

## 3 Infiltrators Killed Along LoC: Police

Army Porter Also Slain In Pre-Dawn Encounter

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The government forces on Thursday claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran Sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district by killing three Pakistani militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in a pre-dawn encounter.

Army also lost a porter during the exchange of fire with militants, a police spokesperson said.

Giving more details, he said, that a joint team of army and police laid an ambush in village Jumagund near LoC on the basis of specific input about the infiltration of militants. The infiltrating militants, he said, opened fire upon the joint party after being intercepted and challenged by the latter.

The spokesperson said that the fire was returned by the joint team setting off an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, he said, all the three infiltrated militants were killed.



File Photo

He further said that on the basis of source report and documents recovered from them, the killed militants have been identified as Pakistani nationals of Lashkar.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 03 AK series rifles, 12 AK Magazines, 01 Pistol, 02 Pistol Magazines and 03 Mobile Phones have been recovered from their possession," the spokesperson said.

He quoted IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar as terming the

elimination of the three Pakistani LeT militants as a big success.

Kumar, he said, also congratulated the joint forces for successive operations leading to the elimination of 6 foreign militants in last 24 hours which adds the tally of killed foreign militants to 26 — 14 from Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and 12 from LeT, during the current year in the valley.

"Police have registered a case in this | [More on P10](#)

## TV Artist Ambreen's Killers Trapped: Police

**P**olice on Thursday claimed that two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, who shot dead a TV artist and injured her nephew in Budgam district on Wednesday, are trapped in an ongoing encounter in Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

According to officials, a joint team of army and police launched a cordon and search operation on Thursday evening in Aganzhazipora village of Awantipora on the basis of inputs suggesting the presence of militants in the area. When the search team | [More on P10](#)

## 9 Killed In Zojila Accident

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Nine people, including an Army man, were killed when their cab rolled into a deep gorge on the Srinagar-Kargil highway in Ganderbal district, officials said here on Thursday.

The cab, on its way from Kargil to Srinagar, skidded off the road late on Wednesday at Zojila and rolled down the gorge, they added.

The police, army and locals launched a search-cum-rescue operation and recovered four bodies and rescued five others who were rushed to a hospital, officials said. The injured succumbed to injuries at the hospital, they said.

The deceased have been identified as Poonch-resident Azhar Iqbal | [More on P10](#)

## Yasin Kept In Tihar Cell Under Heavy Security

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** A day after a Delhi court awarded life imprisonment to Yasin Malik in a militant funding case, Tihar prison authorities here on Thursday said the separatist leader has been kept in a separate cell under heavy security.

"For security reasons, Malik may not be assigned any work in jail.



He has been kept in a separate | [More on P10](#)

## Police Arrests 10 Youth For Maisuma Protest

**T**he police have arrested 10 people allegedly involved in stone pelting and raising 'anti-national' slogans at the Maisuma area here ahead of the sentencing of separatist leader Yasin Malik by a Delhi court a day before, officials said on Thursday. | [More on P10](#)

## 'Jack', 'John' Helped NIA Nail Malik

**New Delhi:** 'Jack', 'John' and 'Alpha' were among the NIA's protected witnesses who helped nail banned JKLF chief Yasin Malik. These names were given to important protected witnesses, with hidden identities for their safety, in the militant | [More on P10](#)

## NIA Arrests Pulwama Man Over Jammu Attack

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a person believed to be a key accused in the Sunjwan militant attack case that happened in April on the outskirts of Jammu, an official spokesperson said on Thursday.

The accused, Abid Ahmad Mir of Putrigam in south Kashmir's Pulwama, is alleged to be an overground worker of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit. | [More on P10](#)

## LG Hopes J&K Will Become Major Agri Power Of The Country

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards becoming a major agricultural power of the country, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that Policy decisions and reforms taken in the last two-and-a-half years have yielded desired results.

"To meet the future



challenges of Agriculture and allied sector, we will require new smart technologies, which can provide most extensive and precise support to the farmers,"

the LG said after inaugurating National Seminar on "Agriculture and More: Beyond 4.0", hosted by SKUAST-Kashmir, here on Thursday. | [More on P10](#)

## J&K Brings Movie Shooting Under PSGA

Film Makers To Get Permission Within 30 Days Agencies

**Srinagar:** In a significant move, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory on Thursday brought the permission for movie shooting under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). The General Administration Department (GAD) today issued a



File Photo

notification making it mandatory for authorities to provide permission for

shooting of a movie in J&K within period of 30 days. The 30-day period

includes 15 days for obtaining no-objection certificate (NoC) from the concerned deputy commissioner, Home department, Culture department and Forest department.

Enacted in 2011, the PSGA makes it mandatory upon the government to deliver notified public services within the specified time limit.

In 2021, the Government unveiled a film policy to attract greater investment in the film | [More on P10](#)



Jammu & Kashmir  
Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages  
Proudly presents

A Three-Day

## Traditional Cultural Festival

Celebrating traditions and culture of Kashmir

27th May 2022 onwards

Govt. Higher Secondary School, Chadoora, Budgam.

Publicity Partner: Tourism Department Kashmir

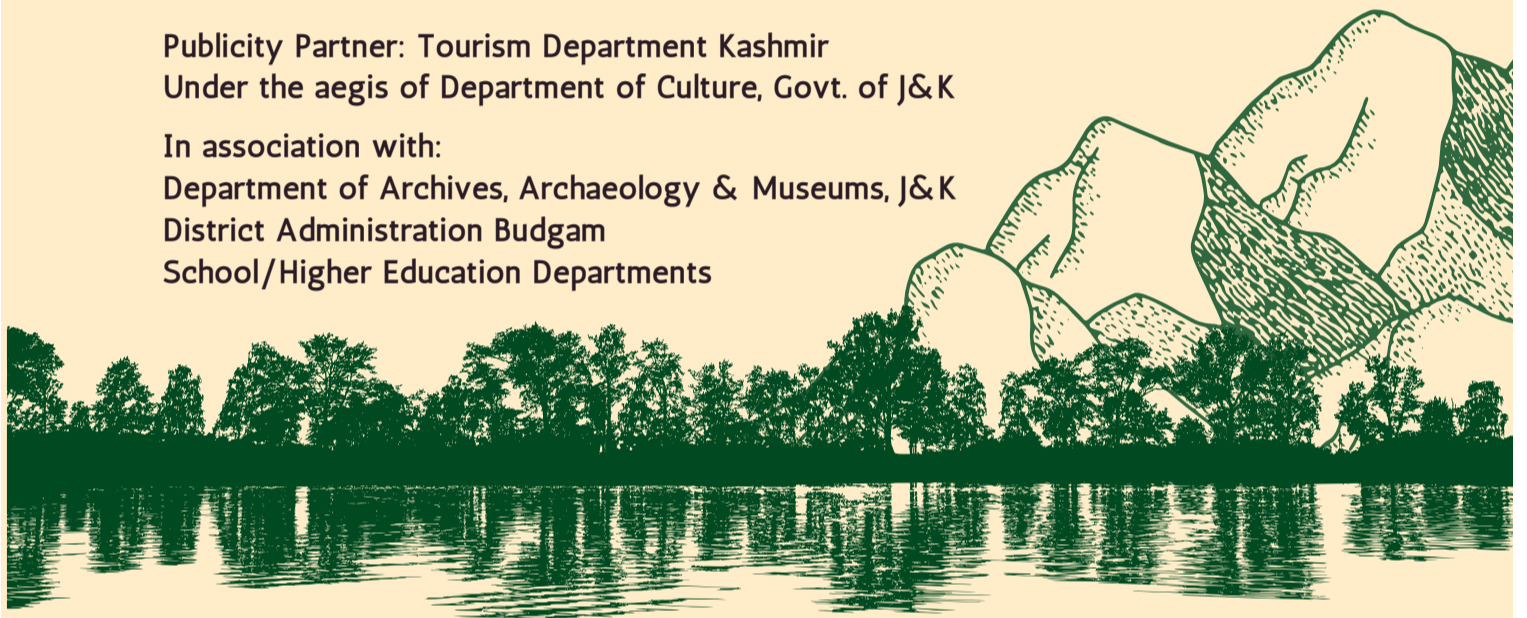
Under the aegis of Department of Culture, Govt. of J&K

In association with:

Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K

District Administration Budgam

School/Higher Education Departments



DIPK-NB-1230/22



**KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (KIIT)**  
Deemed to be University  
Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India



# KIITEE 2022

APPLY NOW

through KIIT websites  
[www.kiit.ac.in/www.kiitee.ac.in](http://www.kiit.ac.in/www.kiitee.ac.in)

No Application / Examination Fee  
(Computer Based Online Test)



## ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

### B.Tech (4 Years) in following branches of Engineering :

- Civil
- Mechanical
- Electrical
- Electronics & Telecommunication
- Computer Science
- Information Technology

- Electronics & Electrical
- Electronics & Instrumentation
- Mechanical (Automobile)
- Aerospace
- Mechatronics
- Electronics & Computer Science

- Computer Science & Communication
- Chemical Technology
- Computer Science & System Engineering

### Bachelors Programmes

- B.Tech (4 Yrs)
- B.Tech (Lateral Entry) (3 Yrs)
- B.Arch (5 Yrs)
- Bachelor of Design (Fashion/Textile) (4 Yrs)

- BA.LLB, BBA.LLB & B.Sc.LLB (5 Yrs)
- Bachelor of Film & Television Production (3 Yrs)
- BBA (3 Yrs)
- BCA (3 Yrs)

- B.Sc. Computer Science (3 Yrs)
- B.Sc. Nursing (4 Yrs)
- BA (Hons) in English / Economics / Sociology / Psychology (3 Yrs)
- B.Com. (Hons) (3 Yrs)

### Masters Programmes

- M.Sc. Biotechnology (2 Yrs)
- M.Sc. Applied Microbiology (2 Yrs)
- M.Sc. in Computer Science (2 Yrs)
- M.Sc. Nursing (2 Yrs)
- Integrated M.Sc. & Ph.D (Phy/Chem/Math) (5 Yrs)
- M.Sc. By Research - S&T Translation (2 Yrs)
- M.Com. (2 Yrs)
- MCA (2 Yrs)
- MBA (2 Yrs)
- MBA in Business Analytics (2 Yrs)
- MBA in Supply Chain Management (2 Yrs)

- MBA in Healthcare Management (2 Yrs)
- MBA in Construction Management (2 Yrs)
- MBA in Rural Management (2 Yrs)
- MBA in Agribusiness Management (2 Yrs)
- B.Tech & M.Tech - Biotechnology (Dual Degree) (5 Yrs)
- M.Tech. (2 Yrs)
- M.Tech. in Defence Technology (2 Yrs)
- Integrated M.Tech & PhD (5 Yrs)
- M.Arch (2 Yrs)
- M.A in English/Economics/ Sociology/Psychology (2Yrs)

- M.A in Spiritualism (2 Yrs)
- M.A in Yoga Therapy (2 Yrs)
- M.A in Public Policy (2 Yrs)
- M.A in Leadership (2 Yrs)
- M.A in Anthropology (2 Yrs)
- Master of Public Health (2 Yrs)
- Master of Hospital Administration (2 Yrs)
- Master of Mass Communication (2 Yrs)
- Master of Mass Communication (Integrated) (5 Yrs)
- LLM (2 Yrs)
- Ph.D Programmes

## CAMPUS PLACEMENT 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



**Director, Admissions:**

Admission Cell, Koel Campus, Po- KIIT, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha, India  
Ph: 814373311/12/13/14/15, 0674-2741747, Fax : 0674 - 2741465  
Email: [admission@kiit.ac.in](mailto:admission@kiit.ac.in), [www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in](http://www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in) & [www.kiit.ac.in](http://www.kiit.ac.in)



KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

# IIT Madras, Harvard University Researchers Develop Algorithm To Save Wildlife From Poaching

Press Trust Of India

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Harvard University researchers have developed a machine learning algorithm named CombSGPO (Combined Security Game Policy Optimization) that can help in saving wildlife from poaching. According to officials, the researchers found that combined and coordinated use of forest rangers and drones were a good way to protect wildlife from poaching. As the resources (rangers and drones) are limited, the researchers developed this algorithm which provides a good strategy to protect wildlife with the resources available. "This new algorithm provides highly efficient strategies that are more scalable than the earlier ones created

for the same purpose. The algorithm works by handling resource allocation and strategising patrolling after the extent of resources available had been identified. For this task, it utilizes data on the animal population in the conserved area and assumes that poachers are aware about the patrolling being done at various sites," said Balaraman Ravindran, Head, Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBCDSAI), IIT Madras. "The work was motivated by the need to perform strategic resource allocation and patrolling in green security domains to prevent illegal activities such as wildlife poaching, illegal logging and illegal fishing. The resources we consider are human patrollers (forest rangers) and surveillance drones, which have object detectors mounted on them for animals and poachers and

can perform strategic signalling and communicate with each other as well as the human patrollers," he added. This developed algorithm utilizes a Game Theory-based model created by the researchers. Game theory is a theoretical framework for conceiving social situations among competing players. In the context of wildlife protection, Game Theory pertains to predicting the areas where poaching may take place. These predictions are based on the earlier poaching incidents and the interaction between poachers and defenders. The game model and the kind of resources we use to simulate such a poaching game' between the defender (forest rangers and drones) and attackers (poachers) are based on the widely-studied Stackelberg Security Game Model' and are linked to drones



that have already been deployed by Air Shepherd (a foundation that deploys drones to stop elephant and rhino

poaching in Africa)," said Aravind Venugopal, first author of the study, and a Post-Baccalaureate Fellow, IIT

Madras, said, As per the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), wildlife trade poses the second biggest direct threat to the survival of species after habitat destruction. While several organizations and regulatory authorities are trying to curb the incidences of poaching, the poachers seem to have always remained one step ahead of the patrollers. "This collaborative research work by two esteemed universities will help in keeping poaching incidents in check. To extend this research for application in domains such as security, search and rescue and aerial mapping for agriculture among others, the team is trying to perform sample-efficient multi-agent reinforcement learning to learn with the least amount of data since data collection is costly in a real-world scenario," he added.

## Scientists Make Way For Gene-Edited Tomatoes As Vegan Source Of Vitamin D

IAN S

If British scientists have their way, two medium-sized tomatoes a day could keep the doctor away. A research team led by scientists at the John Innes Centre in Norwich has edited the genetic makeup of tomatoes to become a robust source of vitamin D, which regulates nutrients like calcium that are imperative to keeping bones, teeth and muscles healthy. Although vitamin D is created in our bodies after exposure to sunlight, its major source is food, largely in dairy and meat. Low vitamin D levels -- associated with a plethora of conditions from cancer to cardiovascular disease -- affect roughly 1 billion people globally, the researchers said. Tomato leaves naturally contain one of the building blocks of vitamin D3, called 7-DHC. Vitamin D3 is considered best at raising vitamin D levels in the body. Scientists used the Crispr tool - which is designed to work like a pair of genetic scissors - to tweak the plant's genome such that 7-DHC substantially accumulates in the tomato fruit, as well as the leaves. When ultraviolet light was shined on leaves

and sliced fruit for an hour, one tomato contained the equivalent levels of vitamin



D as two medium-sized eggs or 28 grams (1 ounce) of tuna, the researchers wrote in a paper published in the journal Nature Plants. Most vitamin D3 supplements come from lanolin, which is extracted from sheep's wool. Since the sheep stays alive, it works for vegetarians, but not vegans. Lichen is considered a vegan source of vitamin D3, but the data underpinning its effectiveness is limited - and it is also expensive, said Susan Lanham-New, head of the department of nutritional sciences at the University of Surrey.

## مجلس ترجمہ

نہایت غم و اندہ کے ساتھ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ ہماری ادنیٰ تجہء اہلیت و نیک داب والہ ماجدہ، بیگم طاج آغا سید عبداللہ شاہ مرحوم، ساکن منور آباد سیرنگر 24 ماہ شوال المکرم 1443ھ بروز جمعرات 26 مئی 2022 علی الصبح مختصر علالت کے بعد برضائے الہی داعی اجل کو لبیک کہہ کر ہمیں داغ مفارقت دے گئیں۔ خدائے رحمن رحیم مرحوم کو اپنی رحمت و مغفرت سے نواز کر پاکیزہ ان سیدہ عالمیان سلام اللہ علیہا محشر فرمائے۔

مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 27 ماہ شوال المکرم 1443ھ بروز اتوار 29 مئی 2022 صبح 6:15 بجے مقبرہ منور آباد سیرنگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد ازاں مجلس تعزیت و تسلیت دن بھر ہمارے گھر واقعہ منور آباد پہ جاری رہے گی۔

سوغواران

سید الطاف حسین

سید مظفر حسین

سید مسعود الحسن

منور آباد سیرنگر کشمیر

فون نمبرات: 9906545728/9419056894

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION BIJBEHARA

### Extension Of Dates

Due to poor response received from Enit No: 04, 05, 07, 08, 09 and 10 of 2022-23, the dates are hereby extended as per follows:

S. No.	Description	Date			
1		DD	MM	YYYY	Time
2	Bid submission end date	28	05	2022	4.00 PM
3	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	30	05	2022	11. AM

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the said NIT Shall remain unchanged  
No:PHB/2080-2100  
Dated:23.05.2022

**DIPK-2628/22**

Executive Engineer  
Jal shakti Division Bijbehara

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION SRINAGAR

e- NIT NO:- 03 of 2022-23 DATED:- 24- 05-2022

Name of Work:- Standard nursery maintenance operations for Polybags Nurseries  
For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
1. Maintenance operations of Polybag Nursery. No. of Polybags: 1 <sup>st</sup> Year = 50,000 No.'s 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year = 57,000 No.'s 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year = 6,417 No.'s No. of Beds = 157 No.'s Name of Forest Nursery: Kralasangri Location of Nursery: Kralasangri Range: S.P. Park Division: Urban Forestry Div.	1.27	BSD Form	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor, JK FDC Contractor	200 Rs.	30 Calendar Days
2. Maintenance operations of Polybag Nursery. No. of Polybags: 1 <sup>st</sup> Year = 60,000 No.'s 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year = 12,453 No.'s 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year = 0 No.'s Name of Forest Nursery: Lawaypora Location of Nursery: Lawaypora Range: S.P. Park Division: Urban Forestry Div.	0.76	BSD Form	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor, JK FDC Contractor	200 Rs.	20 Calendar Days
3. Maintenance operations of Polybag Nursery. No. of Polybags: 1 <sup>st</sup> Year = 0 No.'s 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year = 10,625 No.'s 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year = 0 No.'s Name of Forest Nursery: Cheshmashahi Location of Nursery: Cheshmashahi Range: S.P. Park Division: Urban Forestry Div.	0.11	BSD Form	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor, JK FDC Contractor	200 Rs.	20 Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA: Accorded vide CF Sgr order No:81/CF(Sgr) & 82/CF(Sgr) of 2022 dt:25-04-22

Position of TS: Accorded vide CF Sgr order No:81/CF(Sgr) & 82/CF(Sgr) of 2022 dt:25-04-22

Publishing Date:-	24-05-2022
Download Start Date:	25-05-2022 from 02:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	25-05-2022 from 02:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	01-06-2022 Upto 04:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	02-06-2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	Will be opened after evaluation of technical bids

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in). To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of Bid Security Declaration form duly filled in with time period prescribed and addressed to Divisional Forest Officer. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2022-23, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The Release of payments will be as per the actual work done bill to be furnished by the concerned Range officer duly certified.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No:- DFO/UFDA/2022-23/1229-33

Dated:- 24/05/2022

**DIPK-2709/22**

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Urban Forestry Division  
Srinagar

## LONE NEWS / ADVT AGENCY

RATNIPORA PULWAMA



*No Need To Visit Srinagar To Advertise Your Business*

- Drop Your Advt/Public Notice & Grab Your copy at Lone News Agency
- Home delivery of Newspapers also available

**Address: Markazi Jamia Masjid, Main Market Ratnipora Pulwama**  
**Call us at : 9797509142, 9797911802**

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

### BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Muzamil Qadir Malla  
S/o Gh Qadir Malla  
R/o Kawoosa Khalisa



### Details of Marks Certificate lost

Secondary School Examination (class 10th)  
Roll No 12401535 Session / Year Annual / Reg. 2020-21

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Magam

bmg\_r

## CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

### YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

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

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

## ELECTRONICS

### 10X MOBILE STORE

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

## TECH WORLD

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



Contact:- 9149965005/ 9682370979



## KU VC Nilofar Khan To Preside TEDx Event At NIT

Agencies

Srinagar: The first woman vice-chancellor of University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofar Khan will be the chief guest of the TEDx event to be held on Saturday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

Around 250 noted personalities from across various fields are expected to participate in the event.

NIT Srinagar is organizing a TEDx Event bringing brilliant minds from across the country having expertise in their domains will deliver talks on topics that matter and spark deep discussions and connections.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said that such events inspire the students to accelerate in their careers and are important for all-around development. He said youth are the backbone of any society or a community.

"They are the promising dreamers and future of the region that could be transformed into a tangible accomplishment. Encouraging them with constructive motivation can extend hope and could illuminate their future outlook towards the world," Prof. Sehgal said.

Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari, Registrar of the NIT Srinagar said motivation is also one of the key elements for igniting self-determination and self-belief. Enabling young students to recognize failure as a lesson instead of a setback is extremely important. Life itself is vibrant and constantly changing, and comes with its unpredictability, he said.

TEDx is an International Conference hosted every year in major cities around the globe wherein some of the most influential people on our planet share their ideas related to Technology, Education, Design, and literally every other field that exists.

TED also issues licenses to communities, so that they can bring a TED Conference-like event to their cities. These independently organized TED events are called TEDx events. Some selected TEDx videos are uploaded on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel with 32.6 Million Subscribers.

## Tourists Caught In Windstorm In Dal Lake Evacuated

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities launched a rescue operation to evacuate tourists caught in a windstorm here in Dal Lake to safer places.

An official said teams of SDRF and QRT personnel swung into action as heavy winds posed a serious threat to the lives of tourists and locals rowing shikaras in the Dal Lake.

Reports of gusty winds have also been reported from several other districts including Kupwara, Baramulla and Shopian.

# Women Protest Installation Of Smart Meters At Rajbagh

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Women from Rajbagh area of Srinagar staged a protest on Thursday against the installation of Smart Meters.

It was the second protest against the PDD move within a span of three days.

Scores of women came out of their houses and staged protests against the installation of Smart Meters.

The protesting women while raising the slogans against the PDD said they can't afford hefty power bills as they are hardly able to feed their families.

"Instead of forcing people to pay bills as per Smart Meters, the government should find ways and means to give respite to common citizens who have already suffered a lot due to the Covid-19 pandemic" said

a protestor.

"This is injustice and we won't be able to pay huge power bills. Power is a necessity in Kashmir due to its cold weather," she added.

On the sidelines of the protest, a woman was seen breaking a smart meter with a rock.

The protesters said that they won't allow the installation of these Smart Meters.

A senior official of the PDD said, there is a misconception among people that smart meters are expensive.

"Smart meters are much more beneficial than current meters. The rate per unit, which is currently applied, will be applied in new meters as well" he said.

It is pertinent Srinagar city has witnessed many protests against the installation of Smart Meters. (With KNT inputs)



**This is injustice and we won't be able to pay huge power bills. Power is a necessity in Kashmir due to its cold weather**

## School Education Department Mulls Heritage Tours In City

Agencies

Srinagar: In order to expose the school kids to architectural, cultural, and archaeological significance of the Srinagar city, the School Education Department has advised the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of Kashmir division to organize heritage tours for the students.

Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a communiqué issued to CEOs has said that Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Cor-

poration (JKTDC) has started conducting city tour of various Archaeological, heritage sites and monuments of the Srinagar City under the banner 'Dekho Apna Desh, Dekho Apna Srinagar'.

"The purpose of the tour is to make visitors familiar with the rich architectural, cultural, archaeological significance of the city," it reads.

The director has further said, "This is a nice initiative and can be beneficial for the students as it will add to their knowledge by providing them

with an opportunity to know and understand the rich heritage of Srinagar city."

DSEK requested to take the advantage of this initiative by advising Head of institutions of all districts of Kashmir to provide the students of their institutions with an opportunity to explore Srinagar city and to know its rich cultural heritage.

He said that the heads of Institutions can have the details of the city tour from the Nodal Officer of JKTDC. (KNO)

## GCoE Organises Inter College Photography & Painting Competitions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of observance of 'International Day of Biodiversity-2022', the Government College of Education, M. A. Road, Srinagar organized inter College Photography and Painting Competitions.

The programs were conducted by the Department of Environmental Education and NSS Unit 1.

Scores of students enthusiastically participated in both the events.

## DC Reviews Measures For Smooth Traffic Flow On City Roads

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the measures to ensure smooth traffic flow on City roads and to formulate an action plan to overcome traffic Jam on city Roads, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today chaired a meeting in the Meeting hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on various issues with regard to management of traffic system in Srinagar including road-

side encroachments, unregulated operation of street vending and nuisance of wrong parking.

On the occasion, the DC directed the officers to devise an effective mechanism to ensure better traffic regulation in the city particularly at heavy traffic load junctions including Jehangir Chowk, Batamaloo, Dalgate, M.A Road, Sonwar, HSHS, Ikhwani Chowk, Hawal, Saura and other highly congested routes. He also stressed on hassle-free movement of Ambulances and other vehicles required to reach

destination in a time bound manner.

The DC directed the authorities to conduct a massive and intensified enforcement drive against roadside encroachments and wrong parking in Srinagar City particularly at prominent places including outside the major City hospitals for visible improvement in traffic system.

The DC directed the SMC authorities to relocate street vendors from heavy traffic junction points which hinder smooth traffic ply

and cause traffic chaos and congestion. He also directed for keeping check on unregulated operations of street vendors particularly at heavy rush junction points.

He stressed on the concerned officers to take all required measures to decongest the City roads to ensure smooth flow of traffic. He also directed to keep the provision of adequate parking spaces in crowded places and relocation of the roadside vendors to facilitate hassle-free movement of pedestrians.

## KU's Faculty 'Tussle' Puts Career Of Ph.D Scholars At Stake

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir Students Movement (JKSM) On Thursday showed great resentment over the Kashmir University's failure to complete the admission formalities for PhD candidates including one year LLM of Law department despite the passage of over five months.

The entrance test for PhD admission in the law department was conducted on December 26, 2021 followed by an interview on January 17 this year.

"The selection list was not issued as one senior professor showed some 'dissent' for not allowing one year LLM students to pursue PhD despite two scholars who are doing PhD in the department have one year LLM" JKSM alleged.

"Also, faculty members with one year LLM are teaching in the department".

Reportedly the matter was resolved after Dean Academics formed a committee in

which majority of the members gave nod for one year LLM students to do PhD.

JKSM learnt that after a committee was constituted to decide the fate of one year LLM course students, only a single professor from the law department showed dissent and was against the decision of allowing candidates with one year LLM course.

However the majority was in the favor of allowing them, but still the admission process for all the selected candidates including one year LLM remain undeclared since Dean Academics is not giving his consent.

JKSM said yet the Dean Academics didn't issue the list as the administrators and faculty started to "blame game".

JKSM reiterates that no such university statutes exists which denies one year LLM course students to pursue PhD from its Law department.

It said KU shall adhere to its statutes and allow both one year and two year

LLM students to complete admission process within no time as is being done in rest of the universities in the country.

It said that Jammu University smoothly allowed one year LLM students to join for PhDs without any hiccups.

"Why are Kashmir based one year LLM students made to suffer because of the tussle between administrators and faculties. Is KU above UGC and BAR Council of India guidelines. When the University doesn't have any hesitation in taking huge funds from UGC why can't it follows UGC rules and statutes," JKSM asked.

JKSM urged the newly appointed VC Neelofar Khan to order issuance of the notification for allowing all selected candidates to pursue PhD without giving them further mental trauma.

It also urged JK LG Manoj Sinha to intervene and keep close watch on KU functioning so that its students do not face any issues. (KNS)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

Office of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (Returning Officer)

Notice Jammu. Dated 27th of May 2022

Reference: Election Notification of the Financial Commissioner (Rev) J&K issued vide No. FC-LS/GPC-08/11/2016 (18114) dated: 25.05.2022.

In pursuance of Rule 11 of the Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwaras and Religious Endowment Rules, 1975, the undersigned in the capacity of Returning Officer/Election Authority for the district, issues the following dates for the conduct of elections to the District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees- 2022 as per the schedule

S. No.	Description	Date	Time
1	Issuance of Election Notice	27-05-2022 (Friday)	
2	Commencement date of filing of Nomination papers	28-05-2022 (Saturday)	11:00 AM
3	Last date for filing of Nomination papers.	04-06-2022 (Saturday)	to 3:00 PM
4	Date of affixing of list of candidates on the Notice board.	04-06-2022 (Saturday)	
5	Time and date of Scrutiny of Nomination papers	07-06-2022 (Tuesday)	11:00 AM
6	Last date for withdrawa' of candidature	09-06-2022 (Thursday)	Up to 3:00 PM
7	Date for allotment of Symbols	10-06-2022 (Friday)	
8	Last date for campaigning	25-06-2022 (Saturday)	
9	Date of Poll	27-06-2022 (Monday)	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
10	Date of Counting.	27-06-2022 (Monday)	2:00 PM onwards

Note:-

1 Nomination Paper shall be delivered by a candidate in the office of the RO/ARO.  
2. The nomination papers will be taken for scrutiny by the office of the RO.  
3. Notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be delivered by the candidate in the office of the RO.

DIPK-2740/22

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara  
(Returning Officer/Election Authority)

DEOK/Notice/2022/109  
Dated: 25-05-2022

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- 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
- BIJBERA: 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  
26 Shawwal  
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR

3: 43

ZUHR

12:28

ASR

5:24

Magrib

7:36

ISHA

9: 13

## This Day In History

- 927 - Battle of the Bosnian Highlands: Simeon I of Bulgaria is defeated by King Tomislav of Croatia
- 1660 - Denmark & Sweden sign The Treaty Of Copenhagen, ends Second Northern War
- 1679 - Habeas Corpus Act (strengthening person's right to challenge unlawful arrest & imprisonment) passes in England
- 1703 - Saint Petersburg (Leningrad) founded by Russian Tsar Peter the Great
- 1738 - Turkish troops occupy Orsova and Ochakov in eastern Europe
- 1798 - The Battle of Oulart Hill takes place in Wexford, Ireland, large rebel force kills local militia
- 1883 - Tsar Alexander III crowned in Moscow
- 1895 - British inventor Birt Acres patents film camera/projector
- 1905 - Japanese fleet destroys the Russian East Sea fleet in the Battle of Tsushima, the only decisive clash between modern steel battleships in history
- 1916 - President Woodrow Wilson addresses the League to Enforce Peace, founded in 1915, and gives public support to the idea of a league of nations
- 1918 - Third Battle of Aisne: German offensive overcomes British forces (WWI)

## From KO Archives

## ‘Love Bug’ Computer Virus Wreaks Fresh Havoc

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, MAY 05: Copycat variants of the "Love Bug" vi-rus labeled "Joke" and "Moth-er's Day" infected computers around the world on Friday, a day after the most widespread cyberattack ever-wreaked havoc on business and govern-ment operations.

Tens of millions of the com-puters have been disabled so far as the virus, first detected in Asia, spread around the globe, forcing network admin-istrators to shut down e-mail systems at major companies and penetrating the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and Britain's Parliament.

Security experts said the vi-rus was far more devastating than last year's Melissa bug, with losses now counting in the billions from damaged data and the distractions of fighting the software scourge, and warned that it could take weeks to stem the invasion.

"There's a potential ' that anyone who receives this virus can go to the Internet and (nd) tools to change codes within the virus program that can give the e-mail or the attachment a new name," said Simon Perry, vice president for security products at Computer Associates International Inc. (NYSE : CA - news).

The Islandia, N.Y is a leading maker of anti-Virus software such as inoculuteIT.

For the time being, most of the virus variants are only cos-metically different from the original virus. "Based on our research, we believe that the variants are coming from a number of different people," Perry said.

ASIA AND EUROPE TAKE STOCK OF IMPACT: Computer users woke up on Friday to the chilling implications for a world that is now so wired up that quarantining such bugs may prove an endless cat-and-mouse game — with far-reaching financial consequences.

Computer Economics, a market research firm located in Carlsbad, Calif, estimated that the virus already had caused \$2.61 billion dollars in damages worldwide, but most experts said precise figures would be difficult to pin down.

The impact of the bug in Asia on Friday was possibly muted by the fact the markets in four countries-Japan, South Korea, China and Thailand - were closed for pub-lic holidays on Friday.

European Enterprise Com-missioner Erkki Liikanen said: "The Love Bug is a warning to us all that security must be given top priority if consumer and user confidence is to be maintained as we move into the information age."

A German government spokeswoman said the virus had penetrated its foreign, jus-tice, interior and economics min-istries. The spokesman re-ported no serious damage as the interior ministry called in a special task force to advise on coun-ter-measures.

Britain's Consumers Asso-ciation said 30 to 50 percent of UK businesses seemed to be af-fected. "It is spreading very rap-idly. Yesterday we had 10 to 15 percent," said Alan Stevens.

Kit experts warned the full effects of the bug may carry through the weekend.

(Kashmir Observer, 27 May, 2005)

## Israel Tells US It Got Iran Revolutionary Guards Colonel Killed: Report

Agenceis

**New York:** Israel has told the United States it was responsible for the killing of an Iranian Revolutionary Guards colonel last week, The New York Times reported Wednesday.

Colonel Sayyad Khodai was shot dead on Sunday by a gunman on the back of a motorcycle as he sat in a car outside his home in Tehran.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has vowed to avenge the killing, and the Revolutionary Guards blamed it on "elements of global arrogance" -- a reference to the United States and its allies, including Israel.

On Wednesday, the Times reported that "according to an

within the Quds Force -- the foreign operations arm of the Revolutionary Guards, Iran's ideological army.

Iran's state broadcaster has described Khodai as a member of the Quds Force.

It had previously reported that the colonel was "known" in Syria, where Iran has backed the government during an 11-year civil war and where it acknowledges deploying "military advisers".

Thousands attended Khodai's funeral on Tuesday in central Tehran.

Funeral prayers were led by the capital's top imam, and Khodai's coffin was draped in the Iranian flag. Posters hailed him as a "martyr".



intelligence official briefed on the communications, Israel has informed American officials that it was behind the killing."

The source, who spoke to the Times on condition of anonymity, said Israel told US officials the killing was meant as a warning to Iran to halt the operations of a covert group

Khodai's killing came with negotiations between Iran and world powers to restore a frayed 2015 nuclear deal stalled since March.

One of the main sticking points is Tehran's demand to remove the Guards from a US terrorism list -- a request rejected by Washington.

## Job Applicants Don't Have Legal Right To...: Supreme Court On Recruitments

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** A candidate who has applied for a job does not have a legal right to insist that the recruitment process set in motion be carried to its logical end, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said that even the inclusion of a candidate in the select list may not provide the candidate with such a right.

"The cardinal principle we must bear in mind is that this is a case of direct recruitment. A candidate who has applied does not have a legal right to insist that the recruitment process set in motion be carried to its logical end. Even inclusion of a candidate in the select list may not clothe the candidate with such a right," the bench said.

The Supreme Court, however, clarified that this is different from holding that the employer is free to act in an arbitrary manner.

The observations came while deciding a case in which advertisements were issued on March 1, 2018, inviting online applications to fill up among other posts, the post of Associate Professor for the colleges run by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

On March 21, 2018, a notice was issued to keep the recruitment process in abeyance in regard to the post of Associate Professor and Professor for administrative reasons.

One of the applicants approached the Central Administrative Tribunal seeking



directions to fill up the post of Associate Professor in terms of advertisement and the tribunal passed an order in his favour.

The order was challenged before the Karnataka High Court which dismissed the writ petition. The top court said the direction given by the High Court to conclude the recruitment within 45 days is clearly untenable.

"As the very advertisement was put on hold, it is quite likely that any candidate who may have been desirous of applying, may not have applied being discouraged by the fact that the advertisement has been put on hold. Therefore, the direction to conclude the proceedings within 45 days is unsupportable," the bench said.

"We are of the view that a fair and time-bound decision must be taken by the appellants not oblivious to the fact that persons have applied and they would also look forward to fair treatment at the hands of the body like the appellant. Accordingly, we allow the appeal. We set aside the judgement and we direct the appellants to take a decision bearing in mind all relevant aspects within a period of two months," the bench said.

## Imran Gives 6-Day Ultimatum To Govt For Announcing Elections



Agenceis

**Islamabad:** Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Thursday gave the incumbent government an ultimatum; to announce elections within six days or have the "entire nation" return to the capital.

In an impassioned speech, the ousted premier claimed he was providing the coalition government with ample time to hold general elections in June. "It is my duty to unite the nation," Imran said adding that the was grateful that the nation had united against the "imported government."

The PTI leader accused the government of coming into power to dismiss the cases of corruption against themselves, "you have not come to run the country."

Referring to the judgment passed by the Supreme Court, the PTI chief stated that his "peaceful protests" could not be legally hindered by the federal government. Empowered, Imran stated that he would gather two million people in the federal capital for his cause.

The former prime minister along with other party leaders, on Wednesday had reached Islamabad after PTI workers

and supporters also made their way towards the federal capital, pushing aside containers and braving tear gas shelling.

As the chairman's caravan made its way to the famous D-Chowk after entering Islamabad, the federal government called in the Pakistan Army for the security of the capital's Red Zone.

The decision was taken for the protection of important government buildings, including the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Parliament House, Presidency, Prime Minister Office and others.

Situation in Rawalpindi returns to normal

As Imran Khan's long march ended, the situation in the twin cities began to return to normal. With PTI workers leaving Islamabad's Blue Area in convoys, the lack of transport caused problems for them.

The administration and police began removing obstacles to re-open the Murree Road and other highways.

According to reports, party workers severely damaged property in the Blue Area, setting fire to trees and burning telephone wires. The protest also resulted in pollution of the environment as garbage,

including food waste was left scattered.

Departments, including the Capital Development Authority, have begun the rehabilitation work.

The Islamabad Police also reported that the party workers had entered the Red Zone after Imran gave a six-day deadline to the government.

"Police, Rangers and other law enforcement agencies stopped them with great restraint," the spokesperson said.

Sit-in ends in Karachi  
The PTI sit-in at Karachi's Numaish Chowranghi ended at 8 am on Thursday.

Former federal minister Ali Haider Zaidi had appealed to the participants to not leave until Imran Khan's order, to which the participants had agreed.

After the PTI leader's announcement to end the sit-in in Islamabad, the party's Karachi President Bilal Ghaffar thanked the participants at the square and announced to end the sit-in, following which the workers dispersed.

The KMC personnel reached the spot and completed the cleaning work. Later, the traffic police restored the flow of traffic on both roads.

## Muslim Side Questions Maintainability Of Gyanvapi Petition

Agenceis

The Muslim petitioners on Thursday questioned the maintainability of the Hindu side's plea in the Gyanvapi dispute case.

As hearing began in the court of District Judge Dr A.K. Vishvesha, the Muslim lawyers cited the Places of Worship Act 1991 and claimed that the petition was not maintainable.

Abhay Yadav, the lawyer for the Muslim side, said that rumours of a 'Shivling' being found inside the mosque were being deliberated floated to create confusion.

He contended that the 'Shivling' had not yet been established by court and the court should put an end to such rumours.

Meanwhile, Vishnu Jain, lawyer for the Hindu petitioners told reporters outside the court that holes had been drilled into the 'Shivling' to make it look like a fountain.

Only 36 persons, including the lawyers were allowed inside the court where hearing was heard under tight security.

Hearing will continue in the case on Monday when Hindu petitioners will put up their arguments.

## Israel, Turkey Looking To Expand Economic Partnership



Agenceis

**JERUSALEM:** Turkish and Israeli foreign ministers said on Wednesday their countries were hoping to expand economic ties as they seek an end to more than a decade of strained relations.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu is on the second-day of a two-day trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories, the first such visit by a senior Turkish official in 15 years.

"The goal is to form and expand economic and civil cooperation between our countries," Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid said in a statement alongside Cavusoglu in Jerusalem, "and to leverage our two countries' comparative advantages regionally and globally, even during the pandemic, and even in times of political tension."

Lapid and Cavusoglu added

that officials would begin working on a new civil aviation agreement soon.

Turkey and Israel have been working to mend their long-strained ties, with energy emerging as a key area for potential cooperation. The two countries expelled ambassadors in 2018 and have often traded barbs over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We believe that normalisation of our ties will also have a positive impact on the peaceful resolution of the conflict. Turkey is ready to take responsibility to continue the efforts towards dialogue," Cavusoglu said.

US-brokered peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians aimed at establishing an independent Palestinian state in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, collapsed in 2014 and the two sides have not held serious talks since then.

## Minutes Before School Attack, Texas Gunman Sent Online Warning

Agenceis

The Texas gunman who murdered 19 children and two teachers posted an online message warning that he was going to shoot up an elementary school minutes before he attacked, Governor Greg Abbott said on Wednesday, as harrowing new details of the massacre emerged.

The gunman, whose rampage ended when police killed him, also had sent a message on Tuesday saying he was going to shoot his grandmother, followed by another internet post confirming he had done so, Abbott said at a news conference.

The suspect's grandmother, shot in the face before her grandson left the home they shared and attacked the school, survived and called police.

The gunman, identified as Salvador Ramos, 18, otherwise gave no warning he was about to commit what now ranks as the deadliest U.S. school shooting in nearly a decade, authorities said.

Fleeing the shooting of his grandmother, he crashed his car near Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, about 80 miles (130 km) west of San Antonio, then managed to evade a school police officer who approached him before running inside.



No gunfire was exchanged at that point, according to police. But authorities offered few details of the encounter, likely to become a focus of investigations, except to say that the suspect dropped a bag full of ammunition and ran toward the school when he saw the officer.

Ramos then entered the school through a back door carrying an AR-15-style rifle and made his way to a fourth-grade classroom where he shot all of the people who were slain. Authorities said he had legally purchased two rifles and 375 rounds of ammunition days before the shooting.

Meanwhile, police surrounded the building, breaking windows

to help children and staff escape. U.S. Border Patrol agents also responded and entered the building to confront the shooter, with one agent wounded "in the crossfire," homeland security officials said.

Eventually, Ramos, a high school dropout with no known criminal record or history of mental illness, was shot dead by law enforcement.

Abbott said 17 people suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The wounded included "multiple children" who survived the gunfire in their classroom, Texas Department of Public Safety spokesperson Chris Olivarez said.

The shooter's online posts were made on Facebook, the

governor said, but spokespeople for Facebook's parent company, Meta Platforms, said they were private one-to-one messages discovered after the shooting. The company declined to say who received the messages or which of Meta's platforms, such as Messenger or Instagram, was used to

The suspect's mother, Adriana Reyes, was quoted in an interview with the British-based news site DailyMail.com describing her son as someone who "kept to himself and didn't have many friends."

Ten days earlier an avowed white supremacist shot 13 people at a supermarket in a mostly Black neighborhood of Buffalo, New York, re-igniting a national debate over U.S. gun laws.

In a sign of the charged political atmosphere, Beto O'Rourke, the Democratic candidate challenging Abbott in a November election, interrupted the news conference to confront the governor over the state's permissive gun laws, shouting "You are doing nothing!"

Several officials gathered on stage around the governor yelled at O'Rourke. "You're a sick son of a bitch who would come to a deal like this to make a political issue," one of them said, though it was not clear who.

O'Rourke was escorted from the building and spoke to reporters outside. He said it was

"insane" that an 18-year-old was legally permitted to acquire a semi-automatic rifle and vowed to pursue gun restrictions.

Abbott said stringent gun laws do not prevent violence, citing states such as New York. He said policy-makers should instead focus on mental health treatment and prevention.

U.S. President Joe Biden, calling for new gun safety restrictions in a nationally televised address on Tuesday evening, is planning a trip to Texas soon, a senior administration official said.

New legislation appeared unlikely to pass in Washington. Virtually all Republicans in Congress oppose tighter gun controls, and there was no sign the latest massacre would alter the equation.

The National Rifle Association's annual meeting starts on Friday in Houston, where Republicans including Abbott, Texas U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and former President Donald Trump were scheduled to address the gun rights group.

In a statement, the NRA expressed sympathy for the victims but said the event would go on as planned. World leaders expressed shock and sorrow. Pope Francis on Wednesday said he was "heartbroken" and called for an end to "the indiscriminate trafficking of weapons."

## NEWS MAKERS

## Israeli Defence Minister To Visit India Next Week

Agenceis

**Jerusalem:** Israel's defence minister Benny Gantz will visit India next week during which he will sign a Letter of Intent (LOI) to mark 30 years of bilateral diplomatic and defence ties, his office said on Thursday.

India and Israel elevated their bilateral ties to a strategic partnership during the historic visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel in July 2017.

Since then, the relationship between the two countries has focused on expanding knowledge-based partnership, which involves collaboration in innovation and



research, including boosting the 'Make in India' initiative.

"Defence Minister Benny Gantz will conduct an official visit to India next week (01.06) during which he will sign an LOI marking 30 years of diplomatic and defence ties between Israel and India. A detailed schedule will be

released in the coming days," a statement from his office said.

Informed sources told news agency PTI that he will be on a three-day visit to India and will meet his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh.

Other details of the trip are being worked out, they said.

Some local media reports interpreted the signing of the LOI as a "special security declaration".

Gantz was scheduled to visit India towards the end of March but had to postpone his trip amid a series of deadly terror attacks across Israel.

India is one of the largest buyers of Israel's defence equipment

estimated at billions of dollars but the relationship has recently acquired a new meaning with a focus on the joint development of weapons systems.

PM Modi said in January this year that there cannot be a better time to set new goals for taking forward India-Israel relations and asserted that the cooperation between the two countries has played a key role in the growth stories of the two nations.

In a special video message on the completion of 30 years of full-fledged diplomatic relations between India and Israel, PM Modi said this period has been very important for both countries.

## 'Upset' With God Over Family's Ill-Health, Man Damages Idols; Arrested

Agenceis

**Noida:** A 27-year-old daily wage earner was arrested in Greater Noida for allegedly damaging idols kept at a temple as he was "upset" with God over his family's ill health for the past few years, police said on Wednesday.

The man, identified as Vinod Kumar alias Bhoora who is a native of Chhatarpur district in Madhya Pradesh, was arrested on Tuesday after an FIR was lodged at Beta 2 police station on the complaint of a local a day after the incident came to fore, they said.

According to the police, three idols kept at a temple were found vandalized on Monday morning. The temple did not have any priest and acting on the complaint, police were deployed at the site in a preventive measure, they said.

"The matter was investigated and accused Vinod Kumar was arrested on Tuesday. The tools used by him to damage the idols were also recovered," a police spokesperson said.

"During questioning, the accused told the police that his wife and five-year-old child have not been keeping well for the past

three-four years. He said that he had been praying to the Gods but their health did not improve. Recently, his aunt also passed away, leaving him severely depressed," the spokesperson said.

All these events led Mr Kumar to damaging the idols, the police said, claiming the accused has confessed to committing the crime using a hammer and a chisel, both of which have been recovered. A case was lodged against the accused under Indian Penal Code Section 295 (defiling place of worship), the police said, adding that he has been sent to jail.

## Civilian Killings In J&K Belie normalcy Claims: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday questioned the Centre's Jammu and Kashmir policy saying the civilian killings in Kashmir did not support Government of India's claims of normalcy in the union territory.

In Kashmir, mournings have sadly become the norm & a daily ritual. Countless innocent civilians are killed in one way or the other & devastated families are left behind to pick up the pieces. What will it take for GOI to recalibrate their J&K policy to end this bloodshed? Mehbooba tweeted.

Commenting on the killing of a female TV artist in Budgam district's Chadoora area on Wednesday, the former chief minister said while the government was making claims about normalcy, the gruesome killings suggest otherwise.



GOI keeps blowing its trumpet of normalcy in J&K even when such gruesome incidents suggest otherwise. My heart goes out to Ambreen Bhat's family & pray her nephew recovers swiftly, Mehbooba said.

The incident took place in the Hashoor Chadoora area of the central Kashmir district. The woman was identified as Amreen Bhat and her nephew as Farhan Zubair (10).

Two civilians including Kashmiri Pandit employee Rahul Bhat -- and three off-duty policemen have been killed in Kashmir during the month of May by the militants.

## Mehbooba, Farooq Act Like Pakistan's Ambassadors: BJP Leader

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Charging former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Farooq Abdullah for toeing Pakistan's line, BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Thursday alleged that both these leaders act like Islamabad's ambassadors and always stand against India.

The former J and K deputy chief minister also condemned the ghastly terror act in which a TV artist, Amreena Bhat, was brutally killed and her 10-year-old nephew injured in Kashmir on Wednesday.

Mehbooba and Abdullah never target terrorists and for such horrendous acts but do not waste even a jiffy in decrying the verdicts of the court against those who have allegedly waged a war against the country, Gupta said.

"The PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah are toeing Pakistan's line. Both these leaders act like Pakistani ambassadors' and always stand against India," he told reporters here.

He said this wrongful attitude is one of the reasons behind turmoil in the Valley.

As far as terrorist acts in valley are concerned, Mehbooba, Farooq and others on the same boat never dare to speak a word against terrorists despite the fact that large number of innocent people are being killed but

when it came to Yasin's (Malik) jail term, everyone in the coterie started shedding crocodile tears," the BJP leader said.

"Why so much love for a terrorist?" Gupta asked.

He said the Modi government is trying to bring prosperity in the valley through various initiatives like inviting film industry, boosting tourism but the enemies of Kashmiris are busy killing minorities, tourists, and even locals, making it difficult to restore peace.

This is not enough when it comes to Kashmir because so-called mainstream leaders like Mehbooba are candidly supporting those acting against India and even instigating the people to ensure that unrest remains on ground as she feels this to be in her favour politically, he alleged, adding the Modi government will not allow such machinations and will tighten noose around each and every element working against the interests of the country.

J-K BJP chief spokesman Sunil Sethi said Mehbooba's dual approach vis--vis Yasin Malik and Ambreen Bhat exposes double standards of Kashmir politics.

"Now that largely peace has returned and people especially in Valley are happy with return of tourism, it is not being digested by these leaders who had been surviving politically on death and destruction," he said.

## Govt Committed To Transform J&K: MoS Home



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra said on Thursday that the government is committed to transforming the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring that all services are available to the public.

Mishra, who commenced his two day tour of Anantnag on Thursday, made these remarks during his interaction with delegations of PRIs, hoteliers and civil society members in the tourist resort of Pahalgam here, an official spokesperson said.

Addressing the members, Mishra, he said, emphasized that developmental works are being completed at a rapid pace.

"He said that not only has the quantum of work increased, but also the quality of works has improved and public funds are being spent in a transparent and accountable manner," he added.

The minister, as per the spokesperson said that the government is committed to transforming UT of J&K and ensuring that all services are available to the public. Mishra, he said, also added that the development

had been restricted for many years after independence due to concentration of power in some hands.

"He said that in a democratic system, the government must ensure progress and prosperity of the people. He said that three tier panchayati system has facilitated ground level development and he is confident that at the present pace of development, the welfare and prosperity of the people will improve by leaps and bounds," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the Minister said that thriving participative democracy, the enthusiasm of council members, their understanding of public issues and their empowerment to redress public grievances is an evidence of the transformation in the UT.

"Addressing the council members, he said that their names will be written in golden letters for their contribution in establishing and empowering participative democracy at the grassroot level," he said.

The MoS, he said, appreciated the role played by the PRIs in effective implementation of participative democracy.

"He gave them a patient hearing and assured them that all demands will be taken up at the appropriate forums and issues will be resolved on priority," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the delegation of hoteliers informed the dignitary about the heavy flow of tourists and said that they are committed to providing world class facilities.

The delegation, he said, apprised him that repair and renovation of old structures has to be taken up.

"The Deputy Commissioner informed that a structured mechanism has been put in place and the existing mechanism will be expedited to resolve the grievances. The delegation also requested to accord the status of industry to tourism and allow the benefits of government schemes. The minister said that matter is under consideration and assured the delegation that the issue of renewal / extension of lease will be addressed," he added.

He said that the civil society put forth the issue of congestion on the roads of Pahalgam due to heavy influx of tourists.

## Samoon Chairs Meeting To Discuss Opening Of New ITIs In JK



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon on Thursday chaired a meeting with senior officers of the department to discuss opening of new ITIs in Jammu and Kashmir here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Director, Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar, Additional Secretary, SDD, Financial Advisor, SDD, Joint Director Planning SDD, Joint Director ITI, Jammu/Kashmir, Principals of Polytechnics, Jammu/ Kashmir, Superintendents of ITIs and other concerned officials while some of the officers participated online.

Threadbare discussion was held on various aspects regarding opening of new ITIs in the existing polytechnics across JKUT as per feasibility.

It was decided in the meeting that a minimum of two or three courses would be started in

these new ITIs with all modern technologies. The courses that can be taught in these new ITIs may include trades like COPA, Electronics Mechanic, Welder Plumber, Electrician, Draftsman (Civil), Draftsman (Mechanical), Digital Photography, Sewing Technology/Dress Making, Front Office Assistant etc.

Principal Secretary said that the government is providing access to high quality skill training at the block level through these institutes so that every block in the JKUT shall be covered. He said that opening of new ITIs will develop skilled manpower for the industry and the service sector by imparting multi-level skill trainings to the youth at large to increase their employability.

He asked the concerned officers to identify the feasibility of buildings where sufficient space is available for opening of new ITIs in Jammu and Kashmir and furnish the report in this regard at the earliest.

## KDA, LBA Discuss Gonpa Construction At Kargil

Observer News Service

**KARGIL:** The representative of Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Thursday held a joint meeting here to discuss the long pending issue of construction of a Gonpa at Kargil Headquarter for the Buddhist Community.

The meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere and all participants expressed their opinion on the issue and agreed to find an amicable solution as early as possible. It was agreed to convene another meeting to find a permanent solution regarding the issue after consulta-

tion with all concerned stakeholders in their respective areas, reads a joint statement issued here.

The statement issued by Co-Chairmen KDA Qamar Ali Akhona and Haji Asgar Alii Karbala, Thupstan Chhewang President, Ladakh Buddhist Association and Senior Vice President Chering Dorjay Lakruk, also said that the meeting also appealed to the people to avoid provocative/irresponsible statements on social media which may prove to be hindrance on finding a peaceful resolution of the issue and lead to disturb the peaceful atmosphere among the both the districts of UT of Ladakh.

## Only 62% Children Breastfed For First Six Months In J&K: Survey

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Around 62 percent children in Jammu and Kashmir are exclusively breastfed as per the recommendations of World Health Organization (WHO) while as just 13 percent children are fed according to all recommended practices, the National Health and Family Survey-5 (NHFS-5) has reported.

The official data reveals that although breastfeeding is nearly universal in Jammu & Kashmir, only 62 percent of children under six months are exclusively breastfed, as the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends.

"Ninety-one percent are put to the breast within the first day of life, but only 57 percent started breastfeeding in the first hour of life (as recommended). While exclusive breastfeeding indicators show an improvement since NHFS-4, many infants are still deprived of the highly nutritious first milk (colostrum) and the antibodies it contains," the survey states.

It reads that it is recommended that nothing be given to children other than breastmilk even in the first three days when the milk has not begun to flow regularly because prelacteal feeds limit the frequency of suckling by the infant and expose the baby to the risk of infection. "However, 18 percent of children are given something other than breastmilk during the first three days. Overall, 88 percent of children continue breastfeeding at one year, and over three-quarters (76%) continue breastfeeding at two years," the survey reads.

It states that after the first six months, breastmilk is no longer enough to meet the nutritional needs of infants. "Therefore, complementary foods should be added to the diet of the child. However, at age 6-8 months, only 42 percent of

children in Jammu & Kashmir receive breastmilk and complementary foods," the survey reads.

It states that WHO has several recommendations for infant and young child feeding (TYCF) practices for children age 6-23 months. "The key TYCF indicators measure the adequacy of dietary diversity and meal frequency for breastfed and non-breastfed children. One-fourth (25%) of children age 6-23 months are fed the recommended minimum number of times per day, and 37 percent are fed from the appropriate number of food groups. Only 13 percent are fed according to all three recommended practices," the survey adds.

"Micronutrient deficiency is a significant contributor to childhood morbidity and mortality. Vitamin A is an essential nutrient for the immune system. Severe vitamin A deficiency (VAD) can cause eye damage and a higher risk of dying from measles and diarrhoeal disease."

The survey further states that the Government of India (GoI) recommends that children under five years of age receive vitamin A supplements every six months, starting at age nine months. "In Jammu & Kashmir, more than four-fifths (82%) of children age 9-35 months were given a vitamin A supplement in the past six months, but only 55 percent of children age 6-23 months ate vitamin A-rich foods during the day or night," it adds.

The survey states that iron deficiency is a primary cause of anaemia. Eating foods rich in iron and taking iron supplements can help prevent anaemia. "Forty-one percent of children age 6-23 months ate iron rich foods during the day or night before the survey; however, 27 percent of children age group were given iron supplements in the week before the survey," the survey states--(KNO)

## 78 Militants Killed In 50 Encounters In Kashmir This Year: Police

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday informed that as many as 78 militants have been killed in 50 encounters that took place across Kashmir since the beginning of this year.

Top police officials said that since January this year, a series of anti-militancy operations were launched by the security forces, on the basis of credible leads about the presence of militants.

They said that security forces have killed 78 militants in 50 encounters across Kashmir.



"Of the 78 killed militants, 26 were foreigners," they said, adding that around 43 hybrid militants have been arrested as well.

Inspector General of police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar said

that out of 26 foreign militants 12 belong to the militant outfit group named Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and 14 from Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit.

Earlier, Police said that three Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were killed in a gunfight at Kupwara district when a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Indian Army intercepted a group infiltrating into the Valley.

This was the second gunfight in North Kashmir in two days. On Wednesday morning, three Pakistani militants and a policeman were killed in a gunfight at the Kreeri village in Baramulla--(KNO)

## J&K Registers Significant Decline In Infant Mortality Rate

Registers 3 Point Decline From 20 To 17 Per 1000 Live Births In Single Year As Per SRS Report

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has registered tremendous decline in the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) during last one year, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

He said that the IMR has decreased from 20 to 17 in a single year much better than the national average of IMR which stands at 28 as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2020 report released by Registrar General of India (RGI-SRS) today. The IMR is an important health indicator which shows number of deaths of children up to one year of age per 1000 live births.

"The National Health Mission (NHM) with the active support of entire Health and Medical Education Department has put persistent & tireless efforts to provide essential neonatal care at Government health institutions across the Union Territory," he added.

The official spokesperson said that one of the comprehensive measures in this regard includes an action plan devised by Health & Medical Education Department with support from Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare & Norway India Partnership Initiative in the form of Road Map for reducing IMR in the J&K UT in line with India Newborn Action Plan (INAP).

He said that the action plan



is being implemented at all the levels and focuses on the community based and facility based interventions for accelerating rate of decline in Infant Mortality through strengthening of maternal & child health programmes.

"Key health facility based interventions that have been strengthened include upgradation of Facility Based Newborn Care Units, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), Skilled Birth Attendance (SBA), Universalization of essential newborn care & resuscitation, Early and exclusive breast feeding etc. Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU) have been established in 27 District / other equivalent Hospitals, 4 Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) in GMCs, New Born Stabilization Units (NBSUs) in 65 Community Health Centers level and New Born Care Corners (NBCCs) in 264 delivery points with financial and technical support from National



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambr on Thursday inaugurated the free E-Rickshaw Service for the general public at District Hospital, here.

This free E-Rickshaw Service is an initiative of the NGO Aurtherout that has been kickstarted for the convenience of the patients and attendants who had to walk from main road Duderhama to District Hospital by foot.

On the occasion Bashir Nadi, Chairman Aurtherout apprised the DC that these E-Rickshaws will provide their services along this stretch, and will be free of cost.

Pertinently, E-Rickshaw has a purchase cost of Rs 1.20 lakh, and will provide a mileage of 70km per charge. The charging points have also been set up in

the District Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appreciated the efforts of the NGO Aurtherout for providing such service in this district, and said that it has been very hectic for patients as well as for the attendants to travel from main road to Hospital and E-Rickshaw service will make it easy and convenient for them.

He also appealed to the general public to take benefit of this service while visiting District Hospital.

The DC along with MS DH and Chairman Aurtherout also took a short ride in the Rickshaw in the premises of District Hospital for checking its comfort and reliability.

MS, DH, Dr. Nighat, Chairman Aurtherout, Bashir Nadi, and Civil Society Convener, Dr. Khurshid and officials from District Hospital were also present on the occasion.

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@kashmirobsvserver.net

K O V I E W

Pakistan Turmoil

Ousted Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan’s protest march towards the Pakistani capital Islamabad has plunged the country into chaos. The Pakistani government unsuccessfully tried to stop the march by arresting the workers of Khan’s party. Islamabad was a witness to violence and political drama on Wednesday. Khan has been claiming his government was toppled by the United States miffed with his growing closeness to Russia and China. He has been demanding the resignation of the government and the holding of the fresh elections. In recent weeks, Khan has held successive mass rallies to force the government out of power. While the Pakistan government, backed by the military establishment, is unlikely to resign in the near term, Khan’s stubborn political campaign has destabilized the country. At the same time, his popularity has skyrocketed and in case of an early election, he is expected to return to power with a landslide majority.

One fallout of this troubled situation in the country is that there is no hope for an India, Pakistan dialogue. Though there was an exchange of letters between prime minister Narendra Modi and his newly appointed Pakistan counterpart Shahbaz Sharif which sought good neighbourly relations, no bilateral dialogue has followed. The three and a half years of Khan’s term saw relations between the two neighbors nosedive. And with the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, the ties deteriorated almost to the point of no return. Khan became one of the fiercest critics of the Indian government. But in February 2021, the militaries of the two countries dramatically signed a ceasefire agreement. The move came reportedly following an extended back-channel dialogue between the two countries. But thereafter there were no efforts to improve the relations. Or to resume dialogue that otherwise appeared a logical course of action following the ceasefire. The reason for this was Pakistan’s insistence that India reverse the repeal of Article 370 but for New Delhi, the move is now a fait accompli.

Going forward, the situation looks bleak. Should Sharif’s government continue, there will be little chance of the relations between India and Pakistan reviving in near to medium future. That is, if at all there was any chance at all.

Meanwhile, a halt to the frequent firing exchanges along the Line of Control has made a redeeming difference to the lives of lakhs of border residents on both sides of the border. But it won’t change anything as far as the situation in the Valley where militancy continues to linger. This problem could certainly have been addressed through a sincere dialogue between the two countries, whose chances now look slim until after the fresh national elections are held, first in Pakistan in 2023 followed by one in India in 2024. Sharif’s survival in power or otherwise will make no difference to this reality.

OTHER OPINON

On US School Shooting

The Uvalde tragedy has also shaken the nation for it comes scarcely 10 days after a shooting at a supermarket store in Buffalo, New York, which officials described as a racist hate crime, claiming 10 lives. Overall, there have been at least 26 school shootings in 2022 alone and at least 118 incidents since 2018, according to reports that have tracked this statistic over the past four years. Last year witnessed 34 school shootings, the highest number during this period; there were 24 incidents each in 2019 and 2018 and 10 in 2020. Addressing the nation after the Uvalde attack, U.S. President Joe Biden made an urgent plea for common-sense gun control reform, saying, “When in God’s name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?... I am sick and tired of it. We have to act... these kinds of mass shootings rarely happen elsewhere in the world... It’s time to turn this pain into action.”

Yet, it would be unrealistic to hope for meaningful change in the U.S.’s view on the Second Amendment, which assures citizens of the right to bear arms. Several Presidents, mostly Democrats, have tried and failed to get even basic gun control laws passed through Congress. Former President Barack Obama, for example, came away frustrated after Capitol Hill rejected no fewer than 17 attempts by his White House to bring common-sense gun control to the floor of Congress. While conservative lawmakers seek to score political points by fiercely defending the constitutional right to bear arms, it is common knowledge now that at the heart of the U.S. Congress’s refusal to stamp out gun violence in schools and other public spaces is shadowy lobbying on Capitol Hill by the deep-pocketed and well-networked National Rifle Association and, along with them, the entire gun manufacturing industry. If Mr. Biden genuinely wishes to clamp down on this violence, which has ripped into America’s soul for several generations now, he may have no choice but to follow in Mr. Obama’s steps and use his presidential power of executive actions to enforce gun control measures. These should, at a minimum, include an assault weapons ban, expanded background checks for gun ownership and boosted funding for federal enforcement agencies regulating gun proliferation.

The Hindu



The Doom of Social Sciences?

Amir Suhail Wani

Those opting for social sciences are being covertly seen as lacking intellectual stamina and academic merit in comparison to their scientific peers and this has catastrophically influenced the choices of students, who are forced to opt for Sciences to meet their familial and group pressure. Both these tendencies are regressive which distort the reality to the effect of causing loss of brilliant manpower invested in social sciences

In the fourth decade of the last century, Alexis Carrel, a French Surgeon, Nobel laureate and Sociologist bemoaned the lack of integrated and comprehensive “science of man”. Carrel went on to write an entire treatise “Man The Unknown” to circumscribe the lacunae, flaws and misgivings arising out of the unprecedented progress in Positive (Material) sciences and the lag experienced by Normative (Social) sciences. Carrel had truly predicted that galloping progress in science and technology, with little or no attention to social sciences, endangered the entire society and posed challenges like social chaos, hyper-consumerism, unchecked capitalism, large scale poverty, crimes and social and international paranoia. The predictions have turned true and an asynchronous relationship between material and social sciences has thwarted our society and world against the issues and conundrums of all breeds. Our society, based on and driven by the principles of Capitalist economy as it is, has asymmetrically favoured sciences that result in increase of capital and material productivity and ignoring social sciences to the point of neglect.

What picture emerges in our minds as we try to think of social sciences? It is usually an image dominated by the graphics of armchair scholars, skimming through abstract ideas and given to theories least pertinent to human lives. These images of a sociologist, which remove him farther away from the orbits real social business and project him into some abstract space are both inadequate and incorrect. If atoms are the constituents of matter, individuals are the constituents of society and call for Sociological investigation and understanding as much as atoms call for scientific understanding. Society is neither the domain of biology nor physics, but rests on principles that are called Sociological principles and by their nature call for Sociological understanding. It is society and men living therein which form the raison de etre of sciences, of all technological adventures and all other activities implied by the term “Positive Sciences”. In any case of Social disequilibrium, any episode of social disaster or any accident of social import, the material progress loses its worth and meaning. This makes the question and importance of social sciences an inevitable phenomenon and any lag or lapse on this front entails the coup of civilization. In this context, where social sciences rise to the occasion of embracing the entire civilization in its lap, what are the contours and responsibilities

that Social Sciences and Humanities are supposed to assume?

Social Scientists are auditors of society, which evaluate, not only the micro issues in their quantitative aspect, but also examine and scrutinise the qualitative stability of social superstructure on the whole. Social Sciences and Humanities are indispensable in determining our relation to our own self, to society and the physical world at large. Any policy making which doesn’t incorporate insights and understandings from social science is bound to commit excess and errors. It is by virtue of social sciences that a whole-scale understanding of society is brought in and policies, remedial measures, initiatives are adopted accordingly. In absence of proper Sociological understanding, the remedial measures adopted and the policies followed, not only end in fiasco but sometimes backfire in a bad way.

The aforesaid assistance in policy making is by no means the only or the primary role assigned to Social Sciences. Their role in resolving social tensions, in retaining values in the face of denuding modernity and their importance in stabilising institutions is well understood and acknowledged. In a world where the issues of identity, individuality, lack of meaning and such are conspicuous, the role and responsibility of Social Sciences is augmented multi-fold. Having said that, the importance of Social Sciences is so obvious that our policy makers, administrators, educationists and governments should have been proactive about the same. But the dismal state of social sciences is a cause of concern not only from an academic point of view but from a social point of view too. As we entrust our material well being to scientists and technocrats, so is it obligatory to make Sociologists and Social scientists the trustees of our social health, lest we discover our society in the throes of anarchy and disorder.

There has been another factor compounding the decline of social sciences which has to do with the general academic orientations in our society. There has been an ascendancy in the number of students opting for sciences for the past few decades and this suit has been followed under the influence of two presumptions – one is that parents envisage their child’s education as some sort of investment and desire of high returns. They see science and associated academic fields as the fertile ground from an investment point of view and therefore direct their wards towards science. This alerts us to the deeper social malice which sees education not as means of enlight-

enment but a subtle form of gamble where investments are made in education with the prospect of higher returns. There’s another misconception – and indeed a graver one surrounding social sciences. Social sciences have come to be seen as something which are intellectually less vigorous and which do not require academic excellence. Those opting for social sciences are being covertly seen as lacking intellectual stamina and academic merit in comparison to their scientific peers and this has catastrophically influenced the choices of students, who are forced to opt for Sciences to meet their familial and group pressure. Both these tendencies are regressive which distort the reality to the effect of causing loss of brilliant manpower invested in social sciences. There is no relation of the order of inequality between Positive and Normative sciences, but they complement and supplement each other in pursuance of the larger whole.

Another tragedy has hit the evolution of social sciences and that comes from the fact that students under peer pressure, pressure from family and other circles are discouraged to opt for social sciences as these are mistakenly seen as academic disciplines of lesser order. The fever of engineering and medical studies, accompanied by few other professional courses has grabbed the academic horizon and a scant number of students are seen opting social sciences, while as the majority of students, most of them being sharp and bright are lured towards professional courses. The ill-founded and irrational stereotype surrounding social sciences needs to be shed off at the earliest and it needs to be borne in mind that at the apex of social hierarchy are social scientists, whose visions and insights shape and influence the entire society.

The responsibility of tilting the academic bob towards social sciences is something incumbent upon all the stakeholders – public as well as governments. In a society like ours, festering as it is with social diseases of all sorts, the urgency to take social sciences seriously gathers more importance and indispensability. Having witnessed widespread wars and violence, systemic exclusion of people, humanitarian issues of humongous order, the task can’t be delayed.

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

The author is a writer and columnist based in Srinagar



OBSERVER  
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Kashmir Still Lacks Proper Destitution Management

To tackle this conflict-created load, many orphanages have cropped up over the years. They help these children in many socio-economic ways. Some of these orphanages run a program called Wedding Assistance in which they provide a wedding kit comprising of ladies suits, footwear and cosmetics products worth Rs. 15,000 to orphans.

Another strife-hit group is of the women whose spouses have disappeared and are referred to as half-widows. They don’t know whether their husbands are alive or not. Under Indian law, a person is considered to be dead if they have disappeared for more than seven years. Before that period, no assistance is provided to these women, leaving them financially vulnerable.

A 2005 study by Médecins Sans Frontières revealed that the Kashmiri women are one of the most repressed groups around the world, with almost 11.6 per cent of the respondents claiming that they faced situational abuse. There has been a 57 per cent increase in crimes against women between 2013-18. So far as the government efforts have not been up to the mark to tack-

le this situational destitution in the valley, the policies need to be drastically improved. An umbrella needs to be created where all the independent organisation can work in tandem for the orphans and widows of Kashmir.

Saumy Tripathi  
saumytripathi01@gmail.com

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

# What Does Psychology Say about Father-Daughter Relationships?

Wasim Kakroo

The relationship between a father and his daughter is special and lovely. The father is an important figure in his daughter's life, and their relationship moulds her personality. But the question is why is the father-daughter relationship so vital?

According to studies, a father's influence on the life of a daughter has a significant impact on her psychological development. Confidence, clarity, stronger self-esteem, and a deeper knowledge of who they are and what they want, are all traits of those girls who have a healthy relationship with her father. Her behavior toward other men in her life is likewise influenced by this link. In this article, I will be discussing the importance of the father-daughter relationship.

Fathers have a huge influence on their daughters' mental and emotional development. This relationship is vital and meaningful in the following ways:

## 1. IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

Daughters who have a close, healthy relationship with their fathers have better mental health than daughters who have dysfunctional relationship with their fathers.

These girls are less likely to feel lonely and depressed throughout their early developmental years. They are also better prepared to deal with mental health issues like anxiety and depression. They are also better equipped to deal with the stressors that adults face on a daily basis.

## 2. IT HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON HER FUTURE ROMANTIC ACTIVITIES

According to many experts, the father is frequently looked at as a model for their daughters' possible romantic relationships. In fact, they claim that straight daughters prefer males with comparable personality attributes to their father.

Furthermore, many women consider their father's relationship with their mother and themselves as a model for how they expect to be treated in future romantic relationships.

Women who have had unhealthy dysfunctional father-daughter relationships are more prone to accept similar treatment from their romantic partners.

## 3. IT CAN AFFECT A WOMAN'S SELF-ESTEEM

The father-daughter relationship has a significant impact on how a kid lives with loneliness and mental health disorders such as anxiety and despair. It can, however, have a significant impact on a woman's



Daughters who have a close, healthy relationship with their fathers have better mental health than daughters who have dysfunctional relationship with their fathers. These girls are less likely to feel lonely and depressed throughout their early developmental years

self-esteem.

Daughters who have emotionally distant fathers are thought to have more self-es-

teem concerns. This is due to the fact that these women had to show themselves worthy of their father's adoration on a

regular basis.

Women with positive father-daughter connections, on the other hand, have a

stronger sense of self and are more confident in dealing with life's challenges.

## 4. ACADEMICALLY, THE DAUGHTERS PERFORM BETTER

In traditional families, the women (mothers) are normally in charge of caring for the children and assisting them with their homework and schooling in general. Many experts now believe that when their fathers are involved, daughters have a better chance of succeeding.

Children receive greater assistance and access to the tools necessary for academic advancement in this manner, and they are frequently encouraged to take on and attempt to master more difficult subjects, which provides them with more educational and professional prospects later in life.

## 5. THE DAUGHTERS WILL HAVE FEWER BODY IMAGE PROBLEMS

Daughters who had toxic connections with their fathers were more likely to suffer various body image issues, according to an exploratory study conducted in 2020. This is especially true when the fathers communicate, either verbally or nonverbally, that a woman's worth is determined solely by her appearance. Thus healthy father-daughter relationship leads to positive body image among such daughters.

## 6. DAUGHTERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE CHANCES

Women in positive father-daughter relationships are more prone to take risks and be adventurous. This personality feature allows such women to participate in a wider range of activities. As a result, there are more options and a greater sense of fulfillment in their life.

## 7. IT MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON HER COMMUNICATION ABILITIES

Surprisingly, the type of relationship a father and daughter have can have a significant impact on a woman's social contacts throughout time. Women who have had their father-daughter relationship broken, for example, find it more difficult to explain their feelings, thoughts, and intentions to their male and female acquaintances.

Women who have a wonderful father-daughter relationship, on the other hand, do not have this problem.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8835067196*

# Employers, Employees and Mental Health

Patricia L. Haynes

COVID-19 has inflicted a serious mental health toll on many U.S. workers.

Like other Americans, workers have lost loved ones, connections to friends and family, and the comforts of their daily social rhythms. The pandemic has also imposed a unique set of stresses on workers, including the risks of losing their job, rapid adjustments to working from home and additional workloads. And workers on the front line must face an increased risk of infection and increasingly aggressive customer interactions.

As a result, many of these workers – especially those like nurses, doctors and teachers – are reporting elevated levels of anxiety, depression and sleeping problems. Americans are also drinking a lot more alcohol and overeating, and engaging in less physical activity. One-third of them have gained weight since the start of the pandemic.

I research the negative effects of stress on health and sleep. I also see many of these issues firsthand in my work as a clinical psychologist treating local firefighters for stress and other issues they encounter on the job and in their lives.

I've learned workers are better able to navigate mental health issues when their employers have a plan in place. Based on my own work as well as other research, I believe there are five key strategies that companies could adopt.

## 1. CREATING CLEAR POLICIES

With the increased stress levels brought on by the pandemic, managers may see more employees experiencing personal crises or disruptive behavior that is affecting their work performance.

Psychological distress can lead to disruptive behavior, such as yelling at colleagues or throwing objects in anger. At the other extreme, employees may isolate themselves or avoid collaborations. Some workers may express suicidal thoughts over social media or by other means.

Managers may be at a loss for how to address these types of disruptive behavior, which is often unintentional.

A good first step for a company is to craft a clear workplace policy that describes the specific types of disruptive behaviors that signal an individual is not currently capable of performing their job. This policy can discuss the process of temporary release, evaluation and treatment requirements, and conditions for a return to work. A policy like this provides clarity to both employees and managers.

For example, suicidal or violent thoughts might necessitate immediate intervention followed by a referral to an occupational health provider. The provider can ensure that the employee completes the required treatment plan prior to returning to work. Workers experiencing grief from a recent loss or flare-up of a mental health disorder might benefit from paid family medical leave or a temporary job reassignment.

It should be noted that under the American with Disabilities Act, employers are required to make reasonable accommodation for mental health disorders unless it results in undue hardship for the company.

The main thing is that managers need policies and procedures on how to respond to behavioral issues, with specific measures that correspond to the severity of a problem and its effects on colleagues and overall workplace performance.



A good first step for a company is to craft a clear workplace policy that describes the specific types of disruptive behaviors that signal an individual is not currently capable of performing their job. This policy can discuss the process of temporary release, evaluation and treatment requirements, and conditions for a return to work. A policy like this provides clarity to both employees and managers

## 2. PARTNERING WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Many workers suffering as a result of the pandemic may not be exhibiting clear mental health problems. Rather, they could be experiencing a disruption in their personal lives that is bleeding into their work.

An example of this might be an employee who spends a significant amount of time at work talking about

a marital conflict that occurred during home quarantine, thus interfering with workplace productivity.

In this case, a key mitigation strategy by a manager or colleague would be to refer that employee to a mental health provider or other supportive resource for help. In these cases, it's useful to have an established partnership with a local provider and for employers to become familiar with

the resources that are available.

Over half of civilian workers have access to an employee assistance program, which provides free, confidential counseling to employees. Some larger companies may have their own in-house programs that provide direct access to mental health providers. But even smaller companies can set up partnerships that give workers access to counseling on an ad hoc basis.

## 3. PREVENTING ILLNESS WITH WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Workplaces can also take a more proactive stance.

Workplace wellness programs help prevent mental health problems by teaching employees new skills that support resiliency, which can act as a buffer from the negative effects of stress.

Workplace wellness programs for mental health typically teach stress management skills. Programs that promote positive emotions may also improve productivity.

While these programs can have a meaningful, positive impact on health, employee participation is often limited. To increase participation, it is very important to include workers in decisions about which programs to adopt.

Participation also improves when managers support the program, which typically requires managerial training on the program and how to promote it among workers.

## 4. FIGHTING MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA BY CHANGING NORMS

People experiencing mental illness or just mental health struggles often face substantial stigma. They might avoid treatment because they are concerned about losing their job or being viewed differently.

Employers can tackle stigma at

the structural level by thinking and talking about mental health concerns the same way they deal with physical ones and also by increasing mental health literacy within their company.

Another way to do that is to train dedicated employees to assist colleagues with need and become advocates for mental health and wellness services. Since some workers may feel more comfortable reaching out to a colleague than a mental health provider, these internal advocates can provide a bridge between employees and mental health care.

Companies can also develop programs in which workers can hear people with mental illness describe their own challenges and how they overcame them. Research shows creating these social contacts can reduce stigma, at least in the short term.

## 5. NURTURING SOCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH TEAMWORK

Finally, a large body of research demonstrates that social support buffers the impact of stress.

[Over 140,000 readers rely on The Conversation's newsletters to understand the world. Sign up today.]

Social connections to the people around you can inspire what psychologists call "collective efficacy," or a shared belief in a group's ability to work together and overcome challenges to accomplish goals. Collective efficacy improves group performance and is also a key ingredient in trauma recovery.

The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled what some describe as a mental health crisis. Employers are in a strong position to help curb it.

*The article was originally published by The Conversation*

# COVID-19 Infection Linked To Impaired HEART Function: Study



“  
The first of its kind, the COVID-RV study aimed to help improve future care and outcomes for those most at risk from COVID-19, by gaining a better understanding of the impact the virus has on the sickest patients who require invasive ventilation.

Press Trust Of India

Infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, is associated with impaired function of the right side of the heart, according to a new study on intensive care patients in Scotland.

The researchers from NHS Golden Jubilee and the University of Glasgow in Scotland noted that these findings could play a vital role in not only saving the lives of COVID-19 patients, but for the care of potentially fatal heart and lung issues generally.

The first of its kind, the COVID-RV study aimed to help improve future care and outcomes for those most at risk from COVID-19, by gaining a better understanding of the impact the virus has on the sickest patients who require invasive ventilation.

The study was carried out in 10 ICUs across Sotland, examining 121 critically ill patients who were receiving treatment on ventilators due to the impact of coronavirus on their system.

The findings revealed that approximately 1 in 3 of the patients in the study showed evidence of abnormalities in the right side of the heart - the area that pumps blood to the lungs.

"A combination of factors create the perfect storm for

COVID-19 to damage the right side of your heart, which ultimately can cause death," said lead author of the study, Philip McCall, Consultant in Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at NHS Golden Jubilee.

"If you are pumping blood to the lungs and the lungs become very sick, you have an additional problem because the lungs are not willing to receive blood," McCall said in a statement.

The researchers noted the results of this study are so important as this is a very difficult condition to spot.

Chief Investigator of the study Ben Shelley, Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at NHS Golden Jubilee, said the study has revealed that there is no doubt COVID-19 affects the heart and has a major impact on outcomes for the patient.

"However, now that we know this actually happens, and have a better understanding of how it affects people, we can plan for the future and put in place new care plans and treatments to help combat this, Shelley said.

"For example, ultrasound scans can be used differently to focus in on early warning signs

and areas we now know to be at risk, the scientist said.

The finding is important, not only in combatting any future waves of COVID-19, but in planning for future pandemics to allow people to be treated more effectively, the researchers said.

Nearly half of ventilated patients in the study (47 per cent) died because of COVID-19, a figure that is comparable to national and international death rates, they said.

Experts leading the COVID-RV study said that the overall condition of a person's heart can have a significant impact on how seriously you will be affected by the potentially deadly virus.



“  
The findings revealed that approximately 1 in 3 of the patients in the study showed evidence of abnormalities in the right side of the heart -- the area that pumps blood to the lungs.

# Digital Technologies Can Reduce Emissions By Up To 20%: WEF Study

Press Trust Of India

Digital technologies can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 20 per cent by 2050 in the three highest-emitting sectors -- energy, mobility and materials, the World Economic Forum said on Tuesday.

As businesses and governments respond to global calls for action to tackle climate change, significant efforts must be put in place to achieve net zero, but a large gap remains between commitments and action, it said, announcing a new study conducted in collaboration with Accenture.

Estimates of current commitments indicate a projected emissions reduction of merely 7.5 per cent when a 55 per cent reduction is needed. Closing this gap will require high-emitting sectors to rethink efficiency, circularity and sustainability.

Energy, materials and mobility constitute the highest emission sectors, contributing 43 per cent, 26 per cent and 24 per cent respectively of total emissions in 2020.

According to the estimates,



These industries can use four digital technologies to decarbonise their operations and value chains -- foundational technologies such as big data analytics; decision-making technologies such as artificial intelligence/machine learning; enabling technologies such as cloud, 5G, blockchain and augmented reality; and sensing and control technologies such as internet of things, drones and automation, the WEF said.

The mobility sector can re-

duce emissions by up to 5 per cent by supporting the transition from fossil fuel combustion to green molecules, improving supply chain efficiencies and optimising travel routes.

"Digital technologies and business models are readily available levers for companies to accelerate their climate and energy transitions," said Manju George, Head of Platform Strategy, Digital Economy, World Economic Forum (WEF).

"Technology can bring transparency, efficiency and circularity to business processes and value chains. Shared learning and action by industry leaders and climate coalitions will be key to realizing the benefits of technology at scale while keeping its carbon footprint low," George added.

The WEF is curating an inventory of lighthouse examples, companies that are leading the way in implementing digital technologies to reduce their carbon footprint and deliver economic growth to inspire more adoption and collaboration.

W: <https://jkhpmmc.jk.gov.in>  
T: 0194-2311312 (S) F: 0194-2311420 (S) T/F: 0191-2476079 (U)  
E: [Ejkhpmc1td@gmail.com](mailto:Ejkhpmc1td@gmail.com)

**Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd**  
Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government  
Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER(E-NIT)

Tender Reference No: 95 of 2022Dated: 25-05-2022

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Agriculture Production Department, Government of UT of J&K, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, Managing Director, JKHPMC Ltd. invites Request For Proposal (RFP) through e-tendering mode, from 'Airlines'/ Air Cargo Operators, under "Two Cover System", for "Providing of Air Cargo & Air Freight and Related Services for transportation of Fruit and Vegetables (F&V) from the UT of J&K".

The RFP Document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 25-05-2022 to14-06-2022.

The Critical Details of the e-Tender under reference are as follows:

CRITICAL DETAILS	
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) NON-REFUNDABLE Demand Draft drawn in favour of JKHPMC Ltd Rajbagh, Srinagar, J&K
Date of up-load of e-tender	25-05-2022
Online Bid Submission Start Date	25-05-2022
Pre-Bid meeting	31-05-2022
Online Bid submission End Date	14-06-2022
Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	15-06-2022
ValidityoftheBid	One (01) Year from the date of receipt of the Tender

DIPK-NB-1209/22

Sd/-  
Managing Director  
JKHPMC

## LG Inaugurates National Seminar On Agriculture And More Beyond 4.0 At SKUAST-K



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A National Seminar on Agriculture and more beyond 4.0 was inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor & Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir.

The seminar was organized by MOBILIZATION Society in collaboration with SKUAST-Kashmir & SKUAST-Jammu, with main focus to discuss the impacts of various agricultural and industrial developments on farming community and industry.

LG Manoj Sinha attended the inaugural function as Chief Guest and Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Chairperson KVIB and Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, GoJK attended as guest of Honours. Besides Vice Chancellors of both SKUAST-Jammu & Kashmir alongwith Dr. Rajnesh Tyagi General Secretary of the society, were also present during the inaugural function.

More than 600 delegates including Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Director NIT Srinagar, Director DRDO, former Director, IVRI, heads of Development departments, scientists, students innovators, progressive farmers attended the inaugural function. During the inaugural session Agri-entrepreneurs, start-up and Champion farmers were awarded for their contribution in the field of agriculture and allied.

LG Sinha while reaching SKUAST-K campus visited all the Exhibition stalls depicting various technologies of agriculture, innovations, startups – agro-industries, farm universities and lauded the joint efforts of twin Agricultural Universities in bringing Scientists, Researchers, Students, Innovative farmers and other Stakeholders on a single platform to discuss challenges in agricultural sectors and finding sustainable solutions to the existing and emerging problems in coherence with the national goals. To meet the future challenges of agriculture and allied sectors, he stressed on scientific community to invoke smart technologies and solutions which can provide more extensive and precise support to farmers through use of Artificial Intelligence, climate smart agriculture, precision farming. He desired that scientists have to rethink the whole premise of

the "Green Revolution" – which would impose science on nature to get desired results. Instead we need to use science to understand nature – and work with nature – to get better and more sustainable results." He also wished that the Conference participants think critically how agriculture 4.0 technologies are made inclusive (from seed sowing to product processing and marketing) and desired a meaningful discussion on the cost effective and easy to use innovative technologies for a better and prosperous future.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir in his welcome address appreciated the role of mobilization society in bringing technological advancements to forefront. He laid stress on future agriculture being knowledge based and technology driven in order to transform J&K into model bio-economy hub of the country.

Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu stressed to work for changing agriculture beyond 4.0. He said that agriculture and industry in the country should work hand to hand and laid stress on vertical farming, conservation strategies for water, soil resource management, processing, value addition, branding and marketing.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary focused on farm mechanization for marginal and small farmers in hilly areas of J&K. He desired that our farmers should take lead in becoming self-sufficient in milk, vegetable, fruit and value added products. He informed that Govt. of J&K will give special focus on entrepreneurship development and promote start-ups in agriculture and allied sectors in coming days.

Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Chairperson KVIB showed her willingness in working with SKUAST-Kashmir & Jammu in the fields for promoting apiculture in different clusters across Jammu and Kashmir and promoting entrepreneurship.

Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, Dr. Sarfaraz A Wani, presented vote of thanks and hoped that deliberations during the Conference will help in devising policy initiatives for agriculture sectors in the state during the concluding of inaugural ceremony.

## Third-Party Motor Insurance Premium To Go Up From June 1

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has increased the third-party motor insurance premium for various categories of vehicles with effect from June 1, a decision which is likely to jack up the insurance cost of cars and two-wheelers.

According to the revised rates notified by the MoRTH on Wednesday, private cars with an engine capacity of 1,000 cc will attract rates of Rs 2,094 compared to Rs 2,072 in 2019-20.

Similarly, private cars with an engine capacity between 1,000 cc and 1,500 cc will attract rates of Rs 3,416 compared to Rs 3,221, while owners of cars above 1,500 cc will see a drop in premium from Rs 7,897 to Rs 7,890.

Two-wheelers over 150 cc but not exceeding 350 cc will attract a premium of Rs 1,366 and for over 350 cc, the revised premium will be Rs 2,804.

After a two-year moratorium due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the revised third-party (TP) insurance premium will come into effect from June 1.

Earlier, TP rates were notified by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). This is the first time that the MoRTH has notified the TP rates in consultation with the insurance regulator.

According to the ministry's notification, a discount of 7.5 per cent on the premium shall



be allowed for hybrid electric vehicles.

While electric private cars not exceeding 30KW will attract a premium of Rs 1,780, those exceeding 30 KW but not 65 KW will attract a premium of Rs 2,904.

The premium for goods carrying commercial vehicles exceeding 12,000 kg but not 20,000 kg will increase to Rs 35,313 from Rs 33,414 in 2019-20.

In the case of goods carrying commercial vehicles exceeding 40,000 kg, the premium will increase to Rs 44,242 against Rs 41,561 in 2019-20.

The third-party insurance cover is for other than own damage and is mandatory along with the own damage cover that a vehicle owner has to purchase.

This insurance cover is for any collateral damage to a third party, generally, a human being, caused due to a road accident.

As per the notification, a discount of 15 per cent has been provided for educational institution buses.

"A discounted price of 50 per cent of the premium has been allowed to a private car registered as Vintage Car," it said.

## Russia-Ukraine War Could Cause Global Recession: World Bank Chief



IANs

**NEW YORK:** David Malpass, chief of the World Bank has warned that Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine could cause a global recession as the price of food, energy and fertiliser jump.

He made the remarks while addressing a US business event on Wednesday, the BBC reported.

"As we look at the global GDP, it's hard right now to see how we avoid a recession... The idea of energy prices doubling is enough to trigger a recession by itself," he said in the latest warning over the rising risk that the world economy may be set to contract.

Last month, the World Bank cut

its global economic growth forecast for this year by almost a full percentage point, to 3.2 per cent.

Malpass also said that many European countries were still too dependent on Russia for oil and gas.

That's even as Western nations push ahead with plans to reduce their dependence on Russian energy.

He also told a virtual event organised by the US Chamber of Commerce that moves by Russia to cut gas supplies could cause a "substantial slowdown" in the region.

He said higher energy prices were already weighing on Germany, which is the biggest economy in Europe and the fourth largest in the world, the BBC reported.

Developing countries are also being affected by shortages of fertiliser, food and energy, the World Bank head added.

Malpass also raised concerns about lockdowns in some of China's major cities, including the financial, manufacturing and shipping hub of Shanghai, which he said are "still having ramifications or slowdown impacts on the world".

"China was already going through some contraction of real estate, so the forecast of China's growth before Russia's invasion had already softened substantially for 2022," he said.

"Then the waves of Covid caused lockdowns which further reduced growth expectations for China."

## On Fake Reviews On e-Commerce Platforms, Centre's 'Close Watch'

ANI

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on Thursday said on Thursday it is keeping a close watch on fake reviews on e-Commerce platforms as it infringes on the rights of consumers.

To gauge the magnitude of fake reviews on e-Commerce platforms that mislead consumers into buying online services or products and to prepare a roadmap ahead, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) in association with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) will be holding a virtual meeting on 27th May 2022 along with various stakeholders, the ministry said.

The discussions will be broadly based on the impact of fake and misleading reviews on consumers and possible measures to prevent such anomalies. In this regard, Secretary DoCA, Rohit Kumar Singh has written to all stakeholders: e-Commerce entities like Flipkart, Amazon, Tata Sons, Reliance Retail, and others besides, Consumer Forums, Law Universities, Lawyers, FICCI, CII, Consumer Rights Activists, etc to participate in the meeting.

In the letter, Mr Singh referred to a report of the European



Commission, highlighting the results of an EU-wide screening of online consumer reviews across 223 major websites.

The screening results underline that at least 55 per cent of the websites violate the unfair commercial Practices Directive of the EU which requires truthful information to be presented to consumers to make an informed choice. Further, in 144 out of the 223 websites checked, the authorities could not confirm that traders were doing enough to ensure that reviews were authentic, i.e., if they were posted by consumers who had actually used the product or service that was reviewed.

"It is relevant to mention that with growing internet and smartphone use, consumers are increasingly shop-

ping online to purchase goods and services. Given that e-Commerce involves a virtual shopping experience without any opportunity to physically view or examine the product, consumers heavily rely on reviews posted on e-commerce platforms to see the opinion and experiences of users who have already purchased the goods or service. As a result, due to fake and misleading reviews, the right to be informed, which is a consumer right under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 is violated," Sing noted in the letter.

"Since the issue impacts people shopping online on a daily basis and has a significant impact on their rights as a consumer, it is important that it is examined with greater scrutiny and detail," the letter states.

## Purple Mission Brings Fortunes For Farmers In J&K: Govt

Doda achieves tremendous results under Aroma Mission

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Cultivation of lavender has changed fortunes of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir under 'Aroma Mission or Purple Revolution', an initiative of Centre government towards transforming lives of UT's farmers community.

Pertinently, Purple or Lavender Revolution was launched in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission. The aim of the mission is to support domestic aromatic crop-based agro-economy by moving from imported aromatic oils to homegrown varieties.

Lavender cultivation is practiced in almost all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the mission, first-time farmers were given free lavender saplings while those who had cultivated lavender before were charged Rs. 5-6 per sapling.

Farmers are happy with farming of unconventional aromatic plants under Aroma Mission.

The mission promotes cultivation of aromatic crops for

essential oils that are in great demand by the aroma industry.

In J&K, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu (IIIM Jammu) are the two bodies responsible for taking the Aroma Mission forward. The CSIR Aroma Mission is envisaged to bring transformative change in the aroma sector through desired interventions in the areas of agriculture, processing and product development for fueling the growth of aroma industry and rural employment.

It is expected to enable Indian farmers and the aroma industry to become global leaders in the production and export of some other essential oils in the pattern of menthol mint.

According to the Lavender farmers, the selling of at least one litre of its oil fetches them Rs 10,000.

The farmers say that lavender grown over one hectare of land gives them a minimum of 40 litre of lavender oil.

Lavender water, which separates from lavender oil, is used to make incense sticks. Hydrosol,

which is formed after distillation from the flowers, is used to make soaps and room fresheners.

An official of IIIM-Jammu farmers get help from IIIM-Jammu to sell their produce. Many private companies also procure lavender extracts from the farmers.

Notably, Doda district is leading the way and four distillation units have been set up by CSIR-IIIM Jammu in the district. Farmers from remote areas of district Doda reach these plants for extraction of lavender oil.

More than 800 progressive farmers of Doda have adopted aromatic cultivation which is now proved out to be profitable.

On February 9, 2021, CSIR-IIIM-Jammu announced Aroma Mission phase 2 after the success of the first phase during a grand launch function. The mission was aimed at to increase lavender cultivation to 1,500 hectares till 2024. Farmers from Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Assam attended the event. Impressed by the success of Doda's lavender farmers, the Uttarakhand authorities invited some of them to train their farmers.

## Is Rice Next After Wheat, Sugar? Govt May Decide Soon, Experts Say



Bloomberg

**NEW DELHI:** Rice may be India's next food protectionism target after it restricted wheat and sugar exports, analysts say, a move that could have a devastating impact on global food security as it's an important staple.

India's curbs on wheat and sugar exports sent shock waves through global markets as it marked an escalation in food protectionism that's seen countries choke off flows of locally-grown supplies to the world. A similar move on rice by the No. 1 exporter at a time when crops like wheat and corn are soaring would threaten to plunge millions more into hunger and boost inflation risks.

"The government has already imposed restrictions on wheat exports; it's a matter of time when restrictions on rice exports might be considered," said Radhika Piplani, an economist at Yes Bank Ltd. The challenge will be to see if such curbs will lower food prices and within what time frame, she added.

A spokesman who represents both the food and trade ministries wasn't immediately available for comment.

India has stockpiled more than enough rice and prices have been under control. Rice is closely related to wheat in Indians' diet and the government's food ration system. State purchases of wheat for the food aid program are expected to be less than half compared with the year earlier and the government plans to distribute more rice, spurring expectations that authorities will want to ensure ample supplies of cheap rice domestically.

"These public reserves of rice are more than adequate to meet the country's public distribution needs, even with the enlargement of rice rations due to the prevailing wheat situation," said Shirley Mustafa, an economist at UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

The government may consider limiting rice exports to ensure domestic supplies and prevent a rise in prices, the Economic Times reported. A committee led by the Prime Minister's Office is doing a product-by-product analysis of essential commodities, including non-Basmati rice, and swift measures are expected if there are any signs of a price rise, the paper said, citing an unnamed official.

Rice has been the one staple grain that's helping to keep the world food crisis from getting worse. Unlike wheat and corn, which have seen prices skyrocket as the war in Ukraine disrupts supplies from a major breadbasket, rice prices have remained subdued due to ample production and existing stockpiles.

That outlook can change if India decides to curb rice exports. It may spur other countries to follow a similar playbook, as it did during the 2008 food crisis, when Vietnam also restricted rice shipments. Asia produces and consumes about 90% of rice, with India accounting for 40% of global trade.

"Rice supplies are ample in the country and there is no need to ban or restrict exports," said B.V. Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters Association. "If the government still wants to impose a quantitative restriction it can be a political call and the trade will welcome that in the national interest."

## Moody's Slashes Indian Economy Growth Forecast To 8.8% For 2022

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Moody's Investors Service on Thursday slashed India's economic growth projection to 8.8 per cent for 2022 from 9.1 per cent earlier, citing high inflation.

In its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said high-frequency data suggest that the growth momentum from December quarter 2021 carried through into the first four months this year.

However, the rise in crude oil, food and fertilizer prices will weigh on household finances and spending in the months ahead.

Rate hike to prevent energy and food inflation from becoming more generalized will slow the demand recovery's momentum, it said.

"We have lowered our calen-



dar-year 2022 growth forecast for India to 8.8 per cent from our March forecast of 9.1 per cent, while maintaining our 2023 growth forecasts at 5.4 per cent," Moody's said.

Strong credit growth, a large increase in investment intentions announced by the corporate sector, and a high budget allocation to capital spending by the government indicate that the investment cycle is strengthening.

"But unless global crude oil and food prices rise further, the economy seems strong enough to maintain solid growth momentum," Moody's added.

## EFPO Resolves Technical Glitch Hampering Withdrawal Of Dues

**JAMMU:** Employees Provident Fund Office Jammu has resolved the technical glitch due to which members whose PF accumulations were transferred by JKEPFO after the completion of Annual Accounts for FY 2020-21 (annual credit of interest) were not able to withdraw the same.

As per the EPFO, the issue has been resolved with regular follow-up action taken by Regional P.F Commissioner, per Rizwan Uddin, and assistance from the technical team of the Office. "A large number of subscribers were aggrieved due to this issue. This has brought huge relief to the members as they can now file claims through online mode and avail eligible benefits" the EPFO said.

The office has started the rectification of the issue as per the resolution provided by the technical team of EPFO Head Office and rectification has already been done for many establishments and remaining shall also be done in the coming days as

some remaining glitches would be rectified soon.

Further, Regional Office, Jammu is organizing an awareness/outreach programme in the District Reasi from May 27, 2022 to May, 29, 2022.

In the series, all private educational Institutions of Reasi and Karta have been invited to attend the Seminar at Trikuta Public School on May 27, 2022 from 01.00 PM onwards on the importance of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and Schemes ( P F, Pension and Insurance) framed there under. Thereafter a similar programme has been finalised with the Hotel Association in Katra. The venue of the Programme will be decided by the President, Hotel Association.

On May 28, 2022 two awareness programmes are scheduled at NHPC, Salal and Konkarn Railways, Reasi. Similarly, an outreach programme would be held at M/s Peer Panchal Public School, Mahore from 09.15 am on 29.05.2022.

# BIT Mesra, Adrosonic Ink Pact To Develop Digital Innovation Lab

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra and Adrosonic IT Consultancy Services Private Limited was signed on Wednesday at Institute Conference Hall, BIT Mesra.

Through this MoU, BIT Mesra and Adrosonic aim to establish a Digital Innovation Lab to act as a catalyst in capacity-building by focusing on emerging areas of technology.

Through this lab, the students would be trained on the cutting-edge technologies such as Robotic Process Automation, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Augmented, Virtual reality and Cloud software. Adrosonic is an IT Consulting firm having operations across the globe

(India, UK, USA, Latin America) with clients spanning across geographies. Adrosonic also intends to select students every year for internship and depending on performance make a pre-placement offer to the interns



to join their research and innovation unit. The Chief Guest Honorable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Indranil Manna spoke about the importance of Innovation led growth. The Guest of Honor Mr. Mayank, CEO of Adrosonic shared his

vision of technology and innovation led development across multiple sectors. The Signing of the MoU was done between Registrar Col. Sukhpal Singh Khetarpal and Ms. Sonal, COO of Adrosonic. Prof. C. Jeganathan shared BIT

Mesra's vision for research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Mr. Neeraj, Head QMO, Adrosonic has briefed about the goals of Digital Innovation Lab. Prof. Soumyen Sikdar, Head of Centre, Centre for Quantitative Economics and

Data Science spoke about the initiatives of the centre. Dr. Abhishek Naresh was the host for the event. Vote of Thanks was offered by Dr. Manish K. Pandey. The Deans, Heads and Faculties have attended this ceremony.

## China Poses 'Most Serious Long-Term Challenge' To International Order, Says Blinken

Agenceis

**Washington:** Even as the US has united the rest of the world against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, China poses the most serious long-term challenge to the international order, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday.

China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it, Blinken said in a major foreign policy speech on China.

Beijing's vision would move us away from the universal values that have sustained so much of the world's progress over the past 75 years, he said.

Even as (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin's war continues, we will remain focused on the most serious long-term challenge to the international order, and that's posed by the People's Republic of China, Blinken said.

China is also integral to the global economy and to our ability to solve challenges from climate to COVID. Put simply, the United States and China have to deal with each other for the foreseeable

future. That's why this is one of the most complex and consequential relationships of any that we have in the world today, he said.

The Biden administration, Blinken said, does not seek to block China from its role as a major power nor to stop it, or any other country for that matter, from growing their economy or advancing the interests of their people.

But we will defend and strengthen the international law agreements, principles, and institutions that maintain peace and security, protect the rights of individuals and sovereign nations, and make it possible for all countries, including the United States and China, to co-exist and cooperate, he said.

Now, the China of today is very different from the China of 50 years ago when President (Richard) Nixon broke decades of strained relations to become the first US president to visit the country. Then China was isolated and struggling with widespread poverty and hunger. Now China is a global power with extraordinary reach, influence, and ambition, Blinken added.

## Mathura Lower Court Directed For Speedy Disposal Of Plea For Deputing Advocate To Survey Shahi Idgah Mosque

Agenceis

**Mathura:** An additional district judge here on Thursday directed a lower court for speedy disposal of a plea for appointing a court commissioner to survey the Shahi Idgah mosque and verify the claims of temple's signs in it.

The petitioners moved the court of additional district judge with a revision application after the lower court of civil judge (senior division) on May 23 asked Shahi Idgah mosque's management committee and others to file their objections to a plea seeking survey of the mosque and fixed July 1 as the next date of hearing on the reopening of courts after summer vacation.

"Revision application was disposed of with the direction for the lower court to dispose of the plea regarding sending

an advocate commissioner to the mosque on a day-to-day basis from next hearing," District Government Counsel Sanjai Gaur said.

Rajendra Maheshwari, the counsel for the petitioners of the suit, said, "Lower court of civil judge (senior division) has also been directed by Additional District Judge Sanjai Chaudhari (in-charge district judge for appeal and revision) not to delay hearing of the application pertaining to sending an advocate commissioner (to mosque). The application was submitted by Delhi-based Jai Bhagwan Goyal and four others."

The petitioners had filed an application in the court of Civil Judge (senior division) Jyoti Singh on May 23 for sending an advocate commissioner to survey Shahi Idgah Masjid complex claiming presence of



temple marks in the mosque, Maheshwari said.

The court instead of disposing of the application filed under urgency clause, had set July 1 for next date of hearing, the petitioners' counsel said. Aggrieved by the decision,

the petitioners moved a revision application against the order of civil judge (senior division) in the court of District Judge Mathura, who transferred the application in the court of ADJ (7th) on Thursday, Maheshwari said.

In the revision application, the order of lower court was termed defective since the urgency clause mentioned in the application was not considered, the counsel said.

The lower court is hearing a bunch of suits for the removal

of Shahi Idgah Masjid from near the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in the Katra Keshav Dev Temple complex and subsequent interim applications for appointing a court commissioner to survey the mosque.

The petitioners have sought

the mosque's survey, claiming the existence of several signs of temples, like those of om, swastika and lotus inside it besides its alleged Hindu architecture.

The pleas have been filed by deity Thakur Keshav Dev Ji Maharaj virajman (in-situ) in its capacity as a juristic person, represented by advocates Mahendra Pratap Singh and Rajendra Maheshwari as its next friend, among others. The other petitioners included United Hindu Front founder Jai Bhagwan Goyal, a Delhi resident, and Vrindavan's Dharm Raksha Sangh president Saurabh Gaur.

The suits filed by Singh and others in December 2020 list Shahi Idgah Masjid's Intezamia committee's secretary, president/chairman of the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board, Srikrishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan's secretary and Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust as respondents.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 3 Infiltrators Killed

regard and further investigation has been initiated," he added.

Meanwhile, an army porter was also killed in the encounter that raged around 4:45 am on Thursday, a defence spokesperson said.

He further said that "exporting terrorism" in J&K has been a state policy of Pakistan in the last three decades.

The spokesperson said that increased desperation of militant handlers in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir is evident as a result of effect-based operations conducted by the Indian Army and prevailing peace and tranquility evident from large number of tourists coming to the valley.

### TV Artist Ambreen's

started advances, the officials said, the hiding militants opened fire upon them in a bid to escape from the dragnet.

"The joint team returned the fire leading to an encounter. The exchange of gunfire is going on," they said.

Also, the officials said that additional reinforcements have reached the area to tighten the cordon and foil any attempt of militants to flee.

Earlier, police announced that the encounter has raged on in the area.

"#Encounter has started at Aganhanzipora area of #Awantipora. Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Police posted on its official Twitter handle.

Quoting Inspector General of police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, the police in another Tweet claimed that two militants who shot dead a TV artist in Chadoora area of Budgam on Wednesday evening are trapped in the village.

"Both killers (LeT #terrorists) of late Amreen Bhat, an artist, trapped in #Awantipora #encounter. Further details shall follow," the Tweet read.

35-year-old Ambreen, a TV artist and a YouTuber was killed and her 10-year-old nephew Farhan injured after being fired upon by militants inside her home in Hishroo village of Chadoora on Wednesday evening.

### 9 Killed In

(driver), Ankit Dileep, a resident of Gujarat, Gandhi Marmu and his father Mangal Marmu, both residents of Jharkhand, Ranjit Kumar, a resident of Punjab, Muhammad Aslam Parray a resident of Kulgam (JK), Naib Subedar Nanak Chand, a resident of UP, Dileshwar Sidhar, resident of Chattisgarh, and another person identified as Sunil Lal.

### Yasin Kept In

cell in jail number seven under heavy security. His security will be regularly monitored and reviewed from time to time," a senior jail official

said.

"Mailk will also not be entitled to any parole or furlough since he is a convict in a case of terror funding," jail officials said.

Even before being awarded life imprisonment, Malik was kept in the separate cell where he stayed alone in jail number seven, they said.

A Delhi court on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to Malik in a militant funding case, saying the crimes committed by him struck at the "heart of the idea of India" and were intended to forcefully secede Jammu & Kashmir from Union of India.

Special Judge Praveen Singh awarded varying jail terms to Malik for offences under the stringent anti-terror law--Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the IPC, rejecting the NIA's plea for capital punishment.

According to the Supreme Court, life imprisonment means incarceration till the last breath, unless the sentence is commuted by the authorities.

The entire Delhi Prisons, which comprises --Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini jails -- currently has 1,600 convicts out of the total of 19,500 prisoners, they said.

### Police Arrests

"10 accused arrested so far in anti-national sloganeering & stone pelting outside home of Yasin Malik prior to sentencing in Maisuma yesterday.

"All other areas remained peaceful. Youths are again requested not to indulge in activities that can spoil their careers & disrupt families," Srinagar Police tweeted on Thursday.

The police said it was in the process of identifying others involved in the act.

"Others are being identified & will be arrested soon. Case has been registered under ULPA & IPC. The main instigators of this hooliganism will be booked under PSA. Such anti-national activities & provocative posture will be always dealt strictly & with full force of law," it added.

Shops remained closed in some areas of the city on Thursday but traffic remained normal. Schools also remained functional while attendance in government and private offices was also normal.

Mobile services were also restored in the early hours of Thursday as the situation remained by and large peaceful across the valley, officials said.

The internet services on mobile devices were suspended on Wednesday evening after the court sentenced Malik to life imprisonment for militant funding in Jammu and Kashmir.

### 'Jack', 'John'

funding case in which the National

Investigation Agency (NIA) had seized around 600 electronic devices during its raids at 70 places.

Malik, who had pleaded guilty for the "terror funding crimes", was sentenced to life by a Delhi court on Wednesday.

There were nearly four dozen protected witnesses but code names were given only to selected few, who could be of help in making a watertight case, officials privy to the developments of the case said.

The case was probed by a NIA team led by Inspector General Anil Shukla, a 1996-batch IPS officer from AGMUT cadre, with the then Director Sharad Kumar heading the organisation.

"The verdict is definitely a reward to the hard work of the team that probed the case. I am very much satisfied with the punishment. He (Yasin) played smart by pleading guilty to escape the death sentence. But nevertheless, his sentencing should serve as a deterrent to those even dreaming of waging war against the country," Kumar told PTI from his home in Gurgaon.

Shukla, who is now posted in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, had decided to follow the policy of having protected witnesses in the case so that there are no loopholes, the officials said.

While framing charges against 56-year-old Malik, the special NIA judge had relied on protected witnesses 'Jack', 'John' and 'Golf' among others who mentioned about the meetings between late Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Malik in November 2016 along with other Hurriyat leaders calling for protests and shutdown.

Another protected witness had stated that it was Geelani and Malik who used to send him the protest calendar for publicity in newspapers.

The NIA stressed on confessions statements more as they were recorded before the judicial magistrate where the accused have to confirm that they are giving it without any pressure from the investigating agency.

While penning down their confession, the whole process was videographed and during the proceedings no investigating officer was present in the court premises. Later, if these accused turned hostile, then the NIA would file a perjury charge against them.

### LG Hopes J&K

The 3-day seminar is being organized by Society for Community Mobilization for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with SKUAST-Kashmir and SKUAST-Jammu.

According to the spokesperson, the LG congratulated the organizers for providing a common platform to Scientists and Experts for

deliberating upon the innovative agricultural technologies, its future role in agriculture and allied sector, critical to Jammu Kashmir and India's economy.

"Agriculture 4.0 - the new-age Agriculture Revolution based on science and green technology is the answer to continuous growing food demand. It can provide growth and sustainability to agriculture & horticulture sector while protecting the ecosystem," Sinha said.

"Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics will not only increase the efficiency making farming more profitable and environment friendly, but also affect the entire production chain positively, helping small and marginal farmers," he added.

Highlighting the need to introduce advanced technologies and new methods to the farmers and making innovation core of Indian agriculture, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that the government is very well aware of the future challenges in agriculture sector, and is taking the requisite measures to ensure that farmers have access to the latest technology and crucial information for the farming.

"Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards becoming a major agricultural power of the country. Policy decisions and reforms taken in the last two-and-a-half years have yielded desired results," he said.

"We are making concerted efforts to promote innovative agricultural technologies, Data-Driven & Precision Agriculture, encouraging the use of Artificial Intelligence, ensuring maximum saturation of farm mechanization, besides creating global markets for local produce to make Agriculture and allied sectors more lucrative, efficient and eco-friendly," he added.

Calling the new generation to be a part of the agriculture's transformation process, the LG, according to the spokesperson said that the modern technology will benefit the entire supply chain offering opportunity to young entrepreneurs.

"It will ensure food security and reduce dependency on imports, increase in productivity and major shift towards innovation and knowledge-based economy," he said.

The spokesperson said that the LG assured government's support to the agri-startups and entrepreneurs, and said that the Startups will be provided with space/land in the Industrial estates across the UT at concessional rates so that their innovations could be connected to the market and reach the farming community.

"He also urged the Agriculture Scientists, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and PRLs to adopt a coordinated and integrated approach to encourage

new technologies of Agriculture 4.0," he added.

The spokesperson said that Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K in his welcome address highlighted the achievements of the University in agriculture and allied sectors and its endeavours to bring agriculture technologies to the farmers.

"Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department while speaking on the occasion stressed on the necessity of refining the strategies and revising the policies and programs in the agriculture sector along with a continuous assessment of achievements and identifying the challenges in the progress and growth of the sector," he added.

### NIA Arrests Pulwama

According to the NIA, Mir was a close associate of accused Bilal Ahmed Wagay, who has been arrested in the case. Mir was also in touch with Pakistan-based handlers of the JeM, it added.

He had knowingly and voluntarily extended support to the other accused in the commission of the instant crime, the spokesperson said.

Two militants were killed in an encounter with government forces in Jammu on April 22 after they attacked CISF personnel onboard a bus during the crucial early morning shift-change of the force at a checkpoint.

The 'fidayeen' or suicide bombers sprayed a volley to bullets in 'burst fire' mode from their assault weapons even as they lobbed grenades at the security personnel at the picket deployed near the Chaddha camp in the Sunjwan area of the district, where the Army also has a large installation.

The attack came two days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Samba in Jammu region of the union territory. (PTI)

### J&K Brings Movie

sector and to make Jammu & Kashmir a choicest destination for film shooting of both national and international film makers.

It is worthwhile to mention that Kashmir was a preferred destination for film makers before eruption of armed conflict in 1989.

Films like Kashmir Ki Kali, Jab Jab Phool Khile, Himalaya Ki God Mein, and Janwar were shot in Kashmir.

The scenic landscape of Jammu & Kashmir continued to charm not only the Indian film-makers but also some international ones as well. Two films -- Bill Murray's The Razor's Edge in 1983, and The Climb (UK Film) in 1986 were also shot in varied locations of Kashmir Valley--(KNO)

## J&K Bank Felicitates Umran Malik & Abdul Samad



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** J&K Bank on Thursday honoured Umran Malik and Abdul Samad - two rising cricket stars from Jammu - who have become household names across the country after playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League.

Notably impressed by his performance in IPL 2022, Umran Malik has also been selected in the India T20 series squad for the South Africa slated to begin on June 9.

J&K Bank President (Jammu Division) Sunit Kumar felicitated the duo today in Jammu in presence of Zonal Head Jammu Sharesh Sharma and other officers of the Bank.

Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash has expressed pleasure on felicitating the young cricketers saying, "It is a moment of delight for us to felicitate such talented youth of J&K who have not only worked hard to play and perform in Indian Premier League but have also made their way into the hearts of millions of people in the country."

While wishing them well for all their future endeavours, he further said, "We need many more such stories in J&K for inspiring our new generations to dream of bigger things early in life while achieving them young."

Congratulating the rising

cricket stars for their performance in national level tournaments besides selection for the national squad, President Sunit Kumar said, "With your dedication and performance you have made the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir proud. I believe you will also make the whole nation proud with your diligent performance in all the future competitions."

"As a premier institution, we have always and will continue to extend every possible support towards promotion of sports among the youngsters especially in J&K and Ladakh. In fact, we shall be forthcoming in financing state-of-the-art sports infra-structure anywhere in the country particularly in our core operational geography," he added.

It is pertinent to mention that the Bank is contributing its bit quite well to improve the sports landscape of J&K. The Bank's Football Academy is a case in point that continues to nurture the young talent of J&K. The academy has produced famous footballers who rose through ranks to exhibit their talent for big clubs with some achieving the ultimate dream of representing their country. With latest among those being Danish Farooq, who was part of Indian team that recently played international friendlies in Bahrain.

## ASIA CUP HOCKEY

## India Thrash Indonesia 16-0, Qualify For Super 4s

India needed to win by a 15-0 margin or more to make it



Press Trust of India

**JAKARTA:** Rising to the occasion, a young India men's hockey thrashed hosts Indonesia 16-0 to qualify for the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup here on Thursday.

The massive win not only secured India's passage into the knockout stage of the tournament but also shut the door on Pakistan.

Both India and Pakistan finished on four points each in Pool A behind Japan but the holders qualified for the Super 4s on the basis

of a better goal difference (1). India needed to beat Indonesia by a 15-0 margin or more to make it to the next round and the defending champions rode on splendid show from Dip-san Turkey, who hammered five goals, and Sudev Belimagga, who sounded the board thrice.

Veteran SV Sunil, Pawan Rajbhar and Karthi Selvam scored a brace each while Uttam Singh and Nilam Sanjeep Xess scored a goal each.

Pakistan had lost 2-3 to Japan earlier in the day.

## National Games Scam: CBI Conducts Searches At 16 Locations

Former Jharkhand sports minister's residence also searched

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 16 locations, including the residence of former Jharkhand Sports Minister Bandhu Tirkey, in connection with the alleged irregularities in the multi-crore games equipment purchases for the 34th National Games held in Ranchi in 2011, officials said.

Besides Tirkey, the CBI also searched the premises of noted lawyer R K Anand, who was the working chairman of the National Games Organising Committee, in the National Capital.

The premises of the then director sports of the state P C Mishra, organising secretary of national games Madhukant Pathak, organising secretary H M Hashmi are also being searched.

As part of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) operation, seven places in Ranchi and five locations in Dhanbad are also

being searched, officials said. Tirkey was recently convicted for amassing disproportionate assets by a Jharkhand court and stripped of his assembly membership.

The case of alleged corruption in the purchase of games equipment was probed by the state anti-corruption branch and it was later handed over to the CBI by the Jharkhand High Court in April this year.

Tirkey was a close confidante of Babulal Marandi of the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajaantik) before Marandi decided to merge the outfit with the BJP.



**ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE** celebrate after winning their Indian Premier League 2022 Eliminator match against Lucknow Super Giants at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday. RCB won the match by 14 runs. Image via IPL/PTI

## RCB Fancy Their Chances Against RR In Qualifier 2

Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Rajasthan Royals will need to shake off an ordinary bowling performance in their last outing when they clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore, a team which seems to be peaking at the right time, in the high-stakes IPL Qualifier-2 here on Friday.

Having sneaked into the play-offs, RCB are on a roll and a tight win over Lucknow in the Eliminator has fuelled expectations for a long-awaited trophy. They take on Rajasthan, a team which has all bases covered but still came up short against Gujarat in Qualifier 1.

The IPL caravan moves to Ahmedabad after a couple of high-scoring games in Kolkata. It has been a quick turnaround for RCB but they won't mind that as they look to ride the momentum.

Rajat Patidar, who played the innings of his life on Wednesday, will be a man with supreme confidence in another high-pressure knockout fixture. For someone who went unsold in the IPL auction and came



into the RCB squad as a replacement player, it has been a career-changing season for him.

Both the high-profile openers, Kohli and Faf du Plessis, are big match players and will be itching to make an impact after low returns in the previous game.

Dinesh Karthik has managed to maintain consistency in a tough role and the team management would be also hoping for more runs in the back end of the innings from Glenn Maxwell.

RCB bowlers will have to be on the top of their game against



a formidable Rajasthan batting line up which rely heavily on Jos Buttler and skipper Sanju Samson. Both scored against Gujarat but it did not prove to be enough.

Samson will be eager to convert his 30s and 40s into a substantial knock and lead from the front.

It remains to be seen how the bowlers comeback after a forgettable outing. R Ashwin had a rare off day against Gujarat while Prasidh Krishna paid the price for bowling length balls to David Miller in the final over.

## Benzema Looks To Cap Great Season With 5th European Title



Agencies

**MADRID:** The last time Karim Benzema was in a Champions League final, it was in a supporting role to Cristiano Ronaldo. He was just another forward on a Real Madrid team in which Ronaldo attracted most of the attention. It will be a lot different when Benzema takes the field this weekend in the final against Liverpool in suburban Paris.

Benzema has gone from one of Ronaldo's sidekicks to Madrid's most important player, and on Saturday he could cap his best

season ever with a fifth Champions League title.

A victory would allow him — and several other Madrid players — to tie Ronaldo with the most Champions League trophies. It would also leave the France striker in a commanding position to win the Ballon d'Or award for best player of the year.

"I'm very proud," Benzema said. "It's been a really great season for me in terms of goals, assists and trophies and I feel really happy."

Benzema scored 44 goals from 45 matches with his club this

season, and equalled Madrid great Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer with 323 goals, behind the 451 of Ronaldo. "I don't know where I'll stand in club history, we have to wait for my career to be over to know that," the 34-year-old Benzema said.

There's no doubt it has been a historic year for the striker, who has already helped Madrid win the Spanish league and the Spanish Super Cup. He was the leading scorer in the Spanish league with 27 goals, and in the Champions League with 15 goals from 11 matches. (AP)

## Qatar Braces For 200,000 Daily World Cup Air Passengers



Agence France-Presse

**DOHA:** Qatar expects up to 200,000 air passengers a day during the World Cup, authorities said Thursday, with airlines across the Gulf organising scores of shuttle flights to bring fans in.

In a major operation to cope with the four-week-long football tournament, Akbar Al Baker, tourism minister and the Qatar Airways chief executive, said some routes to countries not involved in the 32-nation tournament would be halted and others reduced.

Baker said Qatar's Hamad International Airport and the older Doha International Airport would see capacity doubled to more than 200,000 people a day.

With Qatar under mounting pressure to find room for fans, Saudia, Kuwait Airways, flydubai and Oman Air will organise more than 160 daily shuttle flights from November 20 to bring supporters on one-day trips to see matches.

Officials estimate that more than 20,000 fans could come in each day on shuttles from Gulf neighbours.

Saudia chief executive Ibrahim Koshy said the airline would run at least 30 round trip flights each day from the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah, that could carry 10,000 fans.

Flydubai would operate at least 30 return flights, Kuwait Airways 10 and Oman Air 24, Baker said.

All flights would be reserved

for fans with World Cup tickets and who have carried out special registration, including biometric details.

Baker promised "seamless" immigration and security processing that would see them treated as though they were arriving on a domestic flight.

Qatar has predicted that 1.4 million people will visit the tiny Gulf state during the World Cup, and many fan groups have expressed concerns about accommodation and air travel.

Baker said Qatar's civil aviation authorities were increasing airspace capacity so that the three runways at Hamad airport could operate "continuously" during the World Cup from November 21 to December 18.

He said Qatar Airways would cut flights to destinations that are "irrelevant" to the World Cup, so that it could increase flights to countries taking part.

Some 70 per cent of Qatar Airways regular flights would see their times changed so that extra flights can be organised.

The airports would have to handle charter flights and airlines that have asked to establish regular lines because of the World Cup. "There will be no room left (for incoming airlines), when you are tailor-making the capacity, for delays, for holding times," Baker warned.

He said that "state of the art immigration systems" would be introduced to speed up the arrival of international passengers.

## Mourinho's 5th European Title To 'Remain Immortal'



Agencies

**ROME:** José Mourinho, the once self-proclaimed "Special One," might be better described as a "Man of the People" now. (More Football News)

The Portuguese coach extended his perfect record in European finals to five titles by guiding Roma to the inaugural Europa Conference League trophy.

After winning nearly everywhere he's been, most recently with European powers Real Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester United, bringing Roma its first continental trophy in more than six decades has a different feeling.

"It's one thing to win when everyone expects you to win, when the squad is made to win, when the investments have been made to win, but it's entirely different to win things that remain immortal, that stay forever," a teary-eyed Mourinho said following Roma's 1-0 victory over Feyenoord in Tirana, Albania, on Wednesday.

"That makes you feel truly special."

Roma, a three-time Serie A champion that had lost its previous two European finals, hadn't won anything at all since raising the often-neglected Italian Cup trophy 14 years earlier.

Mourinho also won the 2003 UEFA Cup and 2004 Champions League finals with Porto; the 2010 Champions League final with Inter Milan; and the 2017 Europa League final with Manchester United -- making him the first manager to lead four different clubs to European titles.

He also coached Chelsea and Real Madrid to numerous domestic trophies.

At the final whistle, Mourinho held up five fingers to signify his five European titles as he jumped up and down in celebration.

"Of course I think about myself but I'm thinking much more about the Romanista fans who can celebrate tonight," he said. "I hope they can enjoy themselves. This will live on forever." (AP)

## Canada-Iran Football Friendly Cancelled After Criticism



Agencies

**TORONTO:** Canada's exhibition against Iran at Vancouver, British Columbia, on June 5 was cancelled on Thursday following criticism by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The Canada Soccer Association issued a short statement announcing the cancellation but did not include an explanation.

Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was shot down on Jan. 8, 2020, minutes after taking off from Tehran by an Iranian surface-to-air missile. The Canadian government says 55 Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents were among the 176 people killed.

Canada Soccer announced the match on May 12, part of preparations for the nation's first World Cup appearance

since 1986.

"This was a choice by Soccer Canada," Trudeau said five days later. "I think it wasn't a very good idea to invite the Iranian soccer team here to Canada. But that's something that the organizers are going to have to explain."

Ralph Goodale, Canada's high commissioner to the United Kingdom, tweeted Wednesday: "This behaviour

by Canada Soccer is repugnant. It calls into question both the competence and the values of the organization."

Canada plays Curaçao at Vancouver on June 9 and is at Honduras on June 13, both in the CONCACAF Nations League. No. 38 Canada opens the World Cup Group F in Qatar against second-ranked Belgium on Nov. 23, plays No. 16 Croatia four days later and No. 24 Morocco on Dec. 1. (AP)

**JK Bank Lawns,  
Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard,  
Srinagar**