

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday 22 June 2022 | 21 Zil Qaddah | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 143 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



A wholesome meal for people on the go

## Turkish Burger

Now Taste Mediterranean Flavour in Srinagar

**Bun Maska & Irani Chai** JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard, Srinagar-1

## Quote!

Open your mind before your mouth

— Aristophanes

## NEWS DIGEST

### J&K Logs 25 Cases, 1 Covid Death

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported 25 new COVID-19 cases and one death on Tuesday, officials said here. With this, the infection tally in the union territory has climbed to 4,54,54, whereas the death toll rose to 4,754, they said. According to officials, 19 cases were reported from Jammu division and six from Kashmir valley. [▶ More On P10](#)

### Azad Tests Positive For Covid-19

**NEW DELHI:** Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday said he has tested positive for COVID-19 and has been advised home quarantine by doctors. The former leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha made the announcement on Twitter. Several people, including his party colleague, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, wished him speedy recovery.

### Hybrid Militant Held In Baramulla: Police

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a Hybrid militant of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Juhama area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. In a statement, the police said that today at around 1600 hrs, joint parties of Police and Army 52 RR was conducting naka checking near Juhama Crossing. During checking the naka party observed suspicious movement of one unknown person who was coming towards Kanispora. On seeing the naka party the individual tried to flee from the spot. However, the individual was tactfully apprehended by the naka party. [▶ More On P10](#)

### Migrant Worker Hangs Self To Death

**SRINAGAR:** A migrant worker from Haryana allegedly strangled himself to death at his rented room in Meh-joor Nagar area of Srinagar city. Locals said that the house owner informed police station Saddar after they found the non-local tenant hanging from the ceiling. Police reached the spot and shifted the body to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for postmortem. [▶ More On P10](#)

## 4 More Militants Killed In Twin Encounters: Police

11 Militants, Including 3 Pakistanis Killed In Last Two Days

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Four more militants, including the killer of a police officer, were shot dead by government forces in two separate encounters in Pulwama and Baramulla districts of the Valley, taking the total number of militants killed in the last two days to 11, police said Tuesday.

Abid Ahmad Sheikh and Majid Nazir Wani of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) were killed in a firefight with the joint team of police, army's 53 RR and the personnel of CRPF 183 battalion in Tujan area of Pulwama, a police spokesperson said.

The encounter, he said, started after the joint team started a search operation in the village on specific input about the presence of militants.

The spokesperson said that the hiding militants opened fire on the

search team which was retaliated, leading to an encounter in which both Sheikh and Wani were killed.

As per police records, he said, both the killed militants were part of a group involved in several cases including attacks on security forces and "civilian atrocities".

Wani, the spokesperson claimed, was involved in the killing of police sub-inspector Farooq Ahmad.

"Incriminating materials, huge cache of arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he added.

In a separate encounter in Sopore, the spokesperson said two more newly recruited local militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed.

Police identified the duo as Zahid Ahmad Chopan of Shopian and Mohd Youns Gul of Pulwama. [▶ More On P10](#)

## 5 Houses Attached In Srinagar For 'Harbouring Militants'

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said that they have attached five residential houses for supporting militant activities in Srinagar district.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that five residential houses of wilful harbourers of militants were attached as per section 2(g) and

section 25 of UAP Act.

"These are the houses where it has been proved beyond doubt that these houses were used for the purpose of militancy and the shelter/harbour was voluntarily/knowingly given by the member(s) of the house. Many attacks on civilians, security forces were conspired and planned by militants [▶ More On P10](#)

## Home Dept Approves 252 Posts For SIA

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir's Home Department accorded sanction to creation of 252 posts for the newly-created State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Tuesday.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home), R K Goyal, issued an order, sanctioning the creation of the posts that includes one post of DIG, three senior superintendents of police and three superintendents of police.

Besides subordinate investigation staff, the SIA will have its own prosecution team headed by an officer of deputy director rank and assisted by [▶ More On P10](#)

## Go First To Resume Srinagar To Sharjah Flight By June End

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** Low-cost carrier GO First, formerly known as GoAir, Monday announced the resumption of to & fro flights from Srinagar to Sharjah to strengthen international connectivity from Kashmir's only civilian airport, starting by the end of this month.

"The airline has recently received the bilateral rights to operate five flights per week on the Srinagar-Sharjah-Srinagar route and the final approval is awaited," the airline said in a statement.

Pertinently, the flight was flagged-off by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 23 last year, reviving the direct air link between the valley and

## 10 Additional Flights To Carry Amarnath Pilgrims

**SRINAGAR:** To manage the unparalleled rush of pilgrims arriving in Kashmir for Amanarth Yatra this year, authorities at the Srinagar International Airport have decided to add 10 additional flights from Jun 26th.

An official of the Srinagar Airport told Kashmir Observer that the additional 10 flights have been added in wake of the Amarnath yatra. "It's an attempt to ensure [▶ More On P10](#)

the UAE after 11 years. "We declare it open from today. This will help in boosting tourism and bring more investment in the Union Territory," the Home Minister had said at the inauguration event.

"Go First will resume scheduled direct flights between Kashmir and Sharjah from the end of June 2022," the airlines said in the statement.

The Srinagar-Sharjah direct flight had been a runaway success for the economy of Jammu and Kashmir as the initiative had helped in boosting both tourism as well as trade here. [▶ More On P10](#)

## Srinagar Records Coldest June Day In 48 Years

Incessant Rainfall Plunges Mercury 14 Notches Below Normal

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Continuous rainfall over the past four days has resulted in the mercury staying around 14 notches below the normal for the month of June in Srinagar even as an independent weather forecaster claimed that the city recorded its coldest June day in nearly 48 years.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Srinagar, the city recorded a maximum temperature of just 15 degrees Celsius.

"This is 14.2 degrees below normal for the month of June in Srinagar," an official [▶ More On P10](#)



KO PHOTO / ASID BHAT

## Presidential Polls: It's Draupadi Murmu vs Yashwant Sinha

KO News Desk

**NEW DELHI:** The ruling NDA and the opposition both declared their nominees for the upcoming presidential polls in July, with the BJP's parliamentary board nominating tribal leader and former Jharkhand governor Draupadi Murmu and opposition declaring Yashwant Sinha as respective presidential candidates.

BJP president J P Nadda announced the name of Draupadi Murmu, a tribal leader of the BJP who hails from Odisha at a press conference following a meeting of the party top brass.

He said that during the meeting of the BJP's parliamentary board, around 20 names were discussed as possible candidates, but it was felt that the new President of India should hail from the



East, should be a woman and also belong to the Adivasi community.

Earlier Former Union minister Yashwant Sinha emerged as consensus presidential candidate of several opposition parties, including the Congress, the TMC and the Samajwadi Party, the parties said in a joint statement on Tuesday. [▶ More On P10](#)

## 22 JKAS Officers Transferred

Some Of Them To Join New Posting After Yatra

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government Tuesday ordered transfer of 22 JKAS officers in the interest of administration.

According to a government order Mohamad Ashraf, JKAS, DSWO, Pulwama, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Social Welfare, Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Abdul Qyume, JKAS, BDO, Chasana, has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Reasi, [▶ More On P10](#)

## Kashmiris No More In 'Favour Of Pak, Terrorism': Doval

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Tuesday said that the people of Kashmir are no more in the "favour of Pakistan and terrorism".

Highlighting the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 in Jammu and Kashmir, Doval in an interview to ANI said that the mood and temper of the people of the Valley has seen a change and that the situation has changed for the better in the region after the special status of the erstwhile state was revoked.

"Post-2019, the mood and temper of the people of Kashmir have totally changed. People are no more in the favour of Pakistan, terrorism," the NSA said.

On the question of militant attacks against Kashmiri Pandits, Doval said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government had taken steps in the past to protect vulnerable sections and would definitely do more in the future.

"Yes, they are a vulnerable section and need protection. Government has taken various steps in the past and probably much more has to be done and that is being done," said Doval on being asked about the safety of Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley. [▶ More On P10](#)

changed. People are no more in the favour of Pakistan, terrorism," the NSA said.

On the question of militant attacks against Kashmiri Pandits, Doval said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government had taken steps in the past to protect vulnerable sections and would definitely do more in the future.

"Yes, they are a vulnerable section and need protection. Government has taken various steps in the past and probably much more has to be done and that is being done," said Doval on being asked about the safety of Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley. [▶ More On P10](#)

## KATHUA BANK HEIST

## Police Solves Rs 1.65 Crore Bank Robbery Case, 1 Held

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A man was arrested and over Rs 1.53 crore stolen from a bank was recovered in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, police said.

Another accused in the case is absconding and a hunt is on to nab him, they said.

"We have cracked a bank robbery case by arresting one accused and recovered stolen cash of Rs 1,53,86,290 within 24 hours," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kathua, R C Kotwal told reporters.

Ashok Kumar, Branch Manager of HDFC Bank in Kathua, filed a

complaint with the police alleging that two unidentified persons entered the bank branch from a terrace door, tied the security guard and stole money, he said.

Approximately, Rs 1,65,00,000 was missing from the branch, Kotwal said.

A case was registered and investigation set into motion, he said.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) under Additional SP of Kathua Suresh Kumar Chib was constituted, the SSP said.

The team succeeded in arresting one person, identified as Jagandeep Singh, from Kathua, he said. [▶ More On P10](#)

## Embrace Yoga As An Integral Part Of Life: LG

Calls Upon People To Take Advantages Of Services Extended By AYUSH Dept

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday urged the people of Union Territory to take advantage of Yoga facilities and services being extended by the AYUSH department and adopt the yoga in their routine, said the Lt Governor.

"Let's build resilience against diseases, promote self-care to maintain perfect harmony



KO PHOTO / ASID BHAT

between the body and mind, and bring people closer to each other by adopting Yoga as an integral part of life," Sinha said.

He made these remarks

during an event organized to mark International Day of Yoga at the iconic Dal Lake here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said. [▶ More On P10](#)

## KP Employees Perform Unique Yoga In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmiri Pandit employees on Tuesday adopted a novel way of using yoga to highlight their demand for relocation out of Kashmir in the wake of recent attacks on minorities in the valley.

The Kashmiri Pandit (KP) employees, who have been protesting since the killing of Rahul Bhat on May 12, observed the International Day of Yoga at their camp site at Sheikhpora Migrant Colony in Budgam. The protesting employees performed various asanas and raised slogans like "we want justice" instead

of the vedic chants associated with the practice. While some of these employees pasted placards in support of their demands on their torso, several others wore T-shirts bearing photographs of Bhat.

"We have been sitting here in protest everyday and today through this programme, we want to convey our demand to the state government," one of the employees said.

On Monday, the KP employees had threatened to appeal to international human rights organisations for asylum if the central government failed to relocate them from the Valley. [▶ More On P10](#)





To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER™  
Srinagar | Wednesday | 22-06-2022

2

# Simple Glucose-Meter Test Can Be Used To Monitor Covid-19 Antibody Levels

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have developed a simple, glucose-meter test that can help people monitor their own antibody levels against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that causes COVID-19.

The team from Johns Hopkins University in the US noted that over-the-counter COVID-19 tests can quickly show whether a person is infected with SARS-CoV-2.

However, if a person has a positive result, there is no at-home test to assess how long they will remain protected against reinfection.

In the Journal of the American Chemical Society, researchers described a simple, accurate glucose-meter-based test incorporating a novel fusion protein.

They said that consumers could someday use this assay to monitor their own SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels.

Vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and infection with the virus itself can guard against future infections for a while, but it's unclear exactly how long that protection lasts, the researchers said.

A good indication of immune protection is a person's level of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, but the gold standard measurement -- the



enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) -- requires expensive equipment and specialized technicians, they said.

Glucose meters are readily available, easy to use and can be integrated with remote clinical services, according to the researchers.

Researchers have been adapting these devices to sense other target molecules, coupling detection with glucose production.

For example, if a detection antibody in the test binds to an antibody in a patient's blood, then a reaction occurs that produces

glucose -- something the device detects very well.

Invertase is an attractive enzyme for this type of analysis because it converts sucrose into glucose, but it's difficult to attach the enzyme to detection antibodies with chemical approaches.

The researchers wanted to see whether producing a fusion protein consisting of both invertase and a detection antibody would work in an assay that would allow SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels to be read with a glucose meter.

They designed and produced a novel fusion protein containing both invertase and a mouse antibody that binds to human immunoglobulin (IgG) antibodies.

The team showed that the fusion protein bound to human IgGs and successfully produced glucose from sucrose.

The researchers then made test strips with the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein on them. When dipped in COVID-19 patient samples, the SARS-CoV-2 antibodies bound to the spike protein.

Adding the invertase/IgG fusion protein, then sucrose, led to the production of glucose, which could be detected by a glucose meter.

The researchers validated the test by performing the analysis with glucose meters on a variety of patient samples, and found that the new assay worked as well as four different ELISAs.

The method can also be adapted to test for SARS-CoV-2 variants and other infectious diseases, they added.

## European 'Star Survey' Reveals Celestial Treasure Trove

Associated Press

The European Space Agency has released a trove of data on almost 2 billion stars in the Milky Way, collected by its Gaia mission in an effort to create the most accurate and complete map of our galaxy. Astronomers hope to use the data to understand better how stars are born and die, and how the Milky Way evolved over billions of years.

The new data includes new information such as the age, mass, temperature and chemical composition of stars.

This can be used, for example, to determine which stars were born in another galaxy and then migrated to the Milky Way.

"This is an incredible gold mine for astronomy," said Antonella Vallenari, who helped lead a consortium of 450 scientists and engineers that spent years turning the measurements collected by the probe into usable data.

Gaia was also able to detect more than 100,000 so-called starquakes, which ESA likened to large tsunamis that ripple across stars. These allow scientists to deduce the density, interior rotation and temperature

inside stars, astrophysicist Conny Aerts said.

Although it has only collected information on about 1% of the Milky Way's stars, the mission is already providing the basis for around 1,600 scientific publications a year.

Project scientist Timo Prusti said the sheer number of stars observed makes it more likely that scientists will make very rare discoveries.

You have to observe a lot of objects in order to get the needle in the haystack, he said.

ESA chief Josef Aschbacher said having more data also allows astronomers to understand some of the forces at play in the galaxy, such as the way our own solar system is being thrown about inside the Milky Way.

It is enabling things that would never be possible without this large number of data, he said.

The Gaia data now being released also includes information on 800,000 binaries stars that move in tandem with each other as well as several new exoplanets, hundreds of thousands of asteroids in the solar system and millions of objects beyond our galaxy.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The RC of my Vehicle bearing registration No: JK03C-0848 has got damaged. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Nazeer Ahmad Khanday**  
R/o: Hugam Srigufwara.

ma

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have bought a vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03C-0848. Now I want to change the name on registration papers from Nazeer Ahmad Khanday R/o Hugam Srigufwara TO Ab Rashid Reshi S/o Mohd Subhan Reshi R/o Hatigam Srigufwara. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name: Ab Rashid Reshi**  
S/o: Mohd Subhan Reshi  
R/o: Hatigam Srigufwara

ma

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Assistant Labour Commissioner Pulwama

Telephone/Fax: 01933-295307 M  
ail: alcpulwama@gmail.com

#### Notice For Public Information

It is for information of all Traders Associations, shops & Establishment owners and employees and particularly General public of district Pulwama that the department of Labour is organizing one day awareness program in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Pulwama in the office of Industrial Association Lassipora Commercial Complex Industrial Estate IGC Lassipora on 22.06.2022 at 11:00 AM. The main objective of the awareness is to create an awareness among the labour class particularly employees and employers of private sector about their rights under various labour laws and social security benefits extended by the Government under various Schemes.

Through the medium of this notice all Traders Associations, shops & Establishment owners and employees and particularly General public of district Pulwama are requested to attend the awareness program on scheduled date and Time

**DIPK-4463/22**

Assistant Labour Commissioner  
Pulwama

No: ALC/Pul/2022/167-69  
Dated: 20-06-2022

UT OF J&K

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE KANGAN.

Phone/Fax: 01942951170

Website: www.Itikangan.nic.

Email: itikangan@yahoo.com

#### ONLINE ADMISSION NOTIFICATION - 2022

In pursuance to Directorate of Skill Development J&K Jammu's Admission Notice under endorsement No. DSD/401/Trgs./2022/592-680 Dated: 17-06-2022, Online applications forms are thus invited from desirous candidates for seeking admission in Govt. ITI Kangan for the academic session 2022-23-24 in various Engineering/Non-Engineering Trades having duration of Two years/One year/ Six months courses for free seats being run under NCVT/SCVT Schemes and commencing from August, 2022 for which the forms can be uploaded from 18th of June 2022.

The desirous candidates having minimum age of 14 years as on 1st June 2022 with no upper age bar have to fill up the admission forms available online at ITI admission link (<http://itiadmissions.jkdsd.in>) present on the official website of Directorate of Skill Development J&K i.e.: [www.jkdsd.org](http://www.jkdsd.org).

The last date for applying online is up to 09th of July 2022. The candidates have to fill up the complete details which include basic details of student like name, parentage etc. and qualification details online in the portal and have to upload the soft copies in .jpg format (with size between 20KB to 300KB) of the following documents online only:

1. Marks Certificate of Qualifying examination
2. Date of birth Certificate.
3. Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex-serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any
4. Aadhaar card.

(Domicile certificate should be produced at the time of admission in the ITI).

The candidates after finalizing the profile and application online will be required to deposit the printout of the system generated application completed in all respects along with self-attested documents uploaded on the portal and deposit the prescribed fee of Rs.100/- (One Hundred) per three trades against a proper receipt in Govt. ITI Kangan.

#### DETAIL OF TRADES IN GOVT. ITI Kangan

S.No	Name of the trade	Duration	Scheme	Intake Capacity	Eligibility
1	COPA	01 Year	NCVT (Normal)	24	10th
2	Mechanic Consumer Electronic Appliances	02 Years	NCVT (Normal)	24	10th
3	Secretarial Practice	01 Year	NCVT (Normal)	24	10th
4	Sewing Technology	01 Year	NCVT (Normal)	20	8th
5	Plumber	01 Year	NCVT (PPP)	24	8th
6	Early Childhood Educator	01 Year	NCVT	24	10th
7	Hand Embroidery	01 Year	SCVT (Heritage Craft)	21	10th

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

1. The applying candidate has to submit printout of system generated application along with requisite self-attested document set in Govt. ITI Kangan.
2. The candidate shall deposit the @ Rs.100/- (One Hundred Rupees Only) per three trades at Govt. ITI Kangan against a proper receipt.
3. Selection will be made purely on the basis of academic Merit in the qualifying examination prescribed for each trade.
4. Candidates, who have already undergone training in any of the trades of ITIs, can apply for admission in another trade two years after completion of previous training course. However, for the ensuing academic session their admission is considered in any of the trades having poor response.
5. For any information visit office of the Superintendent ITI Kangan.

No. ITI/KNGI/Adm./2022/  
Dated: - 06-2022

**DIPK-4437/22**

Sd/-  
Superintendent  
Govt. ITI Kangan

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

Phone (0): 0194 2486924/2486925

#### APPEAL

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Motor Vehicles Department has apart from making many services completely online has also eased many other offline processes for the benefit of general public. The list of online services launched on e-Vahan, e-Saarthi & Other Services through Internet Portal are given hereunder:

1. Issuance of Duplicate Registration Certificate.
2. Change of address In Registration Certificate.
3. Renewal of Route Permits.
4. Issuance of Goods Carriage Permit (Fresh).
5. Hypothecation Termination.
6. Hypothecation Endorsement.
7. Transfer of ownership of Vehicle.
8. NOC certificate.
9. Payment of Road/TOKEN Tax of Commercial Vehicles.
10. Mobile Number Updation.
11. Issuance of Temporary Permission.
12. Renewal of Fitness Certificate of commercial vehicles.
13. Issuance of Learner License.
14. Extension/Renewal of Learner License.
15. Driving License.
16. Renewal of Driving License.
17. Issuance of Duplicate Driving License.

18. Replacement of Driving License.
19. Change of Biometrics in Driving License.
20. Issuance of Driving School License.
21. Renewal of Driving School License.
22. International Driving Permit.
23. Extract of Driving License.
24. Issuance of trade certificate.
25. Renewal of trade certificate.
26. Issuance of Pollution Checking Centres.
27. Renewal of Pollution Checking Centres.
28. Choice Number Booking.

All the above stated services have been kept on public domain only to encourage the paperless cashless & faceless Government transactions and to bring the desired transparency and accountability in providing citizen centric services.

The general public is once again requested to please use the online portal [WWW.parivahan.gov.in](http://WWW.parivahan.gov.in) for availing these services and do not throng the offices of the RTO/ARTO for these services, unnecessarily to ensure zero footfall these offices. To ensure zero footfall these offices.

Sd/-  
(Sajid Yehya Nakash) KAS  
Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

**DIPK-4345-22**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle Bearing registration No: JK03B-0922 (ALTO CAR) . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Mohd Tahir Malik

S/o: Abdul Majeed Malik

R/o: D.K Marg Kulgam

ma

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAME:-Mohd Altaf Khan

S/O :- Mohd Rafiq Khan R/O: Nala Sundbrari Kokernag

ma

### BHAT FAMILY BEREAVED

Sad Demise of Ama Ji



With profound grief we inform the demise of Rahat Begum W/O Haji Ghulam Mohammad Bhat (Ex DC) R/O Wathoor, Chadoora on June 20th 2022. Inna Lillahi Wainna Illahi Rajioon. Ijtemaye Fateha will be held on June 23rd Thursday at 10 AM at their ancestral Graveyard at Wathoor (Srinagar-Chadoora main Road) Near Govt Middle School Wathoor Wazpora.

#### BEREAVED

Haji Ghulam Mohammad Bhat  
Sons & Daughters

For more info pl contact  
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat (Grandson)

Contact Nos: 7889395171, 9541793055

bs

### 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's DSW Launches Student Interaction Programme

### Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir University's Department of Students' Welfare (DSW) on Tuesday started a mega student interaction programme at the varsity's main campus.

Led by newly-appointed Dean of Students Welfare Prof Aneesa Shafi, the faculty-wise student interaction programme, initiated on directions of Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan, primarily involves listening to the legitimate concerns of students by going to their departments in a phased manner and addressing the same.

On Tuesday, Prof Aneesa launched the first of its kind programme from the varsity's School of Law, where she listened to scores of students.

"Student community is the most significant stakeholder in the University system. We want to further bridge our connection with our students by going to them, faculty-wise, to understand their

needs and requirements in classes, laboratories and libraries etc in both main and satellite campuses," Prof Aneesa said in her introductory remarks.

Such interactions, Prof Aneesa said, will now be a regular feature of the DSW under the able guidance of the Vice-Chancellor.

She asserted that the Office of DSW functions as a nodal centre between students and the institution and is determined to provide a unique platform for the students to get their academic concerns registered and addressed.

Urging the students to get actively involved in different extracurricular activities to boost their personality and intellectual growth,

Prof Aneesa, who was accompanied by her team of officials from the DSW, assured the students that all their genuine suggestions and concerns shall be forwarded to the authorities for their logical and timely redressal.

# City Autowallas Feeling The Heat Of E-Rickshaws

### Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Two months after e-rickshaws were introduced as an alternative transport in the city, petrol-driven auto rickshaw drivers have started to feel the heat.

Eco-friendly electronic auto-rickshaw service was started in the month of April in several parts, including Dalgate to Nehru Park, Gawkadal to Bohri Kadal, Dalgate to Khanyar, Khayam to Zulankar and other areas, due to lack of public transport facilities and rising pollution levels in Srinagar.

The e-rickshaws are considered eco-friendly and run on a chargeable Lithium battery.

But while commoners have benefited from the pocket and environment friendly mode of transport, traditional auto rickshaw drivers complain their passenger count has significantly dropped since the service started to ply on the city roads.

E-rickshaws usually charge a fare of Rs 10 per passenger for a distance of around two kilometers.

Younis Parvez Mir, an auto-rickshaw driver, said this is not the right time to be an auto-rickshaw driver.

"Owning an auto rickshaw isn't easy," Younis said, adding a brand new auto rickshaw costs around Rs 4.5 lakhs excluding the maintenance costs.

"We have to take care of ownership, fitness, permit and pollution certificates also. We are bound to charge customers according to the costs we infer," he said.

Oppositely, he said, owning an E-rickshaw is way too easy as it comes with no hidden costs and the govern-



“While commuting in the city has become much easier, it has come at a heavy cost for the traditional auto-rickshaw drivers.”

ment is providing subsidy for the same.

"The cost of e-rickshaw ranges between Rs 2-2.5 lakhs, which is very cost-efficient for a rickshaw driver compared to fuel driven public transport," Younis said.

Mohammad Amin, another rickshaw driver from Shiraz Chowk Khanyar, voiced similar views saying the passenger count has dropped significantly ever since the e-rickshaw was started.

"We charge Rs 50 from Shriaz Chowk to Dalgate whereas e-rick-

shaw charges only Rs 10," Amin said.

"It is obvious that commuters will prefer the latter mode of transportation," he added.

It is pertinent to mention, amid the rising pollution resulting from growing traffic in Srinagar, the authorities have decided to introduce the e-rickshaws in several parts of the city.

But while commuting in the city has become much easier, it has come at a heavy cost for the traditional auto-rickshaw drivers.

## NIT Celebrates 8th International Yoga Day

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Institute of Technology, (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday celebrated the 8th International Yoga Day and participants performed yoga with zeal and zest.

The event was organized by the Department of Physical Education and it was presided over by in-charge Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. MF Wani, while Institute's Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari was the guest of honour on the occasion.

In his message, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said yoga is important for human health. He urged faculty and students to practice yoga which has various health benefits.

On the occasion, In-charge Director Prof. Wani said, yoga should not be restricted to June 21. We all should make it part of our daily routine for physical and mental wellbeing," he said.

Registrar NIT Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said yoga helps in de-stressing and in calming the mind and body.

"It also helps in breathing problems and eradicating toxins and impurities from the body," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said yoga is beneficial for everyone and helps in reducing the stress level in our daily lives. "We should perform it without any delay and or any excuse," he said.

## Worker Commits Suicide In Srinagar

### Agencies

Srinagar: A worker from Haryana hanged himself in a rented room in Mehjoor Nagar area of Srinagar city.

Sources said that the house owner informed police station Saddar after they found the working hanging from the ceiling.

Police reached the spot and shifted the body to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for postmortem.

The deceased has been identified as 40-year-old Manoj Singh son of Gulzari Singh, a resident of Fazalpora Haryana.

## LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In Various City Areas

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LC&MA) on Tuesday held a special demolition drive in the areas of Zari Mohalla Lal Bazar, Nigeen, Check Saderbal and Saida Kadal.

During the demolition drive, one basement, one single storey, Chain link fencing, one tin shed, Plinth Block and one shuttering for plinth was demolished on the spot. Also, one wooden shop in the zero tolerance zone in the area of Abi Karpura Dal was also demolished.

Moreover, LCMA in a statement said that legal action was also initiated against the violators. It

also said that illegally dumped material in the shape of wooden timber was also removed and seized in the area of Babademb.

The demolition team was accom-



panied by a police party from PCR.

LCMA said that it will continue demolition drives of illegal constructions and strict action will be taken against the violators found indulging in illegal construction activities.

### 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  
"While commuting in the city has become much easier, it has come at a heavy cost for the traditional auto-rickshaw drivers."  
PATTAN: 01954-293507  
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
22- Zil- Qaddah  
1443

## PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 35  
ZUHR 12:33  
ASR 5:33  
Magrib 7:49  
ISHA 9: 30

## This Day In History

- 217 BC - Battle of Raphia: Ptolemy IV of Egypt defeats Antiochus III the Great of the Seleucid kingdom.
- 168 BC - Battle of Pydna: Romans under Lucius Aemilius Paullus defeat and capture Macedonian King Perseus, ending the Third Macedonian War.
- 1377 - Richard II succeeds Edward III as king of England
- 1476 - Battle at Morat/Murten: Charles the Stout invades Switzerland1533 - Ferdinand of Austria and Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent sign peace treaty
- 1593 - Battle of Sisak: Allied Christian troops defeat the Turks.
- 1596 - Cornelis de Houtmans fleet reaches Banten Java
- 1611 - Henry Hudson set adrift in Hudson Bay by mutineers on his ship Discovery & never seen again
- 1633 - Galileo Galilei forced to recant his Copernican views that the Earth orbits the Sun by the Pope (Oct 31 1992 Vatican admits it was wrong)
- 1980 - Pope John Paul II beatifies Kateri Tekakwitha, making him the 1st Native American to be beatified
- 1981 - Iran president Bani Sadr deposed
- 1983 - 1st time a satellite is retrieved from orbit by Space Shuttle
- 1987 - The International Labour Organisation, meeting for its annual conference in Geneva, calls for international sanctions against South African minerals
- 1987 - A bomb blast in a Johannesburg video-game arcade kills an unborn baby and injures ten people
- 1990 - Nelson Mandela addresses the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in New York, saying that nothing has occurred in South Africa to reverse the ANC's position
- 1991 - Underwater volcano, Mount Didicas, erupts in Philippines
- 1992 - Two skeletons excavated in Yekaterinburg, Russia identified as Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra

From KO Archives

## People Launch Forum For Mughal Road

Srinagar: To counter elements inimical to the construction of the Mughal Road, residents of Shopyan have launched a Forum campaign in favour of resuming work on the crucial project.

The road, which takes off from Shopyan and leads to the Poonch district links the Kashmir valley to the Jammu province and is an alternative to the existing, but unreliable, Srinagar-Jammu Highway.

Ever since the central government cleared the project, it has been facing roadblock of various sorts, including environmental concerns voiced by certain quarters, but last month the Supreme Court had ruled that attempts to halt work on the road were illegal.

Locals in the Shopyan however say that some vested interests and regressive elements are opposed to constructing the alternative to the Srinagar-Jammu highway. They have united under a non-political banner, the Front Against Anti-Mughal Road Elements, which will kick off its campaign to mobilize public opinion in favour of the road by a seminar in the Shopyan town hall on the coming Monday. The Mughal Road is a long standing demand of the people in the valley, particularly in Shopyan and experts consider it a viable substitute for the Srinagar-Jammu highway.

The valley's sole surface link with the rest of the country, is prone to massive landslides in bad weather and remains closed for weeks on end. Travelers often get stranded for days together, and a dependent Kashmir is deprived of essential supplies.

Experts believe that constructing the Mughal Road would bring such problems down to zero.

But Shopyan residents say that the project is prey to petty politics as some vested interests are bent upon sacrificing the collective interests of Kashmiris. A public delegation from Shopyan said that for now they have deemed it appropriate to adopt a democratic approach, but if their voice goes unheard; they will take to the streets, and entire responsibility for the consequences will lay on the government

(Kashmir Observer; 22 June, 2007)

## Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No. (15) of 2022-23

Dated: 17.06.2022

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (in single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Civil contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2023 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Development of Sports Field by Way of Cutting & Filling at Faculty of Forestry Beniham Ganderbal SKUAST-K	08.00	C & D Class	500/-	10 days

- a) Position of AAA: Accorded  
b) Position of T.S : Sanctioned  
c) Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov. in as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	17.06.2022
2.	Date of start of downloading	17.06.2022
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	17.06.2022
5.	Bid submission end date	27.06.2022
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	28.06.2022
7.	Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	29.06.2022

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-

Estates Officer/ Chief Engineer

DIPK-NB-1837/22

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(15)/158

Dated: 20.06.2022

**Aura Aesthetics**  
Regd. No. A-2586

**ADVANCED DENTISTRY & MEDICAL AESTHETICS**  
**SKIN | HAIR | DENTAL & LASER CLINIC**  
**Our Derma / Cosmetic Services**  
PRP, MESOTHERAPY FOR FACE AND HAIR, CHEMICAL PEELS, DMC PIXIGENUS MEDIFACIALS, IONOFACIALS, HYDRAFACIALS, CARBON PEEL, TATOO REMOVAL, LASER HAIR REMOVAL, SCALP MICROPIGMENTATION, MELASMA, WART REMOVAL MOLE REMOVAL, ACNE TREATMENT, UNDER EYE TREATMENT, MICRO BLADING, BB GLOW, SKIN WHITENING GLUTATHIONE IV DROPS, COLLAGEN/PEPTIDES TREATMENTS AND MUCH MORE  
**Our Dental Services**  
**Root Canal Treatment & Extraction (Adults & Kids)**  
**Bridges (Crowns)**  
**Restorations (Fillings)**  
**Implants**  
**Smile Designing with Emax Crowns**  
**Veneering( Indirect & Direct)**  
**Teeth Whitening In Office**  
**Scaling**  
**Fixed Orthodontics**  
**Braces and Invisalign**  
**Surgical Tooth Removal**  
**Implants**  
**Pediatric Dentistry**  
 @AURA\_Aesthetics @AURA Aesthetics  
For Details Contact: 9797-703533 JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK



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@kashmirobsserver.net

K O V I E W

Fear Of Rain

It has been intermittently raining in the Valley over the last two days with high-altitude areas receiving the snowfall. This has resulted in a sharp drop in temperature in June, a time for the sweltering summer heat. But the decline in temperature is the least of concern for people in Kashmir who fear that an extended rainfall in summer could lead to flooding on the pattern of 2014. And these are legitimate fears considering we are still far from building credible safeguards against the prospect of a future flood. A recent report pointed out that the project to enhance the carrying capacity of Jhelum is yet to be fully completed as the J&K government is awaiting the release of funds from the central government for Phase 2 of the Jhelum Flood Management plan. The centre has already earmarked Rs 1623 crore for the comprehensive flood management of Jhelum and its tributaries.

The project was conceived in the wake of the 2014 deluge that sank Srinagar and some other parts of the Valley and killed over 300 people. Ever since J&K, particularly the Valley has lived in dread of a repeat of yet another big flood. In Srinagar, people fear that an extended uninterrupted spell of rain might yet again lead to Jhelum spilling over its banks.

This has created a deeply disturbing situation in the Valley. We are, time and again, reminded of our hapless vulnerability to flooding whenever there are two or more days of uninterrupted rain in a warmer season. More so, in Srinagar whose new-found susceptibility to flood threatens to put a question mark on its viability as a summer capital. That is, unless we conceive and execute a course of action that drastically reduces this vulnerability.

If anything, it highlights how little has been done by way of infrastructure building to protect the Valley from flooding. Less than two days of rain creates flood-like conditions. What it means is that in the past eight years, we have not been able to increase the capacity to protect ourselves from the fallout of an increase in precipitation in summer. The legitimate question to ask is what were the previous governments doing in these years. Or what has the dredging of Jhelum and the repairing of its embankments done in terms of enhancing our capability to resist the flood. One can only hope that the current administration understands the enormity of the challenge and sets about in right earnest building our defences against a repeat of the 2014 scenario, which could be sooner than we are prepared for.

OTHER OPINION

Unpredictable Monsoons

Rainfall has been 22 per cent deficient in South Peninsular India, while it is 50-134 per cent in excess in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and north Bengal. Floods and landslides at one end, and largely localised rains due to weak monsoon winds at the other, has meant that sowing of kharif crops (excluding sugarcane) is down 16 per cent over last year's acreage at this time. That could make policymakers a tad nervous, especially given elevated food prices. Most projections of inflation and real GDP growth, including by the Reserve Bank of India, have been predicated on the assumption of a normal monsoon.

But these are early days. Rainfall deficiency has already reduced from 32 per cent till June 15. Kharif plantings usually pick up only after mid-June and peak in July. Also, current water levels in major reservoirs are 4.9 per cent higher than a year ago and 32.9 per cent above the last 10 years' average for this time. A slow start — the monsoon season extends from June to September, with nearly 62 per cent of the rainfall received during the two middle months — can even be a blessing. It gives additional time for the government and farm input companies to plan movement and placement of seeds, fertilisers and crop protection chemicals. This may matter more in today's situation, where the Russia-Ukraine war and China's Covid lockdowns have caused supply disruptions and delays in imports, including of fertilisers and agro-chemical intermediates. For now, all indicators — from La Niña to sustained high summer temperatures conducive for formation of a low-pressure system — point to a normal monsoon. Better late than never, as the saying goes.

That said, the monsoon's increasing unpredictability — not just delays and breaks, but also fewer rainy days and more extreme precipitation — is cause for concern. Take last year, when surplus rains in June led to brisk sowings. But this was followed by a long dry spell from the second week of July to the third week of August and, then, excess rainfall in the subsequent five months till January. The kharif crop, then, suffered both moisture stress during the vegetative growth stage and inundation at harvesting time. That, along with the hit to wheat yields from the sudden rise in temperatures after mid-March, was the clearest evidence of the challenges posed by climate change: To policymakers, breeders and, of course, farmers.

The Indian Express



Picture for Representational Purposes Only

Over to Elections

As things stand, it looks unlikely that the centre would let any situation arise following the polls, that challenges its Kashmir project or threatens to reverse the gains made in recent years

RIYAZ WANI

The Delimitation Commission has already ended up changing the political landscape of J&K like never before. It could very well pave way for a future chief minister who is from Jammu, a longstanding political plank of the BJP

On his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the decks had been cleared to hold the Assembly elections by the end of this year. The defense minister's tentative timeline for the polls came two days after the Election Commission started the process to revise the electoral rolls for the union territory. The process to prepare the draft rolls will be completed by August 31, setting potentially the stage for elections. The winter, however, won't be the right time to hold the exercise in Kashmir Valley. Nevertheless, a large number of people would most likely prefer the elections to take place regardless of the season. If for no other reason than approachability, there is a palpable desire to see local politicians return to government.

But things become more complex as we delve into details. The context of the fresh elections, whenever these are held, is very fraught. Much has happened since June 2018 when Governor's rule was imposed after the PDP-led coalition government lost its majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP. Jammu and Kashmir lost its semi-autonomous status on August 5, 2019 leading to seven months of communications and security blockade. The last three years have witnessed a drastic political makeover of the state-turned-union territory, so much so, that in many aspects, the current J&K bears little resemblance to what it was pre-August 2019.

In the last three years, Kashmir has witnessed an uneasy calm. The protests and the stone-pelting incidents have gradually tapered off. But the militancy has so far held out. That too, despite the killings of over 500 militants over the last three years.

According to a police estimate, there are around 150 active militants in Kashmir, the lowest such

number in the last seven years. This has, for once, created a distinct possibility that the militancy could very well end in the next few months or over the course of this year if there is no replenishment of the ranks in the form of local recruitment or influx from across the border. Also, contrary to the apprehensions, the foreign presence in the Valley's militancy has only increasingly diminished over the years - that is, if we consider the current spike as an exception.

This has put the militancy in the union territory apparently on a shaky wicket. But it is premature and also risky to make predictions about Kashmir. In the past also, this ebb and flow have continued. As the history of the past thirty years shows, the militancy has gone on. And it seems unlikely to die down unless the replenishment stops, something that has never happened so far. And appears unlikely to happen in the near to medium future. This is why while public unrests and stone throwing have drastically diminished since the withdrawal of Article 370, militancy has continued unabated. And there is little sign that the situation on this score will change anytime soon.

What is more, security agencies have already warned that the violence could once again scale up further this year, with the local militancy expected to be reinforced by the influx of foreign militants - albeit, there have so far been no indications that this is happening in bigger numbers.

That said, the elections in J&K have been held in the worst possible situation, and sometimes in the wake of the extended public unrest. If we go by the centre's assurances, the Assembly polls would be the second in a three-step process towards restoration of statehood to J&K. First was the completion of the contentious exercise of the Delimitation Com-

mission which enhanced the number of Assembly seats in the Union Territory from 83 to 90. And statehood would be the third.

The Delimitation Commission has already ended up changing the political landscape of J&K like never before. It could very well pave the way for a future chief minister who is from Jammu, a longstanding political plank of the BJP. And once that happens, there is little guarantee that statehood would be the next logical step. Or whether the statehood to be granted would be full or a truncated one - one that resembles a Delhi-type arrangement where the real power remains vested with the governor. Such an arrangement would hardly be enough to make a redeeming difference to the existing state of affairs in J&K, as fundamentally there wouldn't be much that would change on the ground.

An ideal arrangement from the BJP's point of view would be a government dominated by the party, whose chances following the delimitation of seats look brighter. Or, at least, a government of the party or parties which have reconciled to the loss of the autonomy as a fait accompli. And such a scenario looks very much possible. Over the last three years, the centre has successfully formed parties which if not directly toeing its line would dare also not question it. That is, as long as the BJP is in power at the centre. As things stand, it looks unlikely that the centre would let any situation arise following the polls, that challenges its Kashmir project or threatens to reverse the gains made in recent years.

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

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer



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, space and 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

The Ugly Remains of Brari Nambal

We have heard tales from our elders about the pristine water bodies of Kashmir, which were once so pure that people would directly drink from the water bodies. Once known for crystal clear waters, the only remains of Brari Nambal are waste heaps and weeds. Barari Nambal is an important ecological lagoon

located in the heart of shehr-e-khaas but due to the neglect of the government and absence of conservation measures, the lagoon is on the verge of extinction owing to dire pollution and unending encroachments. The lagoon looks more like a dumping yard than a water body.

Although the government did formulate an extensive project for the

restoration of Brari Nambal in 2015 but despite the passing of nearly a decade, the government has consistently failed in achieving so. So far there has been aesthetic work on the peripheries of the lagoon but no actual measure has been taken to improve its water quality which should have been the very first priority of the authorities. We need to realise

that building good looking kiosks on the banks of the lagoon will not aid the conservation of the water body, it needs frequent dredging and cleaning to keep its water fresh. The government should pay proper heed to this matter before it's too late and we lose a very significant cultural and ecological asset of ours.

Sarah Rishi



# Keeping an Open Mind

The human mind is the loudest and the most disruptive noise in the world

“  
Perspectives  
flurry back and  
forth, with  
not a speck of  
acrimony or  
impatience to  
beat down the  
others. There  
is so much  
involvement  
and acceptance  
among them  
that by the  
end, they turn  
wiser and more  
clued up about  
the topic of the  
day. And what  
do they gain  
from the whole  
exercise?”

Asha Iyer Kumar

I’ve just got out of a creative writing class with my three 10th graders. It was a highly interactive session with discussions based on an opinion essay I had given them as an assignment. The one-hour class extended to an hour and 45 minutes, and boy, did I have a good time listening to their intuitive ideas!

This is how my classes go, with robust thought exchanges to which I listen with the keenness of an explorer. I remove my thinking cap, park my perceptions, and allow the children to present their thoughts. I interrupt only to throw in a question now and then to steer the conversation in different directions. I tender a willing ear, not allowing any of my own ideas to interject their views. And they speak, baring their hearts, because they know that I am listening, appreciating every bit of their ingenuity.

Perspectives flurry back and forth, with not a speck of acrimony or impatience to beat down the others. There is so much involvement and acceptance among them that by the end, they turn wiser and more clued up about the topic of the day. And what do they gain from the whole exercise? Clarity about things we often ponder upon but don’t get anywhere near a closure. The final winner is not a participant, but the art of listening that facilitates the smooth flow of thoughts without stumbling over untimely interruptions and presumptuous assertions.

Listening - it is an art we are slowly losing to our zealous desire to be heard over the millions of voices echoing around. We have become hard of hearing by choice in a cacophonous world, and that is an irony.



ny. So much din with no one to pay attention to. So, who are we talking to? And why aren't we listening?

The human mind is the loudest and the most disruptive noise in the world, and what makes it so difficult to ignore is the power we give to our inner ramblings. We cannot turn a deaf ear to the voice of our minds. We develop so much attachment with our perceptions

that we preclude anything that isn't in tune with it. Our love for our own theories, our unstinting faith in our judgements, and our refusal to allow foreign ideas into our space makes listening a lesser trait that we believe we could do without.

It is good to be steadfast in our mind and know what our core beliefs are, but when we ignore the voices outside, we are limiting our-

selves like the proverbial frog that thought the world began and ended with the well. Our refusal to listen to divergent views exposes our deep-seated prejudices and conceit. It is the ultimate pointer to our indomitable egos that will settle for nothing less than an unchallenged acceptance of our viewpoints.

Those who enjoy a good argument get involved in meaningless

diatribes, and those who don't, switch their hearing aids off and let the other man air his views to no avail. Either way, there is no exchange of useful information or ideas that could expand our horizons and help us take better decisions in life.

Our lack of listening skills has begun to shrink our mental and emotional territories, cramping us in narrow ideologies. We are becoming more and more polarized and intolerant as people, and our inability to accommodate differing views is turning us into islands of haughty homo sapiens.

Pay heed to other voices because you never know from where the next big solution to your combined troubles will emerge. Our options in life might lay in someone else's head, and when we listen, we realize that there is a bit of us in every other person, and a bit of them in us. We understand our dilemmas better when we listen to their versions and interpretations of life.

When we keep an open mind, bracketing our own ideas for a while and keeping our judgment at bay, we will see how many different ways there are to make this mortal journey pleasurable. When we control our urge to refute, defend or deflect outright, and allow patience to settle in, we will know that we all have the same kinds of delights and disappointments, and the same destiny to deal with.

It is only when we are willing to listen to different sources that we will become aware of the universal story of mankind and find creative ideas to solve this massive jigsaw puzzle. Else, all we would have in our lives is a lot of sound and fury that in the end would signify nothing.

-Khaleej Times

## When Dads Do What Moms Do

Amil Niazi

When I was around 9 years old, my mom started a new job, at a women's shelter, that required monthly overnight shifts. Up until then, she had worked part-time day shifts while we were at school. She juggled most of the domestic work at home by herself, from getting us ready in the mornings— including painstakingly doing all of our very long hair — to driving us home after school, making dinner, and putting us to bed. With Mom's new job, my dad, who'd always been involved but not necessarily superhands-on for things like meal prep or school runs, was suddenly thrust into these “mom duties” for three young girls, all under the age of 10. I distinctly remember feeling a sense of apprehension even then, like, Is this guy really going to pull this off? Does he even know how to turn the stove on? Are we going to die?

Nobody died, of course. (Although there might have been some temporary baldness from the shockingly tight — and crooked — high ponytails he managed those mornings.) We did eat a lot of fast food, but what child has ever complained about that? And though we were almost never on time for school, we otherwise mostly managed.

It was a major shift in how my parents negotiated child care — for a while. Suddenly, and temporarily, for my parents who had previously divided domestic labor along old-fashioned and gendered lines, things seemed a little more balanced. My mom, despite also working outside the home, had usually been the main parent, the emotional core, the cook, and the cleaner. But after a few months redressing this imbalance, my mom, though still doing her overnight shifts, slowly started cooking dinners again, packing our school lunches the day before, brushing out our hair so we didn't have to rely on dad's ponytails anymore. The sharing of labor was brief and short lived, and whatever slack my mom couldn't pick up herself, my sisters and I learned to do for ourselves.

While on the spectrum of boomer dads, mine was nonetheless probably on the right side of good. He was still very much the picture of fatherhood that has dominated culture up until very recently: Dad as the bumbling backup player, the guy who weasels



out of changing diapers and proudly calls it “babysitting” every time he has to take care of his own kids for a few hours by himself.

As with so many facets of parenting life, the pandemic began to shift our notion of how much (straight cisgender) dads are expected to carry and how it impacts the family unit. Stuck working from home without in-person schooling or child care, many men were tasked with figuring out how to manage care and work out of necessity. It's a little harder to ignore screaming children

when they're in the background of your work Zoom, right? Although it's worth noting, even with both parents forced into the same situation, women still ended up doing three times as much child care as men during the first year of the pandemic. So even with the notion of the pandemic as a great equalizer of care, our expectations and the realities of “dad duties” remained abysmally low.

Why is this disparity still so prevalent, especially since the past two years should have made it abundantly clear, even to anyone still

choosing to be in the dark, just how overwhelming it is to manage work and care without adequate support? No one should have any doubt now about what happens when this burden is overwhelmingly on one parent. So how do we prevent it?

It has to start at the very beginning. There's an assumption that caring for a new baby is the purview of the mom. She's expected to be fluent in the language of child-rearing even though, in the beginning, it's just as foreign to her as it is to her partner. And it becomes a self-fulfilling

prophecy: She becomes the de facto expert because she spends the most time figuring out the solutions; then, because she knows what to do, she's always left to do it. But there's a way, I think, to break that loop. Where I have seen the scales balance out a little more, with my husband and with many of our friends, there's been one common factor: dads who took parental leave.

My husband became the sole caregiver of our son when he was around 6 months old. I didn't intend to cut my maternity leave short (in Canada, I was entitled to up to 18 months), but I ended up accepting a job offer that required me to go back sooner than expected. Before that, my husband had taken just three weeks off work after our son was born, and while it was immensely helpful to me, it didn't necessarily mean he

That doesn't mean we have some idyllic, egalitarian split but simply that the entirety of domestic responsibility doesn't fall on me because my partner knows what it is to do all of that on your own. I've seen similar approaches with other friends when both parents were able to have the opportunity to figure it out early on. They take turns supporting each other both at home and with their creative or professional pursuits because they understand what it takes to manage both. Were more men to have mandated access to parental leave — not just the option to stay home but a requirement to take some amount of leave that allows them the opportunity to handle the joys and struggles of child care — it's likely the effects would resonate far beyond the immediate ability to perfect the newborn swaddle.

As long as the domestic domain is the responsibility of mothers, we'll remain in this dysfunctional nightmare in which millions of women can be forced out of the workforce to care for children and we hardly bat an eyelash — in which an epidemic of burnout can cripple families, run our mental health ragged, and lead to an endless chorus of cries for help with the answer from all parties seeming to be “Deal with it.”

It's so clear, from the formula shortage to the looming threat to abortion access, that far too many men, despite being fathers, remain ignorant about how child care actually works. You will never know the haunting prospect of a hungry infant until you're responsible for feeding that child. You will always see a forced pregnancy as something trivial until that life you mandated into the world is your sole responsibility. Any solutions that address the modern parenting crisis have to shift the burden off women and lead with the understanding that care work is work and it's universal. And it has to begin at the very beginning. Children are not a woman's problem, but for too long, even the most progressive men have made it so. We're in it together or we're not in it at all.

-The Cut



Rajni Bala, a government school teacher from the minority community, was also shot dead by militants at her school in Kulgam district.



## Seismological Observatory Inaugurated At Udhampur

Observer News Service

Udhampur: Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology; Minister of State (I/C) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Udhampur has today emerged on the world seismological map with the installation of latest upgraded Seismological Observatory by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

Singh said this while inaugurating a Seismological Observatory at Udhampur, an initiative of the National Centre of Seismology, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences. Secretary DST, Dr. M Ravichandran was also present during the inauguration.

Singh informed that during last 8 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has installed more than 70 such observatories across the country, compared to just 80 installed in over 6 decades before.

While dedicating this observatory to the people, the Minister said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid renewed emphasis on the scientific programmes by prioritising Science and technology based developments and allocating sufficient budgets to the science departments.

The Minister also said that in the last 7-8 years, departments that previously did not get their due importance are now being prioritised. One such department that has been brought to the forefront is the Department of Earth Sciences that used to work in anonymity earlier, he added.

Singh further said that In-

dia has a very long coastline of around 6000 km and India is the only country which has an ocean named after it. It is a symbol and a legacy of our glorious past and a bright future towards which India is heading under PM Narendra Modi, he added.

While inaugurating this laboratory, Dr. Singh informed that in next 5 years, 100 more such seismological centres will be opened across the country for improving the real time data monitoring and data collection. India is moving closer to playing a critical role in seismological advancement and understanding, the Minister added.

Elaborating about this development at Udhampur today, Dr. Singh stressed that this observatory at Udhampur will record the data related to the inner activities of the earth's crust and will provide data to various seismological stations across the globe.

The Minister maintained that J&K is in the seismic zone especially South and North Kashmir where such Observatories have been established. Udhampur is the third place in J&K where such seismological observations will be recorded now, Dr. Singh informed.

Ocean resources, Coastal initiatives and Earthquake studies are among futuristic StartUp possibilities offered by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Singh said.

Explaining the special significance of Udhampur for setting up this observatory here, Singh said that Udhampur district lies between the two seismological fault lines and thus can provide critical data related to the earthquakes.



## Average Performance Of Students Drops In J&K, Reveals Survey

Agencies

Srinagar: In Jammu and Kashmir, the average performance of students has declined in a fresh assessment survey as compared to the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2017.

According to reports, the Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has said that in comparison to NAS-2017, average performance of students has declined among the students of Class-III, Class-V and Class-VIII.

In the assessment survey of 2021, SCERT has further said that the learning gaps have widened due to Covid-19 lockdown and school closure. "Primary class students have suffered more due to school closure."

Stating the report on Student Learning Levels and learning gaps due to Covid-19 for Class III, Class V and Class VIII, SCERT said, "Differences in the learning levels among the students of a same class have increased and 57 percent of the students have scored less than 50 percent in the JKUT Assessment Survey 2021."

SCERT in the report card has further said that the JKUT Assessment survey was successfully conducted throughout Jammu and Kashmir in which competency-based test items (MCQs) were developed by SCERT-JK to assess the learning outcomes suggested by the NCERT.

"The findings of the survey will help to guide education policy, planning and implementation at UT, district and classroom levels for improving learning levels of students and bringing about qualitative improvements," it reads—(KNO)

## J&K Bank MD Baldev Prakash Calls Upon FM Sitharaman

Observer News Service

Srinagar: MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash on Tuesday called upon Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Delhi.

On the occasion, Finance Minister directed the Bank to continue its mission of financial empowerment.

The Bank has been playing its role well in the development of J&K, Ladakh and other parts of the country. All its current efforts must match the scale of challenges people face economically, she said.

Earlier, the J&K Bank MD thanked the Finance Minister for her valuable time and apprised her about Bank's current position. He reiterated the Bank's commitment to work for Union Government's vision of equitable development and inclusive economy, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Union Health Minister Reviews Health Care Sector In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister of State Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar on Tuesdy chaired a meeting at SKICC here to review the progress of Health and Medical Education sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Health and Medical Education, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Director SKIMS, Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Koul, Director AIIMS Jammu, Dr Shakti Gupta, Director NHM, Dr Sachin Mittal, MD NHM J&K, Yasin M Choudhary, Principals of GMCs, Director Health Services Kashmir, Chief Medical Officers of various districts and other officers.

While reviewing the physical and financial progress on twin AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir, MoS impressed upon the officers to work in a dedicated manner so that the projects are com-

pleted well within the stipulated time frame.

She directed the officers to hold regular meetings and iron out all the difficulties.

She said that the government is working on a mission mode to further strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir and many initiatives are being taken in this regard.

She assured the concerned officers that every support will be provided by the Union Government and impressed upon them to work in a cooperative manner in order to serve people better.

Director AIIMS Jammu and Deputy Director AIIMS Kashmir gave a detailed presentation about the progress of work on their respective institutes and also highlighted certain issues.

While reviewing the arrangements for Yatra 2022, MoS directed the concerned officers to provide quality healthcare to the pilgrims coming for

the Amarnath Yatra 2022.

She directed the officers to put in place all the arrangements before the commencement of Yatra including the issue of manpower, logistics and other high tech equipment in place. She further directed the concerned to ensure availability of oxygen both portable and non portable at all the health centres which are established along the route.

It was reiterated that the pilgrims should be facilitated at all levels for a seamless and hassle free Yatra.

Principal Secretary Health and Medical Education, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi briefed the MoS about the health sector and the arrangements that have been put in place for the Amarnath Yatra 2022.

Regarding the arrangements for Yatra 2022, he said that all the arrangements have been put in place to ensure quality health care is made available to the devotees.

## Kashmiri Saffron Gains More Prominence In Domestic, Export Markets With GI Tag

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To give a boost to saffron production in Kashmir, J&K Government has launched new initiatives including the introduction of GI Tagging.

GI sign is used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

Saffron growers are hopeful that they will now get a better price for their produce after the introduction of GI tag to the saffron grown here. Kashmiri Saffron is grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level, which adds to its uniqueness and differentiates it from other saffron varieties available across the world.

Saffron is cultivated and harvested in the Karewas (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir and has been assigned Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. The spice is grown in Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

Iran is the largest producer of saffron in the world and India is a close competitor. However, with the GI tag of Kashmir saffron, India becomes the only Saffron producing Country for which GI has been assigned which will result in more prominence in the export market thereby boosting exports as well as help the farmers to get best remunerative price for economic



sustainability.

The GI Certification would also cease the prevalent adulteration of Saffron and will put an end to the marketing of Saffron cultivated in other countries under the garb of being produced in Kashmir which otherwise was defeating the economic interests of the farmers associated with this crop.

Highlighting the importance of preserving the unique identity of Kashmiri Saffron, an official of Agriculture Department said that Kashmir is having a distinction of producing one of the best saffron in the world, therefore it is our individual/collective and moral responsibility to preserve this golden spice not only for a large number of families directly associated with the cultivation of saffron but for our generations to come.

Saffron, despite its price, is in high demand for its antioxidant properties. It carries a hefty price tag also because the process of converting crocus flowers into the thread-like spice is painstaking and labour-intensive as it takes around 160,000 flowers to yield a kilogram of saffron.

Kashmiri saffron is of superior quality because of the higher concentration of crocin, a carotenoid pigment that gives saffron its colour and medicinal value. Its crocin content is 8.72% compared to the Iranian variant's 6.82%, giving it a darker colour and enhanced medicinal value.

Kashmiri Saffron is renowned globally as a spice. It rejuvenates health and is used in cosmetics and

for medicinal purposes. It has been associated with traditional Kashmiri cuisine and represents the rich cultural heritage of the region. The unique characteristics of Kashmir saffron are its longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing, and high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness).

Remarkably, a new saffron park has been started just for the sole purpose of processing and promoting the sale of saffron from Kashmir Valley. The samples brought by growers are tested here. The lab is recognised across the world. There are 8 parameters that are tested, which are internationally recognized. The 8 parameters include moisture, extraneous matter and foreign matter, and total ash and three main characteristics. They are graded and then e-auctioned. The farmers get the flowers and then the stigma separation and vacuum drying is done at the Dusoo Park.

Traditionally the farmers used to dry the saffron under shade at home but due to that, the saffron used to lose the main components. Now all the parameters are saved to get the best grade, an official of the Saffron Park said.

With the GI tag, saffron growers and traders are getting more benefits like legal protection to the products as well as prevention of unauthorized use of GI tag products by others.

'Kashmir's Hand Over To Pak'

## MP Commission Faces Flak Over Controversial Question

Press Trust Of India

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) on Tuesday blacklisted a paper setter and a moderator after a controversial question on Kashmir was asked in the General Aptitude Test of the state services preliminary examination.

The MPPSC also withdrew the controversial question from the exam, which was held on Sunday.

According to officials, the paper had a statement 'if India should decide to hand over Kashmir to Pakistan', and candidates were given arguments to choose from, one of which was 'yes, it will save a lot of money for India' and 'no, such a decision will lead to more similar demands'.

The candidates had to answer which of the two arguments was stronger, while two more options given comprised 'both are stronger' or 'vice versa'.

"MPPSC has debarred two officials, belonging to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra respectively, who were involved in the process of setting the paper. The question was ob-

jectionable and a letter is being written to MPPSC and Higher Education Department for action against them," Madhya Pradesh's Home Minister Narottam Mishra told reporters in Bhopal.

Mishra, who is also the state government spokesperson, said information has been provided to other states that both these officials were debarred and, hence, their services should not be used.

Speaking to reporters in Indore, MPPSC Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Ravindra Panchbhai said, "We do not agree with the content of the question asked on Kashmir in the paper on General Aptitude Test for State Services Preliminary Examination 2021. That's why we have removed (withdrawn) this question from the exam." "The setter and the moderator involved in the process of preparing this paper have been black-listed, which means they are permanently debarred from the examination process of MPPSC. We have written to departments for disciplinary action against them," he said, though he refused to divulge the names of the two officials citing confidentiality of the examination.

## MG Motor Inaugurates New Dealership In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar- MG Motor India has strengthened its retail presence with the launch of an all-new 3S facility in Srinagar. Christened 'MG Srinagar', the launch comes as MG expands its retail presence pan-India with an increasing demand for its vehicles.

The all-new facility, which includes a state-of-the-art service centre, was inaugurated in the presence of Rajeev Chhaba, President and Managing Director, MG Motor India.

On the auspicious occasion, the dealership also extended its support to Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences

with incubator, oxygen concentrators and nebulizers under MG Sewa. Launched by MG Motor, MG Sewa is a 'community first' program working towards the betterment of society by promoting girl child education, women empowerment, youth skill development, etc.

With the inauguration of the new facility, MG is committed to providing the best services to its customers with a wide portfolio of products and strong after-sales support. Its products are also assured with a low total cost of ownership and one of the best resale values in its segment.

The carmaker operates

## سمنانی خلاب ان کو صدمہ

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ 'زہیندار' کے چیف ایگزیکٹو سمنانی مورخہ 21 جون 2022ء آج 21 ذیقعدہ 1443ھ بروز منگلوار کو وفات پائی۔ ان کی مقبرہ واقع بہمنہ متصل پولیس سٹیشن میں سپرد خاک کیا گیا۔ بقرہ ۱۰۰۰ روپے میں مرحومہ کے گھر واقعہ حال\* درگند پیریزخ نورانی کالونی لین نمبر 4 مکان نمبر 83 میں ہوئی۔ مرحومہ صوم و صلوٰۃ کی پچ بند اور زندگی بھر حیا میں تھیں۔ اہلیہ یاقانم و دائر رہی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ مرحومہ کو حق تعالیٰ کی معرفت اور بہشتی نصیب ہو۔ آمین۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی بروز جمعہ 24 جون 2022 بعد نماز وقت 2:30 بجے مدینہ جاتیگی۔ نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی بھی قسم کا میوہ یا دیگر شے نہ لائے۔

منجانب

سوغواراں

خلاب ان سمنانہ

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohammad Amin khan, S/O Mohammad Asadullah Khan, R/O Reshipora Bangdara. Do hereby solemnly Affirm on the particulars that the date of birth of my son and particulars are:

Name: Adil Amin khan  
S/o : Mohammad Amin khan  
Resident OF Reshipora Bangdara  
D.O.B :13/4/2012.  
Sex: Male  
Nationality : Indian

This affidavit is solicited in particulars of my son.

That I grant this Affidavit to correct the name from Adil Ameen Khan to Adil Amin Khan.  
Above statement is true

pd

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My Mother's Name in my passport bearing No; M0466593 has been wrongly written as AMULBANIN BEGUM while her correct name according to my Matriculation certificate is Umul Baneen which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection nt he office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Younis Ahmad  
S/o Syed Ahmad Shah  
R/o Goom Ahmadpora Magam Pattan, Baramulla

BMG



## First Para-Athletic Meet Of Kashmir To Be Held At IUST



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, Islamic University of Science and

Technology (IUST), Awantipora marked an important milestone for sports by organising its first Para-Athletic Meet and first Inter-College Athletic Championship of Kashmir from June 22-23, 2022.

Athletes, including para-athletes from different parts of the valley, with more than a hundred athletes from different educational institutes of Kashmir are participating in this championship. The competitions shall include short/middle and relay races, long jump, shot put and javelin throw. All the competitions of the tournament will be conducted as per the Regulations of the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations), followed in world University games.

The competitions shall be held on IUST Synthetic Athletic Track, which is the only international standard athletic track in Jammu and Kashmir. The athletic track

was developed under Khelo India Scheme with a project outlay of Rs. 6.09 cr from the Government of India.

The mission of NEP-2020 is to help foster a holistic development of students and emphasis on sports therefore becomes primary. In keeping with this central tenet of the education policy, IUST vouches to support and coordinate activities in sports, remain committed to and constructively engaged in the NEP-2020 sports policy and organise more such events in the future to create and promote a culture of fitness.

Dr. Hilal A Rather, Assistant Director, Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, IUST while talking about the development of appropriate sport-specific measures underscored the importance of this event. He said, "The focus of such events is on the development of sports and the empowerment of youth through sports and physical activities. These sports championships also help to promote cultural integration among the people."

## J&K Gymnasts To Participate In Asian C'ship At Thailand



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Reaching another milestone, trainees of J&K Sports Council's Gymnastic Academy are all set to represent the Indian gymnastic contingent for participation in the senior and junior Asian Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship in Pattaya, Thailand from 23rd to 26th of this month.

The gymnasts of J&K include senior gymnast Bavleen Kaur and junior gymnasts Muskan Rana, Manya, Vaibhavi Sharma, Jagriti Thakur, Himani Gupta, and Shivangi.

Junior gymnasts left on Monday evening for the venue while Bavlin who was in Baku, Azerbaijan is joining the Indian team in Thailand on Tuesday.

Mitali, Junior Coach of J&K Sports Council and the most decorated gymnast of J&K during the last two decades has been named as the coach of the

Junior Indian Team.

The participation of the Indian Rhythmic gymnastics contingent has been cleared on cost to the Sports Authority of India, Government of India.

The J&K gymnasts were selected during a battery of selection trials held on 2-3 June 2022 in Jammu under the overall supervision of Kiran Wattal, Vice President of Gymnastics Federation of India, along with GFI selection committee members comprising of Arjuna Awardee, Kalpana Debnath, Varsha Upadhye, and Chairperson of GFI RG Technical Committee and Arjuna Awardee, Krupali Patel Singh.

Congratulating the J&K Sports Council Gymnastics Academy team, Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gull said, "I am sure our team will come up with flying colours, especially J&K girls will prove their mettle in the championship as they are second to none."

## YSS Celebrates 8th International Yoga Day Across J&K



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The International Yoga Day was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm across J&K by the Department of Youth Services and Sports in all sports zones on Tuesday.

At different venues the serene atmosphere pervaded every being there and the quietude allowed the participants to synchronize their body, mind and soul. Preceding to the International Day of Yoga, the Department of Youth Services & Sports started organising practice sessions a week before to make 8th International Day of Yoga a memorable event.

The Yoga Instructors initially briefed the participants about the essence of Yogic exercises and thereafter held a 45 minute practice session with demonstration of different Yoga asanas. The message "Yoga for Humanity" was disseminated among the

masses through different social media platforms besides hoardings and banners.

The yoga asanas were demonstrated by the proficient Yoga Instructors of the Department.

Principal Secretary to Government DYSS Alok Kumar urged upon the participants to be the ambassadors of the Department in carrying forward the message "Yoga for Humanity" and make Yoga a daily routine for their physical, mental and spiritual well being. He also emphasized upon them to further motivate and involve their family members in yoga to fulfil the dream of making India Fit.

Most of the programmes were successfully conducted despite bad weather conditions in both the regions of the UT. Cutting across all the age groups, thousands of citizens, students, officers and officials participated in the celebrations in all the sports zones of J&K.

## LG Hands Over Chess Olympiad Torch To GM Thipsay At SKICC



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Chess Grandmaster Pravin Thipsay at SKICC.

The first ever Chess Olympiad torch which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19th June from Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi will travel to 75 cities in 40 days before it culminates at Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu for the 44th Chess Olympiad.

Speaking on the occasion the LG said, it is a moment of great pride for everyone in J&K to host the first-ever Chess Olympiad Torch. In its journey from Kash-

mir to Kanyakumari, this torch will light the way and bring people together to promote values of good sportsmanship, teamwork, peace, harmony and brotherhood, he further added.

Today, chess competitions are being organized in almost every district. Six youths from UT are being sent to Chennai to watch the 44th Chess Olympiad and take guidance from the legendary Grandmasters, he said.

The LG also asked the Chess Association and Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council to make every effort to make the upcoming 'Kashmir Open International FIDE Rating Chess Tournament' commencing in Srinagar from July 2, a grand success.

Atul Kumar Gupta, President Jammu and Kashmir Chess Association, in his welcome address expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT Government for promoting sports in J&K.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Aftab Malik, DDC Chairman Srinagar; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner SMC; Mohd Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, besides senior officers of police and civil administration, prominent sports personalities, budding sports persons in large numbers were present on the occasion.

## Ashwin Misses Plane To England After Testing COVID Positive: BCCI Source

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has not travelled to the United Kingdom along with his India teammates for the one-off 'fifth Test' after testing positive for COVID-19, a BCCI source told PTI.

Ashwin is currently in quarantine and will only join the squad after meeting all protocols requirements.

The Indian team had left for UK on June 16.

"Ashwin hasn't travelled with the squad to UK as he has tested positive for COVID-19 before departure. But we are hopeful that he will recover well in time before the Test match starts on July 1," the BCCI source said on conditions of anonymity.

"However, he might miss the practice game against Leicestershire," the source added.

After the IPL, Ashwin had played a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) League



red-ball match where he had bowled 20 overs to get some long form game time.

The rest of the Indian squad is already in Leicester and started training under the supervision of bowling coach Paras Mhambrey and batting coach Vikram Rathour.

Rahul Dravid, Rishabh Pant

and Shreyas Iyer have reached London after finishing the T20I assignment against South Africa and will travel to Leicester on Tuesday.

The Ireland-bound squad under VVS Laxman will leave for Dublin on either June 23 or 24 as the team members have been given a three-day rest.

## Ranji Trophy Final Preview: Mumbai's Might Meets MP's Desire

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** In sports, there's a saying that goes, "You never win a silver. You always lose a gold."

As its squad chases a record 42nd Ranji Trophy crown, Mumbai cricket has followed an old concrete jungle aphorism to the letter. It now faces a group of bravehearts from Madhya Pradesh who have learned trade secrets from a Mumbaiakar.

Chandrakant Pandit, the head coach of the MP team, will not accept anything less than a championship, but Amol Muzumdar's team has dominated the proceedings since the commencement of the season's business end.

On paper, the Mumbai side, with the strongest Gen-Next talent in its lineup, is an overwhelming favourite in the final match, which begins on Wednesday.

After a few inconsistent seasons, Sarfaraz Khan has taken his game to a new level, scoring 800-plus runs in just five games.

Yashvasi Jaiswal is a youngster who is just as enthusiastic about his red ball performance as he is about donning the Rajasthan Royals' bright pink

uniform. His ravenous thirst for runs was demonstrated by three hundreds in four innings of quarterfinal and semifinal play.

Prithvi Shaw isn't your tradi-



tional Mumbai khadoos (stubborn) batter; instead, he's more in the mould of Virender Sehwag, with a tendency for destroying any assault.

Arman Jaffer is a chip off the old block, and achieving even half of what his legendary uncle Wasim accomplished would be beneficial to him.

Add in players like Suvud Parkar and Hardik Tamore, who realised how valuable the opportunity to wear the Lion's insignia on white flannels was.

Mumbai has always had tough batting lineups that can worry the opposition. But left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (37 wickets and 292 runs). And also off-spinner Tanush Kotian have been under-appreciated this

time (18 wickets and 236 runs). MP, on the other hand, has been one of the most improved teams in recent years. And Pandit has instilled the discipline required to reach the final of a championship like the Ranji Trophy.

It didn't help that they were missing Venkatesh Iyer in the batting line-up. And also pace spearhead Avesh Khan in the bowling line-up. But the unheralded Kumar Kartikeya has done the work for his squad with his stamina to bowl for hours.

The Himanshu Mantris and Akshat Raghuvanshi have all performed admirably in their given duties.

There is only one player on this team that is a real blue talent, and that is Rajat Patidar.

For Mumbai, it would be critical to ensure that Patidar's wide range of strokes does not allow him to win the game in a single session.

With two spinners in Kartikeya and Saransh Jain, MP will choose to play the waiting game. That Pandit has instilled in his wards across the states as a coach.

It'd be a game of chess played on a 22-yard board. But it'd be exciting enough for everyone who got to watch it.

## Djokovic, Swiatek Top Seeds At Wimbledon

Reuters

**LONDON:** Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic will head into next week's tournament as the men's top seed with Russian world number one Daniil Medvedev banned from taking part while Germany's second-ranked Alexander Zverev is out injured.

Organisers of the grasscourt Grand Slam have banned players from Russia and Belarus from playing at this year's Wimbledon following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which Russia calls a 'special operation'.

Zverev had surgery on torn ligaments in his right ankle this month after he was forced to retire from his French Open semi-final against Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic, who was unable to defend his 2021 Australian Open title and the 2,000 ranking points he earned due to his non-vaccinated status against COVID-19, recently lost his world number one spot to Medvedev.

The Serbian, who has won the last three editions of the grasscourt major, will slip further down the rankings after Wimbledon as he will lose another 2,000 points with the ATP and WTA stripping the tournament of points.

The absence of Medvedev and Zverev means Nadal, who is halfway through a possible calendar year Slam after winning



the Australian and French Open titles, to be seeded second.

It also results in Djokovic and Nadal finding themselves in different halves of the draw and they cannot face each other until the men's final on July 10. The duo met in this year's Roland Garros quarter-final where the Spaniard triumphed.

Britain has two players in the top 10 seeds at their home major with Cameron Norrie ninth while US Open champion Emma Raducanu is 10th in the absence of Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka.

Poland's world number one Iga Swiatek will be the women's top seed with Estonian Anett Kontaveit the number two.

Wimbledon organisers had previously used a computer-based system favouring results on grasscourts in the previous two years to determine the seedings but from the 2021 edition seedings mirror the world rankings.

## Rugby League Bans Transgender Athletes In Women's Sport



Reuters

**MELBOURNE/SYDNEY:** Rugby league banned transgender players from women's international competition on Tuesday until further notice, following global swimming's decision to restrict trans athletes' participation at the elite level. The International Rugby League (IRL) said it needed to further consult and balance transgender participation against "perceived risk" to other players.

"Until further research is completed to enable the IRL to implement a formal transgender inclusion policy, male-to-female (trans women) players are unable to play in sanctioned women's international rugby league matches," the IRL said in a statement. The ban, which comes after FINA voted on Sunday to restrict transgender athletes in elite women's swimming, was condemned by transgender advocates and sportspeople.

"It's disappointing. We're human beings the same as every-

one else," transgender woman Caroline Layt, who played elite women's rugby league in Australia after transitioning, told Reuters. "It just tells trans kids and trans adults that you're not worthy. Don't even bother. Don't even bother showing up. What's the point?"

Other sports have policies restricting transgender athletes in top women's competitions, including rugby union, cycling, and Australian Rules football. The International Olympic Committee, however, said in November that no athlete should be excluded from the competition on the grounds of a perceived unfair advantage while leaving it up to sports federations to decide.

The International Cycling Union said last week it had tightened its eligibility rules. Other sports are reviewing their policies.

World soccer governing body FIFA said it is in a consultation process over transgender participation while World Athletics boss Sebastian Coe praised FINA for its stance.

## FIFA Extends Ukrainian Club Contract Rules For Next Season

Agencies

**GENEVA:** Seeking to protect Ukrainian soccer clubs during the Russian military invasion, FIFA on Tuesday extended emergency contract rules for foreign players and coaches through next season.

FIFA's move aims to give clarity and security for clubs with some staff likely leaving on loan deals while the direction of the war is unclear.

Interim rules first applied by FIFA in March let soccer employees from abroad get out of their contracts in Ukraine and Russia for the rest of the season that just ended.

Ukrainian clubs had stopped playing during the war and in Russia some coaches and players declined to continue with clubs there.

With the European offseason transfer period now starting, Ukraine's top club Shakhtar Donetsk warned this month that some agents were trying "to take our players for free" and exploit the uncertainty.

FIFA said Ukrainian and Russian clubs have until June 30 to reach agreements with overseas players and coaches, who would then "have the right to suspend their employ-

ment contracts" for one year.

"These provisions give players and coaches the opportunity to train, play and receive a salary, while protect-



ing Ukrainian clubs and facilitating the departure of foreign players and coaches from Russia," FIFA said in a statement.

The Ukrainian Premier League aims to start a new season in August, and Dynamo Kyiv is due to start in Champions League qualifying rounds on July 19 or 20. Dynamo has been drawn to face Fenerbahce.

Shakhtar has a direct entry into the Champions League group stage in September.

Sporting director Darijo Srna told The Associated Press this month the Shakhtar lineup would be mostly young Ukrainian players. The club has typically had a core of Brazilian players in the past 15 years. (AP)