



P3 CITY

## MIDNIGHT INFERNO LEAVES 37 NOORBAGH FAMILIES HOMELESS

At least 37 families were rendered homeless after their residential houses were reduced to ashes in a fire incident at Noorbagh area of the city. Official sources said that 20

THINK

## FEEL EMOTIONS BEFORE YOU HEAL EMOTIONS

There are times in life when pain and suffering reminds us that we have fragmented portions of ourselves that need to be repaired and treated. Something is out of balance, and it demands quick attention, affection and care.



P7 STATE

## LG HANDOVERS LAND PASSBOOKS TO CITIZENS

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that easing of land governance through digitization of land records has brought transformation in the life of



A friend to all is a friend to none

- Aristotle

## NEWS DIGEST

### Encounter Rages On In Shopian

SRINAGAR: A gunfight has started between militants and government forces in the Turkwagam area of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday. Reports said that a joint team of Police, Army and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in **More on P6**

### Banihal Highway Reopens For Traffic

SRINAGAR: The Jammu-Srinagar highway was reopened for vehicular movement on Thursday after remaining closed for a few hours due to a massive landslide in Udhampur district, officials said. "Jammu-Srinagar National Highway **More on P6**

### Sarpanch's Husband Held In Bribery Case

SRINAGAR: The husband of a sarpanch was arrested in a bribery case in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said here. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) received a written complaint, alleging that Hassan Jan, the sarpanch **More on P6**

### 17 New Corona Cases In J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday logged 17 new COVID-19 cases, taking the infection tally to 4,53,737, while no death due to the viral disease was reported, officials said. The death toll stood at 4,750, they said. Of the fresh cases, two were reported from the Jammu division and 15 from the Kashmir division, according to the officials. **More on P6**

Marriage Celebration Turns Into Mourning

## Cab Crash Kills 9 Wedding Guests In Poonch

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least nine people, returning from a wedding ceremony were killed and four others injured on Thursday as the cab carrying them plunged into a gorge in the mountainous Surankote area of Poonch district.

According to reports, a sumo (JK12- 2725) carrying guests from a marriage ceremony was on its way towards Buzliaz, when the cab skidded-off the road and rolled down into a 300-feet gorge at Tarran Wali area of Surankote on Thursday afternoon.

The people on-board the ill-fated cab were returning home after attending a wedding at Morah when the driver reportedly lost control over his vehicle.

Reports said that six occupants died on the spot while three others succumbed to their injuries on their way to the hospital. Four other injured are being treated by the doctors at the Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri.

The victims have been identified as Ghulam Rabani,

Mohammad Fazal, Mohammad Mushtaq, all residents of Salian, Fazal Ahmed, Gulab Din, both from Gursai, Mohammad Jahangir, Mohammad Akbar Abid Kohli and Showkat Hussain, all residents of Dingla.

The injured including driver of the vehicle— Zaheer Abass of Gursai besides Anaya Shoket of Dingla, Haroon of Gursai and Mohammad Zahir of Gursai were referred from Sub-district hospital (SDH) Surankote to GMC Rajouri, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Surankote Dr Zulfikar Choudhary told a local news agency GNS.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in the tragic road accident

"Extremely pained by the loss of lives due to a tragic road accident in Poonch. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for speedy recovery of the injured. Directed district administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured," Sinha wrote on his official Twitter handle

**THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED** as Ghulam Rabani, Mohammad Fazal, Mohammad Mushtaq, all residents of Salian, Fazal Ahmed, Gulab Din, both from Gursai, Mohammad Jahangir, Mohammad Akbar Abid Kohli and Showkat Hussain, all residents of Dingla.



ACCIDENT!

## Govt Sacks Five Officers For 'Unsatisfactory' Conduct

Agencies

Srinagar: The J&K government on Thursday ordered premature retirement of five officers under a provision brought in October 2020, officials said.

The order comes a day after five employees—two policemen, a teacher, a computer operator and a nursing orderly were sacked from services under Article 311 of the Constitution of India.

In October, 2020 the J&K government amended Article 226 (2) of the J&K Civil Service Regulations to enable it to retire an employee upon completion of 22 years of service or attaining 48 years of age in the public interest.



Under the law, the government has prematurely retired Mohammad Ashraf, Executive Officer, presently under suspension; Ghulam Mohammad Lone, I/c Executive Officer (presently posted as I/c Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Frisal Kulgam); Imtiaz Ahmad Dar, I/c Executive Officer (Presently posted as I/c

Executive Officer in Municipal Committee, Yaripora Kulgam); Farzana Naqshbandi, the then Divisional Town Planner, (now I/c Senior Town Planner, presently under suspension and attached with Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority), and Hamid Ahmad Wani, I/c Senior Town Planner Town Planning Organization, J&K (presently under suspension). Referring to clause (i) of Article 226 (2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956, the government said it provides for constitution of an Internal Committee in each Administrative Department which will ensure that the service **More on P6**

## Our Efforts To Reform Health Sector Have Been Impressive: LG

Says Govt Introducing New Reforms For Developing Balanced Healthcare Ecosystem

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his government is introducing new reforms for developing a balanced healthcare ecosystem that promotes social equality, besides ensuring easily accessible quality health facilities for all.

Sinha made these remarks after inaugurating 10-bed state-of-the-art Palliative/ Geriatric Care Wards in all districts of Jammu & Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, congratulated the Health department for creating the much-needed facility and said the landmark step bridges a decades-old void in the healthcare system by offering dedicated facilities to elderly and critically-ill ageing patients, ensuring their dignity and quality of life.

He said that the LG also observed that the need for accessible, effective geriatrics and palliative care has grown over the past several decades, but remained unaddressed in J&K.

"The Palliative/Geriatric Care, which I had the pleasure to inaugurate today, demonstrates another social dimension. It places the care of the elderly as a top priority of the entire healthcare ecosystem in our quest towards building a strong, prosperous, and



**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL** to make them aware of this new facility which is available in the district hospital. The success of this historic initiative will be fully realized when no person has to wander for treatment, and the administration itself reaches out to the needy,"

caring UT," Sinha said.

Speaking on the transformation taking place in the health sector of J&K, the spokesperson said that the LG stated that his government is introducing new reforms for developing a balanced healthcare ecosystem that promotes social equality, besides ensuring easily accessible quality health facilities for all.

The LG, he said, also claimed that this important stride in the healthcare sector truly symbolizes PM Narendra Modi's vision of self-reliance, achieving excellence in modern health facilities for remote

locations, and reducing the urban-rural divide to deliver services at people's doorstep.

"Our efforts to reform the health sector have been impressive. We have addressed the health infrastructure issue with a comprehensive and long-term national vision under the guidance of the Prime Minister and even the far-flung areas now have adequate, affordable, and reliable healthcare facilities," Sinha said.

"New infrastructure has been built at a cost of Rs 7177 crore; 140 projects have been completed by spending Rs 881 crore to **More on P6**

## Govt Authorizes 50% Funds Under Revenue Budget

Orders Avoiding Of 'Wasteful Expenditure'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Thursday accorded authorization of 50% of funds under Revenue Budget for the financial year 2022-23 except for nine 'detailed heads' and ordered that "focus of expenditure should be outcome based and wasteful expenditure should be avoided.

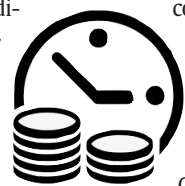
"Sanction is hereby accorded to the authorization of 50% of funds under Revenue Budget for the financial year 2022-23 except in respect of (nine) detailed heads which shall be released on case to case basis," reads a government order. These detailed heads include "003-Leave

Travel Concession, 046-Purchase of Vehicles, 054-Furniture & Furnishings, 4. 201-Interest, 216-Purchase of Power, 311-Cost Price of Food Grains, 449-Snow Clearance, UT Share under revenue component, and Disaster Response Fund (DRF)."

The utilization of funds has been subject to several conditions.

"In accordance with The Jammu & Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Act, 2022, No.5 of 2022 Dated: 25th of March 2022, Controlling Officer(s) shall ensure that all budgetary allocations are strictly as per Demands for Grants and funds shall be released through BEAMS."

The Controlling **More on P6**



## Police Claims Arrest Of 'Woman Bomber'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a woman involved in attacking a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) picket with a petrol bomb in Sopore town of Baramulla district.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar was quoted by a local news agency confirming her arrest and saying that three cases under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) are already registered against her.

According to the officials, the woman, identified as Hasina

Akhtar from Baramulla area of north Kashmir, allegedly came in contact with pro-Pakistan separatist Asiya Andrabi, already in jail for militant funding case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), during 2008.

The woman, covered in a burqa, was captured in CCTV footage hurling the petrol bomb at the government forces bunker in Sopore on Tuesday evening.

There was no injury in the incident and she managed to escape.

The woman was caught on CCTV installed at various places across the valley **More on P6**

### NIA Announces Rs 40L Bounty On 4 TRF Militants

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh each on four wanted militants of The Resistance Front (TRF), a front organisation of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba **More on P6**

## How 'Honour Killing' Sealed The Fate Of Kupwara Boy

Auqib Javed

It was a routine outing for 8-year-old Talib Hussain Khan on 15th February 2022 when he left home for play-ground. But as dusk fell over his hometown Kupwara that day, his missing whereabouts didn't just mobilise his parents, but who's who in town.

For the next week or so, the boy's missing status would even trigger the security apparatus as well as activate the civil society.

In Kashmir's 'missing history', it was the first collective pursuit—broadcasted, bellowed, bolstered—by big reward money announced by multiple players.

But before the massive human hunting began, Talib parents had searched him in every nook and corner of his native Awoora village of Kupwara.

Fearing for his life, his family

lodged a police complaint, thus starting what became one of the most deliberated missing cases in the recent Kashmir history following the unending enigma of Mehran—the Habba Kadal boy who "vanished into thin air" in 2008.

"For the next six days, we weren't getting any clue despite pulls and pressures on us," Rashid Younis, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Headquarters, Kupwara, told Kashmir Observer.

The cluelessness was baffling as the police had formed different teams of 10 cops each to trace the missing child. Over 300 suspects were rounded-up and grilled.

But when it didn't help, Yousaf Manhas, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kupwara, formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter.

Headed by additional SP



Kupwara Pardeep Singh, the SIT had DySP Rashid Younis, Inspector Nazeer Ahmad (SHO PS Trehgam) and Azhar Shaheel (IC PP Awoora) as its members.

Apart from the probe pack, the

police announced Rs. 1 lakh reward for any information about the missing child. Even former Rajya Sabha member and senior Peoples Conference leader, Mir Mohammad Fayaz decided to

give Rs. 2 lakh to anyone informing police about Talib.

But when even rewards failed to help, the army was called to widen the search operation.

Soon the team comprising of a top army officer, three junior commissioned officers and 160 territorial army men scanned frontier areas of Reshwari, Gore Nallah, Pt 1957, Nayem Shah Zyarat, Gujjar Patti, Mir Muqam, Frasduban Forest, JodaTalap, Khan Mohalla and Awoora village. Even the conflict-hardened combatants returned empty-handed.

At about the same time, the police was searching water bodies, trenches, jungles and the suspected places in Kupwara by using drones and sniffer dogs.

But after getting no clue, police started analyzing call detail records and tracking towers. During this phase **More on P6**

## Ex- Minister On Run After Hawala Money Seized In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Former Congress Minister Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh has allegedly gone into hiding after police in Jammu on Thursday arrested a hawala handler and recovered nearly Rs 7 lakh from his possession.

On the basis of a specific input that some unknown people are going to receive hawala money at Jammu, several checking points were established in the winter capital, a police official said.

He said that on suspicion, a police team arrested Muhammad Shareef Shah of Larnoo, Anantnag, from Gandhi Nagar area and recovered Rs 690000 from his possession

During questioning, the police official said that Shah disclosed that he was tasked by Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh of Kathua (Chairman of Nature - Mankind Friendly Global Party) to collect money from one Omer at Srinagar.

After receiving money from Omer, he said, Shah came to Jammu where he was arrested

The police official further said that Shah has disclosed names of his local and foreign associates, Javed and Khatib residents of PCK and Farooq Khan of Toronto.

Giving details **More on P6**

## Pak 'Power Play' Defiant Imran Says 'Will Play Till The Last Ball'

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: A defiant Imran Khan on Thursday indicated that he will not resign from the post of Pakistan's prime minister despite losing the majority in the National Assembly and insisted that he will face the vote of no-confidence which would take place on Sunday.

In a live-address to the nation, 69-year-old Khan also discussed a 'threat letter' that purportedly showed "evidence" of a foreign conspiracy to topple his coalition government. He named the US as the country behind the threat in what appeared to be a slip of tongue.

"...Our policy was not anti-US, -Europe, or even India [...] it became anti-Indian after New Delhi revoked the special status of Kashmir and broke international law in August 2019," said Khan, who insists that the Kashmir dispute remained a big issue between the two countries.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu **More on P6**





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# Twinkle, Twinkle Giant Star, Astronomers See How Far You Are

Associated Press

Astronomers have discovered the farthest star yet, a super-hot, super-bright giant that formed nearly 13 billion years ago at the dawn of the cosmos. But this luminous blue star is long gone, so massive that it almost certainly exploded into bits just a few million years after emerging. Its swift demise makes it all the more incredible that an international team spotted it with observations by the Hubble Space Telescope. It takes eons for light emitted from distant stars to reach us. "We're seeing the star as it was about 12.8 billion years ago, which puts it about 900 million years after the Big Bang," said astronomer Brian Welch, a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University and lead author of the study appearing in Wednesday's journal Nature.

"We definitely just got lucky." He nicknamed it Earendel, an Old English name which means morning star or rising light — "a fitting name for a star that we have observed in a time often referred to as 'Cosmic Dawn.'" The previous record-holder, Icarus, also a blue supergiant star spotted by Hubble, formed 9.4 billion years ago. That's more than 4 billion years after the Big Bang. In both instances, astronomers used a technique known as gravitational lensing to magnify the minuscule starlight. Gravity from clusters of galaxies closer to us — in the foreground — serve as a lens to magnify smaller objects in the background. If not for that,



**In both instances, astronomers used a technique known as gravitational lensing to magnify the minuscule starlight. Gravity from clusters of galaxies closer to us — in the foreground — serve as a lens to magnify smaller objects in the background. If not for that, Icarus and Earendel would not have been discernible given their vast distances.**

Icarus and Earendel would not have been discernible given their vast distances. While Hubble has spied galaxies as far away as 300 million to 400 million years of the universe-forming Big Bang, their individual stars are impossible to pick out. "Usually they're all smooshed

together ... But here, nature has given us this one star — highly, highly magnified, magnified by factors of thousands — so that we can study it," said NASA astrophysicist Jane Rigby, who took part in the study. "It's such a gift really from the universe."

Science Foundation's NOIRLab in Tucson, Arizona, described the findings as "amazing work." He was not involved in the study. Placco said based on the Hubble data, Earendel may well have been among the first generation of stars born after the Big Bang. Future observations by the new-

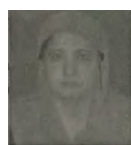
ly launched James Webb Space Telescope should provide more details, he said, and "provide us with another piece of this cosmic puzzle that is the evolution of our universe." Current data indicate Earendel was more than 50 times the size of our sun and an estimated 1 million times brighter, outsize Icarus. Earendel's small, yet-to-mature home galaxy looked nothing like the pretty spiral galaxies photographed elsewhere by Hubble, according to Welch, but rather "kind of an awkward-looking, clumpy object." Unlike Earendel, he said, this galaxy probably has survived, although in a different form after merging with other galaxies. "It's like a little snapshot in amber of the past," Rigby said. Earendel may have been the prominent star in a two-star, or binary, system, or even a triple- or quadruple-star system, Welch said. There's a slight chance it could be a black hole, although the observations gathered in 2016 and 2019 suggest otherwise, he noted. Regardless of its company, the star lasted barely a few million years before exploding as a supernova that went unobserved as most do, Welch said. The most distant supernova seen by astronomers to date goes back 12 billion years. The Webb telescope — 100 times more powerful than Hubble — should help clarify how massive and hot the star really is, and reveal more about its parent galaxy. By studying stars, Rigby said: "We are literally understanding where we came from because we're made up of some of that stardust."

## University of Kashmir, Srinagar

### Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Masroofa Jan  
Parentage Noor Ud- Din  
Residence Lane No 1 Qazigbagh Sanatnagar R  
egistration No; 18597-W-89  
Certificate lost BA 1st year  
Roll No 5166 session / year 1989-90



Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

No: F(Duplicate/ ) KU)  
inf

Assistant Controller  
of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

## Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

### NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Farooq Ahmad Dar S/o: Abdul Aziz Dar R/o: Dardpora Budgam (Transferee) of Alto K10. Vehicle bearing registra-



tion number JK04C - 2339. Chasis number 54778 Engine no. 261411 Model 2013. in favour of Shri.. Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar S/o. Abdul Aziz Dar R/o Dardpora Razwan Budgam (Transferee)

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.8063  
Dated 30/03/2022  
mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

## Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

### NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs. **Abdul Hamid Sheikh S/o Ghulam Mohammad Sheih R/o Jannagri Shopian** (Party No 1st) as Transferee, (seller) owner of the vehicle - Regd. No. **JK22-4064** (Commercial/ Non



Commercial ) covering under R/P NO: ----- And Mr./ Mrs **Tariq Ahamd Lone S/o Gh Mohd Lone R/o Gatipora Shopian** (Parti No 2nd ) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Gh Mohd Mir S/o Abdul Ahad Mir R/o Mastpora Keller Shopian. Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection 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 : ARTO/Spn/1365  
Dated 31-03-2022

S/D Asst Regional  
Transport Officer Shopian

fko

## Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

### NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Bilal Ahmad Sheikh S/o Mohd Subhan Sheh R/o Besant Bagh Srg (Transferee) and Habibullah Makayia S/o Abdul Razaq Makayia R/o Rehmat Ullah



Colony Parmpora Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Taveera carriage route Permit No 7698/mc Covering Vehicle No JK01S- 3494 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 3393  
Dated: 31/03/2022  
fko

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

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## Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

### NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Ab. Gani Dar S/o: Late Nabir Dar R/o: Chell Yech Chadora Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Ghulam Rasool Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Nadargund Peerbagh Hyderpora Budgam.as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper vehicle No. JK04C -0971.as well as HPA Cancellation with J&K State Co operative Bank ltd B/u Panzan also required.



Now it is therefore 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 Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 8080 Dated 30-03-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

## Office Of The Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, Kashmir, Srinagar.

### CANCELLATION NOTICE

It is Notified that the Short Term Notice Inviting Tenders E-NIT No: 29 OF 2021-22 Dated: 23/03/2022 issued by this Division vide end No: WLW(WL)/Works/2021-22/370-73 Dated: 23-03-2022 is hereby cancelled ab initio.

No. WLW(WL)/Works/2021-22/393-95  
dated: 29-03-2022

sd— Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division,  
Kashmir, Srinagar.

DIPK-20259/21



## UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

### Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from the Registered /reputed Authorized Dealers of Air Conditioners registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	Supplying, installation, testing and Commissioning of 2 Ton Wall Mounted Split Fully Inverter Type Acs (3Nos) for Physio Centre of Directorate of Physical Education and Sports.	Rs.3.22Lacs	Rs.200/-	01-month	30-03-2022 to 11-04-2022 (6.00 PM)	12-04-2022 (11.30 AM)

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.kashmiruniversity.net](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net) / [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

NIT No: - F(UCD)(E.Tend)/KU/109/21  
DATED:30/03/22.

DIPK-NB-8108/21

Executive Engineer

((Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir))  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) CONSTR. DIV. NO. IST SGR**  
NOTICE INVITING e-Quotation  
Nit No..\_134 /e-tendering /CD-I/\_17109-25 DATED..\_30-03-2022

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item basis from Regd. Transporters / Tour and Travel agencies / Taxi Stand Unions for hiring of One No. vehicle of following types/description for the financial year 2022-23 for office use by the Executive Engineer, (R&B) Construction Division No. Ist Srinagar.

S.No	Description	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (in Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract
1.	Hiring of the Vehicle of the Type- Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio/Mahindra Bolero for the financial year 2022-23 for office use by the Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division -1st Srinagar inclusive of all maintenance costs of vehicle/Road taxes including hiring of an expert licensed Driver excluding the cost of fuel.	300/-	10,000/-	Financial year 2022-23	Regd. Transporters / Tour and Travel agencies / Taxi Stand Unions

Position of Funds.-Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-03-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 31.03.2022 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	31.03.2022 from 10:30 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06.04.2022 upto 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.04.2022 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. Ist Srinagar. (to be notified after bid evaluation is completed)

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-Quotation carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected .

Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Construction Division No. Ist Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.
- No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Court's Jurisdiction:- In case of any disputes/differences between contractor and Department the jurisdiction shall be J&K State.
- The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- License:- The driver driving the vehicle should be having valid license issued by the competent authority.

Sd./

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Construction Division No. Ist  
Srinagar

DIPK-20251/21

No.EE/CD-I/17109-25  
Dt..\_30-03-2022





## Massive Gridlock On Boulevard Road As Crowds Throng Tulip Garden

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As Tulip Garden continues to draw crowds of people, locals and tourists alike, Boulevard Road on Thursday witnessed massive traffic gridlocks. Traffic jams on the vital stretch left motorists both tourists and locals fuming.

With no end to gridlock in sight, many people visiting the famed garden abandoned their cabs and rickshaws midway and started walking on foot.

Ajaz Ahmad, a rickshaw driver who boarded passengers for Tulip Garden, regretted his decision midway as traffic moved at a snail's pace.

"I am seeing a traffic jam of this magnitude for the first time, some days back I boarded passengers for Tulip garden but this wasn't the case" Ajaz said.

He alleged the Administration had failed to get the Boulevard road widened and keep a check on condemned vehicles.

Ajaz said this was the last time he had boarded passengers for Tulip garden.

As commuters and tourists complained of erratic traffic jams on the vital stretch locals living in the vicinity also voiced similar views.

Ubair Altaf, who lives in Harwan said that every year when Tulip garden is thrown open the movement of vehicles increases" he said.

"As rush of visitors increases on holidays, we have made it a point not to venture out during holidays". He added.

During the course of the day many people who flout the traffic norms were fined by the men in uniform.

SSP Traffic City Muzaffar Ahmad Shah who was overseeing his men decongesting the traffic said there are multiple reasons for the traffic jam on the Boulevard road.

He said the people are visiting Tulip Garden from every nook and corner of the state and even from other states.

"Apart from locals and tourists, school children from across the valley are visiting the garden in buses which is leading to gridlock".

He said people are also getting together after two years of covid restrictions which is another factor adding to the traffic mess.

"Apart from other factors, the holy month of Ramadhan is approaching, which is another reason for the massive rush" he added.



## Midnight Inferno Leaves 37 Noorbagh Families Homeless

Agencies

Srinagar: At least 37 families were rendered homeless after their residential houses were reduced to ashes in a fire incident at Noorbagh area of the city.

Official sources said that 20 structures including 10 single-storey, nine two-storey and one three-story houses got damaged in the blaze.

Sources said that fire broke out in the intervening night of Wednesday-Thursday at Gata Colony Noorbagh.

There was no loss of life, however, a few firefighters received minor injuries while dousing the flames.

Meanwhile, the official said that the cause of fire seems to be short circuit

Meanwhile, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Dr Syed Hanief Balkhi today visited Sheikh Colony Noor Bagh area to take first hand appraisal and on the spot assessment of the damages caused due to devastating fire incident during the intervening night of Wednesday-Thursday.

The ADC who was accompanied by the Tehsildar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahmad and

**Fire Broke out in the intervening night of Wednesday-Thursday at Gata Colony Noorbagh. There was no loss of life, however, a few firefighters received minor injuries while dousing the flames.**

other concerned Officers met the fire victims whose residential houses were completely damaged in a massive fire incident.

While interacting with the fire sufferers, the ADC expressed sympathies with them on behalf of the District Administration Srinagar. He also assured that every kind of possible support shall be provided from the District Administration for their immediate rehabilitation.

The ADC was informed that 25 residential houses comprising 37 families

were gutted in the devastating fire incident in Sheikh Colony Noorbagh.

On the occasion, essential assistance in the form of 185 blankets, 111 mattresses, 111 bed sheets and 37 kitchen sets, besides Rs 185000 to 37 families was provided out of Red Cross as an interim relief to the fire victims.

Similarly, the District Administration Srinagar also provided the immediate assistance of Rs 15000, besides 15 blankets, 9 mattresses, 9 bed sheets and 3 kitchen sets to the fire victims of Rajouri Kadal area in Shaher e Khaas of the district in which one house was gutted in a fire incident on Wednesday rendering 3 families homeless.

Meanwhile, the DC has also sanctioned structure wise financial assistance of Rs 25, 47,500 in favour of 25 house owners of Noorbagh and Rs 1, 01,900 in favour of Rajouri Kadal house owners under SDRF.

Further, the District Administration has appealed to the General public to follow all precautionary measures while handling electric gadgets, LPG cylinders and other appliances being used for heating and cooking purposes to avoid such fire incidents. (KNO)

### Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

#### NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Muhtar Ahmad Wafai S/o Ab Rehman Wafai R/o Illahi Bagh Sgr (Transferor) of Alto I-10 bearing registration No. JK01AA-3058 chasis No: 177508 Engine No: 56913 Model 2015 in favour of Reyaz Ahmad Haroon S/O Gh Mohammad Haroon R/O Karan Nagar Sgr (Transferee).



Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 3444  
Dated: 31/03/2022  
Regional Transport Office, FKO  
Kashmir

### Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

#### NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.  
Shri : Mohd Yousuf Kumar S/o: Ab. Salaam Kumar R/o: Pakherpora Char Sharief Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Umar Mukhtar Khan S/o Mukhtar Ahmad Khan R/o Khansahib Budgam.as Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab vehicle No. JK04C -8039. as well as HPA Cancellation with J&K Bank Ltd B/u Pakherpora also required.



Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 8079  
Dated 30-03-2022

mcb

### Public Notice

My name has been wornlgy written in my policy Documents as SHAMIM AKHTER While my correct name is SHAMEEMA BEGUM Which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

SHAMEEMA BEGUM  
D/O Ali Mohmad  
R/O Hajin Bandipora  
Policy Number = 20011713

ir dist

از نیات شائکس با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو جسٹس و دیگر اہل شائکس					
درخواست منجانب: منظور احمد نواز ولد علی محمد نجار ساکن شائکس تحصیل شائکس					
بغرض حصول SC سرٹیفکیٹ					
استیثار بمبراد آگائی ہر خاص و عام۔					
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول					
RBA سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا					
گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنڈہ دھڑا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر					
ہے سائل کی مہماندہنی 8400 ہے۔ اور سائل کا کنڈہ بذیل ہے۔					
نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
01	شاولیڈت ولد صہر بٹ	80 سال	عمر رسیدہ		
02	رہینہ بیگم زوجہ شاولیڈت	70 سال	گھریلو کام		
	عبداد بٹ	36 سال	مزدوری		
04	تسلیمہ بیگم زوجہ عمیدل احمد بٹ	35	گھریلو کام		
05	شاہد احمد بٹ	817	زیر تعلیم		
06	مہک جانی	15	زیر تعلیم		

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنڈہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ مبادا گذرے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

msk

### Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

#### NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Zulkarnain Noor S/o Noor Mohd Noor R/o Alamdar Colony Rawalpura Sgr (Transferor) of Santro bearing registration No. JK01Q- 9992 chasis No: 680360 Engine No: 292394 Model 2011 in favour of Bilal Ahmad S/O Mohd Sidiq Sofi R/O Syed Abad Saidapora Sgr (Transferee).



Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 1923

Dated: 07/03/2022

FKO

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

از نیات شائکس با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو جسٹس و دیگر اہل شائکس					
درخواست منجانب: منظور احمد نواز ولد علی محمد نجار ساکن شائکس تحصیل شائکس					
بغرض حصول SC سرٹیفکیٹ					
استیثار بمبراد آگائی ہر خاص و عام۔					
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں					
پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کارروائی ہے۔ پٹواری قلعہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ					
سائل کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔					
نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
1	منظور احمد نجار ولد علی محمد نجار	46 سال	سرکاری ملازم	LPC	
2	فریدہ بانو زوجہ منظور احمد نجار	42 سال	گھریلو کام		
3	زلفیان منظور ولد منظور احمد نجار	18 سال	زیر تعلیم		
4	عزیزینہ منظور دختر منظور احمد نجار	16 سال	زیر تعلیم		
5	ماصف منظور ولد منظور احمد نجار	11 سال	زیر تعلیم		
اس طور پر سائل کا کنڈہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ کنڈہ زیر بحث کو دھڑا میں رقبہ					
تقداری 2 کنال موجود ہے۔ جس سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی = 100000/ = 100000					
ہے۔ اس طور سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی اڑھائی زرعی و غیر زرعی LPC = 100000					
ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ					
کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ مبادا گذرے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض					
قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔					
نائب تحصیلدار۔					
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  
28 Shaban  
1443

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 55
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:05
Magrib	6:55
ISHA	8: 15

### This Day In History

- 374 - Comet IP/374 EI (Halley) approaches within 0.0884 AUs of Earth
- 527 - Byzantine Emperor Justin I names his nephew Justinian I as co-ruler and successor to the throne
- 705 - Greek pope John VII chosen as successor to John VI
- 1515 - Portuguese fleet under Afonso de Albuquerque captures the Persian fortress of Ormuz, renaming it the Fort of Our Lady of the Conception
- 1865 - Battle at Blakely Alabama
- 1873 - British White Star steamship Atlantic sinks off Nova Scotia, 547 die
- 1924 - Hitler sentenced to 5 years labor for "Beer Hall Putsch" but General Ludendorff acquitted
- 1927 - 1st automatic record changer introduced by His Master's Voice
- 1931 - Earthquake devastate Managua Nicaragua, kills 2,000
- 1939 - US recognizes Francisco Franco's government in Spain at end of Spanish civil war. Pope Pius XII congratulates Generalissimo Franco's victory in Spain
- 1941 - Pro-German Rashid Ali al-Ghailani grabs power in Iraq
- 1942 - Allied air raid on harbor city Kupang Timor
- 1943- Jan Dieters, Dutch politician and resistance fighter who was the head of the Communist Party of the Netherlands, is arrested by the Nazis
- 1944 - Japanese troops conquer Jessami, Eastern India
- 1945 - World War II: Canadian troops free the Dutch cities of Doetinchem, Enschede, Borculo and Eibergen
- 1945 - World War II: The Ruhr Pocket of German forces are encircled by the US Ninth Army and US First Army, eventually leading to the capture of 317,000 German troops
- 1945 - Battle of Okinawa: US ground forces invade Okinawa during World War II in the largest amphibious assault of the Pacific theatre
- 1952 - Big Bang theory proposed in Physical Review by Alpher, Bethe & Gamow

### From KO Archives

#### Autonomy Committee Report 'Soon': Farooq

## Asks Centre To Honour Recommendations

Observer News Service

Jammu- Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today reiterated his commitment to get the maximum autonomy restored to Jammu and Kashmir and expressed the hope that new government at the centre would honour the state's recommendations on this issue. The report of high level state committee and the other concerning regional autonomy though delayed, would be tabled in the state legislature as, soon as possible, Farooq told legislative Assembly during question hour.

The report, after being discussed in the two houses of the state legislature, would be submitted to centre for final decision chief minister said adding that restoration of autonomous state to Jammu and Kashmir will solve many a problems faced by the state, Abdullah said.

The main objectives of the state committee on autonomy was to examine and recommend measures for the restoration of autonomy consistent with the instrument of accession, the constitutional application order, 1950 and Delhi agreement of 1952. The committee on the issue of regional autonomy with Balraj Puri as its chairman was set up to examine the issue of granting internal autonomy to the three regions of the state, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The committee has also been asked to recommend any change in the state's constitutional structure, for this purpose, Abdullah said in his reply.

Chief Minister said that functioning of the state committee was affected following the resignation of its chairman, Dr. Karan Singh. However the committee, now headed by Works minister Mohiuddin Shah, had held 14 meetings so far while 19 meetings were held by regional autonomy committee, he added. (Kashmir Observer, 01 April, 1998)



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K O V I E W

War’s long shadow

As the war in Ukraine prolongs, the world economy is finding itself under increasing stress. The European Union has been the most impacted. The war has aggravated a shortage of natural gas that has already sent inflation up in most European countries. The bloc is now urging the Gulf countries to compensate for the energy shortfall as a result of the boycott of Russian oil. This calls for a sweeping and costly restructuring of its energy system. Besides, the Russian aggression has also forced the European countries to increase their military spending which, in turn, is adding to the inflationary pressure. For example, Germany plans to raise military spending to 2 percent of its GDP from 1.5 percent in 2021.

Russia and Ukraine are also the major producers of food. Ukraine is the world’s biggest producer of sunflower oil, and Russia is number two, according to S&P Global Platts. Together they account for 60 percent of global production. The two countries also account for 28.9 percent of global wheat exports. This has already caused the wheat prices to trade at their 15-year highs and its impact will be felt across the world.

Indian economy could be severely impacted, although it is too early to predict how deep this impact would be. As things stand, the war has caused higher than expected inflation, supply chain disruptions and volatility in financial markets. And India can’t be immune to this for long if the war drags on. And this is happening at a time when the world economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, a once-in-a-century event. The countries were slowly opening up and letting the economy function normally. International travel was also returning to pre-pandemic levels. India was taking taking steps toward a self-reliant economy also called Atmanirbharta. This is expected to drive economic momentum and growth. The resumption of economic activity is also important to restore the millions of jobs lost to the pandemic. More so, in India where the successive virulent waves of the pandemic have hemorrhaged the economy. In 2021, India’s GDP slipped by over 7 percent. The gaping dent in the GDP meant that lakhs of jobs were lost, a disproportionate number of them the people living at the bottom of the pyramid.

If the war drags on in Ukraine, India’s economy is likely to come under severe stress again. Skyrocketing oil prices will also wreck the European economy and that of India too which imports two-thirds of its energy needs. Therefore it is incumbent on the world to come together to resolve the crisis in Ukraine and find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the parties involved.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Centralising tests: On common entrance exams and merit

The decision to conduct a Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission in undergraduate programmes in all University Grants Commission-funded Central Universities (CUs) from 2022-23 has triggered concerns. No doubt, the proposal is influenced by the National Education Policy, which advocates common entrance examinations by the National Testing Agency for undergraduate and graduate admissions and fellowships. The concept as such is not alien to the CUs. Over a dozen CUs admit students to undergraduate programmes using Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) scores. The proposed CUET, in 13 languages, seeks to make it mandatory for 45 CUs — there are 54 such institutions — to conduct admissions using a single national level test score. This would spare aspirants from taking multiple entrance tests and also eliminate unfair advantage gained from disproportionate scores in class XII. Critics are evidently viewing this development through the prism of the Narendra Modi government’s obsession with pushing the ‘one nation, one standard’ maxim in different sectors. But as early as 1984, the Madhuri R. Shah Committee, looking into the working of CUs, recommended a national merit examination. In the instant case, the UGC has clarified the existing scheme of reservations in individual universities would not be disturbed.

Yet, the CUET may not qualify as a wholesome determinant of merit given the educational and regional disparities in India. While a vast majority study in State Boards, the test would be based on the NCERT syllabus, followed largely in CBSE schools. The policy limits the Class XII marks as a qualification benchmark and not a co-determinant of merit. With the test being introduced just ahead of an admission season, students, whose learning process was disrupted by COVID-19, may find it challenging. Education Ministers from Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh have flagged some legitimate concerns. In the North-east, the argument about the test possibly affecting the interest of State domiciles to secure admission in a university in the region cannot be ignored. There are genuine apprehensions about CUET serving as a precursor to introducing a nationwide entrance test for all undergraduate courses — the UGC has said all institutions are free to use the test scores for admissions. It has been sufficiently demonstrated that common entrance tests spawn the coaching industry and induce cost-heavy hybrid courses from class VI onwards, creating a divide between the haves and have-nots. The country has miles to go in enabling access to entry-level higher education and bridging the gender and economic gap in its university portals. In such circumstances, it needs to be dispassionately examined if prescribing a single entrance test as a sole determinant of merit, either for CUs or for the higher education system as a whole, is pragmatic.

The Hindu

Save Us From  
Securo-Feminism

Azeezah Kanji

Welcome to the brave new world of securo-feminism\*. In the long tradition of systems of patriarchal violence representing themselves as the solution to patriarchal violence, the ongoing expansion of draconian “war on terror” measures is being advertised as an advance for women’s rights.

For instance, countries like the United Kingdom have extended anti-terrorism provisions to now not only strip citizenship from “terrorists”, but also from (some of) those convicted of sexual abuse: a “double punishment” reserved exclusively for dual nationals and suspected dual nationals, predominantly Muslims and other racialised targets from former colonies in the Global South.

Simultaneously, the British government itself is threatening the rights and safety of abuse survivors and others fleeing violence, with its proposed new bill to “secure the borders” by penalising asylum seekers for arriving by unauthorised routes (never mind that such penalties flagrantly violate international refugee law).

In the United States, President Joe Biden’s “feminist” credentials include the introduction of new justice mechanisms to address sexual assault within the military: packaged in the same piece of legislation escalating American “defence” spending to unprecedented heights, surpassing even the previous record set by his predecessor Donald Trump.

As for the women, men, and children on the other side of the US military’s operations — they continue to be denied any legal avenue of restitution from the American state for the rapes, tortures, and massacres they have endured. Instead, they have been offered paltry “condolence payments” in lieu of justice, if anything at all (and only if they are “friendly to the United States”).

Now, many are advocating for states to consider violence against women as a form of “terrorism” — ignoring how counterterrorism itself has functioned globally to sanctify state violence against women as well as men.

Among the women placed in the crosshairs of the “war on terror” are Palestinian women’s rights defender Khitam Saafin, sentenced last month by an Israeli military court to 15 months in prison after her organisation, the Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees, was listed alongside several other Palestinian human rights groups as “terrorist” entities by Israel; Sudanese women’s rights defenders including Amira Osman, arrested and detained in January on “terrorism” accusations by the military coup government; Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul, tried in a special “terrorism court” for her work in service of women’s rights (she was released last February after being tortured and imprisoned for almost three years); Aafia Siddiqui, abducted, disappeared into a US “black site”, and sentenced to 86 years for “attempting to shoot” an American soldier (although she was the one who was actually shot); Indigenous Mapuche land and rights defenders like Patricia Roxana Troncoso Robles, criminalised as “terrorists” by the Chilean state; and Indian activists such as Hidme Markam and Ishrat Jahan, imprisoned under sweeping anti-terrorism laws for protesting against the Hindu-tva government’s assault on Adivasi (Indigenous) and Muslim communities.

Such cases are not simply an “abuse” or “misuse” of counterterrorism, but an expression of its original function: to suppress resistance to the colonial, capitalist status quo, whether on the 20th-century British killing fields of India and Kenya, or in the current-day open-air concentration camp of Gaza.

Likewise, the collusion of some strains of feminism with the “war on terror” is not an “aberration” or “co-optation”. Rather, it is the continuation of a long history of Western feminist collaborations with white supremacist and imperial rule — from penetrating colonised women’s harems, to promoting moral panics about Black and brown men for violence against women, to providing ideological cover for expanding policing and prisons.

According to this version of feminism, the intensifying criminalisation of women under counterterrorism is to be hailed as a sign of “progress”. As a claimed corrective to the stereotype of the “oppressed Muslim woman”, academics and policymakers have been urging for Muslim women’s “agency” to be recognised by treating them as “terrorists” on a par with Muslim men.

As “feminist demands for equality within the prison system ... have ironically resulted in demands for more repressive conditions in



order to render women’s facilities ‘equal’ to men’s” — as abolitionist scholar-activist Angela Davis observed — so too does women’s “equality” in securo-feminism mean equal subjection to state mass surveillance, extreme punishment, and control.

Exemplifying the perversities of “equal-opportunity” criminalisation, Syrian migrant woman Rehab Dughmush was charged with 14 terrorism offences and sentenced to seven years imprisonment by a Canadian court, for waving a golf club and a knife around in a store — despite having caused only one minor injury, and having been diagnosed as experiencing paranoid schizophrenic delusions at the time.

Dughmush’s “attack” has been cited by women security scholars to critique male-centric agencies for overlooking Muslim women as threats; although Dughmush was in fact punished much more harshly than many white men responsible for more damaging racist assaults.

Similarly, the UK has stripped citizenship from young Muslims like Shamima Begum — who travelled to join ISIL (ISIS) at the age of 15 — while teenaged British Nazi bomb plotters and cell leaders have been offered rehabilitative measures and spared.

Courts have been ordering children removed from the care of “radicalised” Muslim mothers and fathers, while parents’ membership in neo-Nazi and far-right groups has been deemed irrelevant to their child-rearing abilities — or in the words of one British court, “neither here nor there”.

Germany has been prosecuting women for “war crimes” for living in houses on land illegally occupied by ISIL in Iraq; while at the same time working to shield Israel from accountability for its crimes of occupation before the International Criminal Court.

The US has set precedents barring women from an asylum for having been kidnapped and forced to cook and clean for violent rebel groups — “material support for terrorism” — even as the US’s own (very) material support for regimes inflicting mass terror on civilians in Yemen, Palestine, and elsewhere persists.

Despite the proliferation of far-right and fascist parties and movements across Western states, the United Nations’ 2020 “global” consultations on “the gendered dimensions of violent extremism” focused on every region of the world except for North America and Western Europe — perpetuating the colonial geography of “the West and the Rest”, in which the Rest have extremism while the West has enlightenment.

Apparently, in the pursuit of securo-“equality”, some people are “more equal” than others.

While Muslim women are pathologised for their participation in or proximity to violence, the “war on terror’s” women drone warriors and torturers are exalted: celebrated not only for their own prowess, but also as markers of the superiority of the civilisation that produced them.

Senior CIA analysts are feted by Oprah as “superwomen” for writing books on how counterterrorism is like mothering — replete with such wisdoms as “the moms of America will [defeat Osama] bin Laden and all terrorists like him”, “don’t give in to a bully” (in which the US is supposedly not the bully but the bullied), and “the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world”.

Surveillance drone manufacturers hold free drone giveaways for International Women’s Day, while websites such as Women And Drones honour “trailblazers” like Miriam Foxx: manager of the Chula Vista Police Department’s drone programme, who previously “oversaw detainee operations” at the torture camp of Guantanamo Bay.

Hollywood productions lionise all-woman

US military units like Team Lioness, whose exploits will soon be coming to a screen near you in a series co-produced by Zoe Saldana and Nicole Kidman.

According to the plot summary: “Saldana plays Joe, a strong-willed, hard-nosed, station chief of the CIA’s Lioness program, tasked with training, managing, and leading her female undercover operatives working to assassinate the world’s most dangerous terrorists.” Of course, the real-life Team Lioness was established to search and surveil not “the world’s most dangerous terrorists”, but Iraqi and Afghan women under occupation — pitched as an act of “cultural sensitivity” on the part of the occupiers.

Meanwhile, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE’s) 2019 guide on understanding gender and violent extremism praises Western armies in Afghanistan for engaging with Afghan women to find out about local events like weddings — which otherwise “could easily be interpreted as an insurgent tactic”, which “in turn could have led to violence”, thus “result[ing] in longer-term risk to the force from a resentful community.”

The disturbing underlying premises — 1) that the weddings and other community gatherings of the occupied may be assumed to be “insurgent tactics” and targeted unless proven otherwise, and yet 2) that it is the “resentful community” that is the source of “risk” to the occupying military, and not the other way around — remain unquestioned.

Since the launch of the “war on terror”, the world has been fixated on the problem of “Muslim rage.” Yet, to invoke the great Black feminist Audre Lorde, it is not “our” rage that has constructed the world’s largest mass incarceration system, encircled the globe in military bases, amassed a nuclear arsenal sufficient to destroy life on earth several times over, and consigned those fleeing war and environmental devastation to die by the thousands crossing borders and seas.

“Anger is an appropriate reaction to racist attitudes, as is fury when the actions arising from those attitudes do not change,” Lorde wrote in The Uses of Anger. “It is not the anger of women that will destroy us, but our refusals ... to listen to its rhythms, to learn within it, to move beyond the manner of presentation to the substance, to tap that anger as an important source of empowerment.”

The other side of “Muslim rage” is the power of radical Muslim love — as manifest in the women who care and mourn for counterterrorism’s supposedly “ungrievable” casualties, while confronting death, torture, loss, and displacement themselves; who continue to challenge multiple forces of violence and oppression, even though impeded and imperilled by the “war on terror” waged in the name of women’s rights; who are charting out new paths of justice and freedom, beyond the false horizons of “equality” and “empowerment” delineated by the national security state.

Because in a “civilised” world order driving itself towards military conflagration, nuclear annihilation, and ecological collapse, it is not Muslim women who urgently need to be saved from their own extremism.

\*The term “securo-feminism” was coined by Professor Lila Abu-Lughod.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and don’t necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

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Wrongly Parked

It is very evident that Srinagar city lacks arrangement and organisations. There are many instances which suggest so, one of them is how people park their cars on the sides of the road inappropriately. People do not have the civic sense that cars are meant to be parked properly in a parking lot and can otherwise create a lot of chaos for the flowing traffic. Besides that even the government does not recognise the

need of building parking lots within and across the city. Thus people are left with no other choice than to park their cars on roads itself.

The roads and lanes in the city, already too narrow for the traffic, are further congested owing to parked cars. People must realise that these careless actions lead to traffic jams and inconvenience to the people. We must try to find proper places to park our cars rather than just leaving our

cars on the roads.

The authorities seem to be neglecting and ignoring the inconvenience that is being caused to the common masses due to poor road management. Neither are people ready to act in a civic manner. Sometimes, people even park their cars in the middle of the road and in such a way that the traffic is totally disrupted. But people need to realise that in order for Srinagar to develop, it’s

the people’s mindsets and habits that need to be developed first. We should not just rant about civic problems but also be careful and responsible to be able to tackle them. So dear reader, the next time you try to park your car on the roadside, take a moment to think about how many people you will cause an inconvenience to.

Faiza Faheem



# MINDFUL FRIDAYS | Feel Emotions Before You Heal Emotions

Wasim Kakroo

There are times in life when pain and suffering reminds us that we have fragmented portions of ourselves that need to be repaired and treated. Something is out of balance, and it demands quick attention, affection and care.

These negative signals must be addressed, and the underlying problem must be addressed. This can be accomplished through emotional healing, in which our ideas, feelings, and behaviours are no longer influenced by our painful life experiences.

## WHAT IS EMOTIONAL HEALING AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

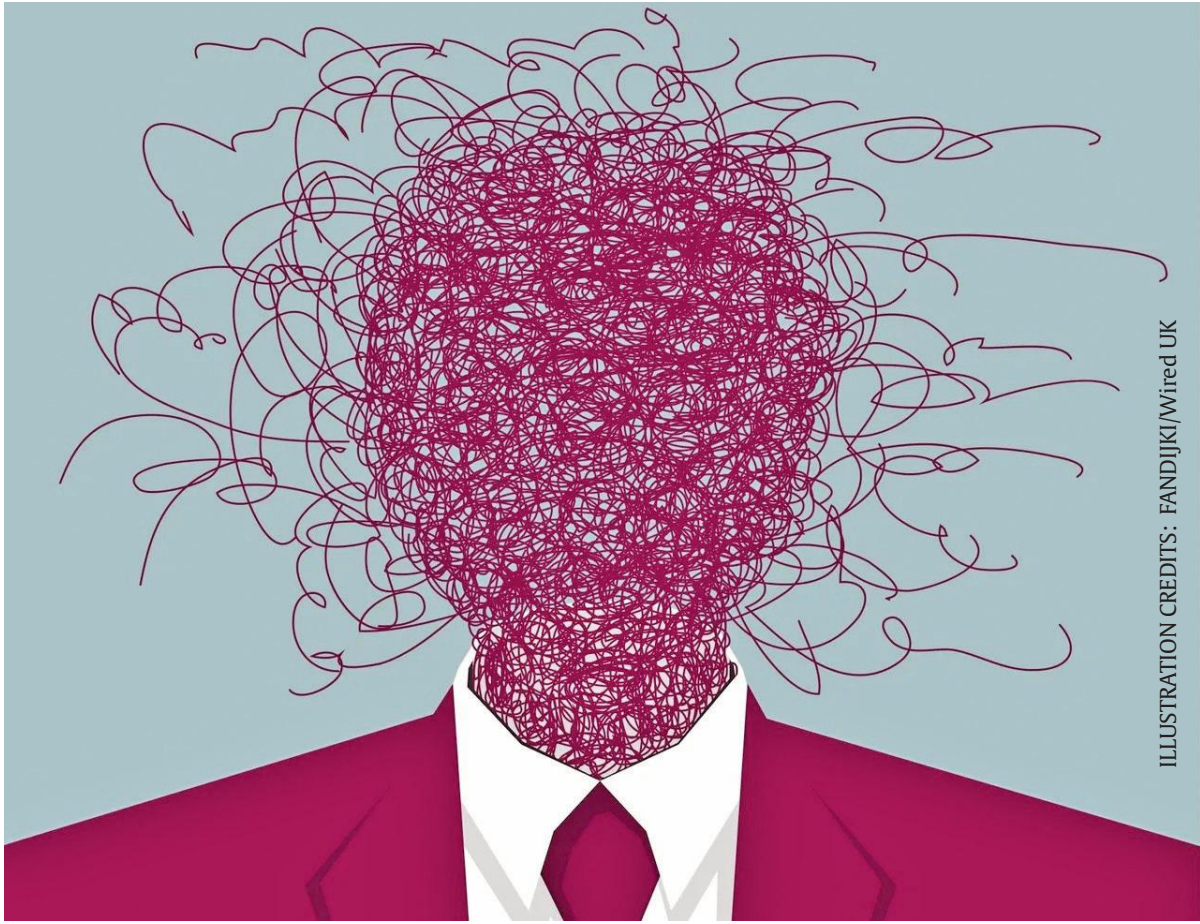
Emotional healing is the ability to keep painful thoughts, feelings, and emotions under control so that they do not cause interference in the present moment.

Emotional healing is the acceptance of all difficult life experiences as well as the negative emotional reactions that result from them. It entails mastering the art of coping with a variety of stressors. When someone is emotionally healed, the psychological pain that was bothering them no longer holds them back. The mental scars have healed, and there is no longer any considerable discomfort.

The past will never be a barrier to living in the present moment happily and calmly during the emotional healing process. Healing one's emotions will allow one to reintegrate all the disintegrated parts of oneself. It accelerates the process of coming to grips with grief, allowing you to grow stronger and more confident from inside.

## WHY DO WE NEED EMOTIONAL HEALING?

Emotional healing teaches us how to cope and adjust in life. It increases our awareness of emotional reactions and aids in the right expression of feelings which might lead to effective stress management. Finding a sense



of purpose and meaning in life helps people connect with one another, which leads to a greater focus on the positive aspects of life.

## WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL PAIN?

It takes time to come to terms with the full extent of negative consequences when unpleasant things happen in life. A distressing occurrence that has shattered one's feeling of security can cause emotional pain and psychological trauma. There is a sense of powerlessness, hyperactivity, and anxiety. Upsetting emotions are present, making it appear as if you have little or no control over the

situation. The various signs of emotional pain are as:

## Emotional signs that indicate the need for inner healing might include:

1. Anger and mood swings are common.
2. There's a chance you'll get confused, have trouble concentrating, and perhaps lose your memory.
3. Guilt, shame, and disbelief arise as emotions.
4. Feelings of sadness and helplessness.
5. Observing a lack of social interaction.
6. Withdrawing from others and living alone.

7. Insomnia and a lack of physical energy.
8. Anxiety that interferes with day-to-day activities
9. Reacting to negative emotions more often than responding to them.
10. Finding yourself trapped in a vicious cycle of mental stress and anguish.
11. Holding on to bad emotions rather than letting them go.
12. Sense of insecurity and low self-esteem.
13. Difficulty offering love, trust and sympathy towards others.
14. Overreacting to tiny things that stimulate the emotions.

15. Clinging to resentments
16. Difficulty in forgiving others.

## WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS STAGES OF EMOTIONAL HEALING?

Emotional healing necessitates some conscious work in order to reassemble all of the broken pieces into a whole. There are several phases to emotional healing. It happens by learning to accept and acknowledge all of one's feelings without passing judgment. As a result, emotional healing is a multifaceted process that necessitates a high level of skill and patience.

## The stages of emotional healing are:

### 1. SURRENDERING TO PAIN:

The rejection and denial of painful feelings causes emotional distress. Surrendering to pain is a healthy thing to do during an emotional healing process. Try not to run away from the pain. Be aware of your emotions and the essence of your pain. To heal, you must first understand and feel your emotions.

### 2. TOLERANCE COMES FROM AWARENESS:

Increasing one's awareness of emotions allows them to be named. The first step in handling the negative emotions is to know them. This is an action-oriented stage in which comprehending painful emotions aids in the healing of deep-seated scars. Knowing what kind of emotions your mind perceives can help you cope better with them.

### 3. DEALING WITH EMOTIONAL BLOCKAGES:

Emotional healing faces emotional pain objectively. As a result, the emotional issue that was avoided is confronted. Running away from difficulties can make things worse, therefore relief is sensed at this time. Prepare yourself to deal with the emotional blockage. To understand emotional problems, engage in honest self-talk. Determine your emotional triggers

and then confront them. When confronted with negative emotions, try to accept them and you will feel better.

### 4. INEVITABLE EXPRESSION:

After confronting the emotions, they may disturb us. Learn to honor the pain at this time, and in order to heal, one must learn to express their emotions. When you're depressed, in that situation, crying, yelling, and screaming in an empty room might help you release your unspoken anger and make you feel better. Allowing emotions to persist in the physical body for an extended period of time leads to mental tiredness and withdrawal. Movement toward recovery will take place over time and with patience.

### 5. ACCEPTANCE OF EMOTIONS:

Acceptance is the stage at which you can feel emptied of emotions. It's possible to be numb to all of your traumatic experiences. It's as if it's become a part of the soul. There is mastery over negative emotions when they are accepted. By relinquishing control over current thoughts and sensations, the pain will fade away. After the struggle is finished, the growth can begin. This stage puts your emotional stamina to the test and brings out the best in you. Old habits go away, and one is ready to embrace change. Emotional healing ushers in a new life full of vigour, optimism, and hope.

Making the decision to heal emotionally from the old familiar pattern of hurt and disappointments, followed by acceptance and awareness, is a step toward healing and recovery. The soul is freed itself from emotional shackles and moves forward toward growth and well-being, allowing for significant spiritual development.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He can be reached at 88325067196*

# THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR

## How does it work and why is it lunar?

Nadda Osman

For Muslims, a month starts when a new moon is sighted. Here Middle East Eye explains why the Islamic calendar is different to the one most people are used to

More than 1.8 billion Muslims around the world follow the Islamic calendar in some form, meaning key dates, such as New Year's Day, are marked at different times to the rest of the world, the majority of whom follow the Gregorian calendar.

For Muslims, the Islamic calendar, also called the Hijri calendar, holds religious significance and was the main calendar of day-to-day life until the process of westernisation across the Islamic world made the Gregorian calendar dominant.

However, Muslims continue to mark religious events using the Islamic calendar, as well as historic anniversaries relating to the life of the Prophet Muhammad.

The hijri calendar is used to determine the start dates for events, such as the start of Ramadan, the celebrations of Eid, and the Hajj pilgrimage.

The lunar calendar is mentioned in the Quran in Surah Yunus (the Chapter of Jonah). In this chapter, Muslims are told to mark the date based on the stages of the moon.

Here, Middle East Eye answers key questions about the calendar:

## WHY IS IT CALLED THE HIJRI CALENDAR AND WHAT ARE ITS ORIGINS?

The Islamic calendar is also commonly referred to as the Hijri calendar, a word that comes from the Arabic word hijra, meaning migration.

It refers to the Prophet Muhammad's migration from the city of Mecca, his birthplace, to Medina in 622 CE to escape persecution by his tribe, the Quraysh.

The city of Medina is significant for Muslims, as it was where the early Muslim community, known as the ummah (nation), was established.

Since the migration, 1,443 lunar years have passed, meaning we are now in the year 1443, according to the Hijri calendar.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Islamic calendar is governed by the movements of the moon, meaning that each month starts with a new lunar cycle, marked by the "birth" of a new crescent moon.

As it is based on the lunar calendar, the Islamic calendar only has 354-355 days, due to the fact that a lunar cycle typically lasts for 29 or 30 days rather than the 30 or 31 days per month used in the solar calendar, which the dominant Gregorian calendar is based on.

If a new crescent moon is spotted on the 29th day, this marks the end of the lunar cycle, hence a new month starts the next day.

By religious custom, it is only necessary for one Muslim in the community to spot the moon.

Today, modern technology means that observing the moon is much easier and

more scientifically accurate. It has therefore become a tradition among Muslims to try spotting it themselves and not rely on any one country to sight the moon.

## WHAT ARE THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR MONTHS?

Muharram: The Islamic calendar started with the month of Muharram, Arabic for "forbidden". The month is called that because all forms of fighting are prohibited and worshippers have to refrain from doing anything that would violate the sanctity of the month.

Some Muslims believe that the month signifies new beginnings, as it initially came after Muslims performed the Hajj pilgrimage, and would come back from the ritual having their sins forgiven.

The 10th day of Muharram, known as Ashura, is significant for both Sunni and Shia Muslims. For the Sunni majority, the day is marked with fasting and special prayers in mosques. For Shia Muslims, it marks the anniversary of the killing of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein during the Battle of Karbala, and is therefore a day of mourning.

Safar: The second month of the Islamic calendar means "void" in Arabic and was given the name because, before the formation of Islam, Arabs would leave their homes in search of



food during this month.

Many would also use this time to travel, leaving their homes empty.

Rabi al-awwal: Meaning "first Spring", the month's name symbolises a period when cattle would start grazing. Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad was born during this month, making it particularly special.

Rabi al-thani: named "second Spring", this month symbolises the end of the spring.

Jumad al-awwal: Meaning "first (month) of the parched land".

Jumad al-thani: Meaning "second (month) of the parched land" this signifies the end to dry and arid weather.

Rajab: This month is seen as sacred, and marks the second month in which fighting is forbidden for the faithful. The word rajab means respect or honour, but can also mean "to remove". Some believe that the month gets its name as during this time, people would remove

“  
Today Muslims all over the world abide by the Islamic lunar calendar, however most will live their day-to-day lives using the more widely used Gregorian calendar. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries still officially use the Islamic calendar, however may use the Gregorian calendar for civil purposes

the heads of their spears to refrain from fighting.

Shaban: Arabic for "scattered", this

month gets its name from the time when Arab tribes would split up across the land and travel around to obtain water.

Ramadan: One of the most well known months of the Islamic calendar is Ramadan, which is Arabic for "burning heat".

The name symbolises scorching temperatures and serves as a reminder for Muslims to reflect on their behaviour and try to improve their character, as well as to let go of worldly desires.

The month, in which practising Muslims will fast from dawn to sunset, is one of the most important times of the year for worshippers.

During this month, Muslims will place emphasis on giving to charity, visiting the poor and sick, as well as engaging in extra prayers and asking for forgiveness.

Shawwal: Meaning "raised", the name refers to when female camels raise their tails when they are ready to give birth.

The first of the month is Eid al-Fitr, a time of celebration after Ramadan. Some Muslims may also choose to fast an optional six days during this month, with the belief that they are rewarded as if they fasted the whole year.

Dhul Qida: Meaning "the possessor of the truce", the month is another in which fighting is prohibited.

Dhul Hijjah: The final year of the Islamic calendar means "the possessor of the pilgrimage". The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, mandatory for every Muslim who is physically and financially able to undertake it in their lifetime.

Most Muslims will spend the period taking part in supplications and deriving lessons from the lives of the Islamic prophets.

The Hajj pilgrimage ends with Eid al-Adha, the festival of sacrifice, which falls on the 10th day and commemorates the willingness of the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son Ismael in accordance with a command of God. This is the fourth month in which fighting is prohibited in Islam.

## WHICH MONTHS ARE SACRED?

There are four months that are seen as particularly sacred for worshippers. These are Muharram, Rajab, Dhul Qida and Dhul Hijjah.

These months are revered and fighting a war is prohibited in them, except in circumstances of extreme self-defence.

The reason behind the ban on fighting during these four months was to allow pilgrims and merchants to safely travel to houses of worship and return home without the risk of being attacked.

During these months, Muslims are encouraged to be more mindful of their actions and carry out good deeds. Many will spend their time reflecting on pious acts and educating themselves on Islamic teachings.

## WHICH COUNTRIES STILL OPERATE THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR?

Today Muslims all over the world abide by the Islamic lunar calendar, however most will live their day-to-day lives using the more widely used Gregorian calendar.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries still officially use the Islamic calendar, however may use the Gregorian calendar for civil purposes.

MIDDLE EAST EYE



# Areas under AFSPA curtailed in 3 NE states, CMs hail move, civil society wants more

**NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI:** In a major outreach to the Northeast, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced reduction of the disturbed areas under the contentious AFSPA in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur from April 1, a decision wholeheartedly welcomed by the political leadership of the three states but greeted with cautious optimism by others who wanted the "draconian" law repealed in entirety.

The move to curtail the areas under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act came three months after the central government constituted a high-level committee to examine the possibility of lifting the AFSPA in Nagaland, where the killing of 14 civilians in an army operation in December 2021 in a case of "mistaken identity" triggered massive protests.

In a series of tweets, Shah said: "In a significant step, Gol (Government of India) under the decisive leadership of PM Shri @NarendraModiJi has decided to reduce disturbed areas under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the states of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur after decades."

The home minister said the reduction in areas under AFSPA

is the result of the improved security situation and fast-tracked development due to consistent efforts of the Modi government. He said several agreements were signed with militant groups to end insurgency and bring lasting peace to the Northeast.

"Thanks to PM@NarendraModi Ji's unwavering commitment, our North-Eastern region, which was neglected for decades is now witnessing a new era of peace, prosperity and unprecedented development. I congratulate the people of North East on this momentous occasion," he said.

The AFSPA has been in force for decades in the three Northeastern states to assist the armed forces operating there to tackle insurgency.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without a warrant besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the security forces even if they shoot someone dead.

There have been innumerable protests for complete withdrawal of the law from the Northeast as well as Jammu and Kashmir for its alleged "draconian" provisions.

Manipur's human rights

activist Irom Chanu Sharmila waged the most remarkable fight against the law with her hunger strike that lasted 16 years, before she gave up her peaceful resistance on August 9 in 2016.

The disturbed area notification under AFSPA was completely removed from Tripura in 2015 and Meghalaya in 2018.

In Assam, where the disturbed area notification is in force in the entire state since 1990, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "I wholeheartedly welcome Adarniya PM Shri @narendramodi ji's decision to withdraw AFSPA from all areas of Assam barring nine districts and one subdivision.

Due to the significant improvement in the situation, the AFSPA is being removed with effect from April 1 completely from 23 districts and partially from one district of Assam.

The disturbed area declaration is in force in entire Manipur (except for Imphal municipality area) since 2004. With Thursday's decision, 15 police station areas of 6 districts of Manipur will be excluded from the disturbed area notification.

"This historic decision is a result of the robust development and improved security situation

under various initiatives taken up by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodiJi in the North East.

"This decision will lead to a new era of peace, prosperity and development in Manipur yet again," said Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in a series of tweets.

Grateful to Gol under the leadership of @PMOIndia Shri @narendramodi ji & @AmitShah ji for reducing disturbed areas under AFSPA in the states of Nagaland, Assam & Manipur. This is a significant development towards bringing stability, security & prosperity to the North East region, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, whose Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) is a BJP ally, tweeted. Assam and Manipur have BJP governments.

However, the reaction of civil society and intellectuals in Nagaland and Manipur varied from being cautiously optimistic to outright angry. In Nagaland where the disturbed area notification is in force since 1995, Naga Hoho general secretary K Elu Ndong welcomed the development but said, "Our demand is complete revocation of AFSPA from all Naga inhabited areas in particular and the North East region in general.

Naga Hoho is the apex organisation of Nagas in four NE States - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. Naga People's Front (NPF) secretary general Achumbemo Kikon said, "The Act (AFSPA) has acted only against democracy", and urged the Centre to consider its repeal.

Naga Mothers Association (NMA) advisor Rosemary Dzuvichu termed the decision very unfair" as the public demand was to repeal the Act which "violates every kind of human rights". Such small favours are unacceptable, Dzuvichu said. NMA is an influential civil society organisation in the state that has been plagued by insurgency for over six decades.

In Manipur, Director Human Rights Alert Babloo Loitongbam said, "We welcome it. It is a step in the right direction but our movement for the repeal of AFSPA will continue."

Executive editor of The Frontier Manipur Paojel Chaoba, who was detained under the anti-terror law - Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in 2021 for an article published on the news web-portal, said, "We too welcome it for it is overdue. However, AFSPA should be revoked by the State...from the entire valley area of Manipur."

## HDFC Bank Adjudged Best Performing Bank in SHG Linkage by Ministry of Rural Development



**Mumbai:** HDFC Bank has been adjudged Best Performing Bank in SHG Linkage by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India. At a function organized in New Delhi, the award was presented by Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development to K Venkatesh, Head - Sustainable Livelihood Initiative, HDFC Bank.

Notably, HDFC Bank was the only Private Bank to be felicitated for remarkable work in SHGs - by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Self Help Group (SHG) is a group lending model with a group of small-time women entrepreneurs coming together for a loan, where the repayment is a collective responsibility of each member in the group. Self Help Group emphasizes on the

concept of group cohesion and bonding. Due to this structure, an SHG is an evolved group with strong group linkage in place.

Given the structure, Govt of India started National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in 2011 as a poverty alleviation project. Implemented by the Government of India under the ministry of Rural Development, NRLM's focus is to promote self-employment and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the rural poor.

As part of NRLM, HDFC Bank provides access to financial services to over 4.5 lakh individuals in unbanked and underbanked sections of society. The Bank has signed MoUs with State Rural Livelihood Mission of six states, namely Assam, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Our Efforts To

strengthen basic health facilities in all the districts. Moreover, Rs 7873 crore has been allocated for the health sector in this year's budget, which will create unprecedented health facilities in the UT," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG expressed gratitude to the Doctors, paramedics, healthcare workers for their tireless contribution towards making J&K a leading UT in Covid management and vaccination in the country.

"To serve the one in need is our culture. We must dedicate ourselves to the service of mankind with responsibility, compassion, and utmost sensitivity and make the healthcare facilities easily accessible to all," the LG said. On the occasion, the spokesperson said that the LG also called upon departments implementing various social welfare schemes to be proactive to the needs and issues of the elderly.

"It is the responsibility of all to make them aware of this new facility which is available in the district hospital. The success of this historic initiative will be fully realized when no person has to wander for treatment, and the administration itself reaches out to the needy," Sinha added.

### Ex- Minister On Run

of the investigations, the police official said that three people identified as S. Gurdev Singh and Mohd. Shrief Sartaj, both residents of Jammu and Sidhant Sharma of Kathua have been rounded up for questioning.

Earlier in a Tweet, the police spokesperson said that a case has been registered and investigation is in progress.

"#Hawala money meant for #subversive activities in #Jammu seized & one arrested ;Ex -Minister Babu Singh absconding,Mohd.Shareef Shah r/o Syed Pora,Larnoo,Kokernag,Anantnag was arrested from Gandhi Nagar & 6 lacs & 90 thousand recovered from his possession," he added.

### Defiant Imran

and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

"...the letter stated that the no-confidence motion was being tabled even before it was filed, which means the Opposition was in contact with them," Khan said, adding that the letter was against him, not against the government.

Khan said that it was an "official letter" that was communicated to Pakistan's ambassador, who was taking notes during the meeting.

He said the foreign official knew that the ones who would come into power after him would have no issues taking orders from external forces.

"But what is most disturbing is that our people, who are sitting here, are in contact with foreign powers," he said, as he referred to the "three stooges" - Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz president Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rahman.

"Will foreign countries want such corrupt people in power in their states? They are ready to accept such corrupt politicians, but I am not acceptable to them," the prime minister said.

Khan said he will play till the last ball and the no-trust vote on Sunday will decide where the country will go.

Khan needs 172 votes in the lower house of 342 to foil the Opposition's bid to topple him. However, Opposition claims it has the support of 175 lawmakers and the prime minister should

immediately resign.

No Pakistani prime minister has ever completed a full five-year term in office. Also, no prime minister in Pakistan's history has ever been ousted through a no-confidence motion, and Khan is the third premier to face the challenge.

### Govt Sacks Five

records of the Government servant being reviewed, alongwith a summary, bringing out all relevant information, is placed before the Review Committee.

"Pursuant to the provisions, the internal Committee of Housing & Urban Development Department..... scrutinized the service records of Mohammad Ashraf, Executive Officer, presently under suspension," the order as regards Mohammad Ashraf reads, adding, "the Internal Committee observed that since Mohammad Ashraf falls under the broad conditions laid down in Article 226(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956 as amended vide S.O. 324 dated 22.10.2020 and recommended the case of the officer for further placement before the Review Committee for consideration under the provisions of Article 226(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956."

The Review Committee, constituted on 21 December 2020, it said, observed that Mohammad Ashraf while holding a post in the Department, has not performed the duties efficiently and his "conduct and integrity remained doubtful/unsatisfactory and his case falls under broad criteria as laid down in Article 226(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956 as amended vide S.O. 324 dated 22.10.2020."

"The Committee has concluded that no purpose would be served by allowing the officer to continue in service in the larger interest of the public," the order said, and subsequently ordered his premature retirement. Detailed orders have been issued as regards four other officers.

### Govt Authorizes

Officers shall immediately release the funds to the line departments within a period of one week from the date of authorization of funds by the Finance Department, it said. "The BEAMS Administrator at Administrative Department level shall report compliance to the Finance Department on monthly basis."

The expenditure, it said, shall be made strictly in accordance with GFR 2017, it said.

"All the procurement of Goods and Services shall be made through GeM portal in terms of relevant provisions of GFR 2017, Manual for Procurement of Goods 2017 and Manual for Procurement of Consultancy and other Services 2017."

The process of e-tendering, wherever required as per GFR, shall be initiated immediately in the month of April, 2022 and completed by or before 31st May for the year 2022-23. "No diversion shall be made under any pretext unless expressly authorized by the Finance Department."

The Controlling Officer(s)/DDOs, it said, shall strictly monitor revenue collection as per fixed targets on monthly basis which can be viewed in the Annual Financial Statement, 2022-23 available on Finance Department's website and shall also be communicated through BEAMS.

All the Director Finance(s)/FA & CAO(S) shall ensure submission of monthly revenue realization

statements and they shall also monitor the expenditure statements on BEAMS and furnish the same before 5th of following month for monthly review by the Finance Department, it said.

All the Government transactions, it said, shall be made through electronic mode without involving any cash transactions in the Government offices or other offices which are directly or indirectly controlled by the Government, excepting for few small denominations.

All the Controlling Officers/DDOs, it said, shall conduct periodic reconciliation of remittances and draws with Treasury and the Office of the Accountant General (A&E), J&K to ensure correct reflection of income and expenditure in the Finance and other Accounts.

The funds so released shall be utilized by the concerned authority only for the purpose specified after observing all prerequisite formalities/procedures as per GFR and shall not be available for further re-appropriation/diversion at any level and for any reason whatsoever, it said.

Treasury Officers concerned have been asked to ensure that releases have been made by DDO(s) through BEAMS. "Treasury Officers shall also be personally liable for making any payment not authorized and accepted on BEAMS application."

The Departments shall ensure that the expenditure out of allotted funds are made in stipulated time-frame within the quarter(s) for which the funds have been released, it said.

The advance drawal of funds in respect of Grant-in-Aid to Autonomous Bodies/PSUs/Boards etc. shall be simultaneously processed with the fund release proposals by the Departments containing the details of available bank balances, status of holding BoD's meeting, status of updation of annual accounts and status of previous UCs, it said. "The ban on engagement of casual workers, need based workers, daily wagers etc shall continue to be in force."

The expenditure shall be debited to the appropriate head of account as provided in the Demands for Grants and available on the BEAMS portal, it said. "Treasury Officers shall not entertain cases of parking of funds under 'Civil Deposits' unless sanctioned by the Finance Department." Strict action shall follow where any DDO or Treasury Officer violates these norms, it said.

"No bills on account of rent shall be entertained in the Treasury without Rent Assessment Order issued by the competent authority," it said, adding, "The rent payable should not exceed the rent assessment."

Power Development Department, it said, shall furnish online electricity bills on monthly basis to each DDO. "The DDOs in-turn shall contra-credit the monthly billed amount to Major Head: 0801- Power through JKPAYSYS." Under no circumstances electricity bills shall be drawn in cash, it said.

All Departments have been asked to ensure uniform pace of expenditure during the financial year 2022-23. "The overall ceiling of 30% expenditure shall be maintained during the last quarter of the financial year 2022-23," it said, adding, "The expenditure during the last month of the financial year 2022-23 shall be restricted to 15% of the budget allocation." It said focus of expenditure should be outcome based and wasteful expenditure should be avoided. "The outcome of the expenditure shall be reviewed on monthly basis by the Finance Department and any

irregular expenditure against norms shall be strictly avoided".

Funds provided under all the beneficiary schemes, it said, shall be disbursed through DBT mode with 100% Aadhar seeding which shall be reviewed by each Administrative Secretary on monthly basis. "Beneficiary-wise report (shall be) furnished to Finance Department on regular basis for up-loading on DBT portal."

The Department shall ensure that the Budget Announcements for the year 2022-23 relating to Revenue Budget, are implemented on priority and achievements on this account shall be reviewed periodically. (GNS)

### Police Claims

and later her identity was established after police talked to various sources spread across the apple-town of Sopore as well as adjacent Handwara district.

The 38-year-old Akhtar has two cases registered against her which included one in 2021 for pasting posters of banned Lashker-e-Taiba militant group in Handwara of north Kashmir.

A class 10 passport from Hanafia school, Akhtar was arrested by Jammu and Kashmir Police in 2021. She is out on bail since December last year.

Several raids were carried out and Sopore police was actively working on nabbing her.

IGP Kashmir told PTI that she had been working as an over ground worker of LeT.

"We have been noticing employing of women by terror group of late. Last year, two burka-clad women assisted terrorists in an attack on residential guard of a BJP worker in the outskirts of Srinagar city at Nowgam in which we lost one policeman."

"Some more such women are on police's radar and we have been handling with them professionally," the IGP said.

According to reports, Hasina's husband Mohd Yousuf Bhat was a stone pelter and he was booked under PSA for 17 months in the year 2016.

### NIA Announces

(LeT), operating in Jammu and Kashmir. The four militants, including two Pakistani nationals, are wanted by the NIA in connection with a case registered last year in connection with a conspiracy hatched for radicalising, motivating and recruiting youths of Jammu & Kashmir to effect violent activities in the Union territory and rest of India, a spokesperson of the agency said.

The case was registered under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The cash reward was declared against Pakistani nationals Saleem Rehmani alias 'Abu Saad' of Nawab Shah, Sindh and Saifullah Sajid Jatt of Shangamanga in Kasur and their local associates Sajjad Gul of Srinagar and Basit Ahmad Dar of Redwani Payeen in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Sharing their pictures, the NIA said, "the identity of the informer (leading to the arrest of the wanted militants) shall be kept secret." (PTI)

### How 'Honour Killing'

of technical investigation, more suspects were called for questioning.

It was at this stage that the SIT got its first credible clue. The suspect was someone very close to the missing boy.

As Talib's neighbour, Aamir Khan was the only person who had informed police that he had seen the missing boy at around 3:30 pm outside his residence.

"When we called him for

questioning, he started dictating us to carry out the investigation," DySp Rashid recalled. "It was at that moment we started suspecting him."

The SIT sleuths soon put Aamir on surveillance and probed his activities on the day when the boy went missing.

One of the unusual things that the investigators learned about the first day of Talib's disappearance was Aamir's outing in the local ground.

"He never played there, but on the day of the boy's disappearance, he made his presence felt there from 4:00 to 5:00 pm," the investigating officer said.

"For any shrewd sleuth, it was an unusual detail and since the devil lies in detail only, we started digging deep."

Since Talib was close to Aamir and would usually be with him, he went missing on the day when investigators brought sniffer dogs to gather more evidence.

The suspicion made sleuths storm his residence where they found a cryptic note in his book. The scribbling made the suspicion even more solid: "I'm going to do very dangerous things in my future. I don't know what I will be. I'm going to start bad deeds for which I require spy cameras."

Nearly caught in the net, Aamir had left behind another clue—a fake Facebook account in the name of "Mulan Kumar".

From that profile, he had texted a relative of Talib: "Your child is with some group and if they come to know, they will kill me."

By then, the SIT was quite assured that they had their man. What followed was the quintessential police grilling. But this was when the investigators found themselves at their wit's end.

To distract detectives, Aamir resorted to stories and one of them was about kidnapping.

But sleuths soon got the details of Aamir's fake Facebook account from US. The profile on the radar, it was revealed, was created on his number and the text was also sent from it.

Next, his cellphone was sent to Electronic Surveillance Unit (ESU), Kupwara to retrieve the deleted data.

Aamir's cellphone would soon vomit the hideous truth—forever ending the suspense over the missing mystery.

"We finally came to know that he was the one who actually abducted the child and killed him," DySp Rashid said.

"We found the picture of Talib's dead body in his cellphone. He had taken the picture after killing him and then deleted it."

Inside the SIT chamber, however, Aamir was still acting as a thick-skinned naysayer. But once evidences started piling up against him, the killer finally confessed his crime.

"He came out of the denial a few days later when he took us to the crime spot hidden in the deep jungle of Awoora," the officer said. "He finally recovered the body of the child."

But amid the outcry over the child killing, not many could know what made a neighbour kill a neighbour.

Inside his office, DySp Rashid offers some startling background details

compelling Aamir to commit the heinous crime.

"You've to brace up yourself for it if I tell you that it's a case of honour killing," the officer said with a straight face.

Some 8 years before taking little Talib into jungle and kill him, Aamir was waiting over the dead body of his sister.

"Aamir's sister had committed suicide after Talib's uncle blackmailed her," DySp Rashid said.

It's said that Aamir concealed the reality behind his sibling's suicide with police and vowed to settle the scores himself.

That year when Talib was born to the Khans of Awoora, Aamir driven by a vengeful huff had his target in mind.

Eight years later, in the last winter of Talib's transient life, Aamir avenged his sibling's death in the most brutal and shocking manner.

### Encounter Rages

Turkwagam.

As the joint team of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon the forces, triggering off a gunfight.

A senior police officer said that an exchange of firing between militants and government forces was going on.

As per the sources two to three militants are believed to be trapped. (GNS)

### Banihal Highway

which was closed last evening as major landslide struck the highway at Dewal bridge near Samroli around 08:00 pm, is now partially through (single way), stranded vehicles are being cleared," a traffic official said.

He said people are advised not to undertake the journey without contacting the traffic control room in Srinagar and Jammu to verify the latest status of the highway.

### Sarpanch's Husband

of Halqa Anderwan in Kangan area of the district, had demanded Rs 9,000 as bribe for the release of payment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, they said.

During the course of the investigation, a team from the ACB caught Liyaqat Ali, husband of Hassan Jan, while accepting the bribe from the complainant, the officials said.

The bribe money was recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses, they said, adding that further investigations were underway.

### 17 New Corona

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of new cases at 12, followed by two in Jammu district. Fifteen of the 20 districts in the Union Territory did not report any new cases.

There are 151 active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir. So far, 4,48,836 people have recovered from the disease, officials said.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shoaib Meraj Kashtwari S/O Fayaz Ahmad Kashtwari R/O E5 Shah Faisal Colony, Soura, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir 190020 want to do correction in my driving licence bearing No JK-1220080079024 wherein the date of birth mentioned is 08-02-1989 instead of 16-03-1988. Also, the name in the driving license is mentioned as Shoaib Meraj Kashtwani instead of Shoaib Meraj Kashtwari. If anybody has any objection regarding the same please contact RTO Srinagar within 07 days of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shoaib Meraj Kashtwari  
S/O Fayaz Ahmad Kashtwari  
D.O.B : 16-03-1988



## Crime Branch Charges 2 People For Duping Haj Aspirants

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday filed chargesheet against two persons for duping and cheating Haj aspirants by allegedly grabbing Rs 8 lakhs fraudulently and dishonestly on the pretext of organizing the pilgrimage in 2020.

A spokesperson of the Crime Branch Kashmir said that charge-sheet in case (FIR No: 38/2020) under section 420, 120-B RPC of police station CBK was filed before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar against Shoiab Ashraf Khan of Goal Market Srinagar and Ashiq Hussain Mir of Gulab Bagh Zakoor Srinagar (proprietors of A&Y Tour and Travels).

He said CBK received a written complaint from one Nazir Ahmad Dar alleging that Shoiab Ashraf Khan grabbed an amount of Rs 8 lakhs on the pretext of organizing Haj pilgrimage.

On receipt of this complaint, he said, an enquiry was initiated. "The

enquiry conducted revealed that the accused Shoiab Ashraf Khan is running Tour & Travel companies under the name and style 'EDRAAL Tour & Travels' and 'A&Y' at Nigeen and Kangan respectively for Haj and Umrah purposes in partnership with another accused namely Ashiq Hussain Mir," the spokesman said in a statement.

The accused induced the complainant and his associates to credit an amount of Rs 8 lakh for managing Haj Pilgrimage for them. However, he said, after receiving the money accused persons closed their Tour and Travel office and could not be traced by the complainant despite his incessant efforts.

Accordingly the case was registered and investigation established cheating on part of the accused persons. "Keeping in view the facts and evidence collected during the investigation offences punishable U/S 420 RPC was proved against the accused persons and Challan submitted in the Court of Law."

## 2,100 People Aailed 'Kargil Courier' Services This Winter

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Over 2,100 people availed the AN-32 'Kargil Courier' service operated by the Indian Air Force between Kargil and the twin capital cities of Jammu and Kashmir during this winter, officials said here on Thursday.

"While 275 passengers were airlifted from Kargil to Srinagar, 614 travelled on the IAF-operated service from Srinagar to Kargil," they said.

The officials said 316 passen-

gers travelled from Kargil to Jammu and 903 passengers made the journey from Jammu to Kargil.

This year, tickets to the service were made available online by the information technology department of the union territory of Ladakh.

The 'Kargil Courier' service was launched to ensure winter connectivity for the people of Kargil who are cut off from the rest of the country due to the blockade of the road to Srinagar caused by heavy snowfall.

## DCC member, BDC chairperson Quit Cong In Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A district development council member and a block development council chairperson were among several activists who quit the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday protesting its "anti-Pahari community stance" over the demand of Scheduled Tribe status.

The Pahari community has been seeking Scheduled Tribe status for 30 years, ever since the Gujjars and Bakarwals in Jammu and Kashmir got the status in 1991 helping them get a reservation in jobs and admission to educational institutes.

Following the Delimitation Commission's recent recom-

mendation of granting political reservation for the Pahari as well, leaders of the community have come together to make a fresh push for the same.

"We have resigned from the Congress in protest against their anti-Pahari community stance over the grant of ST status to them. I along with BDC chairperson Thanamandi and party workers have resigned," DDC member Abdul Qayoom Mir told reporters in Rajouri. He said they will join the party that helps in granting Pahari the Scheduled Tribe status.

Mir accused the Congress of creating roadblocks in the way of the Pahari community getting the status thus "forcing us to quit the party".

## IUST's Centre For Spiritual Studies Holds Special Lecture

Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** A Special Lecture on "The Vibrant Contributions of the Spiritual Personages to the Society: An Analysis" was organized by International Centre for Spiritual Studies, IUST Awantipora.

Mufti Mohammad Ishaq Nazki, an eminent scholar of the valley presented his paper on the topic.

In his presentation Mufti Muhataram elaborated the meaning of "Ruh" in literal and the Islamic traditions referring to the Quran and Hadith.

The speaker deliberated in detail on Prophet Mohammad (SAW), who is the epitome of perfect morality (Khulq-i-Azim) and his character is the model for Islamic Spirituality. Mufti sahib explicated nicely the concepts and stages of Tassawuf in Islamic traditions like Shariah, Marifa, Tariqah, Haqiqah, Ihsan etc. The lecture

was much appreciated by the audience.

Earlier Prof. Hamidullah Marazi, Director International Centre for Spiritual Studies welcomed the guests and participants of the Special Lecture and stated that this lecture is beginning of the academic activities of the Centre which will invite eminent and popular scholars of Islam who are trained both in traditional and modern education.

To have the valuable lectures on the vital issues of Islamic spirituality the platform will be provided by the centre. The function was presided over by, Registrar, IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal, who said that the Centre for Spiritual Studies should take cognizance of the problems our society is facing like drug addiction and moral turpitude which is posing threat to the very social fabric of our society and should organize the seminars conferences and symposia to sensitize new generation.

# LG Hands Over Land Passbooks To Citizens

Launches G2C Services, 24x7 Dedicated Helpline; IEC-Videos Of Revenue Dept



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that easing of land governance through digitization of land records has brought transformation in the life of ordinary citizens in the Union Territory.

"With one-click access to land records & linking of Aadhaar and Mobile numbers will streamline service delivery, besides completely eradicating scope of record tampering and encroachments," Sinha said.

He made these remarks after launching G2C Services, 24x7 dedicated helpline, and IEC-Videos of Revenue Department at the Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, the LG maintained that the institutional arrangements and processes to support the effective land administration and revenue related service delivery to the citizens will bring in greater transparency into the functioning of the department.

Sinha, he said, further observed that 1662 Patwar Halqas institutionalized with the establishment of offices of Patwaris will ensure availability of the first interface of revenue hierarchy to the citizens in their areas of jurisdiction and prompt delivery of services.

"It was informed that the department has notified that all

Patwaris will remain physically present in their respective Patwar Halqas from 10 am to 12 noon, every Monday to Friday, for the convenience of people," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG also launched dedicated revenue helpline and IEC videos of Revenue Department for effective implementation of government programmes/schemes.

The Revenue helpline for ensuring prompt disposal of grievances, complaints pertaining to the Revenue Department are 0191-2456100(landline) and 9419372000(Whatsapp).

"We have introduced e-governance to make the government citizen-friendly and further ease the interface between government and people," Sinha said.

The G2C Revenue Services launched today include Encumbrance, Demarcation, Mutation, Online Fard Extracts among others. Further, Information Education and Communication (IEC)-Videos on the use of initiatives of 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani', Land pass Books, and 'Soochit Rahe-Sachet Rahe' for operationalisation of Real-Time Land Information System (RT-LIS), Seeding of Mobile Numbers and Aadhar in the land records were also launched.

The LG, as per the spokesperson called upon the Deputy Commissioners to make use of Whatsapp groups and Video-on-Wheels facility to take the

IEC videos to maximum number of citizens for an effective information campaign.

Sinha, he said, observed that with greater transparency and a renewed sense of accountability, the revenue department has witnessed transformational citizen-centric changes in the last 1.5 years.

He said that the LG also underscored that project of 'Har Patwar- Ek Patwar Khana', Revenue Helpline and the drive to issue land passbooks in three languages are unique interventions of J&K UT.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K has emerged as a leading UT in the entire country for making land records information easily accessible to all," the LG said.

He also complimented the Revenue Department and the District Administrations for completing the project of Har Patwar Ek Patwar Khana in record time.

"On the occasion, the Lt Governor handed over Land passbooks to citizens, while similar Land Passbooks were provided to the people in Kashmir division at their doorsteps by the concerned Tehsildars," the spokesperson said.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, while speaking on the occasion said that changes in the revenue department have brought a new era of transparency and accountability.

## J&K Records 25.38 % Hike In Tax Revenue Collection During 2021-22

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a significant hike of 25.38 per cent in tax revenue collection during 2021-22 (ending March, 2022) against the collections made during the last fiscal.

As per an official spokesperson, the total collections of indirect taxes like GST, excise duty, stamps and tax on motor spirits have been made to the tune of Rs. 15,179.42 crore against Rs. 12,105.95 crore collected during the previous financial year 2020-21.

Besides, the collection on account of Goods & Services Tax was Rs. 11,163.95 crore against Rs. 9,020.00 crore collected

during the previous financial year thereby recording a robust growth of 23.77 per cent.

The tax collected on sale of motor spirits during 2021-22 was to the tune of Rs. 1,829.73 crore against Rs. 1,459.92 crore collected during the previous financial year thereby registering a growth of 25.33 per cent.

The buoyant growth in collections in this sector has been achieved despite of recent reduction of tax rate by the government in respect of petrol, diesel and ATF.

In a remarkable accomplishment, the growth of revenue in the stamp duty collection has shown a steep hike of 56.12 per cent as the total collection made have reached Rs. 425.00 crore against Rs. 272.22 crore

recorded during the last fiscal. Likewise, collections made in the excise duty have been to the tune of Rs. 1,760.74 crore against Rs. 1,353.81 crore collected during the financial year 2020-21 thereby recording a substantial growth of 30 per cent.

The impressive tax revenue generated during 2021-22 indicates revival and recovery of business and trade activities in the Union Territory. "Proper planning, monitoring and effective implementation of Tax statutes in the Union Territory coupled with government's initiatives of bringing transparency and accountability in the system have tremendously contributed towards scaling up the momentum of collection of Tax Revenue.

## DG Local Fund A&P, J&K Finance Dept Attains Superannuation

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Azad Ahmad Wani, Director General Local Fund Audit & Pensions, Jammu & Kashmir Finance Department has retired from government services on Thursday.

Wani has rendered service in different departments in various capacities viz Director Accounts & Treasuries Kash-

mir, Director Finance SKIMS Soura, Director Transport/Jal Shakti J&K, FA/CAO Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Dis-

trict Treasury Officer Baramulla/Pulwama etc. He has remained an inspirational personality for his subordinates and colleagues and is known for his generosity, kindness, integrity and motivation.

## Rs 31.12 Cr Scholarship Awarded To Tribal Students

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated various steps for strengthening the support to education of tribal students.

In line with the announcement made by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha for effective steps aimed at welfare of tribal population in J&K, the Tribal Affairs Department has disbursed highest ever scholarship amounting to Rs. 31.12 Crore to tribal students during the current financial year.

The Tribal Affairs Department has also earmarked a budget of 45 Cr for scholarship in the financial year 2022-23. The rise in scholarship budget is aimed at catering the proposed enhancement in scholarship amount for students of Class 1 to 8 in order to encourage primary education in rural areas.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that education of tribal students is a top priority of J&K Government and with keen interest of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha the department has disbursed highest ever scholarship amounting to Rs. 31 Crore to support the tribal students at Post-Graduate, Graduate, Post-Matric and Pre-Matric level.

This also includes many cases of previous two years pending due to various reasons.

The scholarship amount has been credited directly to the bank account of the students through PFMS mode. It was informed that a total number of 12,580 students received scholarship amount to the tune of Rs. 15.40 Crore under Post Matric scholarship scheme while under Pre Matric scholarship scheme an amount of Rs. 13.50 Crore was disbursed to students studying in 1st to 8th class and an amount of Rs. 2.22 Crore was credited in the individual bank account of 7420 students of class 9th and 10th.

Post-Matric scholarship to the tune of Rs 15.40 disbursed to 12,580 students includes the

students under professional courses clubbed under Group A viz MBBS, BDS, BUMS, Degree Engineering Courses, P.G. Courses in Medical & Engineering, BSc Agriculture, BVSc, BSc IT, M.Phil, Ph. D Courses, Non-Professional (and all other Government Recognized Courses), UG & PG Level Courses, Computer Courses of 3 years, Group B viz Diploma Engineering Courses, All Medical Courses, B.Ed Courses & CHM "A" Level & "A" Level Courses (01 Years), Group C viz All other Courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under group I & II e.g., B.A/BSc/B.Com etc and Group D viz All Post-Matriculation Level Non-Degree Courses for which entrance qualification if High School (Class X), e.g., Senior Secondary Certificate (XI & XII), both General and Vocational Stream, ITI Courses, 3 year Diploma Courses in Polytechnic, ("O" Level Hardware/Software Diploma Computer Courses etc)

The number of students provided scholarship under the Graduate and Post-Matric scholarship registered an increase of 120% over the numbers last year in addition to clearance of backlog of precious two years.

The Tribal Affairs Deptt is further working on reforming the process of scholarship by introducing PFMS at Pre-matric and doubling the scholarship amount for classes 1 to 8.

Pertinently, the deptt had announced doubling of scholarship budget to 30Cr in 2021-22 which was achieved in time and for next academic year another 50% hike to Rs 45 Cr has been included in the budget. The scholarship budget of Rs 6.37 Cr in 2018-19, 8.60 Cr in 2019-20 was enhanced to record Rs 30 Cr outlay for the financial year 2021-22.

The department is also working on special scholarship award for more than 32000 tribal students of Seasonal Educational Centres belonging to Transhumant semi-nomadic families to encourage their inclusion in quality education from this year as a flagship initiative.

SRINAGAR **RING ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

## Farmers Allege Uprooting Of Fruit Trees & Damage To Mustard Crop In Wathoor

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Affected farmers in central Kashmir's Wathora Chadoora are showing strong resentment against the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), NKC Pvt Ltd and District Administration Budgam as JCBs have been pressed into service to uproot the fruit trees and standing mustard crop having been damaged.

The farmers who have not received any compensation for land allege that JCB's have damaged their crop and plundered the fruit trees

The affected farmers in a statement said that hundreds of apple and plum trees have been uprooted during the last two days and more than 100 kanals of land with mustard crop having been damaged. The affected farmers said that they have not been paid any compensation till date and the Govt was forcibly trespassing their agricultural land.

"Some farmers have taken part of the compensation for land but many have not. How can JCB's damage our mustard crop when me and my extended family have not received even a penny? The awards have not been prepared in time, they have lapsed long back. This is cruelty. We

need justice," said Gulzar Ahmad Akhoo, a local resident.

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in association with district administration Budgam and private company NKC Pvt Ltd began cutting down fully grown apple and plum trees in Wathora Chadoora that are coming under the alignment of the proposed Srinagar Ring Road. The apple farmers allege that the government has paid them compensation as per 1996 rates when the wholesale rate of apples and plum was mere Rs 16 per kg in market.

"The compensation for fruit trees has also not been paid fully. The High Court has intervened and given an interim order in our favour as our awards have lapsed and Govt is still plundering our land and crops," said Bashir Ahmad a local resident. Earlier in Gudsathoo village more than 500 fully grown apple trees were chopped down last year and assessment was made as per 1996 rates which are 7 to 8 times less than present value.

"We would have appreciated it if we were given advance notice so that we could have tried to transplant the apple or plum trees. Even our small apple trees were uprooted," said another farmer Ghulam Mohammad

### TRANSFORMATIONAL BUDGET 2022-23

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Rapid urbanization and industrialization has increased the demand of electricity expeditiously across the Jammu and Kashmir.

To meet this requirement, the government is working tirelessly to ramp up the electricity production. Contemporary problems like pollution and global climate change have pushed us to switch on to green renewable energy resources, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

He said that the current budget pushes for solar and hydroelectric power generation in order to fulfill sustainable development goals.

#### SOLAR ENERGY

He added that Jammu & Kashmir

has a good potential of solar energy and the renewable energy capacity would help to bridge a part of its power requirement. Under the new budget in PM KUSUM Scheme, 375 number of Solar Water Pumps will be installed in 2022-23 providing electricity benefit to 47159 souls, direct agriculture benefit to 18750 souls, and indirect agriculture benefit to 160000 souls.

"Under Jammu Solar City Mission, Grid tied Rooftop Solar Power Plants of aggregate capacity of 200 MW in residential sector will be provided to 50000 households in 2022-23 benefiting a population of 2 lakh souls. Also, under Jammu Smart City Project, grid tied Rooftop Solar Power Plants of aggregate capacity of 12 MW are to be provided to 200 number of Govern-

ment buildings in 2022-23 absolving hydropower Sector of 48000 KWh," the spokesperson said.

Similarly, he said, through Srinagar Smart City Project, grid tied Rooftop Solar Power Plants of aggregate capacity of 4 MW will be provided to 70 number of Government buildings in 2022-23 absolving hydropower Sector of 16000 KWh. Solar power projects can be setup in a much shorter timeframe when compared to conventional power projects and the cost of solar power has become more economical today.

"Solar power can also help meet energy requirements for both grids connected as well as off-grid applications such as solar powered agricultural pump sets.

#### HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS

Jammu & Kashmir is bestowed with an estimated hydro-power potential, out of which 14,867 MW has already been identified by Central Electricity Authority, the spokesperson said. He said that J&K is all set to double the Hydropower Generation Capacity in next 3 years from existing capacity of 3500 MW.

"In this direction, 5 Mega Hydropower projects viz Ratle (824 MW), Kirthai-II (930 MW) Sawalakote (1856 MW), Dulhasti-Stage II (258 MW) and Uri-I Stage-II (240 MW) having total capacity of 4134 MW have been taken-up for execution in collaboration with NHPC. The likely investment in these projects is Rs 34882 crore and on com-

pletion will make J&K power surplus," he added.

#### TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTOR

According to the spokesperson, the transmission capacity of Jammu and Kashmir is expected to reach to 12655 MVA by March 2022 and the transmission capacity at 220/132 KV level and 132/33 KV level is expected to be increased by 520 MVA and 580 MVA respectively in 2022-23.

He said about 160 Circuit kilometers of existing ACSR (aluminum conductor steel reinforced) is being replaced by HTLS (high temperature low sag) to increase the carrying capacity by 1.75 times besides installation of towers at various locations for ground clearance.

"Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), a new reforms-based and results-linked scheme introduced by Ministry of Power (GoI) aimed at reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses, 100% prepaid metering, reduction of Average cost of Service- Aggregate Revenue Realised (ACS-ARR), developing modern DISCOMs and Leveraging Artificial Intelligence besides focus on Operational Efficiency will be rolled out and made operational during 2022-23. Reliable and Quality Power supply is to be provided to consumers by way of creation/augmentation of 11/0.33 KV critically overloaded substations and improvement/modernization of HT/LT lines," he said.

He said that 6 lakh Smart Pre-paid meters to be installed (3 lakh each in

Jammu & Kashmir Divisions) for preventing human intervention in billing/ collection and subsequent reduction in Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses.

"Our mission is to become one of the largest clean energy producing UT in the country and to reduce dependency on the conventional sources of energy and enable J&K in attaining self-sufficiency in its energy needs. The government recognizes that renewable energy can also significantly increase J&K's and the Nation's energy security. The budget 2022-23 focuses on to evolve new technologies in renewable energy generation and its application through participation of farmers, industries and public at large to boost the economy of J&K," the spokesperson added.



## ► YSS CUP 2021

## Jammu Wins KhoKho Title, Beats Budgam In Final

Winner team to get cash prize of ₹50K: Gazanfar Ali



Observer News Service

**KATHUA:** In a splendid win, the district KhoKho team of Jammu has won finals of the UT level inter district competitions by 2-0 beating District KhoKho Team of Budgam here at sports Stadia.

After the super exciting finale of the UT level Kho-Kho competitions, Director of the Department of Youth Services and Sports, in his congratulatory message, conveyed words of encouragement and acceptance to DYSSO Jammu Sukhdev Dev Raj.

"I congratulate DYSSO Jammu and his team for a fantastic win in a nail-biting finale with the district team of Budgam," Gazanfar Ali's message reads.

Pertinently the UT level competitions in other three games are also underway and finals are being played at three different venues in coming days.

Nearly 9076 Panchayat/ Block teams of all twenty districts of

the Union territory have been registered for participating in four sports disciplines of Cricket/Kabadi/Kho-Kho and Volleyball being held during this historic and first of its kind sports extravaganza.

"To infuse a sense of competition and make these spots competitions more interesting and full of excitement, the YSS&S Department has announced a cash prize of Rs 50 thousand for first position, Rs 30 thousand for second position and Rs 20 thousand for third position in all the four games being played under YSS Cup-21," said Director Sports Gazanfar Ali.

He hoped that such initiatives of engaging non-students in games and sports would yield many encouraging results in the days to come. He appreciated the efforts of field staff of the Department of YSS for organising matches of the tournament most proficiently even in the remotest areas of the JK districts

## DYSSO Shopian Chairs Meeting

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Shopian, Gurmukh Singh Dutta on Thursday convened a meeting to take account of the activities being conducted by the department in all the Zones of the district at Mini Secretariat Arhama, here.

The meeting was informed that the calendar under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was followed in letter and spirit across the district by the department.

A threadbare discussion was held on progress and achievements made and the pace of registering teams for YSS cup at Panchayat Level.

Dutta provided details about the status of completed works and on-going projects; however, augmentation of the Sports Infrastructure scheme was also discussed threadbare on the occasion.

Many other issues pertaining to the smooth functioning of the department were also discussed in the daylong meeting.

DYS&SO in his closing remarks stressed upon the officers and officials of the department to follow a calendar of activities while obeying all the Covid-19 related SOPs. He directed to prioritise the work of publicity in their respective zones.

He also directed the field officers to keep a close vigil of the developmental works pertaining to the sports infrastructure, play fields and other activities and emphasised for activating their developmental activities to facilitate those students eager to participate in physical exercises.

Among others, Lecturers, Physical Education Teachers, Staff members of Youth Services and Sports district Shopian and other concerned were present in the meeting.

## FIFA World Cup 2022 Final Draw: All You Need To Know



Agencies

**DOHA:** The FIFA World Cup 2022 Final Draw is set to take place on Friday, April 1 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center in Qatar to determine the groups and fixtures for the upcoming football spectacle.

The 32 teams that will play at the FIFA World Cup 2022, of which 29 have already qualified, will be divided into eight groups of four through the draw.

Two of the remaining three qualifying spots will be decided through the intercontinental playoffs and the last berth will be determined when Wales face either Ukraine or Scotland in June. The three vacant spots will be

replaced by placeholders during the draw.

The procedure to determine the fixtures involves teams being seeded according to their world football rankings and then placed into four pots.

Pot 1 includes hosts Qatar and the top seven teams, while pot 2 has teams seeded eight to 15. The 16 to 23 seeded teams are placed in pot 3 whereas pot 4 will contain teams seeded 24 to 28 along with the three placeholders.

Then, the groups for FIFA World Cup 2022 will be determined using eight pots, labelled Group A to Group H. Qatar, courtesy of being the hosts, will be represented by a

different coloured ball and will be the first team to be drawn in Group A.

The remaining seven teams from pot 1 will fill up Group B to Group H. The same process is applied for pots 2, 3 and 4.

However, in the FIFA World Cup 2022, no group will have more than one team from the same confederation. Only Europe, which has 13 qualifying spots, will be allowed to have a maximum of two teams in five groups.

The football World Cup will be held between November 21 and December 18, with the group stage lasting 12 days and featuring four matches per day.

The draw will begin at 9:30 PM IST.

## FIFA 2022 World Cup In Qatar Pots

Pots			
Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3	Pot 4
Qatar	Mexico	Senegal	Cameroon
Brazil	Netherlands	IR Iran	Canada
Belgium	Denmark	Japan	Ecuador
France	Germany	Morocco	Saudi Arabia
Argentina	Uruguay	Serbia	Ghana
England	Switzerland	Poland	FIFA IC Play-off 1
Spain	USA	Korea Republic	FIFA IC Play-off 2
Portugal	Croatia	Tunisia	Euro Play-off

## KKR Promise Bold Play Against Punjab Kings

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Kolkata Knight Riders are expected to continue with their risk-taking approach despite mixed returns when they on Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

KKR head into Friday's game at the back of a three-wicket loss against RCB though managed to make the game close after a below-par total.

Punjab began their campaign with a win but they would expecting a better bowling effort after con-



ceding more than 200 runs in their first game. South Africa speedster Kagiso Rabada is expected to play after completing his three-

day quarantine and that will give a big boost to the Punjab attack. Batting at the Wankhede, where the track is relative-

ly fresh, has not been easy as seen in the two games played at the venue so far.

Kolkata's openers, Ajinkya Rahane and the attacking Venkatesh Iyer perished cheaply against RCB and the duo would be looking to provide a strong start to the team.

While skipper Shreyas Iyer, who has been in good form despite the failure against RCB, would be an important cog in the wheel, but would need support from the likes of Nitish Rana.

The KKR line-up has batters who can tear into

any attack and the management would hope that they all fire in unison against Punjab.

On the bowling front, pacer Umesh Yadav was splendid in both the games with the new ball. Experienced Kiwi bowler Tim Southee, who replaced Shivam Mavi and picked up three wickets, too has a key role to play upfront.

For Punjab, a lot would rest on how their top three skipper Mayank Agarwal, flamboyant Shikhar Dhawan and Sri Lankan Bhanuka Rajapaksa, who played a match-winning

cameo against RCB, perform.

It remains to be seen if Under-19 World Cup star Raj Bawa, who failed on IPL debut, gets another chance.

Punjab bowlers came up against a marauding Faf du Plessis in the first game and the likes of Sandeep Sharma, Arshdeep Singh and Odean Smith would need to up their game against KKR.

The eight overs from spin duo of Rahul Chahar and Harpreet Brar could also make a difference in the game.

## 'Gutted' Sam Curran Feels IPL Came 'Bit Too Soon'

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Recovering from a back injury, England allrounder Sam Curran says he is gutted to miss the IPL this season but feels his decision to opt out of the auction was the right one.

Curran said it would have been too soon to return to action as he nurses the most serious injury of his young career.

"I'm gutted not to be there. It's a frustration watching from home," Curran, who played for Chennai Super Kings, told ESPNcricinfo.

"I wanted to go (into the auction) but I didn't at the end which was probably the best decision. Looking back, IPL probably came a little bit too soon."

The 23-year-old, who bowls left-arm medium pace, had sustained a stress fracture on his lower back

during the second leg of IPL in October last year. "I definitely want to go back (to the IPL) at some stage because you learn so much



about your T20 game there: it's a tournament when you live and breathe cricket. You go down for breakfast every day and you're sitting with superstars, sitting down and chatting about the game."

Curran had felt pain in his back during CSK's loss to Rajasthan Royals in October and scans later revealed that he had suffered a stress fracture of the lower back, ruling him

out of the T20 World Cup and the Ashes.

He is now looking to put up a good show in Surrey's County Championship opener against Warwickshire at Edgbaston next week, while the main focus remains on getting his place back in the Test series against New Zealand in June and T20 World Cup in Australia in October.

"It's been a long winter. I'd never really experienced an injury before and missing out on what I have been pretty hard. They're probably the two biggest series or tournaments as a player: a World Cup for your country and an Ashes series down under," he said.

"...for now, it's about starting these first six Championship games, trying to put in performances for myself and for Surrey. The Test matches in June are my initial goal and the end goal is probably the World Cup."

## Fit-Again Surya Joins MI Ahead Of Rajasthan Fixture

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Having recovered from his finger injury, star India batter Suryakumar Yadav has joined the Mumbai Indians ahead of their second IPL game against Rajasthan Royals, the five-time champions said on Thursday.

Surya, who was undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy after suffering a finger injury during the home series against West Indies last month, missed MI's IPL opener against Delhi Capitals on March 27.

"Suryakumar Yadav exited his mandatory quarantine and joined the team (on Wednesday) for the gym session in the company of his mates Kieron Pollard, Ishan Kishan and Jasprit Bumrah... The mood in the camp is upbeat," MI said in a statement.

"The team underwent a strength and conditioning session yesterday under the watchful eyes of Paul Chapman. The session involved weight and fitness training, with the focus on working on core fitness and



building strength."

Mumbai Indians had lost to Delhi Capitals by four wickets in their IPL opener at the Brabourne Stadium here.

Mumbai failed to defend 178 as Delhi shot off the target in just 18.2 overs, thanks to an unbroken 75-run stand between Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav for the seventh wicket.

Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah had a lacklustre outing, leaking 43 runs from 3.2 overs and it was their English debutant Tymal Mills who impressed returning with figures of 3-0-26-1. Mills struck in his very first over for MI, removing Delhi captain Rishabh Pant.

## ► WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

## England Crush South Africa, To Meet Australia In Final



Press Trust of India

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Danielle Wyatt made the most of the luck that came her way en route to a memorable hundred as defending champions England showed their big-match temperament with a 137-run win over South Africa to enter the Women's World Cup final here on Thursday.

Wyatt (129 off 125), who was dropped five times, struck a maiden World Cup hundred before Sophia Dunkley produced a fine 60 off 72 balls to take England to an imposing 293 for eight after South Africa chose to bowl.

South Africa, who had reached the last-four stage as the second best team from the league stage and also eliminated India from the competition, crumbled under the pressure of a knock-out game.

They could never recover from the body blow received in the second over of the chase when pacer Anya Shrubsole (2/27) had tournament's leading run-getter Laura Wolvaardt caught and

bowled. Their innings ended at 156 in 38 overs.

Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone completed the job for England by cleaning up the lower-order, ending with six wickets for 36 runs in eight overs. She had also hit an unbeaten 24 off 11 balls to take England close to the 300-run mark.

With five wins on the trot after three losses that had them staring at an early exit, England's juggernaut is well and truly rolling as they stand on the cusp of a fifth title.

Their final and familiar opponents Australia, on the other hand, are eyeing a record-extending seventh crown.

It was a brilliant display of swing bowling from Shrubsole that broke the backbone of South Africa batting in the run chase.

Wolvaardt's opening partner Lizelle Lee was Shrubsole's second wicket as the out-of-form batter flicked it straight into the hands of the mid-wicket fielder, ending her forgettable campaign in the ICC event.

## Class 11th Student Dies During Race In Pulwama

Student with heart ailment had undergone three surgeries: Official



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A Class 11th student died during a half marathon race in Rajpora area of Pulwama district on Wednesday.

An official of Youth Services and Sports told the news agency KNO that on the directions of Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, the half marathon races are being conducted in different zones.

He said on Wednesday, a half marathon race was scheduled today in Shadimarg zone and four other zones in district and accordingly every school of the area were informed to send five students.

He further added that Higher Secondary School Rajpora has also sent five students and while the

race was started today morning, the boy fell unconscious just after few meters.

He said that he was immediately shifted to PHC Rajpora where from he was referred to district hospital Pulwama. However, he was declared brought dead there.

The deceased student was identified as Shahnawaz Ahmed Mir, son of Ghulam Muhammad Mir of Chandpora Rajpora.

He added that a student of Class 11th at Higher Secondary Rajpora was a heart patient and had undergone three surgeries already.

About his selection for the race, he said that it was the duty of parents to inform teachers about his problems prior to allowing him to join the half marathon. (KNO)

## Karthik Is As Cool As Dhoni: RCB Skipper Du Plessis



Press Trust of India

**NAVI MUMBAI:** Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Faf du Plessis has lavished praise on teammate Dinesh Karthik, saying his calm demeanour is close to what Mahendra Singh Dhoni displays in the final overs of the game.

Karthik clobbered a six and a four in the first two deliveries of the last over to take RCB home after they were in a spot of bother chasing a tricky target of 129 against Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday night.

"DK's experience helped in the end, cool-calm, runs weren't never really too far away. He's probably as cool as MS Dhoni can get in the last five overs," said RCB captain Faf du Plessis, who has played with Dhoni at CSK, in the post-match presentation.

Seamers Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj had shared three wickets in the powerplays to

leave KKR at 44 for 3 and Wanindu Hasaranga then snapped four to bowl them out for 128 in 18.5 overs.

Chasing the target, RCB batters had to overcome some anxious moments as they huffed and puffed to a three-wicket win with four balls to spare in the end.

"Good win, obviously chasing small scores, you want to be positive and not leave it late, but it was good bowling from their seamers. Tonight there was seam and bounce, the first night it swung a bit more," said du Plessis, who was named captain ahead of the IPL this year.

RCB had lost their opener against Punjab Kings at the same venue despite posting a challenging 205 for 2.

"Two-three days ago, it was 200 vs 200. Tonight it was 120 vs 120, pretty good. In an ideal world, we would've liked to have won more convincingly but a win is a win."