

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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P3 CITY

## TULIP GARDEN TO BE THROWN OPEN ON MARCH 23

Asia's largest tulip garden is all set to open for visitors with 1.5 million flowers, tulips the highlight among them, on spectacular show. On March 23, the gates of the garden will

P5

## IS HIJAB RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL?

When it comes to the obligation for a Muslim woman to cover her hair and body, many have expressed their confusion as to where this commandment is rooted. In order to address this topic, this paper will explore how rulings in Islamic law are generally formed, while adopting



P7 STATE

## ACB FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST GOVT EMPLOYEE

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday filed a chargesheet against a government official and his family members in a disproportionate assets case here,



If you can't be kind, at least be vague

- Judith Martin

## NEWS DIGEST

### LG Greeted People On Holi

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Holi. According to an official spokesperson, the LG in a message said that the Festival of Colours symbolises the spirit of unity in diversity, harmony, and inspires us to move ahead with new hope for a **More on P6**

### J&K Logs 12 New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 12 new cases of coronavirus, taking the infection tally to 4,53,505 while no Covid-related death was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said. Of the fresh cases, six each were reported from Jammu and Kashmir **More on P6**

### Driver Killed After Tractor Overturns

SRINAGAR: A driver was killed on Thursday after his tractor overturned in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Irshad Ahmad Lone died on the spot after his tractor turned turtle at Kunnel-Ashpora area of Handwara on Thursday afternoon, reports said. After carrying out **More on P6**

### Abductor Held, Girl Rescued In Ramban

JAMMU: A 17-year-old girl, who was abducted, was rescued in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Thursday. A man from Batote lodged a complaint at police post Patnitop claiming that his minor daughter went missing on March 3 when she had gone to Higher Secondary School Sanasar, a police **More on P6**

## Pak Repatriates Missing Poonch Resident

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: An Indian national, who had gone missing about 15 months ago, was handed over Thursday by Pakistani Army to their counterparts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Mohammad Javed (37), a resident of forward Qasba village of Poonch, had gone missing in December 2020 and could not be traced anywhere, the officials said.

They said Pakistani army recently contacted Indian Army and informed them about the presence of Javed, who is not mentally sound, across the border, indicating that he might have crossed the LoC into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) inadvertently.

Accordingly, the army cross checked the details with the local police which confirmed the disappearance of Javed from his residence.

The individual was repatriated by Pakistan and was handed over to Indian army in presence of local police and civil officials at Chaka Da Bagh crossing point on the LoC in Poonch, the officials said.

They said he is being handed over to his family after completion of legal formalities.

## 44,167 KP Families Registered As Migrants With J&K Govt Agencies

New Delhi: As controversy over the Kashmir Files continues to rage on, information has surfaced that 44,167 Kashmiri Pandit families are registered as migrants with the J&K government.

In an RTI reply, the Home Ministry said that a separate Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme in J&K namely SRE Relief and Rehabilitation was introduced in 1989-90 which includes financial assistance in the form of administrative, socio-economic, health, security related assistance to Kashmiri migrants including Kashmiri Pandits.

The scheme includes relief to migrants from Kashmir and Jammu settled in J&K and Delhi in the form of cash or kind.

It also includes expenditure towards providing employment to Kashmiri migrants from time to time under special packages.

It also includes financing rehabilitation activities related to migrants like construction of transit accommodations, **More on P6**



## CRPF Occupies 737 Premises Across Kashmir Valley

Land Allotted At 10 Locations To Establish Camps: CRPF DG



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is occupying as many as 737 premises, including houses of Kashmiri Pandits, industrial units and factories, besides hotels and orchards across the Kashmir Valley, even as the Union Territory administration has transferred swathes of land to the force for establishing camps.

According to CRPF Director General (DG) Kuldeep Singh, the force, in Kashmir, has in its possession as many as 737 premises on which it has established camps and offices.

These include 333 government buildings, 265 private

buildings, including those of Kashmiri Pandits, 71 pieces of agricultural land, 26 industrial units or factories, 30 hotels, eight orchards, two cinema halls, a school and a hospital.

Singh said the force has been transferred 524 kanals of land for creating its camps at 10 locations in Jammu and Kashmir.

The administration of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir pays rent to owners in case of private properties, a senior CRPF officer said.

Maintaining that the atmosphere is conducive for anyone to visit Kashmir, the CRPF DG said for Kashmiri Pandits return, the call has to be taken by them or "agencies". **More on P6**

## 'Stone Pelting Nil After Art-370 Abrogation'

There is "definitely" a periodic spurt in militancy-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir but these are immediately contained by government forces, CRPF director general (DG) Kuldeep Singh said on Thursday. The months of December and January have been "very good" for security forces and their success rate has been high and there are times when a spurt is seen in militant violence.

"There has not been a spurt in terrorist incidents as it was being thought. There have been 2-3 incidents recently and yes, if you feel that these incidents are increasing, then yes definitely there is a spike but this spike has been contained immediately," the DG said.

He was addressing a press conference ahead of the 83rd Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to be celebrated on March 19 in Jammu. The about 3.25 lakh personnel strong **More on P6**

## Last Call For Govt Employees To File Property Return Details

dfg21qAgencies

SRINAGAR: With many employees failing to submit property return details, the government on Thursday decided to give "last and final opportunity" to the defaulting workforce.

The defaulting employees can now submit details through online mode on the Property Returns System (PRS Portal) from March 22 to 28, according to a government notification issued here.

Vide Circular (No. 56-JK(GAD) of 2021) on 22 December last year, government issued detailed instructions to all the employees to register themselves on the PRS Portal and subsequently file their Annual Property Returns for the year 2021 necessarily, on the portal from 1st January upto 31st.

"The submission of the returns was thus supposed to be closed on 31.01.2022, however, the last date for submission of **More on P6**

**ACCORDINGLY, THE SUBMISSION** of Property Returns by the defaulting employees shall be allowed through online mode on the Property Returns System (PRS Portal) w.e.f 22.03.2022 to 28.03.2022."

## Tracking OGWs Huge Challenge For Security Forces: IGP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Tracking underground workers of militant outfits is a huge challenge for security forces, but 150 of them have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir so far this year, Inspector General of Police of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said on Thursday. "OGWs (overground workers) don't remain permanently so. OGWs carry out a few activities

and then remain silent and live normal life. That's why we call them hybrid terrorists or terrorist associates. That is a huge challenge for police. However, we have arrested 150 OGWs so far this year," the IGP told reporters in Budgam.

Kumar flagged off a 'Bharat Darshan' tour of 80 youths from the central Kashmir district.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police officer said **More on P6**

## Only 10% Women Entrepreneurs Operate MSMEs In J&K

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: A recently published report from the Government of India's, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has surprisingly stated that the estimated MSME for the erstwhile state of J&K has been recorded at 7.09 (in lakhs) which is the 20th highest MSME in India.

The report titled, "Annual Report of the Ministry of MSME, 2021-22" was published on 15th February, 2022. As per the report, in J&K, the estimated number of Micro enterprises stood at 7.06 lakhs and for the small scale enterprises, the number was recorded at 0.03 lakhs. "The estimated number of medium

enterprises in J&K was recorded at 0.00."

Pertinently, in 2019-20, as per Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, a total of 7940 enterprises were registered in J&K of which 6078 were micro, 1767 were small and 95 were medium. In 2016-17, J&K saw a total 2539 enterprises being registered of which 2219, 305 and 15 were Micro, Small and Medium, respectively. In 2017-18, J&K saw a total of 990 registrations of which 678 were Micro, 302 were Small and 10 were medium.

"In 2018-19, 2416 enterprises were registered in J&K of which 1725, 652 and 39 were MSM, respectively." Another report from



the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises said.

In a startling revelation, the report has also brought into fore

a huge disparity that the employment provided in these three enterprises—based on NSS data from 2015-16—was relatively higher for males compared to females.

"In Jammu & Kashmir 1.50 (number in lakhs) women were provided employment in these enterprises and 9.37 (number in lakhs) men were provided employment in this sector. Overall 10.88 (number in lakhs) were provided employment in J&K under these three sectors." The report noted.

Based on the NSS' 73rd Round, the report has revealed a massive disparity among the proprietorship of MSMEs based on gender. Among the total MSMEs in Jammu & Kashmir, female proprietorship

was recorded at only 74,785 while men owned 6,24,056.

Among all MSMEs with male owners was recorded at 1.29 percent while the share of State among all MSMEs with female owners was recorded at 0.60 percent," the report said.

According to the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, 5476 enterprises have come up in J&K in the 2019-2020 financial year. "In this, a total of 667 MSMEs were started by women in J&K while men had started 4809 businesses."

On September 14, 2021, Jammu and Kashmir administration had announced the establishment of a women industrial estate in Udhampur

district to further strengthen the women entrepreneurs' ecosystem in J&K.

"These three new initiatives of Digi-Pay, Krishi, and Pashu Sakhi, besides several other programs of women empowerment such as Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together will further accelerate efforts of J&K government in Empowering Women and making them key partner in UT's development journey," J&K's LG Manoj Sinha had said.

Notably, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises envisions a progressive MSME sector by "promoting growth and development of the Sector, including Khadi, Village and Coir Industries, **More on P6**





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## How Truecaller Built A Billion-Dollar Caller ID Data Empire In India

Rachna Khaira | Rest Of World , Caravan

In October 2021, I called a journalist based in Pakistan, who did not know me. Surprisingly, they greeted me by my name when they received the call. When asked how they identified me, they sent a screenshot of a notification received from the Truecaller app on their phone. The notification had my name, my former employer's name, my designation at my former company, the state I was based in, and the name of my mobile operator. The journalist told me that they had recently installed the Truecaller app from the Google Play Store on an Android phone.

"Humne aapko pehchaan liya. Humein toh yeh bhi pata hai ki aapka yeh number WhatsApp par registered hai" — I recognized you. I even know that this number is registered on WhatsApp, the journalist from Lahore giggled. They sent me another screenshot of a notification sent by Truecaller, which stated that my number was registered on WhatsApp. I was stunned, as I had never used Truecaller on this number or downloaded the app on the device I was using. Neither Truecaller nor Google had ever sought my consent to use or display my private number. Truecaller was developed by True Software Scandinavia, a Swedish company founded in 2009 by Nami Zarringhalam and Alan Mamedi. Mamedi is of Kurdish descent and was born in a refugee camp in northern Sweden, while Zarringhalam moved to Sweden from Tehran at the age of three; both are Swedish citizens now.

"The app began when our co-founders were just students who wanted to create a service that would easily identify incoming calls from unknown num-

bers," Truecaller's website says, adding that it is "the go-to app for caller ID and spam blocking." On October 8, 2021, the company listed its initial public offering on Nasdaq Stockholm. According to Crunchbase, the firm raised a total of \$98.6 million over eight rounds of funding, with Zenith Venture Capital, Atomico, and Sequoia Capital India being among the lead investors.

As of March 2021, the app has been downloaded over 581 million times, the website claims. India accounts for over a third of these downloads, and its database has a staggering 5.7 billion unique phone identities. The firm is headquartered in Stockholm, but the majority of its employees are Indian. This is no surprise: Out of more than 278 million monthly active users (MAUs) across 175 countries, over 205 million are from India alone, making the country its biggest market, according to the firm's statistics. While India is a huge and lucrative market for technological innovations, a weeks-long investigation by The Caravan shows that Truecaller's apparent success in the country is based on rather dubious grounds. Interviews with a former senior employee who worked with the company for over half a decade, lawyers specializing in privacy laws, and experts at policy research think tanks revealed that the majority of Truecaller's datasets are comprised of information that has been collected without a user's consent — a feat made possible by the lack of a comprehensive legal framework surrounding data protection in India. The firm may also be building a complete financial profile of its registered users, The Caravan's investigation shows.

In a series of written responses to The

Caravan, Truecaller insisted that it offers a "privacy-focused service" that is "committed to being transparent and compliant with the laws of the countries we operate in." But, as Prasanna S., a coder-turned-lawyer who specializes in privacy issues, told The Caravan, "They are correct to the extent that there may not be a statutory breach in doing so. However, breach of privacy is an actionable wrong, and their activity, to the extent that they reveal personally identifiable information to the callee without the consent of the caller, is certainly a breach of privacy." He added that this "has been Truecaller's business since quite a while. Truecaller is a case where your personal data is collected from a contact of yours, which [then] gets used without your consent." Given that parliament still has yet to pass the Personal Data Protection Bill, first introduced in 2018, "the state of privacy protection is minimal, if any," Prasanna said.

In the 2017 ruling for K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India, the Supreme Court held that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. However, five years later, the government is still deliberating on the data protection bill, despite several iterations — each more controversial than the last. This legal lacuna has made Indian citizens vulnerable to monitoring, surveillance, and data mining by government agencies and private companies alike. Truecaller's database has been built by tapping four main sources: downloads of the app; white and yellow pages of foreign countries not restricted by privacy concerns; partnerships with social media platforms that publicly display numbers; and free authentication of application-programming interfaces (APIs) and software development kits (SDKs).

انجمنیات منٹن با اجلاس ایکونیکوجیسٹریٹ دیجیٹل

مضمون درخواست منجانب: چیف منشی قلمی احمد شاہ ساکنہ رگنیکو تحصیل منٹن شلیج ہٹ ناگ

بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ

استھاربرادہ گاہی ہرخاص دعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ایک درخواست سائل دفتر بدائیں زیرکاروانی ہے اس نسبت پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نیتقالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل

سائلہ ترکہ بد پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کی نسبت کی مہاندائی 10500

روپے سے کمیتہ بدائیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے

شہناز بیگم زوجہ فیروز احمد ترکہ بیگم 37 سال

محمد عمر پسر فیروز احمد زید تعلیم 12

محمد فہیم بٹ ولد پسر فیروز احمد زید تعلیم 08

غنیہ فیروزہ فیروز احمد زید تعلیم 04

انکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کم نہیں بتایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں

اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش

کریں۔ میعاد کوڑنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

انجمنیات منٹن پورہ با اجلاس غلام محمد الدین بٹ صاحب

درخواست منجانب: سافٹ ویئر ولڈ بیٹریٹ سائل کوئی پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ

بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ

استھاربرادہ گاہی ہرخاص دعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سائل نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر بدائیں پیش کیا ہے جس کی

فوار پورٹ جو کہ زیرکاروانی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ

سائل کی سچے پندرہ سالوں سے وہ بدائیں سکونت پذیر ہے۔

نمبر شمار نام ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدائی

1 بشیر احمد بٹ ولد غلام رسول 60 سال زمینداری 3000/=

2 عقیقہ بیگم زوجہ بشیر احمد بٹ 58 سال گھریلو کام

3 رحیم احمد ولد بشیر احمد بٹ 31 سال مزدوری 5000/=

4 سائیدہ بانو زوجہ رحیم احمد بٹ 29 سال گھریلو کام

5 زیشان شیر دفتر بشیر احمد بٹ 26 سال گھریلو کام

6 رابعہ شیر دفتر بشیر احمد بٹ 24 سال گھریلو کام

7 افریقہ بیگم زوجہ بشیر احمد بٹ 18 سال زمینداری

اس طرح سائل کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ سائل کی نسبت میں سیکرٹری ملازم موجود ہے۔ اور سائل کے نسبت میں کوئی سیکرٹری ملازم موجود

نہیں ہے۔ سائل کے کہنے کے پاس، حذا میں 6 کتاں آرامی موجود ہے۔ سائل کے کہنے کی

سالا آمدائی تمام ذرائع سے آٹھ لاکھ روپے سے کم ہیں۔ اس طرح سائل RBA سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے

کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر

پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کی سچے پندرہ سالوں سے وہ بدائیں سکونت پذیر ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انجمنیات منٹن با اجلاس ایکونیکوجیسٹریٹ دیجیٹل

مضمون درخواست منجانب: چیف منشی قلمی احمد شاہ ساکنہ رگنیکو تحصیل منٹن شلیج ہٹ ناگ

بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ

استھاربرادہ گاہی ہرخاص دعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول سیک وادار یا سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر بدائیں

پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیرکاروانی ہے پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کہنا

بدائیں افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار نام ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدائی

01 مشتاق احمد ولد غلام احمد شاہ بڑس 60 سال 20,000/=

02 عیسیٰ مشتاق ولد مشتاق احمد شاہ بڑس 30 سال 20,000/=

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04 عقیقہ مشتاق ولد مشتاق احمد شاہ زید تعلیم 22 سال

انکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کم نہیں ہیں۔ سائل کے کہنے کی سالا آمدائی تقریباً چار لاکھ یا ہزار

روپے ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے دوران دفتر

اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معاد کوڑنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(خواہر الصدور ایکونیکوجیسٹریٹ دیجیٹل)

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انجمنیات منٹن پورہ با اجلاس غلام محمد الدین بٹ صاحب

درخواست منجانب: قمر الدین فاروق قمر الدین فاروق احمد شاہ ساکنہ رگنیکو تحصیل منٹن

بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ

استھاربرادہ گاہی ہرخاص دعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر بدائیں پیش کیا ہے جس کی

رپورٹ جو کہ زیرکاروانی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل ساکنان کی

پندرہ سالوں سے وہ بدائیں سکونت پذیر ہے۔

نمبر شمار نام ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدائی

1 فاروق احمد دادہ ولد غلام حسن خان 52 سال سیکرٹری ملازم LPC

2 منیرہ بانو زوجہ فاروق احمد شاہ 50 سال گھریلو کام

3 قمر الدین فاروق دفتر فاروق احمد شاہ 25 سال زمینداری

4 قمر الدین فاروق دفتر فاروق احمد شاہ 27 سال زمینداری

5 ارفاقہ دفتر فاروق احمد شاہ 16 سال زمینداری

6 غلام حسن خان ولد غلام رسول خان 60 سال زمینداری

اس طرح سائل کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ سائل کی نسبت میں ایک سیکرٹری ملازم موجود ہے۔

سائل کے کہنے کے پاس، حذا میں 6 کتاں باغ موجود ہے۔ سائل کے کہنے کی سالا آمدائی تمام ذرائع سے

آٹھ لاکھ روپے سے کم ہیں۔ اس طرح سائل RBA سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی

شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ

طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کی سچے پندرہ سالوں سے وہ بدائیں سکونت پذیر ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انجمنیات منٹن پورہ با اجلاس غلام محمد الدین بٹ صاحب

درخواست منجانب: قمر الدین فاروق قمر الدین فاروق احمد شاہ ساکنہ رگنیکو تحصیل منٹن

بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ

استھاربرادہ گاہی ہرخاص دعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر بدائیں پیش کیا ہے جس کی

رپورٹ جو کہ زیرکاروانی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل ساکنان کی

پندرہ سالوں سے وہ بدائیں سکونت پذیر ہے۔

نمبر شمار نام ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدائی

1 فاروق احمد دادہ ولد غلام حسن خان 52 سال سیکرٹری ملازم LPC

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سائل کے کہنے کے پاس، حذا میں 6 کتاں باغ موجود ہے۔ سائل کے کہنے کی سالا آمدائی تمام ذرائع سے

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شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ

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نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انجمنیات منٹن پورہ با اجلاس غلام محمد الدین بٹ صاحب

درخواست منجانب: قمر الدین فاروق قمر الدین فاروق احمد شاہ ساکنہ رگنیکو تحصیل منٹن

بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ

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بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ

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## Srinagar Admin Conducts Anti-Encroachment Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Administration on Thursday conducted an anti-encroachment drive on the Boulevard road. The drive was carried out on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar. A team of officers consisting of Revenue, Police and Srinagar Municipality was constituted on Thursday under the direct supervision of Sub Divisional Magistrate, East Srinagar for eviction and removal of encroachment on the pathways of Boulevard road. The administration had been receiving regular complaints from residents, shopkeepers association and other stakeholders in this behalf. Subsequently, an anti-encroachment drive was conducted and unauthorized street vendors and hawkers were evicted from pathways from Ghat No. 1 to 16. The administration said the drive was successfully carried out and will continue in future as well.

## Sweepers Of Health Deptt Protest, Seek Regularization

Agencies

Srinagar: Sweepers and helpers of Health Department protested on Thursday demanding implementation of the minimum wages and regularization of their services.

Scores of sweepers and helpers under the banner of All Consolidate Part-time and Helper Safai-karamchari working in Health Department assembled in the Press Enclave here and raised slogans in favour of their demands. The protestors alleged that the department is putting the poor sweepers through problems by delaying the implementation of the Minimum Wage Act.

"We want the Minimum Wage Act to be implemented for us, and we want our salary to be released in accordance with the law. The department adopted the Act in 2018, but we have not been included in it," SajadParray, President J&K Casual and Daily Wagers Forum, said.

The protestors said that the Director of Health Services Kashmir had earlier presented a proposal to the government for the implementation of a minimum wage act for part-time sweepers but that the proposal had been ignored by higher authorities. "We want the government to consider the proposal as we are struggling to run our homes on meagre salaries," a protestor said.

"Health department is incomplete without us, we ensure the cleanness and hygiene of the hospitals where thousands of people visit each day and we are getting remuneration of Rs 100-1000 from last 25 years", said one of the protesters.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my school records as 10/11/2006 while my correct DOB is 01/04/2008 which needs to be rectified . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL ARA KHOSHIPORA within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
DAIMI MANZOOR D/O MANZOOR AHMAD ITOO  
R/O ARA KHOSHIPORA

RNA

### Public Notice

My mother's name has been wrongly entered in my passport bearing no. J7896251 as Tahmeena Sheikh. Where as the name of my mother as per matriculation certificate is Tahmeena, Now I want to make change in my passport by entering my mother's name as 'Tahmeena'. Any person having any objection in this matter shall report to Passport Officer Srinagar within one week from the date of publication of this notification.  
Taqwa Qadri  
Zahidpora hawal Srinagar

tko

### Public Notice

My mother's name has been wrongly entered in my passport bearing no. K1876279 as Tahmeena Sheikh. Where as the name of my mother as per matriculation certificate is Tahmeena, Now I want to make change in my passport by entering my mother's name as 'Tahmeena'. Any person having any objection in this matter shall report to Passport Officer Srinagar within one week from the date of publication of this notification.  
Peerzada Mohd Furqon  
Zahidpora hawal Srinagar

tko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of License of my tour & Travel agency under name and style "Mumina Tour & Travel" . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Department of Tourism Pahalgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
AARIF HASSAN RATHER  
S/O GH HASSAN RATHER  
R/O RAKHCHANDI pora

RNA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Jahangir Hussain Tinda, S/O Nazir Ahmed Tinda, R/O; Cheeke Sudarbal, NIT, Hazratbal. Have lost/misplaced my original Discharge Certificate under admission no: 222, date of admission 08-11-2006. Now I am applying for the Duplicate Discharge Certificate. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Hazratbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

inf

### Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

#### NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Mubeena Akhtar S/D/W /o Showkat Ahamd Dar R/O Tokan Wari Near PHE Noorbagh SGR (Transferor) of Ape Xtra Ldx bearing registration No. JK01AL-9740 chasis No: 989042 Engine No: 9062741 Model 2020 in favour of Shabir Ahamd Bhat S/o Ali Mohd Bhat R/o Parimpora Palpora 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 2488  
DATED: 17/03/2022  
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

# Tulip Garden To Be Thrown Open On March 23

Agencies

Srinagar: Asia's largest tulip garden is all set to open for visitors with 1.5 million flowers, tulips the highlight among them, on spectacular show. On March 23, the gates of the garden will be thrown open for visitors, Director Floriculture Farooq Ahmad Rather, said on Thursday.

He said at least 1.5 million flowers, especially tulips, are in bloom this year at the Srinagar garden.



The other prominent flowers that will bloom are daffodil, hyacinth, he said.

Besides various flowering trees like Macedonia, Forsythias, Apricots, Or-

namental Peaches are also planted in the garden.

The Director Floriculture further said that the department has taken steps to make adequate arrangements for the opening day. He stated that all the Covid related guidelines issued by the District Development Commissioner will be followed in letter and spirit.

Spread over an area of about 30 hectares, the Tulip Garden in Srinagar was opened in 2007 to boost tourism in Kashmir Valley. (KNO)

## Workshop On Software Learning Program Concludes At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A three day workshop on DassaultSimulia (ABAQUS, ISIGHT, TOSCA, FE-Analysis) Software learning program concluded on Thursday at Mechanical Engineering Department, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar.

The workshop was headed by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, HOD, Mechanical Engineering Department, while Dr. M. Mursaleen was the coordinator of the three-day-long event.

The valedictory session of the workshop was presided over by the Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal, was the chief guest on the oc-

casion.

He said conducting workshops on relevant themes is the need of the hour. NIT Srinagar will act as a platform for providing relevant knowledge to people who are involved in research activities.

He also expressed his gratitude to HOD Mechanical Engineering Department Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh and the entire team of the department for organizing a successful workshop.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said all sessions of the workshop were an eye-opener for all participants and NIT Srinagar will be organizing such workshops in

the future also so that students can get benefited from these initiatives.

On the occasion, HOD Mechanical Engineering Department, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, resource persons, and all participants for making the event successful.

He said the training workshop proved beneficial to many research scholars from the Institute, who are working on simulation in various fields of engineering topics such as Mr. Ali Imran Ansari is working on bone scaffold simulation for biomedical purposes and Mr. Avinas who is working on metallic foam simulation.

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

#### NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri. : Mohammad AShrif Khan S/o: Ghulam Rasool Khan R/o: Gariend Kalan Kakan Maran Budgam (Transferor) of Scooty. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04E - 6677. Chasis number 78689 Engine no.18825 Model 2018. in favour of Shri. Hilal Ahmad Bhat S/o. Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Narbal Budgam (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Mirgund.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.7028  
Dated 17/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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

#### NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Firdous Ahmad Dar S/o: Gh. Mohammad Dar R/o: New Airport Road Humhama Budgam as Transferor) & Sajad Ahmad S/o Abdul Rehman Katoo R/o Haji pora Syed Pora Rainawari Sgr.as Transferee) for transfer of Maxi cab Carriage route permit No.537/CC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04B -1463.



Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 6058  
Dated 14/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR

### GIST OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER E-N.I.T No:- 56/WWD OF 2021-22 Dt:-16.03.2022

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	Providing and laying of pipes from Modern Hospital to Linton Hall School Lane Rai Bagh.	0.60	100	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
2	Improvements of water supply to Acha Bagh Lane No-6 Malla Bagh Srinagar by way of laying and fitting of 25/20mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.23	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
3	Laying and fitting of new 25mm dia Service line at tail end of Pamposh Colony-B Natipora.	0.18	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
4	Laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I pipeline at Waza Kocha Nowshera.	0.17	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE
5	Improvements/Extension of water supply Chinar Colony Lane Alamdar Colony Lal Bazar Malla Bagh Srinagar by way of laying and fitting of 25/20mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.14	50	Impptt. Ext.	05 days	DEE

Note: For further details, bidders are requested to refer to E-NIT No: - WWD / 56 of 2021-22 Dt: 16-03-2022. 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	16-03-2022
2	Document downloading date	16-03-2022 / 1600 hrs
3	Bid submission start date	16-03-2022 / 1630 hrs
4	Bid submission closing date	23-03-2022 / 1600 hrs
5	Date and time for opening bids	24-03-2022 / 1400 hrs
6	Place of opening of bids	Office of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar

No: WWD/ 8542-53  
Dated: 16-03-2022

DIPK-19689/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Water Works Division Srinagar

### DIAL-EMMA

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

14 Shaban

1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR 5:18

ZUHR 12:40

ASR 4:56

Magrib 6:42

ISHA 8:02

## This Day In History

- 1922 - British magistrates in India sentence Mahatma Gandhi to 6 years imprisonment for disobedience
- 1937 - The human-powered aircraft, Pedalante, flies 1 kilometre (0.62 miles) outside Milan.
- 1940 - Benito Mussolini joins Hitler in Germany's war against France & Britain
- 1943 - Red Army evacuates Belgorod
- 1944 - Nazi Germany occupies Hungary
- 1944 - 2,500 women trample guards & floorwalkers to purchase 1,500 alarm clocks announced for sale in a Chicago Illinois dept store
- 1945 - 1,250 US bombers attacks Berlin
- 1948 - France & Great Britain & Benelux sign Treaty of Brussels
- 1948 - Soviet consultants have left Yugoslavia in first sign of Tito-Stalin split.
- 1949 - NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Org) ratified
- 1952 - 1st plastic lens for cataract patients fitted (Philadelphia)
- 1955 - I Hatojama recognized as premier of Japan
- 1959 - US President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs Hawaii statehood bill
- 1962 - Algerian War ends after 7½ yrs (250,000 die), Ben Bella flees
- 1963 - France performs underground nuclear test at Ecker, Algeria
- 1965 - USSR launches Voshkod 2; Alexei Leonov makes 1st space-walk (20 mins)
- 1967 - Oil tanker Torrey Canyon hits a rock off Cornwall & spills oil
- 1968 - Congress repeals requirement for a gold reserve
- 1970 - Two-week US postal strike begins; it is against the government and is the largest wildcat strike in US history
- 1971 - 200 die in landslide into Lake Yanahuani, Chungar Peru
- 1972 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1972 - Ulster Vanguard hold a rally of 60,000 people in Belfast; William Craig tells the crowd: "If and when the politicians fail us, it may be our job to liquidate the enemy"
- 1974 - Most Arab oil producing nations end embargo against US
- 1975 - Kurds end fight against Iraqi army
- 1977 - US restricts citizens from visiting Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea & Cambodia
- 1977 - Vietnam hands over MIA to US
- 1978 - 250,000 attend rock concert California Jam II in Ontario, Calif
- 1978 - Former Pakistani premier Ali Bhutto sentenced to death
- 1979 - Battles between Kurds & Iranians break in Sananday, Iran
- 1986 - US Treasury Dept announces plans to alter paper money
- 1989 - 27th space shuttle mission, STS-29 (Discovery 8), returns to Earth
- 1989 - In Egypt, a 4,400-year-old mummy is found in the Pyramid of Cheops.
- 1990 - Largest art robbery in US history: 13 works of art worth over \$500 million are stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston
- 1990 - 1st free elections in East Germany, Conservatives beat Communists
- 1990 - 32-day lockdown by baseball owners ends
- 1990 - A Tampa little leaguer dies after being struck by a pitch
- 1991 - Reggie Miller (Indiana) ends NBA free throw streak of 52 games

From KO Archives

## Govt To Punish Dull Teachers

Observer News Service

JAMMU - Government is strictly gauging the performance of teachers in various government schools and 'punitive action, which may include premature retirement, demotion to the next lower post, withholding of increment, etc. is being taken against the teachers whose result performance remains repeatedly unsatisfactory.

This was stated by Minister for Education Harshdev Singh in reply to a question in the House today. He said government have taken several measures for promoting the Equality of education in the state, which include introduction of Kindergarten system, for the first time in the government schools. He said minimum age limit for admission in government schools has been reduced from 6 to 4 years and English language introduced as a compulsory subject from first primary. He said school curriculum at secondary and senior secondary levels have been revised so as to catch up with the contemporary needs besides trying to bring it at par with the CBSE syllabi. Some text books upto class 8th have been revised so as to get them in tune with National curriculum framework. Other measures taken up by the government to improve education standard include introduction of new subjects like Biotechnology Bio-chemistry. Environment science, functional English. Islamic studies, Vedic studies besides introduction of vocational subjects at the +2 stage. The Minister said that the slate institute of education is projected to be upgraded to the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) while the State Institute of Educational Management and training is also being set up. (Kashmir Observer, 18 March, 2005)



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K O V I E W

Congress-Mukt India?

Crushing defeat in the five state elections has left Congress in dire straits. The national party's electoral footprint is now shrinking by the day. Though after the electoral rout, the party took some time off to discuss the ways to revive the party, no significant changes have taken place. Only the five party presidents of the states where Congress lost have been asked to resign which they have done, including the maverick Navjot Singh Sidhu, the president of the party in Punjab.

On the other hand, the dissident G-23 group held their own meeting at the residence of the senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad. And for the first time, they issued a statement signed by 18 leaders which called on the Congress party "to adopt the model of collective and inclusive leadership and decision-making at all levels." This time there were three new entrants — Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh's wife Preneet Kaur, and Gujarat leader Shankarsinh Vaghela, who quit the Congress in 2017 and now wants to return to the party. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has also reportedly reached out to the dissident group and a meeting between Sonia and some of the leaders is on the cards.

Debate in five state elections should certainly be a moment of deep reflection for Congress. The party which ruled India for over fifty years after independence is now finding it difficult to even win state elections. For example, it was not even in the distant reckoning in the just-concluded all-important election in Uttar Pradesh which the BJP won again. Punjab where it stood some chance was won by the AAP by a landslide majority. This is why a breakaway group led by Azad and Anand Sharma and calling itself G-23 has been calling for serious reforms in the party. But this has split the Congress down the middle with Gandhi family supporters and opponents at loggerheads with each other. However, G23's rebellion marks a break from the passivity of the last eight years with the party apparently seeming to have resigned to its current lot. But it won't also be easy to elect a non-Gandhi president. And the party has its own reasons for this: a Gandhi not being at the helm will run the risk of breaking the party up. Also, in the present circumstances, Congress doesn't boast many a mass leader -albeit, there are many senior politicians who can be worthy successors to Gandhi. Gandhi's term at the helm has shown that he is not just up to the task.

It is now clear that the wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains alive and kicking. After a few reverses here and there over the last seven years, Modi's appeal has only grown stronger. He looks favourite to win many more Assembly polls, and now also the general elections in 2024 unless Congress and wider opposition get their act right. That is, if no credible opposition emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect that looks bleak.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Essentially Flawed

The Karnataka High Court verdict upholding the ban on the wearing of head scarves by students in educational institutions is wrong on many levels. The manner in which it framed the questions arising from the controversy over Muslim girl students wearing the hijab undermines constitutional principles. The court failed to examine whether the wearing of the hijab, in addition to the prescribed uniform, but without any variation in colour, was a ground to refuse entry into a school or college. The Bench examined verses from the Koran to disagree with the students' claim that wearing the hijab was an essential practice in Islam and that, therefore, it was entitled to constitutional protection as part of religious freedom under Article 25. But is that the real issue? The court rejected the argument in favour of 'reasonable accommodation', by which a pluralist society may allow the classroom to reflect social diversity without undermining the sense of equality among students. Apparel norms may be needed in "qualified public spaces" such as schools. But there is no reason to not accommodate the choice of an additional piece of clothing that does not interfere with the prescribed uniform.

In rejecting the argument based on 'freedom of conscience', the court cited the absence of elaboration in the pleadings. The judgment's emphasis on the uniform as an inviolable symbol of equality and homogeneity seems to have overwhelmed any contention in favour of any sort of accommodation. Another question to raise is whether it was at all necessary to invoke the 'essential practice' test in this case. If something is egregiously religious, it is more likely to be kept out of the campus, if uniformity and eliminating any 'sense of separateness' are the hallowed goals. The matter could have been disposed of without entering the theological domain. The 'essential religious practice' test itself is a pointless exercise, as the Supreme Court has established a nearly unattainable standard to determine it. Something is an essential practice only if its absence or removal has the effect of destroying the religion itself. Save for a few fundamentals, no religious practice will actually survive such scrutiny. It would be far better if a claim for Article 25 protection is tested against constitutional values such as equality, dignity and privacy, subject, of course, to health and public order. In any case, the 'essentiality' test should be jettisoned forever if only because it theoretically allows some defining theological concepts to override all else. What is abhorrent to constitutional principles will remain so irrespective of what is considered essential to a religion. Freedom of religion is important because freedoms are important, and not because religions are important.

The Hindu

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Rolling Awareness And  
Injecting Solutions  
Schools and Substance Abuse in J&K

Wasim Kakroo

School is an important part of a child/adolescent's life. A school going child or teenager spends around one-third of each workday at school, or longer if they participate in extracurricular activities. A positive school experience entails not only receiving a high-quality academic education, but also being a part of a friendly, inclusive, and encouraging school community. School is a place where you can interact with new people; understand the meaning of friendships, form new social circles, and try out new hobbies and other activities.

The health and well-being of students is influenced by a multitude of complex and interwoven factors in the school environment. A significant portion of social learning occurs outside the premises of the classroom on the school playground. Positive relationships with peers, teachers, sports coaches, and other school employees can influence a young person's growth and development.

Students may benefit from a better school culture in other ways, such as less/no bullying and increased physical activity. By experiencing a sense of belonging and connection to their school, as well as having strong positive role models, young people can be shielded from the dangers of alcohol and other drugs who otherwise are very vulnerable to substance abuse.

How can teachers and the school environment affect substance abuse among school going children?

A major part of a student's day is spent at school. The school environment serves as a yardstick by which youngsters measure their own behavior. Preadolescents and adolescents typically use school staff as very influential role models against which to assess themselves. Adolescents who believe their teachers care about them are less likely to start using cannabis, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, and engaging in other risky behaviors that can harm their health. For many children, especially middle school students, relationships with their teachers and school counselors are among the most crucial and influential. Students who have a strained relationship with their school are also less likely to notice that substance abuse may jeopardize their ability to achieve their future goals.

Adolescents are among the most vulnerable groups of any human population that may fall prey to substance abuse. This is especially true for adolescents who are from broken families or disadvantaged communities. This is due to the fact that adolescents are impressionable and susceptible to outside influences. As a result, without proper guidance, students, especially adolescents are more likely to turn to drugs and alcohol to cope with the stress and anxiety of everyday life. Because of the daily hardships that they face on a regular basis, children who come from broken or violent homes are significantly more vulnerable to substance abuse.

Schools are in a unique position to assist students in their efforts to combat substance abuse. They can not only reach a huge section of the youth in a systematic manner, but they can also teach them early on before they are exposed to numerous circumstances or substances, and they can offer a variety of preventative and education programmes related to substance abuse. While it is very important for parents to participate in educating their children about drug and alcohol abuse, schools can provide much more extensive and organized programmes. Integrating such types of programs into the curriculum is vital because it delivers a full training on the risks of substances to a diverse group of children from varied socio-economic strata.

In addition to preventing children from becoming involved in substance abuse in the first place, addiction education and prevention may also assist those who are already involved in it in seeking treatment or quitting.

Schools, in partnership with mental health professionals such as psychiatrists, clinical psychologists etc. may get well equipped to identify students exhibiting signs and symp-



toms of substance abuse. Poor school performance, underachievement, and truancy may indicate the need for evaluation and referral of these students to mental health care facilities such as hospitals with psychiatry departments, Drug De-addiction Centers, or mental health professionals working in private, where the causes of such behaviors can be determined. In any such case, mental health care providers can screen for substance abuse and analyze its history using the screening methods and resources available.

What strategies can school administrators and teachers employ to prevent substance abuse among children and adolescents?

All middle and high school students who seem to show erratic behaviors such as poor school performance, underachievement, and truancy should be subjected to random drug testing. The type of screening that can be done may include the use of urine drug screening kits readily available in markets. Punitive measures, additional student assessment, counseling, treatment, and/or rehabilitation, referral to a mental health professional may be implemented in case of a positive drug test result while keeping the privacy and confidentiality of the information into consideration.

Offering after-school programmes, incorporating life-skills training and addiction education into school curricula, assisting parents in becoming better informed, providing counseling, identifying problem behaviours for early intervention, and immediately referring students to mental health professionals for assessment and intervention are the various strategies that schools can use to address the issue of substance abuse. Students in need of such treatment regimens should be counseled by school-based mental health facilities, which should also connect them to community resources such as rehabilitation centers, district hospitals or mental health professionals working in private.

Schools are ideal locations for drug prevention programs for three reasons:

- (1) Prevention must work on children before they develop their beliefs and expectations about substance abuse;
- (2) Schools are the most efficient means of reaching out to young people; and
- (3) Schools can promote a wide range of policies related to prevention of substance abuse.

Educators face a difficult task in making drug usage information relevant to children and adolescents without tempting them to try drugs and hence addiction related curriculum needs to be introduced in schools. Addiction-related curriculum for use in schools should be effective and provided to children in a fun, participatory, and developmentally appropriate manner. Such programs should aim to improve students' problem-solving abilities or assist them in evaluating the influence of media on their choices. Such programmes should aim to boost students' self-esteem, reduce stress and anxiety, and enhance their participation in extracurricular activities. Demonstrations, practise, feedback, and praise should all be used to teach these skills.

Another proven strategy that might help is the use of "life-skills training," designed to teach skills to tackle a problem-specific focus, emphasising the application of skills directly to the problem

of substance abuse. Drug-refusal skills should be taught with normal personal and social skills training. There's a good likelihood that such training will have a positive impact on alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug usage.

What are the various characteristics of a good school-based drug prevention program?

Drug abuse among teenagers is a widespread problem that affects countries all over the world. This happens for a variety of reasons, and hence no single factor can stop it from happening. However, most effective drug prevention programmes have a few elements in common. Below is a list of some of them.

1. Students must feel linked to their teachers, instructors, friends, and peers in a good drug prevention program. Students must feel a sense of belonging to their school. A child or adolescent who believes that his teachers and peers are concerned about him, his education, and his well-being is less likely to use drugs or alcohol to cope with his issues. This link also encourages children to open up and express themselves in class, allowing teachers to spot at-risk students early on and intervene to help them avoid addiction.
2. Children should be taught, in developmentally appropriate ways, the adverse effects of various substances as well as the laws (both local and national) governing substance abuse as part of their health education. The development of decision-making and self-management abilities in the participating students should be a part of this health education.
3. Teachers and instructors working in the drug prevention programme must use the world-class teaching resources at their disposal to get the message across. Such resources can be searched for from online.
4. Such prevention programmes should attempt to address all forms of substance abuse, whether alone or in combination, including juvenile use of legal drugs (e.g., tobacco or alcohol), illegal drug use (e.g., marijuana or heroin), or the unauthorized use of lawfully obtained substances, such as prescription drugs.
5. Such programmes should try to include and bring onboard parents, religious leaders and other resources in the community in order to ask for help from all possible corners.
6. To address risk factors for drug abuse, such as early aggressiveness, academic failure, and school dropout, prevention programmes for elementary school students should focus on increasing academic and social-emotional learning. The following skills should be emphasized in school education:

- a sense of self-control
- a sense of emotional awareness
- a sense of assertive communication
- a sense of social problem-solving
- academic support
- Students in middle and high school should be taught the following skills to improve their academic and social competence:
- Study habits and academic support
- Assertive communication skills
- peer interactions
- self-efficacy
- drug resistance skills
- anti-drug attitudes
- commitments against drug abuse

How can teachers deliver drug education in the classroom?

The goal of drug education is to change students' values, attitudes, knowledge, and abilities so they can make better judgments about the abuse of alcohol and other drugs. Best-practice drug education is guided by a set of principles. It should be:

1. properly timed so that students obtain accurate information and build up skills before they need them
2. delivered by teachers who have received appropriate training from mental health professionals
3. involve students in the development of skills such as decision-making and assertiveness
4. relevant to real life real with real life based facts, such as the number of young people who use alcohol and other drugs in the locality and the way it affects them.

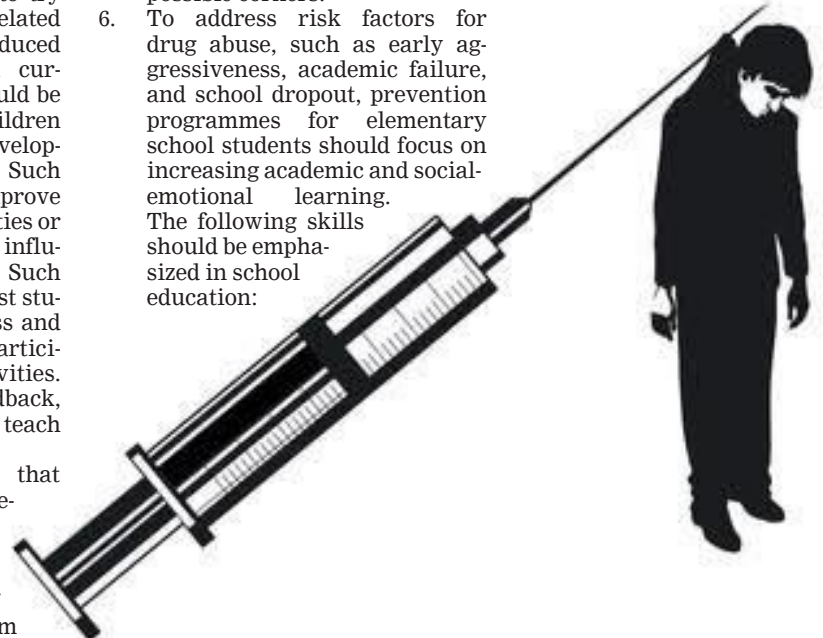
Some teaching approaches are not recommended, including:

1. long moralistic lecture-style lessons with little or no student participation
  2. scare tactics that make false claims or overstate the risk of harm.
- It's important to avoid stigmatizing people through language or imagery who use drugs, such as characterising them as "dirty" or portraying extreme images of people who may have used drugs to show how it affects their body. Students may have a family member who has struggled with addiction or may require assistance themselves. If drug use is stigmatized in the classroom, such students may feel too embarrassed to seek help.

Substance abuse can be one of the most difficult mental health issues for a person to deal with. It has the potential to completely destroy a person's career, education, relationships, and family life. This is why it is critical that children are informed about this at a young age, and that anyone who is currently struggling receives the help they require. Schools if equipped with the basic addiction education and strategies can play a phenomenal role in dealing with this menace.

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

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He can be reached at 8825067196.





# Is Hijab Religious or Cultural?

## HOW ISLAMIC RULINGS ARE FORMED

Dr. Tesneem Alkiek

When it comes to the obligation for a Muslim woman to cover her hair and body, many have expressed their confusion as to where this commandment is rooted. In order to address this topic, this paper will explore how rulings in Islamic law are generally formed, while adopting the commandment for women to cover as a case study. We will explore the handful of sources jurists are presented with, and how they go about evaluating different texts to arrive at a legal conclusion.

In order to do so, we must first clarify the term hijab. In an attempt to understand the legal ruling on hijab, one often begins their search with this wording in mind. One will quickly recognize, however, that their search

Otherwise, one could assert that being dutiful to one's parents or honoring one's guests are simply cultural practices. Few will contest, however, that treating our parents with respect is a religious obligation. Similarly, the texts relating to the hijab come from the same sources

is futile. This is because our contemporary usage of the word "hijab" to refer to the legal ruling on covering is misleading. Hijab linguistically refers to a barrier past which one cannot see. The Qur'an uses this word in a number of contexts, including describing the physical barrier between the people of hellfire and paradise [Sūrat al-A'raf, 44-46], as well as the metaphysical barrier that distinguishes between the hearts of the believers and the disbelievers [Sūrat Fuṣṣilat, verse 5, Sūrat al-Isrā', verse 45]. Other references to hijab include the exclusive mandate upon the wives of the Prophet ﷺ to maintain a physical barrier between themselves and non-related men [Sūrat al-Ahzāb, verse 53]. This is in addition to their obligation of covering themselves, and hence not illustrative of the word hijab as we know it today. Thus, while scriptural mentions of hijab refer to a partition, in this day and age, hijab is most commonly translated as merely "headscarf." For the purposes of this paper, we will adopt the word hijab in reference to covering both the hair and body. Clothing that is loose and opaque is taken for granted in this understanding as well, since that is mandatory for both men and women when covering one's body ('awrah).

Qur'anic sources We begin where all jurists first turn to address a legal dilemma: the Qur'an. The Qur'an is the foremost primary source in Islamic law because it has been definitively established (qat' al-thubūt). Put differently, because the Qur'an has been massively transmitted (mutawātir), we can be certain that the text that we have today is the same text revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. In turn, because we believe the Qur'an to be direct revelation from God, rulings in the Qur'an are unquestionably upheld as divine commands. That being said, although a Qur'anic verse may give us a clear command, the way in which a command is applied may be open to interpretation (zannī al-dalālah). For

example, Allah commands believers in verse 6 of Sūrat al-Mā'idah to wash when they rise for prayer:

O believers! When you rise up for prayer, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, wipe your heads, and your feet to the ankles... [5:6]

This verse clearly establishes that we must wash before prayer. Yet, at the same time, it does not provide the details of how to fulfill this command. At first glance, we may agree on which limbs need to be washed, but is wuḍū' limited to washing these limbs alone? And do we have to wash them in a particular way or sequence? These open-ended questions demonstrate how a verse in the Qur'an, although providing a clear command, may still need to be interpreted. Through various sources such as Qur'anic exegesis, Prophetic precedent, and other methods of legal analysis, jurists, nonetheless, were able to establish precisely the limbs and process for carrying out wuḍū'. Similarly, the Qur'an establishes the command for women to cover in a way that, on the face of it, seems to leave room for interpretation. Thus, in order to establish what exactly is divinely commanded, one must consult other source texts for a more definitive conclusion.

There are a number of verses in the Qur'an that address the question of women's clothing and/or modesty in general, one of which is of direct interest. This primary verse reads:

And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment (zīnah) except that which [necessarily] appears thereof and to wrap their headcovers (khumurihinna) over their chests and not expose their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women... [24:31]

In addition to the command upon men to lower their gazes and guard their private parts that appears in the preceding verse [24:30], women are commanded to 1) "not expose their adornment except that which [necessarily] appears thereof" and 2) "wrap their 'headcovers' over their chests." These two Qur'anic injunctions are clear commands that serve as the foundations for the legal obligation of "hijab." Let us begin by addressing the first clause of the command, which many often skip, instead citing the second clause as the primary injunction for wearing hijab. However, when jurists address women's covering in legal discussions, it is this first clause that serves as the central command, while the second condition primarily functions to o

from the hands and face."

Thus, "except that which appears thereof," is understood to be an exception to the rule of fully covering wherein a woman can expose parts of her body that are required for daily activity, such as the face and hands. Jurists explain that these exceptions are granted because their exposure is necessary for the average woman to carry out the activities of her daily life. Showing her face may be required to legally complete a transaction, while her hands are required for taking and giving in the process. In line with the reasoning that exceptions are made based on necessity, the Hanafis allowed a woman to expose her feet because they are among the body parts that involuntarily show when walking. Some Mālikis also held this exception since covering the feet all the time may prove difficult.

The second clause, which proceeds to command believing women to draw their khumur over their chests, further clarifies what must be covered. The word khumur here is translated as headcovers, but it is often rendered as simply "veils"—hence the confusion and e n -

intoxicates) the mind.

Hence, in both scenarios, kh-m-r is that which is related to covering the head in particular. In another example, the Companion Bilal (rA), when describing how the Prophet ﷺ once made wuḍū', used the word khimār to illustrate the Prophet's act of wiping over his turban.[8] This verifies once more that the word "khimār" itself is used in reference to a head covering.

Analyzing this verse hence leaves us with two primary conclusions. One, women are required to cover their entire body except that which must necessarily show. The exceptions to this rule, primarily the face and hands according to the majority, are delineated based on prophetic narrations and the precedent of the Companions as will be further detailed below. They are also permitted on the basis of necessity (darūra), since these body parts are required to show when women engage in business sales and other transactions. Second, and after the clausal command on covering, this verse provides us with further clarification as to what covering entails—

primarily, that one must continue the practice

sources must be taken into consideration when clarifying the demands of the Shariah. This includes referring back to the Qur'an, Sunnah, and what scholars agreed upon (i.e., consensus).

A case of this in action can be seen in the authentic hadith that illustrates how the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ reacted to the revelation of Qur'anic verses prohibiting alcohol. In one narration, Anas b. Mālik recalls serving a few of the Companions wine when someone approached them and announced that wine had become prohibited. Upon hearing this, Anas immediately poured the contents of the pitcher in his hand.[9] All of the Companions followed suit, after which it was said that the streets of Medina were flowing with spilled liquor.[10] These traditions, among others, affirm our apparent understanding of the Qur'anic prohibition and explicates that ruling in a way that leaves no room for disagreement.

Likewise, when the Qur'anic command for women to cover was revealed, 'Ā'ishah narrated:

By Allah, I never saw any women better than the women of the Anṣār or stronger in their confirmation of Allah's Book! When Sūrat al-Nūr was revealed, 'and to draw their khumur over their chests', they all tore up their waist-wraps and covered themselves with them.[11]

This narration is extremely powerful for a number of reasons. First, it is important to recognize and appreciate that—like the thousands of other hadith she narrated—this hadith is narrated by 'Ā'ishah (rA). She was not only the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, but one of the foremost juristic scholars in our religion. She was also a woman who never held back on protecting the rights of women nor on what she understood to be the truth. A common criticism of the obligation to cover is that this command is ostensibly one propagated by male scholars alone. Yet, one of the most powerful evidences for the command comes through this narration by none other than 'Ā'ishah.

Moreover, in this narration, we learn how the women around t h e

"Is there any objection for a woman to stay at home if she doesn't have an outer garment (jilbāb)?" In other words, some women were unable to come out in public to help because they did not have the means to cover themselves. In response, the Prophet ﷺ—rather than affirming the cultural practice at the time, or simply allowing women who could not cover themselves to stay at home and promise them good deeds for their intentions, or even encourage them to stay home for their privacy being better for them—said, "She should cover herself with her companion's jilbāb [i.e., borrow clothing] and take part in the good deeds and in the religious gatherings of the believers." [12]

This authentic narration elucidates a number of noteworthy implications. For one, we see how covering vis-à-vis jilbāb, or clothing that covers the entire body, was one taken for granted—so much so, that the female Companions recognized that they could not leave their homes without it.

This once more confirms the interpretation of the Qur'anic verse as one in which the entire body must be covered with the identified exceptions. This hadith, moreover, is a powerful reminder as to the purpose of covering. It was not a means of shaming the female body, nor relegating women to the private sphere. Rather, it was a means of protecting and empowering women to actively engage in the community, to the extent that a customary practice at the time that could have been adopted by Islam was actively rejected in favor of women's participation.

Still, some hold that the obligation to "draw their khumur across their chest" does not indicate that one must cover their hair.

Those who characterize the hijab as a non-binding cultural practice, moreover, bear the burden of proving their claim. That is because divine commands are presumed to be legal and binding in nature. Otherwise, one could assert that being dutiful to one's parents or honoring one's guests are simply cultural practices. Few will contest, however, that treating our parents with respect is a religious obligation. Similarly, the texts relating to the hijab come from the same sources (i.e., the Qur'an and Sunnah) and use the same binding language. As such, they should be treated as equally binding legal commandments unless one can point to evidence that shows otherwise. In the absence of such evidence (and it is indeed absent), the presumption remains that these texts are legally binding.

One of the strongest evidences for the legal obligation of covering the hair and dressing modestly is the fact that scholars have come to a consensus on the matter. When scholars all agree, implicitly or explicitly, on a legal ruling, the third primary source of Islamic law manifests: that of ijma' or consensus. The legal authority of consensus is rooted chiefly in the reports of the Prophet ﷺ that state that the Muslim community will never agree on an error.[15] In other words, if the community all agrees on a legal obligation, it is inconceivable that it is an erroneous interpretation.

No contestation, moreover, exists about the lack of explicit details over praying because our obligation to pray became very early on ma'lūm min al-dīn bi-al-darūrah, or known within the religion by necessity. In other words, it became an obligation whose inclusion in the religion cannot possibly be doubted because of the overwhelming knowledge and precedent established by the prophetic community and those who inherited it. This is to say that some commands within Islamic law needed to be explicitly drawn out and their evidence made clear. Alternatively, other commands such as ṣalāh were so inherent and obvious to the essence of Islam that it became taken for granted that every Muslim would know of this obligation without clarifying the proofs. For this reason, most legal books often gloss over why we pray five times a day and focus instead on how our prayer is to be conducted. In the same way, the obligation for both men and women to dress modestly, and for women to cover their hair in particular, was a natural application of not simply these Qur'anic verses, but an obvious conclusion from prophetic precedent.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article is for informative purposes only and we do not support or reject any ideology therein. The article was originally published by Yaqeen Institute

Through various sources such as Qur'anic exegesis, Prophetic precedent, and other methods of legal analysis, jurists, nonetheless, were able to establish precisely the limbs and process for carrying out wuḍū'. Similarly, the Qur'an establishes the command for women to cover in a way that, on the face of it, seems to leave room for interpretation

provide further clarity.

In this first clause, Allah informs the Prophet ﷺ to command the believing women to cover their zīna, which is often roughly translated as adornment or beauty. In order to properly understand the meaning of this instruction, we turn to the science of Qur'anic exegesis (tafsīr). Early commentary on the Qur'an by the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ is critical in our understanding of the Qur'an. It not only relays to us the reasons and chronology in which a verse was revealed, but clarifies the meaning and implications of the original Arabic words used within a verse. It is also important to note that the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ had the most intimate knowledge of the Qur'an and Sunnah, as they witnessed its revelation and application, and learned directly from the Prophet ﷺ. Ibn 'Abbās, a giant in Qur'anic exegesis and the cousin of the Prophet ﷺ, for instance, explained that this clause meant that everything should be covered except the hands and face. It was also narrated from 'Ā'ishah (rA) that the intended meaning is "what appears

suings debates about whether or not covering one's hair is a commandment.

A simple linguistic analysis, however, confirms the former meaning. Khumur, the plural form for khimār, is derived from the root letters kh-m-r, which at its most basic understanding means to hide or to conceal. These same root letters in the form "khimār" specifically take on the meaning of veiling one's head and, in some denotations, the face as well. This understanding is reaffirmed in a number of ways. For starters, we can consider the meaning of khimār in light of other words with the same root letters. This is because, according to the general rules of Arabic grammar, words that contain the same root letters often share a common meaning. Wine in the Qur'an, for instance, is dubbed khamr. According to one of the most prominent classical Arabic dictionaries, Lisān al-'Arab, it is labeled thusly since it conceals the intellect (li-annahā khāmarat al-'aql).[7] In other words, wine shares the root letters for khimār since it literally "covers" (i.e.,

tice of covering the hair and extend that to include covering the chest.

The Prophet and Companions' precedent

At this point, one may still argue for further room for interpretation based on the verse alone. In this case, we turn to our second primary source text in Islamic law: the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ. The foremost way we understand a Qur'anic verse is through the authoritative precedent of the Prophet ﷺ, which includes his tacit approval of his Companions' actions. In fact, countless verses in the Qur'an can only be understood by reference to the Sunnah. For instance, one of the most fundamental markers of our identity as Muslims is our obligation to pray five times a day. Yet, nowhere in the Qur'an is there an explicit commandment to pray this precise number of times, nor any explicit indication of when each prayer must be prayed.

This information is provided to us by the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions. This did not pose a problem to Muslim scholars nor laymen throughout history since it was clear that multiple

Prophet ﷺ responded to the verse. 'Ā'ishah praised them for their immediate response in fully covering their bodies and thus embodying the intended meaning of the command. If one rejects this tradition as insignificant, one simultaneously rejects the voice and agency of the female Companions in both interpreting and applying this verse.

What often also goes unaddressed in discussions on dress is what seemingly unrelated traditions can tell us. By this, I am referring to narrations that indirectly describe the way female Companions embodied their obligation of covering. These traditions relay to us the natural result of how these women understood Qur'anic injunctions of modesty. One such example is the hadith narrated by Hafṣah b. Sirīn in which she noted that young, unmarried women and women who were menstruating were culturally required to stay at home. Once, a lady came to Hafṣah and told her about her sister who joined her husband in six battles to help care for the wounded.

This sister had asked the Prophet ﷺ,



## Hijab Ban: Fresh Plea In SC Challenges Karnataka HC Verdict



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A fresh plea was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict which dismissed the petitions seeking permission to wear a Hijab inside the classroom saying Hijab is not a part of the essential religious practice in the Islamic faith.

The petition has been filed by one Sajeeda Begum, who had also sought to get herself impleaded as a party in the proceedings related to Hijab ban before the Karnataka High Court.

The top court on Wednesday said that it would list other pleas on the issue for hearing after Holi vacation.

When senior lawyer Sanjay Hedge, appearing for a student, mentioned the plea for urgent listing on March 16, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana had said Others also mentioned, let us see...we will list (the petitions) after the vacation. Give us time.

Begum, in her fresh appeal filed through lawyer Talha Abdul Rahman and others, said that the teenage girls covering themselves modestly while going to receive education pose no threat to public order."

In fact, the threat to law and order is manufactured by hecklers who are to be controlled by the State. The impugned government order would affect young girls' minds forever, the appeal said.

The plea said that the high court failed to apply the tests applicable to restrictions on the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression and the fundamental right of privacy without reasons.

The high court treated dress code or uniform prescribed as not involving the issue of breach of the fundamental right, without appreciating that no such uniform has yet been prescribed that takes

away the right to wear hijab.

Prior to this, several other pleas including a Muslim student, who was one of the petitioners before the high court, had moved the apex court against the full bench high court verdict on the case in which it was held that wearing hijab is not a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith under Article 25 of the Constitution.

The high court had dismissed the 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.

The prescription of school uniform is only a reasonable restriction, constitutionally permissible which the students cannot object to, the high court had said.

In one of the pleas filed in the top court, the petitioner said the high court has erred in creating a dichotomy of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience wherein the court has inferred that those who follow a religion cannot have the right to conscience.

The high court has failed to note that the right to wear a Hijab comes under the ambit of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It is submitted that the freedom of conscience forms a part of the right to privacy, it said.

The plea said the petitioner had approached the high court seeking redressal for the alleged violation of their fundamental rights against the state government order of February 5, 2022, issued under Sections 7 and 133 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. The high court had maintained that the government has the power to issue impugned order dated February 5, 2022, and no case is made out for its invalidation.

## Andrabi Vows To Create Schools, Hospitals From Waqf Funds

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** J&K Waqf Board's newly-elected chairperson Darakshan Andrabi has expressed her resolve to create assets like schools, universities and hospitals in the Union Territory from the proceeds of waqf property.

Andrabi, also a BJP's national executive member, was unanimously elected as chairperson of the Waqf board in the maiden meeting of its newly appointed members here on Wednesday.

The Waqf Board's members, appointed recently by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs, include Ghulam Nabi Haleem, Suhail Kazmi, Syed Mohammad Hussain and Nawab Din. The board term will last for five years.

Stating that she has been given a pivotal responsibility, Andrabi said it will include not only the construction and maintenance of religious

places, but creating assets like schools, universities and hospitals in the Union Territory will also be her priority.

Creating assets like schools, universities and hospitals as Narayana Hospital and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University are worth emulating, she said.

Terming her work as worship, she said the utilities created by the Board would be beneficial to all irrespective of colour, creed or religion.

She declared that the protection of Waqf property and its best use is their priority.

The actions of new body are going to be louder than the words. People are going to feel the difference in the board after its working for some time, she said.

Andrabi thanked members of the board for reposing their trust in her and electing her as the board's chairperson.

J&K Waqf looks after around 32,000 properties including

shrines and mosques across Jammu and Kashmir.

Out of these, 25,000 have been geo-tagged last year by the active efforts of various deputy commissioners and other basic revenue workers, an official spokesperson said.

He said the rest of the properties would be demarcated and geo-tagged soon with the support of the district administrations. Andrabi along with other members also called on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday evening. The Lt Governor congratulated Andrabi over her election as the Waqf's chairperson and extended his good wishes to her and other new board members.

While interacting with the delegation, Sinha observed that J&K is witnessing rapid development and growth under unprecedented reforms and a new vision, the spokesman said.

## BBC Apologises To Princess Diana Aide Over Interview Deceit

**LONDON:** The BBC said Thursday that it has apologised and paid a substantial sum to Princess Diana's private secretary over subterfuge used to get an explosive television interview with the late royal.

The UK's national broadcaster said it acknowledged that serious harm was caused to Patrick Jephson by the circumstances in which the 1995 interview, conducted by BBC journalist Martin Bashir, was obtained.

The BBC apologises unreservedly to Commander Jephson for the harm caused to him and has paid his legal costs, it said in a statement. The BBC has also paid Commander Jephson a substantial sum in damages, which he intends to donate in full to British charities nominated by him.

The 1995 interview, in which Diana discussed the breakdown of her relationship with Prince Charles famously saying There were three of us in this marriage in reference to Charles' relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles was watched by 23 million people

in Britain and sent shockwaves through the monarchy.

A report last year by a retired senior judge found Bashir used deceitful behavior to get the interview, including showing Diana's brother fake bank statements that falsely suggested members of Diana's inner circle were being paid to spy on her. Judge John Dyson said the BBC obscured Bashir's misconduct for 25 years.

Jephson said that after more than 25 years, it is a relief finally to reach a conclusion to this painful episode.

He said he would donate his settlement to a children's hospice in Diana's memory.

Diana divorced Charles in 1996 and died in a Paris car crash in 1997 as she was pursued by paparazzi. Charles, the heir to the throne, married Camilla, now the Duchess of Cornwall, in 2005.

Diana's brother, Charles Spencer, tweeted that it was appalling what Patrick Jephson had to go through as a result of grotesque journalism' and said the issue had been covered up for so long by senior people at the BBC

## More than 30 companies to start making Pfizer's COVID pill

**GENEVA:** Nearly three dozen companies worldwide will soon start making generic versions of Pfizer's coronavirus pill, the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool that negotiated the deal said Thursday.

The Medicines Patent Pool said in a statement that agreements signed with 35 companies should help make Pfizer's antiviral nirmatrelvir, or Paxlovid, available to more than half of the world's population.

Generic drugmakers across a dozen countries in Asia, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Eastern Europe will begin producing either the raw ingredients for the Pfizer drug or the pill itself. Among the companies offered a license was one in Ukraine, which has not yet been able to confirm it can participate.

This will make an enormous difference for countries, said Charles Gore, executive director of the Medicines Patent Pool. He said the availability of the Pfizer drug in some of the world's poorest countries is especially critical. They have been at the back of the queue for vaccines, so having a treatment like this in the armory will be absolutely critical to



prevent deaths.

Gore estimated that some of the generic companies might be ready to submit their drugs for regulatory approval later this year, with some supplies available in 2023.

Pfizer's drug has been found to cut the risk of hospitalization or death in people at risk of severe COVID-19 by up to 90%; it is also thought to be effective against the omicron variant because it does not target the coronavirus' spike protein, where most of the worrying mutations are.

Many health experts welcomed the deal, but pointed out that gaps remain. Some countries that have suffered devastating COVID-19 outbreaks, like Brazil, for example, are excluded from the deal.

and rural locations. The Bank has been ramping up these channels as part of the effort to enhance customer experience.

The rest of the recruitment is across business verticals such as Credit Cards; Retail Assets; Commercial Banking (Business Banking); and Govt & Institutional Business.

"Our people have always been our core strength and with this hiring, we are continuing to build on our 'people advantage'," said Vinay Razdan, CHRO, HDFC Bank. "We are bringing in top-tier talent across the organization and we are confident that our Future Ready teams will be significant growth drivers in the years to come, serving our customers across Retail, Commercial and Corporate segments. We have confidence in the growth opportunity available in the market."

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Many Youth

"However, a large unruly mob from adjacent areas consisting of young boys carrying lathies and stones in their hands assembled near the encounter site tried to pelt stones on the deployed nafri which was asking them not to approach the site of encounter before being cleared of explosive debris. In order to disperse the mob smoke shells were used as per the SOPs," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No. 46/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Nowgam and some youths were identified from videos and from initial investigation.

"Many of them were picked up and are being examined in the said case. Some of them have been arrested as well," he said.

The spokesperson requested all citizens to stay away from encounter sites so to ensure their own safety, keeping in view the likelihood of left over explosives from the militants.

#### 44,167 KP Families

housing facilities, scholarship, providing employment, waiving of interest loans, assistance to farmers.

In addition, cash assistance of Rs 3,250 per month with a ceiling of Rs 13,000 per month per family, and 9 kg rice, 2 kg atta and 1 kg of sugar per family is also being given to Kashmiri migrants.

Also, construction of 6,000 transit accommodations for 6,000 Kashmiri migrant employees in Kashmir Valley was approved in 2015.

#### CRPF Occupies

The chief of the country's largest paramilitary force, which has deployed close to 65,000 personnel in the Kashmir Valley, said the CRPF will ensure that "whenever they are asked to make the atmosphere conducive by the government, they will do it".

"The atmosphere is conducive for anyone to visit Kashmir, come and go. For Kashmiri Pandits, that call has to

be taken by them or agencies. I don't know that..." Singh said, adding that "whatever the government asks us to do, we will do that".

He also said that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will vacate the premises of those Kashmiri Pandits who come back to "claim" their ancestral properties in the Valley.

"If they (Kashmiri Pandits) come to claim their properties held by us, we have no objections. We will immediately seek another place from the government," the DG said.

Asked if the about 3.25 lakh personnel strong force will hold an exclusive screening of "The Kashmir Files" movie for its staff, Singh said the CRPF has not taken a call on this as of now.

"Any film or drama that has motivational or inspirational content should be watched. We are a big force that is spread across...we will have to make arrangements. We will think about it," he said.

"The Kashmir Files" is a Bollywood film based on the alleged atrocities against Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.

The CRPF will hold its 83rd Raising Day on March 19 in Jammu where Union Home Minister Amit Shah will take the salute of the ceremonial parade and also address troops.

The minister will subsequently chair a multi-agency security meeting on various operations being conducted by them in the Union Territory.

#### 'Stone Pelted Nil After

force was raised under the British rule in 1939 and it is currently designated as the lead internal security force of the country with a primary role in anti-Naxal operations and counter-militancy duties in Kashmir.

On Wednesday, three militants have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir and sometime back a foreign militant was killed, he said.

In the case of the killing of an off-duty CRPF jawan in Kashmir, the security forces got into quick action and have arrested the attacker, he said.

"So, it is a periodic thing...but we undertake quick and immediate action to

control such incidents," the DG said.

He added that these incidents are not totally controlled by internal militants but from across the border too.

"Instructions for targeting someone in Jammu and Kashmir come from foreign soil too...there are intelligence inputs too. But the situation is not out of hand (in J&K)," Singh said.

He said that after the abrogation of Article 370 that accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, incidents of stone pelting have come down to "nil" now and the number of foreign militants operating in Kashmir Valley too is very less.

According to CRPF data, a total of 175 militants have been killed by it in the past year in Jammu and Kashmir, 183 have been apprehended and two have surrendered. Three CRPF personnel were killed while 61 injured between March 2021 and March 16 this year.

The DG also said that they are looking at a "truck scanner" like gadget, called the multi-mode passive detection system, to detect hidden arms and ammunition in large vehicles.

There have been incidents where armed militants hiding in trucks and four-wheelers have been intercepted at check-posts on roads in Jammu and Kashmir.

CRPF teams will go and see these technologies and gadgets in the US and some other places where they are working on the ground and if found efficient, the force will procure them, Singh said.

#### Last Call For

Property Returns through online mode by the employees was extended upto 15.02.2022," the notification reads, adding, "However, despite extension in the date of submission of Property Returns, it has been observed that various employees have failed to submit their property returns and have thus made a default in this mandatory process".

It has also been observed that various employees have registered themselves on the portal but have not submitted their Property Returns, "thus

they too have caused a default in submission of their details," it said

"The failure/non-submission of the Property Returns by the Government employees invites a punitive action under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder," it reads, adding, "Further, the defaulting employees shall be guilty of committing criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act and shall be punishable under the said Act. Moreover, non-submission of the Property Returns will result in denial of the vigilance clearance of such employees."

The matter, the government said, was again considered in the General Administration Department and it has been decided that a last and final opportunity may be granted to these defaulting employees who have failed to submit their Property Returns within the stipulated timeline.

"Thereafter, no more opportunity shall be granted and action as mentioned above shall be initiated against the defaulters," the notification reads, adding, "Accordingly, the submission of Property Returns by the defaulting employees shall be allowed through online mode on the Property Returns System (PRS Portal) w.e.f 22.03.2022 to 28.03.2022."

All those employees who had registered themselves on the portal but not submitted their Property Returns shall submit the same, besides, the unregistered employees shall get themselves registered on the Portal and subsequently submit their Property Returns within the stipulated period.

The DDOs of Corporations/PSUs have been also directed to register the employees working under their establishment using "DDO Registration" option on Property Returns Portal, using their existing DDO credentials, so that the employees get registered and are able to file their Annual Property Returns through PRS portal.

"However, it has been observed that

various Corporations/PSUs have not been able to get their employees registered on the Portal due to non-availability of either CPIS number or DDO code etc," it said, adding, "The matter has been considered and it has been decided that all such Corporations/PSUs, who have not been able to register on the Portal, shall be facilitated by the General Administration Department in getting their DDOs/ Employees registered on the PRS Portal and subsequent filing of their Property Returns." (GNS)

#### Tracking OGWs

only those who have family history of militancy, stone-pelting background and those who come under the influence of online propaganda pick up arms.

He said that families whose children go missing have great faith in police as they directly approach a police station for lodging missing reports and work jointly with police to bring back misguided youths.

In many cases, youths join back their families. Those who don't come back, we give them the chance, even in live encounters, to surrender, he said.

The IGP said it was not that every youth in the valley was joining the ranks of militants.

"Those who have some background like someone in the family has been a terrorist, or has been killed, or some relative is a terrorist, or someone has involvement in stone pelting, and those who come under the influence of online propaganda pick up arms. It is not that every youth picks up arms, Kumar said.

To a question on the measures taken for the security of forces personnel going on leave in the wake of recent attacks on some of them, Kumar said the revised do's and don'ts and standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been issued to the police, CRPF and Army personnel intending to visit home on leave.

"These SOPs are being reviewed from time to time, he said.

#### Only 10% Women

in cooperation with concerned Ministries/Departments, State Governments and other Stakeholders, through providing support to existing enterprises, adopting cutting edge technologies and encouraging creation of new enterprises."

#### LG Greet People

brighter future,

"May the colours and vibrant energy of this auspicious festival further strengthen peace, and bring about prosperity and happiness for all," Sinha added.

#### J&K Logs 12

divisions of the Union Territory, they said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of four cases, officials said.

Fourteen of the total 22 districts did not report any fresh cases.

There are 156 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients is 4,48,599, officials said.

The death toll due to the pandemic stands at 4,750.

Meanwhile, there are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since Wednesday evening.

#### Driver Killed After

medico-legal formalities, reports said, Lone's body was handed over to the family by police for last rites.

Meanwhile, police have filed a case in this regard.

#### Abductor Held, Girl

official said.

He said a case was registered and during investigation, it came to light that the girl was kidnapped by one Ranjeet Singh of the Nagrota area of Jammu district.

Police were able to find a clue and immediately launched a rescue operation during which the girl was recovered and her abductor was arrested, the official said, adding further investigation is in progress. (PTI)



## PIB Srinagar Organizes Media Workshop At Pulwama



Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** Press Information Bureau (PIB) Srinagar organized a one day Media Workshop on Thursday at Conference Hall DC Office Pulwama aimed at sensitization and capacity building of journalists from Pulwama and Shopian about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and their role to bring awareness among common people.

The programme was conducted in collaboration with district administration and inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama Baseer ul Haq Choudhary and included about 50 eminent media persons from Pulwama and Shopian districts and other administrative officers.

DC Pulwama in his address said that the media acts as a direct link between society and administration and presenting this connection in a satisfactory manner is a great achievement.

Referring to the journalistic responsibility as essence of the developmental scenario, he said

that the media has to work in sync with the administration on the developmental front. He said that reporting objectively from the ground level is necessary for bringing holistic development in the society. He thanked PIB for organising the workshop and also praised the work of the journalist fraternity of Pulwama and Shopian districts.

Deputy Director PIB Srinagar, Ghulam Abbas said that the aim of organising such a program is to highlight the role of media to bring awareness among people about different government sponsored schemes and initiatives. He suggested that scheme implementation, analysis and results should also be reported properly to determine the actual outcome of the scheme at the ground level. Emphasizing the need of developmental reporting, he said that the media should play an active role in bringing about awareness while district administration should work towards implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

## Gupta Reviews Procurement, Operation Of AC Electric Buses For Jammu, Srinagar



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Dheeraj Gupta on Thursday chaired a meeting to review procurement, operation and maintenance of AC electric buses for Jammu and Srinagar cities at the Civil Secretariat.

Principal Secretary was informed about the contract, prototypes and timeline of procurement of electric buses for the twin smart cities. He was apprised that proof of concept would be conducted after technical evaluation of the bids.

Principal Secretary directed both the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to steer

the operationalization of buses by addressing land issues.

It was decided in the meeting that a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) would be created to look after the entire project of inclusion of e-buses in both the smart cities. It was observed that there are a number of models adopted in different parts of the country on this account and the most suitable can be replicated in the UT.

Other aspects of the operations of buses, like ticket management, fare collection, engagement of operators, installation of charging stations, land requirement for parking and other related issues were also deliberated upon in the meeting.

## IG BSF Jammu Reviews Security Situation Along LoC

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) during a four-day tour of Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir and took stock of the situation, an official said on Thursday.

Boora arrived in the forward areas of under command units on March 14 and took stock of the situation on the LoC, he said.

He was accompanied by Deputy Inspector General, Sector Headquarter, BSF Rajouri, D S Sindhu, a spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

He said the IG BSF interacted with officers and troops deployed in the forward areas and also reviewed the overall deployment and domination plan of the force.

He held discussions with battalion commanders concerned on the ground and reviewed the

security situation, the spokesperson said.

He said Boora chaired Sainik Sammelan' at Sector Headquarter BSF Rajouri and had tea with the jawans.

The IG BSF expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all ranks for their professional commitment towards the line of duty while dealing with several challenges and boosted the spirit of the jawans, the spokesperson said.

## Jammu-Poonch Railway Line Project Shelved For Being 'Financially Unviable'

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The central government has again shelved the 223-km Jammu-Poonch railway line project for being "financially unviable", an activist said on Thursday citing RTI responses from the authorities.

The Ministry of Railways gave the information in response to two applications filed by Jammu-based activist Raman Sharma under the Right To Information (RTI) Act.

The final survey report of the project for laying broad-gauge line between Jammu and the border district of Poonch via Rajouri was submitted in 2018 with an estimated cost of Rs

22,771 crore.

This was the second time the central government has shelved the project connecting important towns such as Akhnoor, Sunderbani and Nowshera.

Earlier, the Union government had shelved the project in January 2014.

According to the RTI responses provided by Director of Projects and Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of Railway Board Pankaj Kumar on March 7 and 15, the survey for the new railway line between Jammu and Poonch having a length of 223 km was completed in 2017-18 but the project could not be taken forward for being "financially unviable".

He said the survey has been shelved with the approval of the Railway Board.

In response to a query of the applicant regarding any other proposal as on date pending with the Ministry of Railways for providing and laying rail line between Jammu and Poonch, the Railway Board replied in the negative and said presently there is no proposal under consideration for this line.

There has been a long standing demand by people for a railway line to connect Jammu with the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri. The people became hopeful the survey was taken up in 2008 and declared as a national project in March 2012.

### DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS CASE

## ACB Files Chargesheet Against Govt Employee

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday filed a chargesheet against a government official and his family members in a disproportionate assets case here, an official said.

The chargesheet against senior assistant, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Pranav Gandotra, his wife Pooja Wattal and mother Shashi Gandotra was filed in the court of special judge anti-corruption Jammu, a spokesman of the ACB said.

He said the disproportionate assets case was registered in 2018 when Gandotra was

posted as in-charge Tehsil supply officer, Rajouri.

During the course of investigation, searches were conducted in the residential houses of the accused, leading to the seizure of incriminating documents which revealed that he has raised huge properties, both movable as well as immovable, worth crores of rupees in his own name and in name of his family members which are disproportionate to his known source of income, the spokesman said.

He said the accused officer was found in possession of several residential houses and flats, shops and a restaurant, a

number of costly and luxurious vehicles, household items, electronic gadgets besides gold and diamond ornaments weighing 4.361 kg, silver articles with utensils weighing over 11 kg and insurance policies worth more than Rs 41 lakhs.

The allegations of raising disproportionate assets by the accused have been fully substantiated. After completing the investigation of the case, sanction for launching of prosecution of the accused was obtained from the competent authority, the spokesman said.

He said the next date of hearing in the case has been fixed for April 19.

## New Fiscal Order Spurs Increase In Completion Of Works

‘Winds Of Change Increasingly Becoming Evident In J&K’

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The unprecedented increase in developmental activity in J&K, riding on an ongoing cross cutting reform push, has placed J&K in the enviable company of best performing states/UTs in the country, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

He said that there is not only a buzz within, but also outside the J&K, and this image makeover is resulting in positive spinoffs.

"Investors' confidence and willingness to invest in J&K is a telltale sign of the confidence that the ongoing reforms are inspiring amongst those who have capital and are looking for a place to invest," he said.

"Investors come calling only when they trust that systems in a state/ UT to respond to their concerns and needs on a real time basis. Public institutions are now responsive, and J&K has suddenly become a beacon of hope, he added.

The spokesperson said that it would not be possible without a rule based order, which places premium on transparency, equity and accountability.

He said that the unprecedented development that has taken place all around in J&K is giving a lie to the long propagated notion in J&K that for accelerating development, systems need to be junked and that adherence to the laws can choke and throttle growth. It is becoming increasingly evident that such notion was largely

propagated for self interest.

"Nothing can be farther from the truth. J&K is witnessing unprecedented development in all spheres," he added.

As per the spokesperson, many development works, even those languishing for want of funds or for some other reasons, are being executed or have rather found a new lease of life and are being completed in record time.

"And this is being done without cutting corners; in fact all regulatory requirements are being met in each case. Tendering has always been a bugbear; there has been an unwillingness to touch it even with a barge-pole, so to speak," he said.

"Today, e-tendering is the new buzzword; it resonates in every district, block and panchayat. It has brought transparency, what's more equity, in the work execution; all works are being e-tendered. The days of doling out contracts to select few cronies on nomination are becoming a matter of past. Equity, transparency and fairness is the new mantra," he added.

The spokesperson said that today, no work is undertaken without administrative and technical approvals. He said that despite strict fiscal discipline, greater number of works are being completed in record time.

According to the government's statistics, he said, the number of works completed during 2021-22 has shown a monumental jump as com-

pared to the past years.

In the year 2018-19, the spokesperson said, 3293 works were completed under district capex in J&K. In the following year, this figure was 1165 while in 2020-21, 1676 works were completed.

"Contrast this with 18651 works already completed as on end of February, 2022 and 36572 works likely to be completed by the end of the fiscal year," he said.

"If 36572 works are completed in 2021-22, this would represent nearly 22-fold increase over the works completed in the preceding year. Compare the number of works completed in 2020-21 with those in 2019-20 and the increase is minuscule 1.43 times," he added.

The spokesperson said that the uptick in work execution achieved in or likely to be achieved in 2021-22 is nothing less than spectacular, if one considers that all these works have been executed after following a process of competitive bidding. He said that even the representatives of the people have seen the efficacy of the new fiscal order.

Just sample this: Block Development Council Chairman, Marheene, District Jammu, Karan Attari has this to say, "the development works are going on at a good pace and around 80 percent works have already been completed in my area."

He goes on to say, "people have high expectations from us and we are trying our best to complete all the ongoing

works on time".

DDC, Chairperson, Reasi, Saraf Singh, puts it down to the transformation in financial system carried out during the last two years.

"This is a fallacy that allotment on nomination basis quickens the pace of works. If anything, it only brings arbitrariness and discretion in the system. More works will be completed in Reasi District this year compared to the previous year. E-tendering has not been a drag on the process of development," he said.

Saraf, a retired JKAS officer, who has worked in the Accounts and Treasuries Organisation, understands the virtues of transparency and financial discipline, said, "there are some teething problems, but they will get resolved going forward as the new system deepens."

He said the increase in the completion of the development works was also due to the increased monitoring by the PRIs.

He also hailed the "Janbhagidari Empowerment" portal, saying that, "it has provided easy and ready access to the general public and they can see the works being done in their areas by simply pressing a button on their smart phones."

He said that 'stricter financial regime and mobile enabled oversight are the two most important reforms in J&K in the recent history.

And they have put the real power in the hands of the people and their representatives.'

## Shab-i-Barat: HC Holiday On Saturday

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** J&K and Ladakh High Court on Thursday notified that holiday on account of Shab-i-Barat shall be observed in the High Court on March 19 (Saturday) instead of tomorrow.

"It is hereby notified for information of all the concerned that holiday on account of Shab-i-Barat shall be observed in the High Court on 19th of March, 2022 (Saturday) instead of 18th of March, 2022 (Friday)," reads the notification by Registrar General Sanjeev Gupta.

## Fire Damages 3 Houses, 2 Cowsheds In Handwara

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Three residential houses besides two cowsheds were gutted in a massive blaze which broke out on intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday in Behnipoora village of Rajwar Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Reports said that a fire broke out from a residential house at around 4 AM and soon after spread to various other structures in vicinity. Despite efforts by the locals to contain the fire, three residential houses and two cow sheds were completely gutted in the incident.

The residential houses are said to have been belonging to Mohammad Sonaulah Sheikh, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and Abdul Aziz Sheikh. Belongings including clothes and food grains worth lakhs were destroyed in the incident.

The locals have alleged the Fire and Emergency Department of reaching late to the site, which according to them led to colossal damage to the residential property. "Had the locals, especially the youth not doused the fire, there could have been more damage", a local said as, per news agency GNS.

Meanwhile the locals have urged district administration to assess the loss and compensate the affected families on a priority basis.

## IUST Holds National Workshop On Patenting For Entrepreneurs



Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** The Intellectual Property Rights Cell, one of the seven verticals of IUST's Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) conducted a National level workshop on 'Fundamentals of Patenting for Entrepreneurs' Thursday which was attended by innovators and young entrepreneurs from different districts of the valley.

Vice Chancellor IUST and Chief Patron of the workshop, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo congratulated CIED and IPR Cell for conducting these training programmes that are helping develop entrepreneurship in the JKUT and supporting research at large.

He underlined the synchronisation of goals between IUST's CIED and objectives enshrined in NEP 2020. "IUST will conduct more outreach programmes as our university has taken an initiative to safeguard the innovative creations of the human intellect by making people of the UT conscious about the IPR frameworks," added Prof. Romshoo.

Chief Guest of the workshop and Professor of Law at KU, Prof. Mohammad Ayub Dar discussed the intellectual property rights with respect to the indigenous medicinal plants and biological diversity in his presentation and briefed the participants about various regulations of IPR.

Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Prof. Manzoor A. Malik also discussed the urgency to create more awareness about the intellectual property rights and also about the process of patenting so that Innovators could be benefited.

Co-convenor of the workshop and Registrar IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal noted the significance of CIED and said, "IUST has taken a leading step in the JKUT for registering of patents with about 15 patents and we hope to see a good number of patents in coming months as well".

Co-convenor of the workshop and Dean Research Prof. A. H. Moon pointed out the number of recent workshops conducted by IUST on Research Methodology which helped generate an awareness about research, as well as IPR and process of patent filing. He also talked about the increase in Research Output during the past few years.

During the workshop, Assistant controller of Patents and Designs, Patent Office, New Delhi, Dr. Jitendra Sharma delivered a special lecture on 'Patents and Academic Research as a state of the Art' while Scientist Patent Information Centre DST, Haryana Dr. Rahul Taneja, presented a detailed presentation about 'Copyright and trademark and applying for IPR rights'. He also briefed the audience about filing applications for trademark and copyrights and shared the statistics about Patents in India.

## SKUAST-K, ASSOCHAM hold Agri-Startup Meet

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir conducted a virtual agri-startup meet with an aim to give student and faculty startups a platform to connect with industry leaders and mentors under Assocham Startup Launchpad.

The meet themed 'Role of Agri-Tech Startups and its perspective on Indian Farmer' was organised in collaboration with industry body ASSOCHAM under the World Bank-ICAR funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the institutional development of SKUAST-K.

This event was instrumental in creating an industry link for the startup in Jammu and Kashmir and first of its kind initiative to encourage innovators and startups of SKUAST-K and the industry members to work together and create partnerships beneficial to both the stakeholders.

This initiative was the first of its kind in any agricultural university which brought industry, associations and successful Indian startups in the agricultural sector under one platform and provided a unique opportunity with both for startups to pitch to industry leaders who, in turn, get exposed to young entrepreneurs with new ideas which helped them with techniques and innovation in agri-industry.

The event was inaugurated by Prof Raihana Habib Kanth, Dean Faculty of Agriculture Wadura, Dr Naveed Hamid, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Cell from SKUAST Kashmir and Robinson from The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

ازنیابت و ترگام	
درخواست متجانب غلام رسول ڈار ولد عبدل عزیز ڈار ساکنہ فیروز پورہ تحصیل و ترگام حصول	
اجرائے پسماندگان سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 43 SRO	
اشتیہار بمبراد گامی ہرغاص و عام	
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سال دفتر بذایں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری	
حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ اوقات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سال	
سالانہ فیروز پورہ کا سکونت دار ہے سال پیش سے مزدور ہے کہمہ سال بدیل افراد پر	
مشتمل ہے	
غلام رسول ڈار سربرہ کشمیر	عمر رسیدہ 63 سال
حاجرہ بیگم زوجہ غلام رسول	گھریلو کام 57 سال
رفعت آردہ دختر غلام رسول	گھریلو کام 30
مست رسول دختر	گھریلو کام 27
شہزاد احمد پسر غلام رسول	مزدوری 24
ستیل پسر	زیر تعلیم 22
اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہمہ نہیں بتلا گیا ہے کہمہ کے تمام افراد شمار نمبر 5	
کے کمانی پر انحصار رکھتے ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص	
کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ پیم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میجاؤ گزرنے	
کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔	
تخصیص دار	fko



## YSS Cup Concludes At Anantnag



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services & Sports organised YSS Cup 2021 in Anantnag concluded on Thursday with a closing ceremony here.

The Cup was held in four sports disciplines of Cricket, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Kho-Kho.

In these series of tournaments which started from Block Level wherein teams from each Panchayat were drawn to participate in Block level competitions.

At District level, 8 teams from each Block (16 CD Blocks-32 Teams in each Sports discipline) participated in each sports event with a total number of 1390 Participants (Youth in open age category). The matches for this tournament were completed at various venues and field officials of the department of Youth Services & Sports played a vital role in successful completion of this tournament by performing various assignments of the tournament as technical officials including Coaches, Management.

At the closing ceremony of this tournament District Education Planning Officer, Muhammad Yousuf Jan was the chief guest on the occasion.

In his address the chief guest congratulated the participants for taking part in sports activities at various levels and counted them the benefits of these sports events.

Speaking on this closing ceremony the District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori congratulated all team participants for play-

ing under sportsmanship during whole journey and assured them in future the department will try to organise such types of tournaments in more sports events.

The District Youth Services & Sports Officer also congratulated the Activity Section of the District Office for successful completion of event in which services of Muhammad Abass Dar and Bilal Ahmad Dar were efficiently used.

At the final event in Cricket Block Bhijebhara emerged as Winners team while as Block Anantnag as runner-Up, in Kabaddi Block Anantnag- Panchayat Halqa Shamsipora emerged as Winners team while as Block Anantnag-Panchayat Halqa Dialgam were Runner-up, again in Volleyball Block Anantnag-Panchayat Halqa Dialgam emerged as Winners team, while as Block Vessu-Panchayat Halqa Nipora were Runners-up team. In Kho-Kho Block Anantnag-Panchayat Halqa Dialgam emerged as winners team while as Block Larnoo were Runners-up.

Speaking on the closing ceremony captains of finalist teams thanked the Department of Youth Services & Sports for organising such tournaments as they also believe that such tournaments are the shining ray of hope for keeping Drug Free Society.

The winners team of District Level will represent District Anantnag in UT Level competition starting from 28th March this year. Pertinent to mention the event was organized by the department of Youth Services & Sports Under the banner of YSS Cup.

## 11th JK UT Tennis Ball Championship Kicks Off

DC Anantnag inaugurates C'ship, inspects functioning of GHSS Bijbehara



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Piyush Singla on Thursday inaugurated the 11th JK UT Tennis Ball Championship being held at GGHS Bijbehara.

Teams from all districts of the UT are participating in the championship being organised by J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association in collaboration with District Anantnag Tennis ball Cricket Association.

Throwing the competition open, the DC said playing cricket is a routine activity across the country and common unifier across the length and breadth. He said that tennis ball cricket is the first exposure to cricket for most youngsters and is a great platform to progress to the leather ball version.

Singla said that the sport has gained popularity over the year and with its recognition by Govt of India, the prospects for budding sports persons involved in the game are bright. He said such inter district tournaments

are instrumental in cross interaction of players and a good platform for exchange of productive thoughts.

Interacting with the players, the DC encouraged them to play the sport with dedication and energy.

The organisers on the occasion said that the UT has achieved success in tennis ball cricket at various levels and they are hopeful that soon national zonal competitions will be held in Anantnag.

The DC accompanied by SDM Bijbehara and Principal GHSS Bijbehara also inspected the functioning of the school. He said the staff should organise innovative awareness camps to attract more students to school. He said the role of teachers in shaping the minds of the enthusiastic students is indispensable.

Taking stock of the infrastructure in the school, Singla assured the school administration of all possible assistance. He was satisfied to note that adequate arrangements were in place for ensuring social distancing and adhering to CAB in the school.

## 17 Years On, Sports Ground In Anantnag Incomplete

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** For the last 17 years, authorities in Anantnag have failed to complete a sports ground causing severe inconvenience to sports enthusiasts.

As per locals, the ground at Nowshera Anantnag was sanctioned by the PDP-Congress government in 2004-2005 and subsequently the construction work started after a year. They said men and machinery was pressed into service to fill the soil and level the ground.

It was expected the sports field would help in promotion of sports activities among youngsters in the area and they would not have

to travel to neighbouring places to play cricket or football.

Currently, people travel to Bijbehara or Anantnag to play their sport of interest.

Despite spending huge amounts on the ground, authorities are yet to complete work on turf and outfield of the ground.

Locals added that they brought the issue into the notice of higher ups several times to no avail

On his part, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag Mushtaq Ahmad told KNO that their department developed the ground in 2005 and since then no further work was taken up by them.

He added that they will take up the work in the next fiscal. (KNO)

### WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

## South Africa Continue Unbeaten Run, Hand New Zealand 2-Wicket Loss



Press Trust of India

**HAMILTON:** South Africa edged out hosts New Zealand by two wickets in a thrilling league stage match to continue their unbeaten run in the ICC Women's World Cup on Thursday.

Seamers Ayabonga Khaka (3/31), Shabnim Ismail (3/27) and Marizanne Kapp (2/44) led the way with the ball as the Proteas bowled out New Zealand for 228 despite skipper Sophie Devine's 93 at Seddon Park. Laura Wolvaardt (67) and skipper Sune Luus (51) then hit timely half centuries before Kapp (34 not out) ensured South Africa crossed the line for their fourth win of the tournament.

South Africa thus consoli-

dated their second spot on the points table while New Zealand, who have just two wins from five outings, continued to remain fourth and will need to win their remaining two fixtures to stay in the mix for a semifinal spot.

Chasing 229, openers Lizelle Lee (17) and Wolvaardt started positively for South Africa. But a bit of hesitation in running between the wickets cost the former her wicket. Wolvaardt, however, remained unperturbed and kept finding the boundaries. She was lucky on a couple of occasions with a dropped catch and almost dragging on to her own stumps but along with Luus, kept the chase on track.

Amelia Kerr (3/50) trapped

Wolvaardt leg before to put an end to the 88-run partnership between the opener and Luus in the 36th over before dismissing Mignon du Preez (1) in her next over. When Luus was caught by Katey Martin in the 41st over it seemed that the Proteas were losing momentum as New Zealand continued to claim wickets. But Kapp held on to one end, smashing boundaries when required.

**Brief Scores:**  
New Zealand 238 all out in 47.5 overs (Sophie Devine 93, Amelia Kerr 42; Shabnim Ismail 3/27, Aybonga Khaka 3/31)  
South Africa 229 for 8 in 49.3 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 67, Sune Luus 51; Amelia Kerr 3/50).

## El Clasico Preview: With Benzema Doubtful, Real Madrid Hosts New-Look Barcelona

Agencies

**MADRID:** The last time that Real Madrid played Barcelona, it brushed aside a team struggling to find its way after being orphaned by Lionel Messi.

Madrid's 2-1 win in October ignited ugly scenes of furious Barcelona fans banging Ronald Koeman's car as the beleaguered coach sped away from Camp Nou.

Fast forward to Sunday when Barcelona with Xavi Hernández in charge of a new-look squad will head to the Santiago Bernabéu to test how far it has closed the gap with its fiercest rival.

Most "clásico" matches have an impact on the Spanish league title race. Not so much this time. Madrid enjoys a comfortable lead at the top of the standings and only a major collapse will stop it from adding to its record 34 league titles.

With 10 games left, Madrid leads Sevilla by 10 points and both Barcelona and Atlético Madrid by 15.

The main question for coach Carlo Ancelotti is whether Karim Benzema will be available to play.

The France striker is doubtful after he injured his left leg in the final minutes of a 3-0 win at Mallorca on Monday. He had to leave the game after scoring twice to take his league-leading tally to 22 goals.

The 34-year-old Benzema is playing the best soccer of his long career this season. He has scored eight goals in his last five matches, including his second-half hat trick to oust Paris Saint-Germain from the Champions League last week.

If he is not fit to play, Madrid will turn to winger Vinícius Júnior to lead its attack. His 14 league goals are second only to Benzema in the entire competition. Ancelotti could also play Marco Asensio as a "false nine"



and perhaps give Federico Valverde a second straight start as a romping midfielder.

The Barcelona that Madrid faced at Camp Nou on Oct. 24 has undergone a profound overhaul. In that loss, Ansu Fati, Memphis Depay and Sergio Dest started as Barcelona's front three and Philippe Coutinho and Sergio Agüero came off the bench as substitutes.

Now, thanks an impressive effort by the club to bring in new players in the January transfer window, Barcelona's attack features newcomers Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Ferran Torres and Adama Traoré. And while Coutinho and Agüero are no longer on the team, 38-year-old Dani Alves has returned to play at right back. Ousmane Dembélé, who was injured when they played in October, is also providing a spark to Barcelona's attack.

Aubameyang and Torres have made an immediate impact since joining from Arsenal and Manchester City, respectively. Aubameyang has scored six goals in just nine appearances, with Torres adding another five goals. Depay has also scored twice recently, after being sidelined for two months with a hamstring injury, giving him a team-high 10 goals for the season.

After struggling to score before it got its winter reinforcements, Barcelona has scored four goals five times over the past two months.

"(Barcelona) has undergone a big change since Xavi arrived and has improved its play and is winning games easily by a big difference, so we will have to be careful," Madrid's Valverde told Cadena SER on Wednesday.

Aubameyang has been particularly impressive given that he was benched at Arsenal before the English club let him go.

"The truth is, I kind of expected this because I have been working hard and wanted to make a good start (at Barcelona)," Aubameyang said on Wednesday.

Aubameyang said that he was flourishing as Barcelona's pure striker, as compared to at Arsenal where "I played a lot better on the left."

"Coach already knew what I could do when I arrived and we have worked hard on the pressure that I must put on defenders (to recover the ball) and knowing how to play in tight spaces that is characteristic of this team," the Gabon international said.

Sevilla, which has lost ground to Madrid in recent weeks, hosts Real Sociedad on Sunday.

## Paul Pogba's House Burglarized During United-Atletico Encounter

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba said Wednesday his house was burglarized during their UEFA Champions League 2021-22 game against Atletico Madrid. Atletico won 1-0 on Tuesday to knock Manchester United out on 2-1 aggregate. (More Football News)

In a post on Twitter, the France midfielder said his "babies were sleeping in their bedroom" when the burglary took

place on Tuesday. He has offered a reward for anyone with information.

"The burglars were in our home for less than five minutes but in that time they took from us something more valuable than anything we had in our home ... our sense of safety and security," Pogba wrote.

"This occurred during the final minutes of last night's match when they knew that we would not be home. My wife and I rushed home not knowing if our children were safe and unharmed.

"As a father there is no feeling worse in this world than not being there to protect your children and I sincerely hope that no one ever has to feel what I felt last night," Pogba added. Pogba's wife was at Old Trafford for the match.

Pogba's contract is set to expire this summer and has been linked with a move to Paris Saint-Germain and a return to Juventus. The Frenchman has played 23 times for Manchester United this season scoring and contributing nine assists.

## A Stress Free Kohli Could Be Dangerous News For Opposition: Maxwell



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Virat Kohli nowadays looks "stress free" without the burden of captaincy weighing him down, a dangerous sign for the opposition teams in the upcoming IPL, feels Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate Glenn Maxwell.

Kohli, who relinquished RCB captaincy after last year's IPL, has also resigned from T20 and Test captaincy while being removed from ODI leadership role.

Maxwell feels that Kohli now is no longer the "in-your face" aggressive cricketer that he used to be and that has been pleasantly surprising.

"He knows he's handing the captaincy over, which I think is potentially a big burden for him. It might have been something that's been weighing him down for a while and now that he's been able to release it, it might be dangerous news for opposition teams," Maxwell told RCB Podcast.

The flamboyant Australian is happy that Kohli is in that phase when he would actually be enjoying being out there in thick of

things.

"It is amazing for him to be relaxed a bit and actually enjoy the next few years of his career without any of that sort of external pressure. I think playing against him in earlier days, he was a fiery competitor, getting in your face. He's always trying to impose himself on the game. Impose himself on the opposition."

The Australian all-rounder is loving the cricketing conversations he is having with Kohli and is himself surprised that the former India skipper has become a close friend.

"Something I've noticed more from him this year is he's been really measured with his emotions. He's actually been really measured with his decision-making. He's certainly really surprised me and probably how close we've both gotten to each other as well this year. Being able to talk about the game in a calm manner," Maxwell said.

"Because you do see that over-excited, in your face style when you play against him. But to play with him and have really good conversations about the game, I've really enjoyed that."

## Sarfaraz Ahmed, Imad Wasim Dropped From Pakistan White-Ball Squad Vs Australia

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Pakistani selectors have named uncapped spinner Asif Afridi and wicketkeeper Mohammad Harris in the white ball squads for the three ODIs and one-off T20I against Australia.

The most notable exclusions include former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and all-rounder Imad Wasim while the selectors have also called up all-rounders Muhammad Nawaz and Shadab Khan who were both out with fitness issues and also missed matches in the Pakistan Super League.

Harris, a former Pakistan under-19 player, has replaced Sarfaraz after some impressive batting performances in the PSL. He was also named in the Pakistan squad for the home series against New Zealand last September but the series couldn't be played at the time as the Kiwis returned home on the day of the series opener.

Left-arm spinner Asif also bowled impressively for Multan Sultans who lost in the final to Lahore Qalandars. Chief selector Muhammad Wasim said the selection of the two squads was based around a strategy to provide opportunities to high-performing players as part of their strategy to increase the pool of top-class cricketers and developing a formidable bench-strength.

While the selectors have



picked up 20 players for the ODIs, which are being played as part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League; they have chosen 17 players for the only T20I, leaving out Abdullah Shafique, Imam-ul-Haq and Saud Shakeel.

ODI squad: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (VC), Abdullah Shafique, Asif Afridi, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Muhammad Harris, Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Rizwan, Muhammad Wasim jr, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Usman Qadir.

T20 Squad: Babar Azam (Caps), Shadab Khan (VC), Asif Afridi, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Muhammad Harris, Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Rizwan, Muhammad Wasim jr, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shahnawaz Dahani, Usman Qadir.

## Joe Root's 119 Helps England Make Strong Start Vs WI

Agencies

**BRIDGETOWN:** Joe Root lit up the Kensington Oval with his 25th Test century as England made a strong start to the second match of the series against the West Indies on Wednesday.

Playing with confidence after a knock of 109 in the second innings of last week's draw in Antigua, Root was even better in Barbados as he reached 119 not out from a total of 244-3 on the first day.

Around 8,500 visiting fans were present to take in the spectacle and all four corners of the famous old ground received a wave of the England captain's bat as they sang his name long and loud.

By reaching a quarter-century of test hundreds, Root vaulted past illustrious names such as Viv Richards, Greg Chappell and Mohammad Yousuf as well as



contemporaries David Warner and Kane Williamson.

Dan Lawrence had looked certain to follow his captain to a century, but there was a sting in the tail for him as he picked out short cover one ball before the close. He had just hit back-to-back fours to reach a career-best test score of 91, but fell to the ground in despair after his exuberance cost him a three-figure score.

Earlier, the West Indies contributed to its own struggles, sparing Root a review on 23, dropping him on 34, and putting down Lawrence late on.