



**P3 CITY**

**FAROOQ ABDULLAH CHAIRS DISHA MEETING OF SRINAGAR DISTRICT**

In order to review the progress of different Centrally sponsored schemes under implementation of Member of Parliament (MP), Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal

**P5 THINK**

**CAREER CHOICES: PARENTAL PRESSURE AND MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN**

Choosing a career path is an essential part of a student's life and decision of immense importance. The pressure of career building at a young age, however, is slightly more than what a young mind can handle. In today's world, changing career



**P8 SPORTS**

**29TH ANNUAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP HAJIN & BARAMULLA WIN, QUALIFY FOR FINAL PHASE**

In the ongoing Annual Football Championship 2021-22 two matches were played on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC



**Widom Quote!**

Better to build a bridge than a wall  
-Elton John

**NEWS DIGEST**

**No Corona Cases In 8 Kashmir Districts**

SRINAGAR: Over a hundred Coronavirus infected people recovered in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday while 46 fresh cases of virus were reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, the trend of recoveries continued in J&K on Thursday **More on P6**

**CRPF Officer Dies Of Cardiac Arrest**

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer died on Thursday after suffering a cardiac arrest in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Pulchand Ali Sheikh of CRPF 46th Battalion died after **More on P6**

**Bihar Resident Found Dead**

SRINAGAR: A resident of Bihar state was found hanging on Thursday in Athwajan area of Srinagar. Police identified the person as Bablu Shah. 'He was found hanging in a rented accommodation in the Athwajan area this morning,' **More on P6**

**Engineer Caught While Accepting Bribe**

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested a Junior Engineer for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. "Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint wherein the complainant **More on P6**

## India Taking Steps To Restore Normalcy In Kashmir: US

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The Indian government has taken some steps to restore normalcy in Kashmir, a senior US diplomat has told American lawmakers, while asserting that the Joe Biden administration is keeping a close eye on the security situation, including militant threats in the region.

The Indian Parliament had revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, bifurcating the state into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

We do see the Indian government taking some steps to restore normalcy. Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) had an outreach to a range of Kashmiri Indian politicians, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu told members of the Senate Foreign



KO File Photo

Relations Subcommittee on the Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism during a hearing on India US relationship on Wednesday.

Of late there have been numerous visits by several Cabinet ministers to Kashmir. Mobile phone connections

have also been restored, he said, while noting that the US is keeping a close eye on the security situation, including militant threats.

Cross-border insurgency has really gone down over two years, Lu said, adding that he has been **More on P6**

**WE BELIEVE ALL KASHMIRIS DESERVE** the right to live in dignity, enjoy the protections afforded to them by the Indian Constitution. We look forward to continuing to encourage India to fulfil those commitments, Lu said.

## JKCA Case: ED Attaches Properties Worth Rs 7.25 Cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has "provisionally attached" immovable properties worth Rs 7.25 crore of Ahsan Ahmad Mirza in an ongoing case of alleged money laundering by former office bearers of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA). This is the third attachment order in the case.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah's

property was provisionally attached in December 2020 and this was challenged in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Abdullah was JKCA president from 2001 to 2012 and the scam being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is about alleged financial misappropriation between 2004 and 2009. In a statement, the ED said that in this case, properties worth Rs 14.32 crore **More on P6**



## Indus Water Treaty India To Give More Project Data To Pak

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: India has been providing information to Pakistan on the extraordinary discharges of water from reservoirs and flood flows every year, as mandated under the Indus Water Treaty, and if Islamabad requests to provide information beyond the Treaty provisions, New Delhi may examine the same as a gesture of goodwill, sources said on Thursday.

During the three-day Meeting of the Permanent Indus **More on P6**

## Killer Roads Claimed 774 Lives In J&K Last Year

Bhatnagar Orders Analytical Study Of Road Accidents To Identify Major Causes

Observer News Service

JAMMU: At least 774 people have been killed and nearly seven thousand injured in over 5452 road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir last year, even 22 lakh vehicles have been registered from the past decade in the erstwhile state, officials

said Thursday. These figures on road accidents were shared by officials during a meeting of 8th Road Safety Council (RSC) chaired by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar at Civil Secretariat here today, an official spokesperson said. "It was further given

that a 'Road Accident Victim Fund' has been created to provide a compensation of Rs 1 lakh to family in case of death of a person, Rs 75000 for a permanent disability, Rs 50000 for grievous injury and Rs 10000 to a person receiving a minor injury," he said. Earlier, he said, the LG's Advisor **More on P6**

## Militancy Down, Not Over In J&K: DGP

Agencies

JAMMU: Stating that the improvement in the overall security situation in J&K was a welcome step but nevertheless militancy was still a challenge as it was not over even though it has come down significantly.

Talking to media men on the sidelines of a sports event in Jammu, the DGP said that the situation indeed has improved in J&K but militancy was still a challenge as it wasn't over yet.

"After a long time and after hectic efforts, such a peaceful situation is being seen in Jammu and Kashmir. But militancy was still a challenge as it was down but not over," the DGP said. "We are acting against



people who are running machinery of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and such people have been dealt with to a larger extent and efforts will continue further to corner them," he added. Replying to a query about revamping of Village Defence Committees in **More on P6**

## Principal Suspended Over Alleged Misconduct

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A day after schools reopened in the Valley after a long 31-month hiatus, the Directorate of School Education on Thursday suspended the Principal of a higher secondary school for his alleged failure to make prior arrangements directed by the government.

In an order issued here, the Director School Education Kashmir said that pending inquiry into his conduct by Chief Education Officer, Srinagar, Nazir Ahmed Khan, the Principal Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Soura is placed under suspension with immediate **More on P6**

## J&K Begins Complete Switch Over To e-Office Mode

No Physical Files, Daks Shall Be Entertained In Civil Secretariat From Monday

Agencies

JAMMU: The Union Territory government on Thursday asked all Administrative Secretaries to direct HoDs working under their control to immediately switch over to e-office mode of working, underling that no physical files or daks shall be entertained in the civil secretariat from March 7.

In September last year, the government had issued a circular requiring all Heads of the Department to switch over to e-office mode of working with "assistance and hand holding" from the Information Technology Department.

All HoDs (move as well as non move) were provided the necessary assistance by the Information Technology Department, by way of provisioning of the VPN connections, creation of domain IDs (@jk.gov.in) and training of local admins/master trainers etc, the government said.

"Notwithstanding the above said instructions, **More on P6**

## 4 More Kashmiri Students Return From Ukraine



### 'We Just Wanted To Get Back Alive And Here We Are'

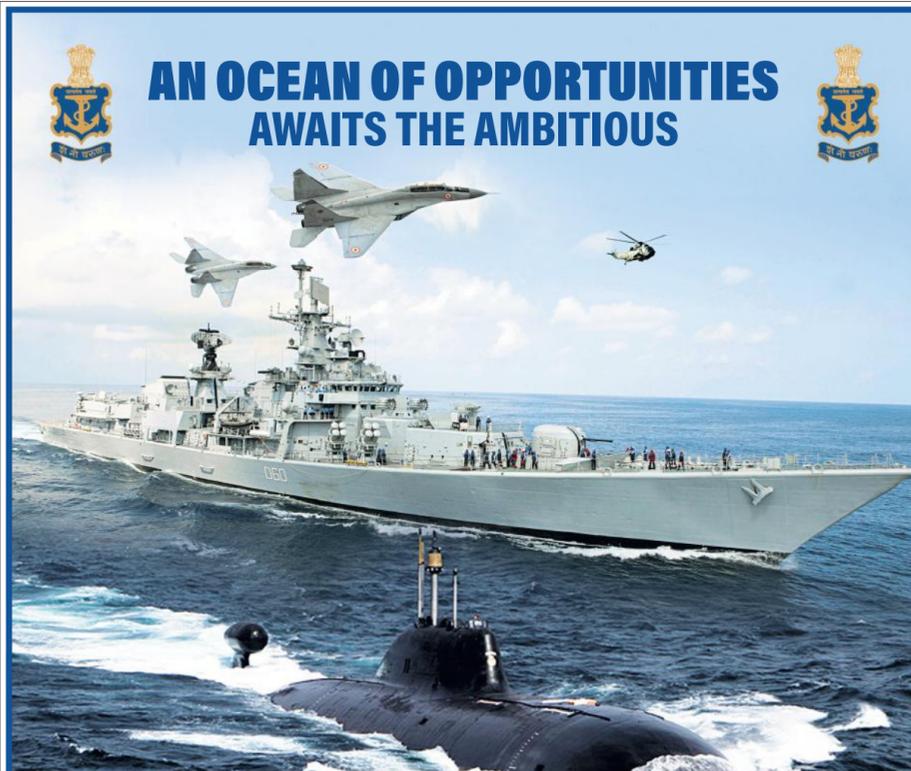
Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As war in Ukraine spreads to new areas, four more Kashmiri students, who managed to escape from the war zone landed safely at Delhi Airport from Romania on Thursday. They were part of a large group of Indian students who were evacuated under Operation Ganga launched to bring

back stranded Indian students from Ukraine, Poland, Hungary and Romania.

An Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster carrying more than 200 Indian students landed at Delhi in the wee hours of Thursday. The students, including four from Kashmir, were greeted with tears of happiness and hugs by the waiting relatives and friends.

Earlier, 18 Kashmiri students had landed at Delhi Airport in GOI's special evacuation flights from Poland and Romania. 13 of these students were **More on P6**



**AN OCEAN OF OPPORTUNITIES AWAITS THE AMBITIOUS**

## JOIN INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy invites online applications from unmarried men and women candidates to join as Short Service Commission Officers

Branch/Cadre	Gender	Vacancies*
<b>Executive</b>		
General Service/ Hydro Cadre	Men	38/02
Naval Armament Inspectorate Cadre (NAIC)	Men & Women	06
Air Traffic Controller (ATC)	Men & Women	06
Observer	Men	08
Pilot	Men	15
Logistics	Men	18
<b>Technical</b>		
Engineering (General Service)	Men	15
Electrical (General Service)	Men	30
<b>Education</b>		
	Men & Women	17

\* These vacancies are tentative and may be changed depending on availability of training slots.

Online application window is open from **25 Feb 22 to 12 Mar 22.**

For eligibility criteria and details, visit [www.joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in) and Employment News dated **26 Feb 22.**



Scan this QR Code to apply online

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## Moon Not Sighted, Shab-e-Barat On Mar 19

SRINAGAR: The crescent for Shaban Al-Moazzam has not been sighted on Thursday and the first day of the month will fall on March 5 and Shab-e-Barat will be observed on March 19.

The Shaban moon was not sighted either in India or neighboring country Pakistan on Thursday and thus the first Shaban will fall on March 5. Accordingly, Shab-e-Barat will be observed on March 19.

Shab-e-Barat is also known as the night of forgiveness. It is annually observed for seeking forgiveness and repenting by Muslims by visiting the graves of family members and mosques.



To place an advertisement

**CALL +91-194 2502327**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# Want to Be Happier, Healthier, and Wealthier? Science Says Start Seeing 'Future You' the Right Way

The more connection you feel between who you are now and who you will be, the greater your later life satisfaction and well-being.

Jeff Haden | Inc.

Imagine yourself 10 or 20 years in the future. Not physically--because 40-year-old me would not have been happy with 60-year-old me--but in terms of who you are inside. How you answer that question tends to put you in one of two basic camps. Some people see themselves as basically the same: Where you live might change, your profession might change, your circumstances might change, but deep inside you see yourself as roughly the same. As social psychologists put it, you assume a strong continuity between today you and 20-years-from-now you. Others see their future selves as very different from who they are today. They see little connection or continuity. They assume--or at least hope--that someday they will become very different. My guess is you see where this is going: People who think their future self will be very different tend to be less "responsible" in terms of behavior. Research bears out that assumption. One study shows that people with greater "present-future continuity" tend to exercise more. Another shows that those people tend to be more financially prudent and more likely to save money. Another shows that those people tend to behave more ethically, both personally and professionally. Another shows that the degree of continuity you feel with your future self can actually predict your overall life satisfaction and well-being 10 years later. As the researchers write: When people are better connected to their future selves, they have an enhanced ability to recognize the consequences of their present-day decisions on their future selves. And that's going to help them put the brakes on these behaviors. Intuitively that makes sense. When I was young, I thought future me would somehow be different: That he would decide to get fit. Or save for retirement. Or just quit acting



like such a doofus. Who I was then and who I would someday be? Big disconnect. Slowly, though, I realized that what I did today built the foundation for what I would become. That who I would be in 10 or 20 years would be the accumulation of the actions I would take in the years to come. That someday being fit, relatively financially secure, or a lot less of a jerk--who I would be would result from the choices I made on a daily basis. Choices that would either work for or against my hopes for future me. Because consistency, not intensity, is what produces long-term results. Want to someday be a successful entrepreneur? You won't get there by assuming that

**Research bears out that assumption. One study shows that people with greater "present-future continuity" tend to exercise more. Another shows that those people tend to be more financially prudent and more likely to save money**

someday you'll magically be different. What you do now--gaining skills, forging connections, analyzing opportunities, etc.--will accumulate over time, and help you get there. Want to lose weight? The choices you make now--improving your diet, exercising more, etc.--will accumulate over time and help you get there. If you hope your future self will be smarter, or kinder, or wealthier, or more generous, or more successful--whatever you imagine your future self to be--see that person not as a stranger, but as fundamentally the person you are today. Except different, due to the choices you make today. And every day.

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

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Tariq Ahmad Bhat S/o: Abdul Rehman Bhat R/o: Chattergam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 7894 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Chattergam.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5937 Dated 03/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir  
MCB

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

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Hafizullah Khan S/o: Ghulam Ahmad Khan R/o: Kothipora chattergam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 2161 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Solina.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5938 Dated 03/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir  
MCB

## Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Zahoor Ahmad Kumar S/o Mohammad Ramzan R/o Jamalta Srinagar ( Transferor) and Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah S/o Abdul Salam Shah R/O H.NO 104 Garden Lane Chanapora ( Transferee) for transfer of Auto (P) carriage route Permit No 12075/ Star Covering Vehicle No JK01AD-4614



Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STWCO Namely Bagh Hussain

NOJK-RTOK 1811 Dated: 03/03/2022 FKO  
Sd/- Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

**انتقال پر ملا**  
یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ محمد امین شیخ مرحوم ساکنہ ہمدانیہ کالونی برآمدہ سیکٹر 11 حال شہید گنج مورخہ 3 مارچ 2022ء بروز جمعرات مختصر علالت کے بعد انتقال کر گئیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی مورخہ 5 مارچ 2022ء بروز سنیچر داران کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع ملہ ٹینگ میں صبح 10 بجے انجام دی جاتی گی۔ سوگواران

nf 9906294398

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

Where an application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Abdul Rehman Mir S/o: Sona Mir R/o: Garand Khurd Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Ignis. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04E - 1468. Chasis number 163337 Engine no. 4342190 Model 2017. in favour of Shri.. Bilal Ahmad Dar S/o. Abdul Gani Dar R/o Sangam B Eidgah Srinagar ( Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Ltd B/U Srinagar. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5931 Dated 03/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir  
MCB

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

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars  
Name : Toufeeq Hussan Dar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o Magam Budgam

Details of Marks Certificate lost  
Secondary School Examination (class 12th )  
Roll No 2409201 Session /Year Annual 2018

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before under signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.  
Sd/ Assistant Secretary Sub Office Magam  
bmg

**Public Notice**

I have applied for the issuance of DEE class contract card from R and B office if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she May file his/her objection in the circle of super intending engineer R and B office Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice .After that no objection shall be entertained  
Syed Sajad Ahmad Bukhari  
S/O Syed Mohammad Amin Bukhari  
R/O Hail Jagir, Block Wagoora  
fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir**  
E-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

**Subject:-Change of Tittle of House Boat "Kadira Palace" Category "C" moored in Nigeen Lake,Srinagar.**

**Public Notice**

Whereas, Mr. Sami Ullah Madari S/o. Mohammad Maqsood Madari R/o Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar, Srinagar has applied in this office for change of title of above mentioned House Boat from HB Kadira Palace to HB 7 Heaven Heritage under the provisions of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act/Rules 1978/82/2011/2012.

Whereas the said house boat is registered with this office in the name of Mr. Sami Ullah Madari S/o. Mohammad Maqsood Madari R/o Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar, Srinagar vide Registration No.Reg./1007/5/641-56/DT/42/C-1-27 dated 22.05.1985 and is renewed up to 31.03.2019.

Whereas the applicant has submitted the application with NOC from bank, KH-BOA, Affidavit, Undertaking and other related documents.

Whereas, change of the title of the housesboat is purely for the purpose of running operation management of the said Houseboat.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012 before effecting change of title of above mentioned House Boat the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc. for objection if any. The same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant shall be considered after submission of all requisite documents/NOC, s.

No. - Reg./Cee/2/Nigeen/688/DTK  
Dated: - 02/03/2022

Sd/-  
Dy. Director Tourism, Registration.  
DIPK-18955/21

**Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K Govt. Office of the Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir Division**  
Bijbehara-192124, Anantnag, Tel./Fax: +91 1932234474, Email: wildlifekj.skd@gmail.com

**EXTENSION NOTICE**  
Reference to: - e-NIT No. 08 of 2021-22, Dated: 22/02/2022

Due to poor response the critical dates for e-NIT No. 08 of 2021-22, Dated: 22/02/2022 are hereby extended as per the schedule mentioned below: -

1	Bid submission End date	07-03-2022 upto 11:30 AM
2	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	07-03-2022 at 02:30 PM

All the terms and conditions will be same as mentioned in Tender Notice.

Sd/-  
Wildlife Warden  
South Kashmir Division  
DIPK-18952/21

**Subject: Grant of Registration of the proposed travel unit the name & Style "M/s Rut Kadam" situated at chadoora.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, I Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh S/O Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/O Bugam Batapora Tehsil Chadoora. District Budgam, Kashmir Intends To Apply In The Department Of Tourism For Registration Of My Proposed Travel Unit Under The Name And Style "M/ S Rut Kadam" Situated At Chadoora, Kashmir Under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I Will Submit State Subject/ Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate Of Five Years, Character Certificate, Bank Statement, Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed Duly Attested By Sub Registrar, Printing Material, Photograph Of The Unit And Two Passport Size Photographs To The Department Of Tourism As Per Prescribed Checklist Prior To Registration Of My Unit As An Excursion Agency.

Now As Per Ut J&K Registration Of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, Before My Case Is Processed For Registration By The Competent Authority, The Matter Is Hereby Notified Objection, If Any And The Same Should Reach To The Deputy Director Tourism Registration, Trc Srinagar For Information Of General Public/ Financial Institution / Bank/ Organisation, Etc For, Kashmir (e-mail id:ddtreg123@gmail.com) Within A Period Of Seven Days From The Publication Of This Notice In Leading Local Newspaper/Newspapers Of The valley. No objections beyond a period of seven days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under the rules.

fsko

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### Police Felicitates Toppers Of 12th Class Exam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police in Srinagar felicitated students of district Srinagar who have secured top positions in Higher Secondary part two examination 2021-22.

SSP Srinagar Shri Rakesh Balwal-IPS was chief guest on the event, besides SP Hqs Srinagar and other officers of Srinagar Police were also present.

SSP Srinagar felicitated 10 meritorious students of the district. All the position holders were felicitated with Mementos and appreciation letters.

SSP Srinagar while interacting with the meritorious students congratulated them for their brilliant performance in studies which resulted to their remarkable success. He also said that they would inspire other students to excel in their studies and academics. He also appreciated the efforts of the teachers, guardians and parents in their achievement.

The objective of this event was to encourage the meritorious students in the field of academics to boost their courage for further studies to crack National Level Exams.

### FOB Organises Outreach Programme On Drug De-Addiction



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Field Outreach Bureau (FOB), Srinagar today organised a Mini Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on drug de-addiction, PoshanMah and Ayushman Bharat. The one day long programme aimed at sensitising people, especially the youth was held at Government Polytechnic College, Srinagar.

Principal Polytechnic College, Srinagar Imtiaz Ahmed Shah, speaking on the event stressed upon the importance of awareness programmes in dealing with the issue of drug abuse while Dr. Syed Sania from CMO office Srinagar said that the issue of drug abuse is a challenge before the country. "It is the duty of all stakeholders to join in creating awareness about the illegal use of drugs and the measures to be taken to prevent this menace," she added.

Dr. Aabid Ahmed from Police Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Centre appreciated the participants and FOB in organising the programme on drug de-addiction which he said will prove to be useful in the long run and appealed the participants to co-operate with police in identifying drug addicts in their localities so that they can be counselled in better ways.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director Press Information Bureau Srinagar, Ghulam Abbas stressed upon the civil society among religious preachers, teachers and students to come forward to highlight the causes and consequences of drug abuse.

Members of College also spoke on the occasion and highlighted their experiences in treating drug addicts. They gave a detailed speech on how to recognize a person is addicted to drugs, treatment and testing process. As part of pre-event activities, the winners of the quiz and drawing/painting competitions held Wednesday were felicitated with prizes and certificates at the conclusion of the event.

### JKPCC President Presides Over Party Leaders Meeting

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir Thursday presided over the party leaders meeting at Srinagar party Office.

JKPCC president also discussed the current situation and organizational affairs and activities in Kashmir. As per a statement issued to



## Farooq Abdullah Chairs DISHA Meeting Of Srinagar District

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the progress of different Centrally sponsored schemes under implementation the Member of Parliament (MP), Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Constituency, Dr Farooq Abdullah Thursday chaired a meeting of District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, (DISHA) of District Srinagar here at SKICC.

Mayor Srinagar Junaid Azim Mattoo, Chairman District Development Council, Malik Aftab Ahmad, BDC Members, SMC Corporators and members of local Panchayat bodies were present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad gave a detailed overview of the developmental scenario and

progress achieved under different schemes/programmes, particularly in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes through a Power-Point Presentation.

Addressing the officers, the MP, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that the aim of holding the DISHA meeting was to identify the developmental requirements and facilitate smooth implementation of govt schemes in the District.

The MP took a comprehensive review of various schemes being implemented by the RDD, PWD, PDD, PHE, Health, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Labour, Employment, Urban Development Department and other departments and asked the officers to work with dedication and missionary zeal and ensure that the benefits of all government schemes reach to the genuine

beneficiaries in a time bound manner besides disseminating information about these schemes.

He also stressed for timely completion of all developmental projects and emphasized on elected Public Representatives to work in tandem with District Administration for effective outcomes of schemes.

The MP also asked officers to ensure successful implementation of different self-employment schemes for providing job opportunities to the youth of the district.

While appreciating the District Administration for its work in various sectors, the MP stressed on a prompt and efficient public delivery mechanism in the District and formulating plans for overall prosperity and development of people.

The MP also called for collective contribution from

one and all in fighting against the drug menace so that it is completely eliminated to save younger generations from hazardous effects of the drug abuse.

Later, Smart City Projects were also reviewed. The chairman DISHA committee gave his suggestions for better management of Smart city projects.

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Athar Amir Khan, Chief Engineer, JKPTCL, Qazi Hashmat, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, FazlulHaseeb, Chief Planning Officer, Yasin Lone, Programme Officer ICDS, Deputy Director Employment, Assistant Commissioner Revenue and all other sectoral and District Officers were also present during the meeting.

### Anganwadi Workers Stage Protest, Seek Increment In Salaries



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Scores of Anganwadi workers on Thursday staged protests at Press Colony Srinagar and sought increment in their salaries.

The protests were held under the banner of Anganwadi Association.

Anganwadi workers shouted slogans against the Social Welfare Department and decried failure of the government failure to release their salaries on time.

Taslima Suman, President of Anganwadi Association Kashmir Province, said that protest was being held in order to compel the government to fulfill their long pending demand to increase their salaries.

"We are doing the same work as other anganwadi workers are doing in different states of India but our salaries are less" Taslima said.

"If the government does not pay heed to our demands and increase

our salaries, we will hit the roads in protests". She added.

The protestors alleged that the government is taking them for granted and has failed to recognize the contribution of the workers.

They appealed the government to release their salaries on time and sought the promotion of the employees on seniority basis.

Shehnaaz another protester said that there are around two thousand anganwadi workers and they are working on mere four thousand rupees per month.

"We have received no perks from the government for our work in times of the pandemic" she said.

The protestors said that their salaries should be at par with salaries of Anganwadi workers in other states of India.

The anganwadi workers sought the intervention of the Lieutenant Governor in addressing their grievances.

از نیابت کتزر  
مضمون درخواست سنج اللہ وانی دلہ غلام محمد وانی ساکنہ لعلپورہ برادر عطا گئی  
DOB certificate  
اشتبہ برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست بابت حصول  
تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ پولیس سٹیشن کتزر و چوکیدار  
علاقہ نے سائل کے دفتر ان کی پیدائش انداز نہیں کی ہے سائل سنج اللہ  
وانی دلہ غلام محمد وانی بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکی دفتر ان سیم بت سنج اللہ کی  
تاریخ پیدائش 2021-4-5 اور ارواد سنج اللہ کی تاریخ پیدائش  
2018-8-6 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ  
اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے  
اندیشہ کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
تابع تحصیلدار کتزر  
az k

از نیابت کتزر  
مضمون درخواست جان محمد جمجمہ وانی دلہ غلام محمد جمجمہ لعلپورہ برادر عطا گئی  
DOB certificate  
اشتبہ برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست بابت حصول  
تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ پولیس سٹیشن کتزر و چوکیدار  
علاقہ نے سائل کے دفتر ان کی پیدائش انداز نہیں کی ہے سائل جان محمد  
جمجمہ وانی دلہ غلام محمد جمجمہ بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکی دفتر تاریخ جان کی تاریخ  
پیدائش 2017-4-4 اور پسر تو قیام جمجمہ کی تاریخ پیدائش  
2019-7-13 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے  
کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ  
یوم کے اندیشہ کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول  
نہیں ہوگا۔  
تابع تحصیلدار کتزر  
az k

از نیابت کتزر  
مضمون درخواست محمد اشراف جمجمہ وانی دلہ غلام محمد جمجمہ لعلپورہ برادر عطا گئی  
DOB certificate  
اشتبہ برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست بابت حصول  
تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ پولیس سٹیشن کتزر و چوکیدار  
علاقہ نے سائل کے دفتر ان کی پیدائش انداز نہیں کی ہے سائل محمد اشراف  
جمجمہ وانی دلہ غلام محمد جمجمہ لعلپورہ بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکی دفتر تاریخ  
پیدائش 2016-10-20 اور پسر منتظر اشراف کی تاریخ پیدائش  
2018-08-20 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے  
کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ  
یوم کے اندیشہ کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول  
نہیں ہوگا۔  
تابع تحصیلدار کتزر  
az k

### Public Notice

My Name has been wrongly mentioned in school records as Mohd Munazah Mir instead of Mohd Iqbal Mir S/O Abdul Qyoom Mir R/O Uthora Payeen which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Heritage School Chooru within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Mohd Iqbal Mir S/O Abdul Qyoom Mir R/O Uthora Payeen fko

**DIAL-EMMA**

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452022,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPP: 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
- BUBHERA: 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: 37  
ZUHR 12:43  
ASR 4:47  
Magrib 6:32  
ISHA 7: 50

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
1443

### This Day In History

- 51 - Nero, later to become Roman Emperor, is given the title princeps iuventutis (head of the youth)
- 1152 - Frederick I Barbarossa elected Holy Roman Emperor
- 1215 - King John of England makes an oath to the Pope as a crusader to gain the support of Innocent III.
- 1790 - France is divided into 83 départements, which cut across the former provinces in an attempt to dislodge regional loyalties based on noble ownership of land.
- 1793 - French troops conquer Geertruidenberg, Netherlands
- 1804 - The Battle of Vinegar Hill, colony of New South Wales (Australia), when Irish convicts (some of whom had been involved in Ireland's Battle of Vinegar Hill in 1798) led the colony's only significant convict uprising.
- 1824 - The "National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck" founded in the United Kingdom, later to be renamed The Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1858.
- 1841 - Longest US presidential inauguration speech (8,443 words), William Henry Harrison
- 1861 - Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th US President
- 1865 - Abraham Lincoln inaugurated for his 2nd term as US president
- 1870 - On command of Louis Riel, Thomas Scott is executed by a firing squad. Riel rejects all appeals and requests to intervene in an attempt to demonstrate to the Canadian government that the Métis bridge be taken seriously
- 1890 - The longest bridge in the Great Britain, the Forth Bridge (railway) (1,710 ft) in Scotland is opened by the Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII.
- 1913 - Woodrow Wilson inaugurated as 28th US President
- 1918 - First recorded case of Spanish flu at Funston Army Camp, Kansas; start of worldwide pandemic killing 50-100 million
- 1921 - Warren G. Harding is inaugurated as the 29th President of the United States
- 1923 - Lenin's last article in Pravda (about Soviet bureaucracy)
- 1927 - Babe Ruth becomes the highest-paid player in MLB history when he signs 3-year, \$70,000 per season contract with the New York Yankees
- 1933 - Chancellor Dollfuss dissolves Austrian parliament
- 1933 - Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated as 32nd US President, pledges to pull US out of the Depression, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself"
- 1941 - The United Kingdom launches Operation Claymore on the Lofoten Islands, during World War II.
- 1945 - In the United Kingdom, Princess Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth II, joins the British Auxiliary Transport Service as a driver.
- 1947 - WWJ (now WDIV) TV channel 4 in Detroit, MI (NBC) begins broadcasting
- 1955 - 1st radio facsimile transmission sent across the continent
- 1968 - Martin Luther King Jr. announces plans for Poor People's Campaign
- 1968 - Orbiting Geophysical Observatory 5 launched
- 1972 - Libya & USSR signs cooperation treaty
- 1977 - West Indian cricket fast bowler Colin Croft takes 8-29 against Pakistan in 2nd Test win at Port-of-Spain; best Test figures by a pace bowler from the West Indies
- 1977 - Earthquake in Romania kills 1,541
- 1979 - US Voyager I photo reveals Jupiter's rings
- 1980 - Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) comes to power, winning the parliamentary election in Zimbabwe, making Mugabe Zimbabwe's first black prime minister

### From KO Archives

### Musharraf Frees Indian Prisoners

Islamabad - Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf ordered the release on Tuesday of 31 Indian Sikhs detained in illegal entry and also recommended that captive Indian fishermen be freed, a foreign ministry official said. Musharraf made the goodwill gesture during a meeting with senior members of two Indian communist parties, Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said. NDTV news channel reported that Musharraf had ordered the release of 200 Indian civilians held in Pakistani prisons, but Jilani said he did not know the exact number. Jilani said the president had ordered the release of 31 young Sikhs who had crossed into Pakistan from Iran. He said 2&6 Indian fishermen had been released last month, and that authorities were awaiting confirmation from the Indian High Commission that other detained fishermen were indeed Indian before freeing them. The president said Pakistan and India should not unnecessarily detain each other's fishermen." Jilani said after Musharraf met the delegation led by Harkishan Singh Surjeet, head of the Communist Party of India-Marxist. (Kashmir Observer, 04 March, 2005)

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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## K O V I E W

### After Third Covid Wave

India on Wednesday recorded a total of 6,561 new coronavirus cases, in a sign of fast declining infections across the country. The total tally of COVID-19 cases is now 4,29,45,160, while the active cases have dipped to 85,680, according to the Union Health Ministry data. 142 more people have lost their lives to the infection. The cases have plummeted drastically since the spike of over three lakh cases a day over five consecutive days in January. India was then in the thick of the third wave. If anything, this shows that the wave, also called the Omicron outbreak, may be over now. This has made it possible for the country to open up. Some states such as Goa have already resumed economic activities to their 100 percent capacity.

India, however, remains cautious about restoring International travel which otherwise was set to resume in March. In view of the pandemic, regular international flights were suspended in March 2020 and that continued till February 28, 2022. But on Monday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation extended the suspension till further orders.

This, in part, is good news for tourism in Kashmir which has immensely benefited from the extended ban on international flights. The last two years, especially the winters, have witnessed a large number of tourists from across the country making their way to the Valley. This has given a much needed leg up to an otherwise battered economy of the region.

The declining cases, meanwhile, have enabled the country to reopen its schools. The government of Jammu and Kashmir has also followed suit. This shows there is now confidence that the once runaway Covid-19 pandemic has been reigned in to a point where the economy as a whole can be reopened.

But does this mean that the pandemic may finally be on its way out? Though there is some cause for optimism here, things could still turn messy if the existing pandemic-related precautions are thrown to the winds. Omicron wave was gigantic in nature but its fallout was cushioned by the relatively moderate nature of the virus. Now there is talk of sub-variants of the Omicron virus which could in time trigger yet another wave. So people have to continue to take care. It is too soon to abandon the masks or give up the use of sanitizers. The Standard Operating Procedures remain as relevant as they did when the pandemic broke out in early 2020. Meanwhile, we can celebrate our triumph on yet another Covid wave with the least number of fatalities to date.

## OTHER OPINION

### Losing Steam On Faltering Economic Recovery

The latest national income estimates for 2021-22 released by the NSO have pared growth hopes from 9.2% to 8.9%, compared to the 6.6% contraction in 2020-21. GDP growth (October- December 2021 quarter) Q3 is pegged at 5.4%, compared to the 0.7% recorded in the same quarter of 2020, when the economy returned to the growth zone after two quarters of sharp contraction. The headline Q3 growth number was expected to moderate from the 20.3% and 8.5% recorded in the first two, but not as much as it has. GVA, projected to rise 8.3% for the full year, compared to the 4.8% contraction in 2020-21, recorded only 4.7% growth in Q3. The overall trajectory is a tad disheartening, with little comfort to glean even when the numbers are spliced. Construction sector GVA actually contracted 2.8% in Q3, when infrastructure spending push was expected to be reviving its fortunes. Manufacturing recorded a mere 0.2% increase in a quarter that included India's annual festive boom, possibly indicating that smaller firms remain hobbled. The largely contact-intensive segment of trade, hospitality, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting also continued to languish well below pre-pandemic levels.

That sectors critical for jobs are still in trouble is also reflected in private consumption staying below pre-pandemic levels. The resurgence of retail inflation past 6% in January, with the overhang of a sharp retail fuel price spike after the Assembly polls, could cripple consumption further. Core sectors' output growth in January and persistent manufacturing job losses in February (indicated by the PMI), suggest these pieces of the recovery puzzle will not be fixed in a hurry. It also means that the 4.8% growth assumption for Q4, built into the 8.9% growth calculations for this year, may be too optimistic. These portents are far from comforting, even in a business-as-usual scenario for an economy that had recorded several quarters of moderating growth before the COVID-19 pandemic tipped it over. India may have coped better with the Omicron variant, but external risk factors have risen dramatically. Large central banks' moves to tighten liquidity faster than expected, in the face of soaring inflation driven by runaway oil prices, have roiled financial markets. The uncharted implications arising from the Ukraine crisis only add to the challenge. Apart from gearing up to pre-empt imported inflation spikes, the Government needs to extend greater policy support, preferably going beyond credit guarantee offers, to sectors still in the doldrums. It also needs to exert greater energy to ensure its grand infrastructure spending plans get off the ground faster to have a salutary effect on the economy. The multi-layered uncertainties ahead necessitate that policy makers cut no slack, either in action or reaction.

The Hindu

# Are Schools In Kashmir Safe?

There Is Neither Lack Of Resources Nor The Scarcity Of Means And Methods To Secure Our Schools. There Is A Lack Of Will And Dearth Of Policy Making



For Representational Purposes only

Amir Suhail Wani

Is it not that the very mention of the word school scintillates the images of blossom, security, man-making, innocence, love and care in our minds? When our children, our kiths and kins, the angelic children leave for school, do we not develop a sense that they have landed in a safe haven that will turn them into paragons of creation?

This projection is true most of the time and if parents ensure their child's biological existence, schools, guarantee them a dignified and purposeful social and intellectual existence. But in the midst of this prophetic mission, there occur incidents with varying gravity and frequency which calls the safety of children at school into question, which awakens us to the horrors of trauma and abuse faced by children in schools.

What we have been talking about can be bracketed under the category of intangible insecurity and violence which may not meet the observer's eye directly. But there are aspects, much immediate and more serious which highlight the otherwise ignored subject of school safety and these aspects include the very mundane and explicitly visible structural instabilities in school buildings, the seismic insecurity, lack of proper fire fighting equipments in case of contingency, non-accessibility to clean and secure toilets for boys and girls, the lack of safe drinking water in school premises, the absence of proper fencing and many other structural and systemic lacunae which expose the children to a spectrum of vulnerabilities and risks.

#### Physical and Structural Safety

Let us start our scrutiny from what meets the eye easily – the physical parameters and structural odds. The problems are more aggravated in government run schools but private schools too don't score well enough in the overall evaluation matrix.

Driven by the Constitutional mandate of ensuring comprehensive schools safety including but not limited to the elimination of psycho-social abuse, sexual violence and preparedness to fight the natural and man-borne disasters, ELFA INTERNATIONAL in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Jammu and Kashmir and with UNICEF India conducted a comprehensive school safety audit in all 20 districts of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Though their activities ranged far beyond simple auditing and included the training of teachers and students to mitigate any untoward situations arising in schools at any point of time. The program also covered some intangible and unrecognised facets of comprehensive school safety.

Earlier, as we were talking about the physical and tangible components of school safety, the organisation had earmarked relevant and decisive indicators like the presence of school disaster management plan, the designation of nodal person to carry out disaster management activities, water, sanitation and hygiene standards, availability of

first aid kits in schools, availability of safety and security equipments and such other components of physical denomination. The survey revealed that out of hundred schools sampled, 30 came out to be safe and secure, 48 were moderately secure, 21 were not safe and secured enough and

**CAN THE administration not ask schools to submit school safety audit reports? Can a school not have a counsellor to sensitise children to the spectrum of violence they are subjected to? Can our schools not have a dedicated cell where students can confidentially report the abuse, if they face any? Can our governing bodies not make it mandatory for schools to have proper clean drinking water facilities, separate toilets for boys and girls, a timely electrical evaluation, and periodic structural checks?**

1% stood out as unsafe and unsecured. Remember, this is a sample consisting of just 100 schools and we are looking at something that might have hardly crossed our thoughts.

Of the 10.8 Lakh government schools in the country, over 42,000 lack drinking water supply and 15,000 have no toilets, reported The Times of India. At times, the location of schools is such that it either pushes them beyond the reach of students because they have to travel for miles together or it exposes them to vulnerabilities of varying nature and magnitude. This may appear somewhat

**IT SHALL** come to us as no surprise that even our private schools, which have mushroomed here and there, fare poorly in terms of safety parameters and disaster management and mitigation methods

weird to our urban and suburban population, but in villages and far off areas, the remote location of schools becomes an issue of perennial concern. Despite the abundance of funds and continuous flow of money, why shall our government schools (most of them) lack the basic infrastructure?

Let's look at still more obscure and unspoken aspects of school safety and see what tragedy befalls some students once they enter the school premises.

#### Violence and Abuse

Hindustan Times reported not long ago that of the 100 minor rape/sexual assault survivors, 33% dropped out of school and only 9% have plans to resume studies, the survey said for which the commission had interviewed 94 girls and 6 boys. Here, more important than statistics is the prevalence of these gore and inhumane episodes inside schools. When we think of rapes, sexual abuse, molestation and child abuse, we either imagine these incidents taking place in the darkness of backrooms or amidst the buzzing and bustling streets where bodies inevitably intersect each other. But a place like school to be a festering with sexual violence is gruesome and has corrosive effects on the psychosocial well-being of students suffering the ill fate.

#### Who is Responsible?

Reports reveal that average expenditure per student at the primary level is 12,786 INR but what does come out of these expenses? Do students avail the facilities, services, scholarships, perks and privileges that the government and constitution has entitled them to? Where is accountability, where are checks and balances and why do government schools carry with them the stigma of backwardness and regress, despite the availability of all resources in ample magnitude? It is not here for us to pit government schools against privately owned educational institutions, but to look at the viability and challenge response dynamics of both, because the future of our children, their life and well-being is associated and inextricably linked to these spaces. And it shall come to us as no surprise that even our private schools, which have mushroomed here and there, fare poorly in terms of safety parameters and disaster management and mitigation methods.

There is neither lack of resources nor the scarcity of means and methods to secure our schools. There is a lack of will and dearth of policy making. Incidents of building collapsing, lack of proper facilities, the unreported and tragically unnoticed cases of physical, mental and sexual abuse and violence could be easily averted.

Can the administration not ask schools to submit school safety audit reports? Can a school not have a counsellor to sensitise children to the spectrum of violence they are subjected to? Can our schools not have a dedicated cell where students can confidentially report the abuse, if they face any? Can our governing bodies not make it mandatory for schools to have proper clean drinking water facilities, separate toilets for boys and girls, a timely electrical evaluation, and periodic structural checks? Does all it take anything more than a few bucks and concern towards our children? Will we prefer to be an example or admonition for others – we have to decide.

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

The author is a Writer and Columnist based in Srinagar



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MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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## Teaching Practices In Kashmir

In a recent meeting with senior administrators of the Union Territory, Dr Arun Mehta, the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized updating the school curriculum by August 31. It is good to update books and keep track of the emerging facts, but in Kashmir, the use of obsolete books is not the only factor that hinders the education of school-going children. In essence, in most schools of the valley, teaching methods are a problem in itself.

Unfortunately, Kashmiri students are not motivated to think critically; they

are expected to remember things. Yes, to remember things for exams and getting grades. Rarely are they encouraged to question the validity and production of facts that books carry. And sadly enough, a cross-question to a teacher is taken as an insult to him or her. There's a cliché that teachers in Kashmir use "Don't argue." What is the problem with argumentation? If a student disagrees with a view that a teacher proposes, then (s)he has every right to contest the idea of his/her teacher. In other words, every student should be able to argue. Argu-

mentation on literary issues is a step towards critical thinking. And that's what school-going children should be trained in from a certain point, to think critically.

Now, here's another example to understand methods of teaching in schools of Kashmir. Most students in Kashmir learn about the "grammar" of the English language. Students most commonly learn about nouns, pronouns, articles, verbs, adjectives, tenses, and forms of sentences. What they grasp through grammar training is how to remember different parts of

speech than how to use them during communication. The true essence of learning grammar is to improve communication skills, but here in Kashmir, it is taught to pass exams.

Until reflective thinking is not encouraged in schools of Kashmir and students are not allowed to argue on literary issues with their teachers, updating books will not have much of an impact. Thus, steps should be taken to improve teaching practices in the valley.

Suhail Ahmad Khan  
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MINDFUL  
FRIDAYS

THE FACT THAT GRADES HAVE SUCH A STRONG INFLUENCE ON the career path students can or cannot pursue puts pressure on them to do well. As a result, the emphasis is on getting good grades (which unfortunately means 500/500) rather than learning.

# Career Choices

## Parental Pressure And Mental Health Of Children



Wasim Kakroo

Choosing a career path is an essential part of a student's life and decision of immense importance. The pressure of career building at a young age, however, is slightly more than what a young mind can handle.

In today's world, changing career landscapes may have provided children with a plethora of new choices, but they have also been a source of distress in their lives.

The process of deciding on a career path is frequently begun at an early age, when students are still unsure of their own interests.

While some children's career paths are pre-determined by their parents, others struggle to discover the proper path, putting them under a lot of stress.

### What impact does a parent's influence have on their children's careers?

When it comes to career advice for teenagers, there are three types of parents who show three different types of responses.

1. There are some parents who are actively involved in their children's career choices. They are passionate about encouraging their children to explore various career interests, they provide emotional and verbal support to their child for his/her career goals, and they do everything possible to assist their children succeed in their chosen field.
2. Another type is of parents who are non-supportive and don't know what they can do to help their child help in career choices.
3. The most challenging condition for a child however is, when one or both of their parents is/are negatively involved. These parents force their children towards career choices of their own choosing, and if the child and the parent have opposite opinions, they may criticize the child's choices and impede their progress in their chosen direction. This may result in anxiety and resentment in the child's mind, as well as apprehension that they may not be able to pursue the career that they truly desire.

Hundreds of students make poor career choices as a result of parental pressure to pursue careers that they believe are vital for them to succeed in life.

### How does the pressure of building a career influence students' mental health?

The entire process of building a career from a young age has the following negative effects on young minds:

1. The fact that grades have such a strong influence on the career path students can or cannot pursue puts pressure on them to do well. As a result, the emphasis is on getting good grades (which unfortunately means 500/500) rather than learning.
2. When students do not perform well on tests, they are overcome with sentiments of despair and pessimism.
3. Furthermore, even if students are allowed to pursue their selected fields, sometimes during the course, they discover that they are not in sync with their interests and ability. They feel caught, but owing to parental or societal pressure, they are unable to express their feelings, which has a negative impact on their minds.
4. Even if students achieve their career dreams, the constant pressure they face throughout their academic journey drives them to the brink of depression, and they are sometimes unable to appreciate the results of their achievements.
5. Prematurely informing students about the necessity of career development at a young age frequently instills a fear of the future in them. Even if they are performing well, feelings of uneasiness and self-doubt are constantly present.
6. Moreover, the pressure to do well throughout the academic journey in order to create a firm foundation for a successful career causes anxiety in students, which can lead to eating disorders, depression, and even suicide in certain circumstances.

### What factors parents should consider in order to help their children in career selection?

In the process of choosing a career, there are a few criteria that are really important. It is critical for parents to comprehend and consider these factors while deciding on a career path. Because parents play such a vital part in their children's growth, there are several significant factors that a parent should examine before making a final decision. The following factors determine the importance of a parent's role in a child's development:



1. **Aptitude:** Aptitude is a reflection of a child's personality, strengths, and weaknesses. As a result, a well-designed aptitude test can reveal a lot of information about a student, that can help in making an informed career choice.

2. **Interest:** It's difficult to spend your entire life working in a field that doesn't interest you. Hence, when narrowing down career choices, parents should consider their child's interests.

3. **Course Availability:** Courses leading to a desired career should be freely accessible physically and should not place a burden on the student.
4. **A well informed decision:** A child can get easily misled by social pressure into choosing a career that the majority of his/her peers is choosing rather than the one that is best for him or her. Even parents can be drawn to a popular career choice, which can have a negative impact on a student's performance. Thus, a

The greater the scope, the more likely it is that the child will find a job that best suits their interests.

**WHEN FACED with a plethora of career options, children often feel helpless. Anxiety might arise from the pressure of having to make a decision that will affect the rest of their lives. It is always better to seek professional help from a registered career counselor. Career counselors administer assessment tests on students to determine their interests, talents, values, and personality traits, allowing them to make an informed career decision.**

6. **Salary:** Income that a particular career can provide you is again one of the important factors (even if not the most important factor) to consider while looking for career choices. Nobody enjoys working for a pittance. The salary should be in line with the child's aspirations and should help a child to live a happy and comfortable life.

I have compiled a list of Do's and Don'ts to help parents understand their role in the selection of their child's career options. In order to understand the role of parents in the lives of their children, they must consider the following:

#### Do's:

1. Assess your child's abilities, strengths, and weaknesses.
2. Be empathetic and receptive to your children's viewpoints.
3. Assist your child in finding his or her own interests.

4. Encourage your child to pursue his or her interest.

7. Prevent your child from succumbing to peer pressure and herd mentality.
8. Gain your child's trust and encourage them to talk to you about their concerns.
9. Focus on making your child socially and emotionally competent from an early age so that they can overcome various problems and hurdles that life may throw at them during times of stress such as when they have to choose a career option.
10. When faced with a plethora of career options, children often feel helpless. Anxiety might arise from the pressure of having to make a decision that will affect the rest of their lives. It is always better to seek professional help from a registered career counselor. Career counselors administer assessment tests on students to determine their interests, talents, values, and personality traits, allowing them to make an informed career decision. The test findings can be used by career counselors to further guide a student for their career goals and direction.

#### Don'ts:

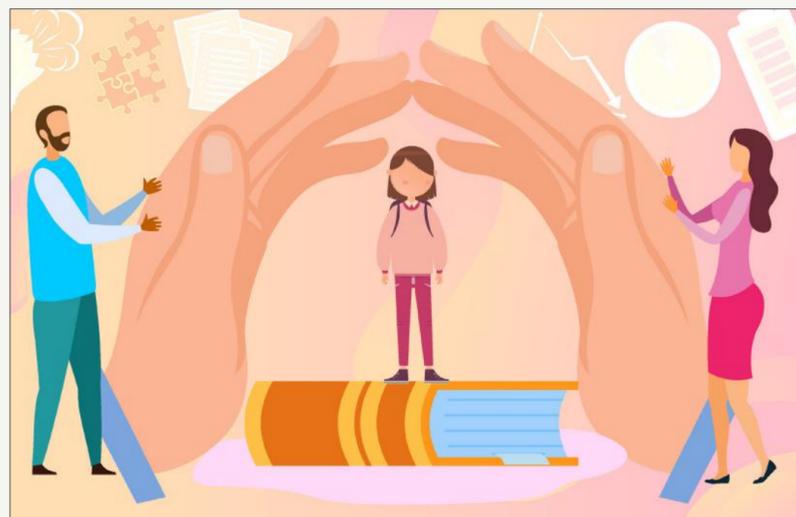
1. Rather than dictating a child's career decision, help them toward making an informed one.
2. Don't put unrealistic expectations on the child.
3. When interacting with children, don't be impatient.
4. The scope of any career varies throughout time; do not try to impose ideas or viewpoints that were prevalent during your days.
5. Do not lead the child astray by encouraging him or her to pursue a career of your liking.
6. Do not answer a child's question if you are unsure about it. In such a situation, it is always better to take time, do research or seek professional help from a career counselor.
7. Do not allow other people (friends, extended family, or relatives) to influence your child in the career selection process.

#### The way forward:

The role of parents in helping to choose a career for their child is critical. When children experience a lack of guidance regarding their career, their stress levels skyrocket. Children have a strong desire to express themselves, and when parents are unable to understand this desire, the gap between parent and child widens. The key to resolving this issue is to provide your children with an environment that encourages them to express themselves more clearly and to listen with patience. Although the child may be mistaken about career choices, it is your obligation as a parent to reason with them rather than becoming angry at them. Children are naturally impulsive. Keep track of your child's shifting interests and suggest career possibilities that are a good fit for them. Thus, it's critical for you to understand your position as a parent in your child's career development.

Demotivating a child about their career choices can have a detrimental effect on a child's mental health, so rather than dismissing all of the child's ideas, you can work together to acquire information about the career choice and then assist the child in determining whether it is appropriate for them or not.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He works at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at 8825067196



5. Inform your child about all facets of the career. Help the child grasp the nature of work-life in the chosen career by associating with professionals in the sector pertaining to that career option.
5. **Scope in the career:** Career scope describes the numerous fields and professions that can be pursued after completing a specific course.

# Kansal Reviews Functioning Of Colleges In Udhampur

Observer News Service

**UDHAMPUR:** Improvement in quality of teaching learning through a process of student feedback and continuous evaluation shall be the motto of the education department in this year, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department (HED), Rohit Kansal said Thursday.

He was chairing a meeting to review the functioning of colleges of Udhampur, Kishtwar, Ramban and Doda Districts of Jammu Division at Govt Degree College, Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by Director Colleges, J&K, Director Finance, HED, Special Secretary HED, Heads of executing agencies including R&B, Police Housing Corporation and SICOP concerned XENS, Principals of GDC Udhampur, GCW Udhampur, GDC Ramnagar, GDC Majalga, GDC Cheneni, GDC Neeli Nallah, GDC DUDU Basantgarh,

GDC Kishtwar, GDC Paddar, GDC Doda, GDC Bhaderwah, GDC Thathri, GDC Ramban, GDC Gool, GDC Batote and GDC Ukhral, and other senior officers of the allied departments.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various aspects of infrastructural development of colleges like construction of additional class rooms and laboratory blocks, establishment of skill centers of computer and electronics as well as agricultural technology, development of browsing centres, construction of student parking sheds, boundary wall and barbed wire fencing, establishment of skill centres for fine arts, music and language, construction of play grounds and boundary walls, construction of approach roads besides other significant requirements of each college were also discussed in detail.

While reviewing progress of various developmental works

going on in these colleges, the Principal Secretary directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on these projects for timely completion. He instructed the concerned Principals of the colleges to monitor the ongoing works in their respective colleges on regular basis so that they can be completed within the given deadlines. The Principal Secretary also asked them to utilize the assigned funds under CAPEX effectively.

He also exhorted the Principals to focus on learning outcomes, quality of instruction, student feedback and the guidelines of the New Education Policy. He advised the older colleges to mentor and handhold the newer institutions. He also advised all colleges to initiate and complete the process of NAAC accreditation at the earliest.

Later, the Principal Secretary along with Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Indu

Kanwal Chib visited Government College for women here and took a detailed assessment of various ongoing works in the college. The Principal Secretary was also given guard of honor by the NCC cadets of the college.

During the visit to GCW, the Principal Secretary inaugurated newly constructed Canteen Block and Smart classrooms at the college. Ten digital interactive smart classrooms with interactive panels were installed for online mode of teaching during pandemic covid-19. These classrooms proved to be a great support to both teachers and learners by providing online access besides a host of other features. Teachers can also make use of these panels in manifold ways as digital blackboards visualization, map reading, showing documentaries, online access to world libraries and consultation of national and international professors.

# Ukraine crisis: India ramps up evacuation, Russia promises help

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI/MOSCOW:** As war rages on in Ukraine, India on Thursday bolstered efforts to evacuate its citizens from the strife-torn country, with four IAF aircraft bringing back 798 people, and Russia promising it will help Indians make a safe exit through its borders.

Ministry of External Affairs said around 6,400 people have been brought back under Operation Ganga that was launched to evacuate Indian nationals, while over 7,400 more are expected to return home to safety over the next two days, officials said.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the number of people who have left Ukraine since advisories were issued to them to evacuate stood at nearly 18,000.

An implacable Russia, which is pressing ahead with its bombardment of key Ukrainian cities, while rejecting calls by the international community for

cessation of hostilities, offered a glimmer of hope to Indians stuck in the war zone, saying it is ready to send 130 buses to evacuate them from Ukraine's battle-scarred Kharkiv and Sumy to its Belgorod region.

"The pace of Operation Ganga continues to accelerate. During the last 24 hours, 15 flights landed in India, bringing back more than 3,000 Indians," Bagchi told a media briefing in New Delhi.

"With this, it takes the total number of flights under operation Ganga to 30. So, we have brought back around 6,400 Indian citizens," Bagchi said on Thursday evening.

During the next 24 hours, 18 flights have been scheduled, including three by C-17 Indian Air Force aircraft and the rest commercial airliners, he said.

In terms of the departure points from Europe, there will be seven flights from Bucharest (Romania), five from Budapest (Hungary), three from Rzeszow (Poland) and one from Ko ice (Slovakia), Bagchi said.

Bagchi said that the increased number of flights reflects the large number of Indians who have crossed over from Ukraine and are now in the neighbouring countries.

"We will further step up efforts to bring all these Indians, who are now in safety, back to India at the earliest...We hope that over the next two-three days, a large number of these people will be back home. Till they are brought home, after having crossed the Ukrainian border, our embassies in cooperation with the host governments and local partners are providing food and accommodation to them," he said.

In a glimmer of hope for Indians trapped in Ukraine's bleak landscape with crumbling buildings and flashes of light from missiles whistling across the sky, a top Russian military general, meanwhile, said his country was ready with 130 buses to help them exit the battle zone through its borders.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### India Taking Steps

in meetings with Pakistan Army Chief General Bajwa in Pakistan in which they have taken credit for closing off their border for militant groups.

India continues to report infiltration by militants into Jammu and Kashmir, although rates of infiltration have reduced markedly over the past two years. Since the 2019 Pulwama attack which killed 40 Indian security officials and under pressure from the international community, Pakistan has taken positive steps to address cross-border militancy, he said.

Kashmir remains a thorny issue in Indo-Pak ties. Pakistan has maintained that the international community's intervention is needed to solve this contentious issue.

India has always said that Jammu and Kashmir is a bilateral issue. India has also asserted that Jammu and Kashmir was, is and shall forever remain an integral part of the country.

The US continues to encourage Pakistan to prosecute leaders of militant outfits, Lu said.

There are challenges to the human rights situation in Kashmir, he noted. We have not seen the holding of Legislative Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. We have not seen free movement of journalists. We have seen the detention in fact of some prominent journalists in the Kashmir Valley, he said.

We believe all Kashmiris deserve the right to live in dignity, enjoy the protections afforded to them by the Indian Constitution. We look forward to continuing to encourage India to fulfil those commitments, Lu added.

### J&K Begins Complete

extension of timelines and the arrangements put in place, it has been observed that, many HoD offices are still not fully operational on e-office mode and continue to send physical files/daks to their respective Administrative Secretaries, a matter which has been viewed seriously by the authorities," reads a fresh circular issued by the government.

"It is, accordingly, enjoined upon all Administrative Secretaries to direct HoDs working under their administrative control to immediately switch over to e-office mode of working," it reads, adding, "Further, no physical files/daks shall be entertained in the Civil Secretariat, J&K, w.e.f. 7th March, 2022."

### 4 More Kashmiri

flow back to Delhi from Romania while 5 others were brought back from Poland.

Sheikh Shahid, a resident of Kulgam district and a second year medical student at Kharkiv National Medical College, was among these four Kashmiri students who returned to Delhi on Thursday.

"I landed in Delhi on Thursday morning at about 5:00 AM. Earlier, I had tried to leave Kharkiv, however, I couldn't as the war in Kharkiv city forced us to stay in shelters. I will always remember that day. It was horrifying. And today, I found out that my university building and my apartment building have also been damaged by falling Russian missiles," 21 year old Shahid told Kashmir Observer.

Shahid said that he and his fellow Kashmiri compatriots had lost all hope of coming back alive.

"But, what kept us going in that dingy underground basement was Allah's name and our parents' faces. We began our journey from the Kharkiv basement to the train station with the word Bismillah and then left everything to Allah. Perhaps, that's why we are here, alive."

As per Shahid all the food stores in Kharkiv had closed and only a few basement shops were open when they left the city.

"Since we started our journey to

Moldova and then to Romania, we have had no food and water. All shops were closed. With a lot of effort, we found a few basement stalls but they too were emptied. Few leftover biscuits were there. Moreover, all the washrooms were also closed," Shahid recounted.

On February 27, the Indian embassy had issued an advisory asking students stranded in Kyiv to "leave immediately". However, as per Shahid, there was absolutely no transportation made available to students.

"We had to travel to a train station that is four kilometers from our apartment shelter. We walked and then paid some hefty sum to the train driver at the station to take us along to Odessa. And in Odessa, we caught a local bus on our own and went to the Moldova border," Shahid said.

"Because of heavy traffic congestion, the journey was more difficult for the students as their bus dropped them several kilometers away from the border. "We walked for like an hour to reach the Moldova border. On reaching, we had to wait for three hours for our passport check and then we caught another bus from the Romanian capital, Budapest. We reached the international airport on the morning of 1st March," he added.

Shahid further added, "We've no grouse against anyone. It's a bloody war, that's in no one's hand. However, there were some loopholes. We just wanted to get back alive and here we are all alive," he said.

Now that Shahid is safely back home, one more worry lingers around his head, that is, of getting his degree. As he is a second year student, Shahid is worried about whether he will be able to sit for a KROK exam—a licensing examination in Ukraine and an obligatory part of state certification for awarding the qualification of doctor or pharmacist—if the war drags on.

### JKCA Case: ED

have already been attached previously — Rs 2.46 crore of movable and immovable assets of Mirza and Mir Manzoor Ghazanfar, and Rs 11.86 crore of immovable assets of Abdullah.

Notwithstanding the challenge to the order by Abdullah, the adjudicating authority confirmed the provisional attachment of the earlier two orders. "The adjudicating authority has already confirmed the provisional attachment orders," the statement mentioned.

The ED claimed that the probe by it so far has "revealed that Ahsan Ahmad Mirza in connivance with other office bearers of the JKCA, had misappropriated JKCA funds to the tune of Rs 51.90 crore and utilised proceeds of crime for settling his personal and business liabilities".

It initiated the money laundering probe against the JKCA office bearers on the basis of a case registered at the Rammunshi Bagh Police Station in Srinagar.

The case was later transferred to the CBI on the high court's directions. The CBI has filed a charge sheet in the case against the former JKCA office bearers for misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs 43.69 crore.

A prosecution complaint was also filed by the ED on November 1, 2019, against Mirza in the court of Principal District and Session Judge, Srinagar (Special PMLA Court), after placing him under arrest. The trial is in progress, the statement said.

According to norms, after the ED issues a provisional order for attachment of properties under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), an appeal can be filed before the adjudicating authority of the PMLA within six months.

The authority decides on the merit of the attachment and if it okays the ED action, the agency proceeds to confiscate assets.

The accused can further appeal

against an order of the adjudicating authority before the appellate authority of the PMLA followed by trial court, high court and Supreme Court.

Abdullah challenged the ED's order, and in his petition, which has annexed over 50 documents with it, highlighted every aspect of the JKCA scam.

It informed the court that it was at the instance of Abdullah that an in-house committee of the association was formed, which found two office bearers guilty of financial misappropriation, and that of a case being registered in the local police station.

Abdullah's petition contended that the ED had nowhere conducted an independent inquiry into the case "rendering it inherently biased".

"Nowhere has the ED satisfactorily offered reasons to believe that the petitioner is in possession of proceeds of crime, or that such proceeds are likely to be concealed," it stated.

Challenging the provisional attachment order of the ED, it contended that the commercial property attached by the central probe agency at Srinagar was shown even in records of the Estate Department as "undivided property held by the entire family of the petitioner (Abdullah). The lease was renewed in 1981."

### India To Give

Commission comprising Indus commissioners of India and Pakistan in Islamabad, both sides held discussions on all agenda items in a very cordial environment.

In response to Pakistan's claims on flood data, the Indian side explicitly conveyed that as a responsible upper riparian State, India has been providing information on extraordinary discharges of water from reservoirs and flood flows every year, as mandated under the Treaty, sources said.

"India continues to meet all its obligations under the Treaty, however, if Pakistan requests to provide information beyond the Treaty provisions, India may examine the same as a gesture of goodwill," said a source privy to the meeting.

Pakistan side held that the information supplied by India on the small projects is deficient. Indian side felt that the information supplied earlier and in the meeting is sufficient.

However, India agreed to arrange the information as requested by Pakistan to the extent they are available. It was agreed to continue with the discussion on the observations already raised by Pakistan in the next meeting here-with. Some of these projects are very small, under 10 MW, and hundreds of Kilometres inside the Indian territory, they said.

Sources said that both sides exchanged their positions on Kiru project. Rejecting Pakistan's arguments, India asserted that its design is fully compliant with the Treaty. At the same time, Indian side is open to discussions and suggestions and can consider to examine any practical suggestion within the realm of the position on the ground and without compromising on her rights as provided under the Treaty, they said.

On free flow in Fazilka Drain, Pakistan side assured that the drain is being fairly maintained on its side and if India may still feel that certain measures are required to be undertaken, Islamabad would be willing to consider any such suggestion. Pakistan also offered a tour of the Indian side to verify the facts on ground, sources said.

Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Mehr Ali Shah led the Pakistani side comprising officials of the Water and Power Development Authority, Meteorological Department, Punjab Irrigation, Federal Flood Commission, Nespak and the foreign affairs ministry.

The India delegation was led by its commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena and included experts of relevant

departments.

The meeting took place amid the chill in bilateral relations over the Kashmir issue.

Under the provisions of Article VIII(5) of the Indus Waters Treaty, the Permanent Indus Commission is required to meet regularly at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan. The last meeting of the Commission was held on March 23-24 2021 in New Delhi.

Under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi - amounting to around 33-million-acre feet (MAF) annually is allocated to India for unrestricted use.

The waters of western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab - amounting to around 135 MAF annually have been assigned largely to Pakistan. India is permitted to construct the run of the river plants on western rivers with limited storage as per criteria specified in the treaty.

### Killer Roads Claimed

emphasized on the officers of Transport Department to do the analytical study of road accidents so that the major causes of these mishaps can be identified and suitable measures for rectification of same can be taken to reduce such adversities in future.

"Speaking during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar maintained that it is not enough to collect the data from police stations only at the time of accidents but visiting the accidental spot and finding the real causes behind these unfortunate incidents is essential. He observed that only after this scientific study, an effective roadmap can be formulated to reduce such fatalities," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the Advisor remarked that the upgradation of infrastructure and strict enforcement by the concerned departments has alleviated the problem to some extent but yet much needs to be done to save human lives from getting spoiled.

Bhatnagar, he said, asked the officers that a holistic approach needs to be adopted to address the multiple causes as there is a role for everybody to play.

"Advisor Bhatnagar also stressed on the concerned officers to utilize the funds effectively meant for procurement if necessary equipment of road safety measures. He asked them to procure motorcycles, mobile interceptors, cranes, high tech cameras at an earliest as funds for the same are available with them," he said.

"He asked them to address the black spots on roads on priority for reducing accidents in hilly areas along with rigorous enforcement of laws," he added.

The Advisor, as per the spokesperson also asked the Police and Transport Department to make a plan for creating awareness among people regarding road safety as covid has receded and educational institutions have also opened.

"He asked them to double their efforts for making both Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) and Inspection and Certification Centre (ICC) here at Jammu functional till July this year and accelerate the same for Kashmir by working closely with the divisional administration there," he said.

The spokesperson said that Bhatnagar also impressed upon the officers to ensure that no road side constructions are carried out in violation of laws. The Advisor, he said, asked them to increase their surveillance mechanism and fix responsibility in case of dereliction of any sort.

"The Advisor asked them to carry out the third party road safety audit of all the major roads and redress the loopholes pointed out therein. Moreover he asked from the concerned officers about the status of trauma

centres on National Highways, installation of Intelligent Traffic Lights System, removal of encroachments, erection of crash barriers and fixing of road signages as and where required," the spokesperson said.

"He asked them to work out the requirements of additional manpower for manning traffic on roads and directed the Police Department to make necessary arrangements for the same," he added.

Regarding other measures promulgated by the government, the Advisor, as per the spokesperson was informed that an incentive of Rs 5.00 lakhs is given for replacing old buses, introduction of 40 electric buses in Srinagar/Jammu cities, procurement of 36 new buses for Chenab Valley besides adding a fleet of 226 buses for the benefit of travellers.

Moreover, he said, other measures like awareness and medical camps for drivers, challans, encroachments removed, parking spaces created, black spots rectified and kilometers of crash barriers erected by each of the agencies were also discussed during the meeting.

"It was said that the same is going to be upgraded in the coming year to reduce road accidents by 50% by the year 2030, on the directions of the Supreme Court and as an objective ratified by India in various international declarations," he added.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Raj Kumar Goyal; Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Vivek Bhardwaj; Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Dheeraj Gupta; Principal Secretary, PWD, Shailendra Kumar; Addl DGP, Traffic, T. Namgyal; Commissioner Secretary, Transport, Hirdesh Kumar; Transport Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar; Chief Engineers of PWD, PMGSY, Beacon, Mughal Road and representatives from Health, Education, Revenue, NHA, NHIDCL, JKPC, JKRTC and several other departments both in person and through video conferencing.

### Militancy Down,

Jammu and Kashmir as Village Defence Groups, DGP Singh said that talks of strengthening and revamping VDCs are going on since long and matter is before the Home Ministry.

"Agencies from Pakistan are trying to spread militancy in regions having peaceful situation. Police and security forces are foiling such designs and the efforts to foil such designs from across border will remain continue," he said, adding that "the decision on VDCs is part of efforts under which we are trying to make best use of our resources on ground and to keep them well motivated so that nefarious designs on ground are foiled."

He, however, said that any decision by the Home Ministry will be for strengthening VDCs and for the betterment of its members.

About the sports tournament organised in Jammu, Singh said that situation was not much favourable in past due to COVID as well as due to security situation but things have improved now and police are taking best possible steps to channelise the talent of youth in Jammu and Kashmir who are having immense talent.

"JKP in a mission called Civic Action Programme sponsored by Government of India is providing a platform to youth to showcase their talent." JKP chief further said.

To a question regarding killing of a Panch yesterday at Kulgam district the DGP said that the victim was a contractor and a public representative and has been shot dead for no fault—(KNO)

### Principal Suspended

effect and attached with the office of CEO, Srinagar.

Accordingly, the Principal Girls

Higher Secondary School, Soura has been directed to hold the charge of BHSS Soura in addition to her own duties.

Director School Education further informed that a charge sheet shall follow subsequently.

"Further, Chief Education Officer Srinagar, shall conduct an inquiry into the matter within seven days and fix the responsibility on the other delinquent officers/officials of the institution."

### No Corona Cases

as 110 more patients recovered—71 from Jammu and 39 from Kashmir from the deadly infection.

During the same time, they said, the UT reported 46 fresh cases—17 from Kashmir and 29 from Jammu, taking the overall number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 453134

In the Valley, officials said, eight districts of Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian reported no fresh cases of virus. The capital city of Srinagar reported 16 and Bandipora one new case of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu detected a maximum of 22 new cases of Coronavirus, Doda 3 and two each in Udhampur and Ramban. The six remaining districts of the region, including Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch and Reasi registered no cases of virus.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4748 in J&K as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

### CRPF Officer Dies

suffering a cardiac arrest at his camp in Vessu, Qazigund, reports said Thursday. The deceased was a native of Assam.

According to officials, the body of CRPF officer will be sent to his hometown after completion of medico-legal formalities

### Bihar Resident

said the police. The police added, 'He was shifted to hospital where doctors said he was dead on arrival.'

'An FIR has been registered in this incident and investigation has started.'

### Engineer Caught

alleged that they received allotment of work titled construction of retaining wall and fencing around Dargah near Gani Masjid Karhama under ADP/PRI on estimated cost of 1.90 lakh," ACB said in a statement.

The work was completed and bills were to be prepared, it said. "Tassaduq Riyaz, Junior Engineer, Rural Development Department (REW), Block Harduabora, Tehsil Karhama, District Baramulla was demanding Rs. 5000 for preparing of bills of work done by the complainant," the ACB said, adding,

"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. 08/2022 was registered at P/S ACB Baramulla and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation, the ACB said, a trap team was constituted. "The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Tassaduq Riyaz, Junior Engineer, Rural Development Department (REW), Block Harduabora, Tehsil Karhama, District Baramulla while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs. 5000 from the complainant," the ACB said in a statement, adding, "He was arrested and taken into custody by ACB Team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses." Further investigation into the case is on, it added.

## Character Assassination Of Girl Students Special NIA Judge Denies Bail To Two Accused

Agencies

**ANANTNAG:** Special NIA Judge Anantnag Thursday denied bail to two accused in a case pertaining to 'defamation' of girls pursuing education outside Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the case before the judge, Javed Alam, two persons circulated a video on social media portal Facebook 'with the purpose of character assassination of the girl students studying in other parts of the country and to foment trouble and hatred against the nation by deliberate aggravation and provocation'.

It has been alleged that the accused in cahoots with other persons tried to incite and provoke people against the nation by claiming through a video that later went viral on various social media platforms, that girl students who are pursuing education in other parts of the country, have been 'found involved in immoral activities and decadent acts and are also using psychotropic drugs'.

Deliberating on the issue, the judge said, "Petitioners/accused persons as elicited from the police report are allegedly involved in character assassination of the female students studying in outside colleges and universities of J&K i.e. in other states of the country, the act alleged to have been resorted to by them, is not only a torment for the girls in particular but it has likelihood of sowing the seeds of reservation in the minds of thousands of parents to dissuade them from allowing their daughters to achieve meritoriously in the field of education."

The court further said: "It may be a combined act of to demoralize such enthusiastic parents with conspirators using the accused as a front. There is no denying fact that there may have been such incidents alleged in the past but they are sporadically taking place like in every society and ours cannot be an exception."

Any action whether favorable or unfavorable, the court said, has to be perceived through the lenses of the persons who veers through such situations. "No one has the right to meddle into the affairs of another person unless permitted by the latter. Law is trite that every individual who is a major has a choice at his dis-



posal to do things perceived by him as right and fruitful within the frame work of legal boundaries," the court said, adding, "It may sound insane to the so called social media peers of the society whose sole job is to indulge in mudslinging and hurling choicest invectives on those who dream big and subsequently achieve big."

Even if it is assumed that there was some truth behind their mindless post, the good contribution on their part would have to be a counseling session with that individual alleged to have done anything unacceptable, the court said.

"In a progressive society you cannot gag or condemn a person for any action appearing unsuitable to you. Suitability and unsuitability is an individual perception which cannot be snatched on the dent of force or intimidation," the court said, adding, "Neither, can an individual impose or thrust a choice on another person who wittingly or unwittingly is not ready to comply it. Choice is an individual liberty which cannot be curtailed on the flimsiest excuses in the garb of culture or religion."

The court further said "this alleged felony on part of the accused has every likelihood of surging the reluctance amongst parents to send their daughters outside J&K for pursuing education to escape perceivable ignominious consequences of such misinformation."

Further, the court said, the marriage prospects of the girls despite exemplary mettle proved by them in the field of education in the recent past is also at stake due to the character assassination and act of the accused.

"It may not be a war against the nation, but it definitely is a war against the girl child to deprive them of equal opportunities and guaranteed rights to suffocate their ambitions and torment their souls, to clip their flight of development and turn them naive and un-relevant". (GNS)

## JKIFDC To Avail ₹1000 Cr Loan To Fund Projects

Agreement Signed With Indian Overseas Bank

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** After facing little hiatus for last few months, the Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIFDC) Limited has entered into an agreement for raising loan of Rs 1000 crore with the Indian Overseas Bank thereby resolving the issue of funding of the Languishing Projects which are under

execution at various levels of completion.

This is a very important step which shall pave way for timely and smooth clearance of payments for completion of these projects in a transparent manner, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance and CMD JKIFDC in his message further added that the implementing departments/PIAs,

which are already on the job for completion of these languishing projects shall now speed up the pace of work on all these projects and ensure completion of all these projects with regular monitoring

"This endeavour is believed to usher a new era of infrastructure development in the UT of J&K leaving almost no project to languish further for want of funds now," he added.

## Highway Reopens After Landslide Halts Traffic For Hours

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, resumed, hours after it was halted, on Thursday following a landslide at Chamalwas, Banihal area of Ramban district.

A traffic department official said that restoration work was initiated immediately and traffic was restored after several hours.

"Commuters are advised not to travel on Jammu-Srinagar highway (NH-44) without confirming the status of road from TCU Jammu/ Ramban & Srinagar in view of inclement weather prediction issued by Met department," the official said, adding, "However tomorrow on 04-03-2022, subject to fair weather and better road conditions L MVs(Passenger)/



private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular

movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali.

Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also remained closed in view of snow accumulation, the traffic department official said. (GNS)

## Govt Provides 173 Online Services, To Add More In Future: CS

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, inaugurated a one day workshop on DigiLocker and UMANG at the Convention Center here on Thursday.

Principal Secretary General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, accompanied the Chief Secretary.

Director Digi Locker and UMANG, Debabrata Nayak, was also present at the occasion. The workshop, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Department of Information Technology, in collaboration with National e-Governance Division (NeGD), was aimed at to educate functionaries of the UT about the flagship digital services of India- DigiLocker and UMANG.

Chief Secretary said that J&K has already taken lead in introduction of e-services in its functioning and now ranks second countrywide in implementation of e-Office. Due to its endeavors and other strategic policies, the government has been successful in delivering quality digital services besides continuing addition of more services to facilitate the population, he added. He said that the government is capable of efficient data handling and that the system must strive towards improving digital services.

Highlighting the benefits of digital services, Chief Secretary said that this vital utility eliminates the scope of error and corruption in delivery of public services. These would automate a lot of mundane procedures and would eventually require less manual intervention, he added.

Chief Secretary informed that at present 173 online services are being provided to citizens of the region and directed the IT department and officers from JaKeGA to identify more services to be rolled out in the UT subsequently.

Chief Secretary encouraged the possibility of seamless integration of PARICHAY authentication service of Government of India with online services of J&K. He also called for incorporation of a payment gateway for facilitating easy submission of fees etc.

Chief Secretary asked the JaKeGA to map out all public services and prepare detailed project reports for incorporating them on the 'universal set of citizen services'. He also asked for launching 50 critical



## Inaugurates Upgraded Facilities At Bagh-E-Bahu

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, on Thursday inaugurated upgraded facilities at Bagh-e-Bahu garden raised with an amount of Rs 5.96 crore.

The up gradation works done in the garden included construction of upper entry gate, erection of grill fence, installation of aquatic multiple cascades, development of children corner and construction of shed, construction of vertical garden, installation of solar substation, landscaping, construction of tanks and drilling of bore wells.

Chief Secretary visited the garden and inspected the facilities being made available there for the visitors by the administration.

During discussion with the officers, Chief Secretary asked for launching online ticketing facility for Bagh-e-Bahu in Jammu and Tulip Garden at Kashmir. He asked the department for installation of scan-

ners for quick admission of visitors in these parks besides developing online ticketing system for parking of vehicles.

Chief Secretary called for integration of Bahu Fort Temple, Bagh-e-Bahu aquarium and Bagh-e-Bahu garden as a single unit. He directed for plantation of seasonal flowers in the garden besides asking for combating monkey menace from the area with the help of Wildlife department.

Taking notice of poor condition of road leading to the garden, Chief Secretary directed the officers for repairing the vital connectivity at the earliest. Among others present were Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad; Director Parks and Gardens Jammu, Jatinder Singh; Director Finance and Special Secretary, Floriculture Department besides officers from other allied departments including Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai and Director Fisheries, Bashir Ahmad Bhat.

Those present at the event included Secretary IT Department, Prerna Puri; CEO JaKeGA, Amit Sharma; officers from NeGD among other officers from J&K.

All the sessions throughout the Workshop were open to interaction in which officers of various departments deliberated upon respective challenges faced by them and discovered solutions for same through NeGD experts' contributions.

The workshop culminated in the evening with the distribution of participation certificates amongst all the participants and organising team members who resolved to become master trainers for their respective departments after attending this reformative IT conference organised by JaKeGA in J&K.

## Fresh Snowfall In Gulmarg, Rains Lash Parts Of Kashmir

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Gulmarg received fresh snowfall while rains lashed some parts of Jammu and Kashmir including this summer capital, officials said on Thursday. With overnight cloud cover, the night temperature hovered around above freezing point in all observatory places of the meteorological department barring the Gulmarg.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, had traces of rainfall overnight while the summer capital of J&K recorded a low of 4.6°C against last night's 4.8°C.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, had 0.4mm of rain and recorded a low of 0.9°C against 2.0°C on the previous night, he said, as per news agency GNS.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had a low of 0.9°C against 1.4°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.5°C against minus 0.8°C last night, he said. Gulmarg received 7 cms of fresh snowfall and recorded a low of minus 4.4°C against minus 5.4°C on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 0.1°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 4.6°C against 3.5°C on the previous night, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 14.0°C against 11.1°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 1.7°C above normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 4.6°C, Batote with 0.8mm of rainfall had a minimum of 4.9°C while Bhaderwah recorded a low of 4.6°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a minimum of minus 4.6°C against last night minus 6.4°C on the previous night while automatic Kargil station at recorded a low of minus 9.0°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 11.7°C against 17.8°C on the previous night, officials said.

There is a forecast for "isolated to scattered light rain/snow/TS". The official however said there's no forecast of any "significant weather" till March 5.

## TRANSFORMING J&K

### Yogyata Se Rozgaar: Hallmark Of New Jammu & Kashmir

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Constitution of India enshrines the principle of fairness and equality in public employment as it empowers every citizen to secure employment on the basis of merit and fair play only, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

He said that the Jammu and Kashmir government has launched a slew of measures to uphold the sanctity of this sacred tenet of our constitution.

In keeping with the spirit of providing level playing field to job aspirants as guaranteed in the Constitution, he said, the Jammu and Kashmir government has embarked on a journey of ensuring transparency and accountability in appointment of candidates to various public posts.

"The government has made necessary amendments to the recruiting process to ensure that merit and intelligence remains the sole criteria for appointment of candidates for government jobs," he added.

The spokesperson further said that apart from referring record number of posts to the premier recruiting agencies like JKPS and JKSSB, the prime focus has been on ensuring transparent selections for all the referred vacancies.

"The recent appointment of nearly 10,000 candidates in first phase of the biggest ever recruitment campaign including around 8000 Class-IV posts by JKSSB is a prime example signifying the above reforms being carried out by the UT government," he said.

"Official figures suggested that 11,000 appointments were made in the past 18 months in J&K. Around, 20,323 additional posts were referred to SSB the recruit-

ment for which is at different stages of completion. Many domicile certificate holders who could not apply earlier in the recruitment process in J&K will be eligible for these posts," he added.

The spokesperson said that as part of the second phase of the recruitment campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, the government has identified 12379 posts that are being referred to recruitment agencies, a 38-page Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) report has revealed.

He said that the government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is in the process of referring these vacancies to the recruitment agencies, it said.

There are vacancies in most departments in J&K. The government is in the process of identifying all such vacancies for referral to the recruiting agencies and has recently framed a high level committee under the chairmanship of Secretary ARI & Trainings to ensure their recruitment is in consonance with updated recruitment rules. Moreover, in order to clear the stagnation and bring uniformity in the recruitment process government cancelled the long pending advertisement notifications sent to JKPS and JKSSB so that a new process is initiated on fast track basis as per updated rules and requirements.

Further, the government has also made JKSSB the sole recruiting body for all the non-gazetted and class-IV posts for government jobs including that for Police, Prisons and Fire & Emergency Services departments. This step is going to bring transparency, uniformity and acceleration in recruitment process besides ensuring prevalence of merit in the process.

## Centre's Nod For VDCs Contradicts Normalcy Claims: Mehbooba



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said the Centre's move to form village defence committees across Jammu and Kashmir contradicted the government claims about normalcy in the union territory.

MHAs (Ministry of Home Affairs) move to form Village Defence Committees across J&K is another addition to a slew of decisions that contradict GOIs (Government of India) much touted normalcy claims. Clearly J&K is far from any semblance of normalcy. It will also create

a wedge between communities, Mehbooba tweeted.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief was reacting to the Centre's decision to revive the village defence committees which were redesignated as village defence groups.

They were first formed in the 1990s in Jammu and Kashmir to fight militancy.

According to a communique from the Home Ministry to the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the village defence groups will function under the control of the respective district superintendent of police.

## IUST Holds First Online Alumni Meet



Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** To continue with its ongoing 360-degree outreach activities, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organized its 1st Alumni Meet through virtual mode which was attended by scores of alumni from within and outside the country.

Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, who is also the President of IUST Alumni Association, presided over the meet.

During the meeting, Prof. Romshoo shared his comprehensive insight on emotional bonding of the IUST with its alumni and reiterated the significance of their association with the University along with their roles and responsibilities.

In his presidential address, Prof. Romshoo, stressed upon the importance of alumni meet to motivate the present students to achieve greater heights in their life.

"IUST is continuing and carrying forward the mission of im-

parting true education and serving the society in true sense and producing skillful and responsible citizens", he added.

While highlighting the milestones achieved by the university in a short span of time, Prof. Romshoo laid emphasis on the quality teaching-learning process which will benefit the current students through the expertise of its Alumni.

"It was heartening to see the love and respect that our alumni harbor in their hearts for their Alma Mater. They have made IUST proud by their exemplary achievements and by being associated with major institutions across the world", he remarked.

Also present during the meeting were Dean Academic Affairs IUST Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Registrar IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Dean Research IUST Prof. A H Moon, Dean of Students IUST Dr. Anisa Jan, Finance Officer Sameer Wazir, I/C Director IT Dr. Kaiser Giri, HoDs of various departments and other officers of the University.

## Div Com Meets Specially Abled Students In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole on Thursday visited Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education (ZAIIE) Bijbehara and held interaction with the students and staff of the school.

The institute running under the aegis of Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline Bijbehara has been established by Javed Ahmad Tak

who was recently awarded Padma Shri by the President of India.

Around 120 specially abled children from South Kashmir are enrolled in the school. Pole appreciated the role of teachers and the founder of the school.

He gave instructions to district administration to extend every sort of help to the institution. A patch of land that will be equipped with special sports equipment for specially abled children was also identified.

## Real Kashmir To Restart I-League Campaign Today

Take on Kenkre FC at 4:30 PM

**Observer News Service** Shah Nawaz Bashir and Farhan Ganaie have not travelled with the IFA Shield champions.

**SRINAGAR:** Real Kashmir FC is back in I-League 2022 action today, Friday, March 3, and is all set to play against the newly promoted Kenkre FC Mumbai in its second game of this season.



The Snow Leopards won their opening game against Aizawl FC 3-2, and will now play after a two month gap because the League was suspended due to COVID-19.

The match will kick off at 4:30 PM and will be played at Kalyani Stadium, Kolkata.

Recent RKFC team news suggests that the Kashmiri-duo of

I-League 2022 restarted on Thursday with Mohemmadan SC taking on Aizawl FC.

## DC B'pora Flags-Off Students For Snow Skiing Course At Gulmarg



**Observer News Service**

**BANDIPORA:** DC Bandipora, Owais Ahmad on Thursday flagged off a group of 10 students for participating in a snow skiing course at Gulmarg to be organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

While interacting with the students, the DC asked them to learn skiing with dedication to achieve excellence in sports. He also complimented the Sports department for organizing the event.

Dr. Owais said that Bandipora has proved its mettle in sports activities at national and interna-

tional platforms and assured every possible help from the administration to provide basic sports infrastructure across the district besides organising training and practice sessions for polishing their skills.

Incharge activities, Nasir Hussain Khan said students for different skiing courses have been selected from different zones of Bandipora.

He said that a Group of five girls arrived back yesterday after completing the course at Gulmarg.

Assistant Commissioner Development Abdul Rashid Das, Chief Education Officer Bandipora Ab Roub Shaad were also present on the occasion.

## Kishtwar: 2nd Batch Of Students To Attend Gulmarg Skiing Course

**Observer News Service**

**KISHTWAR:** District Youth Services & Sports Officer Kishtwar Kharati Lal Sharma on Thursday flagged-off the 2nd batch of 10 male students to attend a 15-day skiing course at Gulmarg, organised by the Youth Services and Sports department J&K UT under the leadership of Director YSS Gazanfar Ali.

During the 15-day course, the students from different parts of J&K will be trained in snow skiing. Speaking on the occasion, the DYSSO thanked Deputy Commis-

sioner Ashok Kumar Sharma for extending full cooperation for every departmental activity.

The DYSSO said that students will be provided adequate boarding and lodging facilities at the venue and en-route.

The DYSSO, while interacting with the students and their guide Rayees Ahmed Wani (REK), advised them to follow all Covid safety SOPs.

Others present were Shah Nawaz Ahmed Qazi I/c Games Fund, Ayaz Ahmed, Kewal Krishan, and parents of the students.

## 29TH ANNUAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

# Hajin & Baramulla Win, Qualify For Final Phase



**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** In the ongoing Annual Football Championship 2021-22 two matches were played on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The first match was played between DFA Zone Hajin and DFA Pulwama. DFA Zone Hajin defeated DFA Pulwama by three goals to one. Wahid, Wajahat and Rahil Gowher scored for the winners. Fardeen scored the

only goal for Pulwama.

With this win, DFA Hajin qualified for the Final Phase of the Championship.

The second match was played between DFA Bandipora and DFA Baramulla. An exciting match attracted the attention of the audience as both the teams tried to dominate from the very beginning to find the net. However at full time whistle, the match ended in a 1:1 draw. The tie breaker rule was applied and

DFA Baramulla emerged winners by defeating DFA Bandipora 5-4 on penalties. With this win, DFA Baramulla also qualified for the Final Phase of the championship.

The Final Phase will be played in Jammu, and will see 16 DFA Zones compete for the final prize.

The Tournament is organized by J&K Football Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

## RANJI TROPHY

# J&K All Out For 259 Against Railways On Day 1

Qamran Iqbal top scores with 83 in 5000th Ranji match

**Observer News Service**

**CHENNAI:** Jammu & Kashmir were bowled out for 258 against Railways on Thursday, the day one of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match. Opening batter Qamran Iqbal top-scored for J&K with a blistering knock of 83 (98).

For the Railways, captain and leg-spinner Karn Sharma led from the front with 6 for 76.

Henan Nazir 34 (97) and Auqib Nabi 44 (130) made 64-run stand for the ninth wicket to take J&K to a respectable total.

Railways were 0 for 0 after one over and will look to bat their way into a commanding lead on day 2.

The J&K-Railways match is a milestone 5000th Ranji Trophy match.

Brief Scores: Jammu and Kashmir 259 in 87.1 overs (Suryansh Raina 28, Qamran Iqbal 83 (98b, 11x4, 3x6), Ab-



MATCH NO. 5000 JAMMU AND KASHMIR V RAILWAYS, CHENNAI

#RanjiTrophy BCCI.TV

dul Samad 28, Henan Nazir 34, Auqib Nabi 44, Karn Sharma six for 76) vs Railways 0 for no loss in one over.

## Credit Goes To Kohli For India's Test Success: Rohit Sharma



**Press Trust of India**

**MOHALI:** India captain Rohit Sharma on Thursday lauded former skipper and batting mainstay Virat Kohli ahead of his landmark 100th Test, saying he deserved all the credit for putting the team in a good position in the format.

Rohit will start his Test captaincy journey when he steps out to lead India against Sri Lanka in the opening game here starting Friday.

"As Test team, we stand in a good position. Whole credit goes to Virat for how we have been as a Test team. I have to take it

from where he has left," Rohit said during the pre-match press-conference here.

Struggling for form, Test regulars Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane were dropped from the squad for this series but Rohit acknowledged their contribution in making India the number one team in the longest format.

"Never easy to fill in big shoes of Rahane and Pujara. You can't put it in words what they have done for the team."

"All those overseas victories, we becoming No 1, they played a big part. It's just for now, we didn't consider them," Rohit said.

## Australia's Spin Bowling Consultant Tests Positive For COVID-19



**Press Trust of India**

**KARACHI:** Australia's spin bowling consultant Fawad Ahmed has been forced into isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 ahead of the team's three-Test series against hosts Pakistan, starting on Friday.

"Team medical staff ensured Fawad isolated on his arrival at the hotel and he then returned the positive test after showing mild symptoms," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

"He will remain isolated for at least five days as per government regulations and will only come out of that isolation after he returns two negative tests and is symptom-free."

"Members of the Australia touring party self-test regularly and undergo regular testing from external medical practitioners."

All Australian players returned negative for the virus on Wednesday.

The 40-year-old was roped in as a spin consultant after Sridharan Sriram was unavailable for the tour.

Earlier this week, Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf had tested positive for the virus, making him doubtful for the opening Test.

Australia is touring Pakistan after 24 years and will play for the Benaud-Qadir Trophy to mark the occasion.

The first Test will be held in Rawalpindi from March 4 to 8, followed by the second Test in Karachi from March 12 to 16 and third Test in Lahore from March 21-25.

It will be followed by three ODIs and a one-off T20, all of which will be played in Rawalpindi between March 29 and April 5.

Since Australia's Test team's last tour in 1998, Pakistan has been hosting its home series against them at neutral venues.

## A Glance At Reaction Of Sports To Russian Offensive In Ukraine



**Agencies**

### ARCHERY

Russia and Belarus flags and anthems banned at World Archery international events.

### ATHLETICS

Russia and Belarus athletes and officials barred from World Athletics Series events, including world race walking team championships in Oman this weekend, the world indoor championships in Serbia this month, and the world championships in Eugene, Oregon, in July.

### AUTO RACING

FIA banned Russia and Belarus teams from all international events. Individual Russia and Belarus drivers and officials allowed to enter races as neutrals under FIA flag, without their national symbols, flags, colors and anthems. FIA elected officers suspended. Formula One canceled the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi in September and canceled contract with race. Intercontinental Drifting Cup in Sochi in June canceled.

### BADMINTON

Russia and Belarus athletes and officials banned from Badminton World Federation tournaments from March 8. All BWF events in Russia and Belarus canceled. A few Russian players at two Para events in Spain this week and next week allowed to compete as neutrals with no national flags, anthems.

### BASEBALL

World Baseball Softball Confederation banned Russia and Belarus athletes and officials.

### BASKETBALL

Russia teams and officials barred by International Basketball Federation. EuroLeague suspended Russian clubs CSKA Moscow, UNICS Kazan, and Zenit St. Petersburg. Lokomotiv Kuban Krasnodar suspended from EuroCup.

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