 سال  
گھریلو کام 38  
ز تعلیم 21  
ز تعلیم 17  
ز تعلیم 13  
گھریلو کام 65  
اہل فیاض نجات  
سائرفیاض  
جنید فیاض  
زونی بیگم

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کتبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	محمد یوسف وانی	55 سال	مزدوری	
02	جنید بیگم زوجہ محمد یوسف	50 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	عاقب یوسف پسر	26 سال	مزدوری	
04	آصف یوسف دختر	25	گھریلو کام	
05	عاصف یوسف پسر	24	ز تعلیم	
06	صبرینہ بانو دختر	20	ز تعلیم	
07	آفرینہ اختر دختر	17	ز تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کتبہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے  
میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض مندرجہ  
ذیل پر ارسال کرے۔ مگر بعد کے عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
fko  
msk  
نائب تحصیلدار

**Office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer, Shopian**

Whereas an application has been received from one Shri Rashid Hassan S/O Gh Hassan Mir R/o Batapora Shopian Owner of the vehicle No JKJ22B- 6818 for cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with M/S JK Bank HR Batapora Shopian

Now it is therefore. Notified for general information that objections if any, to the proposed cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopian within a period of seven (7) days from the publication of this notice in the daily Kashmir Observer

No : ARTO/Spn/1196-2022  
Dated 08-02-2022

S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian  
AST

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کر کے  
عنوان: بشمول درخواست  
بارمولہ بمبر اعطایگی SC سرٹیفکیٹ تحت SRO294  
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پناہی  
حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نفاذ الاثر ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے مہیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل  
سائل کو پیش پورہ تحصیل کر کے اس کو دار سے کیے کی سالانہ آمدنی مبلغ  
84000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہیں بڑا افراد پر مشتمل ہے  
فیاض احمد چارولہ غلام رسول  
ترکھان 40 سال  
گھریلو کام 38  
ز تعلیم 21  
ز تعلیم 17  
ز تعلیم 13  
گھریلو کام 65  
اہل فیاض نجات  
سائرفیاض  
جنید فیاض  
زونی بیگم

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کتبہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں  
اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اپنا اعتراض مندرجہ  
ذیل پر ارسال کرے۔ مگر بعد کے عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
fko  
نائب تحصیلدار

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME:- Umar Ahmad Padder S/O :- Mushtaq Ahmad Padder  
R/O :- Khandi-Phari Anantnag  
rma

**Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir**  
NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Mohammad Ashraf Dar S/o: Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o: Razwen Budgam (Transferor) of Alto-800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D-0535. Chasis number 32372 Engine no. 08637 Model 2015. In favour of Shri. Khurshed Ahmad Dar S/o. Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o Razwen Budgam (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5687  
Dated 08/02/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir  
mcb

**Public Notice**

I have lost the route permit of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03C- 6001. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

MOHD SHAFI RESHI  
S/O MOHD RAMZAN RESHI  
R/O QAZI MOHALLA ANANTNAG  
rma

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**  
NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Mudasir Nazim W/o Khalid Bashir Shah R/O Court Road Chari Sharif (Transferor) of LMV . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D- 2374 . Chasis number 245117 Engine no. 1937988 Model 2016 in favour of Shri. Nusrat Jan W/o Sheikh Mudasir Aziz R/o Iqbal Colony Saderbal Srinagar (Transferee).

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM/5504  
Dated: 28-01-2022

Sd/ Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir  
pd

**CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES**  
**YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE**  
Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.  
Contact:-0194-3550112  
G-mail- yardimcিনিque92@gmail.com  
I.G: yardimci\_multi\_venture  
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

**ELECTRONICS**  
**IOX MOBILE STORE**  
All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories  
Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
Contact:-7899657769

**TECH WORLD**  
All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.  
Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

## Will Bear All Expenses For Rehabilitation Of Acid Victim: DC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Aijaz Asad on Wednesday said that the administration will bear all the expenses of the acid attack victim not just for treatment but for her rehabilitation as well.

Talking to reporters

## Police to file chargesheet against accused in few days

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior superintendent of police Srinagar, Rakesh Balwal on Wednesday said that the police will file a chargesheet against the accused involved in acid attack on a girl in Srinagar in the next 4-5 days.

Talking to reporters here, he said that Police is investigating the matter on a fast track basis and the accused will be given harshest punishment for committing such a heinous crime.

He said that they will file a chargesheet against the accused in the court of law in the next 4-5 days. "Police will ensure that the accused are booked under stringent charges which are applicable for a crime like this as per the law," he added.

here, Asad said that in addition to bearing all expenses of treatment of acid attack victims, the administration has pro-

vided the victim's family with all the financial assistance and the victim has been shifted to Chennai on the directions of LG Manoj Sinha.

He said that they will bear expenses for her rehabilitation as well, so that she can start her new life.

He said that a doctor's report regarding her eyesight has shown positive signs and they pray for her speedy recovery.

About regulation of sale of acid in Srinagar, he said that 13 shops were sealed yesterday, which were selling acid illegally and this drive will continue.

He also said that police were investigating the matter on a fast track basis and in the next 4-5 days they will produce a chargesheet against the accused in the court of law.

On being asked about reopening of schools, Asad said that the state executive committee will take a decision soon. "I appeal to everyone, especially parents, to get their children vaccinated under the age of 15-18 years."

He said that when the vaccination process among children gets completed, the administration can reopen all schools, however, the final decision lies with the SEC.

## Kut Kul Passing Through Shehar-E-Khas To Be Cleaned

### Div Com visits work site at Nawabazar, Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 09: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today visited Nawabazar to inspect the work of removal of unhygienic material including garbage trash, building material from both embankments of Kut Kul Srinagar being executed by Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

On the occasion, Div Com

said that Kut Kul passing through Shehar-e-Khas will be cleaned and made Navigable by March.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed the Executive Engineer to complete the work within a week. He also directed concerned contractor to start cleaning work at other places, simultaneously.

He also directed concerned officers to repair the remaining walls of the kul wherever needed.

Div Com enjoined on the Execu-

tive Engineer to communicate with locals and aware them about their responsibilities to keep Kul clean from garbage and other trash material.

Div Com was informed that the material is amassed during the day and taken away to the dumping site by the late hours.

The 2.8 Km long Kul is being cleaned at the cost of 18.41 lakhs by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

## Traffic Advisory For Naaz-Jehangir Chowk Commuters

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Traffic police Srinagar on Wednesday issued a traffic advisory for the people coming to Jehangir Chowk in view of upgradation of road from Naaz Crossing till Jehangir Chowk.

In a statement, issued to Kashmir News Service (KNS), a spokesperson said that ERA will start work on upgradation of the road from Naaz crossing till

Jehangir chowk from today, which is expected to take a few weeks for completion.

"Traffic coming from Iqbal park towards Jehangir chowk will be diverted via Magarmal Bagh crossing-Magarmal Bagh-Reck Chowk. People in general are requested to use Rambagh flyover to reach Jehangir chowk. Any inconvenience is regretted," reads the statement.

## Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Ghulam Nabi Reshi S/O Ab Ganl Mir R/o Sozeith Guripora Srinagar (Transferor) of LMV bearing registration No. JK01T- 6537 chasis No: 72623

Engine No: 10923 Model 2013 in favour of Asif Ali S/o Ali Mohammad Sofi R/o Dilsoz Colony H. NO 47 Srinagar (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No. representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.  
Sd/-  
NOJK-RTOK 882  
Dated: 09/02/2022  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

## DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



## AIRPORTS

SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

## RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



## HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )  
Mughal Road - ( Closed )  
Srinagar- Leh- ( Closed )



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
08 - Rajab  
1443

## PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 56  
ZUHR 12:45  
ASR 4:30  
Magrib 6:12  
ISHA 7:34

## This Day In History

- 1940 - "Tom & Jerry" cartoon created by William Hanna & Joseph Barbera debut by MGM.
- 1943 - British 8th Army sweeps through North Africa to Tunisia
- 1952 - India holds its first general election: Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru remains in power
- 1954 - Eisenhower warns against US intervention in Vietnam
- 1961 - Niagara Falls hydroelectric project begins producing power
- 1974 - Iran / Iraqi border fight breaks out
- 1975 - The Provisional Irish Republican Army agrees to a truce and ceasefire with the British government and the Northern Ireland Office; Seven "incident centres" are established in nationalist areas to monitor the ceasefire
- 1990 - South African President F. W. de Klerk announces Nelson Mandela will be freed on February 11th
- 1991 - Lithuania votes for independence from USSR
- 1993 - US officially backs peace plan in Bosnia
- 1997 - Soyuz TM-25 launches to the MIR
- 2013 - 36 people are killed and 39 are injured in a stampede at a train station in Allahabad, India

## From KO Archives

## Fidayeen Storm JKP Nerve Centre

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - In yet another major strike, Fidayeen this evening stormed the heavily fortified police control room (PCR) here. Army was called out after a 4-member Fidayeen squad gate crashed into the sprawling complex killing two police-men and wounding eight others including a superintendent of police. Lashkar-e-Taiba owning responsibility for the attack, said it was carried out in retaliation to the recent spate of custodial killings.

According to reports, a 4-member Fidayeen squad in police uniforms forced their way to the main gate of the high-security PCR, the nerve centre of the state police in the summer capital, at around 7.10 p.m. hurling grenades and firing indiscriminately on the security guards. A policeman died on the spot while eight others sustained injuries. One of them later succumbed to his injuries. The deceased were identified as head constable Mohan Lal and constable Zahoor Ahmad.

Seven of the injured person-nel were identified as superintendent of police, Jalla, and constables, Rai Singh, Bashir Ahmad, Nazir Ahmad, Manzoor Ahmad, Darshan Lal and Akhtar Husain. Eighth policeman whose identity could not be ascertained immediately had been admitted in the police hospital within the complex. Jalla had received a bullet injury in his hand and was stated to be out of danger.

When contacted, the superintendent of police, PCR, G H Bhat, told Kashmir Observer one militant was killed in the retaliatory fire immediately after they stormed into the complex. Police believed only one more militant, and not three as was reported, was holed up in the single storied building adjacent to the main PCR building. Bhat said the building houses the two PCR munshis (clerks). However, he put the number of injured policemen at four only.

While the army had laid the outer cordon around the huge complex, Bhat said, the central reserve police force (CRPF) and SOG personnel had launched an operation to flush out the holed up militant. At least eight police personnel who had been present in the building when the militants sneaked into it, were rescued, he added.

Meanwhile, agency reports said, intermittent exchange of fire was going on when the reports last came in inside the complex which, apart from the PCR, houses the headquarters of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, and 11th battalions of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, besides the police telecommunication centre, forensic science laboratory (FSL) and police hospital. Army had surrounded the entire complex, particularly the building in which the militants were holed up.

Citing an unidentified body in the PCR premises, an armoured vehicle of the border security force (BSF) approached the spot at 9.15p.m. The body was believed to be that of the slain militant. However, the vehicle had to stage a hasty retreat after it came under heavy fire from the holed up militant.

Quoting a Lashkar spokesman from Pakistan, a CNS report identified the Fidayeen as Salahuddin, who led the group, Abu Hafiz, Abdullah Umar and Abu Mu'avia. Meanwhile, a NAFA report said the security forces began shelling the building around 11.45 p.m. after which heavy exchange of fire was heard from a distance of three to four kilometers.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 10 February, 2001)

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER ANANTNAG

No:- Est/2nd /Class-IV/ Sr.List/9479 Dated:- 09/02/2022

Subject :-Final Seniority list of class-iv employees, District Anantnag.

Sir,  
Kindly refer your letter No DHSK/Est-1st/NG/DPC/49-97 Dated:- 04/02/2022 regarding the subject matter cited above. In this connection the final seniority list of Class-IV employees of District Anantnag is enclosed along with paper cutting for favour of information and necessary action.

S. No	Name of Class IV	Category	D.O.Birth	D.O.Ist Appointment	Date of Regularization	Place of Posting	Year of pass- lateExam
1	Bashir Ahmad Sheikh Nelofer Akhter	Nursing Chowkidar Orderly	14.04.1965	29.03.1985	29/03/1985	Bi.Larano Bi.Achabal	2014 1991
3	Nisar Ahmad Bhat	Nursing Orderly	15.10.1973	26.02.1992	26/02/1992	AH GMC Ang DTC Ang	1994
4	Mohd Shafi Mir	Nursing Orderly	06.10.1966	12.08.1992	12/08/1992	AH GMC Ang DTC Ang	2011
5	Mohd Shafi Shah	Nursing Orderly	01.02.1970	25.08.1992	25/08/1992	AH GMC Ang DTC Ang	1991
6	Iftikar Ahmad Najar	Nursing Orderly	14.04.1973	25.08.1992	25/08/1992	AH GMC Ang DTC Ang	1991
7	Rafiq Ahmad Kadoo	Nursing Orderly	01.10.1971	26.08.1992	26/08/1992	Bi.Achabal	1990
8	Mohd Yousif Lone	Nursing Orderly	17.04.1964	17.10.1992	17/10/1992	Bijbehara	1984
9	Shameem Ahmad Vaid	Nursing Orderly	15.04.1975	20.11.1992	20/11/1992	Bijbehara	1991
10	M.MaqboolGadhanji	Nursing Orderly	25.04.1966	03.12.1992	03/12/1992	Bijbehara	1985
11	Nazir Ahmad Sheikh	Nursing Orderly	05.01.1972	29.09.1993	29/09/1993	Bi.Sallar	1987
12	Nisar Ahmad Sheikh	Nursing Orderly	02.10.1964	05.01.1994	05/01/1994	Bi.Achabal	1992
13	Mushtaq Ahmad Rather	Nursing Orderly	03.12.1973	07.04.1994	07/04/1994	AH GMC Ang	1991
14	Aftab Ahmad Bichoo	Nursing Orderly	11.10.1974	10.05.1994	10/05/1994	Bi. Shangus Bi. Achabal	1991
15	Sheeraza Akhter	Nursing Orderly	01.04.1976	27.09.1995	27/09/1995	Bi.Achabal	1991
16	Mukhtar Ahmad Kulay	Nursing Orderly	10.04.1971	19.10.1995	19/10/1995	AH GMC Ang	1986
17	Mohd Yaqoob Sheikh	Ward Boy	04.01.1974	01.12.1995	01/12/1995	Bi.Larano	1991
18	Mohd Shafi Ganie	Nursing Orderly	01.04.1971	28.05.1996	28/05/1996	AH GMC Ang	1991
19	Ruby Majeed	Nursing Orderly	15.10.1968	16.08.1996	16/08/1996	Bi.Achabal	1997
20	Gh Mohd Bhat	Nursing Orderly	11.03.1977	05.05.1997	05/05/1997	Bi. Shangus CMO Office	1995
21	Tanveera Akhter	Nursing Orderly	28.02.1973	24.05.1997	24/05/1997	Bi. Shangus CMO Office	1991
22	Shaheena Akhter	Nursing Orderly	01.04.1970	16.08.1997	16/08/1997	Bi.Larano	1991
23	Mohd Yousuf Bhat	Nursing Orderly	25.02.1974	16.08.1997	16/08/1997	AH GMC Ang	1991
24	Hamidulha Dar	Nursing Orderly	01.05.1969	23.08.1997	23/08/1997	AH GMC Ang	1992
25	Ab Jabar Beigh	Nursing Orderly	01.02.1973	01.09.1997	01/09/1997	AH GMC Ang	1991
26	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Nursing Orderly	04.03.1968	07.11.1997	07/11/1997	Bi/ Achabal	1984
27	Mohd Maqbool Lone	Nursing Orderly	03.04.1969	15.12.1997	15/12/1997	Bi.Verinag	1991
28	Bashir Ahmad Rather	Nursing Orderly	11.11.1969	14.12.1990	15/12/1997	Bijbehara	1997

ma

Chief Medical Officer,  
Anantnag

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar

www.jkssb.nic.in  
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Subject: Filling up of various categories of posts of different departments, advertised vide Advertisement Notification Nos. 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01 of 2021, for which the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination was conducted from 27th October to 02 of November 2021, seeking of preferences- regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) received indents from different Departments for making recruitment to the various categories/cadres of posts, and;

2. Whereas, JKSSB advertised these UT/Divisional/District cadre posts of Draftsman (Civil), Driller, Junior Engineer (Mechanical), Foreman Grade I (Mechanical), Foreman/Senior Mechanic, Foreman/Technician, Photo Librarian, Librarian, Junior Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Cataloguer, vide advertisement Notification Nos. 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01 of 2021, and;

3. Whereas, the JKSSB conducted Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination for the posts of Draftsman (Civil), Jal Shakti, Item No.002 (Adv. 01 of 2021), Draftsman (Civil), Jal Shakti, Item No.003 (Adv. 01 of 2021), Draftsman (Civil), Public Works (R&B) Department, Item No.132 (05 of 2020) falling under module/domain Draftsman (Civil), Driller, Jal Shakti, Item No.017(01 of 2021), Driller, Jal Shakti, Item No.018(01 of 2021), Junior Engineer (Mechanical), Public Works (R&B) Department, Item No.131(05 of 2020), Foreman Grade I (Mechanical), Public Works (R&B) Department, Item No.142(05 of 2020), Foreman/Senior Mechanic, Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare, Item No.306 (Adv. 07 of 2020), Foreman/Technician, Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare, Item No.307 (Adv. 07 of 2020) falling under module/domain Jr Engr Mech-Foreman Grade I Mech-Sr Mechanic-Technician-Driller & Photo Librarian, Information, Item No.117 (Adv. 01 of 2021), Librarian, Horticulture, Item No.065(01 of 2021), Librarian, Culture, Item No.046 (Adv. 04 of 2020), Librarian, Culture, Item No.047 (Adv. 04 of 2020), Junior Librarian, Culture, Item No.048 (Adv. 04 of 2020), Junior Librarian, Culture, Item No.049 (Adv. 04 of 2020), Cataloguer, Culture, Item No.054(04 of 2020), Librarian, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Item No.151(05 of 2020), Librarian, Skill Development, Item No.310(07 of 2020), Assistant Librarian, Skill Development, Item No.317(07 of 2020), Librarian, Skill Development, Item No.333(07 of 2020) falling under module/domain falling Jr Librarian-Librarian-Photo Librarian-Cataloguer-Asst Librarian w.e.f. 27th October, 2021 to 2nd November, 2021 and;

4. Whereas, based on the performance of the candidates in Computer Based Written Test (CBT), the JKSSB, notified the Percentile Score of candidates vide Notice No. SSB/COE/CBT/2021/8929 36 dated 20.12.2021 and;

5. Whereas, the JKSSB vide Notice No. SSB/COE/CBT/2022/211-18 Dated: 08.01.2022, called the candidates for Counselling cum Document Verification falling under consideration zone w.e.f. 15.01.2022 onwards

6. Now, therefore, in order to fill up all requisitioned vacancies, all such candidates who have submitted multiple (two or more) application forms for aforesaid posts/items and are falling under consideration zone of two or more than two aforementioned posts/items, are hereby informed to indicate order of preference for all such posts / items, through the link provided on the official website of the Board www.jkssb.nic.in from 09.02.2022 up to 11.02.2022.

The Candidate(s) who fail(s) to indicate preference fully or partially in response to this notice, will be deemed to have agreed to allocation of Cadre(s), as shall be made by the Board.

By Order.

Sd/  
(Ashok Kumar) KAS  
Controller of Examinations,  
J&K Services Selection Board,  
Jammu.

DIPK-1776/21

No. SSB/COE/CBT/2022/980-88

Dated: 07.02.2022

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvserver.net

K O V I E W

## Long Shadow Of Covid

The union government on Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha that more than 25,000 Indians have died by suicide due to either unemployment or indebtedness between 2018 and 2020. The information was provided in a written reply by Minister of State (Home) Nityanand Rai during a discussion of the issue of unemployment. The minister said that as many as 9,140 people died by suicide due to unemployment and 16,091 people due to bankruptcy or indebtedness during the time period. Rai added that the government figures were based on data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Based on the data, suicides among unemployed people reached 3,548 - the highest such number - in the pandemic year of 2020, while 2,741 ended their lives due to unemployment in 2018, and 2,851 in 2019.

This is a troubling revelation. This is for the first time that the government has made these details public. Thousands of hapless and jobless laborers in New Delhi and the other cities had chosen to walk hundreds of kilometres to their homes when the union government suddenly imposed lockdown in April 2020 following the spike in Covid infections. Many died on the way to their homes. But the government figure has now brought out the horrifying scale of the Covid fallout on the people living at the bottom of the pyramid.

In Kashmir too, the pandemic followed by a six month long security and communication blockade in the wake of the revocation of Article 370 has left behind immense suffering. The economy has been battered. For over two years, the businesses could only open for a brief duration before being shut again, either because of political turmoil or due to Covid-19. According to the Valley's business bodies, the lockdowns led to a loss of over Rs 50,000 crore in 2020. As a result, the economy has grievously suffered. In Kashmir, the impact has been most severe. Already lakhs of people are jobless or have had their incomes slashed.

The tourism, one of the mainstays of the Kashmir economy, is one of the sectors that has been hit the hardest. There is a large section of people who have largely been without employment over the last two years. Their savings have already been depleted. For example, the transporters; the drivers and conductors have now very little to survive on. This includes also the people associated with tourism. In 2021, many cases of suicides and suicide attempts took place as a result. The major cause of suicide attempts was financial stress in the families caused by the turmoil of the last two years and also by the successive lockdowns, two of them the result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Here's hoping that with the abating of the pandemic, the economic situation would return to normal, both in the country as well as in Kashmir.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

## Curbs On Press

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is at it again - arrogating to itself the powers to play judge, jury and editor. A new policy announced by the government dangles the threat of cancelling the accreditation of journalists if they "act in a manner which is prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement of an offence". This is an intrusion on the rights of a free press on many counts. First, accreditation is not a favour by the Government; it is bound by democratic norms to provide access to journalists to do their job. Second, what's the definition of "morality and decency," and who will do the defining? These are vague, over-broad terms that, in the hands of a vindictive bureaucracy or a government, can easily be used to harass and silence journalists. This provision also appears to be intentionally blind to the place of journalism in a democracy - which exists to interrogate the state and its exercise of power.

This is not the first time that a government has attempted to walk down this path. In 2018, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under Smriti Irani had similarly threatened to cancel accreditation if a journalist was found to have spread "fake news", another catch-all term that is frequently used by the political class to deny unfavourable news. It was forced to withdraw such a rule after protests. In 1988, the Rajiv Gandhi government attempted a similar run on journalistic freedoms through the Defamation Bill, which broadened the definition of defamation and transferred the burden of proof on the accused. The uproar across the country eventually forced the government to withdraw the bill.

Today, technology and social media have not only empowered the political class's one-way communication with the people, but also mainstreamed a narrow hyper-nationalism that is intolerant to questioning and dissent, that is only in thrall to one story. When the government decides what a journalist can do or cannot, Article 19 is in peril. The provisions in the new accreditation policy can turn into weapons to be wielded against the media, and shrink the space for journalism. They must be withdrawn.

The Indian Express

# Parents, Children And Hush-Hush Culture



Anam Mukhtar

**YOUNGSTERS, ESPECIALLY young girls, often face sexual harassment in public spaces. They have no space to share it with their parents and guardians as this would amount to them losing access to public life freely. Additionally, trivial teenage matters may escalate into sexual offences. Often young adult children hide these instances even when they're devastating. They fear that they will be reprimanded for getting into trouble and end up landing in more trouble**

Parenthood is never easy, with most parents in Kashmir using the same plan of action as was passed on to them. Kashmir seems all the more rooted in the prude and retributive outlook on how parents should handle their children. This paves the way for children to establish unwanted barriers between their parents and themselves with the fear of punishment.

This creates a very dangerous no-talk zone between children and parents. The scary transition of children from a life of innocence into the challenges of adolescence needs a lot of guidance - but our kids find themselves alone.

We see that parents lay out certain rules that they want their children to abide by without any justification for doing so. This hinders a child from thoroughly understanding the impact of an action. As a result, they aim to hide things rather than not indulging in them. More than 600,000 youngsters in Jammu and Kashmir are drug addicts owing to the lack of preventive measures in the Union Territory. We do not know what drives youngsters to drug abuse. However, if conversation was open and friendly between parents and children, it would have saved a lot of children from resorting to this momentary high to evade a stress they can't navigate. The growing HIV cases in Kashmir are also increasing and doctors have already bugled the alarms calling it the next big crisis that our society is going to face.

Parents need to understand that children are stepping into this world of newness with many questions in mind. Not talking about some realities that children and adolescents are confronted with doesn't make them absent. Like it or not, your children know that people get into relationships, they may even be in one, they may have adolescent attractions and worse still, they may have been lured into compromising content that is life altering.

It makes no sense having silence around this issue. Take your wise call for your

**YOU CAN'T GIVE YOUR** children the phone and not expect them to tour the parts of the internet which are not children friendly. What you are kept away from is what you get attracted to know more about. Instead of avoiding giving them undeniable access, you can make them understand the ills of practice with reason

children. However, help them navigate these. If there's fear, there will be no honesty. Chances are great that your children end up in a crisis they have no wisdom to address. Adolescent relationships can lead one into some adult crisis. If you don't let your children be open to you, how can you protect your children?

Doing something bad for the first time for the sake of knowing what it means is horrific. But children are not to blame because they'll keep seeking answers for what they were essentially to know from their parents. A young person is impressionable and can be lured to do things that they think give them a feeling of being an adult. Instead of letting all the hell loose on them when they do happen to be involved in relationships, we can walk them through with a reality check and allow them the space to reflect rather than forcing them to quit out of fear rather than understanding. Remember, force is never a suitable means to terminate an action because it isn't sought from the point of logic.

Youngsters, especially young girls, often face sexual harassment in public spaces. They have no space to share it with their parents and guardians as this would amount to them losing access to public life freely. Additionally, trivial teenage matters may escalate into sexual offences. Often young adult children hide these instances even when they're devastating. They fear that they will be reprimanded for getting into trouble and end up landing in more trouble. You can expect your children to have certain values and boundaries. But they will not always have the capacity to uphold these, when so young. It is best to always keep open the lines of communi-

cation and help them uphold these values more wisely.

You can't handle a situation without first being taken into confidence by your children. The biggest milestone is reached when kids confide in you, telling you how their day was and what all wasn't that rosy. However, Kashmiri parents take children clearing the air with them as a sign of boldness which signifies them wavering off their track. It is okay for parents to want their children not to do bad things but for them to know that it's bad out of the blue is pure ignorance. Nowadays, children have a higher scope of landing into undesirable situations than before because of the increased access. Thus, more responsibility for parents to keep everything in balance.

You can't give your children the phone and not expect them to tour the parts of the internet which are not children friendly. What you are kept away from is what you get attracted to know more about. Instead of avoiding giving them undeniable access, you can make them understand the ills of practice with reason. They won't look at you differently, nor will they think any less of you. In fact, they are more likely to look up to you for moral guidance. The problem with parents in Kashmir is that they want distance from their children's minds and yet want everything to do with their lives. We need to come to an agreement with what we want, which is a child's benefit and then see if our actions are moving closer or retracting from it.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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## Forced To Be Backward

This refers to the article potent poverty and inefficient welfare schemes by Dr Raja Muzaffar (Kashmir Observer Feb 5, 2022). I am shocked to know that in the 21st century, there are

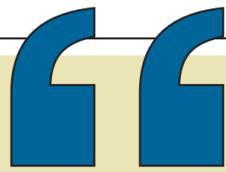
places which are kept so backward by the authorities. The case study of Nengroo Basti Darwan in Charar Sharief is heart wrenching and it is a matter of serious concern that these poor people have been caged inside their own village by

the forest department. Moreover, the Govt's failure to even lift snow from this hamlet indicates that Govt's priorities are not the poor and voiceless people.

I hope local administration like SDM Chadoora, Tehsildar Charar

Sharief and concerned Block Development Officer will take notice of this issue.

Shahnawaz Sultan  
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**T**HE CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS IN THESE institutions are completely inhospitable for people who have completed their earlier education in vernaculars from state university affiliated colleges and government schools.

## Obsession With Merit

Khushbu Sharma

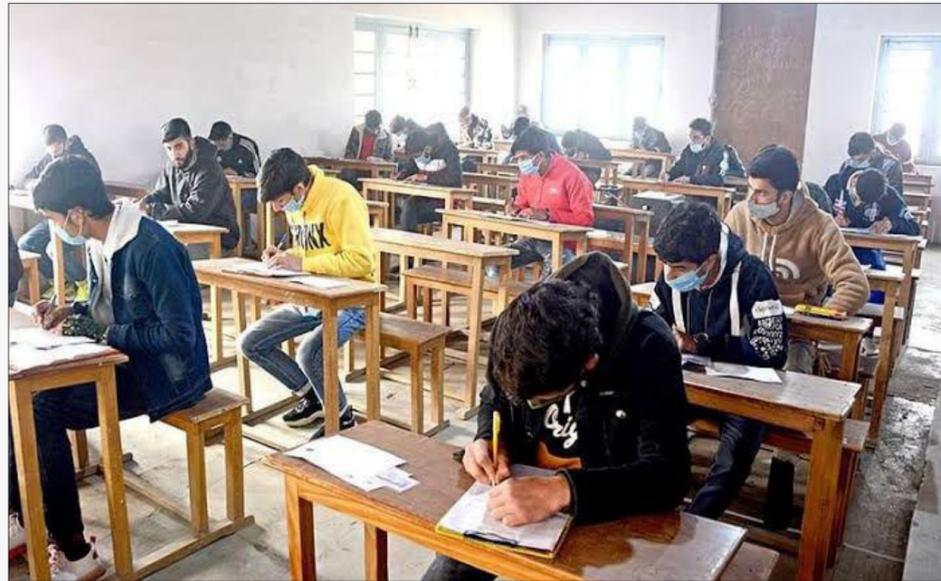
I was talking to my mother who is a teacher in a public school, when the news of the cancellation of Class 12 CBSE Board Exams broke out. With a sigh of relief, I told this to her, expecting that she would appreciate the government's decision, looking at the misery that the COVID-19 second wave has inflicted on us. However, contrary to my expectation, she became furious- "How are students supposed to be graded if not by exams? How are we to check their "merit"? By losing over this important experience of writing a board exam, will they be able to compete in variety of competition exams waiting for them ahead? Without exams how do we identify who is "intelligent and deserving" and who isn't?"

I realised that she wasn't the only one saying this. Since childhood I had grown up listening to similar dialogues literally everywhere - home, school, college and even universities. My mother's statements resonate the state of our education system and more so about us as a society which is marked by perpetual competition instead of cooperation.

There is a story behind this: the story of Indian education system's obsession with examinations and grades. The extent to which we have ingrained insensitivity within us is evident from the fact that during the peak of second wave of coronavirus, our higher education institutions and universities were compelling their students to write examinations and assignments. It shows that despite the situation being so grave, our education system has not developed any alternative mechanism for inclusive evaluation of all its students. The examination system in this country has always been an exclusionary and discriminatory mode of assessment. And during the pandemic it has become cruel, more than ever before.

I still remember my childhood days when I used to visit my village. On both sides of the main road reaching to our village, one could see endless number of posters pasted on electricity poles. These posters were printed with the pictures of "toppers", the students who secured really high scores in board examinations. Today, when I look back at those visuals, I feel outraged. I am angry at how our systems fails the marginalised at so many levels: first by systematically discriminating them, second by tagging them "meritless" or "mediocres" and lastly by making them feel lesser by designating the so-called "excellence" as the only standard. How does this happen?

The systematic survey of the higher education institutions in India will re-



**IT SHOULD ALSO BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EDUCATION AND acquiring knowledge is a cooperative venture and not a competitive one. It is only by engaging with each other and not standing against each other that human beings have covered its journey till modern age. Under capitalism, education is nothing more than a commodity which is sold in the market**

veal that students belonging to marginalised groups especially Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Sexual and Religious minorities experience extreme level of systematic discrimination. This systematic marginalisation of these groups is ingrained in the very manner in which these institutions are designed. Even the most celebrated institutions in this country including Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University ask their students to write their examinations, answers scripts and term papers in standard English language.

The classroom discussions in these institutions are completely inhospitable for people who have completed their earlier education in vernaculars from state university affiliated colleges and government schools. The vocabulary that is used during lectures and subsequent discussions in classroom makes them passive recipients of huge bulky terms with no meaning whatsoever. Then comes the system's fetish with grading.

Sometimes I ask myself- "Can human beings be graded? And if yes, on what basis?" Although these institutions also have their own bases for grading students, are these justifications even

legitimate? While institutions set the same finishing line for all the students irrespective of their socio-economic-cultural as well as educational background, the starting line for all of them remains different. Several students of my class in JNU who come from vernacular background have repeatedly complained that they feel neglected, marginalised and even unacknowledged both by the institution and students around. Since these institutions have the same yardstick for measuring learning of different students, it defeats its own purpose. The same yardstick cannot be effectively used to measure the learning outcome of a male student coming from a high class savarna family living in metropolitan and of a female student coming from a low class Dalit family located at the countryside.

However, its very sad and outrageous at the same time that our institutions do not recognise and rectify the inherent inequality within their structures. In a country marked by huge caste, class and gender inequalities, making English language, or the academic style of writing or the beautifully carved presentations as standards of learning and grading does make no sense. The

English language is still a monopoly of upper caste elite groups. It is atrocious on the part of our institutions to demand flawless speeches and presentations embedded with flowery words and phrases from students who have been historically marginalised since centuries. These students belonging to these groups for most part of their lives remain low on their self confidence because of the kind of oppression they had to face for years.

Since the proficiency over English language, writing and speaking skills and not the extent to which student has learned (from his own unique starting point) form the bases of assessment and evaluation, the students belonging to marginalised groups will always fall short of reaching these "standards" and will be labelled with the tags of "poor", "low grade", "weak" and "mediocre". In our education system, not knowledge, experience and learning but language and privilege are the "standards" which decides the merit of students. Moreover, the very system of grading is extremely derogatory as living human beings with their own social histories and bundle of experiences are reduced to labels like "A", "B", "C" and "F"! Can human being

be reduced to mere letters or numerals? Aren't they much more than this?

This is a country where grades and percentages decide the social status of families within society. By systematically pushing out the students belonging to marginalised sections through its skewed grading system, these historically oppressed groups are "shown their position" in society under the farce rhetoric of merit. As entire education system recognises the significance of "good grades", the potential avenues for the upward mobility of these groups are shut down.

While education is an end in itself, it is also a means through which historically marginalised groups seek their emancipation from age old shackles of exploitation and discrimination. However, our biased education system not only favours the privileged but also cruelly throws others out because do not "fit in" in its standards. Their socio-economic location and history of marginalisation makes them completely "unfit" for this education system which has been designed essentially for the elites.

What do the grades awarded by such a system represent then? What does its obsession with marks and grades mean? It means nothing more than status quo, as it reproduces and reinforces the same socio-economic hierarchies which are prevalent since ages now. Such elite-centered education arrests the very potential for radical social transformation and emancipation which are its central objectives.

It should also be acknowledged that education and acquiring knowledge is a cooperative venture and not a competitive one. It is only by engaging with each other and not standing against each other that human beings have covered its journey till modern age. Under capitalism, education is nothing more than a commodity which is sold in the market. As market begins swaying Indian education system, the spirit of competition and the rhetoric of "merit" becomes more and more dominant leading to further marginalisation of these groups. It is now, during the pandemic that questions concerning the radical reorientation of education system are being raised, we must also raise our voice against the oppressive examination and grading mechanism within our institutions that systematically marginalises the majority population of this country.

*The author has done her Masters degree in Political Science from Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She writes on Gender, Education, Politics and Society for various forums in both English and Hindi. The article was originally published in Feminism in India*

## Politics Of The Beijing Olympics



**T**he Beijing Winter Olympics officially start tomorrow (Friday February 4).

Olympics are usually an occasion for the host country to showcase its progress.

China is expected to do so as well despite the pandemic.

This year's Winter Olympics, however, have become victims of international political rivalry.

Led by the US and its allies (UK, Australia, Canada etc), they have made much noise about their non-participation in the opening ceremony.

There is a tiny problem with this assertion.

For any world leader to attend, he/she must be invited by the host country.

President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and

a host of other western rulers were not invited.

You read that right. They were NOT invited.

The question of their boycotting the games, therefore, does not arise.

Their athletes will be there to compete.

A number of world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan and a host of others will attend the opening ceremony.

It is likely to be a grand affair. The Chinese are good at putting up fantastic displays.

Given that Western rulers were not invited, there is every likelihood that their corporate media outlets will try to ignore or give a short shrift to the opening ceremony.

This is not likely to prevent people around the world from viewing it, thanks to the Internet and other social media outlets.

What the outcome of the games would be is hard to predict.

The Chinese are bound to do well even though they are likely to face stiff competition from some of the north European countries because they are strong in winter sports.

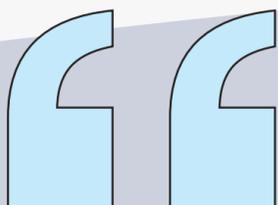
Regardless of the outcome, Olympics have become too politicized.

This goes against the very spirit of the games. They are meant to bring people together even if they compete with each other.

It is, however, becoming clear that the US has lost its clout and no longer counts as the most important player on the world stage.

This cannot be a bad thing.

*Crescent International*



**G**IVEN THAT WESTERN RULERS WERE NOT invited, there is every likelihood that their corporate media outlets will try to ignore or give a short shrift to the opening ceremony.



# 70 On Board, Plane Took Off Without A Key Part, It Fell On Runway

Agenceis

**MUMBAI:** An Alliance Air flight from Mumbai to Bhuj, carrying 70 passengers, flew without engine cover that was later retrieved from the runway at the city airport on Wednesday, prompting aviation regulator DGCA to start a probe into the incident, according to an official.

The ATR aircraft landed safely at Bhuj in Gujarat.

Alliance Air said that it has initiated a probe into the incident. The incident happened on Wednesday morning and was brought to the notice of airport authorities by a Mumbai Air Traffic Controller (ATC). Subsequently, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) started an investigation into the incident.

"Mumbai ATC informed the airport that Alliance Air ATR aircraft, operating flight 91-625 (Mumbai-Bhuj) took off without



the left engine cowling (cover)," the official said.

Later, the airline's engineering team reached the site and retrieved the engine cover from the runway.

During the operation of Alliance Air flight 91-625 from Mumbai to Bhuj on February 9, the panel of the engine cowling was found on the runway post take off, Alliance Air said in a statement.

"We have taken strict note of

the incident and a thorough investigation has been initiated. The findings of the same shall be shared with the regulatory authorities and we shall ensure that all required corrective actions are put in place," the government-owned airline said.

It also said that "we are grateful that all passengers and crew on-board the flight safely landed and there was no damage to the aircraft due to this unfortunate incident."

Expressing "regret" at the "unfortunate" incident, Alliance Air said, it follows laid down policies/procedures as per the regulatory authorities.

The airline has strict checks in place - both pre and post flight operations in order to ensure complete safety of its passengers and crew, Alliance Air said in the statement.

Flying without engine cowling may have an aerodynamic effect leading to marginal deterioration in the aircraft's performance, the official said.

Besides, it could have an impact on engine components as well because of the exposure to the airflow, the official said, adding that, however, in this case, the aircraft landed safely at the destination.

According to the official, no one has been grounded so far but appropriate action will be taken after DGCA receives the preliminary report, the official added.

# Saffron Flag May Become National Flag In Future: BJP Leader

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Senior BJP leader and Karnataka Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj K S Eshwarappa on Wednesday claimed 'Bhagwa dhvaj' (saffron flag), may become the national flag some time in the future.

He, however, said the tricolour is the national flag now, and it should be respected by everyone.

"Hundreds of years ago the chariots of Sri Ramachandra and Maruthi had saffron flags on them. Was the tricolour flag there in our country then? Now it (tricolour) is fixed as our national flag, what respect it has to be given, should be given by every person who takes food in this country, there is no question about it," Eshwarappa said.

Responding to a question by reporters, whether the saffron flag can be hoisted on the red fort, he said, "not today, some



day in the future." "Discussions are today taking place in the country on 'Hindu vichara' and 'Hindutva'. People used to laugh at one point when we said Ram Mandir will be constructed in Ayodhya, aren't we constructing it now? In the same way some time in the future, after 100 or 200 or 500 years Bhagwa dhvaj may become the national flag. I don't know." Further stating that now tricolour has been constitutionally

accepted as the national flag, the Minister said, it should be respected, and those who don't respect it will be a traitor.

"...we are the people who hoist the saffron flag, not today some time in the future Hindu dharma will come to this country at that time we will hoist it on the Red fort, for now tricolour is our national flag, there is now doubt about it and we all respect it," the former state BJP chief added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 'No One Will Suffer

similarly fails to teach students or even carry out proper research. That doctor is only coming to the hospital to relax and have a cup of coffee.

These institutions are our factory from where our new generation of doctors comes out. If because of such private practices, their education suffers, then there is no way that our health infrastructure will improve.

We cannot afford to make our new generation of doctors suffer because of such practices.

**But these doctors aren't violating any rule, so why shouldn't they work at their private clinics?**

Certainly, they aren't violating any rule as they carry out their hospital shifts as per the given schedule. However, when the same doctor has seen dozens of patients at his/her private clinic, there is absolutely no way that the same doctor will take care of his/her patient in a laid down manner. That is why the patient care at the Government hospital suffers.

**How is private practice hampering the government medical sector and private sector?**

Let's say there's one specific doctor who's working in a Government hospital and the same person is also practicing at a private care then no new doctor, who wishes to work only in a private sector, will ever be able to get a job in a private or even government hospital because such doctors have occupied both the spaces.

In Kashmir, a new kind of amusement has taken over doctors. For them, working in a private hospital is nothing more than an advertisement. They've kept some specific agents at the hospital who, on seeing a patient, poison their minds against Government hospitals and ask them to visit the same doctor in a private hospital even though the cure for their disease is the same at both the places.

If private practice is banned, then an abrupt change can be seen. The number of jobs in medical institutions will simultaneously improve and so will both the private and Government sector flourish.

**Has private practice affected patients?**

A simple cholecystectomy surgery can be performed anywhere both in Government and private hospitals. Due to the massive rush of surgeries

performed at Government hospitals, these agents lure a patient into believing that he/she will operate immediately at a private care facility. But, the main reason for delay in surgeries in Government hospitals is that these doctors don't perform a required number of surgeries at a Government facility.

They can perform ten operations at a private hospital but when it comes to Government hospitals, they hardly perform three operations even though the number of medical experts accompanying the doctor is higher in Government hospitals than in a private one and that is how the backlog of people who're to be operated on keeps on growing in Government hospitals.

### How will this ban help doctors?

After this ban, the doctors are liable to enjoy benefits of NPA (Non-practice allowance) which is currently being paid to doctors at SKIMS. Those doctors who will work in the Government sector will also have an increment in the salary. No one will suffer because of this ban.

### What are DAK's demands?

Government should immediately ban private practices and create segregation between doctors working at a private facility and those working at a government hospital.

In that way, both the sectors will gradually improve, doctors will be paid better, jobs in the health sector will increase and the patients will also not suffer.

### Day Before UP

leadership, the Prime Minister said that his photos on BJP's hoardings depict the party's workers.

"BJP believes in collective leadership. We are used to working collectively. It is not the picture of the Prime Minister, but it is the picture of the workers of the BJP who are called 'Narendra Modi'," the Prime Minister said.

Considering him at par with party workers, PM Modi said, "To stand with the other party workers fills me with pride. If I feature in a picture with BJP workers, I feel that I also look like them. I believe that I am the same as them. I am not ahead of anybody or above anyone."

The Prime Minister also said that the party has seen victory and defeat both.

"Whether we win or lose, for us, elections are an open university in which we get the opportunity for new recruitment and the chance to introspect. We consider it as a field of the

election," the Prime Minister said.

The seven-phase election in Uttar Pradesh will be held on February 10, 14, 20, 23, 27 and March 3 and 7. Elections in Goa and Uttarakhand will be held on February 14. Punjab will also go into the polls in a single phase on February 20. Election to Manipur's 60 Assembly constituencies will be held in two phases -- February 27 and March 3.

### 3-Judge Bench

placed before a larger bench that may be constituted by Chief Justice Awasthi exercising his discretion," Justice Dixit noted in the order.

The Hijab row had spread to more colleges in Karnataka on Tuesday and taken violent turn in many campuses in different parts of the State, with spiralling protests for and against wearing of the headscarf by Muslim women students.

The petitions were filed by some Muslim girls studying in Government Pre-University colleges in Udipi district against a ban on their entry into classrooms with their hijabs on.

### India Rejects China-Pak

joint statement, demanding that the two countries cease the project which violated the territorial integrity of India.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India had always rejected references to J & K and its position was well known to China and Pakistan. "In this instance too, we reject reference to J & K in the joint statement," he added.

The spokesperson asserted that the Union Territories of J & K Ladakh have been and would always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. "We expect the parties concerned not to interfere in matters that are internal affairs of India," he added.

The spokesperson said India has consistently conveyed its concerns to China and Pakistan on the projects in the so-called CPEC, which were in India's territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan. "We resolutely oppose any attempts to change the status quo by other countries, as also by Pakistan, in the areas under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. We call upon the parties concerned to cease such activities," he added.

### 610 KP Properties

government of Jammu and Kashmir, the land of 610 applicants (migrants) has been restored in the last five years," he said in a written reply to a question.

The minister said the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint

on Distress Sales) Act, 1997, District Magistrates (DMs) of the district concerned in Jammu and Kashmir are the legal custodians of the immovable properties of the migrants.

The DMs are empowered to take all steps for the preservation and protection of such properties.

"The government has taken several measures to rehabilitate Kashmiri migrants back to the valley that include construction of 6,000 transit accommodations in the Kashmir Valley at an estimated cost of Rs 920 crore in order to provide accommodation to employed Kashmiri migrants," he said. PTI

### J&K Reports

cases were confirmed at diagnostic laboratory of GMC and Inclusive Anantnag cases include male (38) from Srinagar, male (15) from Sangam, female (29) and male (25) from Watoo Kulgam, female (32) from Achabal, male (50) from Norpora Kokernag, male (16) from Nagam Kokernag, male (60) from Gawas Kapran, female (50) from Nathipora Dooru, male (30) from Vaid Mohalla Bij, female (25) from Iqbal Mohalla Bij, female (25) from Redwani Bala Kulgam, male (33) from Qaimoh Khudwani, male (40) from Tenjloo Anantnag.

Besides, they said, 2805 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time— 786 from Jammu Division and 2019 from Kashmir. So far 433824 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 10230-3647 in Jammu and 6583 in Kashmir.

They said there was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 51 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said. They also informed that 47705 doses of covid-19 vaccine were administered during the time in J&K.

### Decision On

He said effort by all should be to bring the cases to zero. "To overcome the covid-19, there is need to continue with the CAB. There is no room for complacency," he said as per news agency GNS, adding, "There is no room for celebrations. At no point, we can say that the cases are now declining and that we will do away with mask wearing. In fact we have to strictly follow CAB as there are around 6000 active cases in Srinagar alone."

### Instagram Restores

situation in the Kashmir valley, the official said.

There was no official reaction from Facebook.

### Dry Weather

the previous night, they said. Pahalgam tourist resort recorded a low of minus 5.1 degrees Celsius up from minus 6.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 0.3 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, officials said.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius.

The MeT office has predicted the possibility of light rain or snow at scattered places on Wednesday.

The weather is likely to stay dry over the next few days, it said.

Kashmir is currently under the influence of a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) which began after the Chilla-i-Kalan -- the 40-day harshest winter period ended on January 31.

### 2-Way Traffic On

better road conditions LMVs(passenger)/private cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar highway viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa," a traffic department official here told GNS, adding, "TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."

He said cut off for LMVs/private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) will be at 0700 hours to 1200 hours, from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0800 hours to 1300 hours and from Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) 0800 hours to 1300 hours "(subject to change depending on the road position then)"

He said no vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings.

Regarding HMVs/Load carriers, he said, "subject to fair weather and better road conditions, they shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the traffic situation on highway." He said TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the highway.

### Cyber Police Recovers

Kashmir with constant efforts of its dedicated technical teams traced out 73 missing/lost smartphones of various makes and models worth lakhs of rupees," a police spokesman said in a statement. "These traced out smartphones were accordingly handed over to the rightful owners today at Cyber Police Station Headquarters Srinagar."

Moreover, he said, an amount of Rs 4.20 lakhs were also saved by the financial desk of the Cyber Police Station Kashmir on Feb 8, which the victims

of cyber frauds had lost in various online scams. "Cyber Police Kashmir has a robust mechanism in place to help citizens in facing various technological challenges in their day to day life."

### NC MP Meets

employees in J&K. Bringing the grave problems faced by daily rated, temporary, casual, contractual, need based, seasonal and other workers serving in different government departments, local bodies, public sector undertakings and other government institutions in Jammu and Kashmir to the notice of the Union Finance Minister, Masoodi contended that these employees have been in service for decades altogether and have been serving people with dedication and commitment and in most of the cases are sole breadwinners of their families. "The State cannot be unmindful of its obligation to secure social and economic justice to this literally exploited segment of society," he said.

### CBSE 2nd-term

to conduct second-term board exams in offline mode only," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said. "The theory exams will begin from April 26, 2022. The datesheet for classes 10 and 12 will be released soon," he added.

### Kashmir Controversy

putting in place measures to prevent the misuse of its brand and a recurrence of such situations.

Suzuki issued a similar apology, adding it does not align with any political or religious groups.

Hyundai, India's second-largest car seller, faced the most severe backlash, with hundreds of social media users calling for an apology. Dozens also said they would cancel their car orders. The automaker apologised on Tuesday, saying it deeply regretted any offence caused to Indians.

Yet, dozens of members of the youth wing of Congress party gathered outside one of Hyundai's showrooms in Gujarat's Ahmedabad in protest.

Some held banners saying "Boycott Hyundai" and demanded the company tweet that Kashmir is an integral part of India.

"We are protesting against Hyundai's comments on Kashmir, its attempts to disturb the peace in India and for the sacrifice our soldiers have made to protect Kashmir and the nation," said Gaurang Makvana, a member of the youth Congress.



25<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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OR SCAN



## Police Beat Drums To Announce Court Order Against Man Wanted In 15 Year Old Case

**JAMMU:** Sticking to the old ways for an old case, police in a town here went around localities beating drums to announce a court order against a man evading arrest in a kidnapping case registered 15 years ago, officials said on Wednesday.

As directed by the court, Domana Station House Officer Inspector Mahesh Sharma and other officials resorted to the method hardly seen in use anymore to announce the order declaring the accused a proclaimed offender in Lale-De-Bagh and Domana areas, they said.

They also attached the court order at conspicuous places to make the accused and his legal heirs aware of it so that they cannot deny information about the order, the officials said.

The court of the judicial magistrate of Jammu issued a notice of proclamation under section 87 of the CrPC against Vishal Kumar of Lale-De-Bagh, who has been evading arrest in the case registered in 2007 under sections 363 (punishment for kidnapping) 448 (criminal trespassing) and 342 (wrongful confinement), they said.

## People Not Happy With Draft Delimitation Report: Congress

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** The people in Jammu and Kashmir are not happy with the draft delimitation commission report, All India Women Congress General Secretary Nagma Morarji said on Wednesday, as she lashed out at BJP over its alleged anti-people policies and "dividing the country on communal lines."

The actress turned politician also condemned the heckling of a hijab-clad girl by a group of men sporting saffron scarves at a college in Karnataka and said such diversionary tactics are employed to hoodwink the public from the real issues.

She also paid tributes to seven army personnel who lost their lives in an avalanche in Arunachal Pradesh.

People (in Jammu and Kashmir) are not happy with the proposed draft delimitation commission report. You have seen hundreds of BJP workers protesting and submitting their resignation (to protest the proposed merger of Suchetgarh assembly constituency on Monday) when the report

is out, you will see more protests, the Congress leader told reporters at the conclusion of her three-day visit to Jammu.

Nagma said she visited Suchetgarh sector near the International Border in the outskirts of Jammu on the first day of her three-day party programme and interacted with the people there. They are feeling neglected and consider snatching of the assembly constituency as a grave injustice.

On a question about the heckling of a hijab-clad girl in a college in Karnataka, she said such incidents will affect the education of the girls but the people need to stand up together against this hooliganism.

When the government has no developmental agenda to show to the public, they use such diversionary tactics to hoodwink the people. What happened to the 'beti bachao, beti padhao' slogan? Education of the girls is bound to get affected by such incidents and therefore we should not pay heed to diversionary tactics and stand up together against this hooliganism, she said.

## Physical Hearing In Courts To Resume From Feb 14

**SRINAGAR:** With the improvement in Covid-19 cases, the J&K and Ladakh High Court on Wednesday ordered resumption of the physical hearings from February 14.

Revising the January 30 order, Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal permitted hearings through physical mode with the restriction that in no Courtroom more than ten (10) advocates remain present at a time.

"The District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals in UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh shall also start functioning through physical mode," the order.

"Entry of advocates into the courtrooms before District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals shall be restricted to 5 advocates only at a given time," it reads.

The guidelines and protocols for prevention of Covid-19 contagion including wearing of masks, frequent use of hand

sanitizer and maintaining safe distancing norms are mandatory for all the entrants into the Court premises, the order reads. "Only those advocates whose cases are listed in the Courts and who are fully vaccinated shall be allowed entry in the courtrooms."

It said entry of litigants, clerks and agents of the Advocates into the Court rooms shall remain prohibited for the time being. "Entry of witness(es) and accused person(s) only shall be permitted in District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals provided they are fully vaccinated and subject to strict compliance of SOPs pertaining to the containment of Covid-19 infection."

It said entry in the District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals shall be permitted to only fully vaccinated persons from the outer gate of the Court Complex.

## Burglars Loot Cash, Jewellery In Kralpora

**KUPWARA:** Burglars looted cash and jewellery in a house in absence of family members in Budnambal Payeen village of Kralpora Kupwara, reports said on Wednesday.

Reports said Maqsood lone of Budnambal Kralpora registered a complaint in Police Station Kralpora, claiming that on Friday, unknown burglars entered

his house and looted jewellery worth Rs 20K and 4 lakh cash.

In the complaint, he said that he was out of his home along with his family and the house was locked when the incident occurred.

SHO police station Kralpora Waseem Budoo when contacted said that a case (FIR no 6/22) has been registered and investigation taken up. GNS

## Govt Employees Asked to Obtain Golden Card in 3 Weeks

Div Com Says, It Is Better Than Medical Reimbursement

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today stressed on cent percent enrollment coverage of eligible population for Golden Card under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna scheme.

While reviewing the progress of AB PMJAY and AB-PMJAY SEHAT, Div Com directed all Deputy Commissioners to complete the registration of entire population by March 31, 2022.

He directed them to conduct registration camps and reach out to every household to achieve the target in stipulated time.

He also directed for major enrollment drives at Block Development Offices and Tehsil Offices to cover entire population in a fixed time.

To decentralize enrollment, Div Com further directed that gazetted officers of RDD, Revenue, Medical Education should be given user IDs and login passwords to encourage registration of people.

The meeting was attended by DCs along with CMOs, Tehsildars; MD, NHM, J&K, CEO Ayushman -Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna; Principals of GMCs of Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag; Director Health Services Kashmir; C/O Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir, Assistant Director Immunization.

Earlier, MD NHM briefed the meeting about the performance of district, work done in BIS under AB PMJAY and AB-PMJAY SEHAT till today, registration



during last month, per day target, action plan to achieve target by March 31.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed DCs and DDO to ensure registration of all employees for Golden Card under Ayushman Bharat PMJAY & AB-PMJAY SEHAT by the end of February, 2022.

On the occasion, he also appealed Govt employees to obtain Ayushman Bharat Golden Card in three weeks time and also assured them that it is better than Medical reimbursement.

challenge. "It was agreed to procure drones to counter drone challenge besides ensuring that no weapon, drugs and currency is air-dropped through drones either on the LoC or the IB in Jammu region," a source said.

He said that it was also discussed to ensure peace prevails across Jammu in the wake of delimitation commission's second draft proposal that advocates merger of Rajouri and Poonch with Anantnag besides merger of other areas.

Sources said that the officers agreed to maintain a close coordination to ensure militancy is eliminated from entire Jammu and the active militants are killed in the days ahead while as all security agencies were directed to keep a tight vigil on suspects—(KNO)

## Top Security Brass Meet, Discuss Drone Activity, Yatra

**JAMMU:** Amid controversial second draft report of delimitation commission, security agencies of J&K were seen in a huddle on Wednesday during a security meeting held in Jammu.

Top security officials including Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh and General officer Commanding (GoC) of Rising Star Corps P N Ananthanarayanan, besides a galaxy of army, police officers and also officers from the intelligence wing.

"Among others who were present include Shaleen Kabra, Home Secretary, Special DG CID Divisional Commissioner, all Brigade Commanders of Jammu and Samba Division along with IG level officers from Jammu Kashmir Police, Border Security Forces, Central Reserve Police

Force and Deputy Director from State Intelligence Bureau and Special Bureau participated in the meeting," sources said.

"This meeting was aimed at achieving greater synergy between Armed Forces and Intelligence Agencies & Para Military Forces," said Jammu based defence spokesperson Lt Col Devender Anand.

He informed that various issues of common interest including upcoming Amarnath Yatra, Narco-Terror Nexus and Counter drone measures were discussed to enhance the operational preparedness of Security Forces deployed in Jammu in safeguarding the territorial integrity and internal security of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sources said that security forces agreed to put in place a counter strategy to foil drone

challenge. "It was agreed to procure drones to counter drone challenge besides ensuring that no weapon, drugs and currency is air-dropped through drones either on the LoC or the IB in Jammu region," a source said.

He said that it was also discussed to ensure peace prevails across Jammu in the wake of delimitation commission's second draft proposal that advocates merger of Rajouri and Poonch with Anantnag besides merger of other areas.

Sources said that the officers agreed to maintain a close coordination to ensure militancy is eliminated from entire Jammu and the active militants are killed in the days ahead while as all security agencies were directed to keep a tight vigil on suspects—(KNO)

## Kashmir Records Worst Ever Class 12 Result In 3 Years

**SRINAGAR:** In the recently announced annual regular results of 12th standard, Kashmir division has recorded the worst results after a gap of two years.

This year Kashmir division witnessed an overall pass percentage of 74.92 percent.

In the year 2008, the pass percentage of 12th standard was 53.50 percent in which 43,183 students appeared in the examination out of which 23,102 candidates qualified the examination.

Similarly, in the year 2009, the results of the class was declared on January 21 2010 in which 46,367 students had appeared for the examination out of which 25,546 candidates passed the examination and the overall results of the session was recorded with 55.10 percent.

In the year 2010, despite turmoil in Jammu and Kashmir, the results of the examinations were healthier than 2018.

The pass percentage of 12th standard examination in the year 2010 was 55.51 percent in which 52,125 students had appeared for the examination and 28,932 candidates among them qualified the examination.

Likewise, in the year 2011, at least 58.97 percent students qualified the examination wherein at least 49,956 appeared out of which 29,460 got qualified.

The data was released by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE). It reveals that in the year 2012, at least 58.95 percent students qualified the examination in which at least 52,268 appeared out of which 30,814 qualified it.

The data states that in the year 2013, an overall pass percentage of 52.08 percent in 12th standard was recorded in the valley. In the examination, a total number of 51,391 students appeared out of which 26,763 qualified the exams.

From the year 2014, the results of 12th standard started improving further till the year 2017 but the results dipped again by around 10 percent as compared to last year.

In the year 2014, the Kashmir division recorded the result of 55.18 percent and in the examination, at least 52,751 students appeared out of which 29,109 passed the exams.

According to JKBOSE, in the 2015 session the pass percentage of 12th standard was 57.19 percent and 51,908 students appeared for the exams out of which 29,684 candidates qualified the exams.

In the year 2016, at least 75.47 percent of the result in 12th standard was recorded and 53,159 students had appeared for the exams out of which 40,119 students qualified the exams.

The results in the year 2017 again dipped from 75 percent to 61 percent as the year recorded pass percentage of 61.44 percent and in the exams 55,163 students had appeared out of which 33,893 qualified it.

Likewise, in the year 2018, a total of 51,777 percent students qualified the exams followed by 76.08 percent in 2019 and 80.46 percent in 2020.

However, this year the results further dipped by nearly six percent as the valley recorded a pass percentage of only 74.92 percent.

BOSE said that this year 72,180 students appeared for the exams out of which 54,075 qualified—(KNO)

## Your Cellphone Bills Will Get Larger, Airtel Says It May Go First

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Telecom operator Bharti Airtel may take lead in hiking mobile call and services rates this year as it looks to increase average revenue per user to ₹200, a top official of the company said.

Airtel was the first telecom player to raise mobile services rates in the range of 18-25 per cent in November 2021. The average revenue per user (ARPU), an indicator of a telco's profitability, of Airtel was at ₹163 in October-December 2021, down 2.2 per cent year-on-year.

"I do expect a tariff hike sometime in 2022. I don't think it's going to happen in the next 3-4 months because the SIM consolidation and growth needs to come back but I do expect another round of tariff increase. Of course, it got to be determined by the competitors' dynamics. We would not hesitate to lead just as we have done in the recent past," Bharti Airtel MD and CEO for India and South Asia Gopal Vittal said.

He was responding to an analyst's question during the company's earnings call.

Bharti Airtel on Tuesday reported a 2.8 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹830 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2021, compared to ₹854 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated revenue of Bharti Airtel increased by 12.6 per cent to ₹29,867 crore during the reported quarter from ₹26,518 crore in the December 2020 quarter.

"We hope that the APRU of the

industry, our APRU gets to ₹200 soon preferably in 2022 itself then roughly settles soon after in the next few years to ₹300 which is the modest and good level of ARPU which can then turn return on capital of 15 per cent," Mr Vittal said.

4G customers of Bharti Airtel in India grew by 18.1 per cent y-o-y to 19.5 crore in December 2021 quarter from 16.56 crore in December 2020 quarter. The data usage per customer on Bharti Airtel India network in India grew 11.7 per cent to 18.28 gigabytes from 16.37 GB a year ago.

Mr Vittal said that the company will use USD 300 million (about ₹2,250 crore) for supporting device upgradation, network and cloud business. One of the big levers is device upgradation, second is network and third is cloud.

"The big opportunity for us is to upgrade from feature phone to smartphone. We have developed several capabilities. Software features will enable us to lock a phone on the fly if an EMI is not paid. There are platforms that we are working with to actually lend into devices in order to bring down the unit price of the device," Mr Vittal said.

He said that the software can enable the company to offer targeted cash back and discounts.

"We will be aggressive at driving upgradations. At the same time we will do it sensibly. Getting into a subsidy kind of game is not a great idea in a market like India, actually in any market. We do see a significant increase in ARPU when people move from feature to smartphone.

## Several Delegations Call On Lt Governor At Srinagar



**SRINAGAR:** Several delegations of people from different walks of life today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhavan here.

A delegation of Sikh community led by S. Rajinder Singh called on the Lt Governor and presented the demand of a job package for Kashmiri Sikhs on the pattern of non-migrant KPs. They also demanded the removal of encroachments around the land of Gurdwaras in the valley.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegation assured them that their demands would be looked into earnestly for their redressal on merit.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust while calling on the Lt Governor projected various issues pertaining to the promotion and preservation of Sanskrit language in the UT.

He also put forth the demand to designate the Raipur Domana link road and Higher Secondary School Domana after the name

of Lt Col Mahatam Singh, Maha Vir Chakra.

Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front, met the Lt Governor and expressed his gratitude for the unprecedented reforms and initiatives brought in several sectors for increasing the pace of development in J&K.

Muzaffar also put forth the demands of a Sports stadium in Achabal, Degree College at Achgoza, Pulwama, and a maternity hospital in Anantnag.

Later, writer and education consultant, Firdous Ahmad Bhat also met the Lt Governor and highlighted various issues related to the youth.

Discussing the demands and issues presented before him, the Lt Governor said that all the demands would be taken up with concerned quarters of UT administration for appropriate action on them based on merit.

The Lt Governor urged the President of JKPNF to continue his endeavours for the welfare of the people of UT.

## DC Pulwama Distributes Commercial Vehicles

**PULWAMA:** To provide sustainable livelihood to youth by providing employment opportunities, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary today distributed Vehicles among 13 unemployed beneficiaries under MUMKIN Scheme at District Administrative Complex, here.

During the event, the DC handed over keys to Drivers/

beneficiaries who had applied as Unemployed Youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that MUMKIN scheme is a part of Mission Youth, an initiative launched by UT Administration which aims to channelize the energy of Unemployed Youth in the right direction and provide them avenues of self-employment so that they are able to earn livelihood.

SHORT TAKES

### Pregnant Woman Among 3 Injured In Kupwara Accident

**KUPWARA:** A pregnant woman was among three persons injured in a road accident in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday.

Reports said that an Alto car bearing registration number JK09A-5332 skidded off the road at Lolab bypass and fell into a gorge, resulting in injuries to three persons, according to news agency GNS.

The injured trio was evacuated from the site and taken to Sub-district hospital Kupwara for treatment from where they were referred to a Srinagar hospital for specialized treatment.

The injured persons have been identified as Driver Showkat Ahmad Lone of Sherkoat, Rubena wife of Tariq Ahmad Majnoo of Shumriyaal and Tariq Ahmad Majnoo son of Wali Mohammad Majnoo of Shumriyaal.

A police official confirming the incident and said that a case has been registered in this regard for further investigations.

### Body Recovered In Central Kashmir's Budgam

**BUDGAM:** An unidentified male body was recovered in Brenwar area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday.

Official sources said that the body of an elderly man was found by locals near power grid station Brenwar Chadoora, who later informed the police accordingly.

"Body has been recovered from the spot and identification of the deceased is being ascertained while further investigations have been started," said a police officer.

### Fire Breaks Out In SDPO Office Tangmarg

**SRINAGAR:** A massive fire has broken out in SDPO office in Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Reports said that the double-storied building, also housing office of DySP Operations, was caught in flames of some unascertained cause some time before.

A Fire and Emergency Department official said that men and machinery from at least two stations are currently on job to douse off the flames.

### Private Security Guard Injured In Sonwar

**SRINAGAR:** A private security guard of a hotel was on Wednesday injured in a road accident at Sonwar area of Srinagar.

Official sources said that a private security guard of Sarrowar hotel in Ram Munshi Bagh, identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Beigh of Kupwara was hit by a police ambassador outside the hotel.

The injured has been rushed to SMHS hospital here where his condition is stated to be stable, they said.

### New Conference Hall In Kulgam

**KULGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited the construction site of the new Conference Hall at mini-secretariat here to take stock of pace and progress of the work project.

It was informed that the work project of this conference hall is under execution of R&B and will come up with an estimated cost of 5.04 crore.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the concerned officers of the executing agency to expedite the pace of work on the work project and ensure its timely completion.

### Spring Vegetable Cultivation In Kupwara

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din today kick-started spring vegetable cultivation under controlled conditions (Green House cultivation) at Agriculture Farm, here.

Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kupwara, Nazir Ahmad, SDAO Trehgam, concerned officers, besides, a large number of progressive farmers were present on the occasion.

Addressing the farmers, the Deputy Commissioner appealed to them to come forward into agriculture entrepreneurship particularly commercial vegetable cultivation to increase their income manifold. He said that the Kupwara district has a huge potential of vegetable cultivation which needs to be exploited by the farmers to improve their livelihood.

## DC Bandipora Distributes Sports Kits Among Clubs, Associations



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Wednesday distributed sports kits among various Sports Clubs and associations.

Joint Director Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmad, In-charge Activities Nasir Hussain, young footballer Aaquib Amin and other senior officials of the district were present on the occasion.

The officers handed over sports kits including footballs, cones, hurdles, football shoes, mats for martial arts and other activities besides other sports equipments.

While interacting with the

sport persons and representatives of various sports clubs and associations, the DC said that the district administration is keen to develop sports infrastructure in the district.

He said under different schemes, not only the play fields are being developed in every village but sports items are also distributed among the sports clubs of different villages besides numerous tournaments are organised under Khelo India.

He said with the improvement in weather conditions, the outdoor sports activities shall start soon and Department of Youth Services and Sports will come up with a detailed calendar of activities.

## ODI Batting Rankings: Kohli Stays At No. 2; Rohit 3rd

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam holds on to No. 1.



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India's new white-ball captain Rohit Sharma remained in third place but closed in on teammate Virat Kohli, who also held on to second spot, in the latest ICC men's ODI batting rankings, on Wednesday.

Rohit gained valuable points after his fifty in the first ODI of the three-match series against the West Indies and now has 807 rating points as against Kohli's 828.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam continued to hold on to the No. 1, while his compatriot Fakhar Zaman and England batter Joe Root broke into the top 10.

The West Indies' Shai Hope, who scored 8 runs in the first ODI, lost out on valuable points and slipped out of the top 10.

There was no movement in the top 10 of the bowling rankings, as India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah remained unchanged on No. 7.

In the all-rounders' list, Ravindra Jadeja was placed eighth, while West Indies' Jason Holder, following his half-century in the first ODI in Ahmedabad, went up four places to get into the top 20.

In a major leap, Oman's Jatinder Singh, who scored a hundred in the first match of the UAE series, part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2, jumped 26 places to break into top 100 of the batting rankings.

Jatinder is the second-highest run-scorer in the League 2 tournament with 594 runs in 23 matches.

## IPL 2022: Ahmedabad Franchise To Be Called Gujarat Titans



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Ahmedabad team of the Indian Premier League will be called the Gujarat Titans, the franchise announced on Wednesday.

The franchise, owned by private equity firm CVC Capital and to be led by India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, said the name was chosen to pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy.

Debuting in the 15th season of the IPL, the Gujarat Titans will pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy, which has seen it produce countless Indian international cricket legends over the years, the franchise said in statement on Wednesday.

"The franchise is inspired by the opportunity to represent and build on this deep cricketing heritage, as well as build on its future success on the pitch," Siddharth Patel, a representa-

tive of the franchise, said, "We want this group to achieve great things for Gujarat and its many passionate fans, which is why we have chosen the name Titans."

Apart from Pandya, the franchise has also signed Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan and young Indian batting talent Shubman Gill.

Former India pacer Ashish Nehra will be the head coach and Vikram Solanki the director of cricket, while World Cup-winning coach Gary Kirsten has been appointed as the team mentor and batting coach.

"As we approach the league's mega auction, we are confident that we will be able to put together the right combination of players going into the new season," Patel said.

"We want individuals that are not only highly skilled but who are inspired to be Titans of the game."

## India Beat West Indies By 44 Runs In 2nd ODI

Press Trust of India

**AHEMDABAD:** Suryakumar Yadav conjured up a responsible 64-run knock before Prasadidh Krishna returned an impressive four-wicket haul as India thrashed the West Indies by 44 runs in the second ODI to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Surya hit a dogged 64 to help India post a decent score of 237 for nine after being invited to bat. The Indian bowlers, led by Prasadidh (4/12), then bundled out the opposition for 193 on a 'Motera' track, where batting wasn't easy.

For the visitors, Shamarh Brooks top-scored with 44.

It is the 11th time in the last 17 games that West Indies have failed to bat their quota of 50 overs despite the presence of senior players. India had won the first ODI by six wickets and now the third game will be played on February 11.

Chasing a modest 238, West Indies lost opener Brandon King (18) and Darren Bravo (1) early with India pacer Prasadidh accounting for both batsmen.

Opener Shai Hope (27) and Shamarh Brooks (44) tried to rally the innings but were able to add only 14 runs as Hope holed out to Suryakumar at long-on off Yuzvendra Chahal (1/45).



The visitors were reeling at 52/3. Prasadidh was on a rampage as rival skipper Nicholas Pooran (9) became his third victim. West Indies lost half its side for 76.

From here on, it was just a matter of time. However, Brooks and Akeal Hosen (34) delayed the inevitable. Odean Smith (24) raised the Windies hope but eventually he too fell. Prasadidh fittingly ended the game by dismissing Kumar Roach.

Pacer Mohammed Siraj (1/38), Shardul Thakur (2/41), Chahal, Washington Sundar (1/28) and Deepak Hooda (1/24) perfectly aided Prasadidh.

Earlier, the hosts were reeling at 43 for three after a top-order collapse but then Suryakumar forged a crucial 91-run stand with vice-captain KL Rahul (49) to bring the team back on track. The elegant Surya, who

notched up his second fifty, mixed caution with aggression and hammered five fours in his 83-ball knock.

India lost skipper Rohit Sharma (5) cheaply when tried to chase a wishful delivery off pacer Kumar Roach (1/42) and edged to Shai Hope after West Indies opted to field.

Virat Kohli (18), who is playing his 100th ODI in India, then joined Rishabh Pant (18), who opened for first-time in the 50-over format.

Kohli's first boundary was an elegant cover drive in the fifth over, off Roach and off the same bowler he cut behind square to get his second.

The pace duo of Roach and Alzarri Joseph (2/36) bowled a tight line as India could hit only two fours in the first seven overs and crawled to 22/1.

## India U-19 World Cup Heroes Felicitated

Press Trust of India

**AHEMDABAD:** India's U-19 World Cup winning squad was on Wednesday felicitated by the BCCI on the sidelines of the second ODI, in Ahmedabad, on Wednesday.

The U-19 heroes, wearing blazers, first watched the second ODI at the Narendra Modi stadium from the stands, as they had a joyous time seeing their stars in presence of head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar and other members of the support staff.

Former India batter and National Cricket Academy head VVS Laxman, who was with the team in the Caribbean, was also present on occasion. And so was BCCI secretary Jay Shah, treasurer Arun Dhumal and few other senior officials of the state cricket bodies.

The colts, as announced



by the Board, were given Rs 40 lakh each for their stellar achievement while the support staff were handed Rs 25 lakh each.

The India U-19 squad had returned home on Tuesday. The squad took the long flight back from the Caribbean with connections in Amsterdam and Dubai before reaching Bengaluru

on Tuesday morning and the team then reached Ahmedabad.

An utterly dominant India on February 5 won a record-extending fifth U-19 World Cup title in North Sound in Antigua, beating heavyweights England by four wickets in the summit clash of an extraordinary campaign that was almost derailed by a COVID-19 outbreak.

## Roundup Of Olympic Gold Medals From Wednesday, Feb. 9

Agencies

**BEIJING:** A roundup of gold medals from Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the Beijing Games:

### ALPINE SKIING WOMEN'S SLALOM

Petra Vlhova added an Olympic gold medal to her growing list of achievements, winning the women's slalom at the Beijing Games.

It was Slovakia's first Olympic medal in Alpine skiing. Mikaela Shiffrin again failed to finish the race.

Katharina Liensberger of Austria was 0.08 seconds slower than Vlhova over the two legs for second. Wendy Holdener of Switzerland was third, 0.12 behind Vlhova.

### FREESTYLE SKIING MEN'S BIG AIR

Norway's Birk Ruud won gold in the Olympics' first men's freestyle skiing big air event, re-emerging as a leader in the extreme sport after losing his father to cancer and injuring his knee.

Ruud has two Winter X Games big air gold medals and four world cup wins, but only one since 2019.

Ruud's final score of 187.75 was well clear of American silver medalist Colby Stevenson's 183. Swedish veteran Henrik Harlaut took bronze at 181.

### LUGE MEN'S DOUBLES

Germany's Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt won the doubles title at the Beijing Olympics on Wednesday night, their third consecutive gold medal in the event.

They finished two runs in 1



minute, 56.653 seconds, holding off fellow Germans Toni Eggert and Sascha Benecken by 0.099 seconds.

Austria's Thomas Steu and Lorenz Koller survived a wobble just before the finish line to get the bronze.

### NORDIC COMBINED INDIVIDUAL NORMAL HILL/10KM CROSS-COUNTRY

Germany's Vinzenz Geiger won a men's Nordic combined gold, rallying from a 1-minute, 26-second deficit to cross the finish line first in a 10K cross-country race after ranking 11th in ski jumping earlier in the day.

Joergen Graabak of Norway earned silver Wednesday night and Lukas Greiderer of Austria took bronze.

Japan's Ryota Yamamoto jumped 108 meters (354 feet) and had 133 points in the first part of event, giving him a 38-second lead over the pack, but he faded from contention halfway through the cross-country race.

### SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING MEN'S 1,500 METERS

South Korea's Hwang Dae-hyun won the 1,500 meters in Olympic short track speedskating. Hwang stuck his skate in front at the tight finish of the 10-man final Wednesday night at the Capital Indoor Stadium.

Steven Dubois of Canada took silver. Semen Elistratov of the Russian Olympic Committee earned bronze.

There were so many skaters in the final that six lined up on the start and the other four were in back. The pack circling the rink looked more like a relay than an individual final.

### SNOWBOARD WOMEN'S SNOWBOARDCROSS

Lindsey Jacobellis captured America's first gold medal of the Olympics, riding hard to the line in her snowboardcross final a full 16 years after a mistake cost her the title.

The 36-year-old racer was in her fifth Olympics and captured the first U.S. win of what has been an otherwise dismal Games for the U.S.

France's Chloe Trespeuch won silver and Canada's Meryeta Odine won bronze.

## PAK Vs AUS: Pakistan Announce Squad For Test Series

Shaun Tait roped in as fast bowling coach



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Fast bowler Haris Rauf and opener Shan Masood were recalled in the 16-member Pakistan squad for the upcoming three-match home Test series against Australia beginning on March 4.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Saqlain Mushtaq will continue as head coach for another 12 months.

Former Australia quick Shaun Tait will take over as fast bowling coach for 12 months, while Mohammad Yousuf has been appointed as the batting coach for this series.

Veteran leg-spinner Yasir Shah was named in the five-player reserve pool, which will also have the likes of young Naseem Shah and Mohammad Abbas.

The tour will mark Australia's first series in Pakistan since 1998. The three Tests will be played in Rawalpindi (March 4-8), Karachi (March 12-16) and Lahore (March 21-25).

The squad, to be led by Babar Azam, has no other surprises from the one that played two Tests matches in Bangladesh in November-December last year.

"Haris Rauf, who was in the side for South Africa and Zimbabwe Tests in 2021, has returned to replace off-spinner Bilal Asif, while Shan Masood, who last played in New Zealand in 2020-21 season, has taken over from Abid Ali, who is completing his rehabilitation after being diag-

nosed with Acute Coronary Syndrome," the PCB said in a statement.

The 28-year-old Rauf is yet to play a Test for Pakistan though he has featured in eight ODIs and 34 T20Is.

Test players who are not involved in the Pakistan Super League will assemble in Karachi on February 16 for a training camp that will be held at the National Stadium.

"We have opted for consistency for the important home series against Australia and changes have only been made where absolutely necessary," chief selector Muhammad Wasim said.

"This is to give the boys confidence, reward them for their impressive performances in the longer version of the game in 2021 and continue to build the side for the future."

"These are the best available, most talented and in-form players in the domestic circuit. I am confident they will put up an impressive performance against a formidable Australia side."

Pakistan Test squad: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (vc), Abdullah Shafique, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Zahid Mahmood.

Reserves: Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Abbas, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Yasir Shah.

## Cummins Praises Former Coach Langer, Says Players Wanted Change

Agencies

"I'd never do that. I believe in respecting the sanctity of the

**MELBOURNE:** After describing Justin Langer as a legend with a "fierce love of Australia" and praising his influence on the national men's cricket team, new captain Pat Cummins ended weeks of speculation about a player-led push for change on Wednesday by saying Australia needed a new style of head coach.

Cummins, who took over as Australia's test captain immediately before the recent Ashes series against England, was heavily criticized by some star ex-players for not publicly endorsing Langer ahead of the coach's contract negotiations with the board last Friday.

Langer quit on Saturday, announcing the decision via his management company as he travelled home across the country from Melbourne to Perth, after declining a six-month contract extension.

Four days later, Cummins issued a statement to "provide some clarity" shortly before commenting further at a news conference in Sydney, where the team is preparing for a Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka.

"To speak about a decision, which was yet to be made and which is for Cricket Australia to make, would have put Cricket Australia and the team in an impossible position," Cummins said in the statement Wednesday.

change room and the proper process." Media reports last year suggested that some players were unhappy with Langer's traditional coaching methods and mood changes.

"He made some big changes and deserves a lot of credit for that," Cummins said of Langer's response to player feedback. "The question is, do we think it's sustainable? We thought, no, it's the right time to make a change."

Cummins said evaluations for cricketers and coaches had been going on for two years and the feedback from the players was consistent: it was time for a more collaborative approach. "To be better players for Australia, from this solid foundation, we need a new style of coaching and skill set," Cummins told an afternoon news conference.

"A big theme of this summer has been more calm, more composed. That's the direction we want to take the team." His comments came a day after Australia announced an 18-man squad for its first test series in Pakistan since 1998 — and it is the first in four years without Langer. (AP)

## New Zealand-Australia T20I Series Cancelled

Agencies

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand's three-match Twenty20 international cricket series next month against world champion Australia has been cancelled because of COVID-19 border regulations.

Australia beat New Zealand by eight wickets in the final of the T20 World Cup last November and the rivals were expected to play in Napier from March 17-20, in anticipation of a planned relaxation of border protocols.

But the arrival of the omicron variant in New Zealand has put back the re-opening of the international border and the series cannot take place because the Australian men's team does not have places reserved in managed isolation.

"At the time we scheduled the visit there was a lot of hope that the trans-Tasman border would be open for those who met the right criteria," New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White said in a statement Wednesday.