



## P7 STATE

### UNION HEALTH SECY REVIEWS PROGRESS OF AIIMS IN JAMMU

Health Union Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Monday visited the AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district and reviewed the progress of the Rs 1,661 crore project.

## P5 THINK

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SPECIAL BEYOND THE GLASS CEILING, UNDER THE SKY

This Women's Day we celebrate the resilience of women who do not make it to the Glass-ceiling narratives and change-makers' lists in Kashmir but are not any less than any of such women. They



## P8 SPORTS

### MORE THAN WINNING, ROHIT SHARMA WANTS TO SECURE INDIA'S FUTURE

India's crushing victory over Sri Lanka was an impeccable start to Rohit Sharma's reign as Test captain but the all-format leader says creating a bench strength



**Quote!**  
Knowing yourself  
is the beginning of  
all wisdom  
-Aristotle

## NEWS DIGEST

### Soldier Shoots Himself Dead

SRINAGAR: An army man on Monday allegedly committed suicide inside his camp in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Around 3:50 pm Monday, Mohit Kumar of 34 RR shot himself dead using his service rifle inside his camp in Awantipora area of the district. **More on P6**

### Woman Found Dead On Jhelum Banks

SRINAGAR: An unidentified woman was found dead on Monday on the banks of river Jhelum in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. According to reports, a woman aged between 40-45 was found dead on the bank of **More on P6**

### Grenade Throwing Module Busted: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have averted major "catastrophic terror attacks" by busting a grenade throwing module of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and arresting four members of the outfit from Awantipora. A police spokesperson **More on P6**

### 163 Animals Rescued From Smugglers

JAMMU: Police on Monday rescued 163 cows and other cattle and foiled a major smuggling bid in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said. Acting on the specific inputs on illegal transportation of animals from Jammu to Kashmir, **More on P6**

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# 'Everything's Lost': Blast Shatters Kashmiri Family's Dream



Neighbours and relatives trying to console Rafiya's brother at his home in Hazratbal on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Augib Javed

A month after her meritorious Class 12 performance spread smiles in her family, the sorrow of her sudden departure has left every one shell shocked and made assembled mourners beat their chests in agony.

Drenching in the pre-spring shower, the griever arrived in droves at Rafiya Nazir's humble Chak Sadrabal home in Hazratbal area of Srinagar.

The collective crying made a howling sound in the nippy air and resonated with the masses visiting to sympathise with the bereaved family.

At one corner of a small single-storey house, Rafiya's daily-wage siblings broke down like small children. Their carpet-weaver father, Nazir Ahmad, sat

**UNABLE TO MAKE SENSE** of her loss, Hameeda screamed for her daughter when her little coffin was taken out for the final journey. The entire locality gave Rafiya a tearful farewell.

fraught near his forlorn loom.

The grieving father told the mourners how he was working extra-time these days to fulfill his daughter's dream of becoming a doctor.

"But now, everything's lost," he slapped his face, overcome with grief.

Rafiya was the youngest among Nazir's four children who secured distinction—467/500—in the recent Class 12 results and was now preparing for the National Eligibility cum

Entrance Test (NEET) to become a medical doctor.

"What will happen to your dream now, my daughter?" the wailing father cried.

Huddled by women griever, Hameeda looked numb and pale. The mother voiced the anguish in a loop: "Aase kai gov ye" (What happened to us).

On Sunday afternoon, Hameeda along with her two daughters including Rafiya accompanied a relative to her home at Rakh-E-Arth, Bemina. They **More on P6**

# BJP President Sounds Poll Bugle In J&K

## Get Ready For Elections; Present Is Ours, Let's Grab Future Too: Nadda

Agencies

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president J P Nadda on Monday asked his party men to get ready for assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir stating that the present was theirs and efforts should be made to "grab future too."

Nadda arrived in Jammu on a two-day visit. He chaired a high level meeting of party leaders at Katra, Jammu in which senior BJP leaders that include national General Secretaries Tarun Chug, Vinod Tawdey, MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh and J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina besides all party leaders from J&K were present.

Addressing the party workers, Nadda showered praises on the party's Kashmir-based leaders for remaining steadfast during tough times and braving violence, sources privy to the meeting said.

"In 2008, no one could have thought that BJP rallies would be held in Kashmir as violence was at its peak. But I saw rallies



and other programs of BJP taking place as the party's Kashmir based workers and leaders remained committed towards the party," Nadda told the meeting, as per sources.

He, as per sources, hailed the party's Kashmir based leaders for their efforts towards strengthening party roots in the Valley and urged them to keep moving in the right direction.

"You should get ready for the assembly elections. Present is

ours but we all must make efforts to retain the forte and grab the future too," Nadda was quoted as having told the meeting, as per sources.

He also checked the party pulse stating that the party was getting stronger with each passing day as more and more people are joining it.

"We have 18 crore workers across the country which really is a big achievement. In J&K, we have to strengthen the party at booth and constituency levels. You must build a close rapport with the people in villages, towns and constituencies to make BJP stronger day by day," he told the meeting, as per sources.

Nadda listened to the party men from Kashmir and Jammu patiently.

Sources told a local news agency KNO that Nadda asked party leaders and workers to promote Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision in the months ahead. "Keep the momentum, I assure you that the future will be ours," he told the meeting.

## 5 Cases In Kashmir As Covid-19 Ebbs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In what seems to be an end to the third wave of Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir, 25 new cases of infection were reported on Monday, five of them in the Valley, while no fresh fatality was registered in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported just five fresh cases of Coronavirus on Monday while 20 others were detected from various districts of Jammu division.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar and Baramulla detected three and two new cases of virus respectively while no cases of Covid-19 were registered in the remaining eight districts of Budgam, Pulwama, **More on P6**

## Mercury Falls After Fresh Snowfall In Kashmir Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As higher reaches received fresh snowfall and rains lashed plains at most places of Kashmir Valley, weatherman on Monday forecast partly cloudy weather from March 8 to 13 in Jammu and Kashmir.

A meteorological department official here said that reports of snowfall were received from upper reaches including Gurez, Zojila and Gulmarg, according to news agency GNS.

He said that Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district received **More on P6**

# J&K Among Top States, UTs In Farm Income: LG



## Announces Handholding Of 500 Enterprising Farmers To Harness Potential Of Organic Produce

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that his administration is giving a renewed thrust to organic farming to bring about a paradigm shift in agrarian policy, rural prosperity and improving the incomes and the quality of life of the farmers.

"We are making efforts to

## BRIDGING THE RURAL-GAP IS AMONG THE TOP PRIORITIES OF

the UT administration. A strong framework is being developed to increase employment and connect rural youth with the agriculture & horticulture industry. Administration will extend all possible support to the Youth involved in agricultural start-ups"

increase productivity through infusion of traditional knowledge, modern **More on P6**

## Hails Role Of Women In Nation Building

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday termed women as embodiment of compassion and selflessness and saluted their indomitable spirit and monumental contribution in socio-economic growth, eradicating social evils and **More on P6**

# Ex- J&K Governor Malik Drops Another Bombshell 'Advised By Friends To Keep Quiet If I Wanted President's Post'

Press Trust Of India

JIND: Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik has said his friends advised him not to criticise the BJP government as he could be made the President or Vice President if he kept quiet, but asserted that he "doesn't care about these positions."

"Some of my friends had advised me that I could become the President or Vice President so I should keep quiet. But, I told them I don't care about these positions," Malik said.

He was addressing a Kisan Samman ceremony organised by Kandela Khap and Majra Khap at Kandela village here on Sunday and said the post of governor is not important for him.

Malik has been quite vocal against the NDA government at



the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over a host of issues, including the now repealed three farm laws.

In January, he had claimed that when he went to meet the prime minister on the issue of farmers, the latter was arrogant and had a fight with him within

five minutes.

Malik also called upon the farmers to unite to change the regime in New Delhi and form a government which is favourable to them so that they don't have to ask for anything from anyone.

Malik said once his tenure as governor ends, he will tour the country and unite the farmers. He had also justified the hoisting of "Nishan Sahib" at the Red Fort last year by alleged farmer agitators, saying there was nothing wrong in it.

Talking about the scrapping of the farm laws, he said the government made a "half-hearted agreement" with the farmers following which the protest sites were vacated but no progress has been made in the matter since then. **More on P6**

# Panel To Search New BOSE Chairman, Director SCERT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory administration on Monday constituted a search committee for the appointment of Chairman for Board of School Education (BOSE) and director for Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT).

According to the reports, the General Administration Department has approved the sanction to the constitution of the search committee for the post of JKBOSE chairman and JKSCERT director.

The committee will comprise five members headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, health and medical education

department.

The other four members include Principal Secretaries of school education and higher education departments respectively and vice chancellors of Jammu and Kashmir universities respectively.

Pertinently, despite having a term of only two years, the incumbent chairperson of JKBOSE Veena Pandita has been in position for nearly four years now.

It is learnt that Pandita on August-10 in 2017 was appointed as officiating chairperson of BOSE by replacing Zahoor Ahmad Chah who was sent back to his parent higher education department.

However after being an officiating chairperson of the BOSE for nearly **More on P6**

# MHA Appointed Taskforce On Suicides In CAPFs To Study Fratricides Too

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A taskforce comprising senior officers constituted a few months back by the Home Ministry to look into cases of suicide in the central armed police forces (CAPFs) will also prepare a comprehensive report on incidents of fratricide, in which seven BSF personnel have been killed in two days, officials said on Monday.

The panel will prepare a "case study analysis and recommendations" not only for cases where troops take the extreme step of taking their lives but also on the subject of the targeting of comrades-in-arms by a trooper. The last few incidents of

fratricides that took place in these forces will be taken into account, sources told PTI.

The committee has been holding meetings, the latest was last week.

"The work is in progress," an official privy to the development said. A draft report will first be prepared and circulated among the CAPFs for their final comments, following which it will be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a second official said.

The taskforce is headed by IPS officer V S K Kaumudi, the special secretary (internal security) in the home ministry, with a special/additional director general rank officer each from the BSF, ITBP, CISF, SSB **More on P6**





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# Even Google Agrees There's No Going Back To The Old Office Life

## The Conversation

The great enforced global experiment in working from home is coming to an end, as vaccines, the Omicron variant and new therapeutic drugs bring the Covid-19 crisis under control. But a voluntary experiment has begun, as organisations navigate the new landscape of hybrid work, combining the best elements of remote work with time in the office. Yes, there is some push for a return to normal and getting workers back into offices. But ideas such as food vouchers and parking discounts are mostly being proposed by city councils and CBD businesses keen to get their old customers back. A wide range of surveys over the past 18 months show most employees and increasingly employers have no desire to return to commuting five days a week. The seismic shift in employer attitudes is signalled by Google, long a fierce opponent of working from home. Last week the company told employees they must return to the office from early April but only for three days a week. That's still way more than tech companies such as Australia's Atlassian, which expects workers to come into the office just four days a year, but it is a far cry from its pre-pandemic resistance to remote work. Hybrid work is here to stay. Employers will either embrace the change or find themselves being left behind.

Gains in productivity Google began under pressure to soften its opposition to remote work in 2020. In December of that year chief executive Sundar Pichai told employees: We are testing a hypothesis that a flexible work model will lead to greater productivity, collaboration, and well-being. Its chief concern has been protecting the social capital that springs from physical proximity and also perhaps with keeping employers under surveillance. But longstanding (and widespread) management concerns that employees working from home would lower productivity have proven unfounded. Even before the pandemic there was good research showing no productivity penalty from remote working the opposite, in fact. Fro example, a 2014 randomised trial involving about 250 Shanghai call centre workers found working from home associated with 13% more productivity. This comprised a 9% gain from working more minutes per shift due perhaps to fewer interruptions and a 4% gain from making more calls per minute attributed to a quieter, more comfortable working environment. Research in the past two years supports these findings. Harvard Business School professor Raj Choudhury and colleagues published research in October 2020 that found allowing



employees to work wherever they like led to a 4.4% increase in output. In April 2021, Stanford University economist Nick Bloom and colleagues calculated a the shift to remote working resulted in a 5% productivity boost. Though their working paper, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, was not peer reviewed, it was based on surveying 30,000 American workers, which is a decent sample size. Our relationship with work has changed There are good reasons most of us don't want to go back to the old normal. It just wasn't that great. While working from home can brings challenges of other kinds, not least the ability to switch off and stop working when work is done, working in an office can increase stress, lower mood and reduce productivity. My own research has measured the effects of typical open-plan office noises, finding a 25% increase in negative mood even after a short exposure time. Then there's the time spent commuting. Not having to go into the office every day frees up hours of time to do other things. Particularly in winter it's nice to not have to leave and arrive home in the dark.

**Changed expectations of work** The importance of these things should not be underestimated. In a June 2021 study by McKinsey of 245 employees who had returned to the office, one-third said they felt their mental health had been harmed. The experience of the pandemic has lowered our tolerance for this old world of

**In April 2021, Stanford University economist Nick Bloom and colleagues calculated a the shift to remote working resulted in a 5% productivity boost. Though their working paper, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, was not peer reviewed, it was based on surveying 30,000 American workers, which is a decent sample size.**

work. Nothing exemplifies this better than the growth of the lie-flat trend, which began in China and is now a global phenomenon. Increasing numbers of people are rejecting the idea of pursuing a career at all costs. They don't want to spend their life being a cog in the wheel of capitalism and are choosing to work less even not at all.

**No one size fits all** Rather than a bastion of meaning and fulfilment, the structures around how we have conducted work has for many people meant an existence of quiet desperation. The pandemic has brought an unforeseen opportunity to change this narrative and rethink both the way we work and the role of work in our lives. For some, no job is better than a bad job. The rest of us will settle for the flexibility we've had over the past two years. No one size fits all. The downsides of working from home include missing coworkers and losing the benefits of serendipitous conversations. The nuances of how much time we need to spend together in the office for outcomes like creativity, belonging, learning and relationship building varies between individuals, teams and job types. But what is certain is we don't need to be together five days a week to make these things happen. With a shrinking workforce and an increasing war for talent, employers who don't provide flexibility will be the losers.

از نیابت ہر وہ شہرہ  
مضمون درخواست منجانب:- صفیہ بی دختر غلام بی نجار ساکنہ ہر وہ شہرہ تحصیل  
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اشتہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔  
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04	روتی بی دختر غلام بی	23	گھریلو کام	
05	خالد مصطفیٰ پسر غلام بی		مزدوری	
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**NOTICE**  
Certified that i iqram ahmad Bhat s/o Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o Habak Pati was reading in class 6th in Govt Middle School Habak Pati in the year 2017 .  
That due to some family Unavoidable circumstances I could not continue my studies.  
That Now I need my discharge certificate from GMS Habak Pati. In this regard if any body have any objection, he/she my submit the same within seven days in the office of MS Habak Pati.  
Iqram Ahmad Bhat  
S/o Abdul Ahad Bhat  
R/o Habak Pati  
D. O. B: 25/07/2006  
inf

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**  
**NOTICE**  
Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Taslima W/o : Mohammad Anwar Wani R/o: Chhari Sharief Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 7963 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Chhari Sharief.  
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.5967  
Dated 07/03/2022  
Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir  
mcb

**Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian**  
**NOTICE**  
Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Jehangir Ahamd Malik S/O Ab Rashid Malik R/o Ganowpora Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle Bearing Regd. No. JK22-8698 (Commercial/ Non Commercial ) covering under R/P NO: -----  
And  
Mr./ Mrs Mohd Asif Gouch S/O Mohd Yaseen Couchi R/o Nadigam Shopian (Parti No 2nd ) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Gh Mohd Mir S/o Abdul Ahad Mir R/o Mastpora Keller Shopian.  
Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection to the office of the undersigned .  
No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.  
No : ARTO/Spn/1282  
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S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian  
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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER CIVILWORKS**  
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**EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender NIT No. 364 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No.23866-75 Dated.05.03.2022**  
For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis, are invited from the Principal Manufacturers/ Licensed and Authorized Government Suppliers/Channel Partners/Reputed Agencies/Registered firms, for supply of Quality Control/Material Testing equipments (Make AIMIL Ltd, or Equivalent) and miscellaneous laboratory/field use items, as per the details/specifications provided in BOQ.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (R In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Major Head of Account
1	Supply of Laboratory Equipments for Material Testing Laboratory for (R&B) Division Ganderbal.	Rs.15.84 Lacs	Rs.800.00	Rs.31680	15 Days	5054 Capital Outlay on Roads & Buildings.

Position of AAA/TS: Accorded Position of funds: Available  
1. The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the Departmental Website www.jktenders.govt.in as per schedule of dates given below

	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05.03.2022
1.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05.03.2022 4:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	05.03.2022 From 4:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	10.03.2022 upto 4.00 P.M
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids ( on line)	11-03-2022 10:00 AM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS PER CIRCULAR ISSUED BY FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND CHIEF ENGINEER PW(R&B) KASHMIR'S No. CE/RBK/HD/32857-92 dated 01-01-2022.  
THE BIDDERS ARE ADVISED TO READ ALL CONDITIONS LAID DOWN IN THE NIT CAREFULLY BEFORE UPLOADING SOFT COPY. ANY SHORT FALL FOUND IN THE SOFT COPY, THE TENDER SHALL BE REJECTED.  
1. a).Bids must be accompanied by the earnest money deposit (EMD) in the shape of valid FDR/CDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal from a Nationalized/ Schedule bank having a branch-office in (J&K). The FDR/CDR shall be released to the participating bidders at the time of opening of bids. In case of successful bidder the same shall be released at the time of issuance of formal allotment. However successful bidder L1 shall have to produce performance security 5% of allotted cost immediately at the time of allotment which shall be retained in the Divisional chest and released after expiry of DLP. Any Bidder without earnest money shall be explicitly liable to rejection. No Cheque shall be accepted on this account. The bidder bearing reference to any earlier FDR/CDR, which may be pending in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal shall be rejected, out rightly.  
2. B) The bid/Quotation for the supply of equipment shall remain open for acceptance/supply, for a period of at least 60 days from the date of receipt of bids by the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. If any bidder withdraws his/her tender before the above said period.,  
c) Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape E-Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (E-Challan) must be purchased after tender date and Boldly written Name of Work, Name of Contractor with contact No. NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority).  
d) In case the L-1 fails to deposit the requisite document, the action against the L-1 as per PWD rules Leading to blacklisting of contractor shall initiated.  
e) On Opening of financial bid the L1 has to produce the Original CDR/FDR pledge to the opening Authority before allotting the work along with Cost of tender document in the shape of E-Challan.  
f) Upload Valid Registration CARD /Renewal, PAN Card, GST Certificate and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter/Qualifying Month, ie, January.  
g) It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in e- tendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of CDR/FDR as well as E-Challan and CDR/FDR of the other participating renderers/ bidders will be released only after surrender of E-Challan.  
h) The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.  
i) The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge  
j) The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bid

No.23866-75  
Dated:05-03-22  
DIPK-19118/21  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal

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Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Umer Farooq Sofi S/o: Farooq Ahmad Sofi R/o: Ganai Mohalla Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 9423 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Ompora .  
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 .  
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Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir  
mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I have lost of RC bearing Regd No: JK03C- 7051Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAGwithin a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Name : Gulzar Ahmad Wani**  
**S/o: Abdul Majeed Wani**  
**R/o: Zadoora Anantang**  
ma

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag / Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**NAME:- Muzafer Ahmad Wani**  
**S/O :- Gh Ahmad Wani**  
**R/O: - Shelipora Achabal Anantang.**  
ma





## LCMA Launches Demolition Drive At Babademb

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation & Management Authority today launched a spontaneous demolition drive in the area of Babademb Brari Nambal.

During the drive, one tin shed, one tin walling and five wooden culverts were demolished which were raised illegally by some land owners in order to make access to the interiors of Brari Nambal Lagoon.

The demolition team was accompanied by Tehsildar Khanyar and SHO police station Khanyar.

Moreover, in the area of Bonigam Shalimar one Angle Iron shed was also demolished and in the area of Teilbal one single storey raised illegally were also demolished.

Meanwhile, LCMA directed public residing within the LCMA jurisdiction and in lake not to go for any sort of illegal constructions and encroachments.

## DIPR Organizes Cultural Programme

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Cultural Unit Srinagar DIPR today organised a sufi music mehfil at Cultural Hall of Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir.

Artists of the Cultural Unit including Mushtaq Ahmad Saznawaz, Ghulam Muhammad Bhat Anzwali and Ghulam Mohiud-Din Khanday presented sufi kalaam of legendary sufi poets of Kashmir.

The officers and employees of the Joint Directorate of information Kashmir division attended the function.



## DC Srinagar Reviews Restoration Works At B&J Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to speed up the pace of restoration measures and to ensure early resumption of routine patient care facilities at the orthopedic tertiary care health institute of Kashmir valley after the fire incident on Friday, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday visited Bone & Joint Hospital Barzulla to resolve issues pertaining to different departments there.

The DC inspected various blocks, wards, diagnostic centers, laboratories and other vital units of the hospital and took stock of the restoration measures being carried out to make the hospital fully functional at the earliest.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that major installations/ services including Oxygen supply lines, Operation theatre, X-Ray plant, ICU, Blood Bank, CT-Scan, MRI, besides DG sets and other allied facilities are operational in

the hospital, while OPD and emergency services have also been resumed for the convenience of the patients.

During the visit, the DC also interacted with several patients who had visited the hospital for post-operative check-up.

Later, the DC chaired a meeting with hospital authorities during which several issues regarding resumption of IPD services and establishment of makeshift Operation Theatre, besides matters related to providing accommodation for shifting of hospital store and allotment of custodian land for parking purposes were brought into his notice.

The DC resolved all the issues on the spot by passing directions to the R&B, PHE, PDD, MED and other line Departments.

With regard to removal of rubble from the top floor of the damaged building, the DC asked the R&B Department to press in more manpower for fast removal of damaged material/muck from the top of the building.

The DC also directed the Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC to ensure all debris and muck accumulated in the hospital is removed on priority, besides proper cleaning measures are taken in and around the hospital so that other restoration measures are carried out smoothly.

With regard to restoration of power and water supply in the hospital, the DC was informed that both the supplies have been restored fully.

The DC directed all line departments to work in coordinated manner so that all units of the hospital are made functional within the shortest possible time. He assured the Hospital management that all possible support shall be provided from District Administration Srinagar to ensure that valley's premier orthopedic hospital is fully operationalized within days.

Medical Superintendent B&J, Dr Suhail and other senior officers of Police and Civil Administration accompanied the DC during the visit.

## Samoon Visits Polytechnic Colleges In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, today visited Polytechnic Colleges and Industrial Training Institute in Srinagar district and held interaction with the students and faculty there.

Dr Samoon inspected various class rooms, labs at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College GogjiBagh, Industrial Training Institute, BaghiDilawar Khan and Government Polytechnic for Women Bemina and interacted with the students. He enquired about the courses being offered to the youth and the em-

ployability of the course being run under skill development schemes.

While interacting with students and staff at the centre, Dr Samoon encouraged them to address the training needs of the candidates adding that the Government is always at the forefront to provide any kind of guidance and support for skill development in J&K.

Dr Samoon directed the faculty to impart quality training to the students and keep focus on practical oriented courses.

While interacting with the students of automobile sector at the ITI, he said that the scope for ITI trained students is growing rapidly and faculty should help stu-

dents to know about emerging developments in the industry.

He said that the courses offered at polytechnic colleges and ITIs are different from the degree colleges. He added that it is an art vocational trade and the course is designed to provide a drawing of projects and students should be helped to get visual guidelines showing the technical details.

Dr. Samoon further stressed the need for self-employment which would eventually make the young population self-reliant and thereby boosting the skill and entrepreneurship ecosystem in J&K.

## Public Notice

My cast has been wrongly written in my school records as Khan while the correct cast is Khan Gojar which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL SONACH within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Roheet Ahmad Khan Gojar**  
S/o Shahnawaz Ahmad Khan Gojar  
R/O Sonach Brah

rna

### NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

It is information for the general public that my passport bearing Passport No. K0676106 have lost. Now i want to apply for the Duplicate. In this regard if anybody having any objection shall contact Passport Office Srinagar with in a period of 7 days. After that no objection entertained.

**Imran Ahmad Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat**  
R/o Sarathpora Budgam  
Passport No. 9682590290

mcb

### Public Notice

This is to inform that I, Waheeda Rehman Shah had obtained PNB Metlife Policy vide No. 21586053 prior to marriage in the name Viz. Wahida Hamid, D/O Ab. Hameed Wani, R/O SD Colony, Batamaloo.

Now after marriage I have changed my name to Waheeda Rehman Shah, W/O Abdul Rehman Shah, R/O Baitul Rahim 87/A Indra Nagar B B Cantt, Srinagar and if anybody has any objection in this regard the same may contact PNB Metlife Srinagar within a week's time.

inf

## Mobile Phone Lost

I have lost my Mobile Phone while travelling from Redwani to Qaimoh. If anyone has found that, kindly return back. Now I have applied for duplicate SIM card if anybody have any objection, please contact Police Station Qaimoh Kulgam

**Sharf u din Kumar**  
S/O - Gh Hassan kumar  
R/O Redwani Balla Kulgam.  
Contact - 7006391914  
PKO

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

## Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Budgam

Tel: 01951255229 Email: budgamdsho@gmail.com

Subject : Selection of Beneficiaries for Sheep units under SCA to TSS and Article 275 (I).

All the applicants who have applied for availing benefit under SCA to TSS and Article 275 (I) -2021-22 are hereby informed that selection of beneficiaries through draw of lots in presence of constituted selection committee shall be made on 09/03/2022 (2pm) in the Office chambers of the undersigned. The applicants can witness the selection process on the date and venue mentioned.

NO: DSHOB/Tech/Units/2021-22/5041-55  
Dated:05/03/2022

DIPK-19141/21

Sd/-  
District Sheep Husbandry Officer  
Budgam

ٹنڈا خاندان کو صدمہ

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ رافعہ ندیر، دختر ندیر احمد ٹنڈا ساکن چک صدرہ، بل حضرتیل سرینگر، اتوار کے روز ہری سنگھ ہائی اسٹریٹ میں ہوئے گریینڈ دھماکے کی زد میں آکر جاں بحق ہوئی ہیں۔ مرحومہ نے حالیہ بارہویں جماعت کے امتحان میں اعلیٰ نمبرات کے ساتھ امتیازی پوزیشن حاصل کی تھی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب عطا فرمائے اور لواحقین کو یہ صدمہ عظیم برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔ مرحومہ کی فاتحہ خوانی مورخہ 9 مارچ 2022 بروز بدھوار صبح ساڑھے سات بجے اُن کے آبائی قبرستان واقعہ حسن آباد میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد ازاں مرحومہ کے گھر پر تعزیت پڑی کی مجالس دن بھر جاری رہیں گی۔

صاحب تعزیت ---

ندیر احمد ٹنڈا

فون نمبر: 8082133528

### DIAL-EMMA

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



### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
04 Shaban  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 30
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4:51
Magrib	6:35
ISHA	7: 55

## This Day In History

- 1964 - Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and is renamed Muhammad Ali
- 1965 - US begins regular bombing & strafing of N Vietnam
- 1967 - A fire at a restaurant in Montgomery, Alabama kills 25 people.
- 1969 - Al-Fatah leader Yasser Arafat becomes president of PLO
- 1971 - Switzerland votes for national women's suffrage in a referendum
- 1974 - Grenada gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1976 - World's largest telescope (600 cm) begins operation (USSR).
- 1977 - Soyuz 24 launches with 2 cosmonauts
- 1978 - Ethiopian offensive in Ogaden desert
- 1986 - Haiti's President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier flees to France Henri Namphy becomes leader of Haiti
- 1986 - Corazon Aquino defeats incumbent Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos but fraudulent returns gave the election to Marcos.
- 1987 - Police in South Korea make hundreds of arrests during protest demonstrations, the country's biggest for 6 years, after a student died in custody.
- 1990 - Karachi police kill 22 anti-nationalist demonstrators
- 1990 - USSR Communist party agrees to allow opposition political parties

## From KO Archives

Near Total Bandh, Blasts And Grenade Attacks

## Poor Turn Out In Baramulla, Anantnag

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The polling for Lok Sabha constituencies of Anantnag and Baramulla was marked by a series of bomb blasts and poor turn out of voters besides a near total bandh. In all major valley townships, in response to a call given by the all-party Hurriyat Conference.

At least three security personnel sustained injuries when they were hit by splinters, following a grenade attack on a vehicle carrying them for election duty in Bijbehara town of Anantnag, this afternoon. 15 others had a narrow escape when a powerful device planted in a girls' school in Pattan exploded with a deafening sound, early morning, causing some damages to school and few adjoining buildings. Grenade attacks were also reported from Marhama, Sarnal and Buchoo villages of south Kashmir district of Anantnag. However no damage was caused by these, reports added.

Normal life in capital Srinagar and other valley towns was paralysed as near total general strike was observed on the call given by Hurriyat Conference, in connection with its poll boycott campaign. The general strike had a substantial impact on the voter turnout, in both Anantnag and Baramulla Lok Sabha constituencies, with lowest percentage recorded in Tral and Pulwama assembly segments of Anantnag constituency.

Chief Electoral Officer S V Bhavne however told news persons this evening that polling passed off "peacefully", though "minor incidents grenade throwing and bomb blasts" were reported from both the constituencies. Bhavne, however claimed 30-35 percent polling in Anantnag and 40 percent polling in Baramulla. The percentage is lower from what was recorded in 1996 Lok Sabha polls, when Anantnag had 46 percent turnout and Baramulla accounted for 50.6 percent.

The lowest turnout in Anantnag constituency was in Pampore with just 13 percent votes polled while in Baramulla, the town voters responded to boycott call in a big way. In Anantnag, as the reports suggested, the voter turnout was much higher in the places known to be strong holds of senior Congress leader and former home minister Mufti Mohammad Syed. Again at this very few people came to cast their votes, what are otherwise called pockets of ruling National Conference. Same seemed to be the case in Baramulla, where NC strong holds registered a poor turnout even after all possible efforts of the party leaders to mobilise higher turnout.

Unprecedented security measures had been taken by the authorities to face the challenge of the militants to disrupt the poll process. Besides para-military personnel, Army was deployed in strength in both the constituencies.

Those whose fates were sealed in today's polling include former home minister Mufti Mohammed Sayed and minister of state for home Maqbool Dar in Anantnag. Also in the fray, there was Yousuf Taing, former secretary of cultural academy and a political novice, fielded by ruling National Conference.

In Baramulla, the real contest is between National Conference nominee and union minister Saifuddin Soz and a noted jurist Muzaffar Hussain Beigh who is fighting as an independent. There are twenty seven others in the fray including one from Congress and BJP each, but none of them seem to be anywhere in the fray. Beigh, it may be mentioned, was supported by all the opposition parties including the Congress whose senior leaders openly canvassed for the Beigh.

(Kashmir Observer, 08 March, 1998)



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K O V I E W

Waiting For March 10

With the seventh and the final phase in Uttar Pradesh polls concluding on March 7, all eyes are now on the results which shall be declared on March 10 for the five states which went to polls - UP, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand. However, it would be the outcome in Uttar Pradesh that shall be of crucial importance. Union home minister Amit Shah and the BJP president JP Nadda have exuded confidence that the Hindutva party will form the government in UP as well as the three other states of Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur. They also asserted that the party will also make significant inroads in Punjab.

In the 2017 elections, the BJP had won 312 out of 403 seats with a vote share of 40 percent. This was the saffron party's best performance in the state since its debut there in 1980. But since then the party has not won two successive terms in the state. Would it do this time? The party says it will break the jinx this time. And it may well do so. The exit polls have given the BJP in the state a clear edge over its rivals, even though with a rider that the party might get 100 seats less than the previous time. And AAP is expected to win in Punjab. But the BJP leaders have boasted that they will even beat the 2017 tally. And given the performance of the party over the last seven years, this may not be an empty boast. The party has grown from strength to strength despite some occasional reverses in one or the other state. Talking about the jinx, the party has already broken it at the national level in 2019 when it secured a far bigger victory than it did in 2014. In 2003, the BJP government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee had failed to win a second term despite running the high-decibel Shining India election campaign.

Be that as it may, the ongoing polls in Uttar Pradesh are of profound significance not only for the future of the state but also for India as a whole. In UP, the election is high-stakes contest between the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Samajwadi Party. Congress and Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party are not considered in the reckoning. A victory for the BJP will yet again reinforce the political invincibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and further power his political cult. Two days more to go.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Heartland Notes: On  
The BJP And U.P. Polls

Lead actors in Uttar Pradesh were repositioning themselves in the last lap of the Assembly elections that are concluding with the seventh and last phase on March 7. The voter participation across the first five phases was close to the 2017 level despite pandemic-related restrictions on campaigning. In the last week, the war in Ukraine also entered campaign conversations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to reach out to people from the State directly affected by the war. He also acknowledged the serious problem of stray cattle caused by the short-sighted cow protection policy that was implemented by the BJP-government in the State. The party appeared defensive on the question of unemployment while gaining support for better law and order and welfare schemes. If re-elected, it has promised more welfare schemes such as a wedding gift of 1 lakh for girls from BPL families. Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav took note of the potency of welfare schemes for the BJP and sought to counter it by offering more. He has promised five years of free rations to the poor that will include ghee, lentils and other items. He has also striven hard to overcome the labelling - by expanding his social base - that he stood for one caste and one community: the Yadavs and Muslims. The question is whether he has marshalled enough public support to unseat the BJP that has three-fourths of the seats in the outgoing Assembly. The burden of the SP's past regime, perceived as corrupt and protective of criminals, disrupts his momentum.

Regardless of who wins, the outcome on March 10 will create ripples beyond the State's boundaries. The results will influence the course of national politics, particularly the efforts to create a common platform of regional parties opposed to the BJP being spearheaded by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi made a mark in the campaign, though nobody is betting on the fortunes of the Congress in the State. The Bahujan Samaj Party and the BJP had a public show of mutual warmth, and the political meaning of that will become clearer in the post-poll scenario. All these moves will largely depend on whether or not the fundamentals of the BJP politics in its biggest stronghold will be challenged. The BJP has not faced a setback in U.P. since 2014, and one-fifth of its sitting Lok Sabha members are elected from this one State. If the SP's social justice politics upsets the BJP's Hindutva parade, it will mark a return of the politics of the 1990s in the heartland. This sheer possibility, however indistinct it might be, makes U.P. a very consequential crucible of Indian politics.

The Hindu

Fantastic Five

On Women Day, Kashmir Observer Presents The Inspirational Stories Of Five Self-Starters Who Dared To Dream Differently And Paved A Way For Others



Swati Joshi

Kashmir situation over the years might've crippled many dream ventures and economic units, but resilience to rise above one's adversities makes the new-age self-starters an inspiration for the educated youth who want to become employer than employee in their life.

It was the same resolve which made a young Kashmiri woman to infuse a new lease of life in traditional Kashmiri dead rug called Namada.

The same steely resolve motivated a young Kashmiri bride to step into her late father-in-law's shoes to become a prominent bat-maker in town.

With pandemic still casting shadows around, a young Kashmiri self-starter came forward to make mandatory masks for masses.

A resolve to take risks makes these young Kashmiri self-starters an inspirational class for the strife-torn society.

Arifa Jan

Arifa Jan always wanted to be an independent self-starter, but she knew it wouldn't be a walk in the park for her. But her resolve eventually made her to set up three manufacturing units to revive the traditional Kashmiri rug called Namada.

She went to employ 25 Kashmiri artisans and trained more than 100 Kashmiri women. Arifa also increased the wages of the artisans from Rs 175 to Rs 450 per day.

Namada is a traditional carpet made by rolling and pressing wool. In the past, it was widely used by Kashmiris in their drawing rooms during winters. But the sale of Namada declined due to the advent of a new variety of fashionable carpets in the market.

Arifa pursued two-year Craft Management and Entrepreneurial Leadership program at Craft Development Institute (CDI) after completing her graduation from Kashmir University.

Unable to pay the fees for the leadership program, she was granted a scholarship by CDI and went to Kyrgyzstan for specialized training.

After Masters, she started working on the Namada revival project, setting up her first business unit at Srinagar's Sekidafar locality in 2012.

She was awarded US Citizenship Eligibility Certificate in 2014 by the United States State Department for Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

RESILIENCE TO  
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inspiration for the  
educated youth who want  
to become employer than  
employee in their life

ment for Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

After returning from the US, she opened two more units in Srinagar's Noorbagh and Nawa Kadal localities.

Riffat Masoodi

It was Riffat Masoodi's father-in-law, Ghulam Rasool Masoodi, who had started a cricket bat manufacturing factory in south Kashmir's Pampore town in the 1970s.

After his demise, the shut shop bankrupted the once prosperous family.

But when going got tough, the daughter-in-law decided to revive the defunct unit.

The 40-year-old mother of two children restarted the factory and became Kashmir's only woman cricket bat-maker.

Today, as head of Masoodi Arts and Sports firm, Riffat is an inspiring story for many.

A graduate from Srinagar's Vishwa Bharati College of Education, Riffat has managed to handle her business amidst the turmoil in the valley and set up manufacturing units in Awantipora, Anantnag, and Pampore.

The self-starter's unit produces thousands of bats per month which are transported to many Indian states.

Shaheena Akhtar

Daughter of a coppersmith, Shaheena Akhtar had to give up her dream of higher studies to tackle her family's financial crisis. Her five siblings are school dropouts, and were job strugglers before she became the family support.

After completing a month-long entrepreneurship training program, she wrote a business proposal and submitted it to Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

She wanted to weave Pashmina shawls, besides doing novel embroidery works on them.

Pashmina shawls are made from the soft and fine cashmere wool from the Changthangi goats found in the higher altitudes of Ladakh.

She received a grant of Rs 8.5 lakhs from JKEDI, with which the entrepreneur expanded her business.

Shaheena's unit also produces Kani shawls - woven with special wooden needles called Kanils in Kashmir. The expensive shawls are made on demand.

Akhtar received the Exemplary Entrepreneurship Award in Handicrafts sector from the then chief minister Omar Abdullah in 2014 for her outstanding work.

Nusrat Jahan Ara

It takes courage to quit a government job in Kashmir and start an enterprise involving risk. Ara is one of those women taking risk with a smiling face.

Hailing from Dadoora village of Kashmir's Pulwama district, Ara was castigated when she decided to quit her 'secure' job for the cut-flower profession.

The florist had no investors when she started her business. She started growing flowers in her backyards and selling them. After using all her savings, Ara worked with the vendors on a credit basis and took a loan to convert her idea into reality.

The computer graduate also runs Kashmir Essences, a brand of personal care and home care products under a company called Himalayan Agro Farms.

The brand uses natural Kashmir produce like saffron, almond, cherry, walnut, apple, and other organic products to make organic eatables and beauty products.

Mufti Sadia

During pandemic, Mufti Sadia rose to the occasion and stitched face masks and personal protective equipment (PPE). With her designer resolve, the self-starter joined the battle against coronavirus.

Sadia started her brand called 'Hangers and Closet' in 2014 at the age of 24. A pinch of western style to the traditional Kashmiri wear has been the idea behind the boutique.

But being a trendsetter didn't come easy for her. She quitted her human resource manager job in order to become an independent self-starter. She also faced family resistance and drew flak for her career choice.

Sadia, however, never backed out, and worked hard to fulfill her dream and eventually became an inspiration for many in the society.

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 Journalist



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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand 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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On International Women's Day, Truth Be Told

This day marks the international women's day. That day celebrates the achievements of women in different areas of life. These achievements include the social, political, economic and cultural contributions across the globe. That day recognises the struggle of women against gender disparity and fight for equality in our socio political world order. People across the globe come out in support of the women and recognise their contributions, struggle and rally with the women promising to fight along them to break the unjust shackles and stereotypes.

This day has a historical significance dating back 28 Feb 1909 when more than 15000 women marched through the streets of New York demanding better pay, voting rights and shorter working days. The idea to organise rally was suggested by the Theresa Melkiel who was a labour activist with the help of Socialist Party of America. It was followed with an international conference for working women and during that conference women activists proposed an annual commemoration of women's day. Germany took the inspiration and proposed to celebrate international

women's day. The day was first observed by Austria, Denmark, and Switzerland in 1911 on March 19th. Russia joined in to celebrate the day on the last Sunday of February. The later moved on to mark the national holiday in many countries. United Nations adopted international women's day in 1975 and later on added yearly themes to it since 1996.

In today's world it has become a global event and celebrated across all countries with rallies, events, activities and much more. In Kashmir the event doesn't carry much significance other than highlighting the plight of women who are the victims of conflict. There are few posts on social media and the rest of the day goes unheard as usual. If this is any indication of success against women, the patriarchal lords of our society should celebrate that. The feminist approaches or the challenges patriarchy is facing world over is not happening in Kashmir. The masculine monopoly continues and goes unchallenged as always except for some essays or posts in social media. There is neither debate nor gross root campaign to break the shackles leading to the destruction of patriarchal social order. I have always tried to call out the ugly

side of our society without even caring for the costs and consequences.

While the world is celebrating the success and struggle of women we should mourn the dehumanisation and indignity women in our part are subjected to. In last few months we have had two acid attacks, many incidents of domestic abuse leading to murders. Patriarchal oppression has plagued our social system for long now. I am only witnessing strengthening of the male dominance instead of houn for any course correction. The derivations to justify the unjust malady is from the conflict and misinterpretation of religion. They are public narratives that are only furthering the restrictions on women.

The masses are not to be blamed for the oppression rather the intellectuals, academics and religious scholars have been the epitome of this darkness. The sane voices who should have come forward to change the tide are sailing with it.

Marriage all over the world is seen as an essential bond of love and affection but in our part of the world it is seen as the surrender and sacrifice of the women to the whims and wishes of men. There is an indoctrination where women have to live not for self but for the pleasures of men.

This hegemonic gendered order has given birth to the countless atrocities unleashed on women. It has shrunk the space for them. Anybody trying to overcome the monstrosity faces new challenges and othering. The public places are not safe for them. The educational institutions, public transport and market places are hotbeds to target the women coming out for a prosperous future. Nobody shares the blame except the women who are at the receiving end.

The women give up and bow to the dictation. This brutal patriarchal social structure has left an undying imprint on my mind. Sometimes I restrain myself to say anything but there is a limit to everything. I can't be silent while monstrosity is only spreading its roots. Those silent today will repent someday. The acid attack victims and the females murdered at their in-laws are on my mind while I am writing this. The only tribute to them would be the honest presentation of what happened to them. Let's not sugar-coat the bitter truth to hide the elephant in our room.

Kabir Writes



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY SPECIAL

Beyond The Glass Ceiling, Under The Sky

Photo Feature by Faisal Bashir

This Women's Day we celebrate the resilience of women who do not make it to the Glass-ceiling narratives and change-makers' lists in Kashmir but are not any less than any of such women. They brave odds of their class position and participate in everyday activities – agential in their roles inside and beyond their houses. Male dominance is an order of this unfortunate world but all women living and breathing through it are breaking barriers. Cheers to all, especially these women from Kashmir. Here's to changing how we look at achievements.



PAKHER PORA AREA IN PULWANA has some inaccessible forest areas whose residents do not have easy access to essentials like the city folks. These areas are only accessible through transport options like Horses. This woman rode a horse to the marketplace to fetch groceries and a live rooster in her basket.



WOMEN ARE AN IMPORTANT PART of agricultural activities in rural Kashmir. Here in the picture is a group of young and middle-aged women, sowing paddy plants, Kaka Pora, Pulwama. This is an essential activity in rural economy and women are an important part of the labour force



WOMEN SOWING RICE IN THE RICE FIELDS of Pulwama. This is a community activity and women find themselves working together and bonding meaningfully in such settings



A WOMAN IN GULMARG, carrying grass sacks on her head to feed her cattle. Very often, our social media feeds are inundated with images of these beautiful flowers with well placed figures of urban women – in their glory. This is not an unusual sight but surely a rare click. It is resilient but nonetheless a hard way to live.



AN OLD WOMAN in a mustard field in Pulwama area of Kashmir, carrying a grass sack



WITH THE DIURNAL RAYS OF SUN, this elderly woman in Bugam Village of Budgam Village also set out for business. Carrying pottery utensils, she has headed out to sell these.



ON THE DODPATHRI ROAD, this mother and son duo have started a traditional Kashmiri tea and bread business for locals and non-locals who visit this tourist location. Featured here with a Somavar, traditional bread, cups and other cooking essentials



IN BUDGAM'S BEERWAH AREA, a woman is seen carrying firewood for domestic use. Contrary to the image of women presented in popular culture, these women play not just domestic roles within the confines of their homes but also set out to do more challenging tasks like find and carry heavy stacks of firewood. They fuel the entire household, quite literally.



APPLE BUSINESS IS BIG in Kashmir and Apple export is a huge part of the revenue stream here. Seen here is an elderly woman from Anantnag, packaging apples in boxes

ON THE DODPATHRI ROAD, THIS MOTHER AND son duo have started a traditional Kashmiri tea and bread business for locals and non-locals who visit this tourist location. Featured here with a Somavar, traditional bread, cups and other cooking essentials



# MHA Appointed Taskforce On Suicides In CAPFs To Study Fratricides Too

Agenceis

New Delhi: A taskforce comprising senior officers constituted a few months back by the Home Ministry to look into cases of suicide in the central armed police forces (CAPFs) will also prepare a comprehensive report on incidents of fratricide, in which seven BSF personnel have been killed in two days, officials said on Monday.

The panel will prepare a "case study analysis and recommendations" not only for cases where troops take the extreme step of taking their lives but also on the subject of the targeting of comrades-in-arms by a trooper.

The last few incidents of fratricides that took place in these forces will be taken into account, sources told PTI.

The committee has been holding meetings, the latest was last week.

"The work is in progress," an official privy to the development said.

A draft report will first be prepared and circulated among the CAPFs for their final comments, following which it will be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a second official said.

The taskforce is headed by IPS officer V S K Kaumudi, the

special secretary (internal security) in the home ministry, with a special/additional director general rank officer each from the BSF, ITBP, CISF, SSB and Assam Rifles as the members of the panel.

CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh earlier headed the panel when it was constituted in December last year. Seven BSF personnel have been killed in two separate fratricide incidents that took place in Punjab and West Bengal on Sunday and Monday respectively.

PTI had first reported in December that the task force has been asked to draw a plan to "identify relevant risk factors and protective factors at the individual level; look at the existing and futuristic protective factors and study prevention strategies and also conduct research and interact with domain experts."

According to the December 2021 data shared by the government in Parliament, a total of 25 fratricide incidents have taken place in the CAPFs during 2019-2021.

The highest number of these incidents took place in the CRPF (11) followed by the BSF (nine). The data did not say the number of deaths that took place in these incidents.

Government data updated till August last year showed a total of 680 CAPF or central paramilitary forces personnel died by suicide in the last six years.

These numbers are over 700 now, a senior officer said.

The taskforce was asked by the Union home ministry to identify risk factors like "past suicidal attempt by the trooper, impulsivity as a personality trait, mental illness, alcohol or drugs abuse, aggressive tendencies, acute emotional crises, acute severe physical illness or chronic physical illness, acute stressful life events among others."

They were to also find if "any changes or modifications can be done in the deployment pattern of the troops and some way in which access to mobile phones can be limited during deployment phases" to check instances where troops take the extreme step of ending their lives.

The panel of officers will also go through "protective factors" like the personnel having a strong relationship with family members; skills in problem-solving and conflict resolution; personal, social and religious beliefs and connections to spirituality.

It has been suggested by the home ministry that the

taskforce will also look into the aspects of improving awareness about suicide prevention, policies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and drugs, and the importance of mental well-being, etc.

The panel will also devise plans to "screen" suicidal ideas or plans before and after a personnel avails leave.

It will also look at training personnel to identify "vulnerable" colleagues and ways to address issues related to certain stigmas or taboo subjects.

A senior CAPF officer said the issue of "frequently taking out CAPF companies from duty areas for the conduct of polls and for a variety of law and order duties was also taking a toll on the mental peace of personnel as those left behind had to fill in for those who have been sent away".

The CAPFs have a combined strength of over 10 lakh personnel and their troops are deployed in varied climates- with temperatures ranging from 50 degrees to as low as minus 40 degrees.

They not only guard Indian borders but also undertake counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency and anti-Naxal operations during remote and continuously mobile deployments.

## Ukraine crisis: PM dials Putin, Zelenskyy for safe rescue of students as evacuation gets delayed further

Agenceis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy ways to start the stalled evacuation of Indian students from Ukraine's besieged Sumy city pummelled by the invading Russian forces, officials said.

Modi conveyed his "deep concern" over the safety and security of the students and, during the 50-minute telephonic conversation, suggested direct talks between Putin and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy may "greatly assist" the ongoing peace efforts.

Meanwhile, Indian student Harjot Singh, who took four bullets while fleeing Ukrainian capital Kyiv a few days ago, landed at the Hindon airbase here on Monday evening, with his family heaving a sigh of relief.

The 31-year-old student, was immediately shifted to the Army Hospital (Research And Referral) in an ambulance from the airport. His family members, who came to receive him at the airbase with bouquets, followed the ambulance in their car.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh, who was in

Poland to facilitate the evacuation of Indian students, told reporters, "The Indian embassy in Ukraine evacuated Harjot and his condition is stable. Harjot has been sent to the Army Hospital (Research And Referral) as no one is better than Army in treating bullet wounds."

The 700 odd students trapped in the dank and dreary basements of their hostels in frigid weather, meanwhile, are on edge with no water or electric supply, and having to go without food as ATMs have run dry and shops declining cards.

"It has been 10 days (since) we have been waiting here but there is no ray of hope (as to) when we will be evacuated," said a distraught Indian medical student stranded in the embattled northeastern city in a video message.

"We are not able to buy even food and essential items," said the Sumy State University student.

A total of 1,314 Indians were airlifted on Monday on seven civilian flights from Ukraine's neighbouring countries, the Civil Aviation Ministry said.

"Tomorrow, two special civilian flights are expected to operate from Suceva, Romania,

to bring more than 400 Indians back home," it said in a statement.

"Prime Minister Modi conveyed his deep concern for the safety and security of the Indian students still remaining in Sumy," the PMO said in a statement.

It said Putin informed the prime minister about measures to create "humanitarian corridors" for facilitating the evacuation of civilians, mostly students.

It was the third telephone call between the two leaders after war in Ukraine began.

Russian authorities had announced they will start a ceasefire on Monday and open "humanitarian corridors" in key Ukrainian cities including Kyiv, Kharkiv and Sumy. However, it is unclear whether the evacuation has begun as heavy fighting continues.

"Prime Minister Modi welcomed the ongoing negotiations between Russia and Ukraine and expressed hope that they would lead to cessation of the conflict. He suggested that a direct conversation between President Putin and President Zelenskyy may greatly assist the ongoing peace efforts," the MEA said.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### 'Everything's Lost

stopped at Amira Kadal to buy fruit. "As soon as the vendor handed over a bag full of fruit to me, a blast took place and we fainted and fell down on the ground," the mother recalled.

After regaining her normal composure, Hameeda saw daughters bleeding. She herself had suffered splinter injuries.

"We hugged each other before Rafiya said that something had happened to her head," the mother recalled.

Soon a local boy arrived on the scene and sealed Rafiya's head wound with his hand before rushing her to the SMHS hospital. Hameeda and her elder daughter followed in another vehicle.

The grenade was lobbed when the marketplace was bustling with shoppers. One elderly civilian from Kalashpora locality of the city died on the spot while at least 24 others were wounded.

"Rafiya was critically injured as she had splinters in her brain," Dr. Mufti Mehmod, Head of Department, SMHS, told Kashmir Observer.

"We put her on mechanical ventilation. She was looked after by neurosurgeons but she wasn't responding to treatment."

At around 8 on Monday morning, said Dr. Kanwaljeet Singh, Medical Superintendent SMHS, Rafiya breathed her last.

Unable to make sense of her loss, Hameeda screamed for her daughter when her little coffin was taken out for the final journey. The entire locality gave Rafiya a tearful farewell.

Amid cries and wails, Hameeda recalled the last conversation with her daughter.

Soon after the blast, Rafiya had enquired about her mother's wellbeing: "Mummy, tsechekha theek" (Mom, are you fine).

"I hugged her tight and told her I am ok," said Hameeda. "But I didn't know that my daughter was talking to me one last time."

#### Pays Obeisance At

vehicle and received garlands, flowers and shawls from the enthusiastic workers. He, however, did not speak to media.

Nadda along with his family, Jitendra Singh, Ravinder Raina, and BJP national general secretary and in-charge J&K Tarun Chug paid obeisance at the cave shrine.

Nadda's visit to the shrine owes significance in view of the recently-held elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa, with counting of votes scheduled for March 10.

On his return from the shrine, Nadda held a brainstorming session with party leaders of various organisational units on further strengthening the party in the Union territory ahead of the forthcoming polls.

Raina said the visit of the BJP national president assumes significance as elections to Jammu Kashmir Assembly is expected to take place later this year after the finalisation of the delimitation commission report. (PTI)

#### 5 Cases In Kashmir

Kupwara, Anantnag, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 12 new cases of virus, Ramban and Doda 3 each and two districts in Kishtwar. The remaining six cases of Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Poonch and

Reasi detected no cases.

Also, the officials said that 57 Covid-19 patients—36 from Jammu and 21 from Valley—recovered during the time.

The officials further said that the death toll due to the pandemic remained unchanged at 4749 in J&K as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

#### Mercury Falls

5 centimeters of fresh snowfall in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today and along with Gurez and Zojila, it was snowing there. It has started to rain in Srinagar and other parts while the weather was cloudy in Jammu, Katra and Banihal.

"Current weather is likely to continue till tonight. Light to moderate rain/snow is likely to occur at scattered places," he said, adding, "From March 8th to 13th, weather is likely to remain partly cloudy with chances of occasional light rain/snow (over higher reaches).

However, he said, there's no forecast of any "significant weather" till March 13.

The official said that Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recorded a low of 7.0°C against last night's 5.8°C on the previous night.

Qazigund recorded a low of 6.7°C against 3.4°C on the previous night while Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had a low of 5.7°C against 2.7°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 2.6°C against 1.2°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.6°C against minus 2.0°C on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 1.9°C above normal for this time of the year in the famous resort, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 4.6°C against 5.8°C on the previous night, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 14.8°C against 14.0°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 0.8°C above normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 10.6°C, Batote had a minimum of 9.7°C while Bhaderwah recorded a low of 6.8°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a minimum of minus 0.4°C against last night minus 2.5°C on the previous night while automatic Kargil station at recorded a low of minus 6.8°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 2.6°C against 5.0°C on the previous night, officials said

#### J&K Among Top

science and technology, providing improved marketing facilities and resolving several other issues like power, irrigation, cheaper credit and rural infrastructure," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

The LG made these remarks while inaugurating the five-day long "Kisan Mela" at SKUAST, here on Monday, an official spokesperson said. He also laid foundation stone for newly sanctioned faculties of Horticulture & Forestry, Agricultural Engineering and Dairy Technology.

"A renewed thrust is being given to organic farming to bring about a paradigm shift in agrarian policy, rural prosperity and improving the incomes and the quality of life of the farmers,"

the LG added.

According to the spokesperson, Sinha enlisted various initiatives taken by the government for the welfare of the farming community.

The LG, he said, also highlighted the farmer-centric reforms introduced by the government in the last two years to empower farmers of J&K, increasing their income manifold and making them AatmaNirbhar.

"The UT of J&K is now among the top five States/UTs in terms of farm income with a monthly income of Rs 18,918 per farmer," the LG said, as per the spokesperson.

"Greater diversification into high-value crops, value addition through agro-processing and market-linkages are taking our agriculture & horticulture sector to new heights and ensuring inclusive growth process. The improved air connectivity has given new boost to the horticulture sector," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that the Union Territory government is constantly striving to provide farmers with direct access to modern technologies, encouraging natural farming to improve profitability & sustainability in agriculture & allied sectors.

"Aggressive marketing & branding of local agri-products, mechanization in Agriculture and Horticulture sector, High-Density Plantation, diversification, better quality seeds, capacity buildings, GI Tagging, expansion of banking facilities, micro-irrigation has achieved rich dividends for farmers and have brought a structural change in agriculture and horticulture sector," Sinha said.

"Vocal for Local has opened up a plethora of opportunities for everyone associated with the Agriculture & allied sectors to grow and prosper. We are also bringing National & International players on board for enhancing the knowledge expertise and providing global market linkages to J&K's farming community," he added.

The spokesperson said that the LG asked the Agriculture Universities of J&K to work on mission mode to connect more farmers with organic farming & horticulture and make them acquainted with the latest scientific know-hows.

Sinha, he said, also announced that 500 enterprising farmers will be provided with handholding, knowledge-based intervention every year to harness the potential of organic produce.

"Bridging the rural-gap is among the top priorities of the UT administration. A strong framework is being developed to increase employment and connect rural youth with the agriculture & horticulture industry. Administration will extend all possible support to the Youth involved in agricultural start-ups," the LG said.

Sinha, as per the spokesperson said that special arrangements are being made to take Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to all the farmers. He said that the government is also extending maximum financial help to the Farmer-Producer Organizations- FPO's and exploring possibilities of micro-financing institutions to cater to the needs of the farmers of J&K.

"We have set a target to convert 5500 hectares of land into high density plantations in the next four years. Last year, we succeeded in planting apples in 320 hectares and sub-tropical fruits in 2400 hectares," the LG said.

On this occasion, the spokesperson said that the LG congratulated the

Agriculture Department for achieving an additional storage capacity of one lakh metric tonnes in just 18 months time.

Sinha, he said, also felicitated progressive farmers, entrepreneurs, media persons and meritorious students of the University.

He further said that the LG congratulated the University for bringing entrepreneurs, technocrats, policymakers and farmers from J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand on a common platform.

"The exchange of ideas and knowledge will encourage agricultural innovation and motivate farmers to adopt productive techniques," Sinha said, as per spokesperson.

#### Hails Role Of Women

strengthening Panchayat and grass-root institutions.

"Women from J&K are making a significant impact in different fields with persistent and constructive efforts of nation-building. I wish to congratulate our sisters and daughters for their achievements, and selflessly and tirelessly working for a peaceful and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir," Sinha said in his message on the eve of International Women's Day

"Women are embodiment of compassion and selflessness. I salute their indomitable spirit and monumental contribution in socio-economic growth, eradicating social evils and strengthening Panchayat and grass-root institutions," he added.

On this occasion, he said the LG reaffirmed his commitment for the empowerment of women and equal participation in building Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

#### Ex- J&K Governor

The governor also said, "a friend of the prime minister is pursuing the dream of buying wheat at cheaper price and building a godown in an area of 50 acres in Panipat" to store it.

Malik said the prime minister's residence was only few kilometres away from the farmers' protest site at the Delhi border and a large number of farmers lost their lives during the agitation that lasted for more than a year.

"But no one came from the government's side to express condolence," Malik said.

He said he has never compromised his principles and always raised the voice of farmers. He claimed the farmers' movement was the biggest and longest such movement in history wherein there was no violence of any kind.

Malik said some leaders were put in jail after abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, but the prime minister got them released and served them tea.

Malik was the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 when the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked and it was split into two Union Territories.

#### Panel To Search

nine months Pandita was appointed as permanent Chairman for a period of two years on April 5, 2018 and her tenure was supposed to expire on April-4-202 but the government extended her tenure by a month till April-30-2020 in view of the outbreak of COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir.

On April-08-2020, the government

constituted a search committee for suggesting a panel for appointment of chairman of BOSE.

The orders to constitute a committee were issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) that had five members.

The five member committee was headed by the financial commissioner of the finance department. The other four members of the Committee were, principal secretary to government for School Education Department, secretary to government for Higher Education Department, Vice Chancellors (VC's) of Central University of Jammu and Samba and Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir (KU).

Later on July-06-2020, the government re-appointed Pandita as chairman of BOSE for two more years—(KNO)

#### MHA Appointed

and Assam Rifles as the members of the panel.

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ously mobile deployments.

#### Soldier Shoots

sources said, Kumar, they said, was presently attached with the army's Victor Force and posted in Awantipora.

The reason behind the alleged suicide was not known immediately.

"No suicide note or any other document was found from the spot," sources told a local news agency KDC

#### Woman Found

river Jhelum in Ladoora area of the district on Monday morning. The body, reports said, was taken into custody by police for carrying out medico-legal formalities.

The identity of the woman is yet to be ascertained, reports said.

#### Grenade Throwing

identified the alleged militant associates as Aqib Manzoor Bhat, Mudasar Ahmed Bhat, Gh Mohd Ahanger, and Waris Bashir Najar, all residents of Tral. He also claimed recovery of three hand grenades from their possession.

According to the spokesperson, Najar was involved in throwing a grenade on Army camp at Mandoora on the evening of March 1.

During preliminary investigation, he said, it came to fore that the accused were carrying out grenade throwing activities on the directions of Irshad Ahmed Bhat of Pattan and Mustakeem Ahmed Ahangar alias Waheed of Hafoo Tral, both of them currently lodged at Srinagar's Central Jail for murder and weapon smuggling cases.

Both Mustakeem and Irshad, the spokesperson said, are coordinating militant activities even from Central Jail Srinagar.

"In this regard, a case vide FIR No. 21/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated. More arrests are expected in the instant case once further links are investigated and established," he added.

#### 163 Animals Rescued

police teams intercepted seven trucks at different places on the Jammu-Srinagar highway in the district, they said.

During a search of these vehicles, 163 animals were rescued and the trucks seized, the officials said.

The animals were being transported to the valley with utmost cruelty and without any arrangement of food or water, they said. (PTI)



## Student Feedback To Be Used To Improve Teaching Outcomes: Kansal



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Improving teaching learning outcomes, enhancing quality and facilitating employability must be guiding principles of the higher education system, Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Rohit Kansal said on Monday.

He made these remarks during the launch of Quality Enhancement and Learning Management System (LMS) for 11 leading colleges of Jammu division at Government College for Women, Parade here.

Terming technology as a potent enabler in making the teaching-learning outcomes measurable and effective, he said that it was now time to harness the power of technology in measuring and improving outcomes.

The Quality Enhancement and Learning Management System (LMS) would provide a 360 degree Performance Insight through a detailed analysis of a number of parameters. Most important, it had provisions for regular feedback from learners to be received and analyzed.

Every student too would have a dedicated account and would be able to receive personalized feedback and evaluation. Since the entire process was automated, both students and faculty would receive automatic emails on various aspects of their performance. The management of the college too would benefit from reduced paperwork and automation of processes. In particular applications for NAAC, NIRF, NBA could now be easily prepared and submitted.

He applauded the management of the MIET College, Jammu and its Director Dr Ankur Gupta for extending the use of their Performance Insight and LMS software to these colleges under their CSR initiative.

He said that it is their immense contribution towards the development of higher education in the UT. He also lauded the efforts of all the allied colleges for rising up to the occasion and adopting it within a very short span of time. He stated that soon all the 142 colleges of J&K will be brought on the system and students given log in facility for it.

The Performance Insight and Learning Management System involves on boarding of teaching, learning, evaluation, inspection and administration

among a host of other activities of education institutes on an on-line platform. The system helps bring transparency in the system and helps better collaboration through technology.

Kansal said that the end use of the technology lies with the user. He stated that the use of technology is as good as the user himself. He observed that the teachers should take the feedback from their students with open mind as the feedback is a potent mechanism to shine a light on many aspects of ourselves that we may be unaware of and help us improve both as professionals and individuals.

On implementation of the National Education Policy from the upcoming academic session, the Principal Secretary said that under the new policy all colleges would be transformed into centres of research and innovation.

All our colleges would obtain NAAC accreditation. Colleges would also be linked with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for providing skill courses to its students, he informed. He also informed them that all colleges of the UT would be evaluated and ranked, the best performers amongst them would be rewarded.

While expressing satisfaction with speed of implementation of LMS by the colleges, the Principal Secretary assured them of financial support and urged them to strive for improving quality of education.

The Director Colleges congratulated the colleges and called this move of adopting the LMS by them as a milestone in improving the teaching process. She said that it would reduce paper work to a larger extent and make monitoring of the college processes easy for the administration.

The Principal Secretary later dedicated the new 'Kamala Sohoni Block' to the students of the college. The block includes science labs, classrooms, auditorium and several other facilities for the post graduate and under graduate students. The block has been named after the first Indian woman doctorate Kamala Sohoni.

Those present at the event included Special Secretary, Rakesh Kumar Badyal, Director Colleges, Dr Yasmeen Ashai, Principal Parade College Dr. Sarawat, Senior principals and other senior officers of the Higher Education Department.

## Jamkash Kashmir Launches New WagonR



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jamkash Vehicleads Kashmir Pvt Ltd on Monday launched Dilsestrong New WagonR, one of the most iconic and highest selling cars in the country.

The unveiling of the car was done by the Chief guest for the occasion Mr.Zaffar Akeel Shah (AVP) JK Bank RR along with trfan Ahmad (Managing Director), and Aawan Ahmad (CEO), officials of Mahindra & Mahindra , Chola Mandalam were also present on the occasion, a spokesperson said.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Irfan Ahmad Narwaroo (MD) Jamkash said:

"Maruti Suzuki WagonR's continued success in the market is a testament to its undisputed reign as one of the most iconic Indian hatchbacks. Since

its launch in 1999, WagonR has constantly evolved and risen to the pulse of the changing customer preferences with class-leading features, design and performance,"

"Delighted to share that WagonR has the highest repeat purchase percentage in the Maruti Suzuki portfolio. Over 1 in 4 WagonR customers replace it with a new WagonR. Over the years, Wagon R has become the choice of over 2.7 million families. The New WagonRis geared up to take that legacy forward with its robust and energetic performance, dual-tone exterior, enhanced interiors, 12+ safety features, convenient features and higher fuel efficiency. We are confident that the New WagonR will exceed consumer expectations and continue to be the preferred choice of many more Indian families," he added.



**A BROTHER GREAVES AT THE COFFIN** of his sister who died of injuries suffered in Sunday's grenade blast in Srinagar.

KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Union Health Secy Reviews Progress Of AIIMS In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Health Union Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Monday visited the AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district and reviewed the progress of the Rs 1,661 crore project.

Officials informed Bhushan that 45 per cent of civil and other infrastructure works were over and the rest is scheduled to be completed by April 2023.

The project includes a hospital building, medical college, hostels, residential quarters and other utilities, a spokesperson said.

The institute is being established at a sanctioned cost of Rs 1,661 crore, including Rs 1,452 crore for medical college and



other infrastructure and Rs 209 crore for medical equipment and related material, he said.

Bhushan also visited the un-

der-construction Ayush Block within the AIIMS project besides launching a plantation drive in the premises.

## Over 1,700 Watch BSF's Retreat Ceremony Along IB In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Over 1,700 people watched an enthralling retreat ceremony and band display by the Border Security Force along the International Border in Suchetgarh sector here, an official said on Monday.

The BSF band gave an impressive display at the retreat ceremony held at the Octroi Border Out Post on Sunday in the continuing programme of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Deputy Inspector General S P S Sandhu said.

Sandhu, also the BSF spokesperson in Jammu, said the colour-

ful BSF band played many popular tunes and splendid marching enthralled the audience.

BSF's Jammu frontier IG D K Boora along with other officers including DIG S K Singh and DIG Surjeet Singh were present on the occasion, Sandhu said.

Boora praised the BSF for its professionalism and expertise in guarding the country's borders and said the force has been delivering its best despite new challenges on the border.

Sandhu said the BSF has always been at the forefront to organise such programmes to create a sense of patriotism among

the border population and to nourish the relation between the BSF and civil population.

With fervour and zeal, around 1,750 spectators applauded the BSF's musical performance and the retreat ceremony, he said.

After suspension for about seven weeks due to COVID-19, the BSF restarted the beating retreat ceremony in Suchetgarh on February 26. The 'Wagah-Attari-style' ceremony, comprising a structured parade by the BSF's praharis every Saturday and Sunday, was launched in October to promote border tourism and is attracting a good number of visitors.

## J&K Tops Many Governance Indices, Marked Improvement On Others

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The year 2021 witnessed tremendous improvement in the governance standards of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and testimony of the fact is the acknowledgement by different surveys that were conducted by various agencies last year, an official spokesperson said Monday.

To name a few surveys, he said, one among these surveys is the 39th Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban Index-2021 by NITI Aayog, in which Srinagar city secured 61.50 points. He said a total of 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of the SDG framework were ranked by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with GIZ and BMZ under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation.

"The ranking was done with regard to the performance in 14 SDG goals, which included no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reducing inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Partnerships for the Goals as the leading performer in terms of incremental performance," he added.

Among the UTs, the spokesperson said that Delhi followed by Jammu & Kashmir had

shown the best incremental performance. In incremental performance, he said, J&K is ranked at number two with a score of 9.55. In J&K, most of the indicators are in the improved/most improved/fully achieved category as far as the Incremental Performance from the Base Year (2018-19) to Reference Year (2019-20) was concerned.

"According to the report, the health index comprises three domains-Health outcomes, Governance and Information, and key inputs and processes. In terms of overall health performance, the UT of J&K had moved one position up," he said.

"Further in its latest report of National Family Healthy Survey (NFHS-5) Jammu & Kashmir has shown a record improvement over the last three years in key maternal and child health indicators," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the report, while comparing the achievements in key health indicators recorded in National Family Healthy Survey report (NFHS-5) 2019-20 with the NFHS-4 of 2015-16, stated that J&K has recorded 22 points decrease in Neonatal Mortality Rate (NNMR) from 23.1 to 9.8, 16 points decrease in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 32.4 to 16.3, and 19 points decrease in Under Five Mortality Rate (USMR) from 37.6 to 18.5.

He said that the report termed the developments as unprecedented and a reflection of the health status of the general population. It also

indicated a positive change towards the girl child in J&K and recorded improvement in sex ratio at birth from 923 to 976 females per 1,000 males. "Further, the LEADS 2021 index, released by the Union Commerce Ministry, has also put J&K on the top of the list. The report had stated that among the North-eastern states and Himalayan region, Jammu and Kashmir is the top ranker followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya," he said.

"According to the report, J&K and the North-eastern states were considered as a separate category for ranking due to their geographical positioning, terrain, resource base and economic activity at large, which act as natural deterrents to development of a robust logistics infrastructure and its effective management. It had revealed that J&K leads the group on account of better than average performance in the operating and regulatory and objective indicators," he added.

Likewise, the spokesperson said that a report prepared by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released in September last year regarding food safety puts J&K at the top among eight Union Territories in the country. The Food Safety Index is based on five significant parameters - Human Resources & Institutional data, Compliance, Food testing (infrastructure and surveillance), Training & Capacity building and Consumer empowerment.

"Scoring 67 points, J&K had secured the top positions

## Chief Secretary Inspects Mega Development Projects In Jammu



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday conducted an extensive tour of Jammu city to inspect the pace of ongoing mega development projects being executed under different schemes.

Chief Secretary visited and inspected the pace of progress on Ramp Based Multi Level Car Parking project being raised at Panjtihti, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the concerned officers informed the CS that Rs 30 crore multi-tier parking facility would have four levels of parking besides two basements, ground and terrace reserved for parking of around 250 vehicles including 33 percent for SUVs and 136 two wheelers. The ambitious project is expected to be completed by June 2022 this year.

Dr Mehta, while assessing physical progress on the project, asked the officers to ensure operationalization of the project within the given timeline ensuring decongestion of roads of nearby markets from roadside parking for public convenience.

Chief Secretary also visited the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage complex and had on ground appraisal of restoration

and renovation works being taken up at the ancient destination of great tourist significance. He toured different parts of the heritage complex and inspected structures where restorations works are being executed. He directed the concerned officers to also plan out the landscaping and aesthetic environs of the entire heritage complex surroundings for beautification.

Later, Chief Secretary visited the multi-tier parking project at General Bus Stand Jammu wherein he toured all the floors of the facility consisting of parking slots commercial spaces for shops like restaurants and showrooms.

On the occasion, several shop keepers and transporters also interacted with the Chief Secretary and apprised him of their issues and concerns seeking an early redressal.

Dr Mehta visited the Ragunath Bazaar and enquired about the different projects being taken up there for beautification of the market.

Meanwhile, Dr Mehta visited the Ropeway project at Bahu Fort and had a detailed inspection of the utility. He directed the officials to maintain highest safety standards while operating the facility.

## Law Dept Condolences Demise Of Former Additional AG

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, has expressed grief and sorrow over sudden demise of Javed Ahmad Kawoosa, Former Additional Advocate General.

Kawoosa had represented various government departments before the High Court of J&K in his capacity as Additional Advocate General. The department will always remember the dedicated services rendered by Kawoosa, an official spokesperson said.

"All the officers and officials especially, Secretary Law, Achal Sethi, conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal

peace to the departed soul besides courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss," he said.

Meanwhile, the staff at the government degree college (GDC) Allochibagh on Monday held a condolence meeting over the death of Javed Ahmad Kawoosa Senior Advocate, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kawoosa was husband of Principal GDC Allochibagh, Professor Nighat Nasreen.

"The teaching faculty and non-teaching staff of the college participated in the condolence meeting and expressed their grief over the untimely demise of Advocate Javed Ahmad Kawoosa," school officials said.

## Drug Peddler Among 2 Booked Under PSA: Police

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two persons, including an alleged notorious drug peddler were on Monday booked under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) by police in Awantipora. "Acting tough against the drug dealings and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Awantipora booked a notorious drug peddler under PSA", reads a statement.

"Police Station Pampore arrested a notorious drug peddler identified as Manzoor Ahmad Mir @Mana Tiger son of Abdul Khaliq Mir resident of Kadlab Pampore and a case was registered against him. Pertinent to mention here that he was involved in many NDPS and Burglary related cases. Despite his involvement in many FIRS the accused was again promoting Drug Abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth in Pampore area", reads the statement.

"Subsequently, the case was duly processed and after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities, the arrested drug peddler was detained under Public Safety Act", it reads.

"Besides, one more accused identified as Shabir Ahmad Najar, a released [militant], son of Gh Ahmad Najar resident of Wuyan Pampore has also been booked under Public Safety Act after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities", the statement reads.

Meanwhile, Sopore police led by in-charge PP Fruit Mandi at a checking point established at Vijbal Crossing, according to the statement, signalled a vehicle bearing registration number DLCT3 3503 to stop which tried to flee after noticing Police Party but due to alertness of Police Party, the vehicle was intercepted. During search, 1560 capsules of Spasmodoxon were recovered from the possession of Jamshed Ahmad Malik @Bat Bakra son of Gulam Muhammad Malik resident of Achabal Sopore



## More Than Winning, Rohit Sharma Wants To Secure India's Future

Reuters

**MUMBAI:** India's crushing victory over Sri Lanka was an impeccable start to Rohit Sharma's reign as Test captain but the all-format leader says creating a bench strength to secure the team's future will be a bigger challenge to him than winning matches.

The Mohali test was Rohit's first assignment as captain of India's Test side after Virat Kohli stepped down in a surprise move after the team's 2-1 defeat in their last Test series in South Africa.

The 34-year-old could not have hoped for a better start after India thrashed Sri Lanka inside three days by an innings and 222 runs.

"It's not just about 11 players, it's also about the people who are sitting outside wanting to get their chances," Rohit told reporters after Sunday's win. "About creating that bench strength, which will hold the future of Indian cricket."

"If you create that bench strength and you start thinking from now, Indian cricket will be in good hands. That is one of my challenges and one of the responsibilities I want to take upon me," Rohit, who also leads India in 50 overs and Twenty20 formats, has promised to back the younger



players in the side.

The opening batter from Mumbai said he wants to give the cricketers a platform and clarity of roles so they can perform freely when their opportunity arrives.

"It's going to be my biggest challenge, more than, in fact, winning games," he continued. "For me what will be important is how I approach those guys who are sitting outside and how I can get them in good mindset."

"When they get an opportunity they should be very clear as to what they want to go out there and achieve. When you're playing (for India), there will be a lot of pressure."

"But we as team management want to create a very healthy and positive atmosphere where guys are just going out there and doing what they are supposed to do."

## Mandhana Hails Pakistan Captain Maroof For Returning To Action Six Months After Child Birth



Press Trust of India

**MOUNT MANGNU:** Star India opening batter Smriti Mandhana has hailed "inspirational" Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof for setting an example for sports-women across the world by returning to play six months after giving birth to a child.

After they beat arch-rivals Pakistan by 107 runs in the Women's World Cup on Sunday, some Indian players were seen having a good time with Maroof's daughter Fatima with pictures and videos of them playing with the six-month-old girl going viral.

Vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Renuka Singh Thakur, Meghna Singh and Richa Ghosh were seen making playful gestures at the toddler cradled in Maroof's arm.

"Coming back post pregnancy in 6 months and playing international cricket is so inspiring. @bismahma-

roof setting an example for sports-women across the globe," Mandhana wrote in an Instagram post.

"Lots of love to baby Fatima from India and I hope she picks the bat just like you bcoz lefties are special."

After the match, the ICC tweeted along with a photo: "Little Fatima's first lesson in the spirit of cricket from India and Pakistan."

Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar was quick to chip in with his admiring comment.

"What a lovely moment! Cricket has boundaries on the field, but it breaks them all off the field. Sport unites!" he wrote in a tweet.

That 30-year-old Maroof was able to travel to New Zealand with her daughter — as well as her mother, Fatima's carer — as Pakistan Cricket Board's maternity rule allows the mother "to travel with a support person of her choice to assist in caring for her infant child", with travel and accommodation costs shared equally between the board and the player.

### 29th Annual Football Championship

## Budgam Ousts Srinagar, Anantnag Defeats Ganderbal

Winners qualify for Final Phase of the championship



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two First Phase matches of the ongoing 29th Annual Football Championship were played on Monday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

In the first match, DFA Anantnag locked horns with DFA Ganderbal. Both teams played good football and at full time whistle the match ended in a goalless draw. The winner was decided by enforcing a tiebreaker rule in

which DFA Anantnag defeated DFA Ganderbal by 4 goals to 1.

In the second match, DFA Srinagar and DFA Budgam went face to face against each other. In the beginning minutes of the game, Srinagar dominated for some time and scored a beautiful goal through Ayaan. However, the Budgam side consolidated their position and took advantage of a counter attack and equalised the score through Mohammad Yaseen.

Both the teams struggled hard to take the lead but couldn't find the net till the final whistle was blown. The tiebreaker rule was enforced to decide the winner, in which DFA Budgam defeated DFA Srinagar by 4 goals to 2.

DFA Anantnag and DFA Budgam now join DFA Hajin and DFA Baramulla to have qualified for the Final Phase.

The tournament is organised by JKFA in collaboration with JKSC.

## Real Kashmir Lose 5-1 To Gokulam Kerala In I-League

RKFC was reduced to 10 men 3 minutes into the match

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Defending champions Gokulam Kerala thrashed Real Kashmir FC 5-1 while Mohammedan Sporting remained unbeaten with a 3-1 win over Sreenidi Deccan in their I-League matches on Monday. Luka Majcen (4th, 38th) and Jourdaine Fletcher (5th, 27th) scored a brace each, while Jithin (66th) struck once for Gokulam against a 10-man Real Kashmir, who got their lone goal through Tiago Adan (48th). Gokulam made a flying start to the match at Kalyani stadium as Prakash Sarkar handled the ball inside the six-yard box in the fourth minute after a deflection from the goalpost and was given a straight red card.

Luka Majcen converted the resultant spot kick to give Gokulam Kerala a 1-0 lead. In less than a minute, Gokulam doubled their lead, with Jourdaine Fletcher hitting a left-footed shot into the right bottom corner of the goal.

A 10-man Real Kashmir continued to feel the pressure as



the defending champions made dangerous moves inside their half. In the 27th minute, Abdul Hakku provided a beautiful pass to Jourdaine Fletcher who netted it once again to make it 3-0 for Gokulam.

Two minutes later, Abhash Thapa denied Fletcher his hat-trick as he cleared the ball from the goal line.

In the 38th minute, Luka Majcen scored his second goal of the match after an error from Real Kashmir's defence saw the ball land on the Slovenian's left foot. Majcen made no mistake and handed his team a four-goal lead with ease.

Just after resumption, Gokulam's Thahir Zaman conceded a penalty and Tiago Adan converted from the spot.

Emil Benny, who was looking very threatening in the defensive third, made a delightful pass to Jithin in the 66th minute, who struck a half-volley on the bottom right corner of the net to add the fifth goal for Gokulam.

At the Naihati stadium, Marcus Joseph (40th, 51st) scored a brace before Andelo Rudovic's 89th minute strike as Mohammedan Sporting came from a goal down to defeat Sreenidi Deccan 3-1.

## Australia Trail Pakistan By 27 Runs At Stumps On Day 4



Agencies

**RAWALPINDI:** Australia's batters flourished on a flat wicket Monday to cut Pakistan's lead to 27 runs as the first test heads toward a draw.

Australia, playing its first test in Pakistan since 1998, reached 449-7 at stumps in its first innings on Day 4 on a grassless wicket with Marnus Labuschagne (90) and Steve Smith (78) scoring half centuries. Cameron Green (48) showed himself to be a test allrounder by spending more than two hours at the crease, facing 109 balls.

No. 8 batter Mitchell Starc spent almost the last hour and was not out on 12 with skipper Pat Cummins not out on 4 as stumps were drawn three overs before scheduled because of bad light.

Pakistan had declared its first innings at 476-4 late on Day 2 on the back of big centuries from Azhar Ali (185) and Imam-ul-Haq (157).

Opening batter Usman Khawaja narrowly missed out on a century in the country of his

birth on Sunday when he was dismissed for 97, but shared a rapid 156-run opening wicket stand with David Warner, who made 68.

On a docile wicket where there was no appreciable turn for the spinners, left-arm spinner Nauman Ali grabbed 4-107 mainly because Australia's batters went for extravagant shots.

Labuschagne was the second Australian batsman to fell in the 90s when he was caught in the slip in Shaheen Afridi's (1-80) third over with the new ball after a wet outfield following overnight rain prevented any play in the first session.

Labuschagne hit 12 boundaries in his knock but attempted a drive off a wide delivery from Afridi as Abdullah Shafique grabbed a well judged low catch in the lone slip.

Travis Head (8) was a rare batsman to fail in a batter-dominated test match when he edged Nauman to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan while going for a cut shot as Pakistan claimed two wickets in the mid session. (AP)

## South African Cricketers Face Test Of Loyalty Ahead Of IPL: Dean Elgar

Press Trust of India

**JOHANNESBURG:** South African Test skipper Dean Elgar has urged his teammates to choose national duty in a series against Bangladesh over the upcoming IPL as it is a test of loyalty for them and they must prioritise their country.

South Africa are set to play three one-dayers and two Tests against Bangladesh starting March 18, while the IPL is scheduled to be held from March 26 to May 29. The ODIs will be held on March 18, 20 and 23, followed by two Tests starting on March 31 and ending on April 12.

According to 'ESPNcricinfo', Cricket South Africa has left it on the players to decide between the lucrative league and turning up for the country in the Bangladesh series.

"The players need to give Cricket South Africa an indication of if they are keen to go to the IPL or if they are keen to play for the Test side. It's a bit of

a tough one putting that in the players' box but this I guess, this is where you see where players'



loyalty lies," Elgar said.

"They mustn't forget that Test cricket or one-day cricket got them into the IPL and not the other way around." As many as 11 South African players, including six Test regulars and three ODI players, have been roped in by different franchises at this year's IPL. In fact, South Africa's pace attack — comprising Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje and Marco Jansen — and top batters Aiden Markram, Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller, all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius and limited-overs wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock — all have IPL contracts.

### SHANE WARNE STATE FUNERAL

## 100,000 Expected To Attend Warne's Melbourne Cricket Ground Farewell

Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Shane Warne's state funeral will be held at the iconic MCG in front of an expected crowd of 100,000 people in a fitting farewell to the Australian spin king in the next two to three weeks, according to reports.

The public memorial will be held after Warne's family mourn him at a private service.

Warne's manager James Erskine did not confirm MCG as the venue for the state funeral but hinted that no other stadium would be an appropriate one considering the stature of the legendary Australian.

"But where else?" Erskine told 'The Age'.

According to 'Herald Sun', the state funeral is likely to be held within two or three weeks, which would overlap with the Australian Rules Football League (AFL) season, but the MCG "will make all necessary arrangements to accommodate the service".

A date has not been fixed as Warne's family waits for his body to be returned to Melbourne following his sudden death from a suspected heart attack at Koh Samui in Thailand on Friday.

'The Age' quoted sources



as saying that Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews wanted to attend the state funeral and were working to find a suitable date with Warne's family.

The MCG was Warne's favourite ground and the scene of his famous hat-trick against England in the Boxing Day Test in 1994, taking the wickets of tail-enders Phil DeFreitas, Darren Gough and Devon Malcolm.

Warne has his own statue at the MCG ground, and it has become a central location for fans to pay their respects with numerous flowers laid alongside beer cans of Victoria Bitter, packets of cigarettes and meat pies.

The 52-year-old will also have the Southern Stand named after him, which will become the SK Warne Stand.

On the same day of Warne's sudden demise, another Australian legend, former wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh died a week after suffering a heart attack. The Western Australian government has also offered Marsh a state funeral.

Cricket Australia, the state cricket associations of Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia, along with St Kilda Cricket Club, where Warne played, are likely to meet later this week to discuss commemorations for the two legends of Australian cricket. (AP)

## Thai Autopsy Says Warne Died Of Natural Causes

Agencies

**BANGKOK:** Police in Thailand said Monday that an autopsy conducted on the body of Australian cricket star Shane Warne has concluded that he died of natural causes, ruling out foul play.

A police statement said the opinion issued by the doctor who carried out the autopsy has been conveyed to Warne's family and the Australian Embassy. It said the family did not have any doubt that the 52-year-old cricketer, widely considered one of the sport's greatest spin bowlers, died of natural causes.

A senior police officer explained the findings at a news conference held after the statement was issued.

There are no reports of missing items. There were no signs of a struggle," said Assistant Police Commissioner General Gen. Surachate Hakparn.

"The director of the hospital said from the autopsy that he died of natural causes. His father had said that he (Warne) had suffered tightness in his chest and planned to have a medical checkup when he returned from his holiday. The cause of death is natural, not a murder."

Warne was found unresponsive in his hotel room on the Thai resort island of Samui on Friday and could not be revived at a nearby hospital. His body was transferred Sunday to the Thai mainland for an official autopsy at a state hospital. Preliminary evaluations from Thai authorities said Warne died from a heart attack.

Police said they would conclude the autopsy report and send it to the prosecutor's office as soon as possible, a standard procedure in cases of unexpected death.

Warne's family released a statement Monday saying the day of his death was for them the beginning of a never-ending nightmare.

## Ponting Says Every Time He Thinks About Warne, He Becomes Emotional



Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting "loves" Shane Warne so much that he tends to switch off his television set on hearing the late spin king's voice in it in the past couple of days as he can't still believe that his one-time team-mate is no more.

In an emotional tribute to Warne with whom he played for much of his 15-year international career, Ponting said he is still struggling to comprehend the unexpected death of his close friend.

"It was so raw to me I couldn't really speak and every time I thought about him and our experiences and our journey together and I just got short for words," Ponting told Isa Guha, on The ICC Review.

"Even today I have had the TV on watching the tributes, but every time I hear his voice I have to turn it off."

"It's been a tough couple of days, but it makes us a bit more aware of things I probably need to pay more attention to and there is stuff there for all of us to learn."

Ponting knew Warne better than

most having played alongside the iconic spinner for much of his international career, where the duo shared numerous Test victories, memorable series triumphs and a successful World Cup campaign in 1999.

But while Ponting lived in the same Melbourne bayside suburb as Warne and even caught up for the occasional game of golf all the way up to his death, the former Australia skipper said there was one thing he will never get to share with his long-time friend.

"I would say just how much I love him," Ponting said tearfully, when asked what he would say to Warne if he had the chance for one final conversation.

"I didn't say that to him and I wish I did." "I woke up nice and early I was getting the kids ready to go to netball and Rianna (Ponting's wife) looked at her phone and told me the news about Warne," he said.

"I grabbed the phone out of her hand to look at it and I couldn't believe it and it is still the same now," said the legendary batsman.