



**P3 CITY**

## FREQUENT TRAFFIC JAMS TAKE TOLL ON COMMUTERS

In absence of a proper traffic management system in Srinagar, commuters often witness traffic jams at busy junctions and squares in the city. For passengers who board buses to commute

**P5 THINK**

## HOW FAST CAN WE STOP EARTH FROM WARMING?

Global warming doesn't stop on a dime. If people everywhere stopped burning fossil fuels tomorrow, stored heat would still continue to warm the atmosphere. Picture how a radiator heats a home. Water is heated by a boiler, and the hot water



**P7 STATE**

## WAITING FOR FSL REPORT TO KNOW EXACT CAUSE OF KATRA BUS FIRE: OFFICIALS

Police are awaiting a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report to know whether the fire in a passenger bus, carrying mostly devotees from Mata Vaishno Devi



**Quote!**

If you look for perfection, you'll never be content

- Leo Tolstoy

**NEWS DIGEST**

### '3 Militants, Woman OGW Among 7 Held'

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have busted a militant module of Lashkar-e-Taiba by arresting seven militants and their associates including a woman in North Kashmir's Bandipora district. "During the course of investigation **More on P6**

### J&K Logs Two New Corona Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported two new covid-19 cases while there was no death due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours, officials said on Monday. They said that the one case each was reported from Jammu and Srinagar districts, taking the overall tally to **More on P6**

### Tourist Slips To Death In Sonamarg

Srinagar: A tourist from Delhi died after he slipped into a river in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said. Mohammad Anwar, a resident of the Okhla area in Delhi, slipped into Sindh river at Sonamarg while he was using his mobile phone, they said. Anwar was **More on P6**

### Electric Shock Kills Elderly Woman

Srinagar: A sexagenarian woman died on Monday after receiving an electricity shock in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. 60-year-old Azra Bi received an electric shock in her native Khardino village of the district on Monday evening causing her death, reports said. Police took her body in custody **More on P6**

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# Amit Shah To Chair High Level Meet On J&K Today

- LG Sinha, Security Top Brass To Participate In The Meeting
- Fresh Killings, Amarnath Yatra On Agenda

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level meeting on Tuesday over the Jammu and Kashmir situation, especially in the backdrop of a spurt in militant attacks, including the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit employee, and the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra being held after a gap of over two years.

According to reports, Shah will review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the meeting being attended by top brass security, including intelligence chiefs and the



File Photo

Director Generals of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Additional Chief Secretary (Home) RK Goyal, Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, and Special DG (CID) Rashmi Ranjan Swain.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is already in New Delhi, will also participate in the meeting and brief

the chair about the measures his administration is taking for the smooth conduct of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, reports said.

Along with Sinha, reports said, officials of the Jammu and Kashmir administration and police chief Dilbag Singh will be participating in the meeting wherein they will make a **More on P6**

**AMARNATH YATRA**

## Police Told To Maintain Highest Level Of Alertness

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday directed its men to maintain highest level of alertness, ensure proper access control and carry out checking, frisking of all vehicles before and during the Yatra in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. These directions were passed by Senior Superintendent of police (SSP) Ganderbal Nikhil

Borkar, during his visit to the Baltal Base camp, a police spokesperson said Monday. Borkar, who was flanked by SDPO Kangan Yasir Qadri, also visited Domail and Holy Cave to review the security related arrangements enroute to the cave shrine. "During the visit to Holy Cave SSP Ganderbal inspected all the routes leading to the Holy Cave | **More on P6**

## India Slams OIC Remarks On J&K Delimitation

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India on Monday slammed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "unwarranted" comments on the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir and asked the grouping to refrain from carrying out its "communal agenda" at the behest of one country, in an oblique reference to Pakistan.

India's strong reaction came after the OIC criticised New Delhi over the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are dismayed that the OIC secretariat has once again made unwarranted comments on the internal affairs of India," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"As in the past, the Government of India categorically rejects the assertions made by the OIC secretariat on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which is an **More on P6**

## KPs Continue To Protest Against Chadoora Killing



File Photo

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Protests by Kashmiri Pandits over the killing of Rahul Bhat by militants inside his office last week continued in Ganderbal and Anantnag districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

Scores of Kashmiri Pandits assembled at Tulmulla in Ganderbal district to protest against the killing of their community member, the officials said.

The protesters held photographs of Bhat, who was shot dead by the gunmen inside his office at Chadoora in Budgam district on May 12, and shouted slogans like "we want justice", the officials said.

Similar protests were also held in Anantnag where the protesters also set afire effigies depicting the present government.

The union territory administration has ordered a probe by a Special Investigation Team into Bhat's killing.

## China Building Infrastructure On India Border: Army

Press Trust Of India

**GUWAHATI:** The Indian Army's Eastern command chief on Monday said China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is engaged in infrastructure capacity enhancement across the international border in Arunachal Pradesh.

General Officer Commanding-in Chief of the Eastern command, Lt Gen R P Kalita, however, said the Indian side is also continuously upgrading its infrastructure and capabilities to deal with any situation which may arise along the border.

"Across the Line of Actual Control in Tibet region, a lot of infrastructure development is going on. The other side is constantly upgrading their road, rail and air connectivity so that they are in a better position to respond to a situation or mobilise forces," he said at a press conference here.

The Chinese authorities have built border villages close to the LAC **More on P6**

## SC To Hear Plea On Gyanvapi Mosque Today



File Photo

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday the plea of the management of Gyanvapi mosque against the survey of the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

The apex court will hear the matter amidst an important development with a Varanasi court on Monday directed the district administration there to seal the spot of the survey inside the complex where allegedly 'Shivling' has been found by the surveying team.

As per the updated list of business of the apex court for Tuesday, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and P S Narasimha would be hearing the plea of the Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid,

which manages the affairs of Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi.

The written order, passed on Friday by a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, had ordered the listing of the plea before a bench headed by Justice Chandrachud.

On Friday last, the bench, however, had refused to pass any interim order of status quo against the ongoing survey of the religious complex on the plea of the Muslim side.

But, the CJ-led bench had agreed to consider listing the plea for hearing.

"Upon being mentioned by Huzefa Ahmadi, senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner, we deem it appropriate to direct the Registry to list the matter before the bench presided over by Dr. Justice D Y Chandrachud, the bench, also comprising **More on P6**

## Atmosphere Of Hate Deepening Divide Between Communities: Farooq

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said an atmosphere of hate has been created in the country that is driving a wedge between various communities and called for efforts to arrest this trend. Abdullah said if the gap between the communities is to be bridged, the hateful campaigns like The Kashmir Files' film and incessant



File Photo

**THE KASHMIR FILES' IS A BASELESS MOVIE** which has not only spread hatred across the country but even here in Kashmir"

Hindu-Muslim debates on the media have to be stopped. "If we have **More on P6**

**WHAT WILL THEY BRING DOWN?** Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Red Fort. All these were built by the Mughals. Fifty per cent of tourists come to our country to visit these historical places"

--Mehbooba Mufti.

# How Early Summer Cost Kashmir Its Lucrative Harvest This Year

SHEEBA WANI

With sweltering summer yet to peak in Kashmir, the intense heat-waves this spring already made the season of rejuvenation a "season of suffering" for Saleem Dar and his clan in Kashmir Himalayas. His tribe's troubles equally stemmed from the record-breaking scanty rainfall that ended their early-morning jungle jaunts for the lucrative harvest.

"Heat-waves and scanty rainfall this past spring robbed us of our traditional livelihood," Saleem, a native of Srinagar's Harwan area, told Kashmir Observer. "Our prized crop had hardly mushroomed this time around and thus ended our springtime visits on dis-appointed note. It was truly a

heartbreaking season."

The morel or guchhi collection starts from March and April every year. But the summer-like situation this spring, experts say, didn't let guchhis to grow. The scanty spring rainfall further doomed the crop.

As the hottest spring month in 131 years, March 2022—the starting time for morel collection—recorded 80 per cent less rainfall than average, with Srinagar receiving only 21.3mm of rain, against a normal of 117.6mm.

"This is a clear sign of climate change now impacting our flora and fauna in Kashmir," said Dr. Imtiyaz Dar, an Environmental Science lecturer from Srinagar. "What's alarming is that this change is coming at a huge cost, impacting the livelihood of high-altitude residents of Kangan,



Anantnag and Kupwara."

As the world's costliest mushroom, morels are found in Kashmir apart from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.



Characterized by their honeycomb heads and oblong-bulbous appearance, they grow on the bark of old trees and in grasslands in cold wet weather.

by high-density small trees in various Kashmir orchards. This orchard change is also adding to the overall production woes."

Climate change and shifting farm scenario apart, Kashmir's geographical position in the north-west Himalaya range makes it an ideal place for guchhi growth, Dr. Imtiyaz continued. "And then," he said, "because of its profitability [Guchhis are sold at around Rs 30,000 per kilogram in the market], a large section of countryside people are actively involved in morel collection. In this backdrop, the current season has only come as a shocker for large number of people in Kashmir."

What makes this mushroom equally marketable is its immense medicinal value. Its rich nutrient content makes it

antitumor, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant crop," said Dr. Shabnum Rashid, a nutritionist. "It's equally good for heart and liver."

But before the early-summer spoiler this year, the experts have been decrying the growing urbanization and habitat destruction for the decreasing morel crop in Kashmir.

Morel production, according to the 2018-19 Digest of Forest Statistics from the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department, fell from 2,000 quintals in 1991 to 88 quintals in 2018.

And while the latest figures remain 'work in progress', many are already painting a grim picture of the wild mushroom quietly fading inside the climate-change hit Kashmir forests.

"The spring used **More on P6**





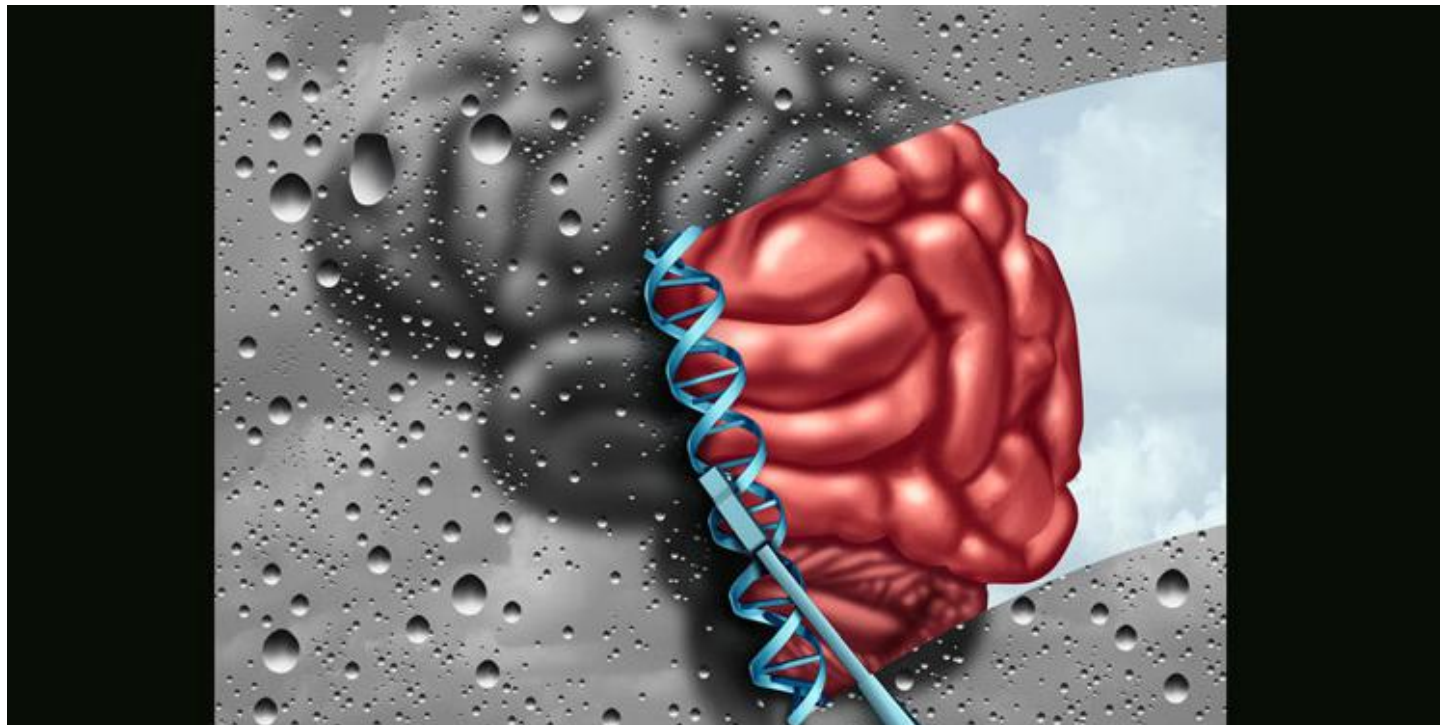
# Stem Cell Therapy Offers A New Hope To Repair Brain Damage In Newborns

The Conversation

A few hours after Tom (not his real name) was born, he became restless and did not want to be breastfed. His mother noticed that his left arm and leg were shaking rhythmically something was not right. Tom was immediately transferred to the neonatal intensive care unit. An MRI scan revealed that he had suffered a severe stroke. Doctors told Tom's parents that there was no treatment they could give the child. He would probably be disabled. Most people think of stroke as something that mainly affects the elderly, but it can also occur in newborn babies. These perinatal strokes happen when one of the major arteries to the brain becomes blocked, leading to a lack of blood supply and hence oxygen to certain brain areas. About one in 5,000 newborns have a stroke. It usually happens in the first few days after they are born. Most of the babies will have problems later in life, with the severity of the problems depending on which brain areas were injured. These problems can include muscle tightness in the arms and legs (cerebral palsy), behaviour problems, learning difficulties and epilepsy. No therapy exists for newborns with stroke. Researchers, including our own team at University Medical Center Utrecht, have been working on new treatments, one of which involves stem cells. Stem cells have the ability to turn into many different cells in the body, and they are little factories of several growth factors (proteins that stimulate the growth of specific tissues). The theory is that if we can get stem cells into the damaged part of a baby's brain, the stem cells' growth factors will stimulate the brain to repair itself.

## Effective in animals

Earlier studies in animals showed that injecting stem cells into the brains of newborn mice with



stroke dramatically reduced the amount of brain damage and disability they suffered. The experiments showed that the treatment was safe and had no side-effects in the mice. These animal studies gave us hope that the treatment would work in newborn babies, too, preventing a lifetime of disability. But how do you deliver stem cells to a baby's brain without having to use needles or surgery? We decided to try an intranasal route (through the nose), which was tested in mice. After we delivered the stem cells intranasally, the cells travelled rapidly and specifically to the injured brain areas. The injured brain area sends out

**The experiments showed that the treatment was safe and had no side-effects in the mice. These animal studies gave us hope that the treatment would work in newborn babies, too, preventing a lifetime of disability.**

alarm signals which guide the stem cells to the right spot in the brain. Once the stem cells arrived at the damaged area, they secreted growth factors that boosted the repair systems of the mice's brains. Within a few days, the stem cells were broken down and not traceable in the brain any longer. After several experiments with this method, we concluded that dripping stem cells in the nose is the safest and most efficient way to deliver them to the brain.

## Ten babies

After many years of laboratory research, we

have finally tested the treatment in babies. The results have been published in The Lancet Neurology.

Baby Tom, mentioned earlier, was the first baby to participate in the study and received stem cells within a week of being born. To ask parents to enrol in an experimental therapy in the first week of their newborn child's life is a very delicate process.

After we had a long conversation with his parents, they decided to let their son take part in the study. He received stem cells via nose droplets, a procedure that took only several minutes. Afterwards, Tom was monitored closely for a few days before he went home.

We treated ten newborns who were transferred from hospitals across the Netherlands to the University Medical Center Utrecht after suffering from a stroke. In all ten newborns, the stem cell droplets were administered without any complications. There was one baby who had a mild fever after the treatment, which quickly cleared up on its own.

A follow-up MRI scan of the brain made three months after the stroke showed less injury than expected, possibly because of the stem cells. At four months, the treated babies, including Tom, performed well when the quality of their movements was tested. When the children are two years old, we will check their development again.

We are now looking for opportunities to proceed with a randomised controlled trial (the gold standard for medical studies) to prove that stem cell therapy can effectively repair brain injury after perinatal stroke.

The discovery of a new and safe therapy with stem cells also opens up opportunities for other babies with brain injury, such as babies who are born too early, or babies that suffer from a lack of oxygen during birth (perinatal asphyxia). Stem cell therapy gives hope to the most vulnerable patient group, with possible lifelong benefits.

# This Smartphone App Helps Locate Mosquitoes, Eradicate Malaria



IANS

A novel app that identifies locations of previously unknown mosquito breeding habitats and helps treat them within the same day has been developed, and is helping several countries fight the menace of malaria. The smartphone app, created by a public health researcher at University of South Florida (USF), pairs an algorithm with

a drone and satellite images to identify locations of previously unknown mosquito breeding habitats. The system works by identifying specific environments and organisms by their unique "fingerprint" - a red-green-blue value associated exclusively with a species or habitat. Benjamin Jacob, Associate Professor at the USF, trained the drone to sense and capture image datasets through his algorithms that allow the system to understand key features, like

mud or vegetation, based on their fingerprints. Each image is then processed and gridded with identified sources of water on those surfaces.

The data is then classified into different categories based on the presence or absence of mosquito larvae and whether the water is positive for mosquitoes. Paired with Jacob's algorithms, the drone was 100 per cent accurate in locating bodies of water where mosquitoes are most likely to breed. "Instead of spraying entire fields, we can now just target the areas where the mosquitoes are," he noted. With the ability to pinpoint exactly where habitats are, harmful insecticide usage is decreased and the risk of mosquitoes building up a resistance also lessens.

Implementation of the programme on a county or state level could save taxpayers' money because it costs thousands of dollars less than aerial fumigations. The technology's success led Jacob to launch Seek and Destroy, a programme that enables him to train government agencies how to use the app in infectious areas in Cambodia, Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda - allowing them to quickly and efficiently direct resources to vulnerable areas before disease outbreaks can occur.

"What those countries are dealing with is a tragedy beyond describing," Jacob said.

He has focused much of his research in Uganda, where malaria is the leading cause of death, especially among children under five. As published in the American Journal of Entomology, he discovered that each of the 120 homes he studied was infested with at least 200 mosquitoes. With the help of the local insect control officers he trained, Jacob destroyed 100 per cent of the identified habitats in 31 days and eliminated the blood parasite level in previously treated and suspected malaria patients in 62 days.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle Bearing registration No JK03A-4870. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Haji Ghulam Ahmad Lori**  
**S/o : Abdul Rehman Lori**  
**R/o: LaddirMatho Khanabal**

ma\_r

## DEMISE

With Profound Grief, We Inform The Demise Of Haji Ghulam Hassan Malla (President Masjid Sharief & Asthan Sharief Syed Mohammad Mantaqia R.A) S/o Late Haji Ghulam Rasool Malla R/o Guzarbal Chattabal Srinagar On 15th Of May, 2022 (Sunday). The Congregational Fateha Khawani Will be Held On 18th May, 2022 (Wednesday) at 09.30 AM at Their Ancestral Graveyard Guzarbal Chattabal Srinagar Near Syed Mohammad Mantaqia R.A Asthan Sharief.



## BEREAVED FAMILY

9796582020, 9419000186, 7780895155,  
9622682417, 9596455937, 9149627375

inf

## LOST OF WALLET

I have lost my wallet alongwith ID Card No: D416659 while travelling from Batwara to Dalgate. Now I am applying for the duplicate card. If anybody have any objection he may contact 864 EWS C/o 56 APO Srinagar/concerned authority within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Further, if anybody found please contact on below mentioned contact numbers on humanitarian grounds.

**Wahid Ali Ansari Village Payarepur Post**  
**Salempur Distt. Saran Bihar Pin: 841411**  
**Office: 864 EWS C/o 56 APO Pin: 91364**  
**Cell: 8899573744 / 7006866598**

fko

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**Javaid ahmad lone**  
**R/o. Dirhama**

rna

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# IISc Scientists Develop Tiny Robots That Can Deep Clean Teeth

Press Trust Of India

Nano-sized robots manipulated using a magnetic field can help kill bacteria deep inside the teeth, and boost the success of root canal treatments, according to a study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru.

Root canal treatments are routinely carried out to treat tooth infections in millions of patients. The procedure involves removing the infected soft tissue inside the tooth, called the pulp, and flushing the tooth with antibiotics or chemicals to kill the bacteria that cause the infection.

However, many times, the treatment fails to completely remove all the bacteria -- especially antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as *Enterococcus faecalis* -- which remain hidden inside microscopic canals in the tooth called dentinal tubules.

"The dentinal tubules are very small, and bacteria reside deep in the tissue. Current techniques are not efficient enough to go all the way inside and kill the bacteria," said Shanmukh Srinivas, Research Associate at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), and co-founder of IISc-incubated

startup, Theranautilus.

In the study published in the journal Advanced Healthcare Materials, the researchers designed helical nanobots made of silicon dioxide coated with iron, which can be controlled using a device that generates a low intensity magnetic field.

These nanobots were then injected into extracted tooth samples and their movement was tracked using a microscope.

By tweaking the frequency of the magnetic field, the researchers were able to make the nanobots move at will, and penetrate deep inside the dentinal tubules.

"We have also established that we can retrieve them we can pull them back out of the patient's teeth," said Srinivas. "Crucially, the team was able to manipulate the magnetic field to make the surface of the nanobots generate heat, which can kill the bacteria nearby. No other technology in the market can do this right now," said Debayan Dasgupta, Research Associate at CeNSE, and another co-founder of Theranautilus. Previously, scientists have used ultrasound or laser pulses to create shockwaves in the fluid used to flush out

bacteria and tissue debris, in order to improve the efficiency of root canal treatment.

However, these pulses can only penetrate up to a distance of 800 micrometers, and their energy dissipates fast. The nanobots were able to penetrate much further -- up to 2,000 micrometers.

Using heat to kill the bacteria also provides a safer alternative to harsh chemicals or antibiotics, the researchers said.

They tested the dental nanobots in mice models and found them to be safe and effective.

The researchers are also working on developing a new kind of medical device that can easily fit inside the mouth, and allow the dentist to inject and manipulate the nanobots inside the teeth during root canal treatment. "We are very close to deploying this technology in a clinical setting, which was considered futuristic even three years ago. It is a joy to see how a simple scientific curiosity is shaping into a medical intervention that can impact millions of people in India alone, Ambarish Ghosh, Professor at CeNSE added.





## Zafran Colony Residents Protest Installation Of Smart Meters

### Agencies

Srinagar: Hundreds of protesters including women, children and elderly Monday staged a massive protest at main chowk Zafran Colony, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar against installation of new transformer and smart meters.

The protestors

meeting mid-way and reached his area to meet the protesters.

Aijaz gave a patient hearing to the protesting women, elderly and other residents of the area and told them that transformers were being installed to provide quality supply to the area and there were no immediate plans to install smart meters in the area.



blocked the main road from Sempora to Masjid Ibrahim leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded. Police team led by SHO Pantha Chowk Aftaab Ahmed also reached the spot to pacify the protestors. However, the protestors continued their protest and demanded assurance from the DDC member Khonmoh Er Aijaz Hus-sain, who left an official

The BJP leader assured the protestors that no decision would be taken against the interest of the public. He directed the power department to put the decision of installing new smart meters on hold for some time. After his assurances, the protestors later dispersed peacefully after which hundreds of trucks were allowed to ply on the road. (KNO)

## PAGD Never Met LG To Express Concern Over killings Of Kashmiri Muslims: Sajad

### Agencies

Srinagar: A day after NC president Farooq Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and other leaders of PAGD met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit, Peoples Conference Chief Sajad Gani Lone on Monday lashed out at them, saying they never met LG to express concern over killings of Kashmiri Muslims in the past three years.

Lone asked PAGD leaders why they did not meet LG to express concern over the killing of Kashmiri Muslims in the

past three years.

“I appreciate PAGD going to meet LG and agitate for the killing of our KP brother. Didn’t Kashmiri Muslims die in the last 3 years. U never went to meet LG,” Lone tweeted.

Lone asked whether talking about Kashmiri Muslims reminds NC and PDP leaders about killings in their own tenures.

“Or does talking about Kashmiri Muslim killing remind you of your own times when you killed thousands,” he said.

Lone also called NC and PDP as “LG XI”.— (KNO)



## Frequent Traffic Jams Take Toll On Commuters

### Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In absence of a proper traffic management system in Srinagar, commuters often witness traffic jams at busy junctions and squares in the city. For passengers who board buses to commute in the city, it is always a long journey. Commuters complain buses move at a very slow pace which causes severe mental trauma and anguish to the passengers.

In addition to slow pace, the overcrowded buses results in the harassment of the female folk who have long complained of sexual harassment in public transport.

Passengers say buses are overcrowded to such an extent that there is no space left to move around.

Passengers from many areas of the city including Parimpora to

Lalchowk, Jahangir Chowk to Bema, HMT, Qamarwari, Barzulla-Bhagat, Rawalpura, Hyderpora, Wanabal-Rawalpora, Bagh Mehtab, Chanapora, Natipora, Nowgam, Dargah, Braien, Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan and many other routes are confronted with menace of overcrowded buses and slow movement of public transport.

Azhar Ansar a Shopkeeper from Barzulla said he owns a shop at Hazratbal Srinagar.

“Although it takes half an hour by car from Lalchowk to my shop, it takes one hour and twenty minutes through public transport” said Azhar, adding that many times his sales are affected due to his late arrival.

Another shopkeeper Umar Ahmed said that he now boards the vehicle half an hour earlier so that he can reach his shop on time.

“It is not the fault of these mini bus drivers; it is the fault of poor traffic rules which are implemented here and no action is taken against the violators”, he added.

Meanwhile, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has failed to make the traffic lights in the city functional. Despite promises from officials in the past, the SMC has not been able to meet the deadlines.

Earlier, talking to Kashmir Observer SSP Traffic Srinagar Muzaffar Ahmad Shah attributed traffic snarls in the city to a number of reasons.

“The ever increasing vehicles on the roads, lack of parking spaces and lack of traffic sense among some people are the main reasons for traffic jams in the city” he said.

“We are trying our level best to regulate the traffic” he added. (With CNS Inputs)

## KU Officials Condole Demise Of Prof Manzoor Shah’s Father

### Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir University Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad, Dean Academics Prof Farooq Masoodi, Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir and other officers of the University administration on Monday condoled

the demise of Abdul Rashid Shah, father of Dr Manzoor A Shah, faculty Department of Botany KU and In-Charge RUSA.

In their condolence message, the University Officers prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed their heartfelt sympathies

with the bereaved family, especially with Prof Manzoor A Shah, in this hour of grief.

Deans, Officers and officials from other University Departments also expressed their sympathies with Prof Manzoor and prayed for peace to the departed soul. (CNS)

## Wildlife Dept. Conducts Cleanliness Drive Around Hokersar

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government, Wetlands Division Kashmir in joint collaboration with stake holding departments, civil society groups, N.G.O’s, Educational institutions is observing “Save Hokersar-Save Srinagar” campaign under the banner “TAWAZUN” which commenced on May 7 and shall culminate on May 21, 2022.

The aim is to launch a comprehensive cleanliness drive in and around Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve and to maintain the ecological characteristics of this world famous wetland (RAMSAR Site).

This is also a sequel to the on spot directions of Worthy Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir during his recent visit to the Hokersar.

Accordingly, a cleanliness drive was conducted on Monday in & around Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve in which Safai karamcharies of Municipal committees of Srinagar and Budgam Districts, Range Officer, lakes along with his field staff,

Students of Govt. Degree College Magam, Boys Higher Secondary School Laweypora, Doon International School Srinagar, different N.G.O’s, volunteers, Panchayat members, Forest Protection Force personnel of K-01/ K-03 and representatives of different stake holding departments participated.

The event was flagged off by Ifshan Dewan, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir.

During the drive solid waste of about 4 to 5 trucks of load was collected from Haji Bagh Iron Bridge to Soibugh of Budgam district and Laweypora of Srinagar District.

The Solid waste collected from different spots was accordingly disposed off properly, which involved mass efforts of 200 persons.

At the end of today’s event, Ifshan Dewan, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir, appealed to all the stakeholders especially students & youth to join hands with the department for the protection and perpetuation of the existing Wetlands in the valley especially “Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve”.

## High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh

(Office of the Registrar Judicial, Srinagar)

WP (C) No.1733/2020

Mohammad Ramzan Rather V/s UT of J&K and Ors

### Notice Under Order 1 rule 8 OF CPC

Whereas, one Mohammad Ramzan Rather S/o Mohammad Jamal R/o Marbel Colony DRUGMULLA Kupwara along with other seven persons through their counsel Mr. Bhat Fayaz, Have filed the above titled writ petition on behalf of Residents of Marbel Colony Drugmulla Kupwara, In the representatives capacity on the grounds inter alia that they and all the residents of Marbel Colony Drugmulla Kupwara, have common interest in the subject matter of the writ petition; that they are aggrieved of action on part of the respondents, who are in process of their (inhabitants of the village Drugmulla) dispossession from the land falling under Survey No 3474 (Kacharie land) situated at their village; that they are also aggrieved of cutting down and auctioning of walnut trees as erected on the aforesaid piece of land, by the Horticulture department which action is in blatant violation of J&K preservation of Specified trees Act, 1969 and that the aforesaid chunk of land is being used by them since few decades for grazing their cattle and their dispossession from the said land and cutting of the existing fruit trees by the respondents, are running harsh against their rights.

The petitioners have sought the following reliefs:-

- Writ of Mandamus: commanding upon the respondents not to fell down the walnut trees which are specified trees in terms of J&K Preservation of specified trees act 1969
  - Writ of Mandamus: Commanding upon the respondents not to dispossess the inhabitants of the area from the Kacharie land falling under survey no 3473 without following the due process of law besides that direct the respondents to compensate the inhabitants of the area through Masjid/Auqaf Committee in case land is required for any public purpose.
  - Writ of Mandamus: Commanding upon the respondents to ensure that no residential house of any of the inhabitant to whom the land has been allotted shall be demolished until and unless the said petitioners are not rehabilitated.
  - Any other writ, order or direction:- Which this Hon’ble court may deem fit in the facts and circumstance of the case, be also passed in favour of the petitioners and against the respondents.
- Whereas, Hon’ble Court, upon hearing the above titled matter on 13-11-2020, has been pleased to direct for issuance of notice under Order 1 Rule 8 CPC, to be got published in the two daily newspaper having wide circulation in the concerned area. Now, therefore, in compliance of the Hon’ble Court Order (Supra), this publication notice under order 1 rule 8 CPC is hereby issued calling upon inhabitants of Marbel Colony Drugmulla Kupwara, or any of them, to file their/his/her objections, if any, in the above titled matter.
- Note that the matter is listed before the Hon’ble Court 31-05-2022

Sd/- Registrar Judicial Srinagar,

### In the case of

- Mohammad Ramzan Rather S/o Mohammad Jamal, Age 67 years
- Ghulam Rasool Pir S/o Ghulam Ahmad Pir, age 60 years
- Sonaullah Magray S/o Mohammad Hayat, age 65 years
- Lassa Bhat S/o Assad Bhat, age 65 years
- Abdul Majid Bhat S/o Mohammad Subhan Bhat, Age 40 years.
- Rafiq Ahmad Dar S/o Mohad Dar, Age 35
- Gulla Bhat S/o Mukhta Bhat age 35 years
- Ab. Khaliq Bhat Son in law of Mohammad Jamal Rather, age 50 years
- All residents of Marbel Colony Drugmulla Kupwara

### Petitioners

### Versus

- Union Territory of J&K through Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Horticulture Department, Civil Scctt. Srinagar/Jammu.
- Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Rural Development Department, Civil Scctt. Srinagar/Jammu.
- Director Horticulture Department Kashmir Srinagar
- Director Rural Development Department, Kashmir Srinagar.
- Deputy Commissioner Kupwara
- Chief Horticulture Officer Handwara
- Executive Officer Municipal Committee, Kupwara.

Respondents

pd

### 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 - ( Open )  
Srinagar- Leh- ( Open )



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
15 Shawwal  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 52
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:21
Magrib	7:30
ISHA	9: 04

## This Day In History

- 1756 -Britain declares war on France (7 Years' or French & Indiami War)
- 1803-John Hawkins & Richard French patent the Reaping Machine
- 1814- Denmark cedes Norway to Sweden (National Day)
- 1865- The International Telegraph Union (later the International Telecommunication Union) is established.
- 1897-The first successful submarine that can run submerged for any considerable distance and combines electric and gasoline engines is launched in the USA by its designer John Philip Holland
- 1902- Greek archaeologist Valerios Stais discovers the Antikythera mechanism, an ancient mechanical analog computer.
- 1940-Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium & begins invasion of France
- 1940- Nazis bombs Middelburg/B Ilzerdrat begins illegal defiance
- 1948- Soviet Union recognized Israel
- 1949- British government recognises Republic of Ireland (previously Irish Free State)
- 1958- Emergency crisis proclaimed in Algeria

From KO Archives

## Move To Shift Capital Sparks Debate

### A M Sofi

SRINAGAR - Even as the proposal to shift the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir is yet to take off, controversy dogs the idea with debate rag-ing for and against the govern-ment move.

Giving vent to the opposi-tion to shifting of the capital, several political parties, includ-ing main opposition National Conference, said the massive expenditure needed for moving the secretariat and other offices could be diverted to building schools, hospitals and roads in the state.

“We need no new capital at an exorbitant expenditure of Rs 3.500 crore which could be uti-lized for the betterment of Kashmiris by constructing schools, colleges, hospitals and roads which are in a dilapidated condition across the valley.” NC President Omar Abdullah told PTI.

Ridiculing the idea, another senior leader of the party Ali Mohammad Sagar said “instead of finding ways and means to mitigate the problems of the people the PDP-led coalition government is trying to squan-der the funds for unproductive projects.”

He asked the coalition gov-ernment to desist from chang-ing the capital for “petty politi-cal gains.”

CPI(M), which supports the coalition government from out-side, opposes the idea. State Secretary of CPI(M) M Y Tari-gami said “I don’t think it is a very serious move yet.

The government complexes should be moved a little away from the market and the beauti-ful city but not relocated in any other place. Why go there (Parihaspora) to Lalitaditya. The kings are buried there let them rest in peace.

“It is wrong to assume that government wants to benefit villagers by moving the capital city. The government has in fact done very little for the upliftment of rural areas,” he said.

Author of the proposal to shift the capital and Finance Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig said the basic objective behind a new capital was to decongest and develop Srinagar as an exclusive tourist resort with heritage villages and other amenities to make it among the most attractive tourist destinations on the globe.

The proposal for a new capital has received the Centre’s nod which would be ready within next three years at an. estimated cost of Rs 3,500 crores, he said.

Opposing the idea, Chair-man of National Democratic Front and former MP Abdul Rashid Kabuli accused the gov-ernment of not attending to the problems of Srinagar, a city of 15 lakh people.

Shifting capital from Srinagar to Parihaspora and moving government offices to rural areas is like shifting of Union capital from Delhi to South India, Kabuli said.

The city of great antiquity has had a chequered history which dates back to 250 BC when king Ashoka founded Srinagar as capital which occupied the site of the present Pandrethan about five runs from Srinagar and named it as Srinagari.

The place was the venue of the Buddhist conference during the reign of Kanishka and Muslim preachers, Syed Sharifuddin Bulbul and Mir Syed Ali Hamdani chose this place to spread Islam, he said, adding the latter capitals of Kashmir founded by successive rulers lost their importance to the city.

It was during the Dogra rule (1846-1947) that Srinagar besides being the capital of Kashmir was elevated to the status, of the summer capital.

Travellers and tourists have been drawn in numbers to see symbol of the paradise on earth and pilgrims and preachers have found the city a place for attainment of ultimate spiritual contentment.

(Kashmir Observer, 17 May, 2005)



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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

K O V I E W

Congress' existential crisis

The Congress organized three-day brainstorming conclave or Chintan Shivir in Rajasthan's Udaipur to find ways to rejuvenate the party. The need for the session has been occasioned by the party's recent poll debacles which has threatened its standing as a viable pan-India party. What is more, the parties like AAP which now rules New Delhi and Punjab are stepping into the breach.

Ahead of the conclave, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for keeping the country in a permanent state of polarisation, brutalising minorities and threatening political opponents. Incidentally, some leaders of G-23 like Ghulam Nabi Azad were also present at the session.

Now the question is whether the ideas from Chintan Shivir will be implemented. And if the party will make the leadership and organizational changes so necessary for its survival at a time when PM Modi reigns as an overarching political demigod immune to anti-incumbency. And Congress in its current avatar is not even a distant challenge to him. The party now lacks the support base to pull off polls in a minor state as its abysmal performance in recent elections in five states would have us believe.

This is such a sorry state of affairs for a party which ruled India for over fifty years after independence. And its chances look slim in the upcoming state polls this year. This is why a breakaway group led by Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma and calling itself G-23 is demanding serious reforms in the party. But this has split the Congress down the middle with Gandhi family supporters and opponents at loggerheads with each other. However, G23's rebellion marks a break from the passivity of the last eight years with the party apparently seeming to have resigned to its current lot. But it won't also be easy to elect a non-Gandhi president. And the party has its own reasons for this: a Gandhi not being at the helm will run the risk of breaking the party up. Also, in the present circumstances, Congress doesn't boast of many a mass leader - albeit, there are many senior politicians who can be worthy successors to Gandhi. Gandhi's term at the helm has shown that he is not just up to the task.

The PM Modi, meamwhile; is becoming unassailable by the day. Beyond a few reverses here and there over the last seven years, his appeal has only grown stronger. He looks favourite to win many more Assembly polls, more so, the upcoming election in several states unless Congress and wider opposition gets its act right. That is, if no credible opposition emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect that looks bleak.

OTHER OPINON

Debating the Exception

While Justice Shakhder relies on the understanding that the foundation of a modern marriage is equality between spouses, Justice Shankar ignores basic principles of equality, agency and autonomy. His disturbing observation that marriage necessarily involves surrendering certain rights in varying degrees — in this case, the right of a woman to her bodily integrity — needs to be strongly contested.

In defence of the law, both Delhi government and the Centre have argued that marital rape cannot be criminalised unless there is societal consensus on the issue. Arguments for retaining the provision have ranged from protecting the institution of marriage to potential misuse of any change in law. These are concerns that should be debated. There must be a wider and more participatory discussion. At the same time, it is also crucial for the Courts to answer another legal question — whether striking down the exception in marital rape under law would amount to treading on the domain of Parliament. In this context, the central government's stand that the marital rape exception will be reviewed is a welcome step. In the UK, as in South Africa, Australia and Canada, which have removed the exception in marital rape, judicial decisions were followed by changes in legislation.

The split court verdict may not move the needle too far, but it has ignited a much-needed conversation on marital rape, both within and outside courts. Significantly, the Karnataka HC ruling in March allowed a man to face trial for marital rape for the first time. Although courts have, in passing, expressed views on the issue and urged the government to look into it, Justice Shakhder's opinion is the first acknowledgement in a high judicial forum that the exception is at odds with the Constitution.

Indian Express

Not making Right to Fair Compensation Act (RFCTLARR Act 2013) applicable on the ground makes it clear that bureaucracy in J&K doesn't want to give benefits of central laws to the people of J&K. As the High Court has come up with a fresh direction in Banihal land acquisition case, it seems that judiciary is the only hope for aggrieved land owners of J&K whose land and property is being forcibly acquired by Government

Lands in Limbo

Judiciary intervenes to the rescue of land owners in Banihal but why aren't central laws standing on their own

The Jammu & Kashmir High Court has come to the rescue of a land owner in Banihal area of Ramban district by quashing an 11-year-old notification issued under repealed J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 (samvat 1990). The division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mittal and Justice Moksha Kazmi in an order issued on April 25th 2022 said that notifications issued under Sections 4 and 6 of the repealed act have lost all efficacy and have been rendered meaningless. The division bench order read:

"Section 11-B of the (repealed) JK Land Acquisition Act specifically provides that the Collector shall make an award under Section 11 of the aforesaid Act within a period of two years from the date of publication of the declaration and in case no such award is made within the period prescribed, the entire proceedings for the acquisition of the land shall lapsed"

The order further stated:

"It may be pertinent to mention here that in respect of the above acquisition, the urgency provisions under Section 17 of the Act were not invoked and the enquiry under Section 5-A of the Act was not dispensed with. It is not even the case of the respondents that the land acquisition proceedings had remained stayed by any order of the court. 11. In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, it is evident that no award has been made under Section 11 of the Act within a period of two years from the date of the declaration issued under Section 6 of the Act. There is no dispute to the date of declaration which happens to be 29.06.2011 and, therefore, the period of two years has clearly expired but with no award. Accordingly, we are of the opinion that the aforesaid land acquisition proceedings have lapsed"

Background of the Case

Division Bench of High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi quashed the notifications issued by Collector Land Acquisition Ramban for acquisition of land for construction of new Bus-stand at Banihal located in village Devgole and Krawah villages.

The land owners Ghulam Mohideen and others through their counsel Advocate Irfan Khan challenged the notifications issued by Collector land Acquisition as the same had lapsed due to efflux of time. This rendered the entire land acquisition proceedings invalid. It was submitted before the High Court that declaration under Section 6 of erstwhile J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 (samvat 1990) was issued on 29-06-2011 for land measuring 13 Kanals 4 Marlas situated at village Devgole and Karwah. Under section 11-B of the repealed act, the final award had to be made within a period of 2 years but in this case the said award was not made even after 11 years.

After hearing Advocate Irfan Khan for petitioners and Senior Additional Advocate General S S Nanda for respondents, the High Court Division Bench observed that the proceedings initiated under repealed act have lapsed and the same can't be concluded after elapse of the requisite time period.

In the recent past, the High Court Division Bench gave similar orders in case of land acquisition by J&K Housing Board at Baramulla Kanili Bagh and Islamic university of Sciences and



Technology (IUST) Awantipora. The awards issued under repealed act were declared null and void and HC division bench headed by Chief Justice said that fresh notification be issued under the existing law that is Right to Fair Compensation Act (RFCTLARR Act 2013) wherein there is provision of fair compensation which is estimated as per the market value of land and property with 100% solatium (jabirana). Under the repealed law (J&K LA Act1934), the rate was estimated as per circle rate/stamp duty rate with only 15% solatium.

Curious Case of Srinagar Ring Road

Now, the affected land owners of Srinagar Ring Road in Budgam are also demanding the same treatment. In their case too, the declaration issued by Collector Land Acquisition Budgam under section 6 of repealed act in August 2017 got lapsed in July 2019.

The land owners have moved multiple petitions before J&K High Court and a status-quo was asked to be maintained by the court last year. However, this was violated by the district administration Budgam by misinterpreting a recent HC judgement of J&K High Court wherein Justice M A Magrey had mentioned that the construction work on Srinagar Ring Road be taken up. This order was to be implemented in those areas where affected landowners had taken compensation. Unfortunately, JCBs owned by contractor M/S NKC Projects Pvt Ltd, NHAI and local administration destroyed standing crops and fruits trees in such areas where farmers are yet to get compensation of their land. Even the mustard crop was destroyed in such areas where land wasn't even notified (Mohammad Ramzan Bhat R/O Batpora Chadoora).

Misleading Statement

In the case of Ali Mohammad Akhoun v/s Govt of J&K, the Collector Land Acquisition Budgam through a written reply supported by an affidavit, disputed the communication made by the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner Budgam addressed to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir in May 2020.

The then Deputy Commissioner Budgam Tariq Hussain Ganai prepared a village wise position of the land acquisition for Semi Ring Road in Budgam and conveyed to the Divisional Commissioner that proceedings initiated under the repealed J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 (samvat 1990) had lapsed due to efflux of time under section 11-B of the act. The DC had recommended initiation of fresh proceedings under the Right to Fair Compensation Act 2013 which was extended to J&K after the abrogation of Article 370.

The Deputy Commissioner of a District is supposed to be a responsible officer and as a District Collector he is supposed to be conversant with all the land acquisition matters in the district.

Central Laws in Limbo

Several commitments were made to the people of J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 on the floor of Parliament. The Prime Minister, Home Minister and other leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that the extension of the central laws to J&K would confer upon its people benefits, especially under the flagship programmes. Unfortunately, the practice of depriving people of their rights persists in J&K.

Not making Right to Fair Compensation Act (RFCTLARR Act 2013) applicable on the ground makes it clear that bureaucracy in J&K doesn't want to give benefits of central laws to the people of J&K. As the High Court has come up with a fresh direction in Banihal land acquisition case, it seems that judiciary is the only hope for aggrieved land owners of J&K whose land and property is being forcibly acquired by Government.

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

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

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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Menace of Mining in J&K

This refers to Mining Mafia in J&K by Dr Raja Muzaffar (KO May 9th 2022). The River Bed Mining is a scam across J&K and I fully endorse the views of the author. The illegal mining has been happening in J&K for more than 20 years but it gained momentum soon after the auctioning of mining blocks was done last year. The guidelines under Mineral Rules 2016 and all other environmental laws and NGT guidelines are violated openly and Govt is not taking action against the erring officers like District Mineral Officer -DMO Budgam or Baramulla who are working in league with mining mafia. I appeal to LG Manoj Sinha and Director ACB J&K to look into this issue and probe into the assets of Geology and Mining Officers across all districts of J&K. I also request Govt to install CCTV cameras at Mining sites to ensure no illegal mining is done around mineral blocks

Syed Muzamil Shah  
sayed.shah@haqdarshak.com



# How Fast Can We Stop Earth From Warming?

Richard B. (Ricky) Rood

Global warming doesn't stop on a dime. If people everywhere stopped burning fossil fuels tomorrow, stored heat would still continue to warm the atmosphere. Picture how a radiator heats a home. Water is heated by a boiler, and the hot water circulates through pipes and radiators in the house. The radiators warm up and heat the air in the room. Even after the boiler is turned off, the already heated water is still circulating through the system, heating the house. The radiators are, in fact, cooling down, but their stored heat is still warming the air in the room.

This is known as committed warming. Earth similarly has ways of storing and releasing heat.

Emerging research is refining scientists' understanding of how Earth's committed warming will affect the climate. Where we once thought it would take 40 years or longer for global surface air temperature to peak once humans stopped heating up the planet, research now suggests temperature could peak in closer to 10 years.

But that doesn't mean the planet returns to its preindustrial climate or that we avoid disruptive effects such as sea level rise.

I am a professor of climate science, and my research and teaching focus on the usability of climate knowledge by practitioners such as urban planners, public health professionals and policymakers. Let's take a look at the bigger picture.

How understanding of peak warming has changed

Historically, the first climate models represented only the atmosphere and were greatly simplified. Over the years, scientists added oceans, land, ice sheets, chemistry and biology.

Today's models can more explicitly represent the behavior of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide. That allows scientists to better separate heating due to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the role of heat stored in the ocean.

Thinking about our radiator analogy, increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere keep the boiler on – holding energy near the surface and raising the temperature. Heat accumulates and is stored, mostly in the oceans, which take on the role of the radiators. The heat is dis-



**The possibility that a policy intervention might have measurable impacts in 10 years rather than several decades could motivate more aggressive efforts to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It would be very satisfying to see policy interventions having present rather than notional future benefits**

tributed around the world through weather and oceanic currents.

The current understanding is that if all of the additional heating to the planet caused by humans was eliminated, a plausible outcome is that Earth would reach a global surface air temperature peak in closer to 10 years than 40. The previous estimate of 40 or more years has been widely used over the years, including by me.

It is important to note that this is only the

peak, when the temperature starts to stabilize – not the onset of rapid cooling or a reversal of climate change.

I believe there is enough uncertainty to justify caution about exaggerating the significance of the new research's results. The authors applied the concept of peak warming to global surface air temperature. Global surface air temperature is, metaphorically, the temperature in the "room," and is not the best measure of climate change. The concept of

instantly cutting off human-caused heating is also idealized and entirely unrealistic – doing that would involve much more than just ending fossil fuel use, including widespread changes to agriculture – and it only helps illustrate how parts of the climate might behave.

Even if the air temperature were to peak and stabilize, "committed ice melting," "committed sea level rise" and numerous other land and biological trends would continue to

evolve from the accumulated heat. Some of these could, in fact, cause a release of carbon dioxide and methane, especially from the Arctic and other high-latitude reservoirs that are currently frozen.

For these reasons and others, it is important to consider the how far into the future studies like this one look.

Oceans in the future

Oceans will continue to store heat and exchange it with the atmosphere. Even if emissions stopped, the excess heat that has been accumulating in the ocean since preindustrial times would influence the climate for another 100 years or more.

Because the ocean is dynamic, it has currents, and it will not simply diffuse its excess heat back into the atmosphere. There will be ups and downs as the temperature adjusts.

The oceans also influence the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, because carbon dioxide is both absorbed and emitted by the oceans. Paleoclimate studies show large changes in carbon dioxide and temperature in the past, with the oceans playing an important role.

Countries aren't close to ending fossil fuel use

The possibility that a policy intervention might have measurable impacts in 10 years rather than several decades could motivate more aggressive efforts to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It would be very satisfying to see policy interventions having present rather than notional future benefits.

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However, today, countries aren't anywhere close to ending their fossil fuel use. Instead, all of the evidence points to humanity experiencing rapid global warming in the coming decades.

Our most robust finding is that the less carbon dioxide humans release, the better off humanity will be. Committed warming and human behavior point to a need to accelerate efforts both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to this warming planet now, rather than simply talking about how much needs to happen in the future.

*The author is a Professor of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering, University of Michigan. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation*

## BADMINTON: How India Won The Thomas Cup

Shyam A. Krishna

India's Thomas Cup win wasn't a fluke. It was long overdue. Much of the delay stemmed from the lack of professionalism in running Indian sports. You could argue that it's far better than what it was two decades ago. It should be, and two decades is a long time. And evidence of that improvement is the Thomas Cup triumph.

What exactly is the Thomas Cup? It's badminton's equivalent of the Davis Cup in tennis. But the format is different. A team competition of five matches – three singles and two doubles – the format doesn't allow a player to play in more than one singles and one doubles match. That makes winning a challenging proposition, requiring a pool of world-class players.

Take a look at the roster of previous champions. All of them are badminton powerhouses. Indonesia, China, Denmark, Malaysia and Japan keep churning out high-calibre players by the dozen that they are regulars in the battle for silverware. Earlier, the contest was tougher with nine matches in each tie.

With only one or two quality players, India could never match the depth and strength of champion sides. That explains the delay in winning the Thomas Cup – India's first in the 74-year history of the tournament.

Why did it take so long? Why was the depth lacking in Indian badminton? More so in a sport that's wildly popular. Even in the UAE, check out the badminton halls, and you will find them crowded, except during office hours. Most of the players are from India. These are recreational players who play for the love of the game and fitness. That's how popular the sport is.

Popularity was never a problem. But the quality was. India had talents of international class, but not many at a time. Nandu Natekar was independent India's first, making it to the quarterfinals of the 1954 All England Championships. The first Indian to win an international badminton championship (Selangor International in Kuala Lumpur, 1956). Natekar's high profile scalps included the great Dane Erlend Kops.

That was long before I started following badminton. Long before Prakash Padukone captured India's imagination.

Padukone's game was sublime. We



marvelled at his effortless artistry, deft touch-play and immaculate deception; he taught us to win without power. I never saw him play a full-blooded smash; the putaways were always a half-smash. We celebrated his wins and lamented his losses. The All-England win over Lim Swie King of Indonesia in the 1980 final and the 1981 World Cup final triumph over Han Jian of China were seared into our memories.

He was a rare gem. Padukone's successors, Syed Modi and Vimal Kumar, promised much but never scaled the same heights. After India struggled for 21 years to find a new champion, Pullella Gopichand came along. More than his talent, his passion was unmatched. An All England champion in 2001, his bigger contribution to Indian badminton was in the role of a coach. The Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad turned out to be a factory for world-beaters from India.

Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu, Srikanth Kidambi, Parupalli Kashyap, H.S. Prannoy, Sai Praneeth, Sameer Verma and several others benefited enormously from Gopichand's tutelage.

Some of them were part of the Indian squad that won the Thomas Cup, 43 years after the previous best showing when an Indian team starring Padukone and Modi lost to Denmark in the semi-finals.

**“What Gopichand left unsaid is that many of these top 10 players came from his academy, and the competition between them is driving the standard higher. So a large part of the credit for the victory should go to India's chief coach**

India now has around 10 players in the top 25 in the world, and that's the secret of India's Thomas Cup triumph. Gopichand is quick to credit the Badminton Association of India, Sports

Authority of India and the Government for helping to develop an array of world-class players. "If there were five more singles, India would have still won," wrote Gopichand in the Indian Express.

What Gopichand left unsaid is that many of these top 10 players came from his academy, and the competition between them is driving the standard higher. So a large part of the credit for the victory should go to India's chief coach. Ever humble, Gopichand insists that the players and their teamwork won it. But his firm hand on the wheel was evident when India defeated defending champions and 14-time winners Indonesia in the final. A historic win indeed.

Take a bow, Gopichand. You thoroughly deserve it.

Bangkok: India made history by winning the Thomas Cup for the first time with a ruthless 3-0 upset of reigning champions Indonesia in Bangkok on Sunday.

India, competing in their debut final of the men's team championship, sealed the title when world No 11 Kidambi Srikanth defeated higher-ranked Jonatan Christie 21-15, 23-21.

A devastated Indonesia, the tournament's most successful team having previously won it 14 times, could not keep pace with the fire brought by the Indian team, who joyfully rushed to the court following Srikanth's win.

India were already 2-0 up, with Lakshya Sen beating Anthony Ginting in the first singles match and then Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeating Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sukamuljo in the doubles.

**EARLY NERVES**

It fell to Christie, an Asian Games gold medallist now in his fourth Thomas Cup campaign, to save Indonesia's flagging title hopes.

But the eighth-ranked Christie couldn't do it and seemed overcome with nerves at the onset of his do-or-die match against Srikanth.

The 29-year-old Srikanth took full advantage, bearing down relentlessly on Christie in the second game.

Srikanth praised his teammates for their performance individually and as a team, noting: "I think everyone really stepped up when it was required.

"A credit goes to the whole team, players, coaches, support team. I love them, they have been fantastic. It's one of the best teams that I have been part of," he said.

"Thomas Cup is something that India has never won and now to be part of a team that won the Thomas Cup and to contribute to the team's win just gives me a lot of happiness," he added.

Srikanth, who told reporters the team's WhatsApp group was called 'it's coming home', said while the team hadn't got any firm plans for celebrations that evening, "it's definitely going to be crazy".

A dispirited Christie said it wasn't easy coming into his match 2-0 down in the tie, but that he had given his all.

"We already tried our best, I think, and we will try our best the next time," he said.

**PRIME MINISTER ON THE PHONE**

In the first match of the tie, world No 5 Ginting grabbed the first game in style over Sen, 21-8.

But he then wobbled, and with Sen growing in confidence, the Indian world No 9 won the next two games 21-17, 21-16.

"I think this one is for the team, they have been backing me throughout my performances," the 20-year-old Sen said.

"In the closing stages I was really nervous and trying to calm myself with deep breaths."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the praise back home and personally rang the team in the Thai capital to congratulate them.

"The Indian badminton team has scripted history! The entire nation is elated by India winning the Thomas Cup!" he tweeted.

**MORE CONGRATULATIONS**

President Ram Nath Kovind, Home Minister Amit Shah and BCCI secretary Jay Shah also congratulated the Indian team.

The President of India appreciated the skill, resilience and temperament of the Indian men's team.

"Heartiest congratulations to the Indian badminton team for first-ever Thomas Cup victory! The team has created history, setting highest standards for the future. I have high appreciation for the skills, resilience & temperament shown by the team. India is proud of the champions," said President Kovind in a tweet.

**CASH AWARD**

The Central Government has announced a cash award of Rs10 million for the victorious Indian team, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced the cash award in a tweet.

"As #TeamIndia defeats 14-time #ThomasCup Champions Indonesia to win its 1st ever #ThomasCup2022, @India\_Sport is proud to announce a cash award of ₹1 crore for the team in relaxation of rules to acknowledge this unparalleled feat! Congratulations Team India!!," the minister said in his tweet.

**LOTS OF MISTAKES**

A subdued Ginting admitted there were things he could have improved on.

"I play in a rush today and that's why I make a lot of mistakes," he said.

South Korea sprang an upset of their own in the women's team championship, the Uber Cup, when they defeated holders China in their final on Saturday.

India had defeated Malaysia and Denmark by identical 3-2 margins in the quarter-finals and semi-finals to storm into the final for the first time in the history of the tournament.

India became only the sixth country ever to win the Thomas Cup title. Only Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Denmark and Japan have won the title in the prestigious event since its format was changed and China started participating in 1982.

–The Gulf News



# Heat Waves, Floods And Heavy Rain: India Battling Climate Change And It Is Getting Worse, Warn Experts

## Agences

**New Delhi:** The spectre of climate change is here to stay and even worsen, say climate scientists as searing winds blow across swathes of north India, including New Delhi where temperatures have crossed 49 degrees Celsius, and flash floods ravage parts of the northeast.

A day after two weather stations in Delhi saw temperatures of more than 49 degrees Celsius and neighbouring Gurgaon registered 48 degrees Celsius, the highest since May 1966, experts on Monday analysed the incidence of extreme weather events and sounded a dire warning.

With increasing temperatures as a result of global warming in South Asia and the consequent exceeding levels of heat and humidity, it is predicted that we will have more intense, longer and frequent heat waves in India, environmentalist and climate scientist Shakil Ahmad Romshoo told PTI in a phone interview from Srinagar.

According to the University of Kashmir professor, one indicator of climate change is the increasing frequency of climate extremes. A heat wave, he said, is a climate extreme and a direct indicator of climate change.

Over the last few decades, global warming has been on an accelerated pace and its marks can be seen in any single day of global weather since the 2000s. Generation Z has never lived a day without feeling the influence of global warming, added Roxy Mathew Koll from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune.

The national capital recorded its second hottest April this year since 1951 with a monthly average maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius. Other north Indian states, including the hill areas of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, also recorded temperatures way above the normal level this season.

While north India battled high temperatures, parts of Kerala and Lakshadweep islands saw heavy rainfall on Sunday. Besides, the weather office sounded a red alert across five districts in Kerala. And in the east, Assam's Dima Hasao district has been hit by flash floods and massive landslides at several places, snapping rail and road links.

According to Indian Meteorological Department data, the average maximum temperature over northwest and central India for April this year has been the highest in 122 years.

A 4.5 to 6.4-degree departure from normal is considered to declare a heat wave and over 6.4-degree departure for a severe heat wave.

Regardless of local weather interactions, Koli explained, the root cause for increase in such events in the India-Pakistan region is global warming due to human-made carbon emissions.

March 2022 was India's hottest March in recorded history (1901-2022). The temperatures were high in entire India, especially the northwest regions that underwent a heat wave. Temperatures continued to run significantly above normal in April 2022 over large parts of

India, excluding south India, Koll told PTI in an email interview.

The Earth's average temperature has increased by 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, said global climate change expert Harjeet Singh.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report released in 2021 warned that rising temperatures will lead to increased incidence of heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons, Singh, senior advisor, Climate Action Network-International (CAN-I), told PTI over phone.

The experts added that climate change is not only raising temperatures and making India's heatwaves hotter, but also changing weather patterns that further drive dangerous weather extremes.

The low pressure anomaly caused by the weather event know as La Nina over the Indian subcontinent has been inviting westerly winds and the blast of hot air from the Middle East into India.

The north-south pressure pattern has been persisting over India, with La Nina extending its stay over the Pacific. This has definitely impacted the weather over India, which has been seen even during 1998-2000 when La Nina had persisted for three years, said Raghu Murtugudde, professor, department of atmospheric and oceanic science, University of Maryland, US.

We did see some strange weather activities this year as well which include duststorms over Mumbai, early deep depressions out of which one even became feeble cyclone and the heatwaves... all part of this

weird and extended persistence of La Nina, Murtugudde said.

The impact of severe heat waves on different sectors, including health, work, quality of life and the economy, is well documented.

According to official records, heat waves have caused over 24,000 deaths from 1992 to 2015 across the country. A recent report from the Ministry of Earth Sciences pointed out that the mortality rates per million for heat waves have increased by 62.2 per cent during the last four decades.

Heat waves affect work productivity by reducing performance and increasing the heat-related illness. A decline of 30-40 per cent in the work performance is projected over India by the end of the century due to the elevated heat stress levels, Murtugudde explained.

Extreme heat causes several health impacts, such as severe dehydration, acute cerebrovascular accidents and contributes to thrombogenesis (blood clots). People with chronic diseases, older people and children are more vulnerable to the effects of heat waves, added CAN-I's Singh.

The impact of climate change is amplified in cities, since urban areas are usually warmer than their surroundings due to concentrated structures and less greenery, he said.

In Romshoo's view, heat waves, which are predicted to be more frequent, deadly and longer in the country, will affect every sector of the economy.

Look at the severity of the heat wave this year, it is concentrated in both Indus and Ganges

river basins which produce and supply much of the food supplies in Pakistan and India. Heat waves are also projected to enhance the melting of glaciers in the region which is already facing water scarcity.

The scientists said if the frequency of heat waves continues as is predicted, these will adversely impact food, water and energy security in the region.

As the globe hurtles towards climate disaster, what is the way out?

Romshoo said the impact on cryosphere (snow and glaciers) and the predicted increase of hydro-meteorological disasters are worrisome.

these need to be addressed sector-wise through development of robust and judicious strategies and policies based on scientific inputs and guided by knowledge.

Koll said the need is to adopt a long term vision with policies that help in managing work hours, public infrastructure, schools, hospitals, workplaces, houses, transportation, and agriculture for heat waves to come.

Harjeet Singh stressed on better early warning and communication systems to prepare citizens through community outreach programmes.

The government must take proactive measures in urban planning by investing in green and blue infrastructure, such as green walls, greenways, urban forests, green roofs, and water bodies to cool urban areas. Street trees must be planted at a large scale to reduce heat stress and the urban heat island effect, Singh added.

## Pained By Gyanvapi Masjid Survey, 1991 SC Verdict Being Ignored: Owaisi

Ahmedabad, May 16 (PTI) AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday asserted he will not let the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, where a court-mandated videography survey has been completed, meet the fate of the Babri masjid that was demolished in December 1992.

The Lok Sabha MP from Hyderabad said he will continue to speak on the Gyanvapi masjid issue, which he termed as an attempt to weaken the Constitution, as he was not scared of either Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.

Addressing a rally at Vadgam in Gujarat, where Assembly polls are due by the year-end, Owaisi said the accusation that the AIMIM by fielding its candidates will hurt the chances of the opposition Congress to win the elections in the BJP-ruled state was misplaced.

The president of the Hyderabad-based All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) said people question him for speaking on the issue of Gyanvapi mosque.

"I will speak because I have not sold my 'jameer' (conscience), nor will I ever do so. I speak because I am only scared of Allah and not any Modi or Yogi. I speak because the Constitution that was framed by Babasaheb Ambedkar gives me the freedom of expression," he said.

The AIMIM leader said he will not let the Gyanvapi mosque meet the fate of the Babri masjid in Ayodhya that was demolished nearly three decades ago.

Owaisi said he will not be deterred by criticism directed

at him for protesting against the court order directing a survey of the medieval-era mosque in Varanasi.

"I am pained (by the survey) because the Indian Constitution is being weakened, the judgement of the Supreme Court is being ignored, and those who question me should read section 4(2) of the 1991 law (the Places of Worship Act)," he said.

The Act prohibits filing of any suit or initiating any other legal proceeding for a conversion of the religious character of any place of worship, as existing on August 15, 1947.

A court on Monday directed the Varanasi district administration to seal the spot in the Gyanvapi masjid complex where a Shivling was reportedly found during a court-mandated videography survey, which concluded after three days. The mosque is located close to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Varanasi court is hearing a plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily prayers before the idols on its outer walls.

Owaisi said "bhakts of Godse (Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi)" are spreading hatred in the country against Muslims by invoking issues like hijab, job jihad and others.

The AIMIM leader sought people's support for his party for the upcoming elections and said the Congress, which is out of power in the state for nearly three decades now, was not in a position to speak on behalf of Muslims of Gujarat.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Amit Shah To

presentation of a 'blueprint' prepared for this 45-day long Yatra.

This annual pilgrimage is commencing from June 30 after a hiatus of two years and expecting a huge participation of the devotees this year.

"The J&K police Chief Dilbag Singh is expected to make a detailed presentation on the current security situation in the Union Territory that has witnessed besides a huge tourist foot-fall, a sudden spike in militant attacks. The killing of KP employee Rahut Bhat and the tension that followed it, is also likely to be discussed in the high-level meeting," reports said.

Meanwhile, LG Sinha on Monday met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh here, and discussed the road infrastructure for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

Sinha requested the Defence Minister for assistance of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to make the difficult stretches in the challenging terrain at high altitudes smooth which will ease the tracking up to the holy cave.

"Met Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh Ji @rajnathsingh today and discussed road infrastructure for Shri Amarnathji Yatra and @BROIndia assistance at difficult stretches in challenging terrain at high altitudes which will greatly ease the trek to the holy cave," the Office of LG, Jammu and Kashmir tweeted.

It was learnt that LG also requested the Defence Minister for setting up make-shift hospitals by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) in least two places, and oxygen booths in the route to the holy cave.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has planned this annual pilgrimage on a grand scale with many new initiatives such as setting up of Tent Township on the line of Kumbh Mela and a huge and fool-proof security apparatus will be created with the help of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Armed Police Forces and the Indian Army.

### Targeted Killings

diplomacy, there has been tremendous international pressure on Pakistan to put a stop to sponsoring terror in J-K. Consequently, a facade of proxy tanzeems was created to give an indigenous hue (to militancy in Kashmir)," Lt Gen Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command, said in an interview to PTI.

He said in the recent past, militants have targeted non-local labourers, Kashmiri Pandits and other contributors of peace, prosperity and well-being of Kashmir, which goes to show that frustration is setting in among the orchestrators of violence and "they are getting desperate".

"Their actions are causing grave human right violations and degrading Kashmiriyat," Lt Gen Dwivedi said.

He said notwithstanding a few aberrations, people are aware and they have awakened and developed the courage to negate the nefarious designs of anti-national elements.

"I see Jammu and Kashmir regaining its past glory and sustaining the hard-earned peace through sacrifices of the security forces and people," the Army commander said.

He said the successes on the anti-militancy front are reflections of higher standards of professionalism and jointness among the security forces.

"This has led to frustration among the perpetrators of proxy war and desperation to

prove that terrorism is alive (in Kashmir)," he added.

Lt Gen Dwivedi further said as a result of extraordinary synergy among the security agencies and the forces, especially the Rashtriya Rifles and other organs of the government, the situation in the hinterland of Jammu and Kashmir has seen a tremendous improvement since August 2019.

"There has been a considerable improvement in all the parameters of terrorism and violence," he said adding this has led to frustration among the militant leadership and their cross-border mentors.

He said the incidents of attacks against non-local labourers and Kashmiri Pandits have been analysed and appropriate steps are being taken to neutralise these threats.

"The overall situation is progressively improving due to the proactive Rashtriya Rifles-gridded deployment leading to a positive and conducive environment for accelerating the developing initiatives of the government," the Army commander said.

He said dividends of peace have started reaching the people and they are further getting motivated to preserve and sustain it.

As per reports, as many as 17 Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) and non-locals have been killed by militants in Kashmir after the special status of J-K was revoked in 2019. In 2021, three KPs, one Sikh and five non-local labourers were killed.

Ten KPs and non-local labourers have been shot at and injured by militants in South Kashmir and Srinagar so far this year.

Three Kashmiri Hindus have been targeted since March this year. Two of them –Satish Kumar Singh and Rahul Bhat, a revenue department employee were killed in the attacks. A Kashmiri Pandit, Bal Krishan, who did not migrate in the 1990s and ran a medical shop, was also shot at and injured in Shopian in April.

### Police Told

for smooth Yatra. Moreover, all other security arrangements were reviewed for the safety of the pilgrims. He took stock of enroute deployment and other security measures to be put in place during the upcoming Yatra," the spokesperson said.

The senior police officer, he said, also took a detailed security review of Base camps at Baltal and Domail, besides other strategic locations and camping sites along the Yatra route.

"He also reviewed traffic management for smooth passage of Yatra convoys and availability of parking places," the spokesperson said.

"He also directed all the officers to maintain highest level of alertness, ensure proper access control and checking/frisking of all vehicles before and during the Yatra," he added.

### SC To Hear

Justices J K Maheshwari and Hima Kohli had said in its order.

Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque committee, had told the bench that a plea had been filed against the survey being conducted at the site and had sought an urgent interim order in the case.

"We have filed in relation to a survey which has been directed to be conducted in relation to the Varanasi property. This (Gyanvapi) has been a mosque since time immemorial and this is clearly interdicted by the Places of Worship Act, the senior advocate had said.

The Muslim side has been referring to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991

and its Section 4 which bars filing of any suit or initiating any other legal proceeding for a conversion of the religious character of any place of worship, as existing on August 15, 1947.

A Varanasi local court on May 12 had rejected a plea to replace the advocate commissioner it had appointed for conducting a videography survey of the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex and ordered the completion of the task by May 17.

The district court also appointed two more lawyers to help the advocate commissioner survey the mosque, which is located close to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple.

It ordered the police to register FIRs if there are attempts to scuttle the exercise.

The local court's May 12 order came on a plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the mosque.

The mosque management committee had opposed filming inside the mosque and also accused the court-appointed commissioner of partiality. Amid the opposition, the survey was stalled for a while.

Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar also dismissed objections to the opening of the two closed basements in the mosque complex for the survey, according to the counsel representing Hindu petitioners.

The court also directed the district magistrate and the police commissioner to monitor the exercise and lodge an FIR if anyone created hurdles in the survey.

It said the survey could be done in the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex between 8 am and 12 pm daily till its completion.

The video graphics survey of the mosque was ordered on April 18, 2021, by Judge Diwakar following the plea by Delhi residents Rakhi Singh, Laxmi Devi, Sita Sahu, and others.

The original suit was filed in 1991 in the Varanasi district court for the restoration of the ancient temple at the site where the Gyanvapi mosque currently stands.

The plea has been taken in the suit that said the mosque is a part of the temple.

### India Slams OIC

integral and inalienable part of India," he said.

Bagchi was responding to media queries on the OIC statement on the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The OIC should refrain from carrying out its communal agenda vis-a-vis India at the behest of one country," Bagchi said.

The delimitation commission, tasked with redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, notified its final report earlier this month.

### China Building

that can be used for dual purposes, Kalita said.

"We are continuously monitoring the situation. We are also upgrading our infrastructure and capabilities as well as the mechanism to handle the situation. These have put us in a robust position," he added.

The Indian Army Commander acknowledged that difficult terrain and inclement weather conditions have been the biggest challenges while enhancing capabilities and infrastructure in forward locations.

He asserted that the Indian Army is fully ready with "high level of operational preparedness".

### Atmosphere Of

to come close to each other, this hate has to be removed. I told him (LG) about that film (The Kashmir Files) also. I asked him if he thought it can be true that a Muslim will kill a Hindu and then put the blood in rice and ask his wife to eat it? Do you think we have fallen so low? the Lok Sabha member and NC president told reporters in Anantnag district.

Abdullah said 'The Kashmir Files' was a baseless movie which has not only spread hatred across the country but even here in Kashmir.

"Our youth is full of anger about how we have been projected in the movie. The injustices meted out to Muslims across the country are stoking passions among our youth as well. Such things (movies) should be stopped. The media, which is spreading hate in the country, should be stopped, he added.

Abdullah said during a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday, PAGD leaders raised the issue of killing of Kashmiri Pandit employee Rahul Bhat inside his office at Chadoora on May 12.

"We wanted to go to Kulgam where a Rajput was killed, we wanted to go to Budgam (Rahul Bhat's residence) but you did not allow it. We did not want to go there to do politics but to express solidarity with the bereaved. How can this continue? How will we come close to each other? he asked.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, who was part of the PAGD delegation, said the National Conference, PDP and Congress governments ensured the safety of Kashmiri Pandits even at the peak of unrest in the valley in 2010 and 2016.

"Even during the peak unrest in 2010 and 2016, there was no killing of Kashmiri Pandits. But the atmosphere of hate they have created, especially after 'The Kashmir Files' movie, a narrative is being pushed to poison minds. Muzaffar Shah, during our interaction with the LG, told him that this constant Hindu-Muslim debate on TV channels for four hours is further fuelling this. It also directly affects the people of Jammu and Kashmir because when you target Muslims, it widens the gap, Mehbooba said.

Asked about the ongoing survey at Gyanvapi mosque complex, she said the BJP should give a list of all mosques they want to take over. Babri mosque was brought down and now they want to build something else there...These claims on mosques are only to fuel hate, she said.

Mehbooba wondered if the government would focus on a development agenda like providing two crore jobs annually and bringing down the fuel costs to pre-2014 levels once these mosques were given to them.

"I have said this earlier as well. For us Muslims, Allah is where we prostrate," she added.

Mehbooba said the BJP and other right wing groups were going after assets built by the Mughals.

"What will they bring down? Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Red Fort. All these were built by the Mughals. Fifty per cent of tourists come to our country to visit these historical places, she added.

The delegation of PAGD met LG Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan in Srinagar on Sunday.

### How Early Summer

to be such a festive occasion for us," Saleem Lamented at his highland house in Harwan. "But now, it seems, even our jungles have become jinxed places for us."

### '3 Militants, Woman

of cases regarding the recent Bandipora

encounters, Police along security forces busted a militant module of LeT by arresting an active Pakistani trained militant, two hybrid militants and four militant associates," said a police spokesman in a statement.

The "Pakistan trained" militant has been identified as Arif Ajaz Shehri son of Ajaz Ahmad alias Anfall of Nadihal, "who had went to Pakistan on valid visa in year 2018 through Wagah Border and infiltrated back to this side after obtaining illegal arms training and started actively working with outfit LeT in Bandipora."

The spokesman identified "hybrid militants" as Ajaz Ahmad Reshi son of Abdul Majeed of Rampora and Shariq Ahmad Lone son of Mohammad Sadiq Lone of Gundpora. "The arrested militants were tasked to carry out attacks on Police/SF and other soft targets particularly in Bandipora district".

The four militant associates have been identified as Riyaz Ahmad Mir alias Metha Shehri son of Ghulam Mohammad Mir of Plan Bandipora, Ghulam Mohammad Waza alias 'Gul Bab' son of Ghulam Qadir Waza of Tawheedabad Bagh, Maqsood Ahmad Malik son of Mohammad Jamal Malik of Chittibandy Aragam and Sheema Shafi Waza daughter of Mohammad Shafi of Tawheedabad Bagh.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested militant associates were involved in harbouring militants, providing logistics/ material support including transportation of (militants) in the Bandipora district," the spokesman said, adding, "The arrested female militant associate was also involved in providing Wi-Fi hotspot, accommodation and ferrying militants in town Bandipora."

He said "incriminating materials, arms ammunition including 02 Pistols, 03 Pistol Magazine, 25 Pistol rounds, 03 Hand Grenades were recovered from their possession." Besides, he said, an Ecco Van (JK15A-1528) which was being used in ferrying of militants from Bandipora to Nowgam, Pantha Chowk and Srinagar was also seized.

"Moreover, 03 Scooties were also seized which were being used for doing recce of Police, security establishments, monitor movement of security forces and ferrying of militants in Bandipora areas," he said, adding, "Similarly, one Maruti-800 Car and one Pulsar Bike were also seized."

Cases under the relevant sections of law have been registered and further investigation is going on, the statement added.

### J&K Logs Two

454148–166399 in Jammu and 287749 in Kashmir.

There was also no death due to the pathogen reported in the last 24 hours, they said. So far 4751 persons have succumbed to the virus–2328 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir.

Besides, they said, six Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours and include three each from Jammu division and Kashmir Valley. So far 449345 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 51–39 in Jammu and 12 in Kashmir.

### Tourist Slips

retrieved from the river by locals and police but he had died apparently due to injuries he sustained on his head, the officials said. (PTI)

### Electric Shock Kills

to carry out medico-legal formalities, reports added.



## Student Enrolment Up By 19% In Valley's Govt-Run Schools

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In Kashmir valley, the student enrolment in government-run-schools have increased by more than 19 percent in the ongoing academic year, reveals official figures.

According to the official figures, there has been an increase in student enrolment of 19.02 percent in government schools across Kashmir region. The figures reveal that a total of new 1143 dropouts were enrolled by the School Education Department in Kashmir valley followed by 965 Children with Special Needs (CWSN). It also states that 88,738 new admissions were also administered including those 28,295 admissions that migrated from Private Schools and Madras's to government schools.

It also states that in the recent enrolment drive started by Directorate of School Education Kashmir, the highest number of increase in student-enrolment was recorded in south Kashmir's Kulgam district and the highest new enrolments was witnessed in frontier district Kupwara.

Besides, the department has enrolled the highest number of drop-

outs from Srinagar district.

According to the official figures, there has been a total increase of 11,817.6 students in addition to the previously existing 62,132.7 students. The region has now a total of 73,950.3 students enrolment in government-run-schools.

The department also said that at least 28,295 students had also migrated from Private Schools and Madras's to government schools in the admission drive.

Pertinently, The Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2021 had said that in Jammu and Kashmir, the student enrollment has taken a dip of nearly two percent at all levels in the government-run-schools as compared to the previous academic years.

In that project approval board meeting, the MoE has said that the highest dip was witnessed in the elementary and secondary level schools.

"In 2021, the student enrolment at elementary as well as at secondary and higher secondary level has decreased by 0.2 lakh at Primary level, 0.1 lakh at Upper Primary level that resulted in a decrease of 0.34 lakh enrolment at Elementary level," it reads—(KNO)

## Teen Girl Raped, Impregnated By Man In Reasi

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU** A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped and impregnated by a man in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said on Monday.

A person of Pouni tehsil lodged a complaint with the police on Saturday alleging that a man repeatedly raped her daughter who is two months pregnant, they said.

Subsequently, a case was lodged and investigation started, the police officials said.

Amit Gupta, Senior Superin-

tendent of Police, Reasi, constituted a special team to crack the case, they said.

After strenuous efforts, the team succeeded in arresting the accused, identified as Vishal Kumar, the officials said.

The SSP said the case will be investigated thoroughly and a chargesheet against the accused will be produced in the court within a stipulated time.

Police are being regularly briefed to remain sensitive towards crime against women, especially minors, he said.

## SKUAST-K Scientist To Undertake Climate Change Research In UK

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir scientist Dr Syed Sheraz Mahdi has bagged the prestigious SERB-International Research Experience (SIRE) Award to undertake high-end research on climate change at UK's Liverpool John Moores University.

Dr Mahdi, presently working as an assistant professor at SKUAST-K's Division of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura Campus, has been awarded SIRE Award to undertake high-end research in the field of climate change at the School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, the United Kingdom for six months and will work with Dr Alexandre Gagnon for developing of region-specific simulation models for field crops and will also examine the impacts of current and future climate change using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Tools.

Dr Mahadi is the only candidate from J&K selected for this prestigious fellowship for the year 2022-23. Vice Chancellor, SKAUST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmed Ganai, congratulates him for

bagging the prestigious international fellowship.

According to a statement, subject experts from collaborating institute-University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada will also be assisting in the research and development of these models for field crops of Kashmir.

The research collaboration between three institutes (SKUAST-Kashmir, India, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom and The University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada) shall be highly fruitful on a long term basis.

An active researcher, Dr Mahadi has published 61 research and review papers in high-impact reputed international journals. His publications have attracted over 870 citations and h-index 15. He has also to his credit 14 books published by renowned international publishers (SPRINGER, TAYLOR & FRANCIS and APPLE ACADEMICS). He is the recipient of several prestigious awards such as the SERB-DST, Young Scientist Award, Indian Ecological Society-Best Scientific Writing Award, Excellence in Teaching Award (Agronomy), ASPEE, Senior Fellowship Award for pursuing PhD program and several best paper award

## Waiting For FSL Report To Know Exact Cause Of Katra Bus Fire: Officials



### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Police are awaiting a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report to know whether the fire in a passenger bus, carrying mostly devotees from

Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, was caused due to an explosion or not, officials said on Monday.

Four people were killed and 24 others injured when the bus

caught fire near Nomai shortly after leaving for Jammu from the Katra base camp of the shrine in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

Eyewitnesses and injured passengers had said they heard a powerful blast before the blaze engulfed the bus.

A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday had inspected the passen-

ger bus that was gutted in the mysterious fire incident.

Earlier, Additional Director General (ADG) of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh, who inspected the scene, had said the initial probe does not point to the use of any explosive device.

The officials said the police awaiting the FSL report to know the exact cause of the fire.

## 20,000 J&K Govt Employees To Get Grievance Redressal Training

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Centre will train 20,000 Jammu & Kashmir Govt officials in grievance redressal and the task will be undertaken by the Department of Administrative Reforms, Union Ministry of Personnel.

This was announced here today by Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, while inaugurating a two day Regional Conference on the theme "Bringing Citizens and Government Closer - Through Administrative Reforms" at SKICC Srinagar.

The Regional Conference is being organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Gol in collaboration with UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The conference is being held in the backdrop of replication of good governance practices in Union Territory of J&K. 16 PM Awardees presented their innovations in the 2 day event.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Jammu and Kashmir became the first UT in the country to have Good Governance Index and was also first to launch District Good Governance Index for 20 Districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in January this year. He said, the Index represented a major administrative reform in benchmarking good governance at District level and a significant step for timely collation and publication of statistics at State/ District level.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that governance reforms must be taken to next level and he proposed the idea of Aspirational Blocks on the lines of Aspirational Districts based on 41 scientifically evolved indices and aimed at bringing districts lagging in certain parameters at par with the best performing districts.



Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has accorded the top priority in bringing the overall development in J&K UT. "Prime Minister's objective scientific approach even in designing, structuring and planning in administrative reforms has worked to a great benefit as it is based on very objective parameters," he said. Citing examples of Baramulla and Kupwara being under the Aspirational District Program (ADP) he lauded the Central Government's such initiative which he called dynamic in approach based on real time evaluation.

Speaking during the meeting, Union Minister said that Central Government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all. He said that ADP closely focuses on improving people's ability to participate fully in the developmental economy.

Taking about reforms in governance he said that it becomes imperative to reform rules that have become obsolete over time. Keeping pace with the contemporary time is the need of the hour. Such reforms are an example of minimum government and maximum governance and reform perform and transform slogan, he said. These are not only governance reforms which are being spoken about but also huge social reforms which are meant to carry India on the path to become a part of the global world.

During the two-day event, presentations are being made on

priority programs from the Prime Awards for Excellence In Public Administration, 2021; Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's Participation in Poshan Abhiyan; Promoting excellence In sports and wellness through Khelo India scheme; Digital payments and good governance in PM SVANidhi Yojana; Holistic Development through One District One Product scheme; Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention (District/Others) and Innovations (Centre, State and Districts). One Session is also on the theme "Improving e-Service Delivery in J&K".

In his address, Secretary, DARPG, Shri V.Srinivas said that the conference is an effort to bring the Government and Citizens closer through various administrative reforms at centre, state and district level. This is being enabled by use of digital technology, pursuing next generation reforms and innovations with policy objective of "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government", entailing Government process Re-Engineering, Universal access to e-services, excellence in digital Initiatives at district level and excellence in adopting emerging technologies and use of ICT Management.

Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary UT of J&K while addressing the inaugural session of the Regional Conference informed about the various reforms around good governance and effective implementations of schemes and initiatives over the recent past.

## Bakerwal Return To Meadows After 2 Years Break

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Hundreds of families from Bakerwal community along with their livestock returned to high-altitude meadows of Kashmir after a break of two years of Covid pandemic.

The annual migration of the pastoral community was affected because of the pandemic. In April, they travel by foot for weeks together along with their livestock through mountains to reach upper reaches of the Valley. Similarly, they return from the meadows to plains in Jammu for winters.

Qasim Khan, a nomad from Pir Panjal region says they are happy and excited that they are

moving freely after two years. He said while many have already entered the Valley but many are still on the way.

Another nomad Mohammad Hussain Poswal said that locals welcomed them everywhere upon their arrival. "We've a lot of friends here who used to come to us often," he said.

Another nomadic caravan while on the way to Gurez valley said that they migrate to the Valley every year except for the last two years.

Tasleema, a woman who accompanied the caravan hopes they will not be harassed by locals here as she lost one of his relatives here last year while fighting with the locals—(KNO)

## Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Annual Machail Yatra

Directs To Ensure All Facilities In Place Well Before Pilgrimage Begins

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Monday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Annual Shri Chandi Mata Ji Machail Yatra in district Kishtwar.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Ashok Sharma; Additional CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine Board, Vishvajeet; Additional DC Jammu, Chief Engineers of JPDC, PWD, PMGSY besides senior functionaries of Reliance, Airtel and other concerned officers. The Deputy Commissioner Doda and District officers of Kishtwar participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner inquired about the overall infrastructure development requirements. The Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar apprised him of progress achieved so far and future work plan.

While reviewing annual Yatra arrangements which generally start from July 25, it was informed that varied works have been initiated for development of basic facilities, roads, power supply, buildings, improvement of communication services etc in the Shrine area and the en-route.

The Div Com reviewed the status of roads and was informed that 66 KM Kishtwar to Gulabgarh (Padder) road was already there and another 16 KM PMGSY road had been completed from Padder to Kunail. He directed the Executive Engineer to expedite the pace of work and complete more length for smooth conduct of Yatra.

Regarding the power supply facility, the Chief Engineer JPDCI informed that a dedicated feeder was already in place for the Shrine area. It was informed that due to floods the cable was damaged and the work was in progress to restore the power supply.

The Div Com instructed Chief En-

gineer JPDCI to ensure power supply to the dedicated feeder at the earliest so that uninterrupted electricity supply was ensured during the Yatra days.

Asking for the provision of dependable telecom services for the pilgrims, the Div Com stressed on the district administration to facilitate the work on installation of towers by telecom service companies, resolve land and power supply issues etc.

It was informed that a website portal/mobile app will be launched for registration of pilgrims and to provide the information related to Shri Chandi Mata Ji Machail Yatra and its history. The Div Com asked the DC Kishtwar to explore provisions of RFID tracking of pilgrims visiting Machail Mata Yatra this year to ensure their safety.

While reviewing sanitation facilities, the DC apprised the Div Com that temporary toilets would be constructed en-route well before the start of Yatra.

The Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) informed that DPRs have been formulated for the construction/repair of Dharamshala, renovation of existing toilets en-route to Shrine and other additional works.

The Div Com also exhorted upon DC Kishtwar, other concerned officers to explore provisions of installation of solar lights, CCTVs on the entire route and Langer sites.

Regarding accommodation facilities, it was informed that a Dharamshala with the capacity of accommodating 200 persons was already there and the provisions of tentages will also be explored.

The Div Com directed concerned officers to formulate a comprehensive plan for more accommodation facilities, besides provisions of water proof tents for comfortable stay of pilgrims. The Div Com also reviewed the health care facilities and stressed for provision of adequate medical staff en-route and in the Shrine for providing patient care during Yatra days.

The Div Com also reviewed Development works executed in the Shrine and directed concerned officers to expedite the pace for their time-bound completion.

### J&K RURAL EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME

## Rs 25 Cr Subsidy Released During Last Financial Year: Govt

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Vivek Bhardawaj who is also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, on Monday held the UT Level Monitoring Committee (UTLMC) meeting of J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

The meeting was also attended by Secretary in Industries & Commerce (I&C) Department; Director I&C, Kashmir; Director I&C, Jammu; Director EDI; Secretary/CEO Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB); President UTLCB J&K Bank; President Government Schemes J&K Bank; Chairman J&K Grameen Bank; CGM State Cooperative Bank and other officers of J&K KVIB.

Bhardawaj emphasised upon the officers to make the process of establishment of income generating units under such programmes easy for all. He observed that such a kind of programmes are pivotal in reducing the unemployment here. He maintained that the applicants should be provided training through EDI for better management of the units in order to maximize their gains.

It was informed in the meeting that during the previous financial year (2021-22) an amount of Rs 25.00 crores were released for implementation of JKREGP in the UT. It was given out that the Board has disbursed margin money (subsidy) of Rs 24.62 crores to 893 income generating units involving bank loan of Rs 66.84 crores and providing employment avenues to 5358 persons.

Elucidating it was said that the target of Rs. 25.00 crores has been approved for the current financial year under this employment generation programme. The meeting was apprised that this margin money is earmarked for establishing 1231 income generating units throughout the UT.

It was further informed that the distribution of this subsidy amount is going to be done proportionately based on the rural population and previous performance of various Micro-Industrial schemes in each district.

It is envisaged that overall the scheme is slated to generate employment opportunities for about 7500 workers/artisans in the UT during the ensuing fiscal, as was disclosed in the UTLMC.

## ‘Govt’s Key Reforms Brought Its Financial Structure At Par With Any Progressive System Across Country’

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** "Key reforms introduced by the Jammu and Kashmir government in its financial structure envisaging added transparency and accountability have brought UT's fiscal system at par with any other progressive arrangement across the country".

A departmental official, while elaborating on the subject, maintained that implementation of transformative reforms such as Budget Estimation and Allocation Monitoring System (BEAMS), online submission of bills through J&K PaySys, mandatory administrative approvals, technical sanctions and e-tendering, digital payments, GFR, GeM and related measures have greatly helped the financial systems in J&K to be at par with any other developing financial system in the country.

Publication of pictorial e-compendiums related to proj-

ects completed under Back to Village, District Capex, UT Capex and JKIDFC broadly reflects government's commitment towards engaging with the citizens. This is the first time in the Union Territory of J&K that people are able to oversee works being executed in their areas on a real time basis. During 2020-21, more than 18,000 works were available on the EMPOWERMENT portal for the first time in J&K for public viewing thus bringing in real grass root empowerment.

The sincere initiative of Finance Department to institutionalize prudence in financial management in J&K has truly transformed the Union Territory. The essence of reforms such as online processing of bills through PaySys, streamlining of GST, e-stamping, e-GRAS, e-auction of liquor licences for retail outlets, digital payments, implementation of GeM, path-breaking reforms in J&K Bank, publication of important manu-

als relating to Budget and Audit, Back to Village and My Town My Pride initiatives besides 100% physical verification of works which was a most vital program to ensure implementation of projects without cost and time over-runs.

"Promoting good governance in the financial management has been one of the core objectives of the government. The financial system in J&K is one of the most transparent systems anywhere and is among the key changes that have taken roots in the Union Territory", the official asserted.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, during a meeting with the Finance Department highlighted major reforms taken up by the J&K government to bring greater transparency in the financial system making it more robust and result oriented.

Sinha said that unprecedented levels of transparency have been achieved through EM-

POWERMENT (Enabling Monitoring and Public Overview of Works being Executed and Resources for Meaningful Transparency), which is a web portal that hosts all the works being executed in the UT and allows public oversight over all works under execution.

"Our government believes in the mantra of four Ps-Peace, Progress, Prosperity and People-first, for holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir making the UT Atmanirbhar in all respects" LG maintained.

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, during her recent visit to J&K said the abrogation of Article 370 brought impetus in financial activities, transparency in administration and growth in UT's economy.

"In the past two years, work that has happened in J&K is absolutely stunning. The government procurement, recruitment, government spending of its



## Boxing World C'ships: Nikhat Zareen Secures India's First Medal



Press Trust of India

**ISTANBUL:** Asian Championships bronze medallist Nikhat Zareen (52kg) secured India its first medal at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul on Monday by advancing to the semifinals with a superb win.

Continuing her stellar run from the prestigious Strandja Memorial tournament where she won the gold earlier this year, Nikhat out-punched England's Charley-Sian Davison 5-0.

The 25-year-old Telangana boxer was all pumped up in her highly physical bout against Davison. Both boxers went attacking ferociously against each other in the first round.

However, the second round was a one way street as Nikhat pounded her opponent with terrific body shots to tire her out while also landing clean and sharp punches.

With the two rounds in the

bag, Nikhat then displayed her defensive skills as she no longer felt the need to be on the offensive in the final few minutes of her quarterfinal bout.

However, Nitu (48kg) ended her campaign with a 2-3 split verdict quarterfinal loss to reigning Asian champion Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan.

The 21-year-old from Haryana, who is a two-time youth world champion, started the bout cautiously, enticing her opponent to come at her but struggled to land punches herself.

The Indian tried hard to break Balkibekova's defences as the Kazakh boxer moved around swiftly. Nitu managed to up the ante in the final round but it was too late as the judges ruled in her opponent's favour.

Later in the day, Manisha (57kg), Parveen (63kg), Pooka Rani (81kg), Anamika (50kg) Jaismine (60kg) and Nadini (+81kg) will compete in their quarterfinals bouts.

## Thomas Cup Winners Satwik-Chirag Pull Out Of Thailand Open



Press Trust of India

**BANGKOK:** Star doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who played a pivotal role in India's historic Thomas Cup triumph, pulled out of the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

It is learnt that Chirag suffered some niggles during the tournament and the pair has informed the Badminton Association of India on Monday about their decision to skip the event this week.

The world No. 8 pair had lost just one match in the Thomas Cup -- against Chinese Taipei and brought India back into the contest after initial reversals against Malaysia and Denmark in the quarterfinals and semifinals here.

Among Indian others in fray, World Championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth, seeded eighth, who had stayed unbeaten with six wins at Thomas Cup, will face Brice Leverdez, while HS Prannoy, who had pulled off wins in the deciding third singles in the knockout stages, meets Malaysia's Daren

Liew.

Tokyo Olympian B Sai Pra-neeth will lock horns with Japan's Koki Watanabe, while Sourabh Verma faces France's Toma Junior Popov.

In women's singles, double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu will be playing a qualifier, while Saina Nehwal will be pitted against Korea Kim Ga Eun.

In men's doubles, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, and Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala, and Shyam Prasad and S Sunijith, Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Atttri, Ishaan Bhatnagar and Sai Pratheek K, are in the fray.

Palak Arora and Unnati Hooda, Haritha Manazhiyil Harinarayanan and Ashna Roy, and Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam will be looking to punch above their weight in the women's doubles.

B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, and Raju Mohamed Rehan and Jamaludeen Anees Kowsar, Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto, and Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewan-gan will lead Indian charge in mixed doubles.

## Sao Tome & Principe Thrown Out Of African Cup Qualifying

Agencies

**CAIRO:** Sao Tome and Principe was thrown out of the African Cup of Nations qualifying tournament on Monday for breaching COVID-19 protocols in a preliminary tie against Mauritius in March.

Sao Tome and Principe fielded a player in the two-leg tie who hadn't submitted to a compulsory pre-match COVID-19 test or provided proof of a recent test, the Confederation of African Football said. That constituted a breach of CAF's medical rules. Sao Tome and Principe won the tie 4-3 on aggregate.

Mauritius was awarded Sao Tome and Principe's place in the main qualifying stage for the 2023 African Cup in Ivory Coast and will go into a group containing former champion Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau.

Those qualifiers start at the end of this month.

Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island better known for being a luxury holiday destination, has qualified for the African Cup only once before, in 1974. It lost all three of its games.

The Sao Tome and Principe federation was fined \$10,000 for fielding the ineligible player, who wasn't named.

## IPL 2022: SRH Meet MI In Must-Win Game

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Their play-off chances hanging by a thread, Sunrisers Hyderabad will need to snap their five-match losing streak when they take on an already eliminated Mumbai Indians in the IPL here on Tuesday.

It has been a rollercoaster ride for SRH who won five games in a row before losing the next five.

SRH, if they win their two remaining games including the one against MI, will jump to 14 points and then be left hoping that the other results go their way to have an outside chance of making the play-offs.

But a loss against Mumbai at the Wankhede stadium will surely eliminate them, as there are already seven teams now with 12 or more points.

Hyderabad will need to put up a much improved show with the bat. Skipper Williamson is enduring a wretched run in this season and the Kiwi has collected just 208 runs from 12 games at an average of 18.92. He needs to find his mojo.

The formidable Sunrisers pace attack includes Umr



Malik, who has been a revelation, while the others like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Marco Jansen, who can trouble Rohit with the delivery that comes in, and yorker specialist T Natarajan have fared well.

The MI batters will need to be wary of Malik, who is improving after every game and already has 18 wickets.

MI will take confidence from their five-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings, whom they bundled out for 97 and probably look to dent SRH's chances.

But for Mumbai, the form of skipper Rohit Sharma and IPL's costliest buy Ishan Kishan are huge concerns. The duo needs to provide an aggressive start, especially in the absence of Suryakumar Yadav.

As far as the MI bowling is concerned, pacer Sams is right on the money and can wreak havoc at the start. The ever-reliable Jasprit Bumrah and Riley Meredith have also played their parts while rookie spinner Kumar Kartikeya Singh has been providing necessary breakthroughs in the middle overs.

## Hetmyer Returns To RR



Agencies

**MUMBAI:** Rajasthan Royals batter Shimron Hetmyer, who had flown to Guyana for the birth of his first child, has rejoined the squad and is likely to be available for the side's final league match on Friday.

The big-hitting West Indian had flown to Guyana for the birth of his son on May 8, missing the matches against Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants.

"Hetmyer is back and is currently in quarantine," an IPL source told PTI.

The Royals, who sit second on the points table, are on course for a top two finish after they defeated Lucknow Super Giants by 24 runs.

They take on Chennai Super Kings in their final league-stage game on Friday.

The 25-year-old Hetmyer, who was bought by the Royals for Rs 8.5 crore in the auction, has been a vital cog for the former champions this season.

He has managed 291 runs from eleven appearances at a fantastic strike rate of 166.29 along with an impressive batting average of 72.75. (PTI)

## KKR's Rahane Ruled Out Due To Injury



Agencies

**MUMBAI:** Kolkata Knight Riders' Ajinkya Rahane has been ruled out of Indian Premier League 2022 due to injury. The opening batter has reportedly suffered a hamstring injury which will force him to leave the tournament and move to National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for recovery.

Rahane pulled his hamstring while taking a run during KKR's most recent IPL 2022 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad that his side won by 54 runs.

Rahane has had a poor season, scoring 133 runs in seven matches, with an average of 19 and a strike rate of 103.91. KKR bought the batter for INR 1 crore.

According to a report in Cricbuzz, Ajinkya Rahane will leave KKR's bio-bubble. The report also stated that the latest injury will see the batter miss India's forthcoming tour of England.

KKR is in sixth spot in this year's IPL table with 12 points from 13 games. They play their next match against Lucknow Super Giants on May 18.

## Intense Schedule Taking Its Toll On Quad-Chasing Liverpool

Agencies

**L**iverpool is heading into the 61st game of a potentially history-making season and the intensity of the schedule is taking its toll on the players.

"They are pretty much sleeping on their massage beds," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said Monday.

The problem is, the games are getting bigger and bigger for Klopp's team. And staying in contention for an unprecedented quadruple of major trophies is getting harder and harder.

It's two down, two to go for Liverpool after winning the FA Cup on Saturday — in a penalty shoot-out against Chelsea — to add to its League Cup triumph from February. The team is already booked in for the Champions League final against Real Madrid on May 28.

Attaining the third leg of the quadruple before that is the toughest ask, simply because the Premier League title is out of Liverpool's hands with Manchester City four points clear heading into the final week of the campaign.

City's 2-2 draw at West Ham on Sunday allows Liverpool the chance to trim the gap to one point by beating Southampton on Tuesday, before the two title rivals play their last games on Sunday.

But Klopp is being realistic. "I don't know the last time City dropped points two games in a row, historically," he said.

Well, that hasn't happened in



the league this season. It last happened in December 2020, when back-to-back draws — against Manchester United and West Bromwich Albion — preceded a run of 21 straight wins in all competitions.

But Klopp doesn't just need Aston Villa, managed by Liverpool great Steve Gerrard, to pull off a major upset on Sunday. He also needs Liverpool to beat Southampton and then Wolverhampton, a task Klopp says won't be easy given the tiredness in his players' legs.

While Liverpool is playing barely three days after 120 intense minutes against Chelsea, Southampton will have had 10 days since its most recent game and is known for its high-energy, heavy-pressing style of play under Ralph Hasenhuttl.

Southampton drew both of its games against City this season and beat Liverpool at home last season.

"They'll be completely fresh," Klopp said. "We cannot go there, fall into this game and go, 'What's going on here?' Southampton is a really well-drilled team, full of energy ... and playing their last home game of the season."

Then there's the injuries sustained by Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk during the FA Cup final that makes them doubts for the game. Their fitness status will be checked on Monday, but Fabinho is definitely missing because of a hamstring injury.

However, Liverpool always seems to find a way this season, in whatever match and whatever competition. Unsung heroes are popping up all the time — on Saturday, it was back-up left back Kostas Tsimikas converting the clinching penalty — so Klopp sees no problem having to rotate his team for the Southampton game.

"We sit here and we've won two cup competitions and there's one reason for it. Only one," Klopp said. "It's that we have this group of players that have all stayed on track, all stayed in line ... the atmosphere the group has created is exceptional."

He just wishes Liverpool could have been given an extra couple of days to recover before playing Southampton. Why, Klopp asked, couldn't the game have been played on Thursday, when three other league games are taking place?

"Come on, 120 minutes then we play again on Tuesday. That's massive," he said. "We will see. But I can't wait to play the game. The boys who start the game will go with it all have."

There's no second chances now, though. If Liverpool loses, City is the champion and dreams of the quadruple are over.

## 'Just Don't Know What He Was Doing': Andrew Symonds' Sister

Indo-Asian News Service

**LONDON:** The mystery around Australian cricketer Andrew Symonds' final hours before his death in a car crash on Saturday has deepened with his sister revealing to dailymail.co.uk that the family "just don't know" what the 46-year-old was doing on a deserted stretch on the night of the mishap.

The former all-rounder died in a single-car crash west of Townsville in Queensland. He leaves behind his wife Laura and two children.

The report said that his sister, Louise Symonds, "left a touching letter at the crash site" and said she wishes she could spend "just one more day" with her brother.

Quoting Louise, the report said, "It's (mishap) just awful. We just don't know (what Andre Symonds was doing there)," she said, adding, "I wish we had one more day, one more phone call. My heart is broken. I will always love you my brother." Symonds' two dogs survived the crash. According to the report, two locals, Babetha Neliman and Waylon Townson, were at the scene within minutes of the mishap and saw the former cricketer "hanging partially out of the vehicle on the passenger side"



with the car still running and music playing.

The duo tried to approach Symonds but one of the dogs wouldn't allow them to. "One of them (dogs) was very sensitive and didn't want to leave him. It would just growl at you every time we tried to move him or go near him," the report quoted Neliman as saying.

"My partner tried to get (Symonds) out of the car, to put him on to his back. He was unconscious, not responsive and had no pulse," added Neliman.

The report added that, "a shattered window could be seen where Symonds' 4WD (4-wheel drive) hit the embankment, with the contents of his car strewn in the weeds. A single fishing lure was half buried in the grass -- tangled in undergrowth, cable ties and broken glass."

## Tendulkar To Continue As UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador For 20th Year



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Sachin Tendulkar will continue as UNICEF's 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record 20th year, working for the welfare of underprivileged children.

"It's been great working with UNICEF all these years. Wonderful memories of the impactful work the team has executed. The efforts towards giving wings to children's dreams are very satisfying. Looking forward to our next phase of partnership," Tendulkar tweeted.

The iconic cricketer has been associated with UNICEF for long for various causes. In 2003, he was chosen to take lead in the initiative to create awareness and pro-

mote polio prevention in India.

Later in 2008, he was roped in to create and promote hygiene and sanitation among communities and has been continuing to do so over the years.

In 2013, he was appointed UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia to advocate good hygiene and sanitation across the region.

In 2019, he went on a three-day trip to Nepal to raise awareness for UNICEF Nepal's 'Bat for Brain Development' campaign.

In his almost two-decade-long partnership with UNICEF, he has been vital in furthering the campaigns, especially the ones aimed at providing better future for underprivileged children.

### BAN VS SL, FIRST TEST

## Nayeem Takes 6-105, Denies Mathews Double Century On Day 2



Agencies

**CHITTAGONG:** Offspinner Nayeem Hasan claimed a career-best 6-105 and denied Angelo Mathews a double century by one run before Bangladesh looked to respond against Sri Lanka on Day 2 of the first test on Monday.

Sri Lanka was bowled out for 397 with Mathews the last batter out for 199. Bangladesh openers Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudul Hasan then batted fluently to end the day on 79 for no loss.

Tamim was batting on 35 with Mahmudul on 31 as Bangladesh trails by 321 runs.

Before being the 12th batter to finish with 199 in the test history, Mathews led the Sri Lankan attack astutely against Bangladeshi spinners, who took all 10 wickets with varied pace.

"Obviously it would have been nice to get that one run but you have to take what God gives you," Mathews said. "I am thankful that I was able to play a good knock. Hopefully it will help us win the game."

Left-arm spinners Shakib Al Hasan finished 3-60 and Tajul Islam picked up 1-107.

The Sri Lankans resumed at

258-4 and dominated the morning session with Mathews and Dinesh Chandimal (66) extending their fifth-wicket partnership to 136 before Nayeem struck twice within five deliveries just before lunch.

"I got two wickets yesterday but I couldn't bowl well," Nayeem said. "I talked to Shakib (Al Hasan) yesterday night, he gave me some advice. That worked well for me."

Chandimal appeared shaky initially but found his rhythm, hitting a six off Tajul Islam. He then attempted a reverse sweep to Nayeem, missed and was adjudged lbw in the third-to-last over of the session. He reviewed the decision but the TV officials upheld the umpire's verdict.

Four balls later, Nayeem bowled Niroshan Dickwella (3) with a quicker delivery that went straight on to crash into his stumps.

Mathews reached his 150 off 293, flicking Nayeem to deep mid-wicket for a single as Sri Lanka pressed for quick runs again.

But Shakib got into act with a double strike in consecutive deliveries, dismissing Ramesh Mendis (1) and Lasith Embuldeniya for a duck. (AP)