



P3 CITY

## BETWEEN 10 TO 15 SURGERIES PERFORMED EVERYDAY AT B&J HOSPITAL

The Operation Theatre at Bone and Joint Hospital Srinagar, which was destroyed in fire, has restarted functioning since a few days ago, with officials saying that ten to twenty

P5 THINK

## AWARDS: THE INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE 2022 LONGLIST

A record year in submissions and a two-and-a-half-time increase in the purse for each shortlisted title are elements of the story this year as the International Booker Prize this morning (March 10) announces its 2022



P7 STATE

## CS DIRECTS 100 % AADHAAR SATURATION IN J&K

The Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday pitched for 100 % Aadhaar penetration in J&K, saying that it will facilitate effective and efficient provision of



## Quote!

First impressions are always unreliable

- Franz Kafka

## NEWS DIGEST

### Ladakh Highway Reopens For Traffic

SRINAGAR: The strategic 434 kilometer Srinagar-Leh Highway, the only surface link connecting the newly carved Union Territory with Jammu and Kashmir was thrown open for traffic on Friday after 80 day closure. The road was reopened on Friday morning by Deputy Commissioner **More on P6**

### Police Busts Hideout In Kishtwar

JAMMU: Ten explosive devices and a pistol were seized from Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Friday, officials said. On specific information, police along with the army launched a cordon and search operation in the general area of **More on P6**

### 27 Employees Found Absent In Shopian

SRINAGAR: The District Magistrate Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Friday during a surprise inspection in Government offices found 07 employees of Municipal Committee Shopian and 20 employees of R&B division Shopian including one senior officer absent from **More on P6**

### Woman Killed In Hit-&-Run Case

SRINAGAR: A 60-year-old woman was killed in a hit-and-run accident in a village in Surankote area of Poonch district on Friday afternoon, officials said. The officials said that the woman identified as Zoon Begum wife of Kamal Din Shiekh, a resident of Lathoong was hit by an **More on P6**

## LG Okays CBI Probe Into Malik's Rs 300 Cr Bribe Claim

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that the CBI has been given consent to probe allegations made by former J&K governor Satya Pal Malik of being offered bribe to clear two files when he was in office.

He said that the probe will make "everything crystal clear". Malik had in October last year claimed that he was offered Rs 300 crore in bribe to clear a file each belonging to "Ambani" and an "RSS-affiliated man" during his tenure.

At present the Meghalaya governor, Malik said that he cancelled the deals, and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for supporting his decision by saying there is no need to compromise on corruption.

"If someone sitting on such a high post has said anything, then it needs to be probed. We have sent our consent to CBI to probe both allegations, Sinha said that he



considered the allegations and decided that truth needs to come out.

Malik in his allegation last year had said that he was offered a bribe of Rs 150 crore each for clearing two files, one of them related to Ambani and other to a former minister in the previous Mehbooba Mufti-led (PDP-BJP coalition) government.

He had also alleged that the minister was also said to be someone very close to the prime minister.

I was informed by secretaries in both the departments that there **More on P6**

**IF SOMEONE SITTING ON SUCH** a high post has said anything, then it needs to be probed. We have sent our consent to CBI to probe both allegations."

## J&K Reports 11 New Corona Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 11 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while no fatality was reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported nine new cases of Covid-19 while the remaining two were detected in the Jammu division.

In the Valley, officials said, Anantnag reported 5, Srinagar 3 and Baramulla one new case of virus on Friday. However, no new cases of infection were detected in the remaining seven districts of Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian.

In the winter capital, officials said, one new case each was registered in Jammu and Udhampur, while the remaining eight districts of Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, **More on P6**

## Srinagar Airport Adds More Equipments For Fliers Safety

ILS System To Improve Visibility For Flights Next Winter: Director

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The authorities at the Srinagar airport have installed six new modern equipment including In-Line Baggage System(ILBS) in an attempt to enhance the air-navigation of the aircraft, passenger safety and security.

The six equipments installed at the Srinagar airport include Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR), non-directional (radio) beacon (NDB), the instrument landing system (ILS), X-Ray Baggage Inspection System (XBIS), In-Line Baggage System(ILBS) and ETD.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Director Srinagar Airport, Mr. Kuldeep Singh said that these newly installed modern equipment at Srinagar Airport will ensure an increase in rush,



enhance a smooth conduct of flight operations and will provide a hassle free experience to the passengers.

"In a recent meeting, we've received many complaints about various issues that the passengers were facing and now with these new equipment all those troubles faced by our passengers in the past

will end as these machines have been installed to ensure a hassle free and time saving experience for our passengers," Singh said.

Notably, the Srinagar Airport currently operates about 40-45 flights in a day but with these newly installed equipment, it is expected that the number of flights **More on P6**



## Export Preparedness Index 2021

## J&K Ranks 3rd Among UTs In Niti Aayog Report

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu &Kashmir has emerged among top performers reaching 3rd position among UTs in the second edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021 by Niti Aayog.

By securing third place the overall ranking of J&K has jumped over from 36th to 23rd rank with an increase its scores from 12.27 to 30.07, an official spokesperson said.

The index, he said, was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr Rajiv Kumar, in presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Commerce, BVR Subrahmanyam and other dignitaries.

The spokesperson said that the department of Industries and Commerce through Jammu

and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO- nodal agency for export promotion) has strived hard towards improving its performance in all EPI parameters.

"It has created an overall export friendly environment due to which J&K has performed exceptionally well on the policy pillar front," he said.

According to the spokesperson, JKTPO has provided various market connects to

exporters through BSM, capacity building workshops, trade fairs and exhibitions besides finalization of ODOP products, district export plans under district as export hub.

The Export Preparedness Index is a data-driven endeavor to identify the fundamental areas critical for sub national export promotion.

The EPI ranks states and UTs on 4 main pillars including policy, business ecosystem,

export ecosystem and export performance besides 11 sub-pillars including export promotion policy, institutional framework, business environment, infrastructure, transport connectivity, access to finance, export infrastructure, trade support, R&D infrastructure, export diversification and growth orientation.

The EPI's primary goal is to instill competition among all Indian states ('Coastal', 'Landlocked', 'Himalayan' and 'UTs/City-States') to bring about favourable export-promotion policies, ease the regulatory framework to prompt sub national export promotion, create the necessary infrastructure for exports and assist in identifying strategic recommendations **More on P6**

## Kashmir Resident Denied Hotel Room

## Delhi Police Says Probe Is On

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Friday said that an investigation is underway in the case pertaining to a man from Jammu & Kashmir allegedly being denied accommodation at a hotel in the national capital, a day after an FIR was registered against the owner of the hotel.

The incident took place on March 22. A senior police officer said that they registered a case in connection with the incident and the investigation was underway. As a video clip of the incident went viral on social media, hospitality firm OYO took off from its platform the hotel.

On Thursday, Deputy Commissioner of Police (north-west) Usha Rangnani had said a complaint was received at Mahendra Park police station



stating that some people from Jammu and Kashmir were denied accommodation in a hotel in the area.

A case under section 153-B(1) b (any member of a religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community denied of rights) of the Indian Penal Code was registered.

In the video, the reason for refusal to allot a room **More on P6**

## PM To Lay Foundation Of 7 Private Hospitals In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, Prakash Ranjan Thakur on Friday said that the Kashmir Valley will get 4500-bedded 7 private hospitals and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will himself participate in the groundbreaking ceremony in the month of April.

Talking to a local news agency KNS, Thakur said that Jammu and Kashmir will also get more than 1100 medical seats, which has never happened before in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that in the month of April PM Modi will lay the foundation stone for new 4500 bedded 7 private hospitals in the Valley and more than 1100 medical seats will be given to Jammu and Kashmir.

He also said that **More on P6**

Do You Get Your Copy of

## KASHMIR OBSERVER

Regularly?

**If Not**

Contact Circulation Incharge:  
**Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927**





To place an advertisement

**CALL +91-194 2502327**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# Using Artificial Intelligence To Red-Flag Emerging Pandemics

Raina MacIntyre | 360Info

AI filtering and analysis of open-source data could stop future epidemics from becoming global pandemics.

Serious infectious diseases have become more frequent in the past decade. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and influenza killed more than 17 million people a year. Covid-19 has claimed at least six million lives (with estimates up to 18 million) and is expected to cost US\$12.5 trillion globally by 2024.

Covid-19 could have been a localised epidemic instead of a pandemic if it had been detected and acted upon early.

Using artificial intelligence (AI) to mine vast open-source data can rapidly identify serious epidemics in their early days. AI can scan global news reports and social media for signs of a new illness or unfamiliar disease symptoms in the community.

A team of medical researchers and epidemiologists at the University of New South Wales developed such a system in 2016.

EPIWATCH uses machine learning and natural language processing the ability of a computer program to understand human language as it is spoken and written to generate epidemic early warning signals. It then uses the datasets it produces to create a map of upcoming epidemics and provides risk-analysis tools to help health authorities mount an effective response. A Canadian system called Blue Dot has



similar capabilities but is largely for paying private clients. We have vast amounts of open-source data that can provide early warning of epidemics, but this data must be filtered to eliminate irrelevant information and improve the accuracy of forecasts. AI-driven data filtering can detect signals of serious outbreaks much earlier than traditional public health surveillance, which relies on reporting by doc-

tors, hospitals or laboratories. A signal for the West African Ebola epidemic in 2014 could have been picked up using Twitter data three months before the WHO declared an epidemic, even though smartphone use in West Africa is lower than the global average. Using mapping of outbreaks and statistical methods we can automatically generate red flags. While the field is rapidly developing and more systems are com-

ing online, public health has been slow to adopt digital technologies. The method used by Joshi et al. (doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230322) was able to find Ebola signals in social media data three months before official alerts were issued. However, attention to epidemic warning systems has increased since the Covid-19 pandemic, with the launch of a Center for Forecasting and Outbreak

Analytics in the United States, the announcement of a Pandemic Radar in the United Kingdom, and the establishment of a WHO Hub for Pandemic & Epidemic Intelligence, part of the World Health Organization (WHO) and co-funded by the German government, all in 2021.

Several publicly available web-based applications collect open-source information based on incidents and events. HealthMap collects data on all health conditions, infectious and non-infectious, and detected an alert for a mystery haemorrhagic fever nine days before the WHO declared the 2014 Ebola epidemic. The Global Public Health Intelligence Network, developed by Canadian Public Health and the WHO, provided intelligence drawn from open-source data. Had the network not been defunded in 2019, it could have picked up Covid-19 before it became a global pandemic.

ProMED-mail, a moderated site developed by nonprofit organisation the International Society for Infectious Diseases, receives alerts from health professionals about unusual, severe outbreaks and illnesses. The site was the first to report the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus and Ebola in West Africa. ProMED-mail has also collaborated with three international health organisations to create a closed global community of vetted public health experts, EpiCore, which gathers information on epidemics.

Systems that do not rely on expert input and moderation can also be valu-

able. From 2008 to 2015, Google ran Flu Trends as an influenza-forecasting tool. Metabiotia, a biotech company, has an epidemic tracker that provides a map of outbreaks. In 2017 the WHO began a system called Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources, which receives feeds from open sources and other systems such as ProMED-mail. The US Department of Defense launched a Global Biosurveillance Portal in 2015. The portal is an internal tool that collects a range of data but is not publicly available. Other approaches include citizens reporting directly to public health authorities using digital platforms.

To prevent a pandemic, time is of the essence. Even a few days' warning can make a considerable difference to the long-term outcome. Epidemics are characterised by exponential growth: 20 cases today could be 80 cases in three days, which could be 320 cases in six days. This rapid growth means health systems are functioning one day and collapsing only days or weeks later. When large numbers of people are away from work, critical infrastructure is disrupted and supply chains fail. Governments plan for pandemics and serious epidemics due to their immediate social and economic impacts. Even the relatively small SARS outbreak in 2003 cost the global economy US\$54 billion. There is also the risk of unnatural epidemics due to bioterrorism. The value of an effective early-detection system for serious infectious diseases cannot be overstated.

## Scientists Can Now Read Whole Genome Sequencing Of Ivf Embryo

IAN S

In a significant breakthrough, scientists at a US-based gene analytics firm claimed that they can decode almost all the DNA of days-old embryos created via in vitro fertilisation (IVF), the Science reported. According to MyOme, full sequence of both parents' DNA and resulting "reconstruction" of an embryo's genome with

The researchers collected cheek swab samples from the babies and sequenced their full genome, just as they'd done with the parents. They then compared that "true sequence" with the reconstructed genome for the embryo from which the child originated.

The comparison revealed, essentially, a match: For a 3-day-old embryo, at least 96 per cent of the reconstructed genome aligned with the inherited gene variants in the corresponding baby; for a 5-day-old



the help of the data, could make it possible to forecast risk for common diseases including heart conditions, autoimmune diseases, cancer, that can develop later in life. The advance is currently available only for adults.

In a paper, published in the journal Nature Medicine, the MyOme team described creating such scores by first sequencing the genomes of 10 pairs of parents who had already undergone IVF and had babies. The researchers then used data collected during the IVF process: The couples' embryos, 110 in all, had undergone limited genetic testing at that time, a sort of spot sequencing of cells, called microarray measurements.

Such analysis can test for an abnormal number of chromosomes, certain genetic diseases, and rearrangements of large chunks of DNA. By combining these patchy embryo data with the more complete parental genome sequences, and applying statistical and population genomics techniques, the researchers could account for the gene shuffling that occurs during reproduction and calculate which chromosomes each parent had passed down to each embryo. In this way, they could predict much of that embryo's DNA, the report said.

embryo, it was at least 98 per cent, the report said.

Once the embryo genomes were reconstructed, the researchers turned to published data from large genomic studies of adults with or without common chronic diseases and the polygenic risk score models that were derived from that information. Then, they applied those models to the embryos, crunching polygenic risk scores for 12 diseases, including breast cancer, coronary artery disease, and Type 2 diabetes.

The team also experimented with combining the reconstructed embryo sequence of single genes, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2, that are known to dramatically raise risk of certain diseases, with an embryo's polygenic risk scores for that condition—in this case, breast cancer.

The rise of such complex genetic testing in human embryos is alarming, experts argued in a report in Nature. It is because people undergoing IVF are then offered the chance to select an embryo with a perceived low relative risk of developing such diseases. Further, such tests could trigger the unnecessary destruction of viable embryos or induce women to undergo extra cycles of ovarian stimulation to collect more oocytes.

### GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL SHIREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR

EMAIL ADDRESS: gdcsrinagar@gmail.com  
PHONE NO: 0194 – 2504701, 0194 – 2504702.  
FAX NO: 0194 – 2504703.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject:- Cancellation of House Job form.

#### ORDER

The application of following candidates who have applied for House Job advertised vide notification No:- GDC/Estt/Notification/HJ/File-2021-22/5969-83 dated 20-12-2021 are hereby cancelled. S.No 1 and 2. They have deposited their House Job application fee on 13-01-2022 after the cut off date i.e 12-01-2022 and S. No 03 has applied for 5 position but deposited fee only 500/- and could not be accepted:-

1. Dr. Nadia Irshad D/o Irshad Ahmed Wani.
2. Dr. Navneet Kour D/o S. Gunjeet Singh.
3. Dr. Syed Wajahat Mohammad Rizvi S/o Syed Mohammad Hussain Rizvi.

Sd/-  
(Mr. Arshid Hussain Ashai)  
Administrative Officer,  
Govt. Dental College & Hospital,  
Srinagar.

No. GDC/Estt/ House Job/2253-58  
Dated:- 24-03-2022.

DIPK-19994/21

### Indian Red Cross Society Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu: Red Cross Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu, Tele: 0191-4044901  
Kashmir: Red Cross House, Exchange Road, Srinagar, Tele: 0194-3510091

Email: info@ircsjk.org Website: www.ircsjk.org

**IRCS J&K intends to print Thirty Thousand Lucky Bag Tickets for the year 2022.**

**Printing of tickets being a sensitive issue has to be printed in completely secrecy.**

**Lower rate quoter has to supply printed tickets within twenty one (21) days of supply order.**

Now, sealed quotations are invited from registered printers for printing the Lucky Bag tickets. Quotations have to be in sealed covers without any cutting/over-writing.

**Quotations shall be accepted on the following conditions:-**

- Quotations should be reach to the office of Honorary General Secretary/IRCS-J&K UT /Exchange Road Srinagar/Kachi Chowni Jammu by or before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 4PM. Quotations shall be opened on the next working day at 12 Noon at IRCS HQs Jammu/Srinagar. Those who wish to remain present, may join at 12 noon.
- Each quotation shall be submitted with an undertaking/affidavit that printed lucky bag tickets shall be handed over to IRCS within 21 days from the date of issuance of supply order. The tenderer must undertake to indemnify IRCS for the loss which may occur due to delay in supply the printed tickets within stipulated period of twenty one (21) days.
- Printers should be registered with taxation department and in case of SSI unit with DIC concerned.
- Registered printer can obtain information and sample tickets from the office at Jammu/Srinagar before submitting their quotation.
- IRCS JK UT has right to reject/accept any tender without assigning any reason.

Sd/-  
(Kifayat H. Rizvi) IAS Rtd.  
General Secretary

DIPK-NB-7981/21

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in school records as 04/10/2004 While my correct DOB 10/04/2004 which need 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 Bonasharan Karhama Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Umar Farooq Dar  
S/o Farooq Ahamd Dar  
R/o Bonasharan Karhama Baramulla

bmg

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my share certificate bearing Certificate no: 264349, Folio No JKB026223. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office Cheeni Chowk Branch J&K bank Anantnag. within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Rasool Kamal  
S/o: Gh Hassan Kamal  
R/o: Janglatmandi Anantnag

ma

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my share certificate of J&K Bank bearing Certificate no: 252998, Folio No JKB014872, DISTINCTIVE NO'S 0033935403-0033935502 Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohmad Yaqoob Wani  
S/o: Ghulam Mohiudin din Wani  
R/o: Akingam Anantnag

ma

### Public Notice

I have lost number plate of my vehicle bearing number JK03D 1469 (Maxi Cab). If any body found he/she my return the same on below mentioned contact detail also I want to apply for duplicate number plate if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the ARTO Anantnag with in the period of seven days no objection will be entertained after stipulated time.

Ab Rashid Teeli  
S/o Gulam Mohd Teeli  
R/o:- Liver Pahalagm

ma

### CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

#### YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

*Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.*

Contact:- 0194-3550112  
G-mail- yardimciunique92@gmail.com  
I.G: yardimci\_multi\_venture  
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

### ELECTRONICS

#### 10X MOBILE STORE

*All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories*  
Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
Contact:- 7889657769

### TECH WORLD

*All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.*  
Sannat Nagar Srinagar



Contact:- 9149965005/ 9682370979





## Between 10 To 15 Surgeries Performed Everyday At B&J Hospital

Agencies

Srinagar: The Operation Theatre at Bone and Joint Hospital Srinagar, which was destroyed in fire, has restarted functioning since a few days ago, with officials saying that ten to twenty operations are being conducted on daily basis.

Medical Superintendent (MS) of the hospital DrMianSuhailsaid that the Out Patient Department (OPD) services were already started for patients from March 7 and the operation theatre has started functioning since Tuesday this week.

"We have re constructed the operation theatre within two weeks. We have new equipment in the theatre," he said, adding that at present 10 to 15 operations on a daily basis are being performed and the number of operations can be increased if all wards are made operational.

"We can conduct more operations but the problem is that we don't have all the wards functional yet," DrSu-

hail said.

"New operation theatre has been started and footfall is also good but we haven't picked up fully as wards aren't fully operational as R&B hasn't given full clearance yet," he said.

Patients in large numbers are turning up at the hospital and all post-operative patients are also coming, DrSuhail said, adding that electricity and water supply of one of the damaged wards has been restored and is being made operational while the other ward can't be made functional fully as of now as it has cracks in slab and is being dismantled.

He said that once this ward will be made functional the number of admissions will also go up.

He added that all patients who were present at the hospital at the time of fire incident have once again come to the hospital for post-operative treatment and they have not gone to any other hospital.

## Kashmir's Iconic Bookstore Loses Its Dal Lake Address

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Iconic book store and cafe on Nehru Park which was a must visit for high end tourists and book lovers and which had generated rave reviews the world over is shut. Reason, authorities refused to extend its lease.

Owned by prestigious Gulshan Books the bookstore housing nearly eighty thousand titles on a variety of subjects on and about Kashmir and Sufism was a favourite place for writers, students and all those who wanted a little space away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

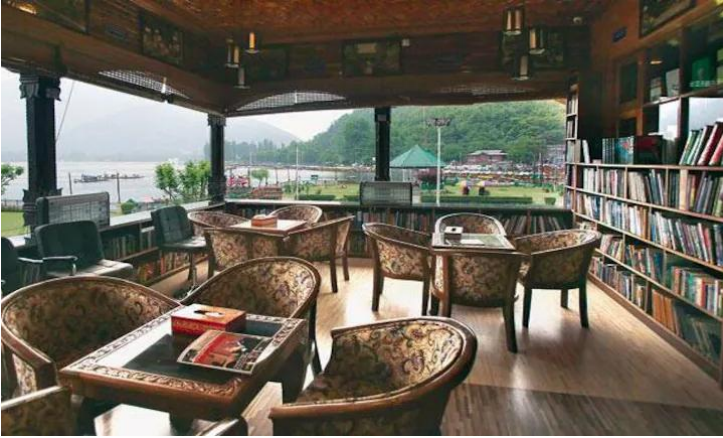
The property belonging to Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Development Corporation (JKTDC) was rented to Gulshan Books for a period of five years. Later, the government extended the contract for a period of one year.

The government property was rented to Gulshan Books from 2016 to 2020 and was extended for the year 2021.

"We had again applied for the extension but we were told to close the shop", said Sheikh Ajaz Ahmad, the owner of Gulshan Books.

"The Authorities cited no reason for not giving the extension" he added.

Aijaz had approached the



government with the idea of opening a bookshop at Nehru Park on Dal Lake in 2016. The government back then had readily agreed.

Gulshan Books consisted of two sections. One consisted of a coffee shop and a library and the other would serve as a sales centre. "The response was good; the youth and tourists would throng the place. The shop would remain open even during shut-downs", Aijaz said.

"All prominent persons would visit the place and we provided free Internet facility to students and readers".

Sarmad Hafeez Commissioner Secretary JKTDC said that there is no provision for extension.

"When a government property is given on rent for a limited period then the person has to vacate".

The property will be tendered very soon in a transparent manner.

"Nothing can be endlessly given to someone"

On a question to why was the extension given to the bidder he said I am not aware about it.

JKTDC is a commercial organization and whoever gets the best bid, he can get the property.

## Advisor Bhatnagar Inspects Works At New Paediatric Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Friday paid a surprise visit to 500-bedded New Paediatric Hospital at Bemina here and inspected the ongoing works there.

During the surprise inspection, Advisor Bhatnagar conducted a detailed round of the hospital complex and inspected all the pending infrastructural works going on there besides other allied infrastructure.

During the visit, Superintending Engineer R&B presented a detailed outlay of hospital building before the advisor.

Taking on spot assessment of ongoing works at the hospital, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of ongoing works at the hospital and ensure that all support services are made fully operational simultaneously.

He further impressed upon the officers that the medical equipments and other machinery should be installed well in time and proper maintenance mechanism for them should be put in place so that advanced medical care facilities are provided to the public.

He stressed upon the all concerned to work in proper coordination to ensure vital paediatric facilities on modern lines are made available at the hospital having capability to manage high risk paediatric cases.

He also directed them that proper arrangements for the staff should also be made simultaneously.

While inspecting different blocks of the hospital, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the SE R&B to complete all the finishing works in due time and so that the hospital is fully dedicated for the public use.

Interacting with the officers during the visit, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that once this Hospital is made fully operational, it will strengthen the paediatric care facilities in Kashmir division. He added that the operationalisation of hospital will also ease the burden of patient load on the existing tertiary level hospital, and ensure quality neonatal and paediatric care to the patients.

While reviewing the ongoing OPD services being provided at the hospital, Advisor Bhatnagar directed Principal GMC, Srinagar to ensure that all the specialists of paediatric care are made available at the hospital.

Principal GMC, Srinagar, Dr.Samia Rashid; OSD to Advisor, Sarfaraz Ahmad; SE R&B, Srinagar, senior officers of health and R&B department also accompanied the Advisor during the visit.

## Oral Health Awareness Events Culminate At GDC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with the 'World Oral Health Day' celebrated every year on 20th of March, the week-long Oral Health Awareness programmes and events by Govt. Dental College & Hospital (GDC&H) Srinagar culminated today with the concluding ceremony held in the Auditorium of Govt. Dental College/ Hospital, Srinagar.

The concluding ceremony was held under the chairmanship of Principal/Dean of the institution.

Meanwhile, during this week programmes were jointly conducted by Department of Community Dentistry and Clinical Society Meet/ PGR of the institution from 18 March, 2022 and concluding today.

During this week, various dental camps were

held in North Kashmir, South Kashmir and Central Kashmir areas where in a team of dental doctors visited the rural areas and conducted oral health checkups and performed various required dental treatments on spot through latest dental equipment and dental materials.

Throughout the week various CDE (Continuous Dental Education) events were held by various specialties of the institution in the institution's auditorium. This was attended by all the UG/PG Dental Professionals and faculty members of the institution. These events were very informative and helped the dental professionals to update themselves about the latest advancement and research work undergoing in the field of dentistry throughout the globe.

### 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
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 05
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	5:00
Magrib	6:48
ISHA	8: 09

## This Day In History

- 1027 - Pope John XIX crowns Conrad II Holy Roman Emperor, founder of the Salian dynasty
- 1147 - Jewish community in Cologne fasts to commemorate anti-Jewish violence
- 1484 - William Caxton prints his translation of Aesop's Fables
- 1526 - King Francois I returns Spanish captivity to France
- 1534 - Lübeck accepts free Dutch ships into East Sea
- 1552 - Guru Amar Das becomes the Third Sikh Guru
- 1636 - University of Utrecht opening ceremony
- 1668 - England takes control of Bombay, India
- 1812 - Earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale destroys 90% of Caracas, Venezuela and kills an estimated 15,000–20,000 people
- 1845 - Patent awarded for adhesive medicated plaster, precursor of band-aid
- 1913 - Bulgaria captures Adrianople, ending the 1st Balkan War
- 1917 - British win a battle against Turks at Gaza
- 1931 - Iraq & Trans-Jordan sign peace treaty
- 1945 - Allies led by US Marine Corps secure island of Iwo Jima from Imperial Japanese Army, after 18,000 Japanese & 6,000 Americans killed
- 1958 - US Army launched America's third successful satellite, "Explorer III"
- 1960 - Iraq executes 30 after attack on President Kassem
- 1969 - Nuclear reactor Dodewaard Neth goes into use
- 1969 - Soviet weather satellite Meteor 1 launched
- 1971 - Bangladesh (East Pakistan) under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declares its independence from Pakistan
- 1975 - The Biological Weapons Convention enters into force.
- 1979 - Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat sign the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in Washington, D.C.
- 1979 - OPEC makes full 14.5% oil price increase for 1979 effective on April 1
- 1981 - Police & Albanian demonstrators battle in Kosovo, Yugoslavia
- 1981 - Soyuz T-4 lands
- 1987 - NASA launches Fltsatcom-6, it fails to reach orbit
- 1996 - Last day of 1st-class cricket for Allan Border (Qld v Vic)
- 1996 - The International Monetary Fund approves a \$10.2 billion loan for Russia
- 2001 - Kazakhstan's Prime Minister opens an oil pipeline from the giant Tengiz Field to the Russian port of Novorossiysk on Monday, giving the Central Asian producer its first direct link to international markets
- 2005 - The Taiwanese government calls on 1 million Taiwanese to demonstrate in Taipei, in opposition to the Anti-Secession Law of the People's Republic of China. Around 200,000 to 300,000 attend the walk.
- 2006 - Burma's military junta officially names Naypyidaw, a new city in Mandalay Division, the new capital (Yangon previous capital)

From KO Archives

## Omar Justifies Dad's Decision

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Omar Abdullah, only son of chef minister Farooq Abdullah and an aspirant for ministerial berth in BJP led coalition government, today justified the stand taken by his father, in extending support to the Vajpayee government.

"Is main kya haraj hain" (what is wrong in it) Omar told reporters who sought his comments on the National Conference support to BJP alliance at the centre. However the young NC MP did not make any mention of the banner of revolt by his senior colleague and former union minister Saif-Ud-Din Soze, on the issue of National Conference supporting a "communal party" like BJP

(Kashmir Observer, 26 March, 1998)

### Public Notice

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: JK-01201400091244 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days.  
Maqbool Hussain Want  
R/o Badamwari Sriangar  
MKS

### Free Medical OPD

Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket New Delhi Is organising a free Medical OPD.

Dr Farah Farooq Raja Consultant Physician is available on 29th March Tuesday.

Timing: 11:00am - 3pm

For registration contact Sharif Medical Hall near HDFC Bank Almagari Bazar Srinagar.

Raashid Ali - 7006086700 INF

از نیابت و ترجمان  
درخواست مخاطب: غلام رسول ڈار ولد محمد بٹ عزیز ڈار ساکنہ موضع فیروز پورہ تحصیل و ترجمان حصول اجراء کے پس اندازگان سرفہریت تحت 43 SRO

اشہار براد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سالک دفتر پیدائش زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سالک فیروز پورہ کا سکونت دار ہے سالک پیشتر سے مزدور ہیں کنہ سالک بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

غلام رسول ڈار	سرپرہ کنہ	63 سال	عمر سیدہ
عارفہ بیگم	زوجہ غلام رسول	57 سال	گھریلو کام
رفعت آہ	دختر	30	گھریلو کام
مسرت رسول	دختر	27	گھریلو کام
شہزاد احمد	بہر	24	مزدوری
ستیل رسول	بہر	22	زیر تعلیم

انکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفہریت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحصیلدار mks

از نیابت کنٹر

مضمون درخواست: محمد شفیق بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ ساکنہ دھوبی وان بھراد عطا گیگی DOB certificate جنک پھر محمد فیضان بٹ

اشہار براد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر پیدائش ایک درخواست باپت حصول تاریخ پیدائش سرفہریت موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ پولیس سٹیشن کنٹر وچ پکدار علاقہ نے سالک کے دختر کی پیدائش اندراج نہیں کی ہے سالک محمد شفیق بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکا پھر محمد فیضان بٹ کی تاریخ پیدائش 03-09-2017 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کنٹر az k

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Walk In Interview

Haqdarshak is social enterprise based in Pune which is building the systems to support a next-gen welfare delivery service at the last-mile. With technology being leveraged by a trained support agent, our model is designed to scale and empower disadvantaged communities.

We are in need of young and dynamic staff for our operations in Budgam, Pulwama and Baramulla. Please walk in interview on Monday and Tuesday 28th -29th March 2022 Time 12 Noon onwards (Monday) and 10 PM to 4 PM (Tuesday)

Position:	Coordinators / Fellow
Qualification:	Graduate in any discipline PG in management / social enterprise/ social work will be preferred Work experience with reputed NGOs or social enterprise will be preferred Good command over written and spoken English Good knowledge of Computers Must be willing to travel 2 to 3 year work experience for fellows , for coordinators 4 to 5 years experience is required
Salary :	Rs 12000 + Travelling expenses for fellows Rs 20,000 + Travelling expenses for Coordinators
Venue for Interview	Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions Pvt Ltd Inside Abdullah Furnishing House Near Petrol Pump Under Chanapora Bypass Bridge Srinagar- Bagh e Mehtab Road

Contact Nos:

Muzamil Sayed

9906661245 ,9469991778

Email: sayed.shah@haqdarshak.com

To know more about our work , pl visit our website

www.haqdarshak.com



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

Twitter Talks



“School fees bus fees combined are the best birth control measures across the globe”

@rjnaser

“Spirit of Islam is constantly entwined with a spirit of de-colonisation. Out of all the social powers of ideological alternatives in the third world, Muslims have produced unabating agency against Western imperialism and colonisation, right from the 15th century until this date”

@khawar\_achakzai

“India asked Wang Yi for complete disengagement on LAC for relations to move forward. Possible - except at Dipsang which China will not accept as it provides land route to Pak. Note: India no longer seeking status quo ante to April 2020. Implicit is India accepting PLA 1959 LAC!”

@PravinSawhney

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Up in Smoke  
And Dust

Seasons used to come to Kashmir with their own unique delights, filling even the busy city of Srinagar with their particular charms. But now, common blights blur the lines between nature's changing colours, turning life into an unbroken procession of ordeals most of which could have been avoided with a more sensible approach to civic issues.

The dominant feature in Srinagar these days, if it is not rain-submerged roads, is dust-laden air assailing pedestrians and passengers on the streets when the weather switches to the dry mode. What should have been the refreshing breath of spring is a choking, stinging experience thanks largely to the various government agencies supposed to be keeping the city in a decent state of repair.

Rains, not exactly unheard of in spring, turn into a major civic catastrophe as roads get instantly submerged and flooded, with a total breakdown of the already decrepit drainage system. Apart from the city's showpiece, the Residency Road, hardly any other road has storm drains to handle run off water, and even the facility in this fashionable mall is defunct due to silt and clogging. So, sights of pedestrians wading through ankle-deep water, and vehicles marooned in tyre-deep bilge, are common even in the relatively better maintained city center after anything heavier than a drizzle. What happens to outlying areas is best described by photographs appearing regularly in the press depicting vast expanses of accumulated water where shiny stretches of tarmac were supposed to be. What is hidden by rains is laid bare by dry weather as waters recede to reveal deeply eroded and potholed roads badly in need of repair. Any hopes of relief when the downpour ceases are literally dashed to the ground by the clouds of dust that hang in the air like a pall after being kicked off by incessant traffic. If this is expected on bad roads, streets in comparatively better condition respond no differently, as they rarely ever get the attentions of a broom to sweep away the dust, and possess no drainage that could have carried the dirt away. The result is that most of Srinagar streets remain engulfed in billowing dust that makes nonsense of the government's efforts to check emission levels of vehicles, which, in any case, is little more than a token gesture.

Far from being the temperate, refreshing and soothing abode that Srinagar used to be in spring, the advent of the tourist season, it today presents a grimy clime where the air, already difficult to inhale in the streets, becomes intolerable with a slight rise in mercury. As spring yields way to summer with its blistering heat, the situation is only bound to become worse as there is no sign of the government gearing up to undertake badly needed repairs on roads, repair and complete the city drainage, or give teeth to the municipality to discharge its expected duties. The only sign of the administration's life is the annual coat of paint to the edges of sidewalks, an exercise and honour reserved for the return of the durbar from Jammu.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, or so the saying goes. The benefits of the plethora of government departments and agencies charged solely with the duty to maintain roads and drainage, monitor construction, or in general, develop the city to respectable standards, are there for all to see. Given the condition of the city, it would be hard to convince an outsider that there is department upon government department, guzzling money like water, supposed to be active in Srinagar's upkeep.

The situation was a God-send for the present government to prove its sense of civic responsibility by cracking the whip on this array of erring agencies, but it apparently has yet to get over the daze of newly-acquired power.

The article was originally an editorial from KO Archives and was originally

Examiner's Dereliction: JKSSB's Questions Need to be Questioned

It is unfortunate that those entrusted with the responsibility to filter merit out of the many, barely make the cut in competence themselves

Malik Javid

One would have thought that the predicament would favour the smart. However, the standard of the question paper was so poor that it gave no advantage to candidates who had worked hard, over those who hadn't. Worse still, as if the standard of paper wasn't enough to demoralise the candidates, gross errors in questions and options provided made the matter worse for candidates. It seemed like JKSSB had not proofread the paper before finalising it



One are the days when government jobs were considered to be reserved for people with political influence, money and muscle. The times have changed, we are living in a meritocratic era, and no other factor but pure merit plays a role in landing a government job. Now in a world full of opportunities, our erstwhile state is lagging behind in providing timely job opportunities to educated youth. With very little and poorly paid opportunities in the private sector, providing employment has become arduous for the government with all educated unemployed youth having pinned their hopes of earning their livelihood through government jobs.

As per recent data, J&K's unemployment rate of 46.3 % among the educated category is the second highest unemployment rate after Kerala, where the percentage stood at 47 %. In such a scenario, the role of recruiting agencies like JKSSB and JKPSC has become ever more significant to expedite the advertisements of vacant posts in government sector and conduct the exams for the same.

Since the JKSSB and JKPSC have their work cut out, it becomes even more important for these institutions to act in a competent and professional manner. This, especially after questions have been raised on the competence of JKSSB after recently concluded FAA exams, where the aspirants complained that the paper was poorly set as a number of questions were out of syllabus. One would have thought that the predicament would favour the smart. However, the standard of the question paper was so poor that it gave no advantage to candidates who had worked hard, over those who hadn't. Worse still, as if the standard of paper wasn't enough to demoralise the candidates, gross errors in questions and options provided made the matter worse for candidates. It seemed like JKSSB had not proofread the paper before finalising it.

The question paper had a few questions which were poorly framed, vague and had more than one correct answer in the options. Consider this: about two to three questions in the paper had correct answers in two options out of the four provided. This left many anxious with right answers — a rare feat that is only reserved for JKSSB. After the conclusion of the examination, JKSSB had asked for representations from candidates on doubtful questions to revise its key. More than 21000 representations were received by JKSSB through online mode, while the revised key was uploaded a few days later. Questions that needed to be corrected remained as they were, thus robbing the candidates of genuine points which ultimately would've determined their selection.

In competitive exams like these, where fractions determine success, the glaring examples of misconduct on the part of JKSSB brings it into serious disrepute and calls into question its competence to conduct such exams. It is time for the government to take a serious look at these institutions so that no such instance is repeated and the deserving candidates get their due without having to bear the consequences of incompetence of conducting institutes. It is unfortunate that those entrusted with the responsibility to filter merit out of the many, barely make the cut in competence themselves.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author can be reached at malikjavid86@gmail.com

Zelensky on Israel

Asad Ghanem



Dear Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy  
Your recent speech before the Israeli Knesset was a disgrace when it comes to global struggles for freedom and liberation, particularly of the Palestinian people. You reversed the roles of occupier and occupied. You missed another opportunity to demonstrate the justice of your cause and the broader cause of freedom.

You said: "We are in different countries and in completely different conditions. But the threat is the same: for both us and you – the total destruction of the people, state, culture. And even of the names: Ukraine, Israel."

I am angry and sad that Russia is seeking to occupy your country and to crush the rights of the Ukrainian people to self-determination and freedom, and I believe that every possible support must be given to Ukrainians as they resist this barbaric aggression. At the same time, I reject the policies of the US and its Nato allies around the globe.

I am concerned by your apparent double standards towards the legitimate Palestinian struggle against occupation, oppression and displacement

And while I admire your success in building a large international coalition to support your struggle against Russian aggression, I wish we as Palestinians could persuade the world to mobilise in a similar fashion, and force Israel to abide by international resolutions.

I am also concerned by your apparent double standards towards the legitimate Palestinian struggle against occupation, oppression, killings, racial discrimination and displacement - crimes that Israel has practiced for more than seven decades against my people.

Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people have included the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians during the 1948 Nakba. Hundreds of towns and villages were ethnically cleansed and demolished, with most of their features then erased from the earth, preventing the return of their people. Some Pal-

Since the start of Russia's offensive against your country, you have continued to practice double standards. While Israel has hesitated to accept non-Jewish Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian bombing - a policy motivated by inhumanity and ethnic supremacism, with which Palestinians are all too familiar - you remain willing to turn to Israel's right-wing nationalist prime minister, a mediator

estinians became displaced within the newly proclaimed state of Israel, while others sought refuge in neighbouring Arab countries.

Occupation and siege

Palestinians who became Israeli citizens have endured rampant discrimination, while those living in the West Bank live under a brutal occupa-

tion, and those in Gaza a crushing siege. Israel has criminalised the Palestinian struggle for freedom and liberation, denied the legitimate Palestinian leadership, confiscated Palestinian property and resources, and arrested Palestinian activists.

Racist laws, such as the 2018 nation-state law and the recently revised citizenship law, have codified Israel's opposition to Palestinian self-determination and to a Palestinian homeland.

And yet, you have taken public positions in support of Israeli occupation. In 2020, you opted to quit the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, a body tasked with supporting Palestinian rights. You even backed Israel's right to "self-defence" when it was practicing the most extreme forms of aggression against our people.

Since the start of Russia's offensive against your country, you have continued to practice double standards. While Israel has hesitated to accept non-Jewish Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian bombing - a policy motivated by inhumanity and ethnic supremacism, with which Palestinians are all too familiar - you remain willing to turn to Israel's right-wing nationalist prime minister, Naftali Bennett, as a mediator.

I know that most Palestinians are watching your stubborn struggle and wishing you victory over Russia's brutal aggression. I also know that a Russian victory would be a great gift to Israel's aggressive posture - a victory for its "Iron Wall" concept, which regulates its dealings with us until our complete defeat.

On the other hand, the struggle and victory of your people, even with the destruction of much of your country and the displacement of scores of Ukrainians, would give hope to other peoples struggling against oppression and erasure, rekindling our hopes for return and liberation. To this end, I urge you to stop supporting our oppressors.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by The Middle East Eye

The author is a Professor of Political Science at University of Haifa

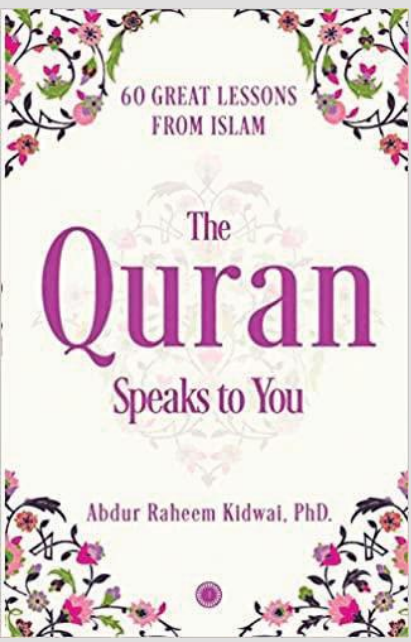


# LIFE-ENRICHING UNIVERSAL DIRECTIVES OF THE QUR'AN

## Introducing The Quran Speaks to You: 60 Great Lessons from Islam (2022)



Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray



Title: *The Quran Speaks to You: 60 Great Lessons from Islam*  
Author: Abdur Raheem Kidwai  
Publication Details: Mumbai: Jaico Publishing House, 2022; Pages: 238;  
ISBN: 978-93-91019-54-9; Pbk; Price: ₹399/-

“The Quran Speaks to You” is a helpful guide which provides the life-enriching directives of the Quran—the divine “Guidance Unto Humankind”—in a simple, lucid and coherent manner.

ABDUR RAHEEM KIDWAI (b. 1956) is an English Professor by profession and a writer (among others) on Islam, Qur’anic Studies, and English Translations of the Qur’an. He has made enormous and significant contribution to this genre of scholarship, in the form of these books: *The Quran: Essential Teachings* (2005); *Bibliography of the Translations of the Meaning of the Glorious Quran into English, 1649-2002* (2007); *Daily Wisdom: Selections from the Holy Qur’an* (2011); *Translating the Untranslatable: A Critical Guide to 60 English Translations of the Quran* (2011); *What is in the Quran? Message of the Quran in Simple English* (2013); *365 Selections from the Holy Qur’an* (2014); *God’s Word, Man’s Interpretations* (2019); and *The Quran Speaks to You* (2022).

Many of these works are addressed to Muslims with no or little knowledge of Arabic, to the new Muslims, and/ or to the (non-Muslim) English readership. For example, Kidwai’s translation of the Qur’an, *What is in the Quran?*, attempts to present in simple, fluent English the paraphrase of the meaning and message of the Quran while striving to retain its original message. It has around 400 explanatory notes on a range of issues “with a view to bringing into sharper light the Quranic guidance directed at the entire humanity”. His *Daily Wisdom: Selections from the Holy Qur’an* (2011) attempts to set out “meaning and message of the Qur’an in simple, understand-

able English for the general reader, Muslim or non-Muslim alike”. Similarly, his *365 Sayings of the Qur’an* (2014) is an anthology or compilation of 365 Quranic verses, proposed and intended “to introduce briefly the core contents of the Quran” so that “to familiarize readers with the basic meaning and message of the Qur’an ... in simple, easy to grasp English”.

Thus, highlighting and disseminating the universal message of the Quran is one of the major objectives of Kidwai’s works related to the Quran—and a new addition to this literature is the book under review.

The Quran Speaks to You, as its subtitle reveals clearly, is “a collection of 60 Quranic passages” (p.2) which illustrates the Quranic belief system, values and way of life. It highlights what the Quran says about God (the Creator), basic/ fundamental beliefs of Islam, purpose of creation, social relations, living a harmonious and peaceful life, gender equality, Islam and other religions/ religious beliefs, morals and manners, and other allied aspects.

Divided into three main parts: *What to Believe?* (Chapters 1-12) *How to Lead Your Life* (Chapters 13-53) and *The Afterlife* (Chapters 54-60)—the book is preceded by a Preface (pp. 1-4) and ends with Appendices like *Quranic Gems* (pp. 185-191), *Glossary* (pp. 192-203), *Further Reading* (pp. 204-227), *Quranic Passages* (p. 228), and *Index* (pp.229-238). It “introduces the Quranic outlook on various aspects of Islam for those who are new to it”, and thus helps in shedding light on “some misconceptions about Islam or the Quran” (p. 3). The book (as mentioned in its back cover description) presents ‘the

main ideas which form the pillars of Islam’ and thus ‘the author shows you how the religion reveals the way to lead a dignified life’.

Each passage is accompanied by an explanation to help in understanding the message easily on various topics related to “the Quranic belief system, values and way of life” which helps a reader in realizing “the common ground among all religions”, which is “needed all the more today when some divisive forces and wicked terrorists have been maligning the image of Islam” (p.4). It also helps in clearing up the ‘wrong ideas about the Quran and Islam’ by outlining ‘Islamic rules for behaviour and the benefits earned for the afterlife for good deeds’, and thus, ‘provide an understanding of the core concepts of Islam.’ To validate these claims and to grasp this message, below is provided a summary of some chapters from each section:

In chapter 1, “Who is God?” (pp. 7-10), the author quotes Q. 112: 1-5; 2: 255; and 59: 22-24 and in their explanation states: “The Quranic concept of God is simple and straightforward. It does not admit any anthropomorphism, deism or pantheism or any metaphysical or philosophical conundrum. He is all in all, and hence in Islam any notion of His partner or associate is totally ruled out” (p.9).

In chapter 9, “Who is most honourable in the eyes of God?” (pp. 34-35), Kidwai refers to Q. 49: 13 and describes it as “remarkable for its universal message and for its concern for God-centeredness”. For him, “everyone is equal for being the progeny of Adam and Eve” and it is our “excellent conduct alone” which makes us “honourable in the eyes of God” (pp. 34, 35).

In chapter 20, “How to treat fellow human beings?” (pp. 70-74), Kidwai, referring to Q. 4: 36 and 46: 15 and 31: 14, states that the first verse presents “a summary of both the Islamic faith and practices” and through these verses collectively the Quran has presented “the ideal of peaceful coexistence and pluralism” centuries before these turned out to be the buzzwords in our times” (pp. 72-73).

In chapter 26, “Do not disrespect other religions” (pp. 86-88), Kidwai, referring to Q. 6: 108 states that the Quran “recognizes the diversity of religions” and it “does not approve any coercion in matters of faith” (p. 86). With referenced to Q. 2: 256, 109: 6 and 88: 21-22, he validates the claim that the Quran “accords much importance to interfaith harmony and understanding” (p. 87).

In chapter 44, “Treating all life as sacrosanct” (pp. 137-141), the author refers to verses like Q. 2: 190-91 and 244, 9: 5-6 and states, among others, that the Quran “declares life as sacrosanct and hence forbids violence and killing” (p. 137).

Similarly, while highlighting the gender parity in the Sacred Text, the author in chapter 53, “What is the Islamic law of inheritance?” (pp. 160-61), referring to Q. 4: 7-8 states: “The Quranic law of inheritance is one of the many egalitarian steps undertaken by Islam in the seventh century. ... Islam elated the woman’s status by granting her a share and recognizing her as a heir” (pp. 160-61).

In chapter 54, “What is the nature of human life?” (pp. 165-67), Kidwai, referring to Q. 57: 20 and 27, deduces that the Quran: (i) “asks us to lead a goal-oriented life, with a sense of mission” and does not rec-

ommend monasticism but denounces it; (ii) warns us about the “pitfalls of worldliness and materialism” and “apathy and neglect towards the next life”; and (iii) highlights “the illusory, purely temporary nature of our life and this world”.

These 60 chapters, under three broad headings, thus, illustrate the Quranic belief system, values and way of life and each chapter is supplemented further with many other Quranic verses on the theme in the Further Reading (pp. 204-227), which is an additional but significant feature of this book. Equally significant in the Appendices is the Quranic Gems (pp. 185-191) which lists certain selected passages which embody “perennial wisdom and profound insights” (p.4) and thus highlight the universal message of the Sacred Text. However, there are certain typos in the book which need to be rectified; for example it mentions that Quran has about 60,000 verses instead of over 6,000 verses.

All in all, Kidwai’s *The Quran Speaks to You* is a helpful guide which provides the life-enriching directives of the Quran—the ‘divine Message’ directed to all of humankind—in a lucid, simple, coherent manner and thematically. It is, thus, recommended for everyone (Muslim or non Muslim) interested in knowing and understanding the universal message of the Quran: be it related to the belief system, social and ethico-moral values, gender parity, pluralistic ethos or way of life.

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, at GDC Sogam, Kupwara (J&K). Email: tauseefparray21@gmail.com

## AWARDS: The International Booker Prize 2022 Longlist

Frank Wynne

### ‘THE POWER OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE’

A record year in submissions and a two-and-a-half-time increase in the purse for each shortlisted title are elements of the story this year as the International Booker Prize this morning (March 10) announces its 2022 longlist of 13 titles.

Translated from 11 languages and 12 nations on four continents, the program features a work in Hindi for the first time.

This year, the total value of the prize goes up to £80,000 (US\$105,368). The jump is thanks to an increase from £1,000 to a welcome £2,500 (US\$3,290) for each of the award’s shortlisted authors and translators, who are to be announced on April 7 at London Book Fair (April 5 to 7).

The winning translator and author will split £50,000 (US\$65,835). An announcement of those winners is anticipated for May 25 at London’s One Marylebone suite of event venues, a renovation of John Soane’s Holy Trinity Church originally completed in 1828.

As Publishing Perspectives readers know, the longlist being announced today is not for the Booker Prize for Fiction. The International Booker Prize is the younger sister to the Booker Prize for Fiction, and was established in 2005 to honor an author and translator equally for a single work of fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

### THE INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE’S IMPACT ON SALES

One of the biggest services that the Booker Foundation provides to the publishing industry is a sense for what kind of impact its awards are having on sales. In a book business awash in awards, surprisingly few programs offer this information. While boosts in sales are often cited as the rationale for there being so many prize programs in the book business, the actual bookselling efficacy of most awards is rarely backed up with publicly announced

statistics.

We continue to hope that more of the myriad awards in the industry will follow the Booker program’s lead and issue such information. Indeed, longer-term and more detailed information would be welcome from the Booker team, as well.

► The announcement of the 2021 International Booker Prize winner, *At Night All Blood Is Black*, written by David Diop and translated by Anna Moschovakis, the foundation reports, saw the book’s publisher, Pushkin Press, ordering a five-figure reprint the day after the winner announcement.

► The week following the winner announcement, sales of *At Night All Blood Is Black* saw a 477-percent sales increase over the week before.

Former United States president Barack Obama, known to follow both Booker prizes, listed *At Night All Blood Is Black* at the top of his summer reading list.

### HONORING AUTHORS AND TRANSLATORS EQUALLY

Hewing closely to a part of Publishing Perspectives’ internationalist mission, this prize is intended “to encourage more publishing and reading of quality works of imagination from all over the world, and to give greater recognition to the role of translators.” Both novels and short-story collections are eligible. And the award has the distinction of being among the first to divide its recognition equally between translators and authors, something now reflected in the National

### INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE 2022 LONGLIST

Title	Author	Translator	Original Language	Author Residence	Publisher or Imprint
<i>Cursed Bunny</i>	Bora Chung	Anton Hur	Korean	South Korea	Honford Star
<i>After the Sun</i>	Jonas Eika	Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg	Danish	Denmark	Lolli Editions
<i>A New Name: Septology VI-VII</i>	Jon Fosse	Damion Searls	Norwegian	Norway	Fitzcarraldo Editions
<i>More Than I Love My Life</i>	David Grossman	Jessica Cohen	Hebrew	Israel	Penguin Random House UK/Jonathan Cape
<i>The Book of Mother</i>	Violaine Huisman	Leslie Camhi	French	France	Hachette UK/Little, Brown Virago
<i>Heaven</i>	Mieko Kawakami	Samuel Bett and David Boyd	Japanese	Japan	Pan Macmillan/Picador
<i>Paradais</i>	Fernanda Melchor	Sophie Hughes	Spanish	Mexico	Fitzcarraldo Editions
<i>Love in the Big City</i>	Sang Young Park	Anton Hur	Korean	South Korea	Tilted Axis Press
<i>Happy Stories, Mostly</i>	Norman Erikson Pasaribu	Tiffany Tsao	Indonesian	Indonesia	Tilted Axis Press
<i>Elena Knows</i>	Claudia Pineiro	Frances Riddle	Spanish	Argentina	Charco Press
<i>Phenotypes</i>	Paulo Scott	Daniel Hahn	Portuguese	Brazil	And Other Stories
<i>Tomb of Sand</i>	Geetanjali Shree	Daisy Rockwell	Hindi	India	Tilted Axis Press
<i>The Books of Jacob</i>	Olga Tokarczuk	Jennifer Croft	Polish	Poland	Fitzcarraldo Editions

Book Awards’s translation category in the United States.

Returning this year are two previously winning author-translator

pairs—Olga Tokarczuk and Jennifer Croft; and David Grossman and Jessica Cohen.

Croft is the translator who, with author Mark Haddon and the Society of Authors on International Translation Day 2021, launched the important #TranslatorsOnTheCover campaign to urge publishers to offer equal credit to translators and authors (as the International Booker does), by publishing both authors’ and translators’ names on the covers of translated works. Not every publisher longlisted by the Booker today does this.

This year, the independent Tilted Axis Press appears for the first

time in the International Booker Prize longlist, and with three titles. Tilted Axis was founded by an International Booker Prize winner, Deborah Smith.

Fitzcarraldo Editions, a very familiar translation house, also has three titles on the longlist. Of the major publishers, Penguin Random House, Hachette, and Pan Macmillan appear this year, each with one title from one of their imprints and divisions.

Translator Anton Hur has the honor of being longlisted for two works this year.

This year’s International Booker Prize jury started with that record opening pool of submissions, numbering 135 entries, to produce its longlist.

The article was originally published by Publishing Perspectives



# GCW M.A. Road Hosts Workshop On 'Intergenerational Bonding'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Govt. College for Women, M. A. Road Srinagar organized a workshop on 'Intergenerational Bonding' on Thursday (March 24, 2022). The aim of the event was to sensitize youth about the importance of elderly in the society and highlight the various issues faced by the senior citizens.

The event was organised by Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of the college in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Arunghra Regional Research and Training Centre on Ageing, Delhi. Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum Husain was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The main resource persons for the workshop were Dr.



Zubair Saleem (Nodal Officer for Geriatric Medicine, Kashmir Division and Head, Department of Geriatric Medicine, JLNH Hospital) and Ms. Bisma Khan (Advocate J&K High Court and Panel Lawyer District Legal Services Authority Srinagar).

Dr. Zubair shared his experience as a geriatric consultant and researcher to highlight the problems faced by senior citizens. He cited statistics and some case studies during his elaborate presentation on the theme. Dr Zubair shared some

heart-wrenching stories of elderly patients who had been ill treated by their children and other family members.

Advocate Bisma Khan spoke about the legal aspects of the theme. She apprised the audience about the various provisions of Maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizens Act.

In his address, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum Husain highlighted the role of society in addressing the issue.

"We should not expect government to do everything. We can do a lot at our own individual level and as a society. For instance, charity is a central tenet of Islam and a religious obligation. We can use it also to build old age homes for such elderly people who have been abandoned by their families," Prof. Qayyum said.

Speaking on the occasion,

Principal of the host college, Prof. (Dr.) Nasreen Aman referred to some of the reasons responsible for lack of intergenerational bonding including lack of proper communication.

Prof. Nasreen said underlined the need to acknowledge the problem as a society and work on possible solutions with the help of experts.

Earlier while welcoming the guests, HOD Journalism & Mass Communication, Dr. Suhail Ahmad, who also compered the proceedings, spelt out the theme of the programme and its relevance in contemporary times.

Dean Social Science, Cluster University, Dr. Mujahid was present on the occasion. Besides the senior faculty members, including Deans and HODs, over 100 students attended the event. Vote of Thanks was presented by Assistant Professor, Ms. Sadaf Bushra.

## HDFC Bank awards Rs 14.5-crore to 85 start-ups

**MUMBAI:** HDFC Bank announced the winners of its 5th annual SmartUp Parivartan Grants 2022. HDFC Bank awarded grants to 85 innovative start-ups focused on addressing problems facing the environment, healthcare sectors, and gender diversity.

These grants are aimed to nurture start-ups offering unique solutions to bring about sustainable change in society and the environment.

To shortlist and mentor the winners, the bank partnered with 28 incubators, including IIM-B, ISB, AIC Ncore Developmental Impact Foundation, KIIT-Technology Business, Amrita Technology Business Incubator, International Institute of Information Technology, and Social Entrepreneurs Foundation India, among others.

Some of the winning pitches were made by Vidcare Technologies, Zini the

healthcare AI, Eco Deco, Ayang Trust, Navodaya Foundation, and Felis Leo Ventures.

The bank instituted SmartUp Grants in 2017 and since then supported 90 start-ups from various cities across India. Over the past five years, the bank has disbursed grants worth Rs 35 crore.

This year too, following the pandemic protocols, screening was done online.

"The Parivartan SmartUp grants are part of the Bank's commitment to strengthen our relationship with the start-up ecosystem in India. We equip entrepreneurs with smart financial tools, advisory services, and technology to help them realize their vision and create value for the society," said Ms Smita Bhagat, Group Head, Government, and Institutional Business, BC & Partnership Banking, Ecosystem Banking, Inclusive Banking Group, and Start-ups, HDFC Bank.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### LG Okays CBI

is a scandal involved and I accordingly cancelled both the deals. The secretaries said to me 'you will get Rs 150 crore each for clearing the files' but I told them that I had come with five kurta-pajamas and would leave with that only," Malik had said at an event in Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is reported to have initiated a probe into the allegations of the former J&K governor.

### ED Raids 11 Spots

Service (JKAS) officers, who served as Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) of various districts between 2013 and 2016.

Searches were conducted at residences of serving and retired officers or officials, including Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, former Kupwara DC; Itrat Hussain, JKAS, former Kupwara DC; Ravinder Kumar Bhatt, JKAS, former Kupwara ADC, since dismissed from government service, Tariq Ather and Gajan Singh, former judicial clerks at the arms section in DC's office in Kupwara district.

Residences of six arms dealers were also raided from where incriminating documents were recovered which reveal that more senior bureaucrats of J&K are involved in the gun licences scam.

The Central Bureau of Investigation is already investigating the case and ED has registered a separate case in this scam to investigate the money laundering and other financial aspects of the scam.

### Govt Panel To

a time-bound manner," reads a government order.

The 4-member committee is headed by the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) and its members include Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and Deputy Commissioner (concerned), all aspects of the scam.

### Over 20000 Posts

the relief and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits is one of the prime focus areas of both the Central and the UT governments.

"1025 Transit Accommodations are ready at various places in Kashmir Valley and 1488 units are at various stages of completion. Out of 6000 posts, appointments have been made to 4678 posts and the process of recruitment on the remaining posts is also being completed in mission mode," he said.

Speaking about the recent visit of business delegates from Gulf Countries' to explore investment opportunities, the LG said that his administration has cleared investment proposals to the tune of Rs 27,000 crore, within a year's time and allotted them land for their projects.

"The investment proposals are expected to cross Rs 70,000 crores in the next six months," he said.

He also said that his administration is encouraging cultivation by border dwellers on the abandoned land near the IB to increase acreage and production thus benefiting the farmers.

The LG also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman for the historic Rs. 1,12,950 crore budget for the year 2022-23.

Sinha said that the futuristic budget reflects the needs and aspirations of the people of J&K and the commitment of the UT Administration for peace, progress and prosperity. He said that the immediate goal is to accelerate the pace of economic development in the UT of J&K and make it multi-dimensional," he said.

"The budget 2022-23 is primarily a "Growth-Oriented" budget and is in line with the endeavours of the UT Government to double its economy in

the next few years," the LG said.

The budget envisages inclusive, all-round development in Jammu and Kashmir and has also provided resources to realize the vision of developed and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir," he added.

Speaking about the sector-wise allocation and highlighting the key features of the budget 2022-23, the LG said that good governance, agriculture & horticulture, power sector, rural development, strengthening grass-root democracy, facilitating investment & industrial growth, infrastructure development, improving connectivity, broadening social inclusion, gar ghar nal se jal, education, youth, tourism, and health & medical education sectors have remained the focus areas of the budget 2022-23.

He said that allocation of Rs 1313 crore to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies is aimed at strengthening the grassroot democratic setup in the UT.

"Rs 200 crore have been earmarked as Development Fund for 20 District Development Councils (Rs 10 crore for each DDC) and Rs 71.25 crore for Block Development Councils (Rs 25 lakh each). Besides, Rs 357 crore has been kept for Solid Waste Management with the two Municipal Corporations and other ULBs," the LG said.

He added that a huge allocation of Rs 9,289.15 crore has been allocated to the Jal Shakti Department this year. Rs 7750 crore kept under Jal Jeevan Mission for achieving the objective of 100% piped water supply to each household. Apart from this, 43 irrigation schemes are being targeted for completion this year under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and 28,000 hectares of irrigation potential will be created/stabilized during 2022-23.

This year, the LG said, Rs 2,835 crore have been allocated to the agriculture sector and Rs 646 crore to horticulture.

"The budget aims at doubling the farmers' income in a planned manner. The strategy is to focus on cultivation of high yielding/high density crops, use of modern technology and a host of other measures," Sinha said.

"Nine lakh farmers are being benefited by distribution of High Yield Varieties/Hybrid seeds. Provision for coverage of 400 hectares under high density apple plantation and 1000 hectares under sub-tropical fruit plants has also been made in the budget," he added.

The LG further said that Rs 391.90 crore allocated for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries sector will help to meet the target of setting up 2,000 additional dairy units in the Union Territory providing direct employment to 5000 people.

"This year's allocation of Rs 5,443 crore for the rural sector will give a major fillip to our endeavors of Rural Development and Economy. Under MGNREGA, 426 lakh person-days to be generated and more than 14,000 youth will be trained under the Rural Skill Development Programme," he said.

The LG said that target has been set for constructing 54,000 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana during 2022-23. We are also targeting to include 21,994 additional Self-Help Groups to our existing tally.

"Dedicated focus is being given to connect all Gram Panchayats with the Internet. Under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, 1500 elected public representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions will be sent for exposure visits outside Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Termining connectivity as a priority sector and critical for all round development of the UT, the LG said that unprecedented progress has been made in the last two years in this regard.

He said allocation to the tune of Rs 6296 crore has been made to further strengthen the road and bridge network in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that four major National

Highway projects viz; Jammu-Akhnoor Road, Chenani-Sudhmahadev road, Baramulla-Gulmarg road and Semiring Road Jammu are being completed during 2022.

"Execution of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project is also being taken-up, besides 10 new road/tunnel projects for the UT under Bharatmala project. Overall 6000 Kms of black topping of roads will be achieved during 2022-23 under various components," he added.

For the power sector, the LG said, Rs 8,768 crore has been allocated in the budget this year.

"In the last one and a half years, historic steps have been taken to strengthen power generation and infrastructure. We are working diligently towards the target of generating 3500 MW of electricity in three years and this will be further increased to three times in 7 years," he said.

"The Central Government has also approved Rs 11,000 crore Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) project aimed at improving the power system in the UT and providing quality power to the people of J&K. In this financial year, 3 lakh smart meters each will be installed in Jammu and Srinagar to ensure reliable power supply," he added.

Speaking about the Health sector, Sinha said that the Union Government has earmarked Rs 7,873 crore which will go a long way in extending best-in class medical facilities to the people of the UT.

"The pace of coverage of AB-PMJAY will be accelerated covering all the residents of J&K. Efforts will be made to start the First Batch of MBBS classes in New Medical colleges at Handwara Kupwara and Udhampur, increasing the overall intake capacity to 1300 MBBS seats in J&K. Completion of seven nursing colleges is also targeted for 2022-23," he said.

He also praised the Union Government for giving special attention to the School and Higher Education Department by allocating Rs 11,832 crore in this year's budget. He said 500 Kindergartens will be established in government schools; 518 smart classrooms and 200 Vocational Laboratories are targeted to be established.

"We aim at completing 37 Girls Hostel Buildings and 12 KGBV buildings, constructing 7 college buildings, setting up Centers for Innovation, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIT) in Jammu and Srinagar, giving computer tablets to 8000 meritorious tribal students, besides providing skill training to around 20,000 undergraduate students. We have also set the target to accomplish 100% coverage of pre-matric and post-matric scholarship to Tribal students," he added.

The LG also said that Rs.1,003 crore allocation to the Industries and Commerce Department will complement the ongoing efforts being made to take industrial development in the UT to new heights.

He said a substantial amount will be spent on establishing new industrial estates in Jammu and Kashmir and the Industries Department will also assist 2000 Self Help Groups for promoting handicrafts.

"In this year's budget, an amount of Rs 200 crore has been allocated to provide financial assistance to young aspiring entrepreneurs of J&K," he said.

"The Social welfare department's Rs. 3,203 crore budget allocation will ensure that the benefits of the welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. Motorized Tricycles will be provided to all Divyangjan," he added.

Speaking about the allocation for the tourism sector considered to be the backbone of J&K's economy, the LG said that Rs. 508 crore tourism budget will enable the sector to grow, thus benefiting the local population.

He said 75 offbeat destinations are being identified and developed, and

unexplored areas are also being developed under public-private partnership.

"Keeping in mind the welfare of the tribal community, provision has been made to establish 14 new milk villages, besides constructing 7 transit accommodations for the community. Moreover, 29 Cluster Model Villages are being established which are at different stages of implementation," he said.

The LG also said that development of Border Villages is another important sector that received a dedicated focus in the budget.

"With allocation of Rs 600 crore for border villages, and Rs. 50 crore under the Samridh Seema Yojana, special efforts will be made for the development of villages along the borders," he added.

Under Smart City Mission, the LG said that 80 projects will be completed and Rs. 200 crore has been earmarked for this. Besides, he said that 100 electric buses each will ply on the roads of Jammu and Srinagar.

"9 major sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 1131 crore are to be executed and Rs. 373 crore will be spent for the revival of Dal and Nagin lake.

Moreover, the balance portion of work on Tawi Barrage costing Rs. 73.34 crore is expected to be completed during 2022-23," he added.

### 'World's Highest

central funding, the bridge is being built on Chenab river between Bakkal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

After the completion of the bridge, the Chenab Bridge will boast of having the world's highest rail bridge -- 359 metre above the river and around 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower.

The bridge forms a crucial and the most difficult link in the 111 km-stretch between Katra and Banihal, which is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project.

The construction of the bridge was started in 2002 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the prime minister.

### LG Discusses J&K

During the meeting, he said, thee LG and Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi discussed matters regarding security scenario and the overall security management in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Lt Governor commended the important role of the Army in maintaining peace, harmony and ensuring a secure environment for the people in J&K, which is witnessing rapid development and growth," the spokesperson said.

He said that Lt General ADS Ajula also remained present.

### Ladakh Highway

Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna along with SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar for one way traffic, for small and medium vehicles from Srinagar to Leh, an official spokesperson said.

He said that ARTO Ganderbal and other officials of traffic department were also present on the occasion.

As per the notification issued by the Office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, traffic shall ply on Srinagar-Leh National highway on odd days from today while from Leh to Srinagar traffic will ply on even days and cut off time for vehicles shall remain 6 am at Sonmarg, Ganderbal side and 8:30 am from Kargil Side at Meenamarg.

Besides, no traffic shall be allowed on Fridays on the axis (excluding today) which shall be maintenance day.

"Important to mention that movement of only antikid chained or 4x4 and mechanically sound vehicles shall be allowed on the axis besides vehicles should not be overloaded and should carry load as per permissible tonnage," the spokesperson said.

### Srinagar Airport

operating from Kashmir's only Airport will increase by fifteen-twenty more flights.

"These new installations will also increase our flight rush especially during the evening hours and the winter months when flight disruption reaches to an extreme level," Director Srinagar Airport said.

"Our airport is designed to function at a visibility of more than 1000 M. We never operate a flight if the visibility is less than this threshold. As such, the operation of our ILS is completely safe and secure. As of now, we've the Cat-1 ILS system installed at our airport and to overcome the low visibility closure of the airfield, we are scheduled to install a CAT-II ILS system," he added.

Notably, the installation of the CAT-II ILS system is scheduled to commence in April and the new system will be ready for commissioning in October.

"Hopefully, next winter, the visibility with the new system will improve to 500 meters from 900 meters after the new ILS system is installed. And thus, the disruption in the flight operations during the winter months will subside to a fairly good extent. Currently, we have fantastic landing and navigation facilities but we're continuously striving to improve with the increase in traffic at our airport." The Airport Director said.

Pertinently, as the Srinagar Airport witnessed a rapid increase in traffic from the past several years, the authorities have also decided to build a new terminal and six more aircraft parking stands with a cost of Rs 1500 crores to ensure a delightful experience for the passengers.

"Unfortunately, we've received a high number of complaints from passengers demanding more flights and space at the Srinagar Airport. Our airport currently has a capacity to hold only 2.5 million passengers in a year, that means, about 950 passengers per hour. But, with the new terminal the annual passenger capacity will increase to 6.5 million from existing 2.5 million and augment peak hour passenger capacity to 3,000 from existing 950," Singh said.

The Director further added that the Srinagar airport authority uses most modern machinery for snow removal and ice clearing from the airfield.

"I'd again reiterate the fact that flight operations at Srinagar Airport are safe. Our equipment measures are upto the safety standards of ICAO and BCAS. The training of our maintenance officers is conducted at ICAO certified facilities in accordance with the aviation standards. Our motto of "Safety with Security" is our constant inspiration to improve our performance." Singh told Kashmir Observer.

### J&K Reports 11

Ramban and Reasi detected no new cases of virus.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to the pandemic remained 4750 in J&K as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

The officials further said that ten Covid-19 patients--six from Jammu and four from Valley-- recovered during the time.

### No Water, Electricity

rules". Besides, no electricity/water connections and other civic amenities shall be provided to any such building by the concerned Departments/Corporations without submission of Occupation Certificate (OC) from the Building Permission Authority, it added. (GNS)

### Delhi Police

was cited as directions from police but I would like to clarify again that no such direction has been given by the local police, Rangnani had said.

### J&K Ranks 3rd

for improving export competitiveness. It promotes competitive federalism and a fair contest among States/UTs.

Also, EPI 2021 brings out three major challenges to India's export promotion. These are intra and inter regional differences in export infrastructure; weak trade support and growth orientation across states and lack of R&D infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.

### PM To Lay Foundation

the recent visit of Gulf CEOs to Jammu and Kashmir was about deep investment and trade but a perception was created about the situation and market in J&K. "This trip has given them ground experience to convert commitments into investment and reality," he said.

He said that they have been to the Gulf a couple of times and even LG Manoj Sinha himself visited Dubai. "Businessmen from India control a huge business there, and the recent visit of CEOs is the outcome of those meetings we had there."

He said that they have had meetings with DP world, LoLo, MR, NooN, but their aim is to move beyond those companies for massive investments in J&K.

"The CEOs, who were in Kashmir own a lot of money, businesses and hotels and this trip gave them personal experience, which will make our commitments stronger to convert this into reality," he said.

Reacting to the situation in Kashmir, he said that they are already in new Kashmir, but no place in the world is crime free, while in Kashmir small incidents are given much hype.

"Situation in J&K has always been better and we are heading towards the best. This is the time to forget the past, and move forward to create employment for our youth."

He also said that whatever land they have with them, they have made allotments and they are getting more 5-6 thousand Kanals of land though the Roshni Act, and it will be given to everyone who wants it for investment.

### Police Busts

Tillar forest of Marwah, they said. During the operation, the team busted a hideout and recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition including one pistol with eight rounds, a Chinese grenade, three UBGL grenades, three RPG rounds, three explosive sticks, one IED remote and one pressure cooker, they said.

Accordingly, a FIR was registered at the Marwah police station under relevant sections of the law. (PTI)

### 27 Employees Found

their duties.

Taking serious note of their unauthorized absence, the DM said that stern action shall be initiated against the absentees under rules, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the DM also called for explanations from the officer/officials, who were found absent during the inspection.

"The DM directed for remaining punctual in future and said that such inspections will continue in future also and dereliction of unauthorized absence will not be tolerated at all," the spokesperson added

### Woman Killed

unknown tractor at Dhundak, resulting in her instant death.

The body of deceased woman has been taken to SDH Surankote for necessary medico-legal formalities, they said, as per news agency GNS

A police official has also in the meantime confirmed the incident.



## NCPCR Seeks Probe Into Denial Of Admission To 2 Children By Srinagar Schools

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of India, has asked Deputy Commissioner Srinagar to inquire into the alleged denial of admission to two children with special needs in private schools and send the response within 15 days.

The Registrar of the Commission made the request after a complaint from Ms. Zaheer Jan and Dr. Chinatanjeet Kour, stating therein that 8-year-old Syed Minha Muzaffar and 6-year-old Master Mohammad Ziya were denied admission by two prominent schools here. "You are requested to urgently investigate into this matter and take appropriate actions and ensure that children get admission as

soon as possible," the Registrar said in a communication to Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, a copy of which is with GNS. "A factual action taken report may be sent in consultation with the complainant."

The complainants in their complaint stated that it was extreme disappointing that all-Private schools in the J&K are denying admission to the CWSN for no good reason, thereby violating the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 and put the future of such children at stake.

The complaints seek commission's intervention for proper action so that every child with special need in J&K get their rights as per Act "because thousands of special needs children in J&K are at risk without education."

## 3-Member World Bank Team Visits J&K

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A 3-member team of the World Bank on a two day visit to the Jammu and Kashmir have appreciated the Union Territory administration and the J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency for bringing around a dramatic turnaround in the implementation of the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

This was stated by Abhas Jha, Practice Manager (Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management) South Asia Region, World Bank during a meeting held at SKICC Srinagar here on Friday to review the progress of World Bank funded \$ 250 million USD, JTFRP.

The team led by Jha, also comprises Deepak Singh, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank and Hemang Karella, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist of World Bank.

"I have seen that JKERA as an organisation has certainly done something beyond the call of duty to bring dramatic turnaround in the project implementation, he added that excellent job has been done by J&KERA under the various sectors of health, disaster management, education, livelihoods etc which will have long-term positive impact for many generations to come," Jha said.

Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Chief Executive Officer, JKERA while briefing the high level team of World Bank team about latest progress of the project said that that under the various components of JTFRP an expenditure of Rs 921 has been made till date.

He added that despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020-2021 the project has shown a remarkable turnaround in the implementation. He added that during the last two years 90% of procurement and 80% of disbursements have been undertaken in the project.

Earlier in the day the World Bank team visited the Composite Market Centre for Silk at Rajbagh and Composite Market Centre for

Wool at Bemina, Srinagar which have been completed under the World Bank funded JTFRP under the component of Strengthening of Livelihoods of World Bank



funded JTFRP. The team was informed about the vital role played by the two sub-projects in the revitalisation of the traditional Wool and Silk industry in J&K. It was said that various latest weaving and processing equipment's procured under the project for these factories has given a big boost in production of quality silk and wool products and has directly benefited more than 15,000 families associated with these two sectors.

The Team visited the Headquarters of the Fire & Emergency Dept. at Batamallo were the senior officers of the F&ES informed that team that (03) different types of fire tenders and latest fire rescue equipment's worth Rs 14.48 crores have been received by the Dept. from the Project Management Unit of JTFRP. It was added that these include (17No) Multipurpose Fire tenders, (09No) Regular Fire Tenders, (17No) Medium Weight Quick Response vehicles which has considerably increased the capacity of the F&ES Dept. in quickly controlling the accidental fire incidents in the UT. Mock drill and live demonstration of these various fire rescue equipment's - Hydraulic spreader cutter/comb tools, fire Entry suits, fire proximity suits etc was made before the visiting team.

During the visit to under Construction Additional Block at Bone & Joints Hospital, Barzulla the team was briefed about the salient features of the State of Art, 120 bedded Hospital which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 89 Crores under the World Bank funded JTFRP.

## Two-Day Seminar On The Language And Methods Of Mathematical Sciences Concludes At IUST



### Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** Two-day seminar on The Language and Methods of Mathematical Sciences started at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) concluded on Friday.

The Seminar was organized by the Department of Mathematical Sciences, IUST. Several eminent mathematicians and statisticians of the country gave invited talks during this Seminar.

The proceedings of the first day began with the Head of the Department Prof. Fozia Qazi welcoming the invited speakers and participants. She gave a brief introduction of the Department and spoke of the important role face-to-face seminars and conferences play in sharing of ideas,

learning from the experts, and creating networking opportunities for young scholars.

The speakers for the first day were Prof. Amin Sofi from JKIMS, Prof. Mausumi Bose from ISI Kolkata, Prof. Amber Habib from Shiv Nadar University and Prof. Shiv Kumar Kaushak from Delhi University.

Former Vice Chancellor Prof. Siddiq Wahid, Registrar IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal and several other dignitaries attended the seminar. The second day witnessed two workshops for post graduate students on SPSS and R software by Prof. Suresh Kumar Sharma from Panjab University and Prof. Depeesh Bhati from Central University Rajasthan as well as an invited talk by Prof. Aquil Ahmed from Aligarh Muslim University.

## CS Directs 100 % Aadhaar Saturation In J&K

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday pitched for 100 % Aadhaar penetration in J&K, saying that it will facilitate effective and efficient provision of public services to the people.

He said that there is a need to specifically target the population in the age group of 0-5 years by holding special camps in Anganwari Centres across J&K, an official spokesperson said.

Mehta, he said, made these comments in the meeting held to review the status of Aadhaar penetration in J&K in which Bhavna Garg, DDG, UIDIA and other senior Secretaries of the government participated.

The Chief Secretary laid emphasis on making Aadhaar saturation a part of the awareness campaign to be run by the IT Department and directed that all pending notification of all the schemes in which expenditure is made from consolidated funds of India and consolidated funds of J&K UT should be issued within 15 days.

He directed for immediate upscaling of Aadhaar enrolment in hospitals and schools.

Mehta directed that 1831 biometric enrolment kits should be made functional immediately and pending 30 lakh mandatory bio-metric should be completed within a month through special camps and outreach programmes.



Earlier DDG, UIDAI, Bhavna Garg while making presentation on status of live Aadhaar as on 28.02.2022 informed that in the age group of 0-5 years 72.76 %Aadhaar penetration has been done.

She further informed that in age groups of 5-18 years and above 18 years, 83.68% and 87.29 %Aadhaar enrolment have been done respectively.

It was further informed that Ganderbal, Kulgam, Samba, Shopian districts have to redouble their efforts in improving Aadhaar enrolments.

Bhavna said that IPPB and BSNL also need to ensure that their non functional Aadhaar centres become functional on priority so that the process of Aadhaar penetration in J&K is expedited.

It was further informed that till date more than 4.0 lac Aadhaar have been generated by Anganwari workers and an amount of 63 lakhs between 2018-2019 and 46 lakhs between 2020-2021 have been distributed to the Anganwari workers.

## We Are Moving Fast On Path Of Establishing Peace: DGP

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Director General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh on Friday took stock of ground situation in Srinagar and said that "we are moving fast on the path of establishing peace and progress" in Jammu and Kashmir.

He visited newly upgraded and established Police Stations in Srinagar, inspected the infrastructure and other facilities of these stations, a police spokesperson said in a statement.

He reviewed security and deployment arrangements besides interacted with the Police and CRPF personnel posted in these establishments and also took stock of ground situation of Srinagar city.

DGP J&K during the interaction complimented Police and CRPF deployments for highly professional handling of ground situations, the spokesperson said.

"He appreciated the dedication and commitment of JK Police and other security forces for working day in and day out for the security of the people."

He said that every measure taken by JK Police and other security forces are aimed to safeguard the lives of the people. "We are moving fast on the path of establishing peace and progress and have seen its dividends," he



said, adding, "we have to move forward together to strengthen peaceful environment by identifying the enemies of peace and weeding out the mischievous elements strictly dealing with them under law."

The DGP stressed for adopting comprehensive counter measures to tackle militant incidents. "Protecting the lives of people is our utmost responsibility."

He stressed for augmenting the security in vulnerable places to prevent any unfortunate incident. He directed the officers to further strengthen the communication within the ranks and augment the security grids in their respective areas for the safety and security of the people.

The DGP said that all suspicious elements providing any kind of support to militant activities should be kept under radar to foil their attempts. "Stringent action should be taken against the elements found involved in anti peace activities," DGP added.

The DGP reiterated the importance of maintaining close synergy between the J&K Police and other agencies to meet the security challenges.

"The DGP directed the officers to revisit the security plans of their respective jurisdictions and directed the officers to remain extra alert as (militant) outfits are continuously trying to foment trouble and disturb the peace."

Singh stressed for community policing and said that it boosts public confidence which helps in fight against crime and social evils. He said that the cooperation of people is absolutely contributing in strengthening the growing peace in J&K. Referring to the criminal activities, the DGP stressed upon the officers to brace up with a missionary spirit to fight against drug abuse and other social evils from the society.

The senior officers briefed the DGP regarding the functioning and security plans of their respective areas.

## DC Anantnag Warns Action Against Brick Kilns

### Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Friday chaired a joint meeting of officers and brick kiln owners, here regarding complaints being received on account of overcharging by brick kiln owners.

Singla directed ADC Anantnag to ensure that there is complete adherence to the notified rates and any brick kiln owner found violating the norms should be taken to task. He said there should be zero tolerance in this regard. He said that regular checks must be maintained to ensure that the bricks are sold at notified rates.

The DC also directed the officials to lodge FIRs against brick kiln owners who have been

found violating the norms and overcharging customers.

Addressing brick kiln owners, the DC issued stern warning that anybody found flouting norms will be penalized. He further said that the rates have been decided taking into account the costs and after ascertaining the economic feasibility as per market conditions and as such should be followed in letter and spirit.

He also ordered suspension of a patwari who was allegedly aiding certain persons in illegal construction of a brick kiln and solicited a detailed enquiry report in the matter.

The DC also directed the officials to lodge FIRs against brick kiln owners who have been found violating the norms and overcharging customers.

## HC Warns Judicial Officers Against Leaving Station Without Permission

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** J&K and Ladakh High Court on Friday ordered that no officer shall leave the station without obtaining the prior permission of the Competent Authority and warned that any failure or departure from it shall be viewed "seriously".

"The Rules governing the service conditions and the Circulars No. 3, 10, 106 issued on 11.05.1998, 05.02.1999 and 09.08.2002 respectively provide that no Judicial Officer shall leave the station without obtaining prior permission of the Competent Authority," reads a circular issued by Registrar General Sanjeev Gupta.

"Circular No. 36 dated 03.06.2009 provides that Presiding Officers of Magisterial Courts shall not leave the station without seeking and receiving proper permission from the Principal District & Sessions Judge, under whose jurisdiction they are working."

The Officers of the District

Judge cadre are equally obliged to seek permission from the High Court before leaving the station, the circular reads further.

"In this regard, repeated reminders have been issued by the High Court in the shape of Circulars No. 29 & 26 dated 03.03.2016 and 10.12.2020 respectively but even then it has been noticed by the Chief Justice that the Judicial Officers including Principal District Judges leave their station without seeking prior permission from the Competent Authority," the circular reads.

The Chief Justice has directed strict compliance of the circulars, and had ordered that no officer shall leave the station without obtaining the prior permission of the Competent Authority, it reads.

"Any failure or departure from it or the non-compliance of the circulars shall be viewed seriously "so as to entail departmental inquiry on the ground of misconduct", it adds. (GNS)

## Low Disproportionate Teacher Pupil Ratio

### SED Likely To Merge 74 Govt-Run Schools In Srinagar

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The School Education Department is likely to merge 74 government-run schools of Srinagar district having low disproportionate Teacher Pupil Ratio (TPR).

According to the official figures, the department is likely to propose clubbing of 74 schools includes 21 Primary Schools, 37 Middle Schools, 16 High Schools and one Higher Secondary School. It also reveals that among the primary and middle schools identified for the clubbing, most of the schools were from Nishat zone.

Earlier the Jammu and Kashmir government has sought details of schools with low enrolment to 'vacate such premises in order to merge the schools' to streamline the Teacher Pupil Ratio (TPR).

The government in a communiqué issued to Director of School Education of Kashmir

and Jammu and Project Director, Samagra Shiksha in December-2021 has asked them to provide details of government-run schools with low enrolment.

Deputy Director for Planning Development and Monitoring has said, "The decisions taken in Committee of Secretaries (CoS) meeting headed by Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Arun Kumar Mehta on December-1 regarding the schools with low enrolment and as desired by the higher authorities, I am directed to convey that the expected criteria for proposing the vacating of school buildings due to likely merger of schools with low enrolment may be taken."

Stating the criteria, the official has said that the details regarding low enrolment shall be submitted of all government primary schools with enrolment less than 10 students.

"All government and upper primary and middle schools with enrolment less than 30 students and all the government high schools with enrolment less than 70 enrolments," it reads—(KNO)

## Bidhuri Reviews Distribution Of Land Passbooks In Srinagar

### Sets Target For 100% Property Card Distribution Under Swamitva

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Commissioner Secretary Revenue, Vijay Bidhuri on Friday chaired a meeting of Revenue officers of Srinagar District to review distribution of Land Passbooks among land owners of Srinagar District.

The Commissioner Secretary during the meeting lauded the efforts of District Administration Srinagar in achieving almost 80% of the target.

He asked the officers to work with utmost zeal and dedication to achieve 100 percent target by or before March 31.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the progress of distribu-

tion of Land Passbooks.

The Commissioner Secretary was also informed that almost 68,000 land passbooks have been generated/distributed so far in all 7 Tehsils of the District and by 31st of March all the said land passbooks will be distributed.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary Revenue also reviewed the status of SVAMITVA scheme and asked for 100% property card distribution.

He was informed that the ground truthing has been completed in all the rural villages of Srinagar District.

He was further informed that the relevant maps have also been submitted to Survey of India.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Fazlul Haseeb, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Raies Ahmad, SDM East, all Tehsildars and other concerned were present in the meeting.



## 15th Sub Junior National Soft Tennis Championship Begins

J&K Sports Council hosts the event



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The inaugural function of 15th Sub-Junior National Soft Tennis Championship was held in Gindun Sports Stadium, Rajbagh, here on Friday.

Abid Hussain, Additional Commissioner Kashmir was the chief guest on the occasion besides Coulibaly D Herve, Diplomat Burkina Faso, and West Africa presided over the function as guest of honour in addition to Nuzhat Ara and Nusrat Gazala Divisional Sports Officers Kashmir and Central respectively also attended the function as guest of honour.

The special invitee G.Vegda who is Executive Director of Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India was also present during the inaugural function of the competition besides other officials of J&K Sports Council office bearers of the Tennis Association.

More than 350 players and officials from around 20 states and union territories of the country

are participating in the competition which shall culminate on 28th of this month.

The Additional Commissioner in his speech appreciated the role of J&K Sports Council for providing the platform to the budding players to showcase their talent and environment to hone their skills under the tutelage of best professionals. He also encouraged the participants to do well in the championship besides welcoming guest participants.

Dr. Ghulam Hassan General, Secretary J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association appreciated the role of J&K Sports Council for extending all the support to organise the event.

Many officials from Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India, Secretaries of Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India from different states and UTs, dignitaries, media persons and sports enthusiasts attended the function in large numbers.

## Director YSS Chairs Review Meeting Of DYSSOs

Deptt to launch mega Plantation Drive across J&K on 28th March: Gazanfar Ali

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Director Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K Gazanfar Ali on Friday chaired an important physical cum virtual meeting of all the DYSSOs of both divisions of the UT and engineering wing of J&K Sports Council. While discussing the physical and financial status of works under Capex 2021-22.

Director YSS&S impressed upon all the districts officers to keep a close track of the works being carried out in their respective districts. He strictly directed his subordinate officers for the utilisation of funds within the stipulated time. A detailed review of the activities being organised across UT was also taken by Gazanfar Ali.

In his concluding remarks Director Sports said, "Dear colleagues, I'm really happy that most of you

have shown good results while chasing this year's targets. In a few districts I have noticed less enthusiasm, which can still be avoided by putting efforts with zeal.

"You have many targets to achieve up to ending March, be it YSS Cup, capex or general activities."

While sharing the details about the mega plantation drive being carried out by the Department, he said, "As you know, our Department is launching a mega Plantation Drive across J&K on 28th March under the supervision of Principal Secretary to Government Department Of Youth Services and Sports J&K Mr Alok Kumar and the most beautiful and alluring aspect of this plan is that everyone has to hang his/her name plate on the plant/tree which he/she plants."

He hoped that all the stakeholders will show great enthusiasm and make this drive a great success.

## IPL Returns Home Bigger Than Ever



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Indian cricket's crown jewel, the IPL, is back home: bigger, better and longer.

It will be the first time since 2011 that 10 teams be fighting it out for the most coveted T20 trophy in world cricket.

Two new entrants, Lucknow Supergiants and Gujarat Titans, fetching a combined price of approximately USD 1.7 billion shows that brand IPL keeps getting bigger.

It took 14 years but the league has now well and truly gone global.

The owners of the iconic Manchester United also wanted a slice of the IPL pie but lost to the RPSG Group and Britain-based CVC group on the bidding table.

With the COVID situation under control in the country, the board's top-brass can breathe easy and after a two year gap, IPL is set to be held in India in its entirety with at least 25 percent capacity of crowd allowed in stadiums this season.

The number of games have been increased to 74 from 60 with the addition of new teams, extending the IPL window to over two months.

All teams however will play 14 games each like in the past but will a longer tournament impact the intensity and quality of cricket, only time will tell.

The board has learnt from the harsh lessons of the 2021 edition when the tournament had to be suspended midway due to the raging pandemic and could only be completed in the UAE four months later.

No air travel will be required this season with all the league games to be organised in four venues in Maharashtra (three Mumbai and one in Pune).

For curators, maintaining the trueness of pitches over two

months will be a challenge but at least the half of the tournament is set to be a high-scoring affair.

One can expect more bounce on the red soil pitches of Wankhede, CCI and D Y Patil while the black soil surface in Pune is expected to offer more turn.

With Supergiants and Titans building their teams from scratch and the existing franchises having to release a chunk of their players before the mega auction, the 2022 edition can well be one of the most competitive in tournament history.

Ahead of the World Cup to be played in Australia later this year, the IPL will also decided fate of a few Indian players.

**NO HOME ADVANTAGE FOR MI?**

Rohit Sharma has insisted that there will be no home advantage for Mumbai Indians but he and the likes of Kieron Pollard, Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and Ishan Kishan won't certainly mind playing in their own backyard.

Having let of go of Pandya brothers and Trent Boult, the team doesn't look the same formidable outfit at least on paper.

At Royal Challengers Bangalore, all eyes will be on Virat Kohli like usual, though, he has happily relinquished the captaincy.

With the burden of leading the side off his shoulders, the former India skipper is expected to come back to his batting best and play an important role in taking the team to its elusive title.

Longtime CSK batter Faf du Plessis has been given the captaincy with a hope that he would be able to do what has not been done before at RCB.

**FAREWELL SEASON FOR DHONI?**

Dhoni has done a Dhoni by giving up CSK captaincy three days before their opening game. While his decision did not come

as a shock, it has fuelled speculation whether he would feature in all the games.

The 40-year-old stepping aside has also put the spotlight on Ravindra Jadeja, who will be captaining a high-profile team for the very first time.

Jadeja's stellar form in international cricket over the last couple of years would surely give him the confidence to lead from the front and in times of crisis, he will anyway have Dhoni by his side.

**TIME FOR IYER, K L AND HARDIK TO ENHANCE CAPTAINCY CREDENTIALS**

Having led Delhi Capitals to their first ever final, Iyer was sidelined from captaincy following a shoulder injury. He decided to go back into the auction and KKR paid big money for his services.

The stylish batter has shown rich form for India of late and he will be hoping to carry that into the IPL and inspire KKR to their third title.

His India teammate Hardik Pandya's progress will be followed closely over the course of the IPL. Having lost his place in the Indian team due to his inability to bowl regularly following a back surgery in 2019, Hardik has a point to prove.

It is still not clear if he would bowl often in the IPL, making his form with the bat all the more crucial. Either way, he will have to come up with something special to resurrect his career and also ensure first timers Gujarat put up a competitive show.

Hardik's close friend K L Rahul will also need to inspire a young unit. Success eluding him as captain, both at India and IPL level, the opener will be eyeing another prolific season with the bat besides leading an exciting bunch of cricketers.

## Australia Dismiss Pakistan In Final Session To Win Series



Agencies

**LAHORE:** Pakistan failed Friday to hold out in the last session of the third and final cricket Test which Australia won by 115 runs to clinch the series 1-0. The hosts were dismissed for 235 in their second innings on a worn-out wicket as Australia enjoyed a successful end to its first test series in Pakistan since 1998.

Resuming on 73-0, and entering the final session at 190-5, Pakistan collapsed against veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who got plenty of turn and bounce from a fifth-day wicket and finished with 5-83 from 37 overs.

Australia was rewarded for setting Pakistan a challenging target of 351 after boldly declaring its second innings at 227-3. Pakistan had conceded a deci-

sive 123-run lead after scoring 268 in its first innings in reply to Australia's 391.

Lyon bowled an unchanged marathon spell of 28 overs on the last day. Pacer Pat Cummins clean bowled No. 11 Naseem Shah to finish off Pakistan. Opener Imam-ul-Haq (70) and captain Babar Azam (55) scored fighting half centuries but the rest of Pakistan's batters crumbled against the menacing reverse swing of Cummins, who took 3-23, and the sharp spin of Lyon.

The first test ended in a tame draw at Rawalpindi where the pitch was rated as below average by the ICC. Babar's brilliant 196 in more than 10 hours denied Australia a win at Karachi where Pakistan played out 171.4 overs in more than five sessions and forced an epic draw. (AP)

## Italy Miss 2nd Straight World Cup, Portugal Beat Turkey To Edge Closer To Qualification

Agencies

**PALERMO:** Italy has gone from winning the European Championship to failing to qualify for the World Cup in just eight months.

In a rapid and stunning fall from grace, the Azzurri were upset by North Macedonia in a 1-0 loss that headlined a night of drama in the European qualifying playoffs on Thursday.

Italy will miss out on back-to-back World Cups for the first time in the national team's storied history, having also failed to get to the tournament in 2018.

It was only in July that Roberto Mancini and his players were celebrating winning Euro 2020 at Wembley Stadium, supposedly completing Italian soccer's redemption story.

On Thursday, there were tears of a different kind, and a general feeling of disbelief inside the Stadio Renzo Barbera in Palermo.

"Just as last July was the best thing I experienced at a professional level, this is the greatest



disappointment," Mancini said. "Soccer is like that, sometimes incredible things happen."

The winner for North Macedonia, which hasn't played at the World Cup since gaining independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991, came in the second minute of stoppage time from Aleksandar Trajkovski's low shot into the corner from outside the area.

It sparked wild scenes of jubilation among the North Macedonian players, who also beat Germany away almost a year ago to the day.

Standing in their way in Tuesday's playoff final will be another of Europe's leading soccer nations, Portugal, which beat Turkey 3-1 to keep alive Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of appearing in what is likely to be his final World Cup. (AP)

## Gossain Nard Forests: 4 Km Long Trekking Route Thrown Open

PCCF inspects Pampore Forest Range

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Mohit Gera, along with APCCF Kashmir T. Rabi Kumar on Friday conducted inspection of Pampore Forest Range of Awantipora Forest Division.

He was accompanied by Conservator of Forests, Kashmir South Circle, Irfan Ali Shah, DFO Lidder Forest Division Dr. Mehraj and Deputy Director PPF Dr. Mumtaz Majid and other Forest officials.

The PCCF (HoFF) threw open a trek route in biodiversity rich Gossain Nad Forest which is a 4 km trek with final destination as Wustervan point from where there is visible a 360 degree view

of Kashmir valley.

A trekking expedition of local trekking groups was also flagged off and Char-



Deodar point was also thrown open to the public where a small trek rest place has been developed by the Forest Department. Four Deodar plant saplings were planted there.

Later, the PCCF (HoFF) visited India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Center at Pampore where an institutional plantation pro-

gram was carried out. On this occasion free distribution of Conifer saplings among the public was also done.

In the evening, a forest awareness programme was organised in the jam packed conference Hall of the institute in which scientists, poets, lawyers, saffron growers and local panchayat members spoke on the importance of forests.

Dr Mohit Gera, PCCF (HoFF), J&K spoke about efforts made by the Department of J&K for Afforestation and Rehabilitation of degraded forests. He said the Government has initiated Green J&K Drive program to increase the green cover and against the planting target of 1.30 crore this year, about 1.10 crore saplings have been planted in J&K till now.

## Was Lucky To See How Dhoni's Brain Works: Du Plessis

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** From having Virat Kohli as part of the leadership group to learning from 'captain cool' MS Dhoni during his stint with CSK, Faf du Plessis is all excited to lead Royal Challengers Bangalore in the upcoming IPL.

The former South African skipper, who was bought by the RCB for Rs 7 crore in the IPL mega auction earlier this year, was a key member of the Dhoni-led four-time IPL champions since 2012.



"I was lucky enough to play under MS Dhoni for an extremely long time," the 37-year-old said in an interview on the IPL website.

Ahead of their IPL opener against Kolkata Knight Riders, Dhoni on Thursday

handed over the CSK reins to talismanic India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

Effusive in his praise for the World Cup winning India captain, Du Plessis further said: "I got to see very closely how his brain works. You know how things operate under him which was once again very fortunate for me."

Moving over to RCB, Du Plessis, a three-time IPL winner with CSK, will have his task cutout to clinch the elusive title for his new franchise.

Connecting Aspirations

جلدی کیجئے

31 مارچ سے پہلے

یکم اپریل 2022 سے ٹائٹا موٹرز کی تمام تجارتی گاڑیوں کی قیمتوں میں

\*3% تک کا اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔

For details, contact your nearest Tata Motors Authorised Dealer

<b>Fairdeal Motors Pvt. Ltd.</b> Parrimpore Srinagar 9419403623 - 7006323601	<b>Kashmir Valley Motor Pvt. Ltd.</b> Lasjan Bye Pass Srinagar 9319486343	<b>KY Auto Pvt. Ltd.</b> Harnag Anantnag 7411781256
--	---	---