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P7 STATE

## J&K ACHIEVED FIRST RANK AMONG UTS IN NESDA-2021

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta said on Wednesday that the launch of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) for the UT of J&K was a

P5

## WHY GRADES DON'T REALLY MATTER THAT MUCH AFTER ALL

Something I want tattooed on my forehead is "grades don't matter." The current perception of the importance of grades in academia dumbfounds me, because I think that by caring too much about grades, most students are

P08 SPORTS

## WINTER OLYMPICS: ARIF KHAN FAILS TO FINISH MEN'S SLALOM EVENT

India's campaign at the Winter Olympics came to disappointing end on Wednesday after the country's lone participant, alpine skier Arif Khan, logged a 'Did



## Quote!

There is scarcely any passion without struggle

– Albert Camus

## NEWS DIGEST

### LG Greet People On Sant Ravidas Jayanti

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Sant Guru Ravidas Jayanti. In a message, the Lt Governor said Guru Ji's vision on humanism, [More on P6](#)

### Sarpanch Caught Accepting Rs 6500 Bribe

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Wednesday arrested a woman Sarpanch from south Kashmir's Anantnag district for accepting a bribe for approving works under the centrally sponsored MGNREGA scheme. Hafiza [More on P6](#)

### 3.2 Magnitude Quake Felt In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: A mild intensity earthquake with epicentre in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam area shook the valley on Wednesday but there was no damage reported due to the tremor. An earthquake of magnitude 3.2 on Richter scale was felt at around [More on P6](#)

### Heart Attack Kills Bengali Tourist

SRINAGAR: A tourist from West Bengal died after suffering a heart attack at a hotel in the ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district, reports said Wednesday. 65-year-old Shyam Sunder Agarwal who was staying at a hotel in Gulmarg suffered a heart attack, reports said. He was taken [More on P6](#)

# 78% Students Qualify Matric Exams

## Girls Steal The Show, Sweep Top Positions

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Girls have once again managed to sweep top positions and private schools maintained distinction over government counterparts in the board exams as over 78 percent of the 72,684 candidates passed 10th class examinations that were conducted by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) last year.

According to a notification issued by the JKBOSE on Wednesday, girls have again outshined boys in the exams as 78.74 percent of girls passed the exams against the 78.14 percent of boys who have passed their exams.

In terms of Private schools whose candidates have passed the annual exams, JKBOSE has said that 91.18 percent of students managed to pass while in the Government schools, the number was only registered at 67.25 percent.

As per the figures, 38, 721 students from Government



schools have appeared in the exams while only 26,040 students have passed their exams. "Out of 33,963 students from private schools, 30,967 students have passed the annual exams," BOSE said.

Notably, as per BOSE, there are 19 students sharing top positions in the annual exams including 13 girls.

One of the toppers of the annual exam, Tabena Fayaz of Spring Dales School in Palhalan, Pattan says that her success is mainly due to Allah

and teachers and management of her school.

"My parents and teachers have constantly provided help and guidance throughout my educational journey especially in the pandemic. My success is mainly due to Allah and then because of my parents and teachers. This top position wouldn't have been there if there was no support from them," says Tabena.

Last week, JKBOSE had declared the results for class 12th where girls [More on P6](#)

## LG, Abdullah's Greet Students

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, former Chief Ministers Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah besides other political leaders on Wednesday congratulated students who qualified matriculation exams. "Congratulations to all my young friends who have successfully cleared @jkboseofficial class 10th examinations, Annual, Regular-2021, Kashmir Division. Compliments to teachers, parents & @jkboseofficial. Best wishes to all the students for their bright future," the LG posted on his official Twitter handle. The Jammu and Kashmir [More on P6](#)

## Northern Command Reviews J&K Situation



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security situation in Kashmir during his three-day visit to the valley which ended on Wednesday.

"The Army Commander was briefed by Lt Gen D P Pandey, General officer Commanding Chinara Corps, on the prevalent

security situation and measures instituted to counter adversaries' design," a defence spokesman said here.

He said the Army Commander had arrived here on Monday on his maiden visit to Kashmir after taking over the reins of Northern Command of the Army.

Lt Gen Dwivedi interacted with the senior officers of Chinara Corps [More on P6](#)

## SIA Arrests 10 'OGWs' In Overnight Raids

Observer News Service

JAMMU: At least ten alleged over-ground workers of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) were rounded up by the sleuths of State Investigation Agency (SIA) in overnight raids in various districts of south and central Kashmir, officials said Wednesday.

The raids carried out at ten different locations in south and central Kashmir were primarily focused on the network of JeM, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. He said that ten identified persons who were

part of OGW modules and taking instructions from JeM commanders have been arrested.

The SIA was constituted last year with a mandate to investigate crimes connected with militancy and secessionism.

The module whose members were organised in to sub-modules, in the form of verticals, so that in the event of detection of one member the bigger network does not get compromised had been painstakingly discovered through discreet surveillance in which corroborative intelligence capable of being converted [More on P6](#)

## NIA Raids 9 Spots In Kashmir In IED Case

Srinagar- National Investigation Agency on Wednesday carried out raids at nine locations in Kashmir Valley in connection with a case regarding recovery of IED from Bhatindi Area of Jammu in June last year, officials said.

"NIA in coordination with Jammu and [More on P6](#)

## Land Compensation Case

# Govt Slapped Rs 10L Fine For 'Dragging' Litigation

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: In a landmark judgment, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh had imposed a fine of rupees 10 lakh on the Union Territory administration for 'unnecessarily' dragging a litigation against a land compensation case that had hampered timely compensation to the beneficiaries.

A division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar on Tuesday heard the case OWP No. 2084 of 2018 and ruled that it is an alarming situation that the state is acquiring private land without payment of full compensation.

"This kind of action or omission on the part of the state authorities is not acceptable and cannot be allowed to continue for an indefinite period." The division bench observed.

Notably, the petitioners in the case are the residents of village Kanli Bagh, Baramulla who had invoked a writ in J&K High Court for the quashing of the entire acquisition proceedings in respect of about 150 kanals and 03 marlas of the land which was notified for acquisition for the public purpose of establishing a Housing Colony at Sangri in Baramulla by the Government.

The petitioners—villagers

of Kanli bagh village—had also alleged that only a tentative award was made on March, 17, 1998 but however they were being denied compensation to their land as the Government kept on unnecessarily dragging the litigation in the case.

The court observed that the right to possess and occupy land/property used to be a fundamental right and is still a constitutional

right akin to a fundamental right. It has been recognized even as a basic human right. "In view of Article 300 A of the Constitution of India, no person

can be deprived of his property otherwise by following the due process of law. Therefore, the non-payment of the compensation as provided under the statutes amounts to depriving the person of his right to the property," the court said.

The court also said that there is no dispute to the fact that the land measuring 150 kanals and 03 marlas stands acquired and that its possession has been taken over and handed over to the indenting department decades ago but till date final award has not been passed.

"The Collector, Housing and Urban Development Department, as per the draft award has disbursed the amount of compensation to the extent of [More on P6](#)

**STIFF ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST** all those officers, who were involved and responsible for not allowing the award to be passed immediately after the tentative award had been prepared and announced."

## J&K Awaits Funds From GoI For Hydrel Projects

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government is awaiting release of funds from the Government of India for setting up of small hydroelectric projects under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP). Documents reveal that till date no funds have been

sanctioned/ released by the Government of India for small hydroelectric projects under the PMDP.

Under the mega development package announced by the Centre in 2015, Rs 2000 crore were kept for setting up small hydroelectric projects.

After the announcement of the package, [More on P6](#)

## Lost Livestock: The Case Of Barn Burglary In Kashmir

Tabia Masoodi, Al-Misda Masoom

At the break of dawn on February 3, 2022, Mohammad Yaqoob fought shivering cold and slippery slopes while returning to his home in Khrew area of Pulwama. Accompanied by a Kashmiri Wazwan chef, he was going to prepare meals for his grieving sister whose daughter had lately passed.

For the two consecutive nights before his morning arrival, the simpleton was away from his locked home lamenting the loss of his niece. But little did he know that he would've to grieve for his lost livelihood as well.

The moment he reached the gates of his home, he cried in despair, "Taawan Chu Pyumut" (We're doomed!)

While Yaqoob was away, the thieves broke into his barn and



robbed his 24 sheep.

"I'm left with nothing," lamented Yaqoob's wife. "This livestock was the only source of income for us. I don't know how we will manage our living now." Barely five days after Yaqoob's barn

was burgled, Police Station Safakadal received information regarding attempt of cattle theft at Takarwari area of Noorbagh, Srinagar.

When the police party reached on spot, a large gathering had caught hold of the

suspects. Timely intervention of cops saved the "thieves" from possible mob-lynching.

Booked under the FIR NO 18/2022 u/s 380/511 IPC, the suspects—Manzoor Kumar and Altaaf of Budgam, and Nazeer Chopan and Irfan Kataria of Kangan—were arrested along with Tata Mobile White JK01G 4980.

"During questioning the suspects admitted various cattle thefts in different area of the valley," police said. "More arrests and recoveries are expected."

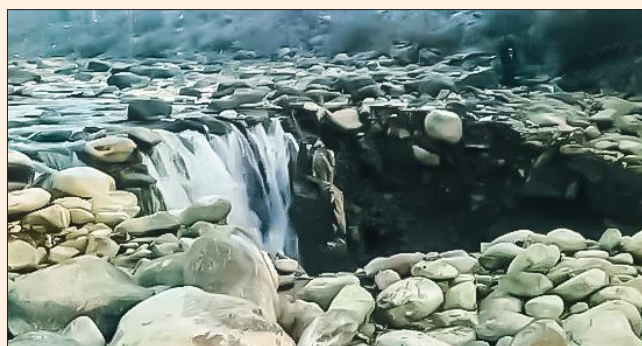
## Rising Robbery

Over the years the cases of cattle theft have seen a significant surge in Kashmir.

According to the data compiled by the Crime Branch Kashmir, the number of cattle theft cases stands at 111 for the year 2020 against 92 in 2019.

While the [More on P6](#)

## Kokernag Sinkhole Mystery Natural Phenomenon: Experts



Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Days after a massive sinkhole in a stream in Kokernag area of Anantnag district disrupted smooth flow of water; several experts on Wednesday junked the alarm

bells which had falsely revealed that the sinkhole may be another assault unleashed by the unobstructed climatic changes on the mighty Himalayas and its peripheries.

On February 12, a massive sinkhole had [More on P6](#)

## Admin Cautions Media Persons

Authorities on Wednesday warned media persons against moving close to the sinkhole at Wandevalgam area of Kokernag in Anantnag, underscoring that they pose threat to themselves as well as attract the general public there. "It has been observed that despite restrictions being imposed on any assembly of general public or movement of individuals near sinkhole at Wandevalgam on 11 February 2022 [More on P6](#)









## Tourism Deptt, KU launch capacity building programme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A four day capacity building programme for tourism stakeholders commenced here today.

The programme is being jointly organized by the Department of Tourism and University of Kashmir in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Tourism.

Dean, Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir, Prof. Farooq Masoodi; Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo; Registrar, University of Kashmir, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir and other academicians from the University and officers from Tourism Department besides stakeholders were present in the inaugural function.

In his inaugural remarks, Prof. Farooq Masoodi underlined the need for supplementing trade experiences with academic inputs for better results and satisfying experiences. He hoped that more such interactive sessions would be held for the stakeholders to keep them abreast with changing trade patterns and practices.

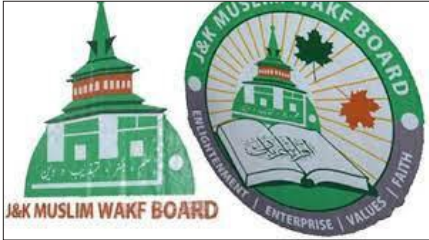
Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo in his opening remarks gave a resume of initiatives taken by the Department for the handholding of tourism stakeholders in the wake of Covid pandemic during the last two years. He said the Department carried out a vaccination drive among all the segments of the tourism trade which gave enough confidence to tourists and the results were for anyone to decipher.

# CCIK Concerned Over Govt Apathy Towards Waqf Board

Observer News Service

Srinagar:- Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) has expressed serious concern over keeping the Waqf Board headless.

In a statement to , President CCIK Tariq Rashid Ghani said one of the main religious bodies has been left to fend for itself owing to Government's apathy towards the Waqf Board as a result the management at major shrines in the Valley are facing problems.



Ghani said it is ironic that Government is not paying any heed to

this body which is looking into the management of shrines which are the symbols of Kashmir's great and rich culture and history besides religious obligations

Ghani appealed to LG Administration to appoint a Chairman to the Waqf Board so that these historic religious places don't face official neglect.

CCIK also appealed to Chairperson, Central Waqf Development Committee, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi to intervene in the matter

## SMC Commissioner holds review meeting with Legal, Enforcement wings

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Amir Khan on Wednesday held a detailed meeting with Legal and Enforcement wings of SMC.

In a statement, issued to Kashmir News Service (KNS), a spokesperson said that the meeting was held to review cases pending in various courts including High Court, JK Special Tribunal and Municipal Magistrate.

The statement reads that directions were issued



for ensuring timely filing or responses and replies to ensure cases are quickly disposed of by the different courts and later a weekly

review mechanism was constituted to ensure the same.

It reads that commissioner directed legal and enforcement wings to ensure cases

of illegal and unauthorised structures which are sub judice in courts are followed up regularly and the stay orders by courts are vacated to ensure necessary action against these illegal structures.

"Instructions were also issued to ensure all technicalities are properly followed in issuing notices and orders against illegal and unauthorised structures to ensure no undue advantage is taken by the violators in the garb. Review of all the Writ petitions and PILs with SMC as a party was also held."

## People of South Kashmir Appreciate LG Administration for taking remarkable step.

Civil Society of South Kashmir particularly Historical Distt Anantnag have expressed satisfaction in posting senior most forest officer having more than eleven years of experience in handling different assignments be it Deputy Director Forest Protection force, DFO Social forestry Anantnag DFO, Territorial Forest Division Kulgam Principal KFT College Bandipora nd Distt Soil and Water Conservation Officer Anantnag / Kulgam as Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag Forest Division namely Mr. Mohmad Ramzan Mir. This step by LG. Administration and the officers at helm prove that a senior most forest official can change state of forest officers from blocks to different ranges in Anantnag forest Division that will boost the morals of forest officials in South Kashmir. Remember Mr Mohmad Ramazan Mir New DFO Anantnag forest Division has been always instrumental in taking the Governmental programmes to the door steps of people and his work style has been appreciated by concerned commissioners in combat covid. We the people of south Kashmir are thankful to LG Administration for taking this huge step .

Regard

Civil Society Of SK Anantnag  
Through  
Ab Hameed Khaday

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG



Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from MrMohd Iqbal BhatS/o Gh Mohd Bhat R/o Nipura Anantnag (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle (bearing registration No JK03C-0764 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under and Mr.Arif Hussain Khandays/o Bashir Ahmad Khanday R/o Nipura Anantnag ( party no 2nd ) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase .



Before the case is disposed off on its merits, anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.  
Dated :16/02/2022  
Assistant regional Transport Officer Anantnag

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از نیابت انت ناگ با اجلاس انکلیٹ میٹرز دیچاول  
مضمون درخواست منجانب : محمد اذان شیر گوزری ولد الطاف حسین شیر گوزری ساکنہ قاضی محلا انت ناگ تحصیل ضلع انت ناگ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول (SC) سر قلیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکان کا کثیرہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	الطاف حسین شیر گوزری ولد الطاف محمد شیر گوزری	50 سال	ملازم	LPC
02	یاسین اختر زوجہ الطاف حسین	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	محمد اذان پیر الطاف حسین	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	محمد حاذق پیر الطاف حسین	09 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	حازرہ بیگم زوجہ محمد شیر گوزری	70 سال	عمر سیدہ	
06	محمد نضران پیر الطاف حسین	03 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ ادرو کوئی افراد کوئی میں موجود ہیں۔ سب سر قلیٹ محکومہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی نداری اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت رنیر پورہ با اجلاس غلام محمد الدین بٹ صاحب درخواست منجانب :- طارق حسین ولد حسن خان، کاروان طارق، ہامیزہ طارق و بیسماء طارق اولاد طارق احمد خان ساکان گولپورہ کاٹان بغرض حصول :- PSP سر قلیٹ

استہوار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔  
مندرجہ عنوان درخواست ساکان دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ ساکان کے پاس رقم تعدادی بچہ موجود ہے۔ ساکان کی پیاز زبانی چچی طرح جاتا ہے۔ مطابق رپورٹ پوری کے کثیرہ تفصیل بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	طارق حسین خان ولد حسن خان	50 سال	سرکاری ملازم	LPC
2	گفتش بانو زوجہ طارق حسین خان	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	شبنم طارق دختر طارق احمد خان	23 سال	گھریلو کام	
4	کاروان طارق ولد طارق احمد خان	19 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	ہامیزہ طارق دختر طارق احمد خان	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	سبا طارق دختر طارق احمد خان	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طرح ساکان کا کثیرہ 06 افراد پیش ہے۔ کثیرہ کی ماہوار آمدنی بطور =/ 59547 LPC، موجود ہے۔ اور کثیرہ کی کل سالانہ آمدنی =/ 714564 تک ہے۔ اس طور ساکان RBA سر قلیٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنا عذر یا اعتراض دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں سے معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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از نیابت دیگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیگام  
مضمون درخواست منجانب : شاکر شوکت، شام شوکت و سلمان شوکت پیران شوکت احمد بیگ ساکنہ سڈورہ تحصیل ضلع انت ناگ  
بغرض حصول RBA سر قلیٹ

استہوار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول (RBA) ایک وارڈ اسر قلیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکان کا کثیرہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	شوکت احمد بیگ ولد عبدالرحمان	50 سال	مزدوری	=/ 4000
02	یاسین زوجہ شوکت احمد بیگ	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	سلمان شوکت ولد شوکت احمد بیگ	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	شاد شوکت ولد شوکت احمد بیگ	15 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	شاکر شوکت ولد شوکت احمد بیگ	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ ادرو کوئی افراد کوئی میں موجود ہیں۔ سب سر قلیٹ محکومہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی نداری اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار۔

### 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

SHIEK 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 )

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 50
ZUHR	12: 45
ASR	4: 37
Magrib	6: 19
ISHA	7: 41

## This Day In History

- 1370 - Battle at Rudau: Germany beats Lithuania
- 1461 - Wars of the Roses: Second Battle of St Albans - Lancastrian army defeats Yorkists and recaptures King Henry VI
- 1500 - Battle of Hemmingstedt - German peasant army repels ducal army of Schleswig and Holstein
- 1670 - France & Bavaria sign military assistance treaty
- 1814 - Battle of Mormant: French Imperial army defeat Russian Austrian forces (War of the Sixth Coalition).
- 1837 - Charles Lyell makes his presidential address to the Geological Society, London and announces that Richard Owen has concluded from Darwin's fossils that extinct species were related to current species in the same locality.
- 1854 - Britain recognises independence of Orange Free State (South Africa).
- 1936 - The world's first superhero, The Phantom, a cartoon strip by Lee Falk, makes his first appearance in comics.
- 1959 - 1st weather satellite launched, Vanguard 2, 9.8 kg
- 1965 - US Ranger 8 launched, will transmit 7,137 lunar pictures
- 1966 - French satellite Diapason D-1A launch into Earth orbit
- 1967 - Kosmos 140 (Soyuz Test) launches into Earth orbit
- 1969 - Golda Meir sworn in as the first female Prime Minister of Israel
- 1974 - 49 die in stampede for seats at soccer match, Cairo, Egypt
- 2008 - Kosovo declares independence from Serbia.
- 2012 - Approximately 70 ancient Olympic artifacts are stolen from the Archaeological Museum of Greece
- 2013 - 37 people are killed and 130 are injured in a series of Baghdad car bombings.

## From KO Archives

## ‘Jehad’ to end if India withdraws from Kashmir: Lashkar

Agencies

NEW DELHI- Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, the chief of Lashkar-e-Taiba, has said the "jehad" against India over the Kashmir issue would end only if Indian security forces were withdrawn, from the state.

Until then, Saeed said, his organization would continue to target Indian leaders including Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Home Minister Lai Krishna Advani, and carry out more strikes like the De-cember 24 attack on an Indian Army camp in the Red Fort here.

If Vajpayee seriously wants to solve the Kashmir dispute, then he should order the withdrawal of India's 800,000 security forces from Kashmir. Then we can stop our jehad, Saeed told "Aai Tak" an television news channel, in an interview Tuesday evening.

The interview, conducted somewhere in Pakistan, is probably the first by Saeed to an Indian news organization. Saeed heads the Markaz Ad-Da'awa Wal Irshad, the ideological parent of the Lashkar which has its headquarters at Muridke near Lahore in Pakistan.

Saeed said he would personally ensure that the Lashkar and other groups engaged in the violent movement in Jammu and Kashmir would end their jehad if India withdrew its forces from Kashmir. The Lashkar leader rejected India's unilateral cease-fire currently in force in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the principal reason for his stand was the "total distrust" of India's promises. The cease-fire, which began November 28, has been extended twice and is scheduled to end February 26.

"We have suffered one cease-fire earlier. In 1948, when we started our jehad for Kashmir's independence, a cease-fire was called and we participated in it by stopping the jehad. But India has only increased the strength of its security forces in the 40 years since then," Saeed said.

Saeed said it was not possible to talk of ending the jehad when such a large contingent of Indian security forces was stationed in Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged the Indian forces were responsible for terrorizing the Kashmiri people while becoming an instrument of their oppression.

Significantly, Saeed claimed the Lashkar was receiving arms from Indian soldiers who were smuggling weapons to the militant group on the sly. He claimed that the Lashkar had no links with Afghanistan's Taliban regime.

The Lashkar ideologue did not find fault with the "political approach" adopted by the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) to deal with the Kashmir problem.

"They want to solve the dispute politically while we want to do it by jehad. But our goal is one and that is the independence of Kashmir. It makes no difference that our methods are different," Saeed said.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 17 February, 2001)

از نیابت وڑگام شمس الدین ڈار ولد محمد حمزہ شفیق ڈار ساکنہ موضع درموخا تحصیل وڑگام درخواست منجانب : حصول اجراء کے پسندانہ سر قلیٹ تحت 43 SRO

استہوار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا تر یکاڑہ طلب گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکن درموخا صہ کا سکونت دار ہے ساکن پیشہ سے مزدور ہیں کنبہ ساکن بذیل افراد پیشہ ہے

محمد حاشم ڈار ولد مولیٰ محمد ڈار	دادا ساکن	80 سال	عمر سیدہ
آمینہ بیگم	والدہ ساکن	48 سال	گھریلو کام
طاہرہ شفیق	بمشیرہ ساکن	23	گھریلو کام
رفعت شفیق	بمشیرہ ساکن	21	زیر تعلیم
پروینہ شفیق	بمشیرہ ساکن	19	زیر تعلیم

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کوئی نہیں بتایا گیا ہے سر قلیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی نداری اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد ازاں اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

از نیابت انت ناگ با اجلاس انکلیٹ میٹرز دیچاول  
مضمون درخواست منجانب : محمد اذان شیر گوزری ولد الطاف حسین شیر گوزری ساکنہ قاضی محلا انت ناگ تحصیل ضلع انت ناگ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول (SC) سر قلیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکان کا کثیرہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	الطاف حسین شیر گوزری ولد الطاف محمد شیر گوزری	50 سال	ملازم	LPC
02	یاسین اختر زوجہ الطاف حسین	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	محمد اذان پیر الطاف حسین	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	محمد حاذق پیر الطاف حسین	09 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	حازرہ بیگم زوجہ محمد شیر گوزری	70 سال	عمر سیدہ	
06	محمد نضران پیر الطاف حسین	03 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ ادرو کوئی افراد کوئی میں موجود ہیں۔ سب سر قلیٹ محکومہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی نداری اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ma

تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت دیگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیگام  
مضمون درخواست منجانب : شاکر شوکت، شام شوکت و سلمان شوکت پیران شوکت احمد بیگ ساکنہ سڈورہ تحصیل ضلع انت ناگ  
بغرض حصول RBA سر قلیٹ

استہوار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول (RBA) ایک وارڈ اسر قلیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکان کا کثیرہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	شوکت احمد بیگ ولد عبدالرحمان	50 سال	مزدوری	=/ 4000
02	یاسین زوجہ شوکت احمد بیگ	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	سلمان شوکت ولد شوکت احمد بیگ	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	شاد شوکت ولد شوکت احمد بیگ	15 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	شاکر شوکت ولد شوکت احمد بیگ	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ ادرو کوئی افراد کوئی میں موجود ہیں۔ سب سر قلیٹ محکومہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی نداری اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار۔



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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

K O V I E W

India-Pak Deadlock

Terming Kashmir as the “main difference” between India and Pakistan, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said there is currently “no relationship” between the two countries and talks between them can be held only if New Delhi restores the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. In an interview with the French newspaper Le Figaro, Khan said that Pakistan's security concerns increased after India's decision to scrap Article 370 that granted J&K its semi-autonomous status under the Constitution. “Yes, go back to August 5, 2019, and yes, we can talk after that,” he told the newspaper terming India's move as a violation of international law.

New Delhi has so far not reacted to Khan's statement. If anything, it also underlines the lingering estrangement between the neighbours that has further deepened since New Delhi's move of August 5, 2019. The situation can only be expected to improve if the leaders of the two countries deem it in their core interest to engage.

And if not then we can only hope that the current climate of distrust and antagonism doesn't lead to further escalation of tensions. More so, when due to suspended talks, the two countries lack the diplomatic tools to manage the fallout. It is therefore important that the two countries get back to the dialogue and work towards the resolution of their longstanding issues for durable peace in the region.

But with both the countries looking forward to their respective national elections in the following two years, it looks unlikely that there will be substantive efforts to engage each other. The window for dialogue is fast closing. Towards the end of this year, Pakistan would already be in election mode circumscribing the chance and the space for a sustained dialogue. And by 2023 also, the government in New Delhi will have an eye on the 2024 polls, dissuading it from a troubled engagement with its neighbour. The period thus will hardly be conducive for purposeful dialogue. This leaves India, Pakistan, the coming few months to try and re-establish the contact and hope to carry it on into the next two years. If they choose to squander the chance, they are unlikely to get it until after 2024. But if the discourse in the ongoing Uttar Pradesh polls is anything to go by, the dialogue with Pakistan seems to be on nobody's mind in New Delhi. And it is a tragedy. For such a state of affairs would ensure there is unlikely to be any rapprochement between the neighbours in the foreseeable future. We need statesmen who transcend the political compulsions and lead rather than follow their respective populations.

O T H E R   O P I N O N

The Job Crisis

After much uncertainty, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The initial public offering is for 31.6 crore shares or 5 per cent of the government's stake. As per the DRHP, LIC's embedded value — a measure of the consolidated shareholders value in an insurance company—has been estimated at Rs 5.39 lakh crore. While the offer price is yet to be disclosed, insurance companies typically tend to trade at a multiple of their embedded value. Thus the IPO will likely dwarf the recent Paytm offering, which had shattered the record for the largest offering. A successful fructification of the IPO by March would help the government achieve its scaled down disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore of which it has only been able to garner Rs 12,030 crore so far.

The size of the insurance behemoth is truly staggering. As of March 31, 2021, LIC had a 66.2 per cent market share in new business premiums, a 74.6 per cent share in individual policies issued, and a 81.1 per cent share of number of group policies issued for 2020-21. Though, increasingly LIC has been ceding space to private players — between 2015-16 and 2020-21, private sector life insurance players saw their premiums grow at 18 per cent, while LIC's premium grew at 9 per cent — India is still an under-penetrated market. The country's insurance density is much lower than that of other developing countries which indicates scope for growth.

The IPO comes at a time of tightening global financial conditions. Foreign investors have already pulled out billions this year. And though it is bound to generate interest, there are concerns about the capacity of the market to absorb such a large offering. Further, considering that in the past, LIC has often been used by the government to serve its own ends — for instance, it helped bail out the troubled IDBI bank — there are legitimate concerns that its investment decisions may continue to be guided by other motives. As the DRHP notes: The “corporation may be required to take certain actions in furtherance of the GoI's economic or policy objectives. There can be no assurance that such actions would necessarily be beneficial to our Corporation.” While a listing on the exchanges will open LIC's governance structures and investment decisions to public scrutiny, continued government interference in its decision making will affect the corporation's prospects. The steep discounts that public sector companies trade at when compared to their private sector counterparts is a reflection of this pattern. Considering that LIC is a custodian of the policy holder's money, the government must resist the temptation of using its coffers for its own purpose.

The Indian Express

J&K's Sun

Decentralized Solar Power Systems With Lithium Ion Battery Are The Future Of J&K



Bhat Son Solars/Scroll.in

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Decentralized Solar plants

Last year during the COP 26 summit at Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged that India would cut its emissions to net zero by 2070. Modi also assured that by 2030 it would: increase non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 GW and meet counties 50 % of energy requirements from clean energy. In addition, India also pledged to reduce total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes and reduce carbon intensity of the economy by 45 %. As India happens to be the third biggest greenhouse gas emitter after the United States and China, this is a significant development indeed. In order to fulfil the commitments made at COP 26 summit , India needs huge investment to support the non-renewable energy sector. The energy sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in India and neither government financing, nor the local investments by business groups like Reliance , Adani or the TATAs will be enough to support the green energy growth. India requires huge international investment in clean energy systems so that commitments made at international forums are fulfilled within time and we are able to reduce our carbon emissions.

As the world is undergoing a fundamental shift in the energy sector from fossil fuel-based systems to increasingly decentralized renewable energy systems at scales to suit all energy sectors. Limited energy infrastructure, population spread over vast areas and an arid climate in Jammu and Kashmir was a big disadvantage. But now there is an advantage by installing solar power generation infrastructure at community level. Jammu & Kashmir has unmatched renewal energy availability. The technologies required to utilize this energy can be scaled to meet every need and installed wherever energy is needed. Furthermore, Jammu and Kashmir can avoid costly lock-in of centralized energy systems in areas previously without electricity and upgrade existing systems creating energy security. This will also ensure safeguarding our natural resources like forests which are off and on damaged during laying of huge transmission lines and construction of dams for hydropower plants.

There is an urgent need to utilize solar power potential in J&K by setting up Community Solar Power plants under Independent Power Producer (IPP) mode. Under this programme, 2 Megawatt (MW) Solar Power can be generated in a cluster of 10 village panchayats. There is also a great possibility for the expansion of opportunities into energy services in every urban neighbourhood. This will ensure sustainable livelihoods for families, farmers, small and medium sized businesses, and multiple service providers. There is great potential for job creation in this sector. In a place like Jammu & Kashmir, we have a huge potential to see growth of renewable sources of energy particularly solar energy. This needs to be harnessed in driving socio-economic development and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, as of now, when it comes to solar power generation, the only solar plant set up in J&K is at Katra Railway Station, which has a generation capacity of only 1 MW. This natural blessing entails us to exploit judiciously and adopt different methodology for the different regions of Jammu & Kashmir .

all other areas except Leh and Kargil areas.

The most viable solution is tapping distributed small farms solar power through Independent Power Producers (IPP) community mode only. In community mode, a group of the investors is created which consists of unemployed engineers, developers, representatives from each Panchayat. They identify 60 to 70 Kanals of hilly uncultivated ownership land/ lease land. Then prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Grid connected 2 MW Solar power farms. This proposal is sent to Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) and Power Development Department (PDD) for their approval.

The 2MW solar power farm can be commissioned in 6 months' time and power can be evacuated through the nearest 11kv station/lines and thus making the village Panchayat self-sufficient vis a vis power. Once the power in each Panchayat is obtained, then small village industries can come up and usher in an era of sustainable development with clean energy. To start with, if we simultaneously take 10 solar power farms of 2MW each, this means that 20MW solar power in Independent Power Producers (IPP) community mode can be obtained in a shortest span of 6 months besides creating employment opportunities for the people in each village panchayat. The income from these farms can be shared proportionally for the development of the Panchayat.

opment with clean energy. To start with, if we simultaneously take 10 solar power farms of 2MW each, this means that 20MW solar power in Independent Power Producers (IPP) community mode can be obtained in a shortest span of 6 months besides creating employment opportunities for the people in each village panchayat. The income from these farms can be shared proportionally for the development of the Panchayat.

Policy formulation

Lithium ion Batteries

Conclusion


The Jammu & Kashmir Government must formulate a simple policy for utilizing solar energy under IPP mode as expeditiously as possible. This would ensure participation of more and more local developers especially the unemployed educated youth, unemployed engineers and other technocrats for taking up 2MW small solar power farms in all the hilly areas of Jammu & Kashmir. Moreover, any experience and huge turn over clause in the agreement /policy should not be made as essential criteria as this would deprive local entrepreneurs from setting up these small solar power projects. If the target to achieve 1150 MW of solar power is to be achieved by year 2022 then the Government has to have liberal policies and local residents of Jammu & Kashmir should be given preference in setting up these small projects. This will not only give us clean energy but will also create employment opportunities for the many unemployed technocrats and people living in the villages where such projects would be taken up. A single window system should be created by the Government for helping local entrepreneurs to participate in this entire process.

The traditional solar lights used lead acid batteries and they were a popular choice because of their compatible price range. One of the big challenges in using lead acid batteries in solar lighting units is that they require bigger solar panels and in order to charge a lead acid battery, a solar panel has to produce a minimum 12 Volts, therefore, during non-sunny days, it is almost impossible to charge these batteries. The modern solar based lighting systems for domestic consumption use Lithium-ion batteries which are better than their earlier counterparts in the context of price and size. Lithium batteries have been in use for commercial applications since the 1990s and over the last few years, it is proven to be the most used and reliable energy storage technology. They are being used to operate laptops, medical equipment, mobile phones, cameras, electric vehicles, etc. Their high energy density and being the lightest metal help them produce a lot of energy without being heavy, which works perfectly for the present-day lightweight, energy-efficient solar lights. Li-ion batteries live up to five times longer than lead-acid batteries with an average lifespan of around 5 to 6 years. Since they do not require frequent maintenance like lead acid batteries, they are practically the best for solar lights.

The huge international investments in clean energy systems in India in the next 5 to 10 years means more job creation in this sector. There is a great potential for solar based energy systems in Jammu & Kashmir which is much needed as the complete focus of successive Governments has been on hydropower which is in fact a non-fossil energy source but creating such plants, we have to sacrifice our mountains and forests. It causes huge environmental disasters which are visible in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi and other areas. The people living in these areas are still not getting uninterrupted electricity. Even after creating so many hydropower plants in the last 40 years, cities like Srinagar or Jammu still don't get 24 x 7 electricity? The winter months are more pathetic. I believe decentralized solar power plants for villages and residential colonies is a great idea. The Government must definitely opt for this to reduce the future destruction of our forests and water bodies.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar based activist and columnist. He is an Anant Fellow for Climate Action

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Chase Goals Not Marks

I have scored satisfying marks and have achieved it with my capability. I'm not defending myself but I don't want to delude myself either. I want to talk about the mindset of some people which is rampant in Kashmir. We people are unaware of the actual meaning of education which can be toxic for our future generations.

Education isn't for learning how to make a living but to learn how to live. It isn't about finding one's ability by judging their marks in examinations just because a child couldn't remember what a poet wrote in his poem isn't going to tell us about their intelligence.

We can't deny the fact that lakhs of people have scored full marks in exams and have achieved nothing in life because of unemployment.

So many people yearn for jobs, are depressed and are still living with this miserable mindset which needs to be changed.

Nobody thinks about the suicide cases after results are announced. Why is it happening? The answer is us.

Why is everyone interested in the 10th, 12th class results while nobody even cares about people who have no jobs and are suffering because of it? Jammu and Kashmir has the second-worst unemployment rate among the States in the country and nobody seems to care about this unfortunate thing. We're only invested in running behind results when the main problem is thousands of adults sitting without jobs.

After results are out, everyone seems to give their two cents — some out of concern and others out of habit. But this leaves many demotivated and underappreciated.

Education has nothing to do with marks but is important to make us a better person every day. The most powerful weapon Allah has provided us with is our mind which is indeed the force behind success.

Our mindset needs to change from chasing marks to chasing goals. We know our worth, our capabilities and with the grace of Almighty, we can achieve so much in life.

Be kind, Be jubilant and Be grateful! For that is the true measure of success. May we all be crowned with happiness.

Zuha Ashai  
Baagaat, Srinagar





**GRADES HAVE THEIR PLACE. THEY'RE A NECESSARY** part of education. What they aren't a necessary part of is self-esteem. They don't really matter because they don't define us: what defines us is the changes education makes within us

# Why Grades Don't Really Matter That Much After All



Lauren Schuhmacher

Something I want tattooed on my forehead is "grades don't matter." The current perception of the importance of grades in academia dumbfounds me, because I think that by caring too much about grades, most students are missing the point of education. A college education is often cited as a prerequisite for a "good job" out in "the real world" (both terms that I hate). With this understanding of the importance of college, many students get wrapped up in their grades, often taking them as value statements on their own self-worth. It's really easy to get trapped in the cycle of getting good grades to get a good job to make a lot of money to pay for a house to support a family to send your own kids to college so they can get a good job and make lots of money. When this happens, grades become the foundation for an entire future -- and perhaps even the foundation of your child's future, which is honestly just way too much pressure.

Aside from wanting to take some pressure off myself, I maintain that grades really aren't that important because I value education for more than its spot on my résumé. The reason I'm in college isn't to get a good job later. I would be here even if I knew I would never, ever get a job, because I think that college is worth something much more important than some money later on. I think that education is about better knowing yourself, better knowing the world around you, and attempting to figure out your place in the world. Understanding reality and your role in it ("Knowing thyself," as the ancient Greeks said), is infinitely more valuable than any material consequences of a diploma. Education is about self-improvement, not about the number of zeros on the end of a paycheck. With this in mind, I think that grades start to lose their novelty. By valuing education for its personal return instead of its financial return, grades become less of a statement on the future and more of a (mostly) inconsequential

part of knowing thyself. None of this is to say that it isn't important to work hard in school, which will often produce good grades, as working hard is part of improving yourself. What this means is that there is no need to get in a huff about a disappointing grade here or there; it isn't a comment on self-value, and it isn't a comment on projected success out in "the real world" (as opposed to this world, the fake one). Grades have their place. They're a necessary part of education. What they aren't a necessary part of is self-esteem. They don't really matter because they don't define us: what defines us is the changes education makes within us. So maybe I got a B or a C on that last exam, but am I better overall for having taken the class? The answer is usually yes. And that is what makes education worthwhile. Forget the grades, forget the jobs, and just try to become a better person, enjoying the ridiculous luxury that education is.

Huffpost Blogs

**WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLEGE, MANY** students get wrapped up in their grades, often taking them as value statements on their own self-worth. It's really easy to get trapped in the cycle of getting good grades to get a good job to make a lot of money to pay for a house to support a family to send your own kids to college so they can get a good job and make lots of money.



Depending on the circumstances, perfectionism can lead to better performance in school or at work. Or it can make performance worse. But any performance gains are likely to be outweighed by wellbeing issues. There are links between perfectionism and burnout and depression, for example. Evidence for these types of negative effects has been found in a range of settings, including among young people for whom perfectionism is a vulnerability factor for mental health. However, practical measures – like school lessons – could make a difference. Perfectionism is a personality characteristic that includes the tendency to have unrealistically high standards and to be overly critical. It can lead to a complex mix of a desire to prove yourself and a fear of inadequacy, and consequently the frequent experience of anxiety, worry and doubt. There are some recent studies that vividly illustrate the vulnerability of young people to perfectionism. For example, in one study led by one of the PhD students in my research group looked at the relationship between perfectionism and social media use. The study of 135 adolescent girls found the female teenagers who were most likely to report depressive symptoms when comparing their appearance to others were those who reported higher levels of "self-critical perfectionism". Our research group also conducted a large review of academic research that has been conducted on perfectionism among academically gifted students. This also showed the various ways perfectionism can influence students. Drawing from 36 studies in this area, we found that the doubts, concerns, and fears characteristic of perfectionism can take their toll on even the most talented students. Surprisingly, only one study had tested out practical ways to address perfectionism. The findings were promising, though. There was some evidence that a series of lessons focused on coping with pressures, expectations, and the unhealthy aspects of perfectionism could help students. We were motivated by the lack of work in this area and the belief that teachers and schools can play a key role in preventing difficulties with perfectionism before they arise. We have explored what can be done in the classroom to support students who have perfectionistic tendencies.

### Practical approaches

## The Dangers Of Perfectionism

Andrew P. Hill



**UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS, FREQUENT OR EXCESSIVE CRITICISM,** anxiousness over mistakes, and public use of rewards and sanctions may all reinforce perfectionism in students. Although this is a new area of research and teaching practice, we think it is key to long-term positive changes

Working with the education charity the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE), colleagues and I have put together resources to help schools respond to this area of concern and to provide practical suggestions for young people, teachers and parents. One of our resources is a simple classroom lesson designed to increase levels of "perfectionism literacy". Our intention in creating the resource was to help young people recognise the features of perfectionism, increase their knowledge

of the help available, and become more willing to seek help if needed. The lesson provides information on perfectionism and includes an activity focused on the difference between perfectionism and doing things well. The purpose of this task is to emphasise that often, good is good enough. Pursuing perfection is unnecessary and unrealistic, and working hard and doing your best is not only different from aiming to be perfect, but also a better and more rewarding goal. Another activity teaches young people

about different "flavours" of perfectionism. This analogy draws attention to how perfectionism comes in different forms and how it can include views of others and how others view us. We tend to think of perfectionism in personal terms – having unrealistic standards for ourselves, for example. However, perfectionism can also include others, expecting perfection from others or believing that others expect you to be perfect. This means that perfectionism influences not only our own wellbeing but

**OUR RESEARCH** group also conducted a large review of academic research that has been conducted on perfectionism among academically gifted students. This also showed the various ways perfectionism can influence students.

can also have a negative impact on our relationships with others. We recently piloted the materials in one secondary school. Students were guided through the lesson by a teacher who received a small amount of training and the opportunity to ask questions and practice with the materials. Our evaluation of the lesson showed that it had a positive impact on students. Following the lesson, students reported they had more knowledge of perfectionism and better recognised the importance of seeking support if needed. It is also important that teachers consider the degree to which current practice in their classrooms might inadvertently encourage, rather than discourage, perfectionistic thinking in their students. Unrealistic expectations, frequent or excessive criticism, anxiousness over mistakes, and public use of rewards and sanctions may all reinforce perfectionism in students. Although this is a new area of research and teaching practice, we think it is key to long-term positive changes. Teachers and parents need to be able to recognise perfectionistic behaviour and the difficulties that children and young people may experience as a result. In schools, increasing the understanding of perfectionism among teachers is a useful way of supporting student wellbeing.

The author is Professor in the School of Science, Technology, and Health, York St John University. The article was originally published by The Conversation



# Guj HC Pulls Up Man For Seeking Readmission To MBBS Course Over 30 Years After Dropping Out

## AGENCEIS

**Ahmedabad:** While hearing the case of a 50-year-old man seeking readmission to MBBS course over three decades after dropping out, the Gujarat High Court on Wednesday said the petitioner cannot be permitted to act as per his whims and play with people's lives.

The court of Justice Bhargav D Karia was hearing a plea filed by one Kandip Joshi, who had appeared for his second-year MBBS exams at Baroda Medical College in 1988 and later dropped out due to personal reasons.

The petitioner, who is currently engaged in some business, wanted to pursue his third year MBBS course and appear for the exam at the same college, more than 30 years later, Joshi's lawyer told the court.

The court wanted to know why he should continue to pursue the MBBS course at this stage in life and "play with the lives of people".

"Suppose there are no rules (for such readmissions). Even

then, you cannot be permitted to act as per your whims, more particularly when you are going to play with the lives of people," the court observed while hearing his plea.

"Why should he waste what will he get after this? Can he do an internship at the age of 50? It is not possible. How many children (does he have)? At the age of 50, his children must be in the age of pursuing MBBS course. Will he study with his children for the course?" Justice Karia asked.

He further said that the petitioner was bound to fail if he appeared for the exam, especially as he will be attending the new course after such a long gap.

When Joshi's lawyer argued that the petitioner sought to study the third-year course before taking the exam, the court said that such a permission cannot be granted.

"Why should he be ready at this stage of life, to start from scratch?" the court questioned.

It further noted that the syllabus would have changed several times with the advances

in medical science over the last three decades.

"The course for which you appeared for the first and second year MBBS exams does not exist, then where is the question of permitting you for the third year?" Justice Karia asked.

Joshi had first approached the college in 2013 seeking readmission in the third year, and after being denied, he approached the court, which dismissed his plea in 2019, while giving him the liberty to approach the Medical Council of India (MCI) with representation.

The petitioner's lawyer stated that when Joshi approached the MCI, it rejected his request stating that "the duration of discontinuation allowed shall be five years from the period of discontinuation".

It said that the date of application for rejoining should not be later than five years from the date of discontinuation. In Joshi's case, it was 31 years since he first approached the Dean of the Medical College at Vadodara in 2013, his lawyer said.

# ED Files Money Laundering Case In ABG Shipyard Bank Fraud

## Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The ED has registered a criminal case of money laundering against ABG Shipyard Ltd, its former promoters along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of 28 banks of over Rs 22,842 crore, official sources said on Wednesday.

The action comes days after the CBI registered an FIR in the country's biggest alleged bank loan fraud case till date.

The ED case has been filed under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after the investigators studied the CBI complaint and the forensic audit report, the sources said.

They added that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) will specifically look into the charges of alleged "diversion" of bank loan funds, creation of shell firms to launder public money and the role of the executives of the company and others.

Instances of "huge investments" being made in the overseas subsidiary of the company by "diverting" the loans will also form an essential part of the ED probe.

The agency can also move to attach assets of the accused once money laundering and layering of funds is established,

they said.

The loans given to the company include categories like CC (cash credit) loan, term loan, letter of credit, bank guarantee etc.

The CBI had booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its then chairman and managing director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal, along with others, for allegedly cheating the consortium of banks of over Rs 22,842 crore.

It had also named the then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevatia and another company ABG International Pvt Ltd for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The accused in the ED case are the same, they said.

The CBI FIR came about after the State Bank of India (SBI) first filed a complaint with it on November 8, 2019 after which the agency sought some clarifications on March 12, 2020.

The bank filed a fresh complaint in August that year. After "scrutinising" the complaint for over one-and-a-half years, the

CBI filed an FIR on February 7.

The company was sanctioned credit facilities from 28 banks and financial institutions led by ICICI Bank, with the SBI having exposure of Rs 2468.51 crore.

A forensic audit by Ernst and Young showed that between 2012-17, the accused colluded together and committed illegal activities, including diversion of funds, misappropriation and criminal breach of trust, the CBI had said.

The CBI had said in a statement that the funds (bank loans) were used by the company and its promoters for purposes other than for which they were released by banks.

The loan account was declared a non-performing asset (NPA) in July, 2016 and a fraud in 2019.

In its complaint, the SBI said ABG Shipyard Ltd (ABGSL) is the flagship company of the ABG Group which engaged in the business of shipbuilding and ship-repair.

The ABGSL, being a major player in Indian shipbuilding industry, operates from shipyards that are located at Dahej and Surat in Gujarat, with a capacity to build vessels up to 18,000 dead weight tonnage

(DWT) at Surat Shipyard and 1,20,000 dead weight tonnage (DWT) at Dahej Shipyard.

The company has constructed over 165 vessels, including 46 for export market, in the last 16 years, including specialised vessels like the newsprint carriers, self-discharging and loading bulk cement carriers, floating cranes etc with class approval of all international classification societies like Lloyds, American Bureau of Shipping, Bureau Veritas, IRS, DNV, the complaint said.

"Global crisis has impacted the shipping industry due to fall in commodity demand and prices and subsequent fall in cargo demand. The cancellation of contracts for few ships and vessels resulted in piling up of inventory. This has resulted in paucity of working capital and caused significant increase in the operating cycle, thereby aggravating the liquidity problem and financial problem," the SBI complaint said.

It added there was no demand of commercial vessels as the industry was going through a downturn even in 2015 which was further aggravated due to lack of defence orders, making it difficult for the company to maintain re-payment schedule.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 78% Students

have again outshined boys with top positions in all streams as 75 percent of the 72,000 candidates passed the 12th class examination. One of the toppers, Arusa Parvaiz's moment of delight became a moment of depression for her and her family after she faced vicious trolling for her dress code.

Shifa Shafi from Fayaz educational institute, Nowgam— who has also secured a top position in the valley—says that it's just because of Allah, teachers and her parents, she has managed to bring laurels to her family.

"Even though due to the pandemic our education shifted towards online, but our school never compromised on the quality of education that was being given to us. Our teachers were constantly sending us notes and videos, so that our education couldn't suffer and it's because of that struggle, I was able to secure a top position," Shifa said.

Another topper, Hashim Nazir of Dooru Anantnag says that it's because of a student's hard work and drive to success, that brings laurels into one's life.

"If one wishes to work hard and has that flair to become successful, no one can stop him from reaching that point. In my case also, that was what pushed me to study more and more. I'll continue to work hard to bring more laurels to my family and make them feel proud," Hashim said.

### LG, Abdullah's

National Conference Party President, Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Dr Farooq Abdullah, and Vice President, Omar Abdullah also extended warm felicitations to the students, who qualified 10th class JKBOSE.

According to a statement issued here, Dr Farooq said, "I congratulate the students and pray that the student fraternity conquers many more summits in their life and live a successful, prosperous life."

Party Vice President Omar Abdullah while congratulating all the successful students said he appreciated the consistent efforts of the teaching and non-teaching staff, students and parents in these trying times.

"I congratulate the successful candidates. I hope that they will keep up with the hard work," he said.

Apni Party President Syed Altaf Bukhari also congratulated students who successfully passed the board examinations and extended his best wishes for the future endeavours.

"Our toppers have proved that despite uncertainties due to COVID pandemic, they still outshined in the board exams. Securing 500 out of 500 shows that our students are next to none. They have done a commendable job," he said.

"I extend my heartiest congratulations to the toppers of the Board examination. They made the whole valley proud," he said.

He also congratulated the teachers and parents for their hard work during the tough circumstances.

### Govt Meet

the offline classes in Jammu region for 9th to 12th standard shall commence February-14 and in the case of Winter Zone Schools of J&K shall commence offline teaching for all classes after 28th of February 2022.

### Covid-19 Cases

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 50 new cases of Coronavirus, Kupwara 18, Budgam 14, Baramulla 8, Bandipora 5, three each in Pulwama and Anantnag, Ganderbal 2 and Shopian 1. Kulgam was the only

district in the Valley where no new cases of Covid-19 were detected today.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 54 fresh cases of virus, Doda 39, Poonch and Ramban 9 each, Udhampur 8, three each in Rajouri and Kathua and Kishtwar 1. The twin districts of Samba and Reasi detected no new cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 827 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 356 from Jammu Division and 471 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained at 4745 in J&K as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

The officials further added that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.

### Govt Slapped

75% in respect of the land measuring 85 kanals and 02 marlas but no payment of land measuring 22 kanals and 06 marlas of the propriety land and 42 kanals and 15 marlas of the State and Shamlat land has been made to anyone," reads the court order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The division bench has further stated that the villagers as such have been deprived of the proper compensation of the acquired land which is clearly violative of the statutory provisions of the Land Acquisition Act and Article 300 A of the Constitution of India.

"It rather amounts to denial of the basic human right to the villagers for almost about forty years," the division bench said.

The court further noted that this kind of action or omission on the part of the State authorities is not acceptable and cannot be allowed to continue for an indefinite period. The relief to grant rent 10,000/Kanal/year is also not admissible for the reason that under the Act petitioners are only entitled to only monetary compensation and not anything else," recorded the court.

The court strictly noted that the writ petition is allowed with exemplary costs of 10.00 lakhs for dragging the villagers in unnecessary litigation for decades and for depriving them of their property without adequately compensating them for such a long period.

The division bench also recorded that the Chief Secretary under whom all the departments of the State function, would take positive action in the matter and see to it that the award as directed is passed.

"Stiff action is taken against all those officers, who were involved and responsible for not allowing the award to be passed immediately after the tentative award had been prepared and announced," observed the division bench.

### Northern Command

and lauded the strong counter infiltration grid along the Line of Control, the spokesman said.

He said the Army Commander also appreciated the strict control exercised by the formation to abide by the ceasefire understanding between the DGMOs of both India and Pakistan, which will complete one year on February 25, 2022.

"For the hinterland, the Army Commander complimented Chinar Corps for the conduct of operations with precision ensuring zero collateral damage.

He was appreciative of the excellent Soldier Citizen connect activities, which have resulted in overall reduction in the militant recruitments," the spokesman said.

Let Gen Dwivedi also paid homage to the 40 CRPF men who were killed in a suicide attack three years ago in Pulwama.

The Army Commander also interacted with various civil functionaries and members of the civil society.

He appreciated the rapid steps that are being taken by all agencies for sustainable peace and development of Kashmir.

He lauded the synergy between all elements of the security forces and the Civil Administration.

### SIA Arrests 10

to admissible evidence in court was used to ascertain and confirm the JESH OGW membership of the individuals," the police spokesperson said.

The module, he said, could be connected to other modules through higher levels of JeM leadership. He said their discovery is likely as the investigation rolls out in coming days.

"The detected portion of the module had been active in recruiting other young persons, arranging finances, transporting weapons in south and central Kashmir besides providing other logistic support," he added.

In the searches, the police spokesperson said that besides arrests, cell phones, SIM cards, records to show use of banking channels and even a dummy pistol were seized.

Among arrested persons, he said, there is one at whose house four militants had been killed on 4th of April 2020.

"The hitherto unknown module was working towards furthering terror activities in south and central Kashmir. The arrested members were mostly recruiting vulnerable school and college going students as a few of them are students themselves. They were in close connection with the regular terrorists of JESH outfit and had been under surveillance for quite some time," he said.

"The digital records seized are being sent to FSL for evidence analysis and the arrested persons would be presented before the NIA court in Srinagar seeking permission for custodial questioning," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that it is believed the arrests and subsequent follow up investigation would dent the upper ground network of JeM and degrade its ability to undertake militant activities across the valley.

### NIA Raids 9

Kashmir Police and CRPF carried out searches at 9 locations in the districts of Srinagar (2 locations), Kupwara (2), Anantnag (1), Pulwama (1), Bandipora (1), Kulgam (1 location) and Baramulla (1 location) in NIA case RC-04/2021/ NIA/JMU," NIA said in a statement.

The case pertains to recovery of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) from Bhatindi area of Jammu, it said. "After investigation five accused persons have been arrested in the instant case till date, out of which three accused were chargesheeted on 22.12.2021," NIA said, adding, "During the searches conducted today incriminating material and digital devices have been seized from the premises of suspects in the case."

Further Investigation in the case continues, the NIA added.

### J&K Awaits Funds

the J&K government planned to set-up 23 small hydroelectric projects (SHPs) with a total estimated cost of around Rs 3900 crore.

According to details, 19 DPRs of these projects were prepared while DPRs of remaining four are under finalization.

The documents reveal that the J&K

Government has repeatedly taken up the matter of release of funds with the Government of India.

"The Government of Jammu & Kashmir vide various communications dated 12.03.2019, 31.07.2019, 22.06.2020 & 04.06.2021 has requested the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India for sanction of central financial assistance to the tune of 60% of the project cost for each of the small hydel project," the documents state.

So far, the MNRE has released only Rs five crore for setting up of one of the SHPs, namely Karnah through the erstwhile normal small hydroelectric project scheme.

According to documents, the Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation's plan for tendering of three more projects has been held-up due to lack of clarity on funding.

"JKPDC has initiated tendering for three more projects which are ready for allotment. However, in the absence of clarity on the financing pattern, all further action is held up," the documents state—(KNO)

### Lost Livestock:

fresh figures remain a work in progress, many don't consider cattle theft a serious crime—but the victims lament over the looted livelihood.

### Gangs At Play

Dairy farmers believe that there's an intra-district organized gang behind all the thefts.

The stolen cattle from North Kashmir, they say, are transported to the South Kashmir and vice-versa.

In past, such organized barn break-ins had become a flashpoint of fury in the valley.

When scores of cattle theft incidents rocked South Kashmir in early 2016, villagers staged a massive protest decrying how cattle smugglers stole sheep, cows and oxens in broad-day light.

"But since then we've busted many gangs of cattle thieves in south Kashmir," a senior police officer told Kashmir Observer."During sustained interrogation, the accused accepted their involvement in other similar cases."

While the frequency of these cases is high, the officer said its conviction rate is equally high. "A victim of these thefts was served justice in Kulgam district in March 2021 where police had arrested one person and recovered cattle worth lakhs from his possession."

Case of Concern However, Bashir Malik, a labourer from Budgam, says his stolen cattle worth Rs 1.30 lakhs is nowhere to be found.

He lost his six sheep and a bull in a barn burglary in July 2021.

"I had purchased those animals from a few local farmers and had planned to sell them off on Eid-ul-Adha to make a little extra money," Bashir said.

"I didn't know I would end up having an unhappy festival."

Similarly, five cows including calves were stolen from the barn of Abdul Ahad Dar of Kunsoo, Shopian in September 2021. The family got to know about the theft the next morning when they went to milk the cows.

After searching almost the entire area, the family gave up. In a similar incident at Sagan village of Zainapora area of Shopian, a dozen cattle were stolen.

"Not everyone gets their cattle back," Ahad said. "And given the frequency of these thefts, many farmers have given up the idea of cattle rearing now."

### Kokernag Sinkhole

appeared in the Brengi stream that had caused panic among the natives of

the area. Besides causing panic among the locals, another victim of this sinkhole—which has dried up the major portion of the stream—were the special trout fishes who had died in large numbers as the sinkhole has left the downstream part of the stream completely dry.

Pertinently, many experts especially from the J&K's Flood & Irrigation department and Geology and Mining department believed that the vertical hole in the stream is a natural phenomenon. However, contradicting such claims, many self-proclaimed experts had claimed that the appearance of this vertical hole was another alarm being raised against the depression caused on Kashmir's environment through Climatic Changes.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Associate Professor at Earth Sciences Department of Kashmir University, Dr. Reyaz Dar said that this is completely a natural phenomenon that is a common sight for experts.

"Beneath boulders in any river or stream, there's a layer known as Limestone. So, as limestone's composition is calcium carbonate which is very prone to solution or chemical activities," says Dr. Reyaz.

"And because of its chemical solution, it usually develops holes, one of which is the sinkhole which we're currently witnessing in Brengi. So, it's completely natural and people shouldn't worry about it. It is absolutely nonsensical to co-link climate change with this sinkhole

He further added, "In Kashmir, due to tectonic activities there are many faults and deformations of rocks which provides a passage to the water and somehow creates such sinkholes."

Notably, due to the sinkhole, the water supply in the area has also been affected, however, the Flood and irrigation Department on Sunday had already pressed in men and machinery that had diverted the flow of water from going into the sinkhole to downstream.

Dr. Farooq, an expert on Geology and currently working as a professor at Kashmir University says that in such cases, the biggest challenge for experts is to find the way from where the water is oozing.

"The sinkhole phenomenon is completely natural, unless any human interference is noted. Wherever there's a presence of limestone, there are equal chances of sinkholes. In Kashmir, as like other places, such topography is known as karst topography

What matters for the experts and respective departments is to find the outlet of the water that is going into the sinkhole. Usually that water gets mixed up with the ground water and then flows into streams and other tributaries of the river. However, that can only be found out through research of the water that will help experts to understand the composition of water and will subsequently help in finding the outlet," says Dr. Farooq.

He also added, "the best solution is to fill up the sinkhole with builders and other materials. However, the expert committee also needs to look into other possibilities as it's likely that some other small scale sinkholes are also present in the stream."

It is pertinent to mention here that the DC Anantnag Piyush Singla has already formed an expert committee to study the occurrence in detail and submit a report within two days.

"We would take a decision on treating this sinkhole once the expert committee submits its report," he said.

As per an official from the Flood and Irrigation Department, the outlet of the underground artificial channel is yet to

be found. "Till now, we haven't found any outlet, but experts and other men and machinery are working on it."

### Admin Cautions

by Sub Divisional Magistrate Kokernag, a number of media personnel continue to move close to and into the sinkhole, posing threat to their own life," Tehsilidar Kokernag said in an advisory issued today.

"This in turn attracts the general public near the sinkhole which increases the threat to life and makes crowd control difficult for the administration," reads the advisory, adding, "Hence all media personnel are hereby advised and warned not to violate the restrictions imposed around the sinkhole."

He said action under relevant sections of law shall be taken against anyone found violating the order.

The vertical sinkhole in the Brengi stream at Wandevalgam village has disrupted its water flow and as per experts it is a natural phenomenon developed due to the gradual dissolution of limestone rocks in the water body.

### LG Greet People

social equality; compassion and justice have a great relevance today, an official spokesperson said.

"I bow to Sant Guru Ravidas Ji on his Jayanti. Guru Ji's eternal teachings guided the humanity to lead a virtuous and noble life. His ideals to end all discrimination based on caste, colour and creed are a source of inspiration for us to create a just and humane society," Sinha said.

May this auspicious occasion bring sustained peace and progress in the UT and prosperity in the lives of the people," he added.

### Sarpanch Caught

Begum, Sarpanch, Khulchohar was arrested by the sleuths of the anti-graft body for accepting a bribe of Rs6,500/- for approving work files related to works executed by the complainant, an ACB spokesperson said Wednesday.

Giving more details of the case, he said, ACB received a complaint alleging that the woman Sarpanch had demanded Rs 6500 on account of approving work files related to works executed under MGNREGA, 14 FC and SBM through the office of BDO Shangus.

"Upon receiving the instant complaint prima facie offence U/S 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was found made out. Consequently, case FIR No. 03/2022 was registered at P/S ACB Anantnag," he said.

Subsequently, the Bureau spokesperson said that a trap team was constituted that caught Hafiza Begum while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 6500/- from the complainant.

"She was arrested and taken into custody by the ACB Team. The bribe money was also recovered from her possession in presence of independent witnesses," he said, adding "Further investigations of the case is going on,"

### 3.2 Magnitude

5.43 am in Kashmir, an official of the Disaster Management authority said. He said the epicentre of the earthquake was 15 kilometres south-south-west of Pahalgam, the base camp for Shri Amarnath yatra, at a depth of 16 kilometres.

The official said there were no reports of any damage so far. (PTI)

### Heart Attack Kills

to a nearby health facility where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was a resident of Bidan Nagar area of West Bengal.



## Revival Of Industrial Sector Prime Objective Of LG Admin: CS



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday interacted with representatives of Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK), who called on him here today at Civil Secretariat.

During a marathon interaction, a range of vital issues pertaining to the industrial sector were discussed in detail.

Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), Ranjan Prakash Thakur; Director I&C, Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmad Shah and other officers of I&C department also participated in the interaction both in person and through video conferencing.

The representatives of FCIK sought devising a local purchase policy mandating procurement by the government departments from local MSME units to enable them to survive in the market.

They also demanded clearance of payments pending with the government departments as well as allotment of land to all those bonafide prospective entrepreneurs, who applied for the same as per the parameters prescribed by the government.

They also demanded exemption of Bat manufacturers and Pencil makers from SRO-103, besides ease of some clauses in tendering procedure for industrial unit holders of J&K.

Responding to the issues raised by the delegation, the Chief Secretary reiterated that the revival of the industrial sector was the prime objective of the LG administration and several initiatives have been taken for Ease of Doing Business here. He added that the government was improving the use of technology and digital means in government departments and in recent months over 200 services have been made online bringing a significant improvement in the services delivery mechanism.

Dr. Mehta, while deliberating on the issues raised by the FCIK representatives, directed the I&C department to draft a comprehensive proposal for making the unit holders competitive for government tenders. He further directed to complete the process of granting permission for industrial clusters.

While assessing the progress of the industrial sector and proposed future plans, the Chief Secretary directed the I&C department to initiate a research study to decode the local industrial potential and impediments which hinder the progress of this sector.

Regarding the issue of delay in payments, the Chief Secretary highlighted that with the introduction of e-tendering, BEAMS and PaySys, the delay of payments within government departments has been reduced to a large extent.

## Mining In Doodh Ganga, Shali Ganga Causing ‘Disaster’

RTI Movement Demands DPR, EIA Be Made Public



**BUDGAM:** Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement has demanded that detailed project reports (DPRs) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports of mining contracts given to excavate stones and boulders in Doodh Ganga and Shali Ganga in district Budgam be made public as the contractors were violating the norms given in DPR.

Chairman RTI Movement while leading a protest demonstration at Madbal Sogam in Chadoora on Wednesday said that Doodh Ganga was under the verge of destruction as dozens of JCBs and earth movers were being sued to take out stones and boulders from Doodh Ganga. He said man-made sinkholes were created around the river bed at many places.

The residents of Sogam, Madbal and adjoining villagers in central Kashmir's Chadoora on Wednesday held a massive protest against the Govt and contractor for destroying the Doodh

Ganga river.

The locals alleged that officials of Irrigation & Flood Control, Geology and Mining and Revenue Department were facilitating illegal mining by allowing illegal works which have no mention in the DPR.

“Doodh Ganga has been turned into a mining bed for the last several months as only 1 to 2 meters depth is allowed as per DPR. Unfortunately the DPR or EIA report is not available in the public domain. We demand that these documents be uploaded on Budagm district official website. I have seen JCB's excavating stones by going as deep as 20 meters which will deplete water flow in the river, having a direct impact on agriculture in almost 26 villages downstream. This will also cause floods in the area as volume of water will be more at different locations due to haphazard mining,” said Dr Raja Muzaaffar Bhat

## 'J&K Achieved First Rank Among UTs In NeSDA-2021'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta said on Wednesday that the launch of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) for the UT of J&K was a remarkable achievement for the administration as it is a major step towards enhancing efficiency in governance and improving the Public Service Delivery on the ground.

Mehta made these remarks while co-chaired a meeting with V Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), GoI to review the development and functioning of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) portal and Dashboard for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi; DG IMPARD, Saurabh Bhagat; Secretary IT, Purna Puri; Secretary, PDMD, Sushma Chauhan; CEO, JKEGA, Amit Sharma, senior officers of J&KIMPARD.

The portal has been made with an objective to monitor the progress of districts on several given indicators, identification of key areas improvement and assessment of comparative performance of districts on a real time basis.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that the launch of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) for the UT of J&K was a remarkable achievement for the administration of J&K as it is a major step towards enhancing efficiency in governance and improving the Public Service Delivery on the ground.

He added that to reap the benefits of DGGI for each district and improve governance and public service delivery, this portal has been formed which will make them result-oriented on services provided and also improve their public service delivery mechanism.

The Chief Secretary directed the officers to host diverse information on the DGGI dashboard alongside the results of



the index so that the public gets aware about the performance of their respective districts.

The Chief Secretary also directed the officers of Planning Department to utilize the services of District Statistics Evaluation Officers (DSEOs) for compiling the comparative data to be hosted on the DGGI portal.

He also directed the DG, JKIMPARD to organize training for the DSEOs in consultation with the DARPG so that they get well acquainted about the objective and purpose of the DGGI portal and can compile the data of their respective districts accordingly.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, DARPG, V Srinivas remarked that the launch of DGGI and now formation of DGGI portal and dashboard is a huge administrative reform initiated by the government of J&K which has a lot of national significance.

He added that the J&K has opened the door for further promoting competitive federalism at district level and several states are approaching DARPG for framing of DGGI in their respective states.

For the DGGI portal and dashboard, ten sectors have been identified for monitoring like agriculture and allied sector, industry and commerce (including tourism), human resource development, public health, public infrastructure & utilities, social welfare & development, financial inclusion, legal empowerment & public safety, environment and citizen centric governance. The portal and dashboard will be web based for all stakeholders with monthly data entry provision for each district.

Simultaneously, the Chief Secretary and Secretary DARPG

also reviewed the progress of the Union territory on the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)-2021.

During the meeting, Senior Technical Director, NIC, DARPG informed the meeting that the UT of J&K and improved significantly and has achieved number one rank among all the UTs in the NeSDA-2021.

It was also given out that the UT Portal has higher compliance to the assessment parameters like accessibility, 'Information Security and Privacy', 'Content Availability' and 'Ease of Use'.

The Chief Secretary complimented the officers of IT department, GAD and others for this remarkable achievement and asked them to bring more services on the digital platform so that maximum people take benefits out of this.

Dr. Mehta asked the IT department to complete end to end digitization of all services, integrate all public services on a single platform and also develop a feedback mechanism for the same in the given timeframe.

The Chief Secretary further asked the officers to bring more services on the Rapid Assessment System (RAS) platform so that J&K can improve the performance on NeSDA and become number one performing UT among all States and UTs of the country.

Dr. Mehta asked the officers of the IT department to calibrate the services on the RAS platform as per the public feedback received. He also asked them to launch an awareness campaign for the public so that maximum people can register feedback regarding the services provided through the RAS platform.

## Mercury Settles Below Freezing Point In Kashmir

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Night temperature recorded a drop and settled below freezing point across Kashmir Valley barring Srinagar on Wednesday.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar, the summer capital of the J&K, recorded a low of 0.0°C against last night's 0.8°C. The temperature was below 1.0°C than the normal for this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 1.8°C against minus 1.0°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had a low of 1.0°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.4°C against mi-

nus 4.2°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 7.0°C against minus 6.8°C on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 0.2°C below normal for this time of the year in the famous resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.3°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night, the official said.

While the 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day long harshest period of winter ended on January 30, Kashmir is under the grip of the 20-day long 'Chillai Khurd' which would be followed by 10-day-long 'Chilla Bachha'.

Jammu recorded a low of 9.2°C against previous night's 9.1°C, the official said. The temperature was 1.3°C below normal for the J&K's winter capital during this

time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of minus 0.4°C, Batote 2.1°C and Bhaderwah 0.3°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 10.2°C against last night minus 10.4°C while mercury at automatic station in Kargil settled at minus 13.8°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 16.5°C against minus 12.0°C on the previous night, official said.

Weatherman has forecast erratic (generally cloudy and sunshine at times) till February 21 with a possibility of brief spell of light rain and snow (over higher reaches) at scattered places of J&K on February 16 and on February 18-19. "There's no forecast of any major rain and snow for the next 10 days," the official added. (GNS)

## NC Asks Delimitation Panel To Withdraw Draft Proposals

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The National Conference has asked the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission to withdraw the draft proposal for demarcation of assembly constituencies and also stop further proceedings of the Commission till the final adjudication of pleas challenging validity of revocation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two union territories.

The three Lok Sabha members, who are associate members of the Commission, in their written objections filed on Monday said, the draft proposal made in working paper 2-6 proposing demarcation of the assembly and parliamentary constituencies be withdrawn without acting upon the proposals in any manner or proceeding ahead in the matter.

The Commission must stop the exercise forthwith pending final adjudication and disposal of the batch of writ petition questioning Vires and constitutional validity of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, NC leaders Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone said.

Making public their response to the proposals, they said a bare look at the working papers would reveal that the population as the first and foremost criteria of delimiting the constituencies has not been given the prominence it deserves.

"The deviation in population ranges from 56,077 more than average of 1,36,304 in case of 41-Dooru to 85,025 less than average in case of 50-Padder. There are seven Assembly segments with less than 100,000 population (Paddar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Bani Mughal Madaan, Basohli, Ramgarh and Kishtwar) in Jammu Province

## Dr Farooq Asks Cadres To Gear Up For 'Big Challenge'

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** In an apparent reference to the post-August 2019 developments, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday asked party cadres to gear up for the big challenge faced by the union territory.

The centre had in August 2019 revoked special status of Jammu and Kashmir provided under Article 370 of the constitution and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two union territories.

Gear up for the big challenge faced to Jammu and Kashmir and work for further strengthening the party at every level, the NC president said while interacting with party delegations which called on him here.

while number of such constituencies is only three (Gurez, Karnah and Kunzer)," they said.

The NC leaders pointed out that there were 18 Assembly segments with population of more 1,50,000 in Kashmir province while number of such Assembly segments was seven in case of Jammu province.

"Twenty-four constituencies in Kashmir province have more than an average population of 1,36,304 while population of only eight constituencies in Jammu province exceeds the average population of a constituency worked out by the Commission. The population of Dooru almost equals population of three constituencies Paddar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) and Bani constituencies of Jammu," they added.

## Anti-Drug Force Seizes 29 Kg Hashish, Nabs 2

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Anti Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) on Wednesday arrested two alleged smugglers with 29 kg hashish from their possession worth crores in the market, officials here said.

The ANTF foiled the smuggling bid acting on the information it received about a truck going outside Jammu and Kashmir. According to the information, the truck was being driven by Arif Ahmed Wani and Amir Hussain Khan, both residents of

Bandipora, Kashmir, with a huge haul of hashish in it, they said.

Upon getting the tip-off, an ANTF team immediately swung into action and intercepted the said truck on the highway near Environmental Park in Jammu, they said. During its search, 29.8 kg hashish was recovered by the team from the cabin of the truck, they said.

SSP ANTF Jammu, Vinay Sharma, who supervised the operation, said that the force is investigating further links and more arrests are expected.

## Woman Injured In Srinagar Accident

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A woman was injured in a head-on collision between a private car and an armoured vehicle of the paramilitary SSB near Bemina area of Srinagar on Wednesday.

Official sources said that the accident took place between an I10 car and an SSB's armoured vehicle, leading to injuries to Sabia Yasmeen, wife of Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah of Iqbal Abad Bemina, reported news agency GNS.

The injured woman was shifted to SMHS hospital, they said. A police officer said that the woman suffered "minor" injuries and that a case has been registered in this regard.

### TRANSFORMING J&K

## ‘Mission Youth Remodels Youth Into Ambassadors Of Socio-Economic Growth Through Handholding’

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Government launched a ground-breaking initiative of Mission Youth with the objective to act as a conduit for aspirations and concerns of youth of J&K, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

The mission, he said, is intended to provide a platform for unparalleled transformation of the youth into ambassadors of hope, peace and socio-economic growth through systematic interventions across various domains.

"The mission lays emphasis on all individuals belonging from the age group of 15 to 25 years with twin related aims: to effectively support and encourage young individuals in fulfilling their potential and aspirations while addressing their needs and concerns and to efficiently endorse young people to shape their future as per their aspirations," he said.

The official spokesperson further said that the programme was conceived with the objective to positively engage youth of J&K through multi-pronged strategy

involving all necessary systematic interventions.

"Thus the organization envisions inducing a sieve of demand driven interventions for inclusive development of youth which includes provision of livelihood generation, skill development, education, counselling & rehabilitation, sports and recreation etc," he said.

"For holistic and pragmatic youth engagement and empowerment in J&K on sustainable lines, Mission Youth envisions setting-up of specially tailored youth centres with the state –of-the-art architecture in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, primarily designed to present a safe youth-appealing environment with manifestation of hope, security and aspirations of the youth," he added.

**MUMKIN Scheme:** Under the umbrella of Mission Youth, the Mumkin Scheme is one of the prominent schemes of the J&K government with the aim to facilitate the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to establish a sustainable livelihood in the transport sector

by providing financial assistance for acquisition of new small commercial vehicles.

The applicant has a full liberty to choose any small commercial vehicle of any approved models/makes of his/her choice. The small commercial vehicles include taxis, mini-buses, light commercial vehicles, tempo and any other mode of transportation of similar nature under public carrier permit. The scheme is being implemented by Mission Youth, J&K through district level committees constituted for the purpose.

The scheme banking partner shall extend the loan facility to the extent of 100% of the on-road price of the vehicle to be purchased under the scheme. Mission Youth shall provide an amount of Rs 80000 or 10% of On-road price of the vehicle as upfront subsidy towards the loan amount of the beneficiary under the scheme.

The vehicle manufacturer shall also provide an upfront special discount, not less than the amount of subsidy provided by Mission Youth towards the loan



account of the beneficiary.

**TEJASWINI (THE RADIANT)** is another scheme to empower and inspire women for income generation for activities either in manufacturing, service, trading, small business etc. Its core focus is to facilitate soft finance for setting up new units/enterprises or for expansion/modernization of

existing units or for acquisition of fixed assets (Plant and machinery, equipment, furniture & fixtures).

Under the scheme, the eligible potential female entrepreneurs are facilitated to avail financial assistance under Mudra Loan from J&K bank to the extent of 5 lakh.

The scheme banking partners

extend a loan facility to the extent of 100% of the project cost under the scheme where Mission youth provides an amount of Rs 50000 or 10% of the project cost under the scheme.

The activities covered under Tejaswini are canteen and restraint, creche, cyber café, beauty parlour, day care centre, laundry & dry cleaning, mobile repairing, photocopying centre, training institute, fitness centre, yoga centre or any other profitable activity.

To support the masses, the new government livelihood schemes aim to provide easy loans and subsidies to unemployed youth interested in doing any start-up business. The fundamental of Mission Youth is to give opportunities to unemployed youth by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots institutions for the youth.

In seeking to realize this vision for the future of young people of

J&K, the following overarching values are the guiding force behind all actions of Mission

**Youth:** Respect, Recognition, Sustained support and solidarity. While as the principles of Mission Youth for releasing the values include Responsiveness, Access, Participation, Inclusion, Diversity, Empowerment and Equality.

**Youth Clubs:** The Mission Youth empowers youth as important stakeholder in Participatory Good Governance and in this regard 4239 Youth Clubs were constituted on Mission Mode across J&K to mark International Youth Day 2021.

These youth clubs are engaging volunteers, who will get an opportunity to work through real challenges and make meaningful change in the society.

The opening up of youth clubs is another golden chapter in J&K's history with the creation of the 4239 Youth Clubs under Mission Youth in a record time, the J&K Government had taken a firm step towards making the Youth a partner in the Governance process and UT's development.



## SAI Appoints 398 Coaches, Assistant Coaches In Preparation Of Olympics 2024, 2028

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Wednesday announced it has appointed 398 coaches at various levels across 21 disciplines to prepare for important tournaments including the Paris and Los Angeles Olympics.

The new batch of coaches and assistant coaches has a host of eminent names, including Asian Games gold medallist rower Bajrang Lal Thakur. He joins as rowing coach.

Commonwealth Championship gold medallist grappler Shilpi Sheoran joins as an assistant coach in wrestling, while Olympian Jincy Phillip will serve as an athletics coach.

Pugilist Pranamika Borah, multiple medallist in leading international championships, joins as a boxing coach.

"The recruitment comes in the wake of the effort of the Ministry of Youth Affairs of Sports to provide 360 degree support to athletes as they prepare for important national and international competitions, including Olympic 2024, 2028," a sports ministry release said.

Of the total number of 398, 101 coaches are joining on deputation from PSUs and other government bodies.

"I am happy that a number of ex-athletes who have competed at the highest international level of competition and won medals have applied for these posts and have been selected," Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said.

"Their (the ex-international

athletes) inclusion in the system will mean that besides training athletes in the sport itself, they will be able to train them for mental toughness which is the key to success when competing at the world stage."

Speaking about what he looks forward to in the new assignment, Thakur, an Arjuna awardee, said, "I am grateful to the Sports Authority of India for giving me a chance to give back to sports as a coach especially at a time when water sports in India has a great chance of making an impact at international competitions."

"I am training the team for the Asian Games and I am confident that by fielding athletes in maximum number of disciplines we will be able to add to the country's medal tally in the upcoming Asian Games."

Thakur added that water sports in India has got an added push with SAI's National Centers of Excellence in Jagatpura and Alleppey which are world class infrastructure for water sports training.

There are four Arjuna Awardees, a Dhyanchand and Dhronacharya awardee each among those who have been selected for the positions.

Besides ex-international athletes, those who have completed their Diploma in Sports Coaching from NSNIS Patiala or a recognized Indian or foreign University have also been inducted.

Several SAI coaches who were previously on contract, but whose contracts had ended, have been recruited back in service, as per their eligibility.

### WINTER OLYMPICS

## Arif Khan Fails To Finish Men's Slalom Event

Press Trust of India

**BEIJING:** India's campaign at the Winter Olympics came to disappointing end on Wednesday after the country's lone participant, alpine skier Arif Khan, logged a 'Did Not Finish' in the men's slalom event here.

The 31-year-old from Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, who had finished 45th in the giant slalom event on Sunday, was unable to complete Run 1 at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre here.

Since Khan, who was making his Winter Olympics debut, was unable to finish Run 1, he won't be competing in the second round of men's slalom event.

Only 52 of the 88 starters finished the first run and will compete again in Run 2.

Wearing bib no 79, Khan made a decent start, finishing the first intermediate in 14.40s and the second in 34.24s. However, he failed to complete the final section.

Austria's Johannes Strolz was the fastest skier in Run 1 with a time of 53.92s. The Norwegian duo of Henrik Kristoffersen (53.94s) and Sebastian Foss-Silevaag (53.98s) were second



and third respectively.

Khan, the first Indian to qualify for two events in a Winter Olympics, had clocked combined time of 2 minute 47.24 seconds in the giant slalom event.

He finished 45th, which is now India's best-ever performance in men's giant slalom event at Winter Olympics.

Polish-born Jeremy Bujakowski, India's first-ever Winter Olympian, had finished 65th at Grenoble 1968.

In giant slalom -- an Alpine skiing event -- athletes ski down a slope as they pass between sets of 'gates' which consist of two plastic poles.

A skier runs two races and the competitor with the lowest combined time across the two courses is deemed the winner.

In slalom, the course and distance between two successive gates are much smaller than in giant slalom, making it a much faster and more precise sport.

Failure to pass between any one gate in Run 1 deems a run as DNF (Did Not Finish) and such an athlete can't participate in the second run.

In Beijing Games, the giant slalom event took place on the 424m 'Ice River' course with a start altitude of 1925m and finish altitude of 1501m.

## Indian Cricket's 'Backbone' Ranji Trophy Returns After 2 Years In Bio-Secure Bubbles

J&K to start campaign against Puducherry on February 17

Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Indian cricket's 'backbone', the Ranji Trophy, will make a much-anticipated return after two years amid the easing COVID-19 situation in the country, providing host of domestic cricketers an opportunity to make their name in red-ball cricket while giving veterans like Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara a final shot at resurrecting their Test careers.

A third wave of COVID-19 had threatened the premier domestic event for the second year in a row but the drop in infections has allowed the BCCI to conduct the 38-team event, a massive logistical task in the new normal of bio-secure environments.

All eyes will be on the opening fixture between defending champions Saurashtra and record 41-time champions Mumbai here with Rahane and Pujara on either side, aiming to make the big scores that have deserted them at the Test level for a while.

Both veterans have been working hard in the nets and their coaches feel a big knock is around the corner. Rahane and Pujara will need to make instant impact with the Test squad of Sri Lanka series expected to be announced soon.

Nine bio-bubbles have been created across nine venues in the country and the players had to quarantine for five days, leaving them only two days of training for the first round beginning on Thursday.

The players, however, are in no mood to complain. They are just happy that they are finally getting to test themselves in the toughest form of the game after two seasons of white-ball cricket.

The batters had almost forgotten the art of leaving the ball and



bowlers the relentlessness of long spells. Both the departments are up for the challenge but their bodies might take longer to get used to the hard grind of red-ball cricket.

It is also set to be the shortest first-class season for most teams with sides only getting three league games, impacting their match fees and leaving them with little room for error.

Eight groups of four teams each have been formed at the elite level while six teams will fight it out in the plate group. The knockouts, barring the sole pre-quarterfinal, will be held in the post IPL phase starting May 30.

It will also be a high pressure game as it will potentially decide the only quarterfinalist from the group.

The national selectors will also finally get to see the upcoming talent in action.

Only one India A tour has taken place over the past 24 months, the selectors have had to refer to part performances with no first-class cricket played in the country.

Focus will also be on fringe India players including Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran and

Hanuma Vihari, who had been controversially dropped for the home series against New Zealand before making the team for the away series in South Africa.

Among the India U-19 stars, skipper Yash Dhull and Raj Angad Bawa are expected to make their first-class debut soon after landing IPL contracts. Dhull will be in Guwahati playing for Delhi against Tamil Nadu.

Teams have been advised to keep two COVID-19 reserves in the squad. There is a good chance of a COVID outbreak midway into the game but the match will go on provided a team has a minimum of nine fit players.

Both teams will be awarded a point each if first innings is not completed.

The games will be played across Rajkot, Cuttack, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Delhi, Haryana, Guwahati and Kolkata.

**J&K's opening fixture:** Jammu and Kashmir vs Pondicherry, Elite Group C (Chennai) - Feb 17

## KKR Appoint Shreyas Iyer As New Captain

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday appointed India batter Shreyas Iyer as their new captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League after having bought him for a whopping Rs 12.25 crore at the recently-concluded mega auction.

Iyer, who had captained Delhi Capitals to their only IPL final back in 2020, was released after the 2021 season and it was an open secret that KKR, who were supposed to replace Eoin Morgan, were in need of a new captain.

"He (Iyer) has impressed one & all as a quality batsman at the highest level & we are confident that he will excel as a leader of Team KKR," KKR CEO Venky Mysore said in a statement.

Iyer said he is looking forward to fulfilling the role.

"I am extremely honoured to have gotten the opportunity to lead a prestigious team like KKR. The IPL as a tournament brings the best players from different countries and cultures together and I look forward to leading this great group of very talented



individuals," Iyer said.

"I would like to thank the owners, management and support staff of KKR for giving me the opportunity to lead this team and I am confident that we will find the right synergies to achieve the team's goals."

Head Coach Brendon McCullum said he is excited to have Iyer in the fold.

"I am very excited to have one of India's brightest future leaders in Shreyas Iyer, take the reins at KKR."

"I have enjoyed Shreyas' game and his captaincy skills from afar and now will look forward to working closely with him to drive forward the success and style of play we want at KKR," McCullum said.

## 'Indo-Pak WC Match Will Inspire Girls Across The Border'



Press Trust of India

**LAHORE:** Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof sees their Women's World Cup opener against India as an opportunity to inspire "millions of girls" in both countries to take up the sport.

India are set to face Pakistan in their opener of the World Cup on March 6 at Tauranga, New Zealand. The quadrennial event will be held from March 4 to April 3 across six cities in New Zealand.

"Pakistan vs India is indeed a great stage for any player to establish her credentials, but at the end of the day, it is a cricket match that has to be won by executing the basics right and keeping thing simple," Maroof, who is making a comeback after motherhood, said from Queenstown, New Zealand.

"This match is a great opportunity to inspire millions of girls in Pakistan and India to take up this sport as a profession. It is the biggest rivalry, and attracts innumerable eyeballs."

"I hope girls in the two countries will watch this match and will be inspired to take up the game," said the 30 year old who has played over 200 international matches for Pakistan.

She praised the Mithali Raj led Indian team but she is very optimistic about Pakistan's chances against them.

"The Indian team is a good unit and has done well recently. They also have had some very good youngsters coming in of late," she said.

"Our aim is to make it to the

semi-finals, something which we have never done before. I strongly believe that this side has all the ingredients to achieve that."

Being the senior most player and the captain of the team, she feels that it is her duty to lead from example.

"Being the senior player and the captain of the side you have to inspire your team and lead by example. If you are not doing the right things, you cannot demand them from girls. I have a very clear vision with this team that we need to be in top four."

When asked about the team composition she said that conditions in New Zealand will determine the playing eleven.

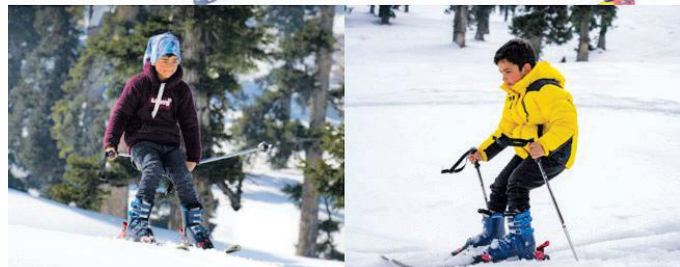
Maroof has played 108 ODIs and equal number of T20 matches and has scored 2602 and 2225 runs respectively. Having seen many ups and downs in her journey so far, she had once decided to quit cricket to embrace motherhood.

"It has been an incredible journey and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Being a cricketer has designed my life and played a very important role in the person I am today. There have been ups and downs, which have made me learn," she said.

"I am very excited to be back. It feels like I am making my debut again for Pakistan. I am grateful to my family, especially my husband who has supported me immensely throughout this phase. I also want to mention the support that the Pakistan Cricket Board has provided me through the parental policy," said Maroof.

### WINTER CARNIVAL

## Activities Continue On Day 3 At Kulgam



Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** Various Snow related activities including Trekking expeditions and games were continued Wednesday on the 3rd day of Winter Carnival at Aharbal tourist spot, here

During the day, various Trekking groups went on for trekking along identified routes besides Snow games were also held dur-

ing which the players expressed happiness for organising such events.

This Winter Carnival is being organized by District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with the Tourism department, Aharbal Development Authority and Divisional Forest Division to showcase the beauty of Kulgam for all its recreational and adventure potential.

## Inter-Block Volleyball Tournament Concludes At Largam, Shopian

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The Inter-Block level Sports Tournament organised by DYSSO Shopian, concluded at Largam, Shopian here, on Wednesday.

A total of 17 teams of 9 blocks of the district participated in the tournament, witnessing great competition among the participating teams.

Volleyball final match was played between Panchayat Aglar and Panchayat Kani-gam and was won by the Aglar Panchayat team.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Shopian, Gurmukh Singh Dutta was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony. He witnessed finals from the beginning and encouraged youth.

He interacted with the players

individually and being himself a sportsperson, he shared his ex-



periences and advised the players to stay dedicated towards their game. He also advised them to stay away from bad company, drugs and other things which destroy the career of youth.

Later, the DYSSO distributed the medals and trophies among the participants.

## Roundup Of Olympic Gold Medals From Wednesday, Feb 16

Agencies

**BEIJING:** A roundup of gold medals from Wednesday, Feb. 16, at the Beijing Games:

### ALPINE SKIING MEN'S SLALOM

French skier Clement Noel put down a blistering second run to win the slalom by a large margin.

Noel moved up from sixth following the first leg to beat first-run leader Johannes Strolz of Austria by 0.61 seconds after posting the fastest second run.

World champion Sebastian Foss-Solevaag of Norway held his position and picked up the bronze, finishing 0.70 behind.

### BIATHLON 4x6KM RELAY

Elvira Oeberg anchored the Swedish team to Olympic gold



in the four-person biathlon relay, skiing fast and shooting clean to win her third medal.

Oeberg, who also won silver in the sprint and pursuit races in her Olympic debut, put the Swedes across the line in 1 hour, 11 minutes, 3.9 seconds.

Russian biathlete Uliana Nigmatullina trailed Oeberg by about 24 seconds after the final shooting range and ended up finishing 12 seconds behind for silver. Denise Herrmann finished third to give Germany bronze, 37.4 seconds behind

Oeberg. Herrmann also won gold in the individual race.

### CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING MEN'S TEAM SPRINT CLASSIC

Johannes Hoesflot Kleabo completed a second straight cross-country double Wednesday by teaming with Erik Valnes to give Norway the gold medal in the team sprint race at the Beijing Games.

Kleabo won the individual sprint and has become the second man to win both the team and individual sprint twice. (AP)

## Kishtwar Students Flagged Off To Gulmarg For Skiing Camp



Observer News Service

**KISHTWAR:** A group of girl students was on Wednesday flagged off to Gulmarg, Kashmir for attending a snow skiing training camp.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kharati Lal Sharma flagged off the group along with the guide Salam Bhat (REK).

Sharma advised the students to enjoy the tour, follow covid19 safety protocols and learn the skiing skills with full dedication and encourage others to be the part of sports & games. He hailed the Directorate of Youth Services

& Sports for organizing different sports activities throughout the year including the refresher course held recently for sports teachers of the UT in the disciplines of Sqay, Soft Tennis, Fencing, Teakwondo, Archery and Hockey.

He informed the girl students that the department has made adequate arrangements for their boarding and lodging. He directed the guide to maintain close liaison with the students as well as the organizers.

Others present were Javed Iqbal Sheikh I/c activity, Ayaz Ahmed, Kewal Krishan.