



**P3 CITY**

## DIV COM INAUGURATES CHINAR PLANTATION DRIVE AT NISHAT GARDEN

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday inaugurated Chinara Plantation Drive by planting Chinara saplings at Mughal Garden, Nishat Bagh.

**P5 THINK**

## NECESSARY EVIL?

The modern age is the age of science and technology and its impacts are felt in our everyday lives. This is an undeniable fact that inventions, discoveries and technologies are reaching new heights. Science is getting advanced day by day which is an open rather



**P7 STATE**

## GOVT OKAYS LAND TRANSFER FOR MEDICITY, JAILEY SPORTS COMPLEX

The Administrative Council on Tuesday approved the proposal of Revenue Department to transfer various parcels of land for public purposes, including the



**Quote!**  
The only time you fail is when you fall down and stay down  
- Stephen Richards

## NEWS DIGEST

### J&K Logs 16 New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 16 fresh Covid infections taking the case tally in the Union territory to 4,53,476 while no death was reported in a day, officials said. Of the fresh cases, four were from Jammu and 12 from the Kashmir division, they said. According to officials, **More on P6**

### 2 Killed In Baramulla Landslide

SRINAGAR- Two persons were killed and as many others injured when they came under landslide during extraction of soil in Wagoora area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday. Four persons came under the landslide during extraction of soil in Wagila- **More on P6**

### Shabnam Kamili Given Additional Charge

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday ordered transfers and postings in the administration. According to Government Order No.288-JK(GAD) of 2022, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD, Bashir Ahmad Dar, JKAS, Director General, Social Welfare, **More on P6**

### 2 Power Dept Officials Fall In ACB Net

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested two engineers of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) for accepting a bribe of Rs 48,000, an official here said. Assistant Executive Engineer, Surinder Kumar, and Assistant Engineer Charanjeet Singh were caught red-handed **More on P6**

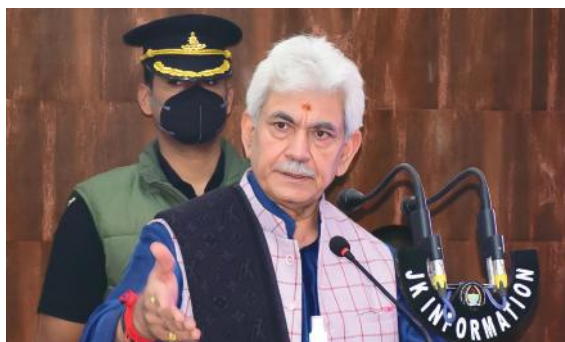
# LG Hails 'Progressive & Transformative' J&K Budget

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Terming the budget 2022-23 for Jammu and Kashmir as 'Progressive & Transformative, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that his administration will put in place social safety nets for last man in the queue, sufficient outlays for rural development, healthcare services, urban renewal missions, employment generation and youth initiatives.

Lok Sabha on Monday passed Rs 1, 12,950 crore Jammu & Kashmir UT budget for 2022-23.

Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for fulfilling



the needs & aspirations of the people of J&K and to accelerate the pace of economic development, an official spokesperson said.

"The budget will ensure equitable, sustainable, inclusive growth and more jobs", the LG said.

"This budget builds upon the good performance of

the last one year, meets all the challenges for which adequate provisions have been made particularly in the area of infrastructure development, facilitating investment & industrial growth & deepening grass-root democracy," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said **More on P6**

- Rs 50 Cr For Retrieving Land Under Roshni Act.
- 500 Kindergartens To Be Established In Govt Schools
- 8,000 Meritorious Tribal Students To Be Given Tablets
- CCTV's To Be Installed Inside Police Stations
- Rs 7,750 Crore Provisioned Under Jal Jeevan Mission
- Rs 200 Crore Development Fund For 20 DDCs
- 9 Major Sewerage Schemes To Be Executed
- Rs 200 Crore For Heritage Preservation
- Rs 373 Crore For Dal-Nageen Conservation
- Old Age Homes In All Districts

**RS 150 CRORE HAVE BEEN PROVISIONED FOR URBAN RENEWAL** and Development Fund including Creation of City Sustainability Fund to promote/incentivize reforms such as Property Tax, Service Level Benchmarking, User Charges, Creation of Ward Sabhas, Public Disclosure."

## Army Ready To Face Evolving Threats: Lt Gen Dwivedi

Press Trust Of India

Udhampur: The Army's Northern Command is in a high state of readiness to face constantly evolving threats and challenges, General Officer-commanding-in-chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday.

The commander presented gallantry awards as well as distinguished service awards to bravehearts, both officers and other ranks, in a solemn and distinguished investiture ceremony here.

"The security situation in Northern Command continues to remain volatile, as we are the only



command in active operations facing adversaries from both the northern and western front, in addition to the internal security threats," the commander said.

"Northern Command is in a high state of **More on P6**

## Karnataka HC Upholds Scarf Ban: Petitioners Move SC

Agencies

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday said Hijab was not part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith and effectively upheld the ban against the headscarf in educational institutions in the state by dismissing pleas from Muslim girls seeking nod to wear it in classrooms.

Meanwhile a special leave petition was filed in the Supreme court by a student against the



Karnataka High Court order.

The plea states that the high court has failed to note that the right to wear a Hijab comes under

the ambit of 'expression' and is thus protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

"... High Court has failed to note that the right to wear a Hijab is protected as a part of the right to conscience under Article 25 of the Constitution. It is submitted that since the right to conscience is essentially an individual right, the 'Essential Religious Practices Test' ought not to have been applied by the Hon'ble High **More on P6**

**Verdict 'Disappointing', Say Omar, Mehbooba**

Srinagar- Former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday called the Karnataka high court's decision upholding ban on entry of girls into government schools wearing hijab, disappointing. "Very disappointed by the verdict of the Karnataka High Court. Regardless of what you may think about the hijab it's not about an item of clothing, it's about the right of a woman to choose **More on P6**

## 750 Held Under UAPA In J&K In 3 Yrs: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: 750 persons were arrested under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in Jammu and Kashmir in three years till 2020, the Ministry of Home Ministry informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Nityanand Rai, Minister of State MHA, in a written reply said that 346 persons were arrested in 2020 while 177 and 247 were held in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The junior ministry responded in negative parliamentary Dibiendu Adhikar's **More on P6**

## J&K Gets Investment Proposals Worth Rs 45000 Crore

### 4187 Applications Received For Allotment Of Land

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The administration of Jammu & Kashmir has informed a parliamentary panel that it has received investment proposals worth Rs 45411 crore.

In its report, the parliamentary panel on Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has revealed that it was apprised by the administration of J&K UT that it has received 4187 applications for allotment of land as on January 31, 2022 with proposed investment of Rs 45411 crore.

According to the report, the administration has informed the panel that it has received 990 online

applications in Jammu division for allotment of land, with proposed investment of Rs 24727 crores.

The panel, as per the report, was informed that it has received 3197 online applications for land allotment in Kashmir Valley with proposed investment of Rs 20684 crore.

Detailing the steps taken to boost investment in J&K, the administration told the panel that new central sector scheme for industrial Development of J&K (NCSS), with an outlay of 28,400 crore, was launched.

It also informed the committee that Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30 was unveiled to attract new investment, create employment opportunities, focus **More on P6**

## PM Modi Lauds 'The Kashmir Files'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday praised "The Kashmir Files", a film based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley in the 1990s, for "bringing the truth in its correct form" and said history has to be presented in the right context from time

to time.

The prime minister's ringing endorsement of the film while addressing a BJP Parliamentary Party meeting was echoed by Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya among others.

As debate **More on P6**

SUZUKI

## SUZUKI GETS A NEW HOME.

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# Study Finds Shift Work Linked To Poorer Working Memory, Slower Mental Processing Speed

ANI

It is normal for any organization to make its employees work in shifts, so as to maintain productivity throughout the day and also to cater to the timings of other countries, who may be their clients. But a recent study has shown that shift work is linked to poorer working memory and slower mental processing speed. The study was published in 'Occupational & Environmental Medicine'. It is also associated with lower levels of alertness and visual focus, and the ability to control impulses and situational response, potentially heightening the risk of workplace injuries and errors, suggest the researchers. Shift work has been linked to serious health issues as a result of the internal body clock (circadian rhythm) being out of step with the normal light-dark cycle. These include sleep disorders, cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, mood disorders, and substance abuse.

But its potential impact on higher brain function, such as mental processing speed and working memory, isn't clear. In a bid to resolve these uncertainties, the researchers scoured research databases for studies looking at the impact of shift work on cognitive performance in working adults. In all, 18 studies, published between 2005 and 2020, involving 18,802 participants (average age 35) and covering six different outcomes measured by formal tests, were included. The outcomes were: processing speed; working memory; alertness (psychomotor vigilance); impulse control and situational response (cognitive control); ability to filter out unimportant visual cues (visual attention); and ability to unconsciously shift between tasks (task switching). Five of the studies compared workers in fixed shifts with those working normal office hours while 11 compared workers in rotating shifts with those working normal office hours. Two studies didn't specify shift type. Half the studies included healthcare professionals while the other half focused on different professions, such as police officers, IT staff, etc. The results of the studies were pooled, indicating significantly worse performance in shift workers than

other types of workers for five of the six outcomes assessed. A large significant effect was seen for impulse control and situational response, while the effect for processing speed, working memory, alertness and ability to filter out unimportant

might over-or underestimate the impact of shift work in specific types of profession, they caution. And since the included studies were of cross-sectional design, it's not possible to conclude that shift work does impair higher brain function performance,



**Shift work has been linked to serious health issues as a result of the internal body clock (circadian rhythm) being out of step with the normal light-dark cycle. These include sleep disorders, cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, mood disorders, and substance abuse.**

visual clues was significant but small. No effect was seen for task switching. Working outside the normal day-night cycle interferes with the circadian rhythm and the expression of the hormones that govern it-cortisol and melatonin—which in turn disrupts the sleep-wake cycle, explain the researchers. Although this was the first pooled data analysis to look at the impact of shift work on different aspects of brain function among working adults, the researchers acknowledged certain limitations to their findings. These include the wide variety of tests used to assess cognitive performance and differing definitions of shift work in the included studies. Also because jobs differed in terms of demands and workloads, the results

they add. "Reduced neurobehavioural performance in shift workers might play an important role regarding work-related injuries and errors," with implications for workplace health and safety, wrote the researchers. They concluded, "Protective counter-measures (eg: naps, recovery plans, regular monitoring) for reduction in neurobehavioural performance of shift workers should be promoted to minimise the risk of adverse health and work-related outcomes. "When a more consistent body of high-quality literature is available, we highly recommend replication of analysis to develop practical interventions to overcome neurobehavioural impairment."

از نیابت دیگام با اجلاس نیابت تحصیلدار دیگام  
مضمون درخواست منجانب: عمر محمد حسن و ناصر حسن اولاد غلام حسن بنجار ساکنہ سڈورو تحصیل و ضلع  
انتہا ناگ بئرش حصول SC مرتقیات  
اشتہار برادر گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست بئرش حصول SC مرتقیات دفتر نیابت  
پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ  
ساکنان کا کنڈہ بڈل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	غلام حسن بنجار ولد رسول بنجار	52 سال	بنجار	7000/=
02	گلشن بانو زوجہ غلام حسن بنجار	50 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	زیر حسن ولد غلام حسن بنجار	25 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	سمرت جان دختر غلام حسن بنجار	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	عمر محمد حسن دختر غلام حسن بنجار	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	ناصر حسن ولد غلام حسن بنجار	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
07	سمند مشاق حسن دختر غلام حسن بنجار	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں موجود ہیں ہے اور کوئٹہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 84000/- ہے اب  
مرتقیات مزکورہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر نیابت  
پیش کریں۔ معیاد گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

رنا تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار۔

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

**NOTICE**

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Javid Ahmad S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o: Humhama Budgam (Transferor) of M Cycle. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04E - 8453. Chasis number 8165532 Engine no. 80190998 Model 2015. in favour of Shri.. Desh Raj Sharma S/o. Tara Chand R/o S. K. Airport (Transferee)

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.6077  
Dated 15/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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

**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Ajaz Ahmad Bhat S/o: Mohammad Sadeeq Bhat R/o: Otligam Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 7384 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra And Mahindra Fin Ser B/U Budgam.

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.6064  
Dated 15/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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

**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Ali Mohammad Malik S/o: Mohammad Qazim Malik R/o: Iskenderpora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 0893 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J & K Bank Ltd B/U Beerwah .

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.6073  
Dated 15/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

**Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir**

**NOTICE**

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Mohammad Yaqoob S/o Ghulam Hassan Mir R/o Hubby Colony Lal Bazar (Transferor) of ETIOS bearing registration No. JK01T-0811 chasis No: 42380 Engine No: 1285263 Model 2012 in favour of Showkat Ahmad S/o Ab Khaliq R/o Hawal Sgr (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 2301  
Dated: 15/03/2022  
FKO

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Officer,  
Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE Assistant REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER Budgam**

**NOTICE**

Whereas, an application has been received from one Shri : Mukhtar Ahamd Bhat S/o Ali Mohd Bhat R/o N unar Khan Sahab Budgam owner of vehicle No: JK04D- 0865 for cancellation of Hire Purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/O Kremshora .

Now it is therefore, notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/bud/6074 Sd/ Assistant Regional Transport,  
Dated: 15/03/2022 a/adv Officer Budgam

**NOTICE**

**In my passport bearing No M4891596 my name has been wrongly mentioned as Ishrat Jan Tak while as my actual and correct name is Ishrat Jan. Now the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if anybody have any objection may convey to Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.**

**Ishrat Jan D/o: Mohd Yousuf Wani**  
**W/o: Vjahid Bashir Tak R/o: Hergam Shopian**

a/adv

**Office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer Pulwama**

**NOTICE**

While as a joint application has been received from Shri Shabir Ahmad Sofi S/o Ab Gani Sofi R/O Shadmarg Pulwama (Transferor) and Shri Bashir Ahamd Bhat S/o Mohd Sultan Bhat R/o Kriri Shabad Anantnag (Transferee) for transfer of Taveera bearing registration no: JK13B-8950 Carriage rout permit No ---, As well as HPA cancellation with M/S SBI Rajpora Pulwama

Now there it is notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer & HPA cancellation of the said vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the regional transport officer pulwama within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily Newspaper Kashmir Observer .

No: ARTO/pul/2022  
DATED 15-03-2022 rna

SD/ Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer Pulwama Kmr

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03A1500. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Rafiq Dukroo  
S/O Gul Mohd Dukroo  
R/O Khanabal Duggpora

rna

**The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education**

**BRANCH OFFICE BEERWAH BUDGAM**

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars  
Name : Rabiya Aziz  
Parentage Abdul Aziz Parray  
R/o Bandgam

**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
Secondary School Examination (class 12th )  
Roll No 2514275 Session /Year October - 2017  
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Beerwah Budgam

bmng\_r

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## Renault India Launches The All-New Kwid My22

New Delhi, March 14, 2022: Renault, the number one European brand in India, today launched the all-new Kwid MY22 with advanced features, at a starting price of INR 4.49 Lakhs. Launched in 2015, Renault KWID is a breakthrough product in terms of design, innovation and modernity, while offering value and best-in-class cost of ownership. Built on the pillars of attractiveness, innovation and affordability, KWID has been a true game-changing product for Renault in India with more than 4,00,000 happy customers. Staying true to its commitment to keep building on the indomitable success of KWID with breakthrough product innovations, the new KWID MY22 Range further strengthens its value proposition and elevates customer's trust in the product and brand. Available in both 0.8L and 1.0L SSe powertrains with manual and automatic transmission options, the KWID MY22 features a striking new Interior & Exterior colour harmony with sporty white accents in the Climber range. Accentuating the attractiveness of the car, the KWID MY22 Climber range will offer customers an array of new colour options - Metal Mustard & Ice cool White with Black roof in Dual Tone, along with new dual tone flex wheels. The value proposition of KWID is further enhanced with the introduction of new RXL(O) variant on both 0.8L & 1.0L MT powertrains. The new RXL(O) variant includes features to enhance the style and economy quotient.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR**

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-N.I.T No:- 55/WWD of 2021-22 Dt:-14.03.2022

Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (U.T), invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved & eligible 'DEE Class' registered Contractors of Union Territory of J&K.

Position of A.A.A. 'Accorded'  
Position of Funds: 'Available'

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (in lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor
1	Improvements to water supply of Vakeel Colony Brain by way of laying & fitting of 100/80mm dia PPR pipes.	1.12	100	Impptt. Ext.	10 days	DEE
2	Providing/shifting of connection from existing line to newly laid 150/100mm dia D.I pipeline at Aali Masjid and Iddgah main Road	0.43	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
3	Laying and fitting of 65mm dia G.I pipeline for improvements of water supply at Rajuri Kadal near Gani Memorial Stadium.	0.33	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
4	Improvements of water supply by way of laying and fitting of 20mm dia pipeline to 144Bn CRPF Camp Baghi Mardan Khan Nowshera.	0.17	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
5	Realignment of 25mm dia G.I pipeline for improvements of water supply to Baba Mohalla and Wani Mohalla Hazratbal Srinagar by way of laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.17	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
6	Improvements of water supply by way of laying and fitting of 20mm dia pipeline to Shahi Humdan Colony Zoonimar Ali Jan Road.	0.15	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
7	Realignment of 25mm GI pipeline for improvement of water supply to Mohalla Ashal bagh Nigeen Hazratbal Srinagar by way of laying and fitting of 25mm dia GI pipeline.	0.07	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
8	Improvements of water supply to Jamia Umer Bin Khatab New New Colony Rathpora Eidgah by way of laying of 20mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.07	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE

Note: For further details, bidders are requested to refer to E-NIT No:- WWD / 55 of 2021-22 Dt: 14-03-2022. Instructions published on website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> The dates showing 'bid submission date/closing date' etc. are given below:

1	Date of publishing	14-03-2022
2	Document downloading date	14-03-2022 / 1630 hrs
3	Bid submission start date	14-03-2022 / 1700 hrs
4	Bid submission closing date	21-03-2022 / 1600 hrs
5	Date and time for opening bids	22-03-2022 / 1200 hrs
6	Place of opening of bids	Office of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Water Works Division Srinagar.

No: WWD/ 8465-76  
Dated: 14-03-2022

DIPK-19567/21





## Two Day Seminar On 'Environmental Ethics' Begins At KU

### Agencies

Srinagar: A two-day national seminar on 'Environmental Ethics: A Religious Perspective' started at the University of Kashmir on Tuesday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad inaugurated the national-level seminar, organised by Shah Hamdan Institute of Islamic Studies.

In his address, Prof Talat referred to the new National Educational Policy 2020 and said that academic events like the present seminar have contemporary relevance where different branches of learning, including science, social sciences and humanities have to work together on a single platform to address the burning issues which are common to all, particularly the environmental crisis.

Prof Talat said it has been due to abnormal exploitation of natural resources by humans that the humanity is suffering from climatic

disasters like floods and pollution.

Prof G N Khaki, Head of the Department and Seminar Director welcomed the dignitaries and introduced the theme of the seminar.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor Islamic University of Science and Technology, was the chief guest on the occasion and delivered the keynote address.

Prof Romshoo spoke on the climate change and the disaster it has created around the globe. He stressed on the need to create mass awareness to preserve natural resources.

Prof Mehrajuddin Mir, former VC Central University of Kashmir, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion who spoke about religious teachings which should be used by religious preachers of adherents of different faiths in mobilizing people to make a harmony between humans and nature. (KNS)



SPRING 2022

## Div Com Inaugurates Chinar Plantation Drive At Nishat Garden

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday inaugurated Chinar Plantation Drive by planting Chinar saplings at Mughal Garden, Nishat Bagh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com highlighted the importance of Chinar as a heritage tree and termed it as the indicator of rich plant biodiversity with tremendous environmental benefits.

He shared a legend about a gardener of the pristine Nishat Bagh Garden who had dedicated his volunteer service to sustain and maintain the garden.

Pole underlined the role of gardeners and staff of the Floriculture Department to sustain the picturesque beauty of the garden.

The Div Com instructed that as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mohatsav', initiative of the government which is being observed to celebrate 75 years of Independence, 75 Chinars shall be planted in Nishat Garden during this drive.

He said that the Floriculture Department has also transplanted Chinar trees at Char Chinar where only a single Chinar was alive to make it Char Chinar in real sense.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Floriculture Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Rather said that today on March 15 the department is celebrating Chinar Day during which Chinar saplings are planted across the Division and the plantation drive will continue till the season of plantation.

He said Chinar is a majestic tree whose Golden colours add the beauty of Kashmir during autumn when most of the trees look withered.

Rather informed that Nishat Bagh was selected for today's plantation drive as it has the second highest number of Chinar trees after Naseem Bagh. He added that 10,000 Chinar plants will be planted across the districts this season.

Among others, Tehsildar Khanyar, senior Officers and Officials of Floriculture department were present on the occasion.

## 3 Year Old Drowns In River Jehlum

### Agencies

Srinagar: A three year old kid drowned in river Jehlum in Parimpora area of Srinagar on Tuesday afternoon.

Official sources said that a three year old boy identified as Mohammed Hadi son of Mohammed Shafi Dar, resident of Khawajabagh-Malooru drowned in river Jehlum.

They said the boy was fished out by locals and shifted to JVC Hospital Bemina



for treatment.

Meanwhile, Medical Superintendent at JVC Dr Shifa said that condition of the boy was critical and was shifted to SKIMS.

## Elderly Man Injured In An Accident Succumbs

### Agencies

Srinagar: An 85 year old man, who was injured in a road accident in Qamarwari area of Srinagar, succumbed at SMHS Hospital, officials said Tuesday.

The 85 year old man has been identified as Ghulam Ahmad Naath, resident of Patlipora, Chattabal area of Srinagar was injured in a

road accident in Qamarwari area of Srinagar few days ago.

He was subsequently rushed to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for treatment, however, he succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, a Police official said that a case has been registered in this regard and proceedings under IPC 304A will be initiated. (KNO)

## J&K Bank Felicitates Best Performers Under OTS-2021



### Observer News service

Srinagar: MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash on Tuesday felicitated two zonal heads for their performance in implementing the Bank's One Time Settlement (OTS - 2021) scheme that was launched in January this year.

Zonal Head Baramulla Arshad Hussain Dar and Zonal Head Srinagar Syed Shafat Hussain Rufai received Certificates of Appreciation from the MD & CEO for their outstanding performance 'in all parameters of Scheme' and 'in garnering highest amount under the scheme' respectively during a review meeting at Bank's corporate headquarters.

Commending the commitment displayed by the staff on ground, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "We are moving in right direction and doing well also, but we have to supplement our efforts further to meet business targets in time. Going forward, we must not allow any further slippages especially during the next fortnight while maintaining focus on better management of SMA0 and SMA1 accounts."

Meanwhile, as part of its digitalization drive, J&K Bank has signed an agreement with J&K State Motor Garages Department for providing of Fastag to all the vehicles of the department.

Director, Malik Tahir

Gani signed the agreement on behalf of State Motor Garages Department while as Vice-President Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat put in his signature representing J&K Bank in presence of Presidents Ashutosh Sareen and Narjay Gupta, Vice President Manju Gupta, Deputy Director State Motor Garages Syed Muarif Andrabi and other officers of the department at the Bank's corporate headquarters last week.

Thanking J&K Bank for providing the facility within the set timelines, Director Malik Tahir said, "We have chosen J&K Bank for its quality solutions and the trust it has earned by consistently serving the people across J&K and beyond.

## 'Provisional Admission Of Ineligible PG Aspirants Cancelled'

### Agencies

Srinagar: The provisional admission of a few ineligible PG aspirants has been cancelled three months ago and the concerned students were informed about the decision well in time.

A Kashmir University spokesperson said that the notification for PG admission 2021 was floated in accordance with the UGC guidelines which mandated that the applicants must have requisite 24 credits at the UG level in Core and Generic Electives for their eligibility for the PG admissions.

The admission notice to make provisional admissions in line with the newly-introduced credit system was accordingly issued by the Directorate of Admissions which, among other eligibility provisions, appropriately mentioned that the aspirants must have 24 requisite credits in the specific subject at the UG level as eligibility for the PG admission.

Since all admissions made are purely provisional and subject to necessary verification of documents, information submitted by the aspirants, it came into the notice of the University administration during the course of this verification process that around 14 candidates, as reported to the University Administration, had less credits than

mandatory 24 credits, as found deficient at time of verification of transcripts and had therefore misled the University with false information.

Such students were immediately thereafter formally intimated that their admission stands cancelled due to basic eligibility issues.

In view of some recent news reports suggesting that the number of such admissions was allegedly high, the Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat convened a meeting of the Admission Advisory Committee on 14.03.2022 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad.

The meeting unanimously reiterated that admission of ineligible aspirants had already been cancelled three months ago, while the members desired that a notice must be sent to all HODs to cross-check the claims made in news reports about the number of such admissions being allegedly high. The said notice was on Monday issued in the same spirit wherein HODs were requested to furnish credit details of all PG aspirants.

It is reiterated that the University has a very transparent system of admissions which includes a highly-transparent entrance examination followed by multiple-level check of documents before any provisional admission is confirmed as absolute.

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 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**  
12 Shaban  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	5:18
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	4:56
Magrib	6:42
ISHA	8:02

## This Day In History

- 1527 - Battle of Khanua: Mughal Emperor Babur defeats Rajput forces led by Rana Sanga consolidating Mughal power
- 1731 - Treaty of Vienna signed by Prince Eugene of Savoy, Count Sinzendorf and Count Gundacker, Thomas Stahremberg and the British envoy to Vienna, Sir Thomas Robinson.
- Assassination of King Gustav III
- 1862 - Battle at Pound Gap, Kentucky: Confederates separate battles
- 1865 - Battle of Averasboro North Carolina (1,500 casualties)
- 1867 - First publication of an article by Joseph Lister outlining the discovery of antiseptic surgery, in "The Lancet"
- 1871 - 1st fertilizer law enacted
- rediscovers the bronze age city of Knossos in Crete, home of the legendary Minotaur
- 1917 - Russian Grand Duke Michael, brother of Tsar Nicholas II declines the Russian throne
- 1921 - Britain signs a trade agreement with the USSR and sends a trade mission to Moscow: this goes against the US, who in the same month refused to sign a trade agreement
- 1922 - Egypt achieves independence from Britain, but British troops remain
- 1924 - The free port of Fiume is formally annexed by Mussolini's fascist regime.
- 1926 - Robert Goddard launches 1st liquid fuel rocket, goes 184' (56 meters)
- 1929 - WHP-AM in Harrisburg PA begins radio transmissions
- 1935 - Adolf Hitler orders German rearmament in violation of The Treaty of Versailles

*From KO Archives*

## Vajpayee Is The Prime Minister

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The soft spoken and moderate face of the right wing Bhartiya Janata Party, Atal Behari Vajpayee is the next prime minister of India. The president K Narayanan, late tonight formally appointed Vajpayee as the prime minister, after Congress president Sonia Gandhi expressed her inability to stake claim to the power as the party didn't have the requisite number to form a government on its own, though "informal consultations" were going on with the like-minded parties. However what seems to have prompted the president to invite Vajpayee to form the government was the statement made by United Front leader and president of Tamil Nadu Congress (TMC) GK Moopanar, that the UF had "no role to play in the formation of the government at the center" as the Congress decided against staking the claim for the same.

"Right now OF has virtually no role" Moopanar told newsmen after an hour long meeting of the OF leaders held at prime minister I K Gujral's residence, 7, Race Course Road.

The swearing in ceremony of Vajpayee led government is scheduled to take place on Thursday, March, 19, the prime minister designate told reporters after his meeting with the president. The president has asked Vajpayee to prove his majority within 10 days of being sworn in. Last time Vajpayee was given 13 days time to prove his majority, which he failed to do and had to resign in a huff. Vajpayee said he would consult his party colleagues and allies on composition of his cabinet and its size.

The number of MPs supporting BJP led coalition comes to just 264, which is short of the half way mark in the house of 539. However when seen in the context of the decision taken by Telugu Desam Party (TDP), to remain neutral when the heads will be counted, the number of 264 does cross that limit required for a simple majority for the BJP led coalition.

Meanwhile, in a volte-face, AIADMK and two of its allies today decided to join a BJP-led coalition ministry at the centre clearing any last minute hitch which may come in the way of President K.R. Narayanan inviting A.B. Vajpayee to head the next government.

BJP prime ministerial candidate Vajpayee's special emissary Jaswant Singh, who air dashed to Chennai successfully persuaded AIADMK general secretary Jayalalitha to change her mind about not joining the government and extending unconditional support to the BJP.

Congress tonight "accepted" President K.R. Narayanan's decision to invite BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee to form the government but made it clear that it would attempt to defeat the coalition during the confidence motion.

Asked to comment on the development, party spokesman V.N. Gadgil said the president has gone by the text-book and as per Supreme Court judgement of inviting the single largest party to form the government.

"We accept the president's decision. But we will try to defeat the government during the confidence motion."

Meanwhile CPM has charged BJP with going to "any extent" for the sake of power and said it would be difficult for BJP to run a government with its allies laying down various conditions. Reacting to AIADMK supremo Jayalalitha's decision to join a BJP-led government, CPIM general secretary Harkishan Singh Surjeet said "it is clear that BJP is going to any extent for grabbing power."

(Kashmir Observer, 16 March, 1998)



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K O V I E W

Ukraine catastrophe

With every passing day, the west and Russia are getting closer to a bigger confrontation over Ukraine. Three weeks into war and more than three million people have fled Ukraine, nearly half of them minors, the UN has said. This is leading to a humanitarian catastrophe in Europe of the scale, not seen since world war II. There are no signs so far that the war is going to end anytime soon. No diplomatic activity has so far been undertaken. The talks between Russia and Ukraine have also gotten nowhere. Meanwhile, Russia is pressing closer to Ukraine's capital Kyiv. Russia also bombed Ukraine's border with Poland, an act of aggression that threatened to widen the war.

One thing is clear: Russia has thrown down the gauntlet at the west. And this is not the first time Russia has done it. A few years ago, Russia's intervention in Crimea had brought back the memories of the geo-politics of the cold war. Russia's increasing defiance of the West and China's inexorable rise has confronted the US and the EU with a new existential crisis. The new and more powerful global enemies like Russia and China could help create a new geo-political narrative and also its fallout will have implications for the world as a whole.

In South Asia, India and Pakistan have been hard-pressed to grapple with the new geopolitical reality as the war progresses. They have found themselves in a difficult position of choosing sides. More so for India which has drawn close to the US over the past two decades. Washington's priorities with India are no longer regional in their nature but their scope is the larger geo-politics. In recent years, the US-India engagement has also been about the remaking of the global power equation with India not only being recognized as a global power in its own right but also as a countervailing force to China, effectively the world's No 2. It goes without saying that India's 1.3 billion population with value addition of a burgeoning middle class has become an ultimate attraction for the west.

Russia is the new entrant to this game. Having substantially recovered from a drastic power meltdown following the collapse of the USSR in 1989, Russia has again thrown its hat in the ring. And it isn't bound by its old equations and associations with the countries of the region, including India. Russia is now getting closer to Beijing and even Islamabad, a prospect that hasn't been to the liking of New Delhi.

Here's hoping that diplomacy wins the day over Ukraine. The war, as it is now clear, could easily take on global proportions. And it will be a nightmarish scenario.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Unmasking a Crisis

Over the last few days, Pakistan and India have given the world an unexpected real time demonstration of how two nuclear armed neighbours should behave to prevent a crisis from forming and escalating. A missile was fired from India and impacted more than 100 km inside Pakistani territory on March 9. The Pakistani military announced this more than 24 hours later at a press conference, making it clear that the missile was unarmed and had caused no loss of life on their side. It was also made clear to the Pakistani media that the Pakistani military was inclined to believe it was a mistake, but that it would wait for India to explain what had happened. The major general conducting the press conference delivered an admonishment to the Indian side about its "unprofessionalism" and "technical inefficiency", as the missile, cruising at 40,000 ft was close to civilian flights, but he stayed with the facts. In turn, India did well to accept that a mistake had been made, that "in the course of routine maintenance, a technical malfunction led to the accidental firing of a missile" and expressed relief that no lives were lost due to the "deeply regrettable" incident.

It could have well been different, given the extremely strained circumstances between the two countries, the near-absence of diplomatic engagement, and the hostility evident in the rhetoric of the political leadership on both sides. Pakistan has acted with maturity and responsibility. By all accounts, it seems that the delay on both sides in announcing and acknowledging the incident was also intentional, perhaps giving both sides crucial time to make contact through the available channels, not all of them public. If so, it is an indication that despite the overt hostile posturing, the two sides remain engaged — a good augury. The 2021 agreement on observing the 2003 ceasefire on the LoC and International Border has been mutually beneficial, and both sides appear clear that it must be maintained.

At the same time, the incident cannot be brushed away. There are several unanswered questions, and many "what ifs". Delhi is yet to make public any details about the circumstances that led to such an error. Apart from fast-tracking the court of inquiry and handing out quick and firm punishment to those responsible for this mistake, this incident shows that Delhi and Islamabad must, at the very least, resume talks on conventional and nuclear confidence building mechanisms that have not been held for many years.

Indian Express

Mukhtar Ahmad Farooqi

Recently, complaints started pouring in against Private schools which were allegedly hiking school fees by 50% and were asking parents to sign undertakings and agreeing on paying advanced transport fees. Upon investigation, the issue was settled when a Jammu-Kashmir Fee Regulation Committee Allowed Private Schools to hike transportation fees by 12% only.

Not only this, parents were also anguished over some Private schools changing uniforms, first thing after the reopening of schools in Kashmir.

This commercialisation of education and money-minting mechanisms of private schools is neither new, nor surprising. However, it is very concerning as it sets all the wrong precedents.

Education has been the emblem of contemporary cultural and social conditions of all times. The school as an educational institution has the role of bringing forth constructive social change. Investment in quality education is often cited as an important attribute that distinguishes foresighted from ignorant communities. We must all understand and appreciate the role played by private educational institutions in imparting quality education but nowadays they have become more of money minting machines than the other way around.

Education is no longer a service to society but a business enterprise, where students are reduced to consumers and commodities. This is the crony capitalist education system we all are part of now.

Even though demanding a capitation fee at the time of admission is illegal in terms of RTE Act 2009, almost all private educational institutions charge such a fee with different titles and names. After FFRC, through various circulars directed these institutions to desist from such practices, they complied as far as Pre-Primary classes are concerned to some extent but with a different strategy. In this modified/innovative strategy, parents are called to the school wherein administrators disclose to them that they don't take any admission/capitation fee but they're supposed to pay almost 15000 yearly (for 12 years) apart from monthly tuition fee which amounts to 2 times more than what a parent would have to pay in a single instalment. For Primary Admissions(New), their strategy changes to square one wherein they categorically say, we are supposed to demand a capitation fee of our choice ranging from tens of thousands to lakhs depending on the popularity of the school.

The buck does not stop here, capitalist ethos re-emerge when the new academic session begins wherein students are supposed to buy new books for their respective classes. A common norm in the private schools is that they prescribe textbooks from private publishers up to 8th standard. This is done of their own choice and these often have a staggering price tag. These



Picture for representational purposes only

Not only this, parents were also anguished over some Private schools changing uniforms, first thing after the reopening of schools in Kashmir. This commercialisation of education and money-minting mechanisms of private schools are neither new, nor surprising. However, it is very concerning as it sets all the wrong precedents

books are also sold at a price higher than their actual cost. Based on this profit making scheme, most schools authorities amass a whooping revenue during the book selling season and some schools even change the publishers frequently so that parents are not left with the option of buyback. Sometimes deliberately revised editions are prescribed which are barely revised on technical fronts so that siblings also don't have the choice of reusing those books.

Even though textbooks highlight on the cover page that the textbook is in accordance with syllabi prescribed by NCERT (National Council for Educational Research and Training) or CBSE but when content analysis of the books is done, then it is found that the content is not within the capacity of the age group for which the book has been prescribed. I would quote an example to defend this. I came across a Science textbook prescribed for class 6th students wherein a chapter was having a topic on Bohr's Model of atom including the various postulates. All those people who have studied science after secondary level are wary of the fact of complexity and abstractness of this concept. How can a student of class 6 understand this abstract concept at this stage?

Similarly, some private schools are compelling their students to read 10th standard textbook of English in class 8th so that their

parents think that their children have excelled a lot in their studies regardless of the fact that those students are not able to write even ten lines on their own, if an essay is put into the paper that is not available in grammar books. In some cases, KG students are prescribed textbooks that even class 4 or class 5 students find difficult to grasp.

After facing heat from government functionaries for selling books within campus, some schools shifted book selling business to external agencies but all schools have made a tie-up with a particular book shop for selling their merchandise on commission basis (though undisclosed to masses) despite hollow claims of books being available in the open market.

Despite governments claiming reservation of 25% for EWS in all private educational institutions, why do these institutions demand income certificates of parents? How many students from EWS secure admission in these institutions?

Even after accumulating huge amounts of money, teachers working there are underpaid and at times are fired without justification or on little disruption due to unavoidable circumstances like lockdowns. They're considered disposable and there's no job security. Even after serving these institutions for years, the covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns brought financial miseries to this dedicated/honest manpower as their salaries were

cut or they were told to sit at home till they are called back to work.

These are the myriad ways crony capitalism has contributed to the commodification of education that is making us handicapped in manoeuvring class struggle.

Privatisation of education has been beneficial but cronyism and capitalistic ethos is creating a social and educational divide especially after covid pandemic. If it is monitored with a structured and public framework, then the PPP model of education is going to revolutionize rather than capitalize this sector.

Even though schools are registered as not-for-profit, capital accumulation has been the main focus. Civil society also needs to rope in so as to create a cordial and enriching relationship between the two tiers for visualising the dream of an egalitarian society where education is not the privilege of a few and is not kidnapped by consumerism. We need to build an educational system that unshackles itself from the delinguistified steering media of money and power.

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

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Addressing Obesity

It is well known that a large population of the country is battling obesity, the root of all diseases, due to which diseases like diabetes, thyroid, and high blood pressure have increased not only among adults, but also in adolescents and children. The good thing is that like the epidemic, now the government has also become alert about the increasing obesity. NITI Aayog, the country's policy-making body, has recommended to identify the major factors of its growth such as sugar, salt and fat-rich foods and increase the excise duty on these foods to make citizens free from obesity. In this episode, it has been said to take steps like 'front of the pack labeling' on products, so that people can be warned about the danger of obesity. The purpose is that people should be careful while choosing food items and they should know what is dangerous for their health. The report of the Research Institute of NITI Aayog for the year 2021-2022 warns that the prob-

lem of overweight and obesity among children, adolescents and women is increasing continuously in the country. NITI Aayog is taking steps in this direction in collaboration with the country's Institute of Economic Development and the Public Health Organization of India. In fact, Indian food has traditionally been a trend of namkeen, chips, bhujia, etc., but in recent years, in the name of snacks, there has been an increase in the popularity of such foods which are injurious to health. It should be a matter of our concern that according to the National Family Health Survey, the number of women suffering from obesity in the country has gone up to 24 percent, while the figure for men is 22.9%. In such a situation, the need of the hour should be said that the government should take steps in this direction. Undoubtedly, obesity is the root of all diseases and the Indian medical system feels the pressure due to the diseases caused by it.

Actually, due to change in urban

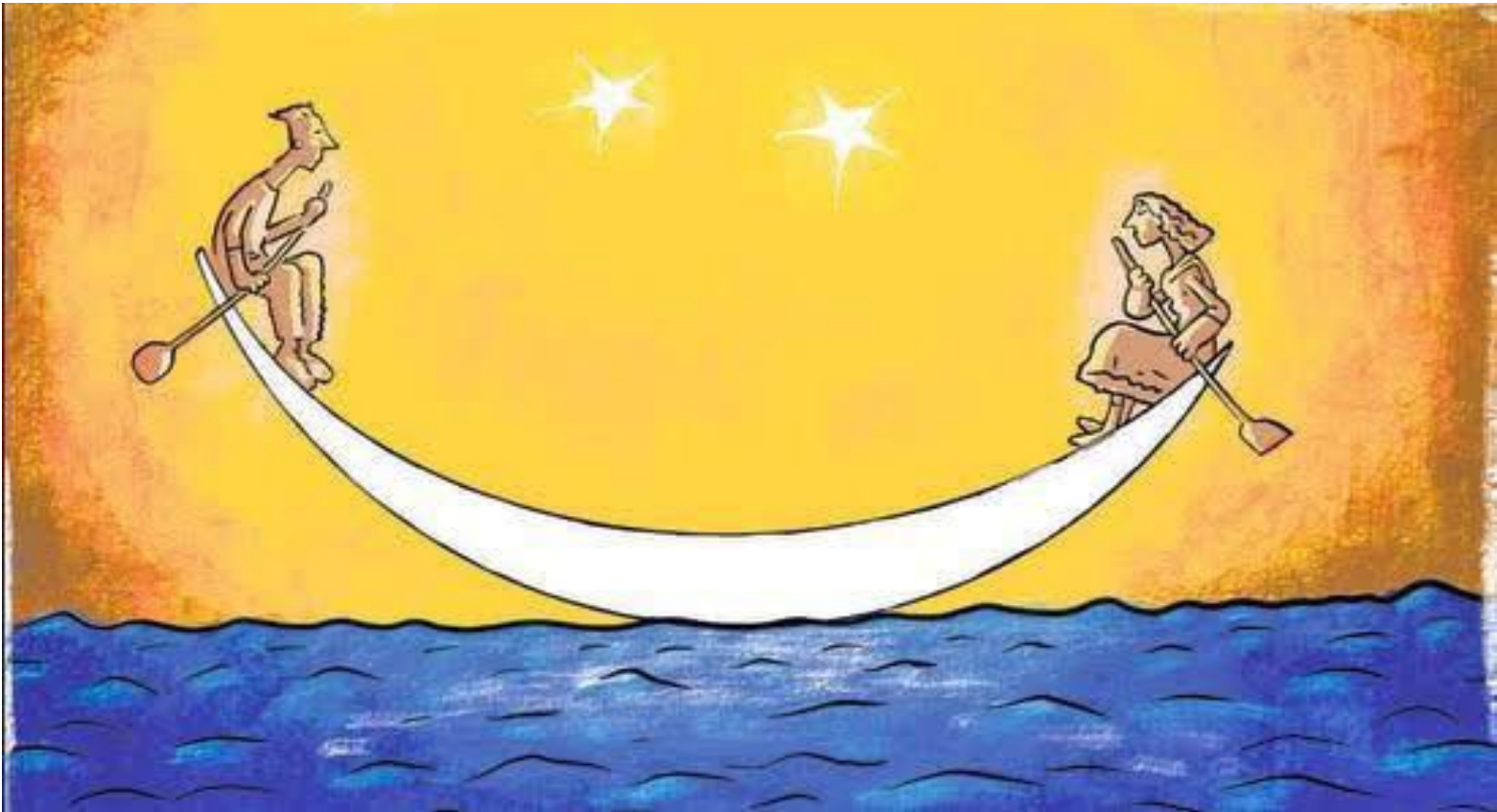
lifestyle and eating habits, the problem of obesity has become worrying. Talks continued about this problem, but no serious initiative was seen in this direction. Due to the market gimmicks, the use of junk food and packaged food items increased in the country. In this, the producers searched the market but did not care about the health of the common man. The irony was also that there was mention of factors that increase obesity, but serious efforts were not seen to stop them. The steps taken to stop them were only symbolic. The market is full of such foods which are tempting in taste, but are heavy on health. They have a long-term harmful effect on health, due to which obesity increases and under its guise serious diseases ranging from diabetes to heart disease start growing. Which over time takes a frightening form due to neglect. Undoubtedly, the need of the hour is to strictly regulate the factors causing obesity. People should know that what they are con-

suming affects their health. In fact, due to the change in eating habits, the problem of obesity in developed countries has started spreading rapidly in India too. In India, such a problem assumes a formidable form because people are not conscious in time. We have failed to create awareness among the general public about obesity. We do not care when the factors that increase obesity have become a part of our daily life. Also which foods are really fattening. When the body becomes a home of deadly diseases due to such carelessness, the person does not even realize it. But while taxing such food items, keep in mind that the lives of common and poor people are not affected. Along with this, there is also a need to run an awareness campaign against obesity in the country.

...  
Vijay Garg  
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# Dive into Dynamics of Happiness



Happiness, we have to realise, is intrinsic not to your surroundings or attachments but to yourself. Happiness is not uncritical, it is acceptance and endurance. You don't have to be unmindful, careless and carefree to be happy. Happiness requires a supreme intelligence to see things as they are and know that they will remain so

Sheikh Adah

Happiness is independent. Life has or will soon teach you that happiness is never an outcome or a corollary of a situation. Someone or something might bring you to believe that they are inextricably bound to the conditions of your happiness. However, it is only a few who realise that to be untrue. Happiness is sure an expression but it will remain as your condition only when it is independent. The durability of your happiness lies only and only with the independence it constitutes. At one point in our lives we believe contemplation and introspection to be integral to a feeling of being low. Sorrow or misery is taken to be essential and enriching to one's ability to think or even to produce art. For some mind and how much it forces one to think decides on how much you are bothered by life. Why wouldn't we? Life as we realise with each pensive night is not indeed a bed of roses. Overthinking is considered to be a cause of one's misery. An uncritical mind is upheld as a prerequisite of happiness. If it is not your uncritical mind, then it is that one person or thing that gives you hope which makes you happy. It is only a matter of time that you see life take that hope, that person from

you. You see your hope gone; life appears difficult and dull. Gradually truth prevails; this life is not worth living. Then someone or something takes the place of that lost hope. This new hope leaves you soon too. It is only a matter of time that you realise that hope is not beautiful. Then how do we remain happy in this cycle of hopelessness? Happiness, we have to realise, is intrinsic not to your surroundings or attachments but to yourself. Happiness is not uncritical, it is acceptance and endurance. You don't have to be unmindful, careless and carefree to be happy. Happiness requires a supreme intelligence to see things as they are and know that they will remain so. Happiness is severely detached from your external condition, to people or things. Happiness is hopelessness from external aid or cosmic bliss. It is in strength, and a clear understanding of the world around you. Unless you do not realise how important it is to accept the misery of life, you cannot make anyone happy. It is only when you know how to produce happiness that you can bring happiness to someone. As a producer of happiness when you bring happiness to someone, you will never facilitate dependence on the person you are aiding. "Everything will be okay," is never the best thing to say. "You make everything okay," is in my understanding, better. *The author is a student of*

# The war against plastic is distracting us from pollution that cannot be seen



Thomas Stanton,  
Matthew Johnson,  
Paul Kay

The war against plastic may be overshadowing greater threats to the environment. In a collaboration with experts from the environmental sciences, engineering, industry, policy and charities, we have written a paper in the journal WIREs Water which highlights concerns that relatively easy action against plastic pollution can conveniently mask environmental apathy, and that people are being misled by alarmist headlines, emotive photographs, and "greenwashing". Plastic is an incredibly useful and versatile material on which much of modern society relies, yet it has become one of the most topical environmental issues of the day. Over the past few years, plastic pollution has encouraged action from individuals, organisations and governments at levels similar to some of the greatest threats to the environment, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. This concern is well founded. Plastic pollution is unsightly, can entangle wildlife, can be ingested and block stomachs and intestines, and may carry harmful chemicals. It can break down into small pieces, eventually to microplastics – pieces smaller than 5 mm – that can accumulate up the food chain. It has also been found in some of the most remote parts of the world. But though there is widespread animosity towards plastics, they are a group of materials that we cannot live without, and that we should not live without. We argue that plastics themselves are not the cause of the problem, and that failing to recognise this risks exacerbating much greater environ-

Glass and aluminium, sometimes promoted as solutions to plastic bottle pollution, can have greater carbon footprints than the plastics they replace. And many of these alternatives will also persist in the environment. Someone who will throw a plastic bottle into a river will not change their behaviour if they have an aluminium can

mental and social catastrophes.

### SOME POLLUTION IS LESS VISIBLE

The environmental impacts of some less visible pollutants are well known. Greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide and methane contribute to global warming. Fine particles in the atmosphere are associated with respiratory illnesses and are a major component of smog. And radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster continues to impact the wildlife that has taken over its exclusion zone. But society pollutes the environment in more ways than most people are aware, and has done since long before concern for plastic pollution became prevalent. Agriculture leads to nutrient over-enrichment and pesticide pollution. Electronics, vehicles and buildings require a wide variety of toxic metals that leak into the environment at the end of their lives and are blown and washed from where they are mined. Medicines that are washed down drains and not completely metabolised (used up) by our

bodies can also find their way into rivers and lakes. These lesser known realities of everyday consumption degrade the environment and are toxic to wildlife. As chemicals, rather than particles like plastic, these pollutants are also far more mobile than plastics and, in the case of toxic metals, more persistent. Plastic pollution provides a convenient distraction from these inconvenient truths. Starting with political legislation at the very top, high-profile action against plastic pol-



leaching harmful chemicals, such as dyes into the environment. Glass and aluminium, sometimes promoted as solutions to plastic bottle pollution, can have greater carbon footprints than the plastics they replace. And many of these alternatives will also persist in the environment. Someone who will throw a plastic bottle into a river will not change their behaviour if they have an aluminium can.

disseminating research and environmental policy that lacks context. **FOCUS ON THE PRODUCT – NOT THE PLASTIC** Plastic is just one type of anthropogenic material in the environment. Plastic textile fibres such as polyester or nylon are a prominent form of pollution, but it is natural fibres like wool and cotton that have recently been found to dominate environmental samples. Though biodegradable, when these natural fibres do degrade they may

The problem is the product, not the plastic. A desire for convenience, industries reliant on overconsumption not informed consumption, and a culture of policies for popularity not progression, are all at the root of the plastic conversation. But the plastic pollution is just the bit you can see.

### SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

"Plastic" and "plastic pollution" are all too often confused. Plastic pollution is a visible and easily relatable symptom of unsustainable levels of consumption, inappropriate product design, poor waste management and disingenuous policy. Greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity losses, exploitative labour practices and chemical pollution either cannot be seen so clearly or their effects develop over a longer period of time. But once their impacts are visible, it is often too late for the environments they afflict. That's why there is a pressing need to raise the profile of the pollution that cannot be seen. Plastic pollution has mobilised unprecedented levels of environmental action. But to be successful this action needs to focus on the true causes, like the overconsumption of readily disposable items, rather than simply the presence of plastic in the environment. It should also do a better job of framing plastic pollution within the context of other, more significant pollutants.

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LG Hails ‘Progressive

that J&K UT’s budget 2022-23 reflects the commitment of Prime Minister for peace, progress & prosperity of J&K.

“It will put in place social safety nets for last man in the queue, sufficient outlays for rural development, healthcare services, urban renewal missions, employment generation and youth initiatives,” the LG said.

“I am confident that the record Rs 1,12,950 crore budget and continued push for various flagship programmes of the Centre & UT will provide relief to all sections of the society - especially ‘Common Man’. Our focus on increasing the investment in agriculture & allied sector, inclusive growth has been clearly underlined,” he added.

According to the spokesperson, the budget pays lot of emphasis on sustainable, equitable growth, more jobs, improving quality of life, education, strengthening the skill development, power sector, tourism, handicraft, tribal welfare, women empowerment & border areas development.

“Good governance, deepening grass-root democracy, accelerated development & inclusive growth, facilitating investment & industrial growth, infrastructure development for improving quality of life, Broadening Social Inclusion were among the focus areas of the Budget 2022-23,” he said.

He said that the Union Government has kept the provisions for various important initiatives having a greater impact on various sectors.

Giving further details, he said that an amount of Rs 7,750 crore has been provisioned under Jal Jeevan Mission for achieving the objective of 100% piped water supply to each household; Rs 357 crore for Solid Waste Management in two Municipal Corporations and 76 ULBs and Rs 1,313 crore for PRIs/ULBs.

For empowering the grass root democratic set up, the spokesperson said Rs 200 crore @ Rs10 crore each has been earmarked as ‘Development Fund’ for 20 DDCs and Rs 71.25 crore @ Rs 25 lakh each as ‘Development Fund’ for 285 BDCs.

“Rs 1206 crore have been provisioned for Equity Component of Kiru and Ratle Power Projects under execution; Rs 200 crore for heritage preservation and development of sufi/religious sites; Rs 373 crore for Dal-Nageen lake Development and Conservation; Rs 120 crore have been earmarked for encouraging use of renewable energy (Solar Energy),” he said.

The spokesperson said that Rs 450 crore have been provisioned for GST re-imbursment to ensure timely reimbursement of claims. He said that a provision of Rs 200 crore has been kept for capitalization of the J&K Bank Ltd. Rs 20 crore for establishment of highway resting places; Rs 400 crore for CRIF roads, Rs 2400 crore for PMGSY roads and Rs 1000 crore for NABARD scheme and Rs 28 crore for maintenance of Mughal Road.

“Special provisions have been kept for Women empowerment and welfare of farmers & tribal community with Rs 12 crore under Tajewini scheme for empowerment of women and full UT share under NRLM to improve livelihood of women in rural areas, besides Rs 3 crore under Women Entrepreneurship Programme implemented by Women Development Corporation. Rs 100 crore have been provisioned for welfare of tribals which include construction of Tribal Hostels/Milk Villages/ Nomad Shelters/Libraries for Gujjars. Moreover, Rs 40 crore have been provisioned for saturation of Soil Health Cards, Krishi Radio & Krishi Helpline,” he added.

For “Mera Gaon Swachh Gaon”- a cleanliness programme to be initiated in all villages during 2022-23, the spokesperson said an amount of Rs 100 crore have been earmarked for Urban Infrastructure Fund to ensure expeditious supplementation of SBM 2.0; Rs 90 crore have been provisioned for Third Party Monitoring, improving rating in Good Governance Index, PPP Cell, VGF, setting up of Transaction Advisory Cell and consultancy; Rs 150 crore have been provisioned for development of new housing colonies; Rs 50 crore for construction of police housing colony and Rs 40 crore for relief and rehabilitation.

He said that an amount of Rs 100 crore each has been kept for the festival and cinema/theatre (films) promotion; Rs 70 crore for new circuits including Mansar, Surinsar & Sufi Circuits, besides construction of Water Parks in twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar and Rs 50 crore for retrieval of land under Roshni Act.

“Rs 150 crore have been provisioned for Urban Renewal and Development Fund including Creation of City Sustainability Fund to promote/incentivize reforms such as Property Tax, Service Level Benchmarking, User Charges, Creation of Ward Sabhas, Public Disclosure,” he added.

For Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, the spokesperson said, Rs 15 crore have been provisioned; besides Rs 600 crore kept under Border Area Development Programme; Rs 50 crore for Samridh Seema Yojana; Rs 100 crore have been provisioned under City Grants for JMC/SMC; Rs 200 crore for smart city projects; Rs 200 crore for procurement of Machinery and Equipments and Rs 400 crore for procurement of drugs in health sector; Rs 5 crore have been provisioned for insurance of passenger vehicles as part of Business Revival Package and Rs 25 crore as subsidy for replacement of old vehicles; Rs 10 crore have been provisioned for achieving end-to-end Digitization of Revenue Records, issuance of Land Pass Books/Devices for Patwaris.

Similarly, he said, for Agriculture & allied sectors along with the welfare of farmers has been one of the important components of the budget. He said that

8.93 lakh farmers to be benefitted by distribution of High Yielding Varieties/

Hybrid seeds with an investment of Rs 23.97 crore, while 36,000 farmers will be trained for capacity building with a provision of Rs. 27 crore.

“Around 16,960 farmers to be benefited by covering over 15240 hectares area by providing infrastructure facilities with a provision of around Rs 55.80 crore,” he said.

“Rs 81 cr have been earmarked for providing farm machinery to benefit 33,200 farmers. Livelihood of around 44204 farmers will have a major impact under Area Expansion. Moreover, Rs 30 crore has been kept for restoration of irrigation for 8,670 hectare of land by maintenance of Field Channels,” he added.

The spokesperson said that 50,000 Metric Ton Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of horticulture produce is targeted for completion during 2022-23 and the focus will be to reach a Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of about 5 Lakh Metric Tons in next three years.

He said that subsidized air freight to be provided under “PARVAZ” scheme to push trout exports to various cities and Middle East countries.

He added that the budget 2022-23 has also put focus on further strengthening of the healthcare system in J&K.

Divulging more details, the spokesperson said the pace of coverage of AB-PMJAY will be accelerated during 2022-23 covering all the residents of J&K.

Also, he said that the first batch of MBBS classes in New Medical colleges at Handwara (Kupwara) and Udhampur will be started during academic session 2022-23 increasing the overall intake capacity to 1300 MBBS seats in J&K.

“Availability of Doctors and Specialists in New Government Medical Colleges to be increased for better patient management and reduction of referrals, besides seven remaining Nursing Colleges to be completed during 2022-23,” he added.

On the power generation front, the spokesperson said that the UT is all set to double the Hydropower Generation Capacity in next 3 years from the existing capacity of 3500 MW.

In this direction, he said, 5 Mega Hydropower projects viz Ratle (824 MW), Kirthai-II (930 MW) Sawalkot (1856 MW), Dulhasti-Stage II (258 MW) and Uri-I Stage-II (240 MW) having total capacity of 4134 MW have been taken-up for execution in collaboration with NHPC.

“The likely investment in these projects is Rs 34882 crore and on completion will make J&K power surplus,” he said.

He further said that the ongoing HEPs i.e., Kiru (624 MW), Kawar (540 MW) and Pakaldul (1000 MW) are being developed through Joint Venture and by 2022-23, major civil and electro-mechanical works of these projects will be completed.

“The transmission capacity is expected to reach 12655 MVA by March 2022 and the transmission capacity at 220/132 KV level and 132/33 KV level is expected to be increased by 520 MVA and 580 MVA respectively in 2022-23,” the spokesperson said.

“Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) a new reforms-based and result-linked scheme introduced by Ministry of Power (GoI) aimed at reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses; 100% prepaid metering, besides 6 lakh Smart Pre-paid meters to be installed (3 lakh each in Jammu & Kashmir Divisions),” he added.

About the tourism industry the spokesperson said that focus to be laid on promotion of tourism by vibrant campaigning and holding of national and international events showcasing the tourism avenues during 2022-23.

He also said that the coverage of Households with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) under the flagship programme ‘Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal’ for the remaining Households are targeted to be completed by August 15th, 2022.

“Overall 6000 Kms of black topping of roads to be achieved during 2022-23 under various components; 543 new projects at an estimated cost of Rs 2,237 crore to be sanctioned with NABARD funding; maintenance of existing Road Infrastructure and completion of 50 bridges under Central/ UT Sector schemes during 2022-23 will ensure better road connectivity across the UT,” he said.

The spokesperson said that the Budget component has been kept for the Housing and Urban Development sector to change the landscape of urban J&K.

He said that the project for the Elevated Light Metro Rail System in Jammu & Srinagar is expected to be rolled out in 2022-23 and is likely to be completed by 2026.

“A target of scientific disposal of about 850 Metric Ton of waste per day to be achieved by establishment of Solid Waste Management Plant at Srinagar and Jammu cities benefiting nearly 20 Lakh people,” he said.

“Establishment of decentralized processing facilities in 76 ULBs has been targeted for completion during financial year 2022-23 and 690 Metric Ton of waste generated in ULBs to be scientifically treated benefiting nearly 14 lakh population,” he added.

The spokesperson said that 9 major sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 1131.07 crore to be executed during 2022-23 benefiting the population of 6,20,565 people.

Besides, he said that under MCNREGA, 426 lakh persondays to be generated; 60,000 job cards to be issued based on demand, and One lakh development works of different nature to be completed.

“Targets have been set for constructing 54,000 houses during 2022-23 under PMAY-G; 87250 IHHL and 2,500 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) under SBM-G,” he added.

Under National Rural Livelihoods Mission, the spokesperson said that focus

will be laid on capacity building, livelihood promotion, convergence and women enterprise planning, besides 21,194 Self Help Groups (SHG) to be formed during 2022-23. He said construction of residential/office accommodation for members of DDCs/ BDCs/PRIs has been initiated and a provision of Rs. 176.32 crore has been kept for 2022-23.

As far as education sector is concerned, he said, 500 Kindergartens to be established in government schools; 518 smart/virtual classrooms in higher secondary schools for increasing enrolment, and imparting quality education to students. 200 Vocational Laboratories and 40 schools having vocational labs will act as hubs for imparting vocational/skill training.

“37 Girls Hostel Buildings and 12 KGBV buildings to be completed for improving residential facilities for girls and bringing about desired gender parity in education,” he said.

“Special attention has been given to the Education of tribal students with construction of two residential schools, one each in the districts of Rajouri & Shopian to be taken up, besides 8,000 meritorious tribal students to be given tablets,” he added.

The spokesperson said that 100% coverage of pre-matric and post-matric scholarship to Tribal students with 100% disbursement through DBT expected to be accomplished in 2022-23.

He said that adequate provision has been kept for providing incentives to prospective entrepreneurs as per J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30.

“An amount of Rs 150 crore has been earmarked for development of New Industrial Estates; Rs 3.91 crore for construction of 7 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in the existing Industrial Estates and Rs 25 crore for organizing J&K Global Investor’s Summit including domestic/international roadshows,” he said.

He said that 1,354 units targeted to be established under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (J&K-REGP) involving margin money of Rs 25 crore with employment to 8,124 persons in 2022-23.

“2000 Cooperatives/Self Help Groups to be covered under credit card scheme. 7% interest subvention for availing loan upto Rs 2 lakh by artisans under Artisan Credit Card Scheme,” he added.

For the social Security of the citizens of J&K, he said, old age homes should be established in all districts. He said that Motorized tricycles to be provided to all Handicapped persons thereby achieving 100% saturation for which Rs 25 crore have been provisioned.

“Transgenders have been for the first time included for pensionary benefits under ISSS. For the welfare of Tribal community, 29 Cluster Model Villages are being established and are at different stages of implementation; establishment of 14 Milk villages and seven transit accommodations/shelter sheds with an estimated cost of Rs 3.50 crore each to be taken up, besides Six Eklayva Model Residential Schools for ST students are being established,” he added.

The spokesperson further said that to empower and provide self-employment opportunities to youth, Rs 200 crore have been kept under “Mission Youth Programme”.

He said an amount of Rs 60 crore has been provisioned as a self employment measure under Youth Start-up/Seed Capital/Women Entrepreneurship Programme (WEP).

“Provision has been kept for Digitization of Police Stations and installation of CCTVs in police stations; 10,109 Community/Individual Bunkers are being constructed in the border districts, and e-office will be implemented in all offices of J&K in 2022-23,” he added.

**Militant Killed**

a police spokesperson said.

During the search operation, he said, the hiding militant fired indiscriminately upon the search team when they started proceeding towards the suspected spot. The fire, he said, was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, the spokesperson said a militant was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter.

Police identified him as Owais Raja of Subhanpora.

As per police records, the spokesperson said Raja was a categorized LeT militant and was part of group involved in several “terror crime cases including attack on Police/SF and civilian atrocities”.

He quoted IGP Kashmir terming the operation very important due to its proximity to highway and imminent threat.

The spokesperson also claimed to have recovered incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 1 AK-56 rifle, 3 AK Magazines and 80 AK rounds from the site of encounter.

He said that all the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

“In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any,” the spokesperson said.

**104 Security Men**

in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State MHA, Nityanand Rai, said that 62 personnel were killed and 106 others injured in the militancy violence, including encounters during the infiltration, in the Jammu and Kashmir in 2020.

42 personnel were killed and 117 injured in 2021, according to the written reply.

To the question by the parliamentarian regarding the details of incidents of

infiltration in India during each of the last two years, Nityanand Rai said such attempts from across the border are mainly in Jammu and Kashmir “which has been affected by militant violence, sponsored and supported from across-the border.”

As per the “available” information, the MoS said, 99 infiltration attempts were made in 2020 and 19 militants were killed and none apprehended. Last year, he said, 77 infiltration attempts were made and 12 infiltrators were killed.

**Army Ready To**

readiness to face the constantly evolving threats and challenges,” he added.

The commander also brought out that the ‘whole of nation approach’ has led to progressive improvement in security situation in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The extraordinary zeal and motivation among all ranks reassures me that security of the borders is in safe hands, he said.

At the ceremony, 92 gallantry awards were presented to those who showed exemplary courage under extreme circumstances during anti-militancy operations and foiling enemy designs on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

Nineteen of the awards were awarded posthumously to the next of kin of soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. Twenty-five distinguished service awards were presented for selfless service to the nation.

The commander further said that 2021 was an exigent year for the armed forces as the troops displayed exceptional bravery through a well-coordinated and an aggressive response strategy on the northern borders.

“Our forces have shown exemplary courage and remarkable fortitude in these testing times. I, convey my heartfelt gratitude to the brave soldiers of Indian Army for their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty defying all odds in Operation Rakshak, Operation Meghdoot and Operation Snow Leopard,” he said.

He said the Army is committed to defend India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and believes in constructive dialogue through both military and diplomatic means to resolve the border issues.

“Restoration of peace and tranquility to enable progress in bilateral relations has been and will remain our constant endeavour. We are keeping a constant watch on all developments and will take all necessary steps to protect our national interests,” the commander said.

He said besides the operational challenges on the Line of Actual Control and LoC, the Army remain committed to providing succour in the times of natural disasters which includes the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I also take this opportunity to laud the efforts of Covid warriors whose relentless efforts have kept us protected in these testing times,” he said.

Gen Dwivedi said Operation Sadbhavana’ has bridged the gap between the armed forces and people resulting in a better civil-military integration and coordination.

“This has been achieved through well-orchestrated developmental work in conjunction with the civil administration and assisting grassroot level development activities in far flung areas under Project Sadbhavana, he said.

A participative approach by all stakeholders coupled with integration of all agencies and synergy of efforts to enhance development, improved educational facilities and employment opportunities for the youth will result in fulfilling the aspirations of the people,” he added.

The commander also congratulated all the awardees and their families.

“I commend the veer naris’ present here who bear the unfathomable loss of their loved ones with stoic silence. I wish to reassure you that we stand firmly besides you on your loss and remain committed to ensuring our unstinted support to you. We are deeply committed to ensure your resettlement with utmost dignity in society,” he said.

The commander exhorted all ranks of the Northern Command to be prepared for varied challenges on the internal and external security front.

“The nation looks upon us in times of crises and we have to live up to the hopes and trust reposed on us by our countrymen,” he said.

Lauding all ranks of the Northern Command for their dedication and devotion to duty in the highest traditions of the Army, Gen Dwivedi conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the brave men who made the supreme sacrifice while facing adverse situations.

He expressed his gratitude to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and the civil administration for their unstinted support and wished for peace and contentment for the people of the regions.

**Karnataka HC**

Court in this instant case,” the plea reads.

It has been said in the plea that the high court has failed to note that the Indian legal system explicitly recognizes the wearing/ carrying of religious symbols.

Earlier a three-judge full bench of the High Court said the prescription of school uniform is only a reasonable restriction, constitutionally permissible which the students cannot object to.

While the Karnataka government urged everyone to abide by the order, saying education was primary, Muslim students’ body Campus Front of India (CFI) protested against the “anti-constitutional order” and vowed to take all efforts to protect constitutional and individual rights.

The government also said it will make attempts to “win the hearts” of the “misguided” Muslim girls.

Six girl students of a college in Udupi had attended a press conference held by the CFI in the coastal town in January this year, protesting against the college authorities denying them entry into the classroom wearing Hijab.

On Tuesday, the Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi-led bench said, “we are of the considered opinion that wearing of Hijab by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith.” The CJ read out portions from the order.

The other two judges in the panel were Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice J M Khazi.

The bench also maintained that the government has power to issue the impugned order dated February 5, 2022 and no case is made out for its invalidation.

By the said order, the Karnataka government had banned wearing clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public order in schools and colleges, which the Muslim girls had challenged in the High Court.

The bench also rejected the plea to initiate a disciplinary inquiry against the college, its principal and a teacher.

“In the above circumstances, all these writ petitions being devoid of merits are liable to be and accordingly are dismissed.

In view of the dismissal of the writ petition, all the pending applications pale into insignificance and are accordingly disposed off,” the bench said in its order.

State Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said everyone should abide by the verdict of the High Court on the Hijab row, and cooperate with the state government in implementing it.

Speaking to reporters here, he said it was a matter concerning the future and the education of students, and nothing was more important than education.

“Every one should abide by the verdict of the three-judge bench of the High Court. While we (govt) implement it (the order) everyone should cooperate and maintain peace. Maintaining peace and order in the society is of utmost importance. I appeal to the people, leaders of all communities, parents, teachers and students to accept the order and cooperate in imparting education to students, in accordance with the court order,” he added.

He also asked students not to boycott classes and exams as some of them did during the preparatory exams keeping their future in mind.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh said efforts will be made to bring the ‘misguided’ Muslim girls to mainstream, even as he described the verdict as “landmark”.

“We will try to win the hearts of those girls who were misguided. We will try to bring them into the mainstream of education,” Nagesh told reporters.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan welcomed the court ruling. At the start of the Hijab controversy, Khan had said wearing of the headscarf was not an essential religious practice in Islamic faith.

“I sincerely pray and hope that these continuous attempts to push back the young women, especially young Muslim women, into the four walls of the house, fall down,” Khan said.

The Campus Front of India, responding to the HC order, said the “court verdict on Hijab ban destructs the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.”

“The BJP regime is trying to implement their agenda and dehumanise a community and the High Court verdict can now be a catalyst for their polarising agenda,” CFI said in a statement uploaded on Twitter.

“It is an alarming sign that the judiciary interprets religious texts...we will never accept this anti-constitutional verdict and will continue all efforts to protect the constitution and individual rights,” it added.

AIMIM leader and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi sought to “disagree” with the HC judgement and wanted the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and organisations of other religious groups to appeal against the order.

“...If it is MY belief & faith that covering my head is essential then I have a right to EXPRESS it as I deem fit. For a devout Muslim, Hijab is also an act of worship.”

“It’s time to review the essential religious practice test. For a devout person, everything is essential & for an atheist nothing is essential..” he said in a series of tweets.

Banning headscarf definitely harms devout Muslim women and their families as it prevents them from accessing education, he added.

**Verdict ‘Disappointing**

how she wants to dress.

“That the court didn’t uphold this basic right is a travesty”, Omar Abdullah said on his twitter page.

“Karnataka HC’s decision to uphold the Hijab ban is deeply disappointing,” Mehbooba Mufti, PDP president, said in a tweet. “On one hand we talk about empowering women yet we are denying them the right to a simple choice. Its isn’t just about religion but the freedom to choose,” she added.

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi, seeking permission to wear Hijab inside the classroom, saying the headscarf is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith.

**750 Held Under**

question whether the Government has also any proposal to amend the UAPA law to “prevent the harassment of innocent persons.”

“There are adequate Constitutional, institutional and statutory safeguards, including inbuilt safeguards in the UAPA itself, to prevent misuse of the law,” the minister said in the reply, adding, “The UAPA has been amended in the past keeping in view the requirement. Presently, no amendments in the UAPA are under consideration”.

**J&K Gets Investment**

on development of backward regions and nurturing existing units.

“The policy provides many incentives with enhanced ease of doing business procedures, with least human interface,” reads the report.

The committee was also apprised about J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, which is aimed to streamline the process of land allotment for industrial use.

“All the land allotment is done online in a transparent and time-bound manner by designated land allotment committees on set criteria,” the report states—(KNO)

**PM Modi Lauds**

around the movie escalated, the Uttar Pradesh government joined a host of states in declaring the film tax-free.

Slamming the “campaign to discredit” the Vivek Agnihotri directorial by those who claim to be the flagbearers of freedom of expression, Modi said there have been continuous efforts to “bury the truth”.

“They are shocked that the truth that they tried to suppress is now coming out with the backing of facts and efforts,” Modi said about the film at the centre of a political slugfest with the Congress and several other opposition parties objecting to it.

The video of the prime minister’s speech was shared on Twitter by the BJP and several party leaders.

Released last week, “The Kashmir Files” stars Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty and Pallavi Joshi. The film has been written by Agnihotri and produced by Zee Studios.

“You must have heard the discussion about ‘The Kashmir Files’, those who carry around the flag of freedom of expression, that whole group is rattled for the last few days. Instead of assessing the film on the basis of facts and truth, a campaign is on to discredit it,” Modi said.

Underlining that history has to be presented in the right context before the society, Modi said just as books, poetry and literature play a role in this, in the same way even films can do the same.

“My issue is not about a film, but about bringing the truth in its correct form before the country.

“There can be many aspects of truth and different views, those who think it is not correct can make their own film, but they are shocked that the truth that they tried to suppress is now coming out with the backing of facts and efforts,” the PM said.

Referring to British filmmaker Richard Attenborough’s 1982 biographical drama “Gandhi”, starring Ben Kingsley, Modi said post-independence, the world heard more about Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

“Had someone taken the effort to make a film on Gandhi and presented it to the world, the message may have been delivered.”

**J&K Logs 16**

Bandipora district recorded the highest four cases. Ten of the total 22 districts in the Union Territory did not report any fresh case.

There are 185 active cases in the Union Territory.

The death toll due to the pandemic in the Union Territory was 4,750.

The officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis in the union territory and no fresh case was reported in a day.

**2 Killed In**

Wagoora, officials said, adding that soon after the incident, massive rescue operation was launched by the administration and locals during which two bodies were recovered from the site while two others rescued in injured conditions.

The officials identified the deceased duo as Ali Mohammad Malik son of Farooq Ahmad Malik and Gulum Mohammad Mir son of Ali Mohammad Mir both the residents of Waglis-Wagora.

The injured persons have been shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment and their condition is said to be stable.

**Shabnam Kamili**

Kashmir is transferred and posted as Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission.

Shabnam Kamil, JKAS, Mission Director, ICPS, J&K, shall hold the charge of the post of Director General, Social Welfare, Kashmir, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Raj Kumar Katoch, JKAS, Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission, is transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

**2 Power Dept**

accepting the Rs 48,000 in bribe, a spokesman of the ACB said.

The arrest was made based on a complaint of an electrical contractor.

The contractor in his complaint said that he had been awarded a tender for relocating 33 KVA Line at Jagti by the JPDC, and had submitted bills after completion of work on February 10.

He said that even though his bill amounted to Rs 19.41 lakh, he received only Rs 15.04 lakh from the department, the spokesman said.

When the complainant visited the office of AEE to inquire about the remaining Rs 3.82 lakh, the officer demanded a bribe of Rs 48,000 and asked him to give the money to Charanjeet, he said.

After the matter was reported, a trap team was hatched by the ACB and both officers were caught in the act of accepting bribe, and taken into custody.

The bribe money was recovered from their possession in presence of independent witnesses, the spokesman said.

Searches were conducted at residences of both the accused and the matter is further being inquired, he said.



## 3 Arrested For Gang Raping Woman In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Police on Tuesday arrested three persons on charges of gang raping a woman in Poonch district last month.

"On 11 March 2022 police station Mandi received a written complaint from one lady (name withheld) that on 21.02.2022 one person namely Gultaj Ahmed of Seri Chowhahana called her to come to his place as he wants to marry her," a police spokesperson said, as per news agency GNS.

"On this pretext, the accused took her to a abandoned house at Seri Chowhahana where he called two other accused namely Ajaz Ahmed and Shaqeel Ahmed, both residents of Seri Chowhahana to the location and committed rape on

her one by one the whole night."

The police said she lost her consciousness and came back to senses next day morning.

"While leaving the place of occurrence the accused persons threatened to kill her if she discloses the incident to anyone and left," police said.

"On this, a case FIR No 30/2022 U/S 376-D/342/506 IPC was registered at Police station Mandi and investigation was taken up."

During the course of investigation different teams were setup to nab the culprits, police said.

"After putting in the hectic efforts all the three accused persons were arrested within shortest possible time under the supervision of DySP headquarters Poonch and ASP Poonch."

## DC Budgam Reviews Navroz Arrangements



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza on Tuesday reviewed the arrangements for the ensuing Navroz festival.

In this regard, the DC chaired a meeting and stressed on concerned for carrying out intensive market checking drives to ensure official rate regulation on all essential commodities is strictly adhered to by traders.

The DC on the occasion directed the Fisheries department to ensure availability of trout and carp fish for sale at the designated locations, besides he also instructed the department to keep fish available for consumers at all identified places.

The Executive Officers of all concerned Municipal Committees were instructed to conduct pre and post festival special cleanliness drives in all areas.

The DC directed officials of FCS&CA and MC to conduct rigorous

market inspection and ensure no black marketing or unfair trade practice is taking place in the markets.

The Health department was directed to ensure availability of staff and ambulances at all sub centres, besides with regard to availability of ration, the AD Food was instructed to ensure supply of Ration including other essentials at all centers and further they were directed to remain open on Sunday too for the convenience of the Shia population.

During the meeting, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer said that the department has made arrangements to keep poultry birds available for consumers and the stocks would be kept available at identified locations and in addition mobile sale centers will also provide chickens to the consumers.

The DC also directed the Department of PHE and PDD to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supply in the Shia populated areas.

## Bandipora Admin Warns Zero Tolerance Against Land Encroachment



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad on Tuesday convened a meeting to take detailed review of all revenue related matters.

The meeting discussed various issues related to Custodian Land, Rakhs and Farms Land, Eviction of Kahcharai and State land, Digitization and Geo Tagging of Waqf properties and conversion of Agricultural land.

It also reviewed preparation of Jamabandi/ Girdawari, reconstruction of missing Revenue records and status of Revenue e-Services.

The DC stressed on removal of encroachment and handing-over of records for various purposes by the Government. He asked the concerned to ensure speedy disposal of Revenue related complaints if any. He said a Special Revenue Control Room will be established for fast disposal of Revenue related issues and grievances.

He asked the concerned to ensure safety of Revenue records

and to bring all Revenue related services online within the set target.

Dr Owais stressed on digitization of certificate and land pass-books and said that digitization makes work easy for both officials and the public.

He also appreciated the work of the Revenue department and asked the concerned to remove bottlenecks if any regarding functioning of the department.

The DC asked the officers and officials of Revenue department to enhance the pace of identification and submit the status of custodian land. He said the administration has adopted Zero tolerance towards encroachment on Govt. Land and directed for retrieval of state land within stipulated time. He also stressed on early disposal of court cases.

Earlier, the DC chaired a meeting of concerned officers regarding the conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes. The meeting discussed threadbare progress of change of land use cases in Bandipora.

## DC Kulgam Reviews Process Of Change In Land Use

**KULGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also Collector/Chairman District Level Committee on Tuesday chaired a meeting of key officials of various departments to review the process of change in land use.

During the meeting, the DC enquired about the status of NOCs being issued in the favour of the applicants and applications received till date besides their reporting and follow up status by the concerned departments.

Threadbare discussion was

held with regard to the process of change in land use from agricultural to non-agricultural activities in the district.

The DC directed concerned members to ensure timely issuance of NOCs to the applicants after proper verification of documents and rules under land conversion.

He said through the change of land use application, the applicants shall get NOCs on fast-track basis and it would ensure prompt public services delivery from the government offices.

## Govt Okays Land Transfer For Medicity, Jaitely Sports Complex

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Administrative Council on Tuesday approved the proposal of Revenue Department to transfer various parcels of land for public purposes, including the establishment of a Medicity and a Sports Complex in memory of BJP leader Arun Jaitely.

The decisions were taken in a meeting of the AC under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said. LG's Advisors Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta and LG's Principal Secretary Nitishwar Kumar attended the meeting.

The Administrative Council approved the transfer of land measuring 144 Kanal 12 Marla in Hiranagar, District Kathua in favour of Youth Services and Sports Department, J&K for construction of Arun Jaitely Memorial Sports Complex.

The decision aims to provide quality sporting infrastructure for games like Cricket, Hockey, Football, Wrestling and Athletics and bring Kathua and Samba Districts on the sporting map of India.

The Sports Complex will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.23 crore and provide avenues to the local sportspersons to excel in their respective disciplines.

Moreover, approval was given to the transfer of land measuring 740 Kanal 9.5 Marla in favour of Industries and Commerce Department for the establishment of New Industrial Estate in District Shopian. The upcoming industrial estate will boost the economic activity and industrial development in the area and provide entrepreneurial and employment opportunities to the youth.

## Administrative Approval Given To Various Dev Works



**JAMMU:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday accorded administrative approval to various developmental works in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Administrative Council approved the modernization of existing slaughter Houses at Gujar Nagar and Dogra Hall, Jammu at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.88 crore.

The project will ensure the availability of wholesome hygienic meat for human consumption, besides ensuring scientific disposal of waste, checking pollution in the area and addressing the concerns of the regulatory bodies like Pollution Control Board (PCB) and the NGT. The modernization works will be completed within 12 months.

Further, the Administrative Council also approved the Construction of Multi Storey Parking

at existing Bus Stand Doda at an estimated cost of Rs. 32.46 crore. The project will be spanned over an area of 9526.05 sq.mtrs and will accommodate 136 cars and 20 buses at a time, which otherwise are being parked on the road side causing traffic congestion. Additionally, 36 shops will also be constructed to boost economic activity therein. The project will be completed in 2 years.

Similarly, the administrative approval was also given to the construction of Multi Storey Bus Stand at Ramban at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.44 Crore. The project will create additional parking spaces to de-congest Ramban town, ease traffic congestion and develop the area as a vibrant economic centre

The project will be constructed on an area of 5033 sq.mtrs to accommodate 20 buses on the ground floor and 50 light motor vehicles in the first floor. It will be completed within 2 years.

The Administrative Council further approved the transfer of land measuring 750 Kanal in favour of Industries & Commerce Department for setting up a Medicity. Operationalization of the Medicity

will bring world-class health care infrastructure and facilities to the region, besides providing employment opportunities to the medical/pharma professionals, local pharmacists and vendors.

## Govt Begins Survey On Drug Abuse In Kashmir

Drug Addiction A Grave Issue In Our Society: Advisor Bhatnagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Tuesday e-inaugurated a survey about the prevalence of drug addiction in Kashmir to be undertaken by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) to be held Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

While speaking during the inauguration of the survey, Advisor Bhatnagar said that drug addiction is a grave issue in our society and this survey will help us in knowing the exact burden of the problem and help us in management of this serious issue.

Complimenting the department for taking up the initiative, the Advisor remarked that UT administration led by Manoj Sinha is working with a prime objective of establishing drug-free Kashmir.

"We have to see that the supply chain mechanism is broken and those affected are brought back to the social fabric as healthy and productive individuals," Advisor Bhatnagar said.

While highlighting about the effects of drug abuse on society, Advisor Bhatnagar said that we should not discriminate with people who are drug addicts rather we should deal them with love and care to get them back.



"Drug addiction is a big criminal industry which is destroying our society in terms of social values and draining the economy as well," Advisor Bhatnagar said.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, while speaking on the occasion gave details of the project and explained the methods of this survey to held under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

The Director said that DHSK will conduct the survey in collaboration with GMC Srinagar, GMC Anantnag and GMC Baramulla and the project will be funded by the Social Welfare Department of Kashmir.

The Director added that DHSK has envisioned the scenario where there should be no treatment gap in the mental health

and addiction treatment delivery. "In this direction we established 5 ATFs in record time. Till now, around 1,000 youth suffering from substance use problems were treated at these centres," he said.

Dr Mushtaq said they are working in collaboration with IMHANS Srinagar to make patient registers for people suffering from substance use problem.

"DHSK in collaboration with IMHNAS is conducting this survey to estimate the prevalence of substance use in all 10 districts of Kashmir to assess the problem," he said.

The Director also remarked that figures from this survey will help us in developing future course strategy to be adopted to manage this growing epidemic in the region.

## Bollywood Rekindles Romance With J&K As Film Makers Find Picture-Perfect

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir known for its breathtaking beauty and incredible landscape dotted with meadows, valleys, high altitude passes, dense forests, lakes, apple orchards, snow capped peaks, provide just the picture perfect for shooting a film.

Several movies have been shot in this beautiful region blessed with magnificent scenic splendor, with film tourism in Jammu and Kashmir remaining as popular as ever.

The Indian film industry is re-kindling its romance with Kashmir, a destination once a favorite of filmmakers and the audience alike. Soon, the Valley witnessed the cameras set on its blooming tulips, placid lakes, coniferous trees and the Dal Lake.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has met Bollywood filmmakers including Ekta Kapoor, Dinesh Vijan, Imtiaz Ali, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari and Nitesh Tiwari among others in Mumbai. He invited them to shoot in the Valley and also discussed how the shooting of films can be made business-friendly in the Union Territory.

The concept aims to bring back the lost glory of the valley through benefits to the local artists, including dancers, fashion designers, actors, choreographers, cinematographers, sound recordists, set designers and others.

Bollywood's love affair with the picturesque Kashmir dates back to the 1960's and 70's. Back then, scores of films were set in the backdrop of the beautiful locales of the Valley.

Some of the most romantic and evergreen songs were picturized in the snow-clad hills and lush green locales of Jammu and Kashmir. In 1961, Shamma Kapoor romanced Saira Banu in the snow-capped mountains in Srinagar as he sang "Chahe koi mujhe jungle kahe". He immortalized the 'Shikara' on the Dal Lake in the song "Tareef karun kya uski" as he wooed a beautiful Sharmila Tagore in Kashmir Ki Kali (1964).

In the late 1970s and early 80s, cinephiles witnessed Yash Chopra's love affair with the beguiling beauty of Kashmir in superhits like Kabhi Kabhi (1976), Noorie (1979) and Silsila (1981). Everybody remembers the mov-

ie Betaab, starring Sunny Deol and Amrita Singh, the movie and its location was such a hit with the audience, that the Valley, which was earlier known as Hagan Valley, was renamed as Betaab Valley.

Several scenes from another famous movie in 1973, Bobby, was shot in a hut, with the result it was renamed Bobby Hut.

However, by the 1990s, the region witnessed some of the most violent times and Kashmir found a new narrative in cinema.

The stories got consumed by the tension in the Valley. Kunal Kohli, whose film 'Fanaa' was based in Kashmir, could not shoot there. Mani Ratnam's Roja (1992) and Dil Se (1998) was set against the backdrop of political turmoil in Kashmir. Mission Kashmir (2000) and Yahaan (2005) also showcased the unrest in the region. However, the rising tensions there forced filmmakers to shoot elsewhere even as they ostensibly showed Kashmir, a case in point being Roja. Mani Ratnam had planned to shoot the film in Kashmir but ended up shifting it to Coonoor, Ooty and Manali.

Eventually, film producers and

## All Tertiary Care Hospitals To Be Accredited Through NABH

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Health and Medical Education Department has tied up with the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India (QCI), for seeking NABH accreditation for tertiary care hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir.

AYUSH institutions in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

In this regard, the first three day onsite orientation program



In a recent meeting held under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Vivek Bhargava, with the Chief Executive Officer NABH, Dr. Atul Kochhar, and heads of all the line departments of Health and Medical Education, it was decided that three hospitals each in Jammu and Srinagar shall be put to entry level certification for NABH in the beginning followed by full level accreditation.

The Institutions identified in Jammu included SMGS Hospital Jammu, Super Speciality Hospital and Dental Hospital while LD Hospital, Super Speciality Hospital and Dental Hospital Srinagar were identified in Kashmir division besides all the

was started today at Government Medical College Srinagar in which 40 participants from GMC Srinagar and its Associated Hospitals participated for necessary training.

Similar onsite programme for the Government Medical College, Jammu and its Associated Hospitals shall be conducted on 21st March 2022 and for the AYUSH Institutions on 23rd March 2022.

The programme is aimed at improving the quality of healthcare delivery by identifying the gaps in infrastructure, equipment, allied services besides streamlining the quality of human resources. The gap analysis will serve as an audit of the entire healthcare system which shall be filled in a systemic manner.

## DC Kulgam Discusses Action Plan For Road Safety Measures

Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** In order to provide safer road facilities to the people and to reduce mortality and accident rate, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Tuesday convened a meeting of District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) to discuss and formulate 'Action Plan for Road Safety measures' in the district.

At the outset, ARTO Kulgam informed the chair that there are approximately 8000 commercial vehicles plying in the district. He also presented current accidental figures across the country and added that about 18 deaths are occurring per hour in the country.

He also informed the meeting about the number of accidents and mortalities caused due to accidents in the district in the

last 3 years.

The meeting discussed threadbare agenda points including raising awareness about Road Safety, Implementation of Ribbon Development Act, Removal of unauthorized cuts on National Highway and other major roads and regulation of Cross Junctions, Removal of Encroachments/hoardings, Traffic Management, Organization of Medical Camps and other allied issues.

Addressing the meeting, the DC instructed Ex. Engineer R&B to improve roads and identify black spots to counter hindrances.

Further, Municipal Committees were directed to remove dangerous roadside objects and hoardings alongside roads that hinder smooth traffic. They were also directed for relocation of the roadside vendors to facilitate smooth movement of pedestrians.

## Singla Reviews Shifting Of Utilities From Emergency Airstrip

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla today reviewed the progress with regard to shifting of utility services within the alignment of Emergency Airstrip at Bijbehara, here.

Reviewing the present status of 11Kv Arwani, Railway and Tulkhan feeder lines as well as 33Kv Shamsipora supply line, Executive Engineer KPDCI said that the estimation for the process has been completed and work is being executed by NHAI.

The representative from NHAI assured that 96 percent of the work has been completed and

temporary provision regarding shifting has been completed. He said that the DPR framed by KPDCI has been forwarded for approval.

The DC directed the Project Director NHAI PIU Srinagar to take the KPDCI on board while executing the works and find out the best solution for charging the stations.

Regarding the issue of developing a ramp for Fruit Mandi, the DC said that a meeting shall be convened shortly with all concerned stakeholders and a temporary diversion will be constructed on a make shift basis till a permanent solution is constructed.



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