

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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P3 CITY

## SMC FAILS TO INSTALL STREET LIGHTS IN CITY

At a time when the UT Administration is talking about making Srinagar a 'Smart City' but for city dwellers basic necessities of life have become luxuries. Residents from many areas of city are up in arms against authorities for

P5

## WHO WON AN OSCARS?

Four Black actors were nominated for Oscars in 2022, six years after the Twitter campaign #OscarsSoWhite rocked Hollywood. In the long history of Hollywood snubs, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences gets some credit for at least trying



P7 STATE

## SHORTAGE OF TEACHING STAFF HITS EDUCATION SYSTEM IN RAMBAN

Government-run schools in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district are facing an acute shortage of teaching staff as 586 posts of principals, lecturers,



Age is a high price to pay for maturity

- Tom Stoppard

## NEWS DIGEST

### J&K Logs 19 New Corona Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir registered on Monday 19 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while no fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Jammu division reported just two new cases of Covid-19 while the remaining 17 were **More on P6**

### Youth Stabbed In Srinagar, Hospitalized

SRINAGAR: A 23-year-old youth was injured after being stabbed in Rainawari area of Srinagar on Monday, officials said. They said the person was brought to SMHS hospital after being referred from JLN Rainawari hospital. He has been identified as **More on P6**

### 1 Killed, 56 Injured In Bus Crash

SRINAGAR: One person was killed while 56 passengers were injured on Monday in a road accident in Nowshera area of Rajouri district. Officials said that an accident took place when a bus on the way to Nowshera from Lam plunged into a roadside gorge. "Fifty six persons were injured in this accident, who **More on P6**

### Srinagar Youth Found Dead In Shopian

SRINAGAR: A youth from Srinagar on Monday was found dead under mysterious circumstances in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Famed Ahmad Malla, a resident of Burzahama area of Srinagar was found dead in a water body by locals in Kadgam village of the district on **More on P6**

## ILLEGAL ARMS LICENCE CASE

# ED Reveals Nexus Between Babus, Dealers In J&K



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has seized "incriminating" documents that allegedly indicate transactions between weapon dealers and bureaucrats in issuance of illegal arms licences in Jammu and Kashmir between 2012-16.

The agency, which is probing the case under the anti-money laundering law, said it had launched raids against some IAS and Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers, junior government officials and arms dealers on March 24 across the Union territory.

Searches have been conducted at 11 locations, including residential premises of Indian Administrative Service (IAS)

officer Rajeev Ranjan (former DC, Kupwara), KAS officers Itrat Hussain (former DC, Kupwara) and Ravinder Kumar Bhatt (former ADC, Kupwara), and former judicial clerks at arms section in DC office, Kupwara Tariq Ather and Gajan Singh, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said in a statement.

The residential premises of six arms dealers of Jammu and Kashmir, including Amarnath Bhargava (Varun Armoury), his brother Mukesh Bhargava (Bhargava Gun House), Surjeet Singh (Deshmesh Armoury), Mohinder Kotwal (Mohinder Kotwal Arms & Ammunition), Manohar Singh (Swaran Arms & Ammunition), and Devi Dayal Khajuria (Khajuria Arms) were also searched, it said.

Cash worth **More on P6**

**6** **INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS** in the form of property documents and loose papers revealing transactions between the arms dealers/brokers and government officers/officials have been seized."

## Heart Attack Kills Young Kashmiri Engineer In Saudi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 25-year-old civil engineer from south Kashmir's Kulgam district died of heart attack in Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Mustakeen Ahmad Pandit, son of Nazir Ahmad Pandit, a resident of Dessan Yaripora died of a heart attack in Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Pandit was working in Al Yamama Company as civil engineer for the past two years.

Meanwhile, the family of Pandit has appealed to the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Ministry of External Affairs for the early return of his body from Saudi Arabia so that they can perform his last rites.

Former Jammu **More on P6**

## Grenade Lobbed At SOG Camp In Shopian

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Monday lobbed a grenade on the camp of Special Operations Group (SOG) in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

According to the reports, the grenade was thrown towards the SOG camp in Imam Sahab area by unknown militants on Monday evening. The grenade, reports said, exploded with a bang. However, no reports of loss to life or property was received in the attack.

Soon after the attack, the SOG personnel launched a search operation in the vicinity to nab the attackers.

Meanwhile, Police claimed to have arrested two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants **More on P6**

## Indian Troops On LOC Get Finnish Sniper Rifles

Press Trust Of India

PALLANWALA: The Indian Army has inducted the latest sniper rifles from Finland for soldiers deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

"The latest sniper rifles have been inducted into the army. They are using it now. These are Sako .338 TRG-42 sniper rifles, a senior official said.

The Sako .338 TRG-42 sniper rifles have a better range, fire-power, and telescopic sights than those possessed by the adversary, the official said.

Snipers along the LoC are being trained on the new rifles, he said.

The move is to make the snipers more **More on P6**

## LG Asks Waqf Board To Generate Returns For Community Development

'J&K Witnessing Growth, Development In Every Sphere Of Life'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday asked the newly appointed body of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board to explore the potential of generating considerable returns from its properties in the Union Territory for the socio-economic development of the community.

Sinha made these remarks on Monday while felicitating and addressing the newly appointed Chairperson, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi and members- Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, Syed Mohammad Hussain, Sohail



Kazmi, and Nawab Din, of J&K Waqf Board, an official spokesperson said.

"I have been told that there are more than 32,000 registered waqf properties in J&K today. Many of these properties have the potential of generating

considerable returns, which in turn could be used for the socio-economic development of the community", the LG said.

He said that the board, now operating as per Central Waqf Act, will bring transparency in the administration **More on P6**

**6** **DEDICATED EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE** to bring in investment in the UT, generate ample employment avenues, make recruitments transparently and utilise every penny for the welfare of ordinary citizens,"

## Transporters Body Calls For 'Chaka Jam' On Mar 30

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Welfare Transporters Welfare Association, an amalgam of various transporters associations, on Monday called for complete 'Chaka Jam' (stop wheels) strike on March 30 in favour of their demands.

Among others, the Association demands roll back of the order dated February 7 by virtue of which age limit has been prescribed for the commercial vehicles.

They have demanded "25 years age for the commercial vehicle be retained."

As per the new order, all the commercial vehicles are being phased out after 20 years in Jammu and Srinagar.

They have also demanded revocation of the order, calling for installation of vehicle tracking devices in the passenger vehicles.

"Order regarding collection of Passenger tax which has been linked to the renewal of route permit of the vehicles shall also be recalled," the **More on P6**

## Work Begins On Sharda Temple Along LoC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The work to construct Mata Sharda temple and centre close to the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Teetwal belt has begun, officials have said.

The temple located in northern Kashmir's Kupwara district will be built with a view to revive centuries-old pilgrimage to Sharda Peeth temple in the Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PcK), said officials of the Save Sharda Committee (SSC).

"Sharda yatra temple committee (SYTC) started construction work of ancient **More on P6**

## Police Officer Faces Heat Over Bribe Allegations

Ex-SHO Nishat Suspended, Regular Departmental Inquiry Ordered

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A day after attaching him with DPL, former Station House Officer of Nishat police station has been placed under suspension along with the Head Constable following a preliminary investigation into allegations of bribery against the duo, officials said on Monday.

The police Head Constable had allegedly approached a person and sought money as corruption from him.

A senior police officer told a local news agency GNS that

preliminary inquiry has now been changed into regular departmental inquiry. "Both of them have been placed under suspension," the officer said.

Asked why the former SHO was placed under suspension when he was already attached with the DPL, the officer said: "While head constable was prima facie found to be involved, the ex-SHO's role was found to be suspicious. That is why a regular departmental inquiry."

He said that regular departmental inquiry would make things "crystal clear" and further course of action would be decided based on its findings.

"Tough action would be taken against whosoever was found involved," the officer said, adding, "general public **More on P6**

## New Panel To Implement Town Planning Schemes in J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government on Monday constituted Divisional Level Steering Committee for formulation and implementation of Town Planning Schemes (TPS) for divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

With Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, and Kashmir respectively as its chairman, the committee has been tasked to prepare a Town Planning Scheme for identified areas in the Jammu and Kashmir Divisions and submit the same to the Government within prescribed time schedule.

It has been also tasked with implementation of the approved Town Planning Scheme on ground including formation of the Special Purpose Vehicle for its successful implementation, reads an order issued by the government.

Its terms of reference include preparation of the Terms of Reference for hiring of the consultant; Drafting legislation for Local Area Planning and Town Planning Scheme implementation after evaluating the different legislation related to management, development and control of land in urban areas and Coordination **More on P6**

## Govt Forms Committee On ECBC, ENS

The government on Monday constituted a committee for implementation and enforcement of Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) and Eco-Niwas Samhitta (ENS) in Jammu and Kashmir. The committee has been formed in terms of Energy Conservation **More on P6**

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR OBSERVER







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Tuesday| 29-03-2022

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## Research Shows Healthy Home Cooking Benefits People's Mental Health

ANI

According to a new study, being confident in the kitchen is not only good for your taste buds, but it's also good for your mental health.

The research, led by the Edith Cowan University (ECU), was published in the journal, 'Frontiers in Nutrition'.

The study follows ECU's partnership with The Good Foundation and Jamie's Ministry of Food initiative, with a mobile food kitchen providing cooking classes in the community as well as at the University's Perth and SW campuses, throughout 2016 to 2018.

In total, 657 participants undertook the seven-week healthy cooking course.

At the same time, ECU Institute for Nutrition Research academics measured the program's effect on participants' cooking confidence and self-perceived mental health, as well as their overall satisfaction around cooking and diet-related behaviours.

Researchers found those who participated in the program saw significant improvements in general health, mental health and subjective vitality immediately after the program which

remained six months after completing the course when compared to the study's control group.

Improvements in cooking confidence, the ability to easily change eating habits and overcome lifestyle barriers to healthy eating were also reported.

Lead researcher Dr Joanna Rees said the study showed the importance of diet for mental health.

"Improving people's diet quality can be a preventive strategy to halt or slow the rise in poor mental health, obesity and other metabolic health disorders," she said.

"Future health programs should continue to prioritise the barriers to healthy eating such as poor food environments and time restrictions, whilst placing greater emphasis on the value of healthy eating via quick and easy home cooked meals, rich in fruit and vegetables and avoiding ultra-processed convenience foods," she added.

The institute has previously found a link between eating more fruits and vegetables and improved longer-term mental health in a larger study collecting more sophisticated dietary data, implying the participants in the current

study may have felt better due to improved diet.

However, the study showed participants' mental health improved despite their reported diet not being found to have changed after completing the program.

Also, the mental health benefits were equal among participants who were overweight or obese, and those in a healthy weight range.

"This suggests a link between cooking confidence and satisfaction around cooking, and mental health benefits," Dr Rees said.

The study also revealed cooking remains a highly gendered task.

At the start of the program, 77 per cent of participants who identified as female claimed to be confident about cooking, compared to just 23 per cent of those who identified as male.

But at the end of the program, cooking confidence and cooking skills were equal across both counterparts.

"This change in confidence could see change to the household food environment by reducing the gender bias and leading to a gender balance in home cooking," Dr Rees said.

**قادری خاندان کو صدمہ**

بست و سوسہ یوسفیان معظم کشیدہ  
چوں مبارک احمد قادری آؤ نمود ارتحال  
از سر آؤ دلہ و درگفت شوکت بر ملا  
دایغ برادر سے بھائے آؤ دہ سال وصال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ مبارک احمد قادری ساکنہ شالیمار سر پتھر 27 مارچ 2022ء بروز اتوار اپنے مالک حقیقی سے جا ملے۔ مرحوم نیک سیرت، بلند اور خوش اخلاق کے مالک تھے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ سوگواروں کو یہ صدمہ عظیم برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی بروز بدھوار تیارخ 30 مارچ صبح 9:30 اں کے آبائی مقبرہ شالیمار میں منعقد ہوگی۔

**سوگواران**  
سید مقبول قادری (برادر)، سید منیب قادری (فرزند) و دیگر بھائی

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Govt. Industrial Training Institute (Women) Bemina Srinagar**  
website: [www.itibemina.org](http://www.itibemina.org) email: [iti.beminawomen@gmail.com](mailto:iti.beminawomen@gmail.com)

Correspondence Address : Near Directorate of Skill Development and State Board of School Education, Bemina Bye Pass, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K. Pin code : 190018

No:- ITI/Bem/Gen/ 1097      Dated:-28-03-2022

**CONDOLENCE**

A condolence assembly of all staff members was held at Govt. Women ITI Bemina campus wherein the employees condole the sad and untimely demise of Sh. Mohd.Shafi Shigen employee of this institution.

While paying rich tributes the employees expressed grief and sorrow over the death of a man having tremendous integrity, honesty, gentleness and sincerity.

The employees of this institution expressed their shock and heartfelt condolences to the departed soul and pray to almighty to grant him Jannat-ul- Firdous and give courage to family to bear this irreparable loss.

Superintendent  
Women Iti Bemina  
INF

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**NAME:- Sayar Ahmad Bhat**  
**S/O :- Mohd Ashraf Bhat**  
**R/O:- Sursona Anantnag**

rna

**NOTICE**

It is here informed general public that I Yasir Ahmed Joo father of Mahir Hussain Joo wants to correct the parentage of my son in the school records from Yasir Ali Joo to Yasir Ahmed Joo. In this regards if anyone has any objection he or she approach to Principal Crescent Public School Naseem Bagh, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publications of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

walnutads.in

**Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir**  
**NOTICE**

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Farooq Ahamd Khanday S/o Mohammad Ramzan handay R/o Ali Jan Road Safa Kadal Sgr ( Transferor) and Shri Bilal Nabi Baba S/o Ghulam Nabi Baba R/o Ishber Nishat Sgr ( Transferee) for transfer of Innova carriage route Permit No 8455/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01T- 5410

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STW Co NAMELY Bagh Hussain

NOJK-RTOK 3040      Sd/-  
Dated: 22/03/2022      Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR SHANGUS**

Subject: Land Alienation case OF Koshiyla Devi W/o Prathvinath D/o Darshan Bhat R/o Utersoo (Briarangan) Tehsil Shnagus Distt. Anantnag A/P Migrant at Talabtelu Jammu through attcmg holder Mohd Shaban Bhat S/o Ashoor Bhat R/o Utersoo (Briarangan Distt. Anantnag

**Notice**

The above titled land Alienation case of land measuring 1 kanal 14 marlas under survey No 2051 min situated at village uttersoo Briarangan tehsil Shangus Distt. Anantnag is. underprocess in this office for grant of permission under section 3 of J & K migrant immovable (preservation , protection and restrained on distress sales) Act,1991. The land is proposed to be sold to Husair Ahmad Bhat S/o late Gh Rasool Bhat R/o uttersoo (Briarangan) Tehsil Shangus Distt. Anantnag through Mohd Shaban Bhat S/o Ashoor Bhat R/o Utersoo (Briarangan) Tehsil Shangus Distt. Anantnag.

If anybody is having any objection regarding sale of this land, he may furnish/file his/her objection in writing before undersigned personally or through agent within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the date no claim shall be entertained

No: 1297/OO/TS/2022      rna  
Dated 12-03-2022      Tehsildar Shagus

از نیات ہر دوشورہ  
مضمون درخواست : فیروز احمدی ولد عبدالرشید بٹ ساکنہ ترکہ بٹہ پورہ بمراو عطا لگی DOB certificate بجن دختر خنسیہ فیروز دختر فیروز احمدی

اشہار بمراو آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست باہت حصول تاریخ پیدائش سرفٹیکٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ ساکن فیروز احمدی کی دختر خنسیہ فیروز کی تاریخ پیدائش مورخہ 2017-06-16 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 یکم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار      mks

**Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian**  
**NOTICE**

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Manzoor Ahamd Dar S/o Ab Kabir Dar R/o Doompura Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle -- Regd. No. JK22-1735 (Commercial/ Non Commercial ) covering under R/P NO: -----

And Mr./ Mrs Ghulam Nabi Khan S/o Raj Wali Khan R/o Khunmoh Sgr (Parti No 2nd ) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Gh Mohd Mir S/o Abdul Ahad Mir R/o Mastpora Keller Shopian.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned

No any representation/ objection shall be enteretained after stipulated period.

No : 1351/Arto/Spn  
Dated 28-03-2022

S/D Asst Regional  
Transport Officer Shopian  
fko

**Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian**  
**NOTICE**

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Mohammad Iafar Seh S/D/W/o Gh Mohammad Seh R/O Padterwal Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle -- Regd. No. JJK22B- 3606 (Commercial/ Non Commercial ) covering under R/P NO: -----

And Mr./ Mrs Nazir Hussain Nengroo S/o Habib Ullah Nengroo R/o Khursh Roy alan, Bijbehara Anantnag (Parti No 2nd ) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Gh Mohd Mir S/o Abdul Ahad Mir R/o Mastpora Kellei Shopian.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned

No any representation/ objection shall be enteretained after stipulated period.

No : 1319/ARTO/Spn  
Dated 28-03-2022

S/D Asst Regional  
Transport Officer Shopian  
fko

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

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Bilal Ahamd Mir  
S/o Wali Mohamad Mir  
R/o Rathson Beerwah

**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
Secondary School Examination (class 10th )  
Roll No 463493      Session /Year Annual Pvt 2008

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Magam  
bmg

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Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara**  
**QUOTATION**

For & on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara invites sealed quotations affixed with Rs.2/- revenue stamp from registered Stand Association for the Year 2022-23. Only such can apply who have been duly authorized by Sumo Stand /Taxi Stand Association for operating the Vehicle and can be requisitioned by this Division.

S No.	Item Description	Quantity
1.	Hiring of Vehicle on Monthly rent basis to be used in this division	01/No

1. The quotations be supported by cost of Tender document in shape E-Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (E-Challan) of Rs. 200/- in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority )

2. The Successful quotationer has to produce the earnest money of Rs. 2500/- in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B division Kupwara

3. The Quotation should reach in the office of the undersigned on or before 01-04-2022 up to 2.00PM in person or registered post.

Terms and conditions:-

1. The opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reasons thereof.

2. The quotationer shall quote their rates clearly without any cuttings or over writings alternations.

3. The rates shall be inclusive of all taxes.

4. Punctuality will have to be ensured and log book shall be maintained by the driver for this purpose. The driver should not leave the office in the evening without prior permission of the concerned officer in any case.

5. No mileage will be allowed for lunch / tea of the driver.

6. The driver provided by the contractor should fulfill the following conditions:

a) Should be in possession of valid driving license issued by RTO.

b) Should not smoke; chew Pan / Pan masala / Tobacco

7. In case of breakdown of any vehicle during duty, it shall be the responsibility of the firm to provide a substitute vehicle, which is of similar make as replacement immediately

No:-14506-09      Executive Engineer  
DT:- 24-03-2022      R&B Division Kupwara  
DIPK-20132/21

**Government Medical College, Srinagar**  
10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010  
Phone No. 0914-2504114 Fax No 0194-2503115

Subject: Selection of Dr. iram Kahkashan (Not an inservice candidate) as Demonstrator in the Department of Pharmacology, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

Reference: i. This office Advertisement No. 06 of 2021 Dated. 05-07-2021.  
ii. Character and antecedent verification report received from CID, J&K Vide NO. CIDA/B/2022/FINAL/2926-237/HLT

**OFFICE ORDER NO:127-RA OF 2022.**  
**DATED: -03-2022.**

Pursuant to the recommendations of Selection Committee which met on 15th November 2021 and verified the antecedents from Criminal investigation Department (CID), Dr. iram Kahkashan, not an inservice candidate, who has applied for the post of Demonstrator in the Department of Pharmacology, Government Medical Srinagar is provisionally engaged as Demonstrator on Academic Arrangement basis initially for a period of one year which is extendable upto (05) years on basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned HOD.

The tenure of above selectee is on academic arrangement basis and will be governed by the rules and regulations as envisaged in S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.

The appointment of the above doctor is further subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. Before joining the Department the selected candidate shall submit an affidavit in the office of the Registrar Academics, Government Medical college, Srinagar, duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate/first class Magistrate to the effect that: -

a. she is not an inservice, the information if found wrong the selectee shall be punished under Rules which includes confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.

b. she will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of her tenure engagement, in the event she proceeded on strike, her tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.

c. she shall remain disciplined during the tenure period, any kind of misconduct make her liable for termination without any prior notice.

d. she is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending or registered in any criminal department or police station against her.

e. she leaving the job in midway shall not be entitled for any experience certificate.

f. she will not indulge herself in any private practice. In case she is found doing private practice her appointment shall be terminated without any notice.

2. The above not an inservice candidate doctor shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on a prescribed format (Form A) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement same can be downloaded from the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar.

3. The appointee is required to join within (21) days from the date of issuance of the order failing which the order shall be deemed to have cancelled. The selected candidate is supposed to submit her joining report in the office of the Registrar Academics, Government Medical College, Srinagar before she will be directed to report to the concerned Department.

4. The Registrar appointed on Academic Arrangement basis shall be paid as per S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.

DIPK-20120/21      Principal/ Dean  
No: AR/MC/SecI/DJ/ 4118-22/MC      Govt Medical College Sriangar





## DC Asks Banks To Establish Help Desk In Every Branch

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To evaluate the progress achieved under Annual District Credit Plan of Srinagar district for financial year 2021-22, a meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed AijazAsad.

The meeting was informed that credit to the tune of Rs 4004.44 Crore has been disbursed among 84526 beneficiaries of Srinagar district by different financial institutions under priority and non-priority sectors by quarter ended December, 2021 against the target of 6574.39 crore for 145792 beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed on all the line departments and Banks op-

erating in the district to improve the IEC activities to educate and sensitize the people about financial literacy about different banking products and Government sponsored schemes particularly in rural and urban belts of Srinagar so that they can avail the benefits of such schemes by setting up income generating units.

The DC asked all the Banks operating in the district to ensure Facilitation of Customer Help Desks in every branch of their respective Banks for the convenience of the customers so that they are provided timely status about their cases.

He also stressed on enhancement in the overall credit flow of banks in the district which is essential for financial impetus and improving income levels and thereby help in raising standard of living of people.

## Jal Shakti Employees Protest At Press Enclave

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Employees of the Jal Shakti department (PHE) held a peaceful protest at the press enclave Srinagar to press the government to settle the pending demands of the employees.

The EJAC President MrFayaz Ahmad Shabnamunged the government to

regularize these employees and settle the issue once for all.

“These employees have been appointed in a transparent manner as per the rules and regulations. Employees have suffered a great deal and they are rendering their services against peanuts and their families are bearing the brunt in these sky rocketing prices”. Shabnam said.

## Police Asks Rickshaw Owners To Remove ‘Hidden Cavities’

Agencies

Srinagar: Police in Srinagar on Monday asked Auto-rickshaw owners to remove “hidden cavities”, claiming that some crimes have been noticed using these 3-wheeler vehicles.

“All Auto-rickshaw owners/drivers are requested to remove the hidden cavities by concealing the rear seat wherein nothing is visible from outside,” Srinagar police said in a tweet. “Some crimes have come to notice where such autos were used to commit crime,” it added. (GNS)



## SMC Fails To Install Street Lights In City

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At a time when the UT Administration is talking about making Srinagar a ‘Smart City’ but for city dwellers basic necessities of life have become luxuries. Residents from many areas of city are up in arms against authorities for having failed to install street lights in their areas. Locals say the street lights are defunct in many areas of capital Srinagar. In some localities poles have been erected but lights are yet to be installed.

Residents of the city have expressed resentment over “inordinate” delay in installing street lights in their respective areas.

In many city areas including Rajbagh, Khanyar, Hazratbal, Saidakadal poles have been erected but lights have not been installed. In some localities where street lights have been installed but locals complain the installed lights never lit up the streets.

“Street lights have been installed in our area but they are never switched On” said Syed

Mohsin, a resident of Old City’s Hawal area.

“ Poles have not been erected equidistant to each other. This is unprofessional and makes city look ugly” said Mohsin.

The lighting in the city is being done by three departments together which include J&K Housing Board, Power Development Department (PDD) and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

Despite repeated attempts the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) could not be contacted for comments.

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR) Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub:- Extension in bidding time for this office Short Term e-NIT No. 48 OF 2021-22, Dated: 25-02-2022 for below mentioned work/s:-Part-3:-

Execution of various mechanical works at DWS Waskura-A of MISD Ganderbal.  
Ref:- JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's:-2022\_IFC\_162133\_3

#### Extension Notice

Due to no response to above mentioned sub-part of this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:-

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	04/04/2022 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	05/04/2022 at 1400 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 6356-61  
Dated:- 28-03-2022

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Srinagar

DIPK-2011/21

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: K-0120140091244 From Botakadal to Lalbazar . Now I want to apply for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regrd he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the SHO Police Staton Lal Bazar Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Maqsood Hussain Want R/O Badamwari Sriangar Contact No: 8899053553 abbas advt\_r

ازدعالت انگریزیکسیجسٹریٹدباجل (تحصیلدارامت ناگ) بااعلاش مرچزارصاحب درخواست نمائند: عادل احمدوچی ولدنیر احمدوچی ساکنہ ناگ بااعلاش داتر امت ناگ بھڑش ارنی تاریخ پیدائش مرقلیت نام :-عادل احمدوچی ولدنیر احمدوچی اشتہار برادر اگاہی ہرخاص وعام  
معاملہ مندر عنوان الصدر میں ساکن / سالیہ مذکورہ دئے عدالت پڑا میں ایک درخواست طلقی بیان چیٹ کیا ہے ساکن / ساکن کا تاریخ پیدائش 21/02/2003 ہے۔ اس کی میں مرقلیت پیدائش اگانے کا جواب ہے لہذا مرقلیت مذکورہ ابرا کر نے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دوران طر فی اوقات میں چیٹ کر سے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
RNA انگریزیکسیجسٹریٹدباجل (تحصیلدارامت ناگ)

از نیابت منیر پورہ بااعلاش غلام نبی العین، ست صاحبہ درخواست نمائند: سجاد احمد خان ولد غلام قادر خان ساکنہ کو پال پورہ تحصیل منٹ بھڑش محلہ: EWS-مرقلیت  
اشتہار برادر اگاہی ہرخاص وعام۔  
معاملہ مندر عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست مرقلیت دفتر پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پورٹ جو کہ بیکرواٹی ہے۔ بیکرواٹی سے مراد طلب کی گئی جس سے جان ہے کہ سائل کی خطی پتہ دروہماوں سے وہ جہاں سکونت پڑے ہے۔  
فہر شمار نام ولدیت 1 راجہ بیگم ولد غلام قادر خان 62 سال گھر لکھنا 2 سجاد احمد خان ولد غلام قادر خان 25 سال بے روزگار 3 راجہ جان دیر سجاد احمد خان 29 سال گھر لکھنا 4 عابد سجاد خان سجاد احمد خان 6 سال شیخواری  
اس طرح سائل کا کوئی 04 افراد پیشکش ہے۔ اور سائل کے تہہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔  
۔ سائل کے کہنے کے پاس دھند میں 2 کمال آرائشی موجود ہے۔ سائل کی کوئی سالا تہ عدنی تمام ذرائع سے آجورہ مذکورہ ہے کہ ہیں۔ اس طرح سائل EWS مرقلیت اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا ہوتو وہ بعد خدمات دان کے اندر اندر اپنا عذر یا اعتراض دفتر پیدائش چیٹ کرے۔ بعد کر سے یہاں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
RNA نائب تحصیلدار۔

### Public Notice

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK22B- 2889. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entetaiend.

Mohsin Nawaz Khan  
S/O Shahnawaz Ahamd Khan  
R/O Malik Mohala Shopain ast

### Public Notice

The Name of two wards in school records has been wrongly written as  
a. Fahem Kaisar Dar instead of Waris Kaisar Dar  
b. Atif Kaisar Dar instead of Haris Kaisar Dar  
which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his / her objection in the office of the Rosy Tots Sarnal Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
KAISAR AHMAD DAR  
F/o WARIS KAISAR DAR & HARIS KAISAR DAR  
R/O BANGHADAR ANANTNAG RNA

### Public Notice

I have lost the FITNESS of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03B 6631 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entetaiend.  
AMIR FAYAZ  
S/o FAYAZ AHMAD NAIKOO  
R/o BATPORA ZAINPORA SHOPAIN rna

#### DIAL-EMMA

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



#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### RAILWAYS

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



#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

25 Shaban  
1443

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 01
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:02
Magrib	6:52
ISHA	8: 13

### This Day In History

- 1864 - Great Britain gives the Ionian Islands back to Greece
- 1864 - Union General Steeles troops reach Arkadelphia Arkansas
- 1865 - Appomattox campaign, VA, 7582 killed
- 1865 - Battle of Quaker Road, VA
- 1897 - Japan adopts Gold Standard
- 1901 - Edmund Barton is elected Prime Minister in Australia's first parliamentary election
- 1936 - 10,000 watch the 200-inch mirror blank passing through Indianapolis
- 1936 - Nazi propaganda claims 99% of Germans voted for Nazi candidates.
- 1942 - German submarine U-585 sinks
- 1942 - The Bombing of Lübeck in World War II was the first major success for the RAF Bomber Command against Germany and a German city.
- 1945 - World War II: Last day of V-1 flying bomb attacks on England.
- 1949 - Turkey recognizes Israel
- 1961 - 23rd Amendment to the US Constitution ratified, allowing Washington, D.C. residents to vote in presidential elections
- 1961 - After a 4½ year trial Nelson Mandela is acquitted of treason in Pretoria
- 1966 - Muhammad Ali beats George Chuvalo in 15 for heavyweight boxing title
- 1969 - 14th Eurovision Song Contest: Salome for Spain ("Vivo cantando"), Lulu of United Kingdom ("Boom Bang-a-Bang"), Lenny Kuhr of Netherlands ("De troubadour"), and Frida Boccara of France ("Un jour, un enfant") all win in Madrid
- 1971 Chile president Allende nationalizes banks/copper mines
- 1971 Conrad Van Ernde Boas becomes West Europe's 1st sexology professor
- 1971 - Development of a serum hepatitis vaccine for children announced
- 1973 - US troops leave Vietnam, 9 yrs after Tonkin Resolution
- 1974 - Mariner 10's, 1st fly-by of Mercury, returns photos
- 1974 - Chinese farmers discover the Terracotta Army near Xi'an, 8,000 clay warrior statues buried to guard tomb of China's 1st emperor Qin Shi Huang.
- 1975 - Only 2nd time Islanders beat Rangers
- 1979 - Last day of Test cricket for Mushtaq Mohammad
- 1984 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalitinsk USSR.
- 1986 - Beattie records officially go on sale in Russia
- 1989 - 1st Soviet hockey players are permitted to play for the NHL
- 1989 -1st US private commercial rocket makes suborbital test flight (NM)
- 1994 - Serbs & Croats sign a cease-fire to end the war in Croatia
- 2004 - Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia join NATO as full members.

From KO Archives

## Ghost of '13' shallows Vajpayee

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Digit 13, believed by most of the Westerners, as unlucky, seems to be haunting Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in his race to the Prime Ministership of India.

Vajpayee shall have to waddle to South Block by warding off the unlucky 13, with political astuteness. The digit 13 seems to be shadowing the new Indian Prime Minister as his first ever stint as the country's chief executive lasted for just 13 days, in 1986, when he failed to win confidence vote in the Lok Sabha.

This time, Vajpayee, who is leading a 13 party alliance, to run the affairs of the government, won the crucial confidence vote, with just a margin of 13.

With many volatile political personalities in his alliance, Vajpayee will have to exorcise his government from the ghost of digit 13, by managing support of some more members. May be Farooq Abdullah's National Conference lends him a hand, in raising the “unlucky” number from 13 to 15.  
(Kashmir Observer, 29 March, 1988)

#### از نیابت کنز

مضمون درخواست : محمد رفیق ڈار ولد محمد صبحان ڈار ساکنہ رنیر پورہ بالا برادر

عطا گی DOB certificate بحق پرنش رفیق ڈار

اشتہار برادر اگاہی ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ذکا کو ایک درخواست باہت حصول تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفیکٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ پولیس اسٹیشن کنزروچو کپدار علاقہ نے سائل کے پسر کی پیدائش اندراج نہیں کی ہے سائل محمد رفیق ڈار ولد محمد صبحان ڈار بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکا پسر انوش رفیق ڈار کی تاریخ پیدائش 06-03-2019 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہرخاص وعام 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 کنز

az k



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K O V I E W

Killings continue

A big crowd gathered at a house in the Chad-  
bugh neighbourhood to bid farewell to the  
Special Police Officer Ishfaq Ahmad Dar and  
his brother Umar Ahmad shot at by militants  
in their house on Saturday. While Ishfaq died at home,  
Umar later died at the hospital. When the bodies were  
taken for burial, men and women who had assembled at  
the house wept. Women poured flowers on their coffins  
as they were carried to their final resting place. Former  
J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti rightly tweeted  
that Kashmiris “watch helplessly as young lives are  
snuffed out”. Death and destruction, the rest of her tweet  
said, had become the norm. “Sadly GOI doesn’t seem to  
care since Kashmiri lives have little value for them,” she  
added. Top police officers, including Inspector General  
of Police Vijay Kumar, visited the family’s home and ex-  
tended their sympathies.  
The killings of the policeman and his brother in cen-  
tral Kashmir are the latest reminder that the militancy  
has not gone anywhere. But far from revising its muscu-  
lar policy and choosing engagement and dialogue to ad-  
dress the lingering issues in the state, centre has chosen to  
do nothing. And this attitude has pervaded the country’s  
institutions, including the media. Some televisions chan-  
nels continue to portray Kashmiris in bad light. The TV  
debates also build a hateful stereotype of Kashmiris in the  
rest of India and create an anti-Kashmiri sentiment. This  
media stereotyping of Kashmiris has in turn left some im-  
print on the central government policy on the state too.  
The governments don’t want to be perceived to be “ap-  
peasing” Kashmiris. The harsh policy measures to deal  
with the union territory are welcomed and a constructive  
engagement is opposed. Over the years, this approach has  
further alienated Kashmiris, thereby creating a vicious  
circle. Both New Delhi and Kashmir Valley now deal with  
the stereotypes of each other than the complex realities as  
they exist on the ground. But this needs to change. And it  
is incumbent on the media to present a correct picture of  
the people of the UT as for the union government to get  
serious about the situation in the state.  
The issue is that the shortage of weapons and ammu-  
nition is no dampener for the militants. This is a distur-  
bing turn in the situation. And the new dimension to it  
is that the militancy has caught the fancy of the youth in  
Central Kashmir too. And one reason that things are  
in such a bad shape is that the response to it has so far  
been exclusively security-centric and geared to usher in  
peace by killing all militants. The past eight years have  
once again shown this is unlikely to happen, nor has re-  
cruitment stopped.  
There’s another catch: even if local recruitment  
stops, the infiltration will ensure that a sufficient num-  
ber of militants will always be there to carry on the ji-  
had. So killings of militants and surrenders will hardly  
make any long term redeeming difference. Only resolu-  
tion of the factors underlying the lingering turmoil will.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Testing the Waters

The pragmatism has been in evidence even before  
this. Despite the worst patch in the relations,  
India-China trade has touched new highs. Even  
though the words status quo ante were not used,  
both External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National  
Security Adviser A K Doval have conveyed that the La-  
dakh issue has to be resolved expeditiously before the re-  
lationship can become normal. That much was evident in  
the secrecy around the visit, apparently at the request of  
the Chinese side, and the palpably cold reception Wang re-  
ceived in Delhi. If Wang was keen to convey where he was  
coming from — quite literally from Pakistan, where he  
backed OIC’s “aspirations” for Kashmir, and Afghanistan,  
where he welcomed the Taliban’s desire to participate in  
the Belt and Road Initiative, both red rags for Delhi —  
India responded in kind by lashing out at him for his re-  
marks on Kashmir, on which it said China had “no locus  
standi to comment”, and pointing out that India refrains  
from commenting on China’s “internal issues”.  
While India rightly focused on the Ladakh border, from  
the Chinese point of view, the visit was likely made to gauge  
if India would be willing to play ball by attending, at a time  
of great geopolitical flux, the BRICS summit in June this  
year in China, as well as the Russia-India-China summit.  
For Beijing and Moscow, having Prime Minister Narendra  
Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese Presi-  
dent Xi Jinping, along with the leaders of South Africa and  
Brazil, would be an important diplomatic victory. For now,  
Delhi appears to have conveyed that despite their common  
stand on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, both sides have their  
“respective” positions. The call — to attend or not — will  
have to be made soon, and the decision weighed against  
what could be gained and what might be lost.

The Indian Express

“Har Gaon Hariyali” Will  
Increase Our Carbon Stock

The details of the plantation should be made public in every  
village to ensure transparency in this revolutionary programme

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The Forests play an important role in keep-  
ing climate change under control. They  
sequester more carbon than any other  
natural ecosystem and thus forests are  
both sources and sinks of carbon. The destruction  
of forests leads to decrease in carbon stock as for-  
ests are the major stores of carbon.  
According to a report published in Mongabay,  
a leading environmental web magazine, from 2015  
to 2018 India has lost dense forests the size of Kol-  
kata within four years.  
Quoting Chief Conservator of Forests Agra,  
the report said that as per official data, over 20,000  
hectares of forest area was diverted for thermal  
power plants,mining and several other infra-  
structure projects. Jammu & Kashmir has also  
lost a huge amount of forest cover in the last 30 to  
40 years. Thousands of hectares of forest land with  
huge tree cover has been transferred for construc-  
tion of hydropower projects,dams, transmission  
lines and highways. During this process, thou-  
sands of trees have been axed on the orders of the  
Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Jammu  
& Kashmir Government. The Forest Department  
has been undertaking afforestation programmes  
under various programmes but a lot more needs  
to be done.

fforestation under CAMPA

Our forests are an important natural resource  
which render different kinds of ecological and en-  
vironmental services to human beings and other  
living organisms. The forests have to be protect-  
ed and preserved. Due to continuous population  
growth and various developmental requirements  
the forests are being axed.  
Governments are also helpless as they can’t  
completely stop developmental activities as the  
same happens to be the backbone of our economy.  
Despite the fact that we caused huge losses to  
our forests in Chenab valley or parts of Pir Panjal  
area in Jammu or in Jehlum valley area of Baram-  
ulla , we are still not able to generate enough power  
which will enable us to get 24 x 7 electricity supply.  
In order to compensate for the loss of forest  
area and to maintain the sustainability,the Gov-  
ernment of India came up with a well-defined leg-  
islation known as Compensatory Afforestation  
Fund Act 2016 (CAF Act 2016). The preamble of  
this act reads:  
“An Act to provide for the establishment of  
funds under the public accounts of India and the  
public accounts of each State and crediting there-  
to the monies received from the user agencies  
towards compensatory afforestation, additional  
compensatory afforestation, penal compensa-  
tory afforestation, net present value and all other  
amounts recovered from such agencies under the  
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; constitution of an  
authority at national level and at each of the State  
and Union territory Administration for adminis-  
tration of the funds and to utilise the monies so  
collected for undertaking artificial regeneration  
(plantations), assisted natural regeneration, pro-  
tection of forests, forest related infrastructure de-  
velopment, Green India Programme, wildlife pro-  
tection and other related activities and for matters  
connected therewith or incidental thereto “  
Under this act, there is a provision for crea-  
tion of an authority known as Compensatory  
Afforestation Fund Management and Planning  
Authority also called CAMPA.  
Enactment of CAF Act 2016 has its basis on  
the various pronouncements of Hon’ble Supreme  
Court from 2002 onwards. The law in fact men-  
tions all those judgements.  
According to the provisions of CAMPA, a com-  
pany diverting forest land must provide alterna-  
tive land to take up compensatory afforestation.  
For afforestation, the company should pay to plant  
new trees in the alternative land provided to the  
state. The loss of the forest ecosystem must also  
be compensated by paying for net present value  
(NPV). In 2002, the Supreme Court had observed  
that collected funds for afforestation were under-  
utilised by the states and it ordered for centrally  
pooling of funds under ad hoc Compensatory Af-  
forestation Fund.  
The court had set up the ad hoc National  
Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management  
and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to manage the  
fund. In 2009, states had also set up state CAMPAs  
that received 10 percent of funds from the national  
CAMPA to use for afforestation and forest con-  
servation. In Spite of huge funds available under  
CAMPA the same could not be utilized properly



The details of saplings purchased and planted should be made  
public on official websites. At village level as well, the details should be  
made open so that there are no chances of corruption in this programme

in the past. There are indeed some success stories  
but a lot more could have been done.

REDD Plus Mechanism

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and  
forest Degradation (REDD+) is a mechanism de-  
veloped by Parties to the United Nations Frame-  
work Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
in 2005. Most of the key REDD+ decisions were  
completed by 2013, with the final pieces of the  
rulebook finished in 2015. The “Plus” in REDD+  
lays out the various ways in which countries have  
defined the three activities: conservation, the  
sustainable management of forests and enhance-  
ment of forest carbon stock. This aims to achieve  
climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest  
conservation. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) ,  
established at Conference Of Parties (COP)-17 to  
function as the financial mechanism for the UN-  
FCCC, is currently financing REDD+ programs.  
Brazil was the first country to receive 96.5 million  
USD under the results-based payments.  
India has communicated in its Nationally De-  
termined Contribution (NDC) under Paris Agree-  
ment that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of  
Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree  
cover by 2030.In this regard, India has prepared its  
“National REDD+ Strategy” which was intro-  
duced in 2018 by the Ministry of Environment,  
Forest and Climate Change. The strategy seeks to  
address drivers of deforestation and forest degra-  
dation and also develop a roadmap for enhance-  
ment of forest carbon stocks and achieving sus-  
tainable management of forests through REDD  
plus mechanism.  
J&K Chief Secretary, Dr A K Mehta recently  
chaired the inaugural session of a two day work-  
shop on capacity building of J&K Forest and other  
departments being conducted under REDD-Plus  
Action for Jammu and Kashmir.  
The workshop was organised by J&K Forest  
Department and Himalayan Forests Research In-  
stitute Shimla. Principal Conservator of Forests  
J&K Mohit Gera and Administrative Secretary  
Forests, Environment and Ecology Sanjeev Ver-  
ma were present during the workshop.  
The Chief Secretary said that J&K would  
emerge as a model UT in the environmental sector  
within a year’s time, he asserted. He also called  
for funding such initiatives by convergence of  
funds and expressed happiness to note that as per  
the Government of India Report 2021, Jammu and  
Kashmir has the highest carbon stock per unit  
area. This indicates that J&K has maximum bio-  
mass and good soil quality in forests of J&K.

Har Gaon Haryali

orest department under the leadership of  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Mohit  
Gera early last year had launched a massive affor-  
estation programme called One Beat Guard One

Village Programme. Under this programme, for-  
est department envisaged to undertake massive  
afforestation programme in 1000 villages in J&K  
by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions  
(PRIs), Biodiversity Management Committees  
(BMCs) , Joint Forest Management Committees  
(JFMs) and other Govt and Non Govt Organisa-  
tions (NGOs). In order to make this programme  
more effective and its reach out to all the 5000 vil-  
lage panchayats across J&K, J&K Forest Depart-  
ment launched Har Gaon Hariyali programme  
last year in December.  
‘Har Gaon Hariyali’ program in consonance  
with the vision of ‘Green Jammu and Kashmir’  
drive is to ensure sustainable development and  
promote climate justice which will help increase  
the Carbon Stock especially in our villages located  
near degraded forests. The Government initiated  
the ‘Har Gaon Haryali’ campaign in November  
2021. Under this campaign, the forest department  
in association with the social forestry department  
, soil conservation department and Rural Develop-  
ment Department will undertake massive planta-  
tions ( 1 crore plus) in all the village panchayats  
of J&K. The labour component under Har Gaon  
Hariyali programme is taken care of under MGN-  
REGA. The Social Forestry department is laying  
emphasis on providing hybrid clonal plants to  
farmers from its modern nurseries, so that farm-  
er’s income can be supplemented and sustained  
supply of raw materials to wood based industries  
can be ensured.  
The biggest achievement under Har Gaon Hari-  
yali is that a massive convergence programme is  
taking place by dovetailing funds under MG-NRE-  
GA and the afforestation programme of the forest  
department. The Forest Department would have  
to spend huge money as labour cost to plant the  
saplings but the same is taken care of by the Rural  
Development Department. Govt needs to ensure  
better irrigation facility is provided to the plants  
planted under Har Gaon Hariyali programme.  
Solar water pumps can be provided to villages on  
pilot basis to meet these requirements. The details  
of saplings purchased and planted should be made  
public on official websites. At village level as well,  
the details should be made open so that there are  
no chances of corruption in this programme. Har  
Gaon Haryali will not only help to make our vil-  
lages look greener but also increase our Carbon  
Stock as well across Jammu & Kashmir.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar based  
activist and columnist. He is an Anant Fellow for  
Climate Action



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not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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The Traffic Hellhole — Srinagar

Through the column of this  
reputable paper, I want to  
bring to your attention the  
repercussions of traffic men-  
ace in Srinagar city. Through a com-  
moner’s view, the traffic system in  
the city seems haphazard, as if lack-  
ing any arrangement or organisa-  
tion. Yesterday itself, almost every  
route in the city was blocked and  
jammed due to excessive traffic and  
no surveillance and lack of manage-

ment. Recently, traffic lights have  
been installed across the city but it  
is unfortunate how no one seems to  
adhere to them. It is even more tragic  
how no authority or members of the  
traffic police department are seen to  
be authorising and making sure traf-  
fic rules are followed.  
Traffic jams result in wastage of  
time, and wastage of fuel especially  
when fuel prices are rocketing every  
other day, making it harder for com-

mon people to afford it.  
When all routes in Srinagar were  
jammed yesterday, almost no escort  
from the traffic police department  
was seen to be diverting the traffic  
to clear the jam. As a matter of fact,  
at most of the places it was the local  
boys who did the job. It is as if the  
traffic police department does not  
exist at all. People were stuck in the  
traffic jams for hours altogether, but  
no stern action was taken by the de-

partment which only portrays their  
incompetence in tackling such situ-  
ations.  
Adherence of traffic rules should  
be made sure by hook or by crook.  
The department must realise their  
responsibility and find ways to fill  
the loopholes. I hope you analyse the  
situation and act upon it.

Sarah Koul  
koulsarah@gmail.com



# #OscarsSoWhite Still Plagues Hollywood's Highest Achievement Awards

Frederick Gooding, Jr.

Four Black actors were nominated for Oscars in 2022, six years after the Twitter campaign #OscarsSoWhite rocked Hollywood.

In the long history of Hollywood snubs, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences gets some credit for at least trying to diversify the Hollywood film industry.

After all, it's not a complete shut-out for Black actors, as it was in 2016 when #OscarsSoWhite castigated the Academy for not having a single Black actor nominated for an Oscar in any acting category, despite riveting performances by Michael B. Jordan in "Creed", Will Smith in "Concussion" and Corey Hawkins in "Straight Outta Compton".

When the 94th Academy Awards take place on March 27, 2022, its efforts for diversity – and its shortcomings – will be just as much on display as the designer gowns and outstanding performances.

The four Black actors nominated for the Academy's highest honor this year are longtime Hollywood stars Denzel Washington and Smith, in addition to Aunjanue Ellis and Ariana DuBose – who is also Latina.

These recognitions come on the heels of intensified scrutiny of equitable representation within Hollywood – and concerted efforts by the Academy to diversify. Although there have been winners of color, no Black person has won an Oscar for directing, and only 20 acting awards have gone to performers of color in 94 years.

Given the 336 Oscars for acting that have been awarded over the ceremony's lifetime, actors of color account for roughly 6% of overall wins.

"While the Academy has made strides, we know there is much more work to be done in order to ensure equitable opportunities across the board," Academy CEO Dawn Hudson said in 2020. "The need to address this issue is urgent."

Her response was in stark contrast to former Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs, the Academy's first Black president, who was elected in 2013. When asked about the #OscarsSoWhite campaign in 2015 and whether the Academy had a diversity problem, she responded, "Not at all."



Alternative outlets like Hulu and Netflix are demonstrating that viable audiences are willing to support a wide range of diverse products featuring increasingly diverse casts – with "Bridgerton" and "Squid Game" as a couple of recent examples

As a scholar of American pop culture and race in media, I can say Hollywood has come a long way.

## HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY

On Jan. 15, 2015, Twitter user and activist April Reign first tweeted "#OscarsSoWhite" they asked to touch my hair." Within that day, the hashtag became viral and many Black actors and social activists used the tweet to protest Hollywood's longstanding racism.

To the Academy's credit, it responded to #OscarsSoWhite criticisms by making steps to reconfigure its nomination process that had resulted in such a lack of Black inclusion.

In 2020, for instance, the Academy established new representation and inclusion standards that take effect in 2024. According to its official statements, the new standards were designed to "encourage equitable representation on and off screen in order to better reflect the diversity of the movie-going audience."

But critics have observed how

films with virtually no Black characters like "The Irishman" still meet inclusion standards by employing a white female casting director and a Mexican cinematographer.

## RACIST HOLLYWOOD HISTORY

Racial drama started early in Hollywood.

The first groundbreaking feature-length movie, "The Birth of a Nation," released in 1915, celebrated the Ku Klux Klan. The first talking film ever released in 1927, "The Jazz Singer," featured white actors in blackface.

The Academy kept alive this tradition, with echoes of racist minstrel shows from the early 20th century, in 2008 when Robert Downey Jr. received a Best Supporting Actor nomination for his role in blackface in "Tropic Thunder."

Indeed, during the early history of Hollywood, Black characters were openly denigrated by the stereotypical images that they portrayed. Black actors were usually given badly written roles portraying weak, poor or otherwise dis-

advantaged characters who were dependent on white characters' heroism.

Hattie McDaniel, for example, became the first nonwhite actor to ever win an Academy Award in 1939 with a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her sassy, but servile "Mammy" figure in "Gone with the Wind."

Despite McDaniel's breakthrough Oscar in 1939 and Sidney Poitier's 1963 Best Actor win for "Lilies of the Field", it took more than 40 years before Halle Berry claimed the Best Actress prize in 2002 for her role in "Monster's Ball" – a role that Oscar nominee Angela Bassett rejected due to her refusal to "be a prostitute on film."

In 2011, Octavia Spencer won an Oscar – also for playing a maid like McDaniel – for her role as Minny in "The Help."

Still, in 2002, when Berry won, diversity was center stage in Hollywood. That same year, the Best Actor winner was Washington for his uncharacteristically villainous role in "Training Day."

In addition that year, Poitier received a lifetime achievement award, an acknowledgment for many of his groundbreaking roles throughout his career.

## A LITTLE PROGRESS

Yet, five years after #OscarsSoWhite, British actress Cynthia Erivo represented the lone Black acting nomination in 2020 for her role as Harriet Tubman in "Harriet," leaving Berry as the only Black female to ever be awarded Best Actress.

Overall, of the 86 Black acting nominations over the Academy's 94-year period, over 40% of the nominations have been circulated among repeat contenders like Washington and Smith. Major studios often favor established, sure bets at the expense of new Black talent when it is time to recoup their investments at the box office.

With only a handful of the same Black names garnering nominations, the pool of Black talent celebrated is actually smaller than what it appears.

While in today's movie climate the quantity of nonwhite images has undoubtedly improved, it is the quality of such roles that remain problematic.

## THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

For the same industry that can reproduce exacting replicas, orchestrate mass battles and fashion accurate costumes, it is alarming that such a creative industry cannot figure out how to create substantive diversity onscreen.

Alternative outlets like Hulu and Netflix are demonstrating that viable audiences are willing to support a wide range of diverse products featuring increasingly diverse casts – with "Bridgerton" and "Squid Game" as a couple of recent examples.

But six years after #OscarsSoWhite, the Academy is still struggling to diversify the Hollywood film industry – perhaps a simple lack of imagination is to blame.

Dr. Ronald E. Moore Professor of Humanities and African American Studies, Texas Christian University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

## The Power and Intimacy of Handwriting

Shyam A. Krishna

I love writing. I prefer to do it with a pen. Black ink on white paper. I haven't done that in a while; blame it on PCs. The closest I've come to writing on paper these days is to scribble Post-it notes. That isn't great because it doesn't showcase my handwriting.

My handwriting was good. Legible and neat. It wasn't the usual cursive writing I learnt in primary school. After grappling with it for some years, I gave up cursive writing. Since the focus was to interlink letters, I could never write neatly. And it slowed me down badly.

One day I chanced upon a project report written by my father. It was beautiful. Each letter was crisply formed, with perfect straight lines and lovely curves. I fell in love with his handwriting.

Over the next few days, I tried to copy my father's writing style. And I succeeded. It looked so good that I mustered enough courage to show it to my father. He loved it; he said something like, "you've learnt to write like me." It was nothing like cursive writing, but it was neat and beautiful. It also helped improve my writing speed.

I fell in love with my own handwriting so much that I flaunted it. Nobody could make out the difference between my handwriting and my father's. Except us.

### MY FATHER'S HANDWRITING

The difference was in the finish. My father's script was crisper. More elegant. Perfect as print. Mine wasn't bad. It paled only in comparison with my father's handwriting.

I was fine with it. After all, none of my friends and classmates will get to see my father's handwriting. So long as there was no comparison, my lettering shone well. It was not the best in class, but it was among the best. I was OK with it.

Typewriters came into my life when I became a journalist. Although I had no formal training, I had to use typewriters. With practice, I learnt to type with five fingers at a decent speed. A speed good enough to turn in stories quickly.

I didn't have to physically write stories, and the lack of practice affected by handwriting. The letters began to show signs of deterioration.



I don't write letters anymore. But my close friends still keep my old letters. Letters that spilled into five pages or more. Pages that carried news from our neighbourhood, the pursuits of our mutual friends and our shared passion for cricket, movies and books. They loved my writing and my handwriting

The strokes of 'f' and 'l' ceased to be straight, and the curves of 'c' and 's' were no longer perfect. I continued to write letters to friends and family, but that was an occasional exercise. Not enough to keep a steady hand.

The arrival of computers brought emails with it. Mobile phones came with text messages in tow. Letter-writing became the practice of a distant past. I ceased to put pen on paper. Handwriting became a forgotten art, and the intimacy of letters was lost in

the slipstream of newer technology.

I don't write letters anymore. But my close friends still keep my old letters. Letters that spilled into five pages or more. Pages that carried news from our neighbourhood, the pursuits of our mutual friends and our shared passion for cricket, movies and books. They loved my writing and my handwriting.

One friend's son remembers me and my handwriting from my letters to his dad when he studied in Odisha in the eighties. A long-lost friend from Bengaluru reconnected with me after her husband found my letter during spring cleaning at their Canberra home. My wife treasures the letters I wrote during our college days.

All of them loved my handwriting. But I could never say mine was the best. Because my father's script was always better. A refined version of my handwriting. It always was and remained so till the day he passed away.

These days, my handwriting is restricted to signatures on cheques. When a friend relocated to India recently, my gift was a book. "A handwritten message in the book! I shall treasure it," she emailed me. That's the power of handwriting.

— GULF NEWS

## Who Won an Oscar?

Here are the key winners of 94th Academy Awards or Oscars

### BEST PICTURE

"CODA"

### BEST ACTOR

Will Smith - "King Richard"

### BEST ACTRESS

Jessica Chastain - "The Eyes of Tammy Faye"

### BEST DIRECTOR

Jane Campion - "The Power of the Dog"

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Troy Kotsur - "CODA"

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Ariana DeBose - "West Side Story"

### BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

"Belfast"

### BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

"CODA"

### BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

"Encanto"

### BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM

"Summer of Soul"

### BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

"Drive My Car" - Japan

### BEST ORIGINAL SCORE

"Dune"

### BEST ORIGINAL SONG

"No Time to Die" from "No Time to Die"

### BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM

"The Long Goodbye" Riz Ahmed"



KO WEB DESK



## Two Day Inspire Programme Begins At IUST



**AWANTIPORA:** Two Day Inspire Programme under the theme "Catch Them Young" being organized by the Department of Physics, Islamic University of Science and Technology began here on Monday. The speakers include eminent scientists and renowned academicians of the country who will be motivating graduate and 102 students towards studying physics for higher studies while they discuss the role of physics in relation with other modern courses like Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning etc.

The programme was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo. Prof. Romshoo, who praised the Department for taking the initiative to conduct the programme and making such outreach efforts possible which will benefit the budding students in taking inspiration and motivation to pursue Science in general and Physics in particular as a career. He also highlighted the role of University in outreaching to various College/Schools and creating the scientific awareness among students.

The keynote address was delivered by President, NASI Allahabad, Prof. Ajay Ghatak who highlighted the historical development of Scientific Institutions in India and gave a brief review of the contribution of Indian Scientists in Science especially in the field of Physics Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, while speaking on the occasion lauded the Department of Physics for making remarkable progress since its inception in

2016 and felicitated the galaxy of eminent speakers who will be motivating the participating students throughout this programme. Registrar IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal, who is a renowned Professor of Physics himself highlighted the importance of conducting such programmes in context of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). He also highlighted the significance of conducting the Inspire Programmes for students by citing some exemplary instances, where the students have benefitted immensely from such programmes in the past.

Dean School of Sciences Prof. M. A. Khuroo, in his address stressed on the importance of catching the students at young age and moulding their enthusiasm towards pursuing the career in Physics. He also appreciated the Department for conducting this programme.

Earlier, Head Department of Physics, Dr. Niyaz Ahmad Rather while welcoming the guests and participants talked about the Department of Physics and its achievements in a short span of five years. He also focussed on the necessity of conducting the INSPIRE programme to motivate students to pursue their careers in Physics. He also encouraged the students to avoid rote learning and focus on new ideas. Sr. Assistant Professor Department of Physics, Dr. Farooq Hussain Bhat, presented the vote of thanks. More than 150 participants including Faculty members and students from various colleges and schools of valley are attending the programme.

## Muslim Can Exceed Hindu Population Is Propaganda: Ex Poll Body Chief

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Islam is not hostile to the concept of family planning and it is mere "propaganda" that Muslims can overtake Hindus in terms of population numbers, former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi said on Monday.

There are several myths being spread about the Muslim population in India which are creating hostility among the Hindus against the Muslims, Mr Quraishi said during a discussion on his book "The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India" at the India International Centre here.

Listing the "myths" about the Muslim population in India, he said one of them is that they produce too many children and are solely responsible for the population explosion.

"Yes Muslims have the lowest levels of family planning (FP) -- only 45.3 per cent. Their total fertility rate (TFR) is 2.61 which is the highest. But the fact that Hindus are not far behind, with second lowest FP at 54.4 per cent, and second highest TFR of 2.13, is completely missed," Mr Quraishi said.

Mr Quraishi said it is also a myth that the Muslim population growth is upsetting the demographic balance.

The demographic ratio of India indeed shows an increase in Muslims from 9.8 per cent in 1951 to 14.2 per cent in 2011, and decline in Hindus from 84.2 per cent to 79.8 per cent, but this is an increase of 4.4 percentage points in 60 years, he pointed out.

Asserting that Muslims are adopting family planning faster than Hindus, he said the gap in their number of children is narrowing.



Pointing out that another propaganda is that there is an organised conspiracy by Muslims to overtake the Hindu population to capture political power, he said no Muslim leader or scholar has asked Muslims to produce more children to overtake Hindus.

Citing a mathematical model by professors Dinesh Singh, former Delhi University Vice Chancellor, and Ajay Kumar, he said Muslims can "never" overtake Hindus.

Busting another "myth", he said it is wrong to state that Muslims use polygamy for increasing population as a government study in 1975 found that all communities had some polygamy but the Muslims were the least polygamous.

He said there is a general misconception that Islam encourages polygamy but the reality, however, is different.

Polygamy is also statistically not possible in India as the gender ratio (only 924 women per 1,000 men) does not permit it.

Asserting that Islam is not against family planning, Mr Quraishi said nowhere has the Quran prohibited family planning and there are only interpretations -- both for and against.

Numerous verses of Quran and citations from Hadith emphasise quality over numbers, health of women and children and right of children to good upbringing.

Islam is not only not opposed to family planning but in fact is the pioneer of the concept, he said.

Former Jammu and Kashmir governor N N Vohra, former health secretary K Sujatha Rao and The Population Foundation of India Executive Director Poonam Muttreja also participated in the book discussion.

## B PMJAY-SEHAT Training And Certification programme For PMAMs Begins In J&K

**SRINAGAR:** A four day long Training and Certification programme for capacity building of Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras (PMAMs) of Jammu and Kashmir begins here on Monday.

The programme is being organized by State Health Agency (SHA) for capacity building of PMAMs towards successful implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)/AB PM-JAY SEHAT across Jammu and Kashmir. On the first day, 200 PMAMs in four groups comprising 50 each participated in the training sessions held across different districts of the Union Territory.

In Kashmir region, 100 PMAMs in 2 different batches participated in Training and Certification programme.

The first batch of 50 PMAMs

were from districts Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama while the second batch of 50 was from Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Kupwara.

Similarly, 100 PMAMs in two groups comprising 50 each from Kathua, Samba, Reasi and Udhampur districts of Jammu region participated in the programme.

Chief Executive Officer, SHA, Yasin M Choudhary, has asked the Chief Medical Officers (CMO) and Superintendent of all district hospitals to depute PMAMs for attending the training as per the schedule. He added that the arogya mitras play important role in implementation of AB PM-JAY-SEHAT scheme as they are being comprehensively trained in software use, patient registration and interaction.

## Jamia Millia Islamia To Admit Students Through CUET To 8 Courses

**NEW DELHI:** Jamia Millia Islamia will admit students to eight courses through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) during the 2022-23 academic session, an official statement said on Monday.

The decision has been communicated to the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Testing Agency (NTA), it said. CUET has been made compulsory for admission to undergraduate programmes at all 45 central universities.

It was decided in a meeting attended by the top officials of the university that admissions to selected undergraduate courses will be done through CUET. These courses are BA Hons (Hindi), BA Hons (Sanskrit), BA Hons (French and Francophone Studies), BA Hons (Spanish and Latin American

Studies), BA Hons (Economics), BA Hons (History), BSc in Biotechnology and B Voc (Solar Energy), the statement said.

The university has kept a minimum eligibility criteria of 50 per cent marks in Class 12 Boards for all the eight courses.

Earlier, the university used to hold its own entrance test for admissions. It will continue to do the same for other undergraduate courses.

Jamia Millia Islamia reserves 50 per cent of its seats for minority students. UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar had said that the reservation policy of the institute will not be affected by CUET.

Students are advised to follow local university websites -- www.jmi.ac.in and http://jmi-coe.in -- for updates regarding courses and other details, the statement said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### ED Reveals

Rs 1.58 crore, 1.76 kg gold valued at about Rs 92.30 lakh and "digital exhibits" have been seized, the federal probe agency said.

"Incriminating documents in the form of property documents and loose papers revealing transactions between the arms dealers/brokers and government officers/officials have been seized," it said.

The ED case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) stems from an August 2018 FIR of the CBI (special crime branch, Chandigarh) where it was alleged that bulk issuance of arms licences has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir between 2012-2016.

About 2.78 lakh arms licenses were issued to various defence and paramilitary personnel by "flouting" the prescribed guidelines, and due procedure in lieu of "illicit" monetary consideration which was paid to government officers/officials through arms dealers/brokers, and proceeds of crime were generated, the ED said.

The agency said its initial estimation has found that the alleged illegal activity led to generation of 'proceeds of

crime' to the tune of Rs 40 crore.

### Grenade Lobbed

from central Kashmir's Budgam district, two days after an attack left a Special Police Officer (SPO) and his brother dead.

Waseem Ahmad Ganai's of Ramnagri & Iqbal Ashraf Sheikh of Sedow Shopian were arrested by a joint team of police and army's 62 RR from Sunnergund area of Budgam, a police spokesperson said Monday. The duo, he said, were active militants of LeT.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including a Chinese Pistol, 02 pistol magazines, 12 pistol rounds and 32 AK-47 rounds have been recovered from their possession," he said.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said a case FIR number 87/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam and further investigation into the matter is in progress.

### Indian Troops

lethal amid a change in operational dynamics along the LoC, the official said.

Sniping has been a bigger challenge for the troops patrolling forward areas along the LoC and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir, said the official.

Between 2018 and 2019, there was a sudden increase in the number of sniping incidents along the LoC and IB prompting armed forces to induct better sniper rifles and train its snipers

against such attacks.

The Sako rifles have replaced the .338 Lapua Magnum Scorpio TGT by Beretta, and the .50 Calibre M95 by Barrett, which were inducted in the Indian army in 2019 and 2020. These rifles, made in Italy and America, had replaced the ageing Russian Dragunov, the mainstay of Indian soldiers.

First procured in the 1990s, the Dragunovs have slowly fallen behind contemporary sniper rifles which offer improved sights and mounts, increased accuracy, and a strike range of over 1 kilometre.

The Sako TRG-42 sniper rifle is a bolt-action sniper rifle designed and developed by the Finnish gun maker SAKO.

The rifle is designed to fire powerful .338 Lapua Magnum-sized cartridges. Weighing at 6.55 kgs without ammunition, the sniper rifle has an effective range of 1,500 metres, the official said.

"It is considered one of the most accurate and trustworthy weapons worldwide, he said.

The Army has sanctioned a team of 10 snipers, selected from the Indian Army's units and regimental centres for the job, the official added.

### LG Asks Waqf

of waqf properties and provide an enabling environment for utilization of properties for the larger benefit of the community.

The LG, as per the spokesperson urged the Waqf Board to construct schools, colleges, ITIs, girls hostels, hospitals, multi-purpose community halls, Hunar Haat, and employment-oriented skill development centers, which will truly serve the 1.25 crore citizens of J&K UT.

Sinha also stated that the Waqf Board should sow the seeds of friendship and goodwill among communities through impactful social welfare initiatives aimed at bringing positive changes in the lives of ordinary citizens.

"In India, we have always followed and promoted the principle of 'Sarva Pantha Sambhav'. This invaluable Indian tradition has to be nurtured by all of you through the Waqf Board in the UT with your social welfare activities and developmental actions in the coming times," the LG said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG also noted that the Board under chairpersonship of Andrabi is now empowered for survey of waqf properties, maintenance of waqf deeds, revenue generation, and prevention of encroachment of waqf properties.

"I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister who, on 5th August 2019, extended the Central Waqf Act along with 890 central laws to J&K after seven decades, giving Dr Darakhshan Andrabi and other

eminent personalities a chance to serve the UT and 1.25 crore people through Waqf Board," the LG said.

Sinha, the spokesperson, also observed that J&K is witnessing growth and development in every sphere of life.

"Dedicated efforts are being made to bring in investment in the UT, generate ample employment avenues, make recruitments transparently and utilise every penny for the welfare of ordinary citizens," the LG added.

On this occasion, the LG also released Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem's poetry collection in Kashmiri "Rude Harand" meaning- The Rainbow.

Speaking on the occasion, the spokesperson said Andrabi said that the Waqf Board will work to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the people of J&K as per the vision of the Prime Minister of our country.

He said that besides the members of Waqf Board, Mayor Jammu Chander Mohan Gupta, former legislators including Muzaffar Hussain Baig, Kavinder Gupta, representatives of political parties, literary people, of-fice bearers of prominent associations, eminent personalities of the UT and members of the civil society were present on the occasion.

### Transporters Body

Association said in a statement.

They have also demanded direction to SRTC to run its fleet as per "time table" and refrain from running in "illegal manner."

### Work Begins

Sharda temple and centre at the LoC in Teetwal area in Kashmir.

"A puja was held at the construction site in which Kashmiri Hindus from various parts of country took part," SSC head Ravinder Pandita said.

He said a large number of Sikhs and locals too joined the event.

The committee laid the foundation of this project in December 2021 after demarcation of land.

The temple plan and model has already been approved by the Sringeri South Mutt and the artwork granite stones to be used in the temple are being carved at Bidadi in Karnataka.

Sharada Peeth -- 'the seat of Sharada' -- is the Kashmiri name for the goddess Saraswati. Sharada Peeth was one of the foremost ancient universities of the Indian subcontinent.

Sharda Peeth is an abandoned temple located in Sharda village along the Neelum River. It is regarded as one of the 18 highly revered temples across south Asia.

Pandita, who supervised the beginning of construction work, said a holy mace (charri Mubarak) would be taken out from here to Sharadapeeth temple

that would head to Chilhana village, now in PCK.

"We demand that Sharda peeth should be opened for pilgrimage on the lines of Kartarpur," said Pandita.

He said this base camp at Teetwal will be reclaiming one of the traditional routes of Sharda peeth yatra and would increase religious tourism.

### Heart Attack

and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also requested the Ministry of External Affairs India to coordinate with Saudi authorities and help expedite the return of the mortal remains of Pandit.

Jammu and Kashmir Students association has also written to Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to help the family and pursue this matter with the Ministry of External Affairs in airlifting the mortal remains of the deceased back to Kashmir.

### J&K Govt To Start

reads the notification.

Under the Land Grants Act, the Government has the right of reentry on the land leased and the lessee shall be liable to be evicted under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act.

On June 25, 1979, the State Government vide Cabinet decision No.237 on June 25, 1979, agreed to lease out 13 acres of land in the high profile area of Cheshmashahi Srinagar on the Dal Lake to HCI for 90 years.

On the basis of the said cabinet decision, an agreement was executed on March 10, 1982 between the state Government and HCI.

It is worthwhile to mention that HCI presumably has violated conditions of the lease which necessitated the government to take strict action by taking over the premises in terms of relevant laws--(KNO)

### Police Officer

is requested to bring to notice any unethical practice seen or heard to the notice of the police and tough action as warranted under law would be take."

### New Panel To

with various agencies for data collection and validation/approval of concept designs/bye-laws, besides estimation of costing and convergence of project components.

The committee for Jammu is headed by Divisional Commissioner as chairman and its members include Deputy Commissioner (Concerned), Commissioner, JMC , Chief Executive Officer, Smart City Jammu, Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority, Special Secretary (Law), Housing & Urban Development

Department, Director Land Records Jammu, Chief Town Planner, Jammu (Member secretary), Prof. Dr. P.S.N. Rao (Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi), Paresh Sharma, Chief Town Planner (Retd.) Gujarat, and K.K. Pandey (Center for Urban Studies, IIPA )

The committee for Kashmir Division includes Divisional Commissioner Kashmir as Chairman and members include Deputy Commissioner (concerned), Commissioner SMC, Chief Executive Officer, Smart City Srinagar, Vice Chairman, Lake Conservation and Management Authority, Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, Special Secretary (Law), Housing & Urban Development Department, Director Land Records, Srinagar, Chief Town Planner, Kashmir and Prof. Dr. P.S.N.Rao (Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi), Paresh Sharma, Chief Town Planner (Retd.) Gujarat and K.K.Pandey (Center for Urban Studies, IIPA ). (GNS)

### Govt Forms

Act, 2001 and Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) Rules 2018, reads a government order. With Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department as Chairperson and Administrative Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department as its Co-Chairperson, the 25-member committee has been tasked with job to promote energy efficiency standards through optimization of parameters in the various components and systems of the building in line with the provisions of these rules to enhance the building performance and provide every support to make it an effective instrument of promoting energy conservation and energy efficiency in the commercial buildings or establishments.

As per its terms of reference, the committee is also tasked to forward its recommendations to the Bureau to assist the National Energy Conservation Building Code Implementation Committee to develop and revise energy consumption standards for buildings, in terms of energy performance index, zone-wise - hot and dry, warm and humid, composite, temperate and cold climate zones, classification-wise. It is also tasked to create awareness about Energy Conservation Building Code and procedure for erection of Code compliant building.

The committee is also required to promote construction of energy efficient buildings ensuring quality and consistency in their constructions having regard to the climatic conditions and needs of the building projects. It has also been asked to promote capacity building of building professionals, developers and contractors to promote

energy efficient designs of buildings in close coordination with jurisdictional authorities.

Lastly, the panel has been asked to undertake performance review of annual work of all Empanelled Energy Auditors (Building) to check their credentials.

### J&K Logs 19

detected in many districts across the Kashmir Valley.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 10 new cases of virus,

Baramulla and Budgam 2 each and one new case each in Kupwara, Kulgam and Shopian. No new cases of the virus were reported from Anantnag, Pulwama, Bandipora and Ganderbal.

In the winter capital, officials said that two cases were reported from Jammu while the remaining nine districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch, Samba, Doda, Reasi and Ramban reported no fresh cases of Covid-19.

Moreover, 7 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 2 from Jammu Division and 5 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that the death toll due to the pandemic remained unchanged at 4750 in J&K, as no fresh fatality was reported.

### Youth Stabbed

Tariq Ahmad (23) of Radpora Khanayar. He was attacked by some unknown person at Radpora khanyar and has an injury on the left side of the abdomen, they said.

A senior police officer told GNS that there was a scuffle between two persons. "Further investigations are underway," he said

### 1 Killed, 56 Injured

have been shifted to hospital," said officials.

They added that five to six injured are having serious injuries, who have been referred to Government Medical College Rajouri.

Furthermore, they said, one passenger travelling in this bus has died, whose body was recovered from the accident site

### Srinagar Youth

Monday, reports said. The villagers, reports said, instantly informed the police about the recovery of the body.

A Police party rushed to the spot and took the body in their custody, reports said. Later, the body was handed over to the family members after completing medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and have started further investigation. (KDC)



## MP Govt Ready To Help KPs Resettle In J&K: Minister

Press Trust Of India

**BHOPAL:** The Madhya Pradesh government will extend help to displaced Kashmiri Pandits if they wish to go back to their native place, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said on Monday.

Talking to reporters here, the minister, however, did not share any data of how many Kashmiri Pandits were living in Madhya Pradesh.

To a question, Mishra, who is also the state government's spokesperson, said, I request Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters living in Madhya Pradesh that they should inform the home department if they wish to return (to their homeland). We will ensure and make arrangements for their return."

Asked about Congress Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha's

comments that he will not watch Hindi film "The Kashmir Files" as he knows the pain of those displaced, Mishra said, I will request him (Tankha) to provide a list of the Kashmiri Pandits in Madhya Pradesh who wish to go back Kashmir.

Last week, MP Chief Minister Shivrāj Singh Chouhan had promised land to "The Kashmir Files" director Vivek Agnihotri for setting up a 'genocide museum' in the state, saying the movie shows the pain and sufferings of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community.

However, Congress MP Digvijaya Singh had opposed such a museum, saying he will not let Bhopal's communal harmony be disturbed.

Agnihotri's film has reignited a debate surrounding the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley.

### KASHMIR FILES CONTROVERSY

## Rs 200 Cr Earned From Film Should Be Used For Welfare Of KPs: Sisodia

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The whopping Rs 200 crore earned from 'The Kashmir Files' film should be used for the welfare of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits and rebuilding their homes, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia told the Delhi Assembly on Monday, stressing that the pain of the community should be felt by people and not "be sold in crores".

In his address, he also said this huge amount should be either put into a new welfare foundation or existing foundations working for the Kashmiri Pandit community.

"I have not been able to watch the film, as I was busy with the (Delhi) budget, so I cannot comment on the quality of the film. But, it's fine that a film has been made on the suffering of the Kashmiri Pandit community, and it should be seen by everyone. But, their pains should be felt by other people, and not that their pain be sold in crores," Sisodia said.

The film has grossed Rs 200 crore, so now let the people living in Pamposh Enclave or a poor person in Kondli and other

places also "feel the pain" of this community, and "put the film on YouTube for free, the deputy chief minister said.

"And, this Rs 200 crore should be used for the welfare of Kashmiri Pandits, those who had to leave their home and hearth in 1989-1990. In fact, a new foundation in their name should be made and that money (earned from the film) should be offered to it. Or, many such foundations already exist, so a little more money ('chanda') should be added to it, and given to them, so that this money can be used to rebuild their burnt homes, rejuvenate their faded orchards," Sisodia said in an emotive address in the Assembly.

The controversial film, directed by Vivek Agnihotri and starring Anupam Kher and other veteran actors, has triggered a raging debate on the Kashmiri Pandit's issues, and grossed over Rs 200 crore at the box office.

Recently, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said in the Assembly that the film should be put on YouTube for free so that everyone could watch it. The BJP in Delhi has been demanding that the film be made tax-free in the national capital.

## Registrar Cooperative Societies Reviews Working Of The Department

Lays Emphasis On Identification Of Land For Establishment Of New Super Bazars In Districts



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Registrar Cooperative Society J&K, Shafqat Iqbal on Monday convened a meeting here to review the progress on registration of new cooperative societies/cooperatives and FPOs; revival of cooperatives societies/cooperatives; progress under Capex Budget 2021-22 and progress on modernization of Super Bazars and other issues related to the department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Registrar Jammu/Kashmir, all Deputy Registrars and all Assistant Registrars. The participants from Jammu division attended meeting through virtual mode.

In the meeting, the Registrar reviewed the progress on registrations of new cooperative societies/cooperatives and FPOs to meet the allocated targets and issued directions to expedite the registration process. In the meeting, stress was also laid on the revival of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) to ensure their functioning as per their mandate.

The Registrar highly emphasized on efficient utilization of funds of approved schemes/activities/works under Capex Budget 2021-22. He further reit-

erated on coordinating with respective executive agencies for timely completion of projects and incurring expenditure.

The meeting also discussed working of Super Bazars and directed Deputy Registrars of those districts where there are no super bazars to identify land and send the proposal for land availability to the Registrar office within a week.

The meeting also took review of modernization works of various Super Bazars in various districts.

In this meeting, the Registrar further took note of election process of the Cooperative Societies and it was informed in the meeting that elections have been conducted in 80 percent of the Societies.

The Registrar directed all DRs to send proposals for election notification for remaining Societies within a week. Stress was also laid on revival planning of cooperative training institutions and specific directions were issued to the Deputy Registrars of Srinagar and Jammu districts for timely submission of proposals for revival of these institutions.

The Registrar Cooperative Societies advised the officers to work whole heartedly and achieve the desired/set targets within the fixed timelines.

# Shortage Of Teaching Staff Hits Education System In Ramban

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Government-run schools in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district are facing an acute shortage of teaching staff as 586 posts of principals, lecturers, headmasters and teachers are vacant out a sanctioned strength of 2,073.

In addition, two school buildings have been declared unsafe, according to official data.

Schools in the district reopened last month after a long break due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown and the winter vacation, and there have been frequent protests by parents and students for adequate teaching staff and better infrastructure.

Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam wrote to the director of education in Jammu early this month over

the "virtual collapse" of the education system in the district and suggested sending a team of senior officers for spot assessment.

"There is no doubt that the educa-

tion system in our district is in a mess and needs urgent measures to safeguard the future of the students," District Development Councilor Mohammad Shafi Zargar of Rajgarh told PTL.

The district commissioner has also raised the issue of dilapidated condition of certain school buildings after conduct-

ing a safety audit of the structures, officials said, adding at least two schools the Government Middle School Hiller, Rajgarh, and the Government Higher Secondary School Rajgarh have been declared unsafe.

On the shortage of teaching staff, the officials said that against a sanctioned strength of 23 principals, 12 posts are vacant. Likewise, there are 269 posts of lecturers, but only 128 are posted in the district.

Against the total strength of 59 headmasters, 25 are performing their duties and 34 posts are vacant, the officials said, adding there are 256 posts of masters and 143 posts of teachers vacant against the sanctioned strength of 437 and 1,285, respectively.

### RUBAIYA SAYEED KIDNAPPING

## Omar Thanks Kerala Gov For Confirming Dr Farooq's Stand

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Monday thanked Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan for confirming that the then J-K chief minister Farooq Abdullah had opposed the release of militants in exchange of Rubaiya Sayeed in 1989.

Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, was kidnapped by JKLF militants on December 8, 1989.

Omar Abdullah, a former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state and Union minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, tweeted a clip of a recent television interview of Khan, saying, "Kudos to the governor of Kerala."



"Arif Mohd Khan Sb sets the record straight about what happened in December 1989 during the BJP supported VP Singh government. Facts are facts even when they don't support the narrative sought to be created by the BJP and its ecosystem," he said in the tweet.

In the TV interview clip, Khan narrated the incidents of the day when he, along with former prime minister I K Gujral, who was the external affairs minister in the VP Singh government, had visited Abdullah's Gupkar

Road residence.

"...to be fair to him (Farooq Abdullah), he was against the demand of the terrorists to release some terrorists who were in jail. I immediately told Mr Farooq Abdullah...I told him, 'Farooq Saheb, I stand by you and I will go to any extent to support you'," Khan said in the interview.

He added that he was sidelined thereafter as the message from Delhi was to exert pressure to release the militants so that Rubaiya Sayeed's release could be secured.

Rubaiya Sayeed was released five days after being abducted with the government releasing five militants - Sheikh Abdul Hameed, Gulam Nabi Butt, Noor Mohammed Kalwal, Mohammed Altaf and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar.

## Enemy Nation Using Drugs To Destroy Coming Generation: Army Officer

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A senior army officer on Monday cautioned youngsters against drug abuse saying the enemy nation is using narcotics as a weapon to destroy our coming generations.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) White Knight Corps Lt Gen Manjinder Singh said this addressing a cultural function held in Mendhar town of Poonch district.

The event was organised by Bhimber Gali Brigade under the Ace of Spades Division.

The officer also announced the Jammu Premier League from

this year to be held on pattern of Kashmir Premier League, a Twenty20 cricket league started by the army in the valley in 2011 to engage young people in positive activity.

The league will see participation of one team from each of the 10 districts of Jammu region, he said.

The teams are sponsored by the army, which also provides them with cricket kits and refreshments during the tournament.

The enemy nation used to send militants and weapons but now they are also using narcotics as a weapon to destroy our coming generations, Singh said.

We all are committed and will continue to work together for maintaining a conducive environment of peace and prosperity in the region.

The youth of the border village are today enjoying the peace dividends and are moving forward with the people of the rest of the country, he said at the event which was resumed after two years' break forced by the COVID pandemic.

The two-day festival started on Sunday is being held to encourage young people and locals to celebrate the cultural vibrancy of the region, a defence spokesman said.

### TRANSFORMATIONAL BUDGET J&K 2022-23

## 'Push To Realizing PM's Vision Of Doubling Farmers' Income'

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir is predominantly agrarian with over 70 percent of the population directly or indirectly engaged in agricultural and allied sectors thus complimented with specific crop adapted to local climate and topography of the region.

The recently announced budget of Central Government for Jammu-Kashmir brings hope for agriculture sector which aims at doubling the farmers' income in a planned manner, an official spokesperson said Monday. The strategy, he said, is to focus on encouraging the cultivation of High Yield AND High Density crops, use of modern technology and laboratory tested pesticides and other measures.

He said an amount of Rs 23.97 crore has been sanctioned for high yielding varieties of hybrid seeds which would benefit 8.93

lakh farmers. In addition, Rs. 55.80 crore have been kept separately for providing infrastructure facilities like 3200 pump sets, 898 bore wells and 10000 drip and sprinkler irrigation systems to farmers.

"It will benefit around 16960 farmers and will cover over 15240 hectares area," he added.

Similarly, the spokesperson said that the capacity building and training is another focused area prioritized in this budget. He said that a total of 36000 farmers are to be trained for capacity building with a provision of Rs. 27 crore.

"Nearly, 22000 farmers would be benefitted with establishment of 11 big and small mandies with a provision of Rs 1.60 crore. Besides, 12800 farmers would be covered by way of formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with a financial assistance of Rs 80 Lakh," he added.

As per the spokesperson, the

budget has also laid special focus on farm mechanization which is another area instrumental in transforming the agriculture sector which will help farmers to enhance their production manifold. About 33200 farmers would be provided farm machinery worth Rs 81 crore.

"Considering the significance of organic farming in sustainable development, the budget has kept Rs 6 crore, under area expansion programme, for expansion of 756 hectares under organic farming, 45 hectares under potato and 250 hectares under spices which will benefit about 44204 farmers," he said.

Due to erratic rains and long dry seasons, he said, need for irrigation facilities are imminent and in this budget the irrigation for 8670 hectare of land will be restored through maintenance of Field Channels for which Rs 30 crore have been kept in this budget.

## Scindia Inaugurates Indigo's Flight On Indore-Jammu Route

Says Cleanest City Gets Connected To Nation's Crown



Press Trust Of India

**INDORE:** Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday inaugurated Indigo's flight on the Indore-Jammu route and said the country's cleanest city was getting connected to the "crown of the nation".

Indore has been declared the country's cleanest city several times in a row in the Central government's Swachh Survekshan, a mega urban cleanliness and sanitation competition.

"Today is an important day. Hindustan's crown (Jammu-Kashmir) is getting connected with the heart of the country, Indore, the historic city of Maa Ahilya and the cleanest city in the nation, Scindia said while addressing the programme virtually from Delhi.

Scindia said the city will soon get connected to Chandigarh and Visakhapatnam as well.

Referring to the expansion of airport facilities here, he said after an international cargo terminal, the city will also have a domestic cargo terminal, while three new aerobridges were being built.

Permission to convert an old airport in the city into a state hangar has also arrived from concerned authorities, Scindia said at the function, which was also addressed virtually by the Union ministers Jitendra Singh and VK Singh.

Jitendra Singh, who represents Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in Jammu-Kashmir, praised Scindia for the expansion of civil aviation

services in the country and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Operation Ganga (under which stranded citizens were flown back from war-torn Ukraine).

Speaking on the occasion, Madhya Pradesh water resources minister Tulsiram Silawat said, after Scindia had taken over as civil aviation minister, the number of cities connected to Indore by air had increased from 12 to 23.

Silawat, who said 80 new flights had started from MP on the directives of Scindia, asked the latter to increase the frequency of the Indore-Dubai flight to three times from the current one per week.

He also sought air connectivity of Indore with countries like Singapore and Malaysia in order to promote international tourism.

Indore's BJP MP Shankar Lalwani was also present on the occasion.

The Indore-Jammu flight inaugurated during the day will operate four times a week, a statement from Indigo said.

The flight will depart from Indore at 10.10 AM and land in Jammu at 12.05 PM on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, it said. The return flight will depart from Jammu at 12.35 PM and land in Indore at 2.45 PM on the aforementioned four days.

Indigo representatives here handed over the first boarding pass to Scindia as a token of appreciation and later to a passenger Preeti Sharma, who said she was waiting for such a service for a long time in order to visit Vaishno Devi Temple.

## Newly Appointed Addl Judges HC Takes Oath



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Chief Justice Pan-kaj Mithal on Monday administered the oath of office to two newly appointed Judges -- Justice Rahul Bharti and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi -- as additional judges here.

Justice Mithal administered oath of office to them at the courtroom of the chief justice in Jammu.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary attended the ceremony physically, while Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice

Sanjay Dhar and Justice Mohan Lal participated virtually from Srinagar.

The proceedings of the ceremony were conducted by Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who read the contents of the notification received from Government of India, the warrants of appointment issued by the President and the letter of authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorising the Chief Justice to administer the oath of office to two newly appointed Judges.

On March 24, the Ministry of Law and Justice appointed Rahul Bharti, and Moksha Khajuria Kazmi as Additional Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, for a period of two years.

The spokesperson said that the horticulture is one of the major sectors in Jammu and Kashmir which contributes significantly towards economy of the Union Territory.

"The variety of horticultural products of J&K has earned worldwide fame because of its good quality and taste. The fruit crops grown here like apple, almonds, walnuts, pears, cherries and apricots in temperate areas and mango, citrus, litchi, papaya, guava etc in subtropical areas are known all over the globe," he added.

He further said that the UT's Horticulture industry is showing steep progress as the yearly pay produced by the natural product industry has gotten over Rs 10,000 crore, contributing 8% to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). About 7.5 lakh families of around 35 lakh souls are associated with this area.

As per the spokesperson, the government of J&K in collaboration with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is undertaking High Density Plantation over an area of 5500 hectare in next five years. Accordingly, a new scheme on High Density Plantation was launched in March, 2021 which apart from apple also included other crops being grown in J&K.

"While Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of around 1.70 Lakh Metric Ton has been already established, another 30,000 Metric Ton is likely to be added by the end of the current financial year. Besides, 50, 000 Metric Ton Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity has been targeted for completion during 2022-23. The focus will be to reach a Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of about 5 Lakh Metric Ton in next three years," he said



## First-Ever SAI NCOE For MTB & BMX To Be Set Up In Shimla

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence to train athletes in mountain terrain biking and bicycle motocross will be set up in Shimla by the Sports Ministry in collaboration with the Youth Services and Sports department of the government of Himachal Pradesh.

The collaboration between the centre and the state to set up this world-class facility was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on March 23.

The NCOE is being set up to provide world-class training facilities to Indian cyclists so that they can compete for the 18 Olympic medals in the disciplines of MTB and BMX.

"The time has come to expand our orbit and train athletes for Olympics in other disciplines where Indian athletes are showing prospect and where we can bag more medals to improve the overall tally at Olympics," Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said in release.

"Cycling is one such discipline where there is a lot of potential. This first ever SAI NCOE set up in Shimla in collaboration with HP Government will provide world class infrastructure and coaching to Indian cyclists preparing in the disciplines of MTB and BMX for 2028. It is a step to enhance India's sporting potential and we will see the results in the years ahead."

The centre, one of the best



high-altitude training facilities in the world, at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level, will have world-class infrastructure, a state-of-art sports science high performance centre, Olympic-level track and coaches of international repute, where India's best cyclists and local sporting talent can train, a ministry release stated.

Owing to the requirement of the sport for a hilly terrain and a suitable climate for training, Shimla emerged as a preferred choice for the NCOE.

With the setting up of this SAI NCOE, Himachal becomes the torchbearer of MTB and BMX training in India and a possible venue for future World Championships for the two cycling disciplines.

The NCOE, which will have the capacity to train around 200 cyclists for Olympic-level preparations, will be equipped with an XCO Olympic level track, a training track with specialised features, one BMX track, one indoor gymnasium, an indoor setup with virtual trainers, hostel facilities for 100 athletes, coaches and support staff.

## Director Sports E-Launches YSS's Mega Plantation Drive Across J&K

Let's plant trees for survival, better environment: Gazanfar Ali

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Director Youth Services and Sports J&K, Gazanfar Ali on Monday e-launched the Plantation Drive of the Department across J&K by planting saplings in an impressive function at Khel Gaon, Nagrota, near here.

Director Ali was accompanied by Special Secretary Youth Services and Sports Department, Mohd Ashraf Bhat and a galaxy officers of the Department.

The slogan of event was "Let's plant trees for our survival."

The programme began with the pledge of planting trees for better atmosphere, healthy environment and survival.

While speaking on the occasion, the Director Sports shared the details about the mega plantation drive being carried out by the Department.

"As you know, our Department is launching a mega Plantation Drive across J&K, under the supervision of Principal Secretary to Government Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K, 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," said Director Sports.

He hoped that all the stakeholders will show a great enthusiasm

and make this drive a great success.

He further said that plants give us oxygen, food and what not, so it is our prime duty to plant trees and make the environment healthier and atmosphere happier.

Joint Director YSS Kashmir, Bashir Ahmed while addressing the gath-



ering said that this unique way of planting trees is the brain child of worthy Director Sports.

All the District Youth Services and Sports Officers simultaneously launched the Plantation Drive in their respective districts.

Prominent among others who were present on this occasion included Jatinder Mishra, Deputy Director YSS; Ravi Kumar, Deputy Director (Plan); Sunil Kumar Sharma, Executive Engineer, AEE of JK Sports Council's Engineering wing, Accounts Officer Directorate; Mohd Hussain Bhat, outgoing AO of Directorate; Sukhdev Raj Sharma, DYSSO Jammu, I/C Media and Publicity YSS (J) Rajesh Dhar, I/c works Vishal Salathia and other senior officials and officers of the Department.

## FD Organises Trekking Programme In Karnah

Trekking best exercise for physical fitness: DFO



Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** To boost the adventure tourism and to channelise the energy of youth in a better way, a trekking programme, namely Kish-enganga Trek, was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department (FD), Kahmil Forest Division, in Karnah subdivision of Kupwara district.

The trekkers, both professional and new trekkers from Srinagar and other districts including locals participated in the trekking programme from Teetwal to Tangdhar Karnah via Simari.

The day long trekking programme was inaugurated by DFO Kehmil, M Ayuob Pandit in presence of Range Officer Tangdhar and other con-

cerned officers.

Speaking at the occasion, the DFO said that the Forest Department has initiated a fresh trekking series with an objective to involve interested youth towards trekking which provides the best opportunity for youth to know about green gold. He also highlighted the benefits of trekking and said that trekking is the best exercise for physical and cardio fitness.

Giving information on the trekking programmes, the DFO said that this was the fourth trekking programme of its kind and the department will arrange more such programmes for the youth, adding that the district Kupwara, especially Kehmil Forest Division has tremendous scope for trekking and adventure tourism.

## Rajasthan Royals & Sunrisers Hyderabad Aim For Winning Start

Press Trust of India

**PUNE:** Packed with multiple match-winners in their ranks, heavyweights Rajasthan Royals face Sunrisers Hyderabad in a clash of former champions as both sides aim for a winning start in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Royals' batting fortunes will hinge largely on the form of their talented skipper Sanju Samson, who has been around the scene for a while now but has not delivered up to the expectations.

Inconsistency has been his bane and he would like to change that and lead from the front this season in search of their first title since the inaugural edition in 2008.

Each year, Samson plays one or two match-defining knocks but this time he would have to go the extra mile if the Royals want to win that elusive second title.

Good performances in the IPL could also help Samson cement a place in the Indian team with the T20 World Cup scheduled for later this year.

The Jaipur-based side are most likely to open with Jos Buttler and Devdutt Padikkal. A rampaging Buttler can tear into any bowling attack and if he and the stylish Padikkal can get off to flying starts, the Royals would be well served with the likes of Samson and the others to follow.

Royals have an array of players like power-hitter Shimron Hetmyer, Rassie Van der Dussen, Jimmy Neesham and



Riyen Parag to pick for the middle-order and their contribution could well determine the team's fortunes.

They have a stronger bowling unit this time around with the inclusion of ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, and the duo are certain in the playing XI.

Their eight overs would be crucial in the overall context of a particular game and nothing would please skipper Samson if the duo can spin a web around the SRH batters.

Kiwi Trent Boult, earlier the spearhead of Mumbai Indians, would be leading the pace attack which includes the likes of Prasidh Krishna and Navdeep Saini.

For SRH, the experience of captain Kane Williamson, probably the best batter in the squad, would be vital. His contributions with the willow and as a leader could go a long way in determining the team's fortunes.

Williamson's compatriot

Glenn Phillips can open the batting while hard-hitting West Indian Nicholas Pooran, Priyam Garg and Rahul Tripathi would be expected to shoulder responsibility in the middle order. Tripathi has also played significant knocks in the IPL but it is time he shows consistency.

If Williamson chooses to bat at No.3, then Ravikumar Samarth can open the batting while Abdul Samad, who has impressed many, can play the role of a finisher for the franchise.

The bowling attack will be led by pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, one of the finest death bowlers. But he would need to dish out consistent spells as would new pace sensation Umran Malik.

Left-arm pacer T Natarajan, on a comeback trail, will be hoping to get his yorkers right as he aims to work his way back into national team contention.

Washington Sundar, another T20 specialist, can play a key role for the Sunrisers and one among Shreyas Gopal or J Suchith may be tried out.

## DC Player Marsh Injured Ahead Of ODI Series In Pakistan

Question mark on his availability for IPL

Press Trust of India

**LAHORE:** Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh's availability for IPL side Delhi Capitals this season was on Monday rendered doubtful after he suffered a hip flexor injury which has all but ruled him out of the upcoming ODI series in Pakistan.

Marsh, who was bought for a whopping Rs 6.5 crore in the IPL auction, was to join Delhi Capitals on April 6 after the end of Pakistan white-ball series but his availability will now depend on the degree of his injury.

Australia ODI captain Aaron Finch said here on Monday that Marsh's scans has been sent for examination after he sustained the injury during a high-intensity fielding drill on Sunday.

"He's (Marsh) injured his hip

flexor, we think, at training. We are going to have to wait and see what that looks like but I don't think he'll be available for the series based on how he was feeling yesterday," Finch told reporters.

"He sustained that in a fielding drill, it was a high intensity, lateral movement drill and he bent down to pick it up one handed and went to throw and felt a twinge."

The three-match ODI series against Pakistan begins on

Tuesday. After the ODIs, the lone T20I will be played on April 5.

The 30-year-old Marsh has been one of Australia's best white-ball players in recent times. He was a member of Australia's T20 World Cup winning side last year, scoring an unbeaten 77 in the final against New Zealand to help Australia clinch their maiden title.

Last year, Marsh broke the Australian record for most T20I runs in a calendar year, pummeling 627 runs at 36.88.



## South Africa Break Indian Hearts As England, Windies Reach Semis



Agencies

**WELLINGTON:** Australia will play the West Indies and South Africa will play England in the semi-finals of the Women's Cricket World Cup after the makeup of the top four was finally decided on Sunday on the last ball of the last match in the league stage.

Mignon du Preez hit the winning run from the final ball of the final match to finish on 52 not out and lead South Africa to a three-wicket win over India. In doing so, South Africa snuffed out India's semi-final hopes in the cruelest of circumstances.

Du Preez was caught in the deep with three runs required and two balls remaining, in a moment which seemed to

swing the match in India's favour. She was walking from the field when the umpires consulted the television official and determined that Deepti Sharma, who was bowling the last over from which seven runs were needed, had overstepped.

The decision reprieved du Preez, gave South Africa a run, another ball and a free hit and they took the opportunity to clinch a win that crushed India's hopes of reaching the final for the second consecutive tournament.

"I think we can feel sure that the girls have given their all, knowing the importance of the game today," India captain Mithali Raj said. "It will probably take some time to settle the emotions. It was just a

good game from both sides. I mean it went to the last ball and it's good for the sport but for the India team it ends our campaign."

South Africa's win also secured a semi-final place for the West Indies who were powerless spectators to the events of the final day. After completing the league matches, they were in third place with seven points behind unbeaten Australia and South Africa who both had qualified.

The West Indies would have been denied a semi-final place if India had won but South Africa's win kept their tournament alive.

Earlier on Sunday, defending champions England eased into the semifinals with a 100-run win over Bangladesh.

## West Indies To Play Three ODIs In Pakistan In June



Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** West Indies will tour Pakistan in June to play three ODIs, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Monday.

West Indies will arrive in Islamabad on June 5 to play at Rawalpindi on June 8, 10 and 12.

The series is part of World Cup Super League from which the top seven countries will qualify

directly for next year's World Cup in India.

The three ODIs were supposed to be part of the West Indies tour to Pakistan last December, but it was rescheduled after five positive COVID-19 cases were reported in the West Indies team.

The PCB said West Indies has agreed to play three T20s in Pakistan early next year, but that schedule will be announced later.

## Canada Secure FIFA World Cup Berth For First Time In 36 Years

Agencies

**TORONTO:** Cyle Larin, Tajon Buchanan and Junior Hoilett scored and Canada secured its first FIFA World Cup berth in 36 years with a 4-0 victory over Jamaica.

Canada has been to the World Cup just once before, in 1986.

"Speechless. Dream come true," midfielder Jonathan Osorio said on Sunday.

"We all dreamed of this as little kids, and as a Canadian that was impossible. Today the impossible happened. It's an incredible feeling."

Canada missed out a chance to secure a spot in Qatar last week with a 1-0 loss to Costa Rica. It was Canada's first loss in three World Cup qualifying rounds and it snapped a six-game winning streak.

Boosted by the home crowd at BMO Field, Canada rebounded in a big way against the Jamaicans, who were already eliminated from World Cup contention.

Following the match the fans broke into the Canadian national anthem and Osorio led the crowd for a drum chant before the team danced on the field. Buchanan circled the field waving Canada's flag.

Canada coach John Herdman became the first coach ever to lead both a men's and women's team to a World Cup berth. He coached the Canadian women's team from 2011-18.

In a post-game interview Herdman was doused with champagne by Canadian goalkeeper Milan Borjan.

"Canada is a football nation, man. We better believe it," Herdman said.

"And we're going to keep coming. We've only gotten started."

Canada sits atop the table in the final qualifying round with 28 points, followed by the United States (25 points), which held the edge over third-place Mexico (25) on goal difference. The United States defeated Panama

5-1 and Mexico downed Honduras 1-0 in the late games Sunday.

Costa Rica won 2-1 at El Salvador to maintain fourth place with 22 points and prevent the U.S. from being able to clinch Sunday night. Anthony Contreras scored on a bicycle kick in

the 30th minute, Christian Gil tied the score one minute later and Joel



Campbell put the Ticos ahead in the first minute of first-half stoppage time. Costa Rica hosts the U.S. on Wednesday night.

The top three finishers in the North and Central American and Caribbean region book the trip to Qatar. The fourth-place team goes to an intercontinental play-off against a team from Oceania.

The Canadians wrap up the qualifying round Wednesday in Panama.

Because Canada was ranked 73rd in July 2020 when the format was announced, it had to advance through two early rounds and was playing its 17th qualifier Sunday. Canada has improved to 33rd.

Snow fell at times at BMO Field. Temperatures were in the 20s at game time but its didn't daunt a red-clad crowd of more than 29,000.

Larin put Canada in front early with his team-leading 13th goal of the qualifying tournament. He had another clear chance in the 38th minute but the ball went just wide.

Larin is one goal behind Ali Mabkhout of the United Arab Emirates for most goals in qualifying for Qatar. Larin, who leads the national team with a best-ever 24 goals, has had six goals in the final round.

Buchanan scored in the 44th, celebrating with a backflip, to put Canada up 2-0 going into the break.

## Peru, Colombia & Chile Vying For World Cup Playoff Spot

Agencies

**SAO PAULO:** Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay have already secured the region's four direct spots at the World Cup in Qatar later this year, but there's still a lot at stake in the final round of South American qualifying on Tuesday.

The biggest prize is the intercontinental playoff spot against the fifth place team from Asia, with Peru (21 points), Colombia (20) and Chile (19) chasing fifth place in South America. That playoff in June is likely to be against Australia, United Arab Emirates or Iraq.

Peru can secure its place with a home victory against Paraguay. Colombia needs to beat Venezuela and hope Peru doesn't win. Chile will have to beat Uruguay in Santiago and rely on other results going its way.

Leader Brazil is targeting an historic mark at Bolivia on the



same day. Coach Tite's team can reach 45 competition points with a victory at altitude in La Paz, a tally that would break Argentina's record of 43 in qualifying for the 2002 World Cup. Brazilian strikers Neymar and Vinicius Jr. are suspended.

Third-place Ecuador hosts second-place Argentina.

FIFA wants Brazil and Argentina to play by June their suspended encounter of Sept. 6, which was stopped in its first minutes due to COVID-19 protocols.