



P3 CITY

## HABBA KADAL RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF GROWING DOG MENACE

At a time when the Srinagar Municipal Corporation has failed to initiate concrete action against dog menace in the city, residents of Habba Kadal locality have complained of growing dog terror

THINK

## WHAT IS THE "SHOP LOCAL" TREND?

Have you heard a recent conversation around Small Business Saturday and National Small Business Week? Both holidays have helped jumpstart a trend of shopping local, and are celebrated nationally in communities big and small. However... shouldn't we be supporting our community businesses year-



P7 STATE

## TWO DOCTORS, NURSE ATTACHED ON PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION

The health department has attached two doctors, including the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Banihal after a panel constituted to probe the wrong declaration of



Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form

-Karl Marx

## NEWS DIGEST

### Satish Chandra Appointed Chairman JKPSC

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday appointed Satish Chandra, IAS (Rtd.), as Chairman, Public Service Commission.

"In exercise of powers conferred by **More on P6**

### Govt Shifts Six Senior Police Officers

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Saturday ordered transfer of six police officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to a government order, T. Namgyal Kalon, IPS (RR:95), ADGP Traffic, J&K, **More on P6**

### Jammu Adds Five More Corona Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported five new covid-19 cases while there was no death due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours, officials said on Saturday. They said that all these cases were reported from Jammu district, taking **More on P6**

## Militant Killed, 3 Soldiers Injured In Anantnag Firefight



A Police commando checks carry bag of a youth during a random search operation in Srinagar on Saturday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Army on Saturday claimed to have killed a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commander

in an overnight encounter in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, in which three soldiers and a civilian were also injured. Around 3:45 pm **More on P6**

## 'Militant, Two Aides Held For Udhampur Attack'

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant and his two associates in connection with the low-intensity IED explosion outside a court complex in Udhampur district in March in which **More on P6**

**6 SENSING GRAVE THREAT TO THE LIFE** of the injured civilian, two of our brave soldiers, Lance Naik Achal Patwari and Sepoy Amandeep Singh commenced his extraction from the operation site, despite being heavily fired upon by the terrorist."

## Youth Slapped With PSA For 'Hate Mongering'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday arrested a youth on charges of hate-mongering and justifying the killing of a TV artist by unidentified militants in Chadoora area of Budgam district last month

Mohammad Irfan Bhat, a resident of Takiya Wagoora village in Baramulla district was booked by Budgam police under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for recording and uploading a video "spreading hate and justifying" the killing of TV artiste Amreen Bhat, who was shot dead by militants inside her home in Chadoora on May 25, a police spokesperson said Saturday.

"The act of uploading such hateful video, **More on P6**

## HC Takes Note Of Mushrooming News Portals

Directs Govt To Take Appropriate Action Against Fake News Agencies Run On Social Media

Basit Amin Makhdoomi

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Saturday directed the Union Territory administration to take appropriate action expeditiously on mushrooming of news portals without due procedure of law.

## Pole Orders Prompt Action In Transfer Of KP, Migrant Employees

Appreciates Officers For Action On War-Footing Basis For Addressing The Issue

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday directed the officers to post Kashmiri Pandit and migrant government employees at district headquarters or in municipal towns or within the radius of 3 kilometers of municipal town after taking their consent. Pole passed these



directions in a meeting with Deputy Commissioners and

Divisional HoDs of all the civil departments to review the status of transfer of employees of PM package, migrant and Jammu to safer places in view of recent attacks on employees, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

On the occasion, he said, the Div Com reviewed the District and Department wise status of PM package, migrant and Jammu **More on P6**

## BJP Seeks Action After Transfer List Goes Public

Srinagar The BJP on Saturday took strong objection to making public the transfer list of Kashmiri Pandit employees and demanded action against the officials responsible for the leak, terming it a breach of security. According to the list, 177 Kashmiri Pandit teachers employed under the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package have been transferred. The transfer list is being circulated on WhatsApp and other **More on P6**

## Protesting Dogra Employees Refuse To Join Duties In Valley

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The government employees, belonging to Hindu community, staged a sit-in and blocked Twi bridge on highway here for the third day on Saturday and refused to join their duties in Kashmir following a string of targeted killings by militants.

They demanded that they should be transferred from Kashmir to their home districts

in the Jammu region.

Most of Dogra employees serving in Kashmir have returned to Jammu after their colleague, Rajni Bala, was shot dead by militants at a school in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday.

Under the banner of 'All Jammu-based reserved categories employees association', the protesters took out a march from the Press Club and blocked Tawi bridge on **More on P6**

## All you need to know about TOUCHLESS LASIK Procedure

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MBBS, MS

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Twitter Talks



"I don't understand how COVID is still spiking after we've tried everything from pretending it's over to pretending it never happened"

@ZackBornstein

"Turkey signals firm neutrality in Ukraine. This is direct challenge to US; underscores Turkey's profound scepticism of Western narrative of war (& its future trajectory.) Erdogan spoke with Putin Monday; Lavrov is heading for Ankara next week"

@BhadraPunchline

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Jobs in Tradition

In promising the moon on the issue of unemployment, political parties making a serious bid for power conveniently forget to spell out specific measures to be undertaken to generate jobs. This reluctance to commit themselves to anything concrete is understandable as the curse of unemployment has been riding the state's shoulders for decades and successive governments have failed to make any dent except swell the ranks of government servants often by processes shot through with irregularities and questionable means. So, vague, but oft repeated, platitudes about unemployment being "at the top of the agenda" have become the staple for the public to consume.

Even as the numbers of the unemployed multiply, educational institutions continue to churn out more aspirants, most of them armed with qualifications of the highest order, on paper at least. And the bright sparks living a princely life on the tax-payers money precisely to devise ways out of the rut can do nothing except bank on the obscenely bloated public services to take on yet more additions. There appears to have been very little serious thinking on the part of the successive governments to address an issue dating back decades and bound to take crisis proportions with the passage of time. Policymakers have totally failed to wean people away from the societal mindset of regarding a government job as the only worthwhile means of gainful employment. The result is that even rural communities traditionally involved in agriculture give up the occupation and hanker after sarkari naukris no matter how petty. In a state where agriculture is the basis of the economy, youth are giving it up in droves as they think it below their educated selves to be engaged in peasantry. The other field which a warped notion of being educated has tainted with stigma is the erstwhile lucrative calling of Kashmiri handicrafts. An engineered decline, or rather a willful decimation, of a widely practiced mode of earning a livelihood has not only robbed the state economy of what could have been a strong pillar, but also robbed people of a source of employment. The entire system of education appears to be geared to glorify becoming doctors and engineers - or become pen-pushing babus if the worst comes to the worst - but commits a patent injustice by undermining the role and importance of agriculture and handicrafts. Education in Kashmir, where societies have sustained themselves on agriculture and crafts, should have been modeled to motivate youth towards these fields as well besides the more "accepted" pursuits. And in turn, agriculture and handicrafts should have been restored to a status of pre-eminence through education, awareness and financial promotion of these sectors.

True, advanced economies have graduated from being basically agricultural to service-oriented entities through the route of industrialization, but agriculture has lost none of its importance, though it is being powered by mechanized farming and highly technological processes, making the sector much less labour intensive.

But such a model cannot be imitated in toto in economies where labour is in surplus. The West is gifted with a low population, but unemployment stalks the western economies as well. Nations and states with burgeoning populations have to evolve development models of their own. The approach, again, has to be holistic rather than segmental - for example, any long-term policy on employment should include population control targets as an essential factor.

The bigwigs of the state government would do well to study the economic parameters of agricultural states like Punjab and Haryana to see where these granaries figure on the employment front and what sector generates jobs the most, and how. Again, this is not to advocate a cut-and-paste job but merely to underscore the major role agriculture can play in employment generation. Rewarding avenues can also be created in industrial processing and packaging of agricultural produce and dairy products to tap the markets in the country's growing urban centers. For a fertile region like Kashmir, the potential in such exercises in immense, provided it is harnessed on scientific lines.

As these columns have pointed out on earlier occasions, Kashmir is climatically and temperamentally also suited for developing the Information Technology and electronic sectors. You don't need heavy inputs and elaborate transportation like, for example, in the iron and steel or automotive industries. Manpower with reasonable grounding in the subject is already available, and any upgrading that industry standards require can be made in coordinated programmes. There is no reason why the valley cannot replicate other IT centers provided the government has the will to pursue funds from the government as well as the private sectors.

But the rub comes when one contemplates the past performance of governments in whose stewardship Kashmir has lost exotic varieties of fruit and food-grains, which if developed, would have given valley agriculture a distinctive edge. ?

The article is an editorial from KO's Archives and was originally published don June 12, 2010

Kashmir's Quack Faith Healers

Amir Suhail Wani

What happened recently at Shopian is nothing more than a curtain raiser from the panoramic phenomenon of faith healing. A woman was beaten to death by a faith healer on the pretext of getting rid of "demonic" possession. Such an incident would have invited huge condemnation going beyond the outcome - death. These incidents are deplorable and tantamount to crimes by virtue of running the risk of going to the other side. They cease to remain spiritual exercises and enter the sketchy stages of blackmail, money laundering and even physical assault. More so, in the case of women, at the mercy of a faith healer, the matter slides towards sexual crimes as well.

The legitimacy that public ignorance, and at times blind faith, lends to these faith healers escalates the problem in its proportions and grants it not only sheepish legitimacy but obnoxious sanctity.

What drives people to faith healing? How do normal human beings allow themselves to be tricked into the dark side of faith healing?

The lives of people, festering with problems as they are, seek solutions in whatever form and guise it comes to them. This helplessness and despondency of people has been tacitly used by faith healers in recent times not only to amass wealth but to also subject the distressed people to all sorts of exploitative tactics. An entire industry has sprung up under the aegis of faith healing and the monstrous consequences thereof are bone chilling and alarming. The frequency with which the episodes pertaining to faith healing have started recurring calls for immediate waking up and public sensitisation. In absence of public vigilance and awareness, the phenomenon is only supposed to gain in gore and gravity.

This is not to discredit the practices of faith healing. Neither is this a herangue against faith healing with some positioning that prioritises



Photos For Representational Purpose Only

others have shown these practices to be useful in disorders of physiological order too. Historically, and even in recently evolved fields of parapsychology, the phenomenon of demonic possessions, possession by supernatural powers and the phenomenon of Djinn is well recognised. Even a scholar of the calibre and rigor of Ibn Al Jawzi went on to write an entire treatise on the subject, thereby acknowledging the reality of phenomena pertaining to the soul.

There are issues and disorders, which escape the ken of generic psychology and call for spiritual intervention and we have evidence, ample in number, that spiritual intervention by genuine faith healers does bring a positive change. But the categorical mistake that we make is that we often confuse normal psychiatric and psychic disorders with supra-psychological phenomena and rush for the intervention of faith healers, who instead of solving the issue add further knots to the problem - multiplying, complicating and convoluting the problem. Another grievous mistake which people inadvertently commit is that they often land into wrong hands, at the wrong place with the wrong people.

This derailing towards the dark side isn't reserved for the gullible or just

WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY AT SHOPIAN is nothing more than a curtain raiser from the panoramic phenomenon of faith healing. A woman was beaten to death by a faith healer on the pretext of getting rid of "demonic" possession. Such an incident would have invited huge condemnation going beyond the outcome - death. These incidents are deplorable and tantamount to crimes by virtue of running the risk of going to the other side. They cease to remain spiritual exercises and enter the sketchy stages of blackmail, money laundering and even physical assault. More so, in the case of women, at the mercy of a faith healer, the matter slides towards sexual crimes as well

some "scientific" rationality.

The practice of faith healing is an age old practice and the passage of time hasn't dulled or diminished its utility. Even today, with medical sciences at their apogee, the practices of faith healing are well recognised in fields of psychology. Studies carried out by researchers like Rupert Sheldrake, Ken Wilber, Amit Goswami and

the "weak" minded. Spirituality is by default the stream of experience where the road is quite slippery and it is easy to lead people to the precipice. The gullibility of people adds to the susceptibility which renders them vulnerable to "spiritual exploitation".

In their paper titled "Role of Faith healers: A barrier or a support system to medical care- a cross sec-

An indication, if not the only indication, of truly illumined persons having spiritual aura is that they are least bothered about the offerings, the favours or the goods that devotees or people may bring along. They are seen anxious to help people, to rid them of their miseries and to alleviate their sufferings and they do not seek any fees or favours for these spiritual

hand holdings, not to think of asking for favours of skin and flesh. Existing acquaintance with the spiritual healer, either by way of the society we live in or by scrutinising his individual behaviour is yet another way of separating swami from a swindler. Ironically though, we have seen husbands lending their wives, parents lending their daughters to appease the sexual appetite of these human faced beasts in some cases and that cautions us that knowhow of and information about the spiritual healer is not enough, as people are too ready to get exploited at the hands of their blind faith. At the root of this entire matrix lies the menace of ignorance, blind faith, prospect for good fortune or the threat of looming wrath. These

The lives of people, festering with problems as they are, seek solutions in whatever form and guise it comes to them. This helplessness and despondency of people has been tacitly used by faith healers in recent times not only to amass wealth but to also subject the distressed people to all sorts of exploitative tactics

veils can only be removed by educating people, taking them beyond their superstitious ebb and illuminating their hearts with the light of true faith. Our orators, public speakers and people who hold religious and spiritual influence share a huge responsibility to speak for their pulpits and pedestals about these issues, sensitise masses and raise their level of awareness. Many people are already pursuing this line and their education has brought a tremendous change in the lives and ideas of people, saved them from being exploited and introduced them to the proper spirit of spirituality, faith healing and presented before them a refined version of Godmen. People must decide and decide for themselves whether they desire to see more incidents of the order of the Shopian incident or they want to rise up and live under the aegis of light, faith and truer understanding of God and those who represent them. While one can write and talk about these things, the final call lies with people, which direction they want to steer in.

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

Unequal burden

who monitors when countries renege on commitments, or even refuse to make any commitment at all? This is where science has to perforce interact with economics, politics, sociology and history. The story behind the accumulation of greenhouse gases is that during the nineteenth and a major part of the twentieth century, the Global North (the rich countries of the world) rode the wave of industrialisation and development while emitting carbon dioxide relentlessly without probably knowing the full consequences of such actions. The Global South joined the race much later, even though at the current moment nations like China, India and Brazil are among the top polluters of the world. However, if one looks at how much each person in a country contributes, then the Global South appears much less guilty. The average Indian pollutes 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, the average Chinese 7 tonnes, while the average German pollutes 10 tonnes; the figure for the United States of America is 17 tonnes.

This is where the first level of the disagreement starts. The Global North argues that all countries need to reduce their emissions if the world is to cut down fast enough to avoid any future catastrophe. After all, the atmosphere cannot discriminate against a molecule of carbon dioxide in terms of its geographical origins. It is pointed out that even though China and India are much poorer than the Global North, their pollution quantities are very high. Indeed, China is the highest carbon polluter; India comes in at number three. Should China and India be allowed to reduce their emissions at a slower rate while the richer countries cut emissions at a much faster rate bearing a larger share of the costs? This is in itself a thorny source

of disagreement with ethical justifications coming from both the positions adopted.

There are two possibilities at this point. If all nations agree on the North's proposal, which incidentally the majority of nations are converging on after CoP26 in Britain, then countries like India will have to bear a larger share of the world's transition costs to a low carbon, zero net-emissions economy. The richer countries had pledged 100 billion per year till 2020 as aid to help defray the costs faced by the poorer nations, but most of it has been coming in terms of loans. It was estimated that only 20 billion came as grants in 2020. The other outcome, which has been what the advocates of climate justice wish for, is that different countries take differential responsibilities for bearing the costs of reduction. The fair distribution of these burdens would be arrived at by looking at the historical contributions of these nations to the total stock currently floating in the atmosphere. One estimate puts the Global North's contribution at 92 per cent of the existing stock, while the poorer nations have contributed a mere 8 per cent. The richest one per cent of the global population pollutes more than double of what the bottom 50 per cent do. In such a situation, nations like Britain or the US would bear a far larger share of the burden than India or China because the historical contributions of the latter are minuscule compared to that of the former. Even if the nations of the world all agreed to this potentially conflict-laden algorithm, there would be another layer of important questions that would require attention. Not only are there rich and poor countries, there are also rich and poor people in every nation. If nations cut emissions with all citizens taking hits, it would become obvious that the rich would be

less affected and the poor would have to bear a large burden through loss of livelihoods, jobs and incomes. At the moment, nothing is being done at any speed which reflects the urgency that the crisis calls for. However, changes have occurred, consciousness is on the rise, and governments are finding it increasingly difficult to shy away from the problem. Everybody (including post-Donald Trump US) pays at least lip service to the need for reducing emissions.

What climate activists are advocating is the need to look at climate justice as being integrated to the need to reduce social and economic injustice. In every nation, the poorest of the poor and the disadvantaged are the racial, religious and ethnic minorities that would be hit the hardest if ocean levels rise as temperatures increase. In India, for instance, the coastal cities with large densities of poor populations will be badly affected. Drought and heatwaves are on the rise. The frequency of cyclones and storms have increased too. The impact is visible and perceptible. The estimated reduction in the productivity of food grains is an ominous signal. Water shortages are being felt in green belts like Punjab. The current decision to ban the export of wheat is a reflection of the perilous position of food security. The rich are hardly affected. To tweak an example cited by Milton Friedman many years ago, if the rich lose running hot water, there will immediately be servants running with steaming buckets! Without climate justice, the poor and disadvantaged are going to get squeezed either way. If catastrophes occur, they will be hit the hardest. If emissions are reduced aggressively and costs are borne uniformly, then, too, the poor will find it difficult and unfair.

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



# The Barbecue Magic!

Kristine Nolin

The mere thought of barbecue's smokey scents and intoxicating flavors is enough to get most mouths watering. Summer is here, and that means it is barbecue season for many people in the U.S.

I am a chemist who studies compounds found in nature, and I am also a lover of food – including barbecue. Cooking on a grill may seem simple, but there is a lot of chemistry that sets barbecue apart from other cooking methods and results in such a delicious experience.

## COOKING WITH FIRE

First, it is important to define barbecue because the term can mean different things in different cultures or geographic locations. At its most basic, barbecue is the cooking of food over an open flame. What sets barbecue apart from other cooking methods is how heat reaches the food.

On a barbecue, the hot grill grates heat the food via direct contact through a process known as conduction. The food also warms and cooks by absorbing radiation directly from the flames below. The mix of heating methods allows you to sear the parts of the food touching the grill while simultaneously cooking the parts that aren't touching the griddle – like the sides and top – through radiating heat. The resulting range of temperatures creates a complex mixture of flavors and aromas. When cooking on a stovetop, there is much less radiation and most of the cooking is done where the food is in direct contact with the pan.

When barbecuing, you can either put the food directly above the flames – what is called direct heat – or farther away on indirect heat. The direct cooking method subjects the food to very high temperatures, as the grilling surface can be anywhere from 500 to 700 degrees Fahrenheit (260 to 371 Celsius). The indirect cooking method places the heat source to the side of the food or far below, exposing the food to temperatures around 200 to 300 F (93 to 149 C).

Cooking is the process of using high temperatures to drive chemical reactions that change food at a molecular level. When you cook meat at higher temperatures – like over direct heat on a barbecue – the first thing to happen is that water near the meat's surface boils off. Once the surface is dry, the heat causes the proteins and sugars on the outside of the meat to undergo a reaction called the Maillard Reaction. This reaction produces a complex mixture of molecules that make food taste more savory or "meaty" and adds depth to scents and flavors. The reaction and the flavors it produces are influenced by many variables, including temperature and



acidity as well as the ingredients within any sauces, rubs or marinades.

A similar process occurs with vegetables. Barbecuing allows the water to evaporate or drip down without getting trapped by a pan. This keeps the vegetables from becoming soggy and promotes caramelization reactions. These reactions turn carbohydrates and sugars into smaller compounds like maltol – which has a toasty flavor – and furan – which tastes nutty, meaty and caramel-like.

## CHAR AND CRISP

Another hallmark of barbecued food is the unique char it develops. When foods are exposed to heat for prolonged periods of time, non-carbon atoms in the food break down, leaving behind the crispy, black carbon. This is the process of burning or charring.

Almost no one likes a completely burnt piece of meat, but little splashes of crispy char flavor can add such depth to foods. Cooking over the direct heat of a barbecue allows you to add just the amount of char to match your taste.

Unfortunately for those who like a little extra crisp, some of the chemicals in charred

meat – molecules called heterocyclic amines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons – are known carcinogens. Though the dangers are far lower than smoking cigarettes, for example, limiting the amount of charring on meats can help reduce the risk of developing cancer.

## SMOKEY FLAVORS

The final quintessential barbecue flavor is smokiness. Cooking over wood or charcoal involves a lot of smoke. Even on a gas grill, melting fats will drip onto the heat source and produce smoke. As smoke swirls around the barbecue, the food will absorb its flavors.

Smoke is made up of gases, water vapor and small solid particles from the fuel. Burning wood breaks down molecules called lignans, and these turn into smaller organic molecules – including syringol and guaiaacol – that are mainly responsible for the quintessential smokey flavor.

When smoke comes in contact with food, the components of the smoke can get absorbed. Food is particularly good at taking on smokey flavors because it contains both fats and water. Each binds to different types of molecules. In chemistry terms, fats are

non-polar – meaning they have a weak electric charge – and easily grab other non-polar molecules. Water is polar – meaning it has areas of positive charge and an area of negative charge similar to a magnet – and is good at binding to other polar molecules. Some foods are better at absorbing smokey flavors than others, depending on their composition. One way to use chemistry to make food more smokey is to periodically spray it with water during the barbecuing process.

Smoke can contain hundreds of possible carcinogens depending on what you are burning. Only a small amount of research has been done on whether grilled foods absorb enough smoke to pose a significant risk to health. But researchers know that inhaling smoke is strongly correlated with cancer.

While the idea of barbecuing your favorite dish may evoke the feeling of simple pleasures, the science behind it is quite complex. The next time you enjoy the smoky goodness of food from a grill, you will hopefully appreciate the diverse nature of the compounds and reactions that helped produce it.

–By Arrangements with The Conversation

## What is the “Shop Local” Trend?

Empire Creative

Have you heard a recent conversation around Small Business Saturday and National Small Business Week? Both holidays have helped jumpstart a trend of shopping local, and are celebrated nationally in communities big and small. However... shouldn't we be supporting our community businesses year-round?

### What is #shoplocal? Why is it trendy?

Shopping local is the act of everyday consumers, like you, making the decision to buy your produce, clothing and day to day items from a local business instead of going to a large retailer.

**Shopping locally is the trendy new way to create a one-of-a-kind neighborhood.**

The Shop Local/Shop Small trend has many benefits, such as building relationships within the community and helping support the local economy, all while building a more vibrant and unified society. Really, who doesn't feel a bit more warm and fuzzy knowing that they're supporting their neighbors?

When buying from business owners you trust, shopping experiences become more enjoyable because you know where the products are coming from and the people behind the products.

When you shop locally, many of the goods and services are locally sourced or crafted. This means that many of your pieces are one of a kind and carry a unique story. Handcrafted jewelry, artwork from local artisans, baked goods made with recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation...

**Everything has a story to tell – you get to help tell it.**

Visiting local shops and restaurants and choosing to spend locally gives you the opportunity to network and befriend your neighbors. Making connections with the people that surround you encourages word-of-mouth marketing and creates the unified community that we all dream of belonging to.

### “Shop Local” Benefits the Economy

Choosing to spend locally allows money to be cycled back into your community, which means you are helping boost the local economy. This means opportunities for local businesses to give back in ways of sponsorships and community events. Investing in people in your area is an easy way for you to pay it forward to people in your community.

Shopping local also helps ensure your tax money (which is going to be spent anyway) is going back into your regional tax base. Local taxes are then used for parks, roads and community improvements which we all benefit from on a daily basis.

**When you shop local, not only are you helping grow your area's economy, but you're helping grow the dreams of your neighbor.**

YOU can be the difference in whether the bakery down the street survives or dies after 2 years. YOU can be the regular customer that makes the difference so Mike, the local craftsman, is able to send his 3 girls to college. By spending your time and money in local stores, you have the ability to change people's lives.

### What Does Shopping Local Really Mean?

Shopping local means enjoying, sharing about, and supporting small businesses in your area.

Shopping local means recommending and sharing your experiences. Sharing your recent treasures and finds on social media allows your friends and followers to see that you're proud to support local business, and they should be too! Using the hashtag #shoplocal connects you with other lovers of local businesses and helps grow the community surrounding this movement. Even just tagging the city that you live in allows your posts to reach a bigger audience and helps keep the trend alive.

**The power of a personal referral is unparalleled to any other form of marketing.**

Shopping local is not limited to

only purchasing goods and services from within your zip code. Many would define locality by region! Being in the League City, TX area, it's important to us that we spread our loyalty throughout Webster, Friendswood, Pearland and even Galveston! There are thousands of artisans and entrepreneurs in the Greater Houston area who rely tremendously on local business to keep their dreams alive.

Shopping local can extend online. Choosing to purchase goods through sites such as Etsy or boutique online stores instead of large corporate sites allows you to support the everyday artisan and keeps these businesses alive. You provide the means for those crafters to continue working hard and doing what they love. Simple changes in online shopping habits can change people's day-to-day lives in a positive way, and all you have to do is click a mouse.

Going out, shopping at local stores and eating at local restaurants is, however, the best way to build relationships and make your community aware of your support. Putting yourself in the environment to make new friends and get to know those in your community, you are networking and potentially creating new opportunities for yourself.

**Shopping locally is the perfect way to get to know people and discover new places you love!**

Visiting local shops and restaurants and choosing to spend locally gives you the opportunity to network and befriend your neighbors. Making connections with the people that surround you encourages word of mouth marketing and creates the unified community that we all dream of belonging to.

Making a point to shop local and show your support at least once a week throughout the year will change your community. So instead of waiting until Small Business Saturday to stop by a local retailer, go today to check out and uncover your new favorite places in town!



KODAK MOMENTS



Kids playing in snow at Lolab Valley, Kupawar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Photo by Rayees Dar (@imrayeesdar)

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# J&K Bank Conducts Customer Meet in Pahalgam

Our Progress Mainly Linked To The Growth Of Businesses In J&K: MD & CEO

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** With customer convenience as the cornerstone of our approach to business, J&K Bank remain fully committed to enhance the value of all stakeholders for, we believe, we are just the custodians of this institution that actually belongs to the people. And we see our progress mainly linked to the growth of businesses in J&K and excellence of our services.

J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash stated this on Saturday while chairing the meeting to get first-hand stock of issues faced by the customers at Pahalgam. Bank's General Managers Syed Rais Maqbool and Syed Shafat Hussain Rufai, Zonal Head Anantnag Shabir Ahmad, Branch Head Mudasir Beigh and senior officials of the bank were present at the meet. Prominent customers from business community and civil society included President Hotelier Association Dildar Ahmad Khan, owner Hotel Pine-N-Peak



Mohd Asif Burza and Chairman Municipal Committee Pahalgam Owais Ahmad.

While putting forth their issues and demands, the customers appreciated Bank's workforce for extending good customer services.

Reiterating Bank's commitment to ensure inclusiveness in its approach towards the society, MD & CEO told the participants, "We are here to get a firsthand account of your problems and issues. We are

partners and like a family we have forged strong relationships with each other. As our success hinges on each other's progress, it is our primary duty as an institution to meet all your genuine expectations."

Earlier, stating that every economic success story in this part of world has Bank's hand in it, the participants exhorted upon the Bank management to upgrade its infrastructure in terms of premises and more touch points.

"Bank's compassionate

nature in dealing with its clientele stands out and that is what makes it premier bank in J&K. Pahalgam is a famous tourist destination and requires more attention from J&K Bank in terms of infrastructure, touch points and CSR intervention in education sector," the participants demanded.

In response, MD Baldev Prakash said, "The branch premises will be given a suitable face-lift till we set up an entirely new premises here. We will also explore possibilities of having more touch points like recyclers in the area," he said. With Pahalgam being famed tourist destination besides enroute Shri Amarnath Ji Cave, he said, the Bank is determined to provide state-of-the-art banking facilities to the customers, tourists and pilgrims visiting the place.

The customers thanked the Bank for arranging the customer meet with MD & CEO himself in chair and hoped more such interactions will take place to strengthen the relations further.

# 6 In 1 Vaccination – A Big Boon For Babies And Parents: Says Dr. Mohammad Ashraf

Immunization Coverage In Jammu & Kashmir Must Increase From 86.2% To 90%; More Focus Is Needed In Urban Areas

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Children are exposed to an innumerable number of germs, some of which can cause serious diseases. A child's immune system is still developing, and it cannot fight against all deadly diseases. According to the World Health Organization, immunization is one of the most successful public health interventions to prevent deaths from infections such as diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus in all age groups. The 6 in 1 combination vaccination helps protect children from 6 serious illnesses: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, haemophilus influenza type B, hepatitis B, and polio.

Polio can lead to paralysis and disability. Hepatitis B is a viral infection that affects the liver and can lead to short-term or long-term complications. Diphtheria is a serious throat infection. Tetanus can lead to muscle spasms and difficulty breathing. Pertussis is a respiratory disease that can be serious in young infants, and Hib disease also includes serious illnesses such as pneumonia or brain fever. The use of 6 in 1 vaccination could result in fewer injection pricks meaning less pain along with timely protection for the child, and less discomfort for the parents too. It could also mean fewer visits to the doctor and less time off from work or family activity.

Speaking about this, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf, Consultant pediatric nephrology, GB Panth Hospital Srinagar, said, Combination vaccination offers multiple advantages and is a boon for parents. It reduces the need to visit the doctor's clinic multiple times for completing



the child's immunization schedule and the number of pricks the child must endure (and therefore saves parents from unnecessary anxiety). While there is more awareness about vaccination today, it is still the pediatrician's responsibility to inform parents about the various vaccination options available for their child.

According to the immunization schedule of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, children would need to take the DTP-IPV-Hib-HepB vaccines at the age of 6, 10 and 14 weeks. 6-in-1 vaccination provides protection for these 6 diseases. 6 in 1 vaccination would mean that children take only 2 injections (i.e. 6 in 1 vaccination and pneumococcal vaccination) and 1 oral vaccine (rotavirus vaccination) on each of these occasions. For more information, please consult your Paediatrician.

In recent years, India has intensified its efforts to increase

immunization coverage in the country, which has resulted in significant improvement as shown by the National Family Health Survey - NFHS-5. The percentage of children aged 12 to 23 months who are fully vaccinated" has increased from 62% (NFHS-4; 2015-16) to 76.4% (NFHS-5; 2019-21) in India and from 75% to 86.2% in Jammu & Kashmir. A recent study has also demonstrated that there has been a marked improvement in immunization coverage in rural areas, but limited improvement in urban areas.

More needs to be done to make parents aware of the benefits of immunization and the availability of vaccines, to increase full immunization coverage to 90% and beyond. With combination vaccination, children receive fewer shots which could also help provide same level of protection as they would have with separate vaccination.

# Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Moves SC Seeking Intervention In Plea Against Places Of Worship Act

Agences

**New Delhi:** Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking intervention in a pending petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The plea said that petitioner advocate Ashvini Upadhyay has raised grounds which have already been considered and decided by the constitution bench of the top court.

Even if all the allegations of the petitioner are assumed to be

true, it is nothing but seeking a correction of historical wrongs, the Muslim body said.

"This court has categorically held that the law cannot be used as a device to reach back in time and provide a legal remedy to every person who disagrees with the course which history has taken and that the courts of today cannot take cognizance of historical rights and wrongs unless it is shown that their legal consequences are enforceable in the present.

"In fact, this court categorically held that this court cannot

entertain claims that from actions of the Mughal rulers against Hindu Places of Worship in a court of law today," the plea said.

The organisation said there is no conflict between the Waqf Act and the Places of the Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 as alleged by Upadhyay as Section 7 of the 1991 Act gives it an overriding effect over other enactments.

"Further, in any event, the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 being a special vehicle act to preserve the secular fabric of the country will

in any event take precedence over a general enactment.

"There is a list of numerous mosques which is doing the rounds on social media, alleging that the mosques were built allegedly by destroying Hindu places of worship.

"Needless to say that if the present petition is entertained, it will open floodgates of litigation against countless mosques in the country and the religious divide from which the country is recovering in the aftermath of the Ayodhya dispute will only be widened," the plea said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Militant Killed

Friday, Army and police launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Reshipora village of Verinag on the basis of specific information regarding presence of a militant in the village, a defence spokesperson said Saturday.

Three hours after the operation was launched, he said, the hiding militant indiscriminately fired at the search team and tried to escape by "targeting civilians" to divert the attention of the forces.

In the militant's firing, the spokesperson claimed that a civilian Mukhtar Ahmed Malik was grievously injured

"Sensing grave threat to the life of the injured civilian, two of our brave soldiers, Lance Naik Achal Patwari and Sepoy Amandeep Singh commenced his extraction from the operation site, despite being heavily fired upon by the terrorist," he said.

The spokesperson further said that the soldiers with complete disregard to their own safety, were successful in evacuating the civilian to a safe location. However, due to incessant fire from the militant, he said, both the soldiers received gunshot wounds.

"All three injured individuals were immediately airlifted to 92 Base Hospital by Army Helicopter. Timely evacuation and medical intervention led to the saving of all three precious lives," he said. Forces and

Around 1:00 am Saturday, the spokesperson said that the lone militant again fired at the forces and attempted to escape through a nearby nallah.

However, the alert troops, he said, effectively engaged the escaping militant and neutralised him.

The spokesperson said that one AK-rifle along with other warlike stores were recovered from the slain militant.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson in a hand-out issued here Saturday evening identified the slain militant as Nisar Khanday, Hizb commander active since the year 2018.

As per police records, he said, Khanday was a categorized militant and was part of the groups involved in several cases including attacks on Police/SF and "civilian atrocities".

The spokesperson said that Khanday was detained under PSA after he was arrested with arms and ammunition in 2000.

Before joining militant ranks in 2018, he said, the killed commander was working as the militant associate of HM.

"He has been involved in several killings of civilians and security forces besides mastermind in fresh recruitment of youth in terror rank," he added.

According to the spokesperson, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar congratulated the joint teams for carrying out the operation in professional manner and neutralising the wanted militant commander.

"He also appreciated the valour and dedication of injured personnel and prayed for their speedy recovery," he said.

The spokesperson further said that incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 AK-47 rifle was recovered from the site

of encounter. He said all the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

"In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," He added.

### 'Militant, Two Aides

one person was killed and 14 were injured, officials said on Saturday. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh told reporters here that a number of suspects were questioned before the investigators zeroed in on and arrested Mohammad Ramzan Sohail, a resident of Halla Bohar Dhar in Ramban district.

The other two arrested accused were identified as Khurshed Ahmed of Motla Dessia in Doda and Nisar Ahmed Khan of Bhaderwah.

Sohil confessed to planting the IED on the directions of his handler Mohammad Amin, alias Khubaib, a resident of Kathawa Thathri in Doda who is currently based in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK), the police officer said.

The improvised explosive device (IED) blast took place on March 9 outside the court complex in Slathia Chowk where fruit and vegetable vendors put up their carts.

Sohil's father Mohammad Ishaq Sohail was a trained militant of the LeT and was neutralised in 2003, the ADGP said.

"Sohil was in contact with...Khubaib through social media. He was instructed to fix one sticky bomb IED at Slathia Chowk and keep another at a safe place for future use," he said, adding that the second IED has been recovered.

He received an amount of Rs 30,000 in his Jammu and Kashmir Bank account on March 23 for the blast he carried out in Udhampur as promised by Khubaib, the ADGP said.

Singh said the amount was deposited in Sohail's account by Khurshed Ahmed on the directions of Khubaib.

"Khurshed's brother-in-law, named Bilal Ahmed Butt, is a trained terrorist of the LeT," he said.

The third arrested accused, Nisar Ahmed Khan, was a trained LeT militant and remained active in Doda district between 2001 and 2006, he said.

On the directions of Khubaib, he picked up two IEDs -- in December 2021 and January 2022 -- from Belicharana in Jammu, the police officer said.

The investigation in the case was underway and more people are expected to be arrested, the ADGP said, adding 15 people have been identified for questioning in connection with various other militant incidents. (PTI)

### Youth Slapped

justifying killing of artiste Ambreen Bhat on YouTube channel has not only caused alarm and fear amongst the class of people performing art, singing, dancing etc. but also the families associated with them," he said.

"Moreover, this act also amount to supporting terrorist act, besides such videos have tendency to make more people vulnerable to such attacks," he added.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said that Bhat involved in "spreading hate and venom" on the social media site has been detained and lodged in Kot Balwal Jail, Jammu.

"Police once again advises the social media users not to get involved in such filthy acts and avoid falling prey to such anti-social and anti-national agenda. Community members are requested to share any such information with Police so that legal action under law shall be taken against such anti-social/anti-national elements," he added.

### Pole Orders Prompt

based employees working in different government departments.

"Besides, he also reviewed the status of applications received by these employees to the place of their choice in secure areas," the spokesperson said.

"All the officers informed the meeting regarding the progress achieved in addressing the service matters of PM Package employees including seniority and couple transfers," he added.

According to the spokesperson, Pole stressed on officers to contact every such employee and enquire about their interest of transfer.

"He said those who give consent to transfer should be posted at District headquarters or in Municipal Towns or within the radius of 3 kilometers of municipal town," he said.

Moreover, he said, the Div Com appreciated all District and Division officers for the prompt action regarding transfer of the employees to ensure their safety.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division and the Directors, Managing Director, Mission Directors, Divisional HoDs of all civil departments, the spokesperson added.

### BJP Seeks Action

social media platforms.

"Making the transfer list public on social media platforms is a big security breach as terrorists now have a clear idea who is posted where," BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur said in a statement.

He urged the government to take strong note of the leak and zero in on the people who made the list public at a time when targeted killings are taking place in the Valley.

The BJP spokesman said that officers involved in the act should be reprimanded and action be taken against them.

Thakur said while the government was taking serious steps for the protection of Kashmiri Pandits, some officials were playing spoilsport.

### HC Takes Note

mushrooming of news portals without due procedure of law.

The Division bench in its orders directed the petitioner to approach the concerned authority

with a detailed representation giving suggestions therein for stopping the mushrooming of news portals on social media.

"In the event, the petitioner so submits the representation and the suggestions, the Government and the Principal Secretary, Information Department would be free to consider the same and take an appropriate action most expeditiously as may be permissible in law," directs the order of the court.

The litigants in their PIL had brought into the notice of the court the unabated mushrooming growth of news agencies on social media, especially the news portals which are involved in circulating fake news.

In the plea, it was also alleged that in the Union Territory, several such news portals like Kashmir News, Kashmir Voice, Kashmir Breaking News, News Kashmir 24/7 etc are operating freely without any registration or license from any authority and these news portals are not under supervision and control of any authority whatsoever.

The bench was also apprised about the existence of multiple unregulated/ unregistered news agencies operating via Whatsapp, Facebook, YouTube and other electronic news agencies, especially engaged in the transmission of various types of news bulletins and reports.

"In absence of any permission having been granted by the competent authority for running a news portal it is sufficient to infer that there is no proper, legal and regulatory mechanism in place at present with the result a state of confusion prevails on the subject as to the genuineness of any news transmitted by such channels/ portals," the petitioners said.

The petitioners further contended that these Facebook and WhatsApp journalists have now moved a step ahead by blackmailing the Government as well as private officials, civil contractors etc on a daily basis.

The petitioners on these facts and grounds had prayed from the court to pass directions to the government to scrutinize the credentials and antecedents of every person holding any direct or indirect position in any media house, media channel or social media group and identify the Government employees so that they are made to choose either their employment in the Govt or in the media house.

### Protesting Dogra

highway by sit-in in the area in the heart of the city.

Raising slogans 'give us justice', 'Rajni Bala Amar Rahay', they refused to join their duties in Kashmir due to chain of target killings of Hindus.

Rashpal Singh, who was part of the protest, said that they will not return to Kashmir to resume their duties in the prevailing alarming situation following the targeted killings.

"We prefer to die here rather than go back," he said.

Meanwhile, few thousand families of Kashmiri Pandits, who have got jobs in the valley under Prime Minister's employment

package, have reached here along with their families and said an environment of apprehension is prevalent in the valley owing to the recent spate of targeted killings by militants.

The Pandits said they have heaved a sigh of relief on reaching their township at Jagti in the outskirts of Jammu after spending sleepless nights in their rented accommodations in the Kashmir over the past few weeks.

### Satish Chandra

Section 93 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and S.O. 3937 (E) dated 31st October, 2019, read with Order issued in terms of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the Proclamation issued by the President dated 31st October, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is pleased to appoint Mr. Satish Chandra, IAS (Rtd.), as Chairman, Public Service Commission for the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads a government order

"He shall hold the position of the Chairman, Public Service Commission, till he attains the age of sixty two years. His appointment shall take effect from the date he assumes the office," the order adds.

### Govt Shifts Six

has been transferred and posted as Director SKPA, Udhampur, relieving Dr. S.D. Singh, IPS (RR:95) of the additional charge of the post.

Vikramjit Singh, IPS (RR:2004), awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as IGP Traffic, J&K VIVEK Gupta, IPS (RR:2007), DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, holding additional charge of DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range, has transferred and posted as DIG Traffic Jammu, relieving Javid Ahmed Koul, IPS of the additional charge of the post. "He shall continue to hold the additional charge of the post of DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range," the order reads.

Dr. Mohd. Haseeb Mughal, IPS, SSP PCR Jammu, has been transferred and posted as I/C DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range.

Javid Ahmed Koul, IPS, SO to ADGP Traffic, J&K, holding additional charge of DIG Traffic Kashmir and DIG Traffic, Jammu, has transferred and posted as Incharge DIG Traffic Kashmir, against an available vacancy. "He shall also hold the charge of the post of SO to IGP Traffic, J&K".

Shahid Mehraj Rather, IPS, Commandant IR 6th Bn, has been transferred and posted as incharge DIG Armed Kashmir against an available vacancy.

### Jammu Adds Five

the overall tally to 454276-166495 in Jammu division and 287781 in Kashmir.

There was also no death due to the pathogen reported in the last 24 hours, they said. So far 4752 persons have succumbed to the virus-2328 in Jammu and 2424 in Kashmir.

Besides, they said, eight Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—six from Jammu division and two from Kashmir Valley. So far 449466 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 58-53 in Jammu and 5 in Kashmir.



## SIA Conducts Searches In Poonch

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** State Investigation Agency (SIA) conducted searches and seizures at various locations in Poonch district of Jammu, police said.

"State Investigation Agency (SIA), a Specialized Agency has been constituted by the Government of Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for the investigation and prosecution of (militancy)-related cases," SIA said in a statement. A special team

of SIA Jammu visited Poonch in connection with the investigation of an "important case of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of Police Station JIC, Jammu."

"The team visited various important locations on the border and conducted search and seizure," it said, adding, "It is worth mentioning here that Director SIA after reviewing the working of SIA Jammu has issued strict directions to speed up investigations and all efforts be made to Unearth (militant) networks."

## Police Books 'Notorious Fraudster' Under PSA In Budgam

### Observer News Service

**W**Police on Saturday said that it has booked a notorious fraudster under Public Safety Act (PSA) for his unrelenting involvement in manifold criminal-social activities and deceiving/looting the gullible people on the pretext of providing them government jobs, contracts from government departments, against hefty amount and duping people in fake land deals.

Mohammad Shafi Bhat of Nadirgund, Peerbagh, as per a police spokesperson is a chronic habitual cheater. He said that the accused was detained under

PSA after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities for his involvement in 6 cases of cheating already registered against him across district Budgam.

He said that Bhat's repeated offences and activities had created resentment among the public and turned into law & order situation, for which he had been booked and lodged in Kot Balwal Jail Jammu.

The spokesperson urged the community members to be aware and not to fell prey to such fraudsters and report any such suspicious or fraudulent activity as early as possible.

## SASB Condoles Demise Of Santoor Legend Pandit Bhajan Sopori

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor of J&K and Chairman, SASB, Manoj Sinha, and Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Nitishwar Kumar expressed their grief with heartfelt condolence on the sad demise of Pandit Bhajan Sopori, who was also a former member of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

A Condolence meeting was held in the office of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and a two-minute silence was observed in the memory of the Santoor Legend. All the staff members prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and forbearance to the bereaved family.

The Chairman, SASB in his condolence message said, "Pandit Bhajan Sopori was one of the most celebrated exponents of Santoor in the country. His masterly performances were appreciated by the connoisseurs of music in India and abroad. I had many occasions to interact with Pandit Ji and found him deeply committed towards the well-being and development of UT of J&K.

He played an important role as a member of SASB in suggesting many innovative ideas for making the Yatra more and more Pilgrim friendly, popular and hassle-free. The void caused by his death would be hard to fill."

## Maternal And Child Health Priority Sector Of Health Care: DHSK

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather on Saturday said maternal and child health is a priority sector for the directorate and the services have been developed in every district 24/7.

The director said for maternal and child health the health department continues its efforts and the services have been upgraded over the past few years in every district 24/7. For the paediatric health care services, he said neonatal intensive care units (NICU) and paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) have been created across hospitals in Kashmir.

Dr MA Rather said due to the improved services it has reduced

infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality rate (MMR) to a large extent.

"We are almost doing wonderfully well across the country as the facilities have been improved over the past many years," he said.

However, in order to further improve the services, the directorate has also desired to start 24/7 services in maternity and child health care health in various sub-district hospitals so that the referral rates are reduced and maternal and infant mortalities are reduced.

The directorate has also desired to start 24/7 maternity and child care services five days a week (from Monday to Friday) at SDH Chadoora. While other places are being explored in every district for starting of MCH services there.

### NEWBORN'S WRONG DEATH DECLARATION

## Two Doctors, Nurse Attached On Panel's Recommendation

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The health department has attached two doctors, including the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Banihal after a panel constituted to probe the wrong declaration of a newborn as dead just after her birth at the Banihal Community Health Centre last month.

The committee formed by Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman to conduct enquiry into the matter in which a new born baby was wrongly declared dead, has submitted its report, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

"According to the recommendation of the enquiry committee and its findings, BMO Banihal Dr Rabia Parveen has been attached at DH Ramban," he said.

Similarly, he said, Dr Robina Akhter has been attached at CHC Gool and Junior Staff Nurse EH Banihal Samina Begum has been attached with BMO Office Gool.

"Moreover, Consultant Gynaecologist EH Banihal Dr Girdhari Lal Manhas and Medical Officer EH Banihal, Dr Sakib Khan (MD Paediatrics) have been issued warning to remain careful and punctual



towards their duties in future," the spokesperson added.

On May 24, the Directorate of Health Services constituted a four-member panel after a family alleged that the medical staff at Banihal Community Health Centre had wrongly declared their newborn dead just after her birth.

The baby girl had survived miraculously after a local resident objected to her burial in his fields without his knowledge, forcing her family to dig up the grave within an hour of the burial.

The incident sparked protests inside the CHC Banihal, also known as sub-district hospital Banihal, by the relatives of the girl against the

medical staff, prompting the block medical officer to suspend two employees posted at the labour room, and order a probe.

Director Health Services, Jammu, Saleem-ur-Rehman took the incident seriously and constituted a four-member committee and asked it to submit its report within two days. The baby was admitted in the government-run super specialty G B Pant children hospital in Srinagar, where she passed away.

The baby belonged to Basharat Ahmad Gujjar and Shameema Begum, who had a normal delivery Monday morning at the sub-district hospital. They hail from Bankoot village, 3 kms from Banihal town.

## Over 71% Neonatal Deaths In Born, 25 Percent Out-Born: Study

'Weight Of Over 67 Percent Babies Who Die Remains Below 2.5 Kg'

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A survey on causes and pattern of neonatal mortality in tertiary care neonatal unit of GMC Jammu has revealed that over 70 percent deaths at this stage were found inborn besides 25 percent out-born and rest in home-deliveries.

The survey was conducted by Department of Paediatrics, Government Medical College, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir to find the pattern and causes of neonatal mortality.

"Neonatal mortality continues to be a major contributor to infant mortality in developing countries. The daily risk of a mortality in neonatal period is 30 times higher than that from 1 month to 5 years of age," reads the survey.

The survey states: "Current neonatal mortality rate (NMR) of India is 21.6 per 1000 live births. (2020). Given the infant and under-five child mortality rates of 28.26 (2020) and 34.27 (2020) per 1000 live births, respectively, 70% of total infant deaths and more than 50% of under-five deaths fall in neonatal period. Although NMR has declined from 29.6 per 1000 live births in 2010 to 25.8 per 1000 live births in 2015 with the introduction of the National Rural Health Mission in mid-2005 but the rate of decline is so slow that India missed the target to achieve the fourth Millennium Development: Goal (MDG-4), which aimed to reduce IMR by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015." Infant mortality rate is the best indicator of maternal and child health services in general."

"Median age at admission was 2h (range 0.17 to 624) and median hospital stay was 15 days (IQR 1 to 5 days) with range 0.2 to 47 days. A total of 101 deaths occurred over a period of 2 months. Seventy-one percent (71.29%) deaths were inborn, whereas 24.75% and 3.96% were out-born and home-delivered, respectively," it states.

"Sixty-seven (67.32%) deaths were of less than 2.5kg weight among which 36.63% were less than 1.5kg weight Median weight was 2kg with SD of 0.8kg. Fifty-seven (57%) of deaths occurred 48 h after birth," the survey states.

The median maternal age at first

childbirth in India is 19.9 years; -30% of girls give birth before the age of 20 and account for 21% of all deliveries, the survey says.

"It is estimated that the risks of neonatal mortality and low birth weight (LBW) are increased by almost 50% if maternal age at childbirth is 20 years. It is also estimated that shifting age at childbirth to above 20 years would reduce overall NMR by 9.4%," it states. "Evidence shows that improving maternal education is the most effective and proven strategy to improve neonatal survival, as it improves preventive behaviours and increases the utilization of maternal and neonatal health-care services. Kerala's achievement of stabilizing population growth and low levels of infant and neonatal mortality is partly attributed to its high female education levels."

It is pertinent to mention here that it was a record-based observational study of all the neonatal deaths in the neonatal unit over a period of two months from November 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 in which details of each neonatal death was analysed—(KNO)

## JK Govt Should Restore Confidence Of Minorities: Bukhari

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Saturday sought an end to the senseless targeted killing of innocent people in Kashmir and appealed to the people of the valley to come forward and support the government's efforts in restoring confidence among the minorities.

His remarks came days after a 29-year-old bank manager from Rajasthan and a labourer from Bihar were killed in Kulgam and Budgam districts. Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed eight targeted killings

since May 1. Three of the victims were off-duty policemen and five were civilians.

Bukhari said the government should ensure safety and security of the people working in various government departments and avoid posting of members of minority communities in far-flung areas.

"The protection of the life of the minorities is the responsibility of the government. In these circumstances, the confidence of the people can be restored by providing them adequate security at their workplace and accommodation," he said.

He also appealed to the people of Kashmir Valley to come forward and support the government for the restoration of confidence among the minorities.

"We demand an end to the senseless targeted killing of innocent people in Kashmir which has spread fear among minorities," Bukhari said.

On Saturday, Advocate Dimple Kumar Mottan from R S Pura and Advocate Manmeet Singh from Jammu joined the Apni Party in the presence of Bukhari. He welcomed them into the party and hoped that their joining would strengthen the organisation.

## KIIT Ranked Among Top Indian Universities

Adjudged the 12th Best in General Engineering Discipline

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Steps fall short often when someone calculates the strides made by the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, and the rankings it has bagged in a plethora of disciplines down those years.

One more laurel comes its way as it has been ranked as the 23rd best Indian university in the overall category by the Times Higher Education in its Asia University Rankings for 2022, a giant leap forward of seven places over last year.

In The Legion of Tops

In the General Engineering (Overall category), the University jumped three places to the 12th position, which is higher than some of the IITs and prestigious private universities in the country. With an overall score of 32+, KIIT has been ranked in the cohort of 201-250 in the Asian continent, and among a handful of Indian universities that have made it to the ranking list.

This is a significant achievement for the University, which was established as an institute about 25 years back, and is considered a relatively young university in comparison to the established ones.

According to the 2022 ranking list, the University has emerged as the best in Odisha, edging past other government and private-run universities that have found mentioned in the ranking list. "KIIT has been performing at par with the prestigious institutions in India like the IITs,

NITs, and other reputed universities.

Out-Smarter the Bigs  
KIIT, which has placed a concerted focus on the citation, research, and international outlook, has done exceedingly well in these categories. In the Citation category, the university has scored 45.6 points. Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, which has topped the Indian universities, has scored 31.5 points in this category.

In the International Outlook category, KIIT has scored 22.1 points and in Research Category, it has scored 15.3 points. Similarly, in the Teaching Category, it has scored 31.5 points.

In the Industry Income category, the university has scored 66.2 points, which is one of the best among the Indian universities and one of the prime contributors to pushing up KIIT's overall ranking.

KIIT-DU is the only self-financing university from eastern India and Odisha to enter the prestigious THE Asia University Rankings, which list the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger. KIIT is only 18 years old as a university and 25 years old as an institute. It has also been achieving and sustaining its impressive positions in various global rankings of higher education institutions.

This is a big success for KIIT as we strive for academic excellence in all spheres, said KIIT and KISS Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta. An elated Staff, students, management, and well-wishers of both KIIT & KISS have profoundly thanked and expressed gratitude to Dr. Samanta for the latest achievement and for his vision to place the University among the best globally.

## DGIS Organizes Mega Feet Washing Event To Mark Mother's Day Programme

Event Aimed To Boost Moral Education & Good Ethics Among Students: Chairman



### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a Unique and first of its kind initiative boosting the students more towards the moral up gradation, Dubai Grand International School (DGIS) on Saturday organized a mega event marking the celebration of 'Mother's Day' at school premises, during which students washed the feet of their mothers.

The mega event saw a record participation of parents in the 'Feet Washing Ceremony' in which students of the school washed the feet of their mothers on Stage.

On the occasion, Chairman of Dubai Grand International School Mohammad Haneef Bhat stated that the event aims to promote moral education and excellent ethics among students in order to assist them distin-

guish between good and bad.

"We are emphasizing on moral education, which teaches a child about the core disciplinary rules of life, in addition to the approved syllabus for students." We ensure that our students are up to the moral principles and absorb a learning for life what a mother means by this practice of washing mothers' feet," he said.

On the occasion students of the school performed various programmes and exhibited contemporary dance that expressed love for Mothers.

The event will also witness an open question answer session between parents and school management.

Pertinent to mention that the event was scheduled on 8 May but due to the sudden demise of the father of the chairman the event was postponed.

## Farmer Centric Reforms Empower Community Socially, Economically: Govt

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The farmer centric reforms launched by Jammu and Kashmir government in past two years have empowered the farmer community socially and economically by increasing their income manifold making them AtmaNirbhar, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

He said that J&K is now among the top five states and UTs in terms of farm income with a monthly income of Rs 18,918 per farmer.

"The UT government is constantly striving to provide farmers with direct access to modern technologies and credit facility besides encouraging natural farming to improve profitability and sustainability in agriculture and allied sectors," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the J&K Agriculture depart-

ment has launched aggressive marketing and branding of local agri-products, mechanization in Agriculture and Horticulture sector. In this regard, High Density Plantation, diversification, better quality seeds, capacity buildings, GI tagging, expansion of banking facilities, micro-irrigation has achieved rich dividends for farmers and have brought a structural change in agriculture and horticulture sector.

He said that more than a million beneficiaries from J&K received direct financial support of Rs. 1983.29 crore during past three years under PM Kisan scheme. Besides, 12 lakh farmers have been issued Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), out of this, 9.46 lakh KCC are live/operative in the UT.

"The J&K government is providing 50 per cent capital support up to Rs. 22.15 lakh per hectare under high density

plantation scheme. A common farmer used to find it difficult to arrange another 50 per cent capital due to the high interest rate. The inclusion of HDPS under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme has made available the credit on interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum for 7 years," he said.

"The credit guarantee coverage made available under credit guarantee fund trust offers loan up to Rs. 2 crore for micro and small enterprises schemes. Besides, promotion of 'Vocal for Local' has opened up a plethora of opportunities for everyone associated with the Agriculture & allied sectors to grow and prosper," he added.

The government is bringing National and International players on board for enhancing the knowledge expertise and providing global market linkages

to J&K's farming community, an official said.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, after inaugurating the five day long 'Kisan Mela' at SKUAST, Jammu, asked the Agriculture Universities of J&K to work on mission mode to connect more farmers with organic farming and horticulture and make them acquainted with the latest scientific knowhow.

Bridging rural gap is among the top priorities of UT administration. In this regard, a strong framework is being developed to increase employment and connect rural youth with the agriculture and horticulture industry. The administration will extend all possible support to Youth involved in agricultural start-ups, LG asserted.

Notably, J&K government is handholding 500 enterprising farmers with knowledge based

intervention every year to harness the potential of organic produce.

The officers of agriculture department are continuously focusing on strengthening economic relationship between farm and market to benefit the farmers and rural population. The farmers are informed and motivated about the benefits of innovation and technologies for welfare of agrarian society. The steps taken by the government will integrate rural areas into modern economic units and increased business opportunities in agro and rural industry can transform the rural economy.

Horticulture has now become backbone of economy of Jammu and Kashmir. From state-of-the-art machinery to new plants, water supply resources for farming, training, expansion of the area of high density plantation, many

innovative measures have been taken in the past one year and many more are in the pipeline for future deliverables aiming at growth of the farming sector.

With special emphasis on promoting best practices in the horticulture sector, significant improvement has been registered in farm productivity and production quality due to exchange of knowledge and ideas.

Due to excellent synergy between farmers and concerned departments, J&K has become one of the top 5 performers in the country in the 'One District One Product' campaign.

Central government through its 64 schemes in the field of horticulture is providing subsidies up to 50 to 100 per cent to the farmers under different components.

With an aim to promote farm mechanization for easy and better produce, 18880 beneficiaries

were provided tractors, tillers, MPS, Irrigation pumps and related agricultural tools in J&K.

Similarly, about 3666 small and mega awareness programmes were organized in J&K to create awareness about various schemes for development of Horticulture. A first buyer-seller meet was organized successfully at Srinagar to promote marketing of fruits at national and international level.

Two Centres of Excellence with a total project cost of Rs.1708.85 lakh have been sanctioned at Zawaora Srinagar and Udhaywala Jammu by Gol under MIDH scheme in the Indo-Dutch work plan. These centres will serve as demonstration and training institutes as well as source of planting material for farmers. Besides, 12000 Kanal of land has been brought under new fruit plantation.



## 5th National Tong-Il Moo Do Cup 2022 Concludes



### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over 400 martial artists, including several international players, from 15 different states of the country participated in the three-day long fifth National Tong IL Moo Do Federation Cup, which concluded on Saturday at Indoor Stadium, Polo View.

The event was organised in association with JKAUMA under its 'Drugs Out, Sport In' initiative, which has witnessed an overwhelming response by youth in schools and colleges. JKAUMA has been organising seminars in different schools and colleges from last about one year across Kashmir Valley.

The national championship, which was supported by A S Gold, Green Globe, Pebble, Alfamiglia, Northcut Enterprises, 5Ghz India Pvt Ltd, Bhasin & Co and Guide the Professionals, concluded at a closing ceremony in which Shakti Kumar Pathak (IPS) Director Special Security Force, Raj Bhawan J&K was the Chief Guest.

DDC Vice Chairman Bilal Bhat, General Secretary Tong-IL Moo-Do Federation of India Mohd Arshid, Mir Nilofar

Rashid Chairperson Alfamiglia and Saba Bhat Chairperson Guide The Professionals were the Guest of Honours.

J&K lifted the first place trophy, Maharashtra won second while Delhi secured third place in the tournament.

Many of the top Indian players were seen in action during the championship which had around 13 teams, including Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Kerala. The national championship had 60 weight categories.

The closing ceremony gala started with martial art students showcasing self defence techniques and body flexibility to have the crowd mesmerized. This was followed by students from different schools performing cultural items, which in no time struck a chord with the spectators.

The performance was followed by encouraging words by Shakti Kumar Pathak (IPS), who said, "I'm really happy to see such events being organised by the youth of Kashmir. Youth are the torch bearer/

## Preparations For Rowing National Championship Reviewed

- Water Sports Activities Commencing On June 22 At Dal Lake
- Div Com Assures Full Support To Federation For Successful Event

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday convened a meeting to review the preparation for organizing Water Sports activities and Rowing National Championship which shall commence from June 22 at Dal Lake.

The Rowing National Championship is being organised first time in Kashmir and shall witness the participation of about 550 athletes.

The event shall be inaugurated by Lt. Governor, of J&K, Manoj Sinha on June 22, 2022.

The meeting was informed that the venue for the event has been fixed at SKICC, and all the equipments required for the event and players has been provided by Tourism and Sports council.

Besides, the meeting was informed that foolproof security to players while en-route and at venue shall be provided by J&K police.

It was also informed that all the facilities regarding lodging and boarding, refreshment has been made.

On the occasion, Div Com directed concerned officers to fix the race course and clean it from the weeds so the participants shall not face any hindrance during competition.

He also directed SMC and Tourism officers to give wide publicity through hoarding and electronic billboards.

He also asked the organizing agency to project the requirement of funds so accordingly the demand shall be made available in time.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed



for holding Dal Cross event on June 16, for which he directed to ensure participation of about five hundred youth.

He emphasized on training local youth in rafting, Rowing and other sports activities as the resources are available here abundantly.

The meeting was attended by DCs of Srinagar, Bandipora and Ganderbal; Commissioner, SMC; VC, LCMA; Secretary Sports Council; DIG, Police;

SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic; CE I&FC; Director Water Sports; Present J&K Association Rowing & Sculling.

Earlier, Nodal officer of Water Sports Kashmir presented a detailed presentation on the infrastructure, Sports activities, players, events and upcoming programmes.

It was informed that 11th canoeing marathon race shall be held in Oct 2022, 10th National Canoe Slalom Championship in August 2022 at Sindh River, Sonmarg J&K.

## DYSS Organises Cycle Rally In Bandipora & Pulwama

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K organised a Bicycle Rally in twin districts of Kashmir on the occasion of World Bicycle Day, as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.'

In Bandipora, the cycling rally started from Shogbaba and culminated at Mini secretariat.

The event was flagged off by Chief Education Officer (CEO), Bandipora, and DYSSO Bandipora in which more than 150 participants from the district participated.

Muzamil Ahmad, who attended the event, said that it was a wonderful experience while participating along with participants from the district.

He said that the spirit of the participants during the cycling event was high.

"Such events need to be organised again and again," he said. "The common people need a stress-free life and events like this are a step

towards that."

Irfan Ahmad, a participant while praising the department said that they were cheered by the passers-by all along the route.

Similarly, in Pulwama, a Bicycle rally was flagged off by District Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Officer, Syed Noor Ul Haq from DC Office Complex in which more than 80 students of adjacent Zones Pulwama, Kakapora and Tahab Participated.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Officer emphasized the importance of cycling and urged students to make the cycling a daily routine, which will not only help to improve one's physical and mental health, but will also protect one from indulging in a bad society.

The Officer hailed the participants and thanked the District Administration for providing fool-proof arrangements for the event which successfully culminated at Peaks Gango Crossings.

## ICC Chair Warns Of Reduction In Volume Of Test Cricket In Future

### Press Trust of India

LONDON: The ever-increasing domestic T20 leagues are squeezing bilateral ties and Test cricket runs the risk of witnessing a reduction in its volume in a decade's time, warns ICC chair Greg Barclay.

Barclay, who was appointed as ICC chair in November 2020, said the world body will face a serious challenge in deciding the next Future Tours Program starting next year.

"There is a men's and women's event every year and the growth of domestic leagues are forcing things from the bottom and ... what is getting squeezed is bilateral cricket and so we

are trying to fit everything in," Barclay told BBC's Test Match Special during the ongoing first game of the three-match series between England and New Zealand at Lord's.

"There will be some unfortunate consequences from a playing experience and a revenue point of view for some of those countries who won't get the amount of cricket they might hope to have and they won't get exposure, particularly against India and to a lesser extent Australia and England. So we will see a squeeze."

"In 10-15 years time I still see Test cricket being an integral part (of the game), it may be that there is less of it," he added.



## ALL INDIA JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS' FEDERATION

(Affiliated to AIBOA)  
**M. A. Link Road Srinagar**  
Email: aijkbof@gmail.com

Ref. No: AIJKB OF/ 2022-23/18

June 4, 2022

### PRESS STATEMENT

A historical event is going to take place in our sweet valley of mountains and heaven on earth scheduled to commence on 6th June and likely to conclude by 8th of June, 2022. It is the first ever event of its own nature, a remarkable conclave of trade union leaders representing officers fraternity Of Indian Banks across the nation under the banner of All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA). The central trade union leaders are scheduled to assembling at Srinagar, Kashmir on 6th where after the historic meeting of AIBOA leadership is slated for 7th and 8th of June, 2022 besides the address of Chairman, President and General Secretary of AIBOA to bank officers of various affiliates of AIBOA from Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh at 6.00P.M onwards on 7th of June, 2022.

The historical event is being organized by the Five Trade Union constituent Units of J&K Bank under their apex body All India Jammu and Kashmir Bank Officers' Federation. The event is likely to have threadbare discussion on overall banking scenario of the country together with Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

Central trade union leadership of banking sector will also be acquainted about the trade union scenario of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh with specific reference to the uncongenial trade union atmosphere and industrial unrest prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir Bank, a largest ticket size membership to AIBOA from Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

All India Jammu and Kashmir Bank officers Federation extends its heartiest and warm welcome to central trade union leadership of AIBOA and hope the event proves a cardinal stone for the betterment, welfare, progress and prosperity of the bank Officers' fraternity across the country,

**ALL INDIA JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS FEDERATION**

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