

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## LG Sinha Says, Govt Building World Class Infrastructure In J&K Says UT Emerging As A Performer In Every Sector On National Canvas

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Lieutenant Governor Mino Sinha said on Friday that his administration is building world-class infrastructure in the Union Territory, which is emerging as a performer in every sector on national canvas.

"Our success as a nation can only be achieved by promoting a culture of ideas and innovation in classrooms with dedication, discipline and determination," Sinha said.

He made these remarks while addressing the 8th convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi



University, Katra, an official spokesperson said on Friday. "Teachers should dream of making SMVD University one

**6 THROUGH THE NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION,** we have got an opportunity to transform our institutions by setting academic priorities, preparing them for international competition and having revamped, relevant, modern and progressive educational curriculum."

of the preeminent universities in Northern India and students must aspire to fulfil the dream of 130 crore Indians," the LG said, adding "We cannot

achieve big things in life unless we dream big and strive hard to achieve it."

According to the spokesperson, the LG observed that

youth can shape the destiny of our great nation if they are equipped with special knowledge, skills, wisdom and values as emphasized in the national education policy.

"As they step out of campus, the new jobs and careers should become a mission to improve the lives of others," Sinha said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that in J&K government is building world-class infrastructure, and the UT is emerging as a performer in every sector on national canvas.

"Simultaneously, we are strengthening knowledge

system of our economy to provide bright opportunities to talented young professionals," the LG added.

Underlining that University campus anywhere in the world is the best place to sharpen social consciousness of young minds full of joy and adventurous pursuit of progress, the LG, as per the spokesperson said the education must be aligned to support students' creativity so that they can contribute their best for a better world.

On the occasion, he said, the LG congratulated all the students who **More on P6**

## J&K Logs 727 Covid Cases, 2 Deaths



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The daily Coronavirus cases continue to show a spike in Jammu and Kashmir, as 727 more people on Friday tested positive for virus, while two more people succumbed to the infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 521 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus, the highest numbers in over five months, while 206 were detected from various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 463359.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 246 new cases of infection, Baramulla 94, Kupwara 49, Budgam 42, Anantnag 35, Kulgam 21, Bandipora 13, Ganderbal 12, Pulwama 8, and Shopian 1.

In the winter capital, they said, Jammu reported a maximum of 134 new cases of Coronavirus, Kishtwar 19, Samba 12, Rajouri 10, Doda 9, Udhampur 7, Poonch 6, Kathua 5, Ramban 3 and Reasi 1.

Also, the officials said that the two more deaths were reported from Kashmir Valley and Jammu division, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4768 in J&K-2339 in Jammu division and 2429 from The Valley.

"Moreover, 572 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 346 from Jammu division and 226 from Kashmir division," the officials added.

## Weather Dept Issues Yellow Warning In J&K

Rainfall, Thundershowers Predicted During Next 2-3 Days

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The weather department on Friday issued yellow warning in Jammu and Kashmir predicting fairly widespread light to moderate rain and thundershowers over the Union Territory during the next 24 hours.

A senior meteorological department official told Kashmir Observer that a yellow warning has been issued for isolated thundershowers and lightning in Kashmir Valley for Friday and Saturday. He said a similar warning has also been issued for Jammu for the next two days.

"Yellow warning means that people have to stay alert. Alert about rain and flash floods. In south Kashmir the rain is still going on. There's a possibility of heavy rains. The weather will remain erratic for the next two to three days till the end of July.

The people living near water bodies and mountains are advised to stay alert," Mukhtar Ahmed, Deputy Director Met department told Kashmir Observer on Friday.

There are four types of colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched, orange—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red—action needed by the agencies.

Meanwhile the weatherman said that rains continued to lash J&K with Jammu district receiving 111.2mm in last 24 hours till 0830 hours Friday. Kathua had rainfall of 50.2mm during the time followed by Qazigund with 18.4mm, Kukernag 16.6mm, Batote 16.2 mm, Kupwara 13.5mm, Katra 12.8 mm, Banihal 9.2mm, Pahalgam 3.9mm, Bhaderwah 2.2mm and Srinagar 1.8mm, the official said. **More on P6**



### Highway Reopens For Stranded Vehicles

**V**ehicular traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway resumed on Friday after blockades caused by shooting stones and mudslides in Ramban district were cleared, officials said. "Jammu-Srinagar highway is through. Many stretches are still single way open for traffic and intermittent shooting stones still going on, a traffic advisory said. It said stranded vehicles were being cleared and people are advised not to travel on the highway without confirmation from traffic police. Convoys of Amarnath pilgrims from Jammu have been **More on P6**

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A nomad girl preparing food inside her mud house in Yousmarg meadow in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## SC Notice To Centre On Setting Up Bar Council In J&K

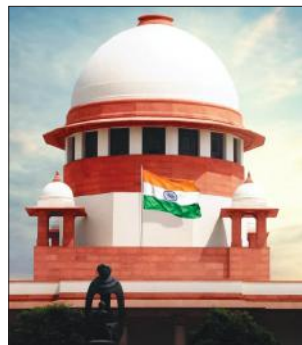
Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from the Centre and others on a plea seeking directions to establish the Bar Council in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and J B Pardiwala issued notices to the Ministry of Law and Justice, Bar Council of India and others on a plea filed by a lawyer. We will issue notice, the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking directions to the Centre and the Bar Council of India (BCI) to establish the Bar Council in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The plea alleged that failure to provide Bar Council to lawyers from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is nothing less than step-motherly treatment and



discrimination.

Petitioner Supriya Pandita, who is a practicing advocate from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, has said in the plea that the entire legal fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has no government established body where they can get themselves enrolled and take benefits of the Bar Council as compared to other states in the country.

The Advocates Act, 1961, mandates every state should have State Bar Council and therefore, Bar Council for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh cannot be denied by the respondents, said the plea, filed through advocate Om Prakash Parihar.

It claimed that due to the non-availability of the State Bar Council, the advocates are even deprived of applying for the proximity cards for appearing before the apex court as no option for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is provided in the online application.

The advocate members from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are unable to apply for the proximity card of this court as the application form for the proximity card of this court requires compulsory filing up the details of the **More on P6**

## Days After India's Snub, China Hints At Extending CPEC To Afghanistan

Press Trust Of India

**Beijing:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has offered to support the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan, days after India slammed a bid by China and Pakistan to encourage third countries to be part of their ambitious connectivity corridor that passes through Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

Wang made the offer to Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan's Interim Government Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi on Thursday when they met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

"China hopes to push the alignment of the Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI) with the development strategies of Afghanistan, support the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan, and share China's development opportunities," Wang was quoted as saying by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on its website on Friday.

Last week, Pakistan's Foreign Office said Pakistan and China have decided to welcome interested third countries joining the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying it was "an open and inclusive platform" for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea with Kashgar in northwest China's **More on P6**

### Moon Not Sighted, Ashura On August 9

**G**rand Mufti, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam on Friday evening said the moon for Muharram-ul-Haram was not sighted anywhere and as such Sunday will mark the beginning of new Islamic Year - 1444 A.H. Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam told a local news agency GNS that no witness' could be made available on record regarding the sighting of moon, from any part of Jammu or Kashmir divisions. "The new year will as such start from Sunday, August 31, and the **More on P6**

### Electricity Shock Kills Village Head

**A** numberdar of Chadder village in South Kashmir's Kulgam district died of electrocution on Friday afternoon, officials said. Ghulam Rasool Dar, the village head, was repairing an electricity wire outside his home in of Chadder village on Friday afternoon when he received an electric shock, reports said. Dar was rushed to a nearby hospital in an unconscious condition for treatment. However, the doctors there **More on P6**

### Two 'Hybrid Militants' Held In Kupwara

**P**olice on Friday claimed to have arrested two hybrid militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) along with arms and ammunition in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Two hybrid militants identified as Talib Ahmad Sheikh of Laderwan, Kupwara and Shameem Ahmad of Kawadi Laderwan, Kupwara were arrested by police and Army, a police official said. He said the militants were affiliated with LeT outfit. Four pistols, eight **More on P6**

### 26 People Trapped In Flash Flood Rescued

**T**he Army on Friday rescued 26 persons of several families who were trapped in a flash flood in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. Acting on information about 26 members of several families trapped in a flash flood in the Chandak Bela area, army troops along with police and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) launched an operation to rescue them, they said. After a day-long operation, they were rescued safely, they said. (PTI)

### Man Injured After Hit By Dumper

**A** man from Sopore town of Baramulla district was hospitalized after hit by a dumper on Friday in the mountainous Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. Official sources said that a dumper (JK19- 4309) on way from Banihal towards Navyug, hit a man namely Manzoor Ahmed Mir son of Mohammad Ramzan Mir near railway Fourway Chowk Banihal. The injured person, they said, was removed **More on P6**

### Ladakh Sees Nine New Corona Cases

**L**adakh on Friday reported nine fresh COVID-19 cases, pushing its infection tally to 28,852, officials said. All the fresh cases were reported from Leh, they said. So far, 228 people have succumbed to coronavirus in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, according to the officials. They said the number of active COVID-19 cases in the union territory stands at 142. Of the total 743 samples tested for the infection in Ladakh, **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S





# Women Are Better At Statistics Than They Think

## The Conversation

Women in statistics classes do better academically than men over a semester despite having more negative attitudes regarding their own abilities, according to our recent study in the Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education. Using data from more than 100 male and female students from multiple statistics classes, my colleague and I assessed gender differences in grades over the course of a semester. As part of the study, students also answered surveys at the start and end of the semester that measured six different things: their fear of statistics teachers in general; their thoughts about the usefulness of statistics; their perceptions of their own mathematical ability; their anxiety in taking tests; their anxiety in interpreting statistics; and their fear of asking for help. Overall, we found that students with more negative perceptions of their own mathematical ability had lower grades over the course of the semester. What's even more interesting are the gender differences that emerged. Even though men and women scored similarly on exams at the start of the semester, women finished the semester with almost 10% higher final exam grades. This was the case even though women had significantly worse attitudes about their mathematical abilities at the start of the



semester than their male counterparts. At the beginning of the semester specifically, women were more likely to rate their mathematical abilities as lower than men in the class and report more anxiety toward exams and toward interpreting statistical findings. However, each of these self-assessments improved over the course of the semester such that women's attitudes didn't differ from men's by the

end. Meanwhile, the grades of male students who reported fear of statistics teachers or fear of asking for help decreased more sharply over the course of the semester. For men whose attitudes improved during the semester, grades also improved though not as much as women's grades improved.

Why it matters  
A number of studies have shown that from an early age, boys and girls learn math equally well. However, girls are less likely to be called on in math classes than boys, even when they raise their hands as much as boys do. Moreover, some teachers unconsciously grade girls' math tests more harshly than boys'. By middle school, gender differenc-

es in math scores emerge. These factors may contribute to adult women's being more likely to rate themselves as less mathematically skilled than men. As a result, women are also less likely to pursue STEM science, technology, engineering and math occupations. The results from our study, in line with others, bolster the notion that women have the potential to do as well as men, and even better, in STEM fields, such as statistics. We contend that women would benefit from additional mentoring to encourage them as they begin pursuing STEM-related education. What still isn't known The evidence above provides hints at some of the causes of the gender discrepancy in perceived ability. However, there is much we still don't know. For example, why did the attitudes of the women in our study improve over time? Was it based on their confidence in their abilities as their grades improved, or did their statistics teachers influence their perception of their own abilities over time? More research is needed to understand exactly how women differed from men in their attitudes over the course of the school semester, among other questions. In particular, we'd like to disentangle exactly which classroom or instructor factors can lead to better attitudes among students, ultimately translating to better grades.

## Particular Brain Reactions To Traumatic Stress Are Associated With PTSD Risk

### ANI

Results from the largest prospective study of its kind indicate that in the initial days and weeks after experiencing trauma, individuals facing potentially threatening situations who had less activity in their hippocampus developed more severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms.

This association between reduced hippocampal activity and the risk of PTSD was particularly strong in individuals who had greater involuntary defensive reactions to being startled.

This research, published in the JNeurosci, suggests that individuals with greater defensive reactions to potentially threatening events might have a harder time learning whether an event is dangerous or safe. They also are more likely to experience severe forms of PTSD, which include symptoms such as always being on guard for danger, self-destructive behavior like drinking too much or driving too fast, trouble sleeping and concentrating, irritability, angry outbursts, and nightmares.

"These findings are important both to identify specific brain responses associated with vulnerability to develop PTSD, and to identify potential treatments focused on memory processes for these individuals to prevent or treat PTSD," said senior author Vishnu Murty, PhD, assistant professor of psychology and neuroscience at Temple University.

This research is part of the national Advancing Understanding of Recovery after Trauma (AURORA) Study, a multi-institution project funded by the National Institutes of Health, non-profit funding organizations such as One Mind, and partnerships with leading tech companies. The organizing principal investigator is Samuel McLean, MD, MPH, professor of psychiatry and emergency medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and director of the UNC Institute for Trauma

### Recovery.

AURORA allows researchers to leverage data from patient participants who enter emergency departments at hospitals across

"In these individuals, greater defensive reactions to threats may bias them against learning information about what is happening so that they can discern



the country after experiencing trauma, such as car accidents or other serious incidents. The ultimate goal of AURORA is to spur on the development and testing of preventive and treatment interventions for individuals who have experienced traumatic events.

AURORA scientists have known that only a subset of trauma survivors develop PTSD, and that PTSD is associated with increased sensitivity to threats and decreased ability to engage neural structures retrieving emotional memories. Yet how these two processes interact to increase risk for developing PTSD is not clear. To better understand these processes, Murty and colleagues characterized brain and behavioral responses from individuals two weeks following trauma.

Using brain-imaging techniques coupled with laboratory and survey-based tests for trauma, researchers found that the individuals with less activity in their hippocampus and greatest defensive responses to startling events following trauma had the most severe symptoms.

what is safe and what is dangerous," said Busra Tanriverdi, the lead researcher on the study and graduate student at Temple. "These findings highlight an important PTSD biomarker focused on how people form and retrieve memories after trauma."

"These latest findings add to our list of AURORA discoveries that are helping us understand the differences between individuals who go on to develop post-traumatic stress disorder and those who do not," said McLean, an author on the paper. "Studies focusing on the early aftermath of trauma are critical because we need a better understanding of how PTSD develops so we can prevent PTSD and best treat PTSD."

"Since initiating our financial support of the AURORA Study in 2016, we remain steadfast in our commitment to helping AURORA investigators make important discoveries and to bridge the gaps that exist in mental health research funding and patient support," said Brandon Staglin, president of One Mind.

## Study Reveals That Children Prefer Natural Food More Than Processed

### ANI

According to a study, kids rate foods they perceive to be natural as having greater levels of taste, safety, and desire than foods they perceive to be manufactured. Researchers say the tendency in adults to prefer natural food is well documented. However, the latest findings found this food bias exists in early and middle childhood as well. Researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Yale studied the preferences of more than 374 adults and children in the United States when presented with apples and orange

juice and told of their origins. In one study, 137 children aged six to 10 years old were shown three apples. They were told one was grown on a farm, one was made in a lab, and another grown on a tree inside a lab. The team used questionnaires and statistical models to assess the children's apple preferences in terms of perceived tastiness, perceived safety and desire to eat. Adults took part in the same study to compare age groups. Both children and adults preferred apples they believed were grown on farms to those grown in labs, researchers found. Children were more likely to refer to freshness, being outside, or sun-

light when considering why they chose the farm apple. Adults were more likely to mention naturalness. In a second study, 85 children aged five to seven years old and group of 64 adults were shown four different kinds of orange juice -- one described as squeezed on a farm, one with no information about it, one with chemicals allegedly removed and one described as having chemicals added. Researchers found that the information on the juice's naturalness had a significant effect on its rating. The participants gravitated to the more natural option based on perceived taste, safety and desire to consume.

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

**R&B PROJECT CIRCLE DIVISION NO, 1<sup>ST</sup> Srinagar.**

FRESH TENDER Notice

E-NIT No PCD-RnB-63 of 2022-23

Dated:- 27/07/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Percentage basis (% basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.(Rs.)	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head Of Accounts
1	Making arrangements for Independence day celebration (i.e:15 August) and other occasion and flag post at J&K High Court Srinagar for the year 2022-23.	Rs.3.13 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.6260/-	4Days	MSEs /DEE	2059 M&R

Position of AAA : Accorded vide No. Actts/2014-15 dated: 22/04/2022. Position of funds: Committed.

Position of TS :- CE(R&B)/TS/87 of 2022-23 dated :- 11-06-2022.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27/07/2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28/07/2022 11:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	28/07/2022 from 11:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	03/08/2022 up to 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	04/08/2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1 <sup>st</sup>

All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria /qualification information with their bids:- (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-

a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

b. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

c. All bidders who are registered as Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE's) can avail the option of uploading bid security deceleration as per (annexure A) instead of Earnest Money Deposit. Further the cost of tender document is also exempted for MSE's. However, the participated should have to upload the proof of MSE registration to avail the above mentioned benefits.

d. Registration Card valid for the year 2022-23

e. All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate duly issued by the card issuing authority or an Affidavit duly certified by 1<sup>st</sup> class Judicial Magistrate to the effect of genuineness of the registration.

f. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan.

g. All bidders shall upload Earnest Money @2% of Advertise Cost In shape Of CDR/FDR

h. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card

i. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter i.e. ending April-June-2022 or preceding month i.e. June 2022.

No: PCD-1st/NIT/4119-29

Dtd:- 27-07-2022

**DIPK-6969/22**

sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Project Circle Division 1st,

Srinagar



## Muttahida Majlis-E-Ulema Calls For Unity Among Muslim Sects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir organized an important meeting at the head office of Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar which was presided over by leading religious scholar Moulana Rehmatullah Mir Qasmi.

In the meeting the leaders of both schools of thoughts associated with Ahli Sunnat wal Jamat were called and strongly urged to refrain from abusing each other. "During the meeting it was decided to form a committee consisting of ulemas from both ideologies which in any unpleasant situation will look into the issues and present its report before the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema so that it can be resolved by taking timely action," read a statement issued by MMU.

"During the meeting, a six point resolution was passed. This meeting strongly condemns the conspiracies of certain narrow-minded elements under a well-thought-out plan to undermine the centuries-old religious harmony within Jammu and Kash-

mir, and categorically rejects such mischief," reads the statement.

It further reads, that this meeting makes a fervent appeal to the scholars, preachers, khateeb and imams of different schools of thought that while they follow their own school of thought and creed in practice, in public gatherings, on pulpits and mihrabs of mosques, meetings and in gatherings, they should desist from criticizing others following a different creed, and instead focus on universal and fundamental teachings of Islam.

They should also highlight and educate the masses about the serious social and moral issues faced by Kashmiri society and play their role in the all-round reform of society. The malicious intentions of anti-Islam and anti-unity elements can only be defeated through unity among the religious preachers and their followers.

In the context of the larger unity and solidarity of the Millat-e-Kashmir and the milli interests, this meeting appeals to the scholars to keep in mind the "Joint Action Plan For Milli Unity" compiled by the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema and extend full support to it.

## DC Reviews ABDP For Khonmoh & Harwan Blocks

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the plans for implementation of Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in Harwan and Khonmoh Blocks of Srinagar District, a meeting of the Officers of line Departments was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad.

Aijaz Asad took a detailed review of the sector wise activities being carried out by the concerned Departments in Harwan and Khonmoh Blocks of the district taken up under Aspirational Block Development Programme based on 10 performance indicators covering various aspects including Poverty, Health and Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure development of the concerned Block.

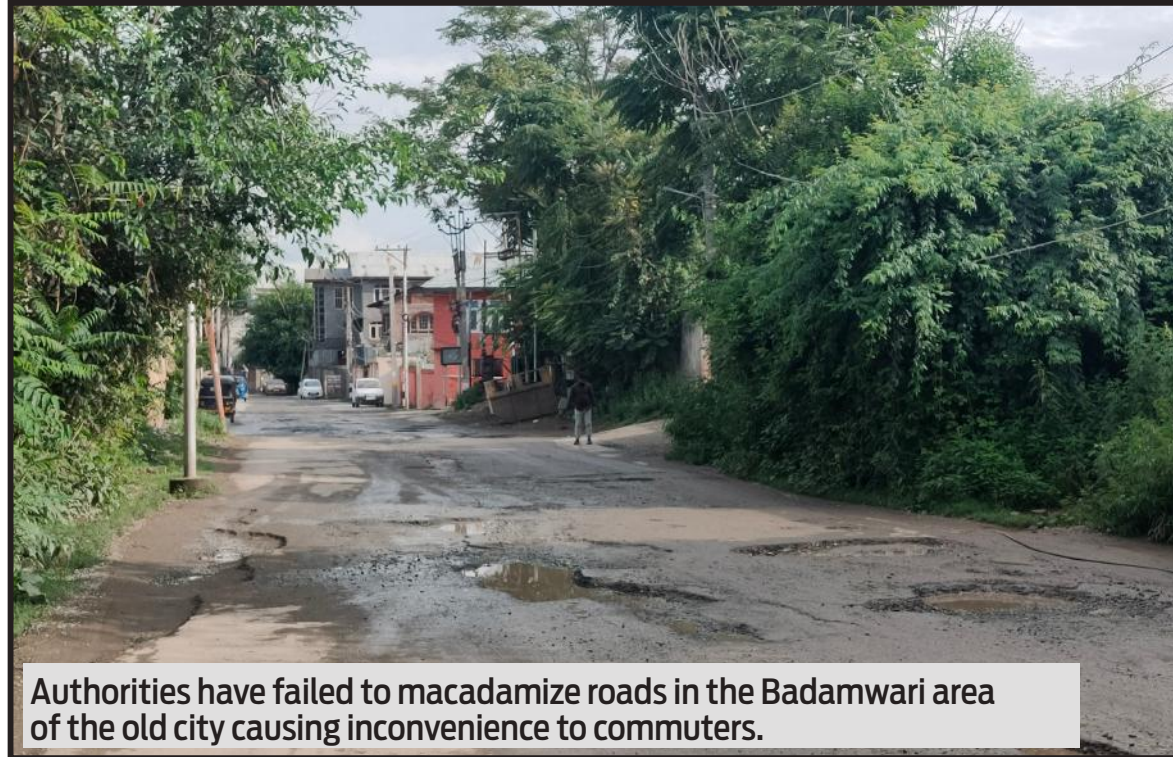
While reviewing the developmental plan of Khonmoh Block, the DC finalized the plan for 5 Smart Kindergarten Schools being developed on modern lines at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh to improve the performance indicators. Besides improving learning outcomes in the Block, Smart Classes are a step towards Digital Education.

With regard to enhancing skill development and creating employment opportunities for local youth Vocational Centres are also being established for which Rs 31.92 lakh were earmarked.

Similarly, to strengthen the health infrastructure in Khonmoh Block and catering all sort of emergencies at NTPHC, Zewan to provide better facilities to the people, a plan of procuring Automatic Bio-Chemistry Analyse, Delivery Table with Multi Para Monitor and Baby Warmer was finalized.

While, proposal for construction of 2 Foot bridges under the RDD sector in the Block under convergence was also finalized to augment the rural infrastructure catering around 500 souls, besides generating mandays under MGNREGA.

On the occasion, the DC directed for construction of Composite Health and Nutrition Centre for Children at Sangri area of Khonmoh Block to augment the nutritional status of women and children along with improving the primary healthcare facilities in the Block. An amount of Rs 18 lakh was also earmarked for completion of the work.



Authorities have failed to macadamize roads in the Badamwari area of the old city causing inconvenience to commuters.

## Youth Electrocuted While Hoisting Muharram Banners, Critical

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A 30-year-old youth identified as Wajahat Hussain Dar son of Qasim Ali Dar, a resident of Shamswari, Khanqah Mohalla was electrocuted while hoisting Muharram banners in the city on Friday. The incident took place at Baba Demb locality of Srinagar when a group of youth were hoisting Muharram banners.

"As Wajahat was hoisting a

banner, he got an electric shock and fell on the ground" an eyewitness said.

He was later shifted to SKIMS where his condition is stated to be critical.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer Medical Superintendent SKIMS Dr Farooq Jan said due to electric shock the youth has brain contusion (when cerebral contusions are scattered areas of bleeding on the surface of the brain).

"He has been put on conserva-

tive management for the time being. If the contusion is settled, the treatment will be done according" he said.

"He is in a critical condition" he added.

Pertinently, every year with the arrival of the month of Muharram members of the Shia community hoist black banners and hoardings across the Kashmir Valley to mourn the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (A.S) grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh).

## IIED Centre NIT Bags Best Innovation Council Award

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IIEDC) of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has bagged 'Best Innovation Council Award' of North West Region by the Innovation Cell of Ministry of Education (MoE) in Jaipur.

The Innovation Cell of MoE had organized Institutions Innovation Council (IIC) regional meet for North West Zone including Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Chandigarh, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in Amity University Jaipur.

There were two categories of

awards floated by MoE for Best IIC Institute and Best Innovation Prototype. Among 450 registered IIC institutes in the North West region, 117 institutes participated in Journey and Achievements of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the year 2021-2022.

Dr Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Convener IIC-NIT Srinagar, represented NIT Srinagar's IIED Centre activities through a poster presentation.

Dr M.P. Poonia, Vice Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education, Dr Amit Jain, Pro Vice Chancellor, Amity University; Dr Rakesh Bhatnagar, Vice Chancellor, Amity University Jaipur evaluated the posters and

evaluated based on IIC activities and Journey towards innovations and Entrepreneurship ecosystem.

During the meeting, the Institutions Innovation Council from IIED Centre of NIT Srinagar was appreciated to be the best Institutions Innovation Council in North West Zone.

Dr Dinesh Kumar Rajendran has also won the best creative poster award for exhibiting the year-long IIC activities for the year 2021-22, securing 2nd place in North West zone and the highest ranking in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal congratulated the faculty, research scholars, and staff members.

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**

1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4:03
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:37
ISHA	9:10

## This Day In History

- 1946 - 1st rocket attains 100 mi (167 km) altitude, White Sands, NM
- 1949 - British warship HMS Amethyst escapes down Yangtze River, having been refused a safe passage by Chinese Communists after 3-month standoff
- 1966 - US airplanes bombs demilitarized zone in Vietnam
- 1971 - Japanese Boeing 727 collides with an F-86 fighter killing 162
- 1971 - US Apollo 15 (Scott & Irwin) lands on Mare Imbrium on the Moon
- 1975 - Murtala Mohammed overthrows General Gowon to become Nigerian Head of State
- 1980 - Vanuatu (New Hebrides) gains independence from Britain & France
- 1985 - Discovery moves to Vandenberg AFB for mating of STS 51-L mission
- 1990 - The first Saturn automobile rolls off the assembly line.
- 2006 - World's longest running music show Top of the Pops is broadcast for the last time on BBC Two. The show had aired for 42 years.
- 2012 - Train fire kills 32 and injures 27 people in Andhra Pradesh, India
- 2012 - Indian power grid failure leaves over 300 million without electricity
- 2013 - 28 people are killed in a series of bombings in Kano, Nigeria

## From KO Archives

### School Girl Assaulted, Slaughtered In Langate Village

*Police suspect criminal assault, hunting three perpetrators*

Srinagar- In a ghastly incident, a school girl was criminally assaulted by three unknown assailants in the outskirts of Langate on Friday, and then mercilessly slaughtered in a bid, to avoid identification (of the criminals). The enormity of the crime sent waves of shock through the area and thousands of people took to the streets in violent demonstrations.

The victim had, as usual, left her home in Batpora this morning for the 4 km trek to the Ugaab Public School in Langate where she studied in class 8.

It being Friday, school was over at 1:30 p.m., and she and two of her friends headed home through what the villagers call, the Wudar route.

From what could later be pieced together from her friends account, they were suddenly waylaid by three persons who tried to grab the victim.

The two friends fled from the spot terrified and weeping, and out of fear did not say anything at home about their school-mate. But when pressed by the family of the missing girl, out poured the story that created alarm in the entire neighbourhood.

Search parties made up of the victim's family and their neighbours immediately set out for the track the girls had taken on their way home, and came across one of her shoes.

With fears of the worst mounting, the villagers found the girl's uniform, and shortly after came upon a body hastily hidden beneath clay and bushels of hay.

A villager, Ghulam Muhammad, said that the searchers were shocked to find that the throat of the victim had been slit, and her uniform, school bag, shoes and other belongings had been dumped some distance away from the "grave."

The Handwara police were informed about the gruesome incident, and top officers of the force tried to take custody of the body. But by then the news had reached the village, and a large numbered men and women came out in grief and headed towards the scene of the crime. The huge procession demanded the immediate arrest of the killers.

The Handwara police said that an autopsy would be carried out to find out the motive behind the killing. The police fears that the victim might have been criminally assaulted before being murdered because the body bore marks of violence, and was without any clothes when discovered.



The police said that a liquor bottle and a tumbler were found near the body.

Villagers from Batpora and adjoining areas held up traffic on the roads by pelting stones on passing vehicles but dispersed late in the evening, when the additional deputy commissioner Handwara, Basheer Ahmad Wani visited the area and assured people of thorough probe into the crime.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 July, 2007)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to request general public that I Ubair Ahmed Bhat S/O Gh Nabi Bhat R/O Usmaiya Colony Khaiwan have lost the number plates of my scooty bearing registration number jk01aa 3744 while traveling from eidgah to safa kadal kindly return to the above mentioned addresses otherwise I have to apply for duplicate of the same. If anybody found having any objection may report to concerned office within a period of seven days.

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Event No.	Job / Item Description	
GEM/2022/B/2373682	Engagement of an agency for Excavation / Collection, loading, and transportation of mineral sand from Pandarathuruthu area and unloading the same near at spiral plant area at VT mining site	
GEM/2022/B/2374121	Mechanical loading, transportation, refilling and levelling of tailing sand from VT mining site to the excavated pits at vellanathuruthu/Pandarathuruthu area	
IREL/Chavara/22-23/ET/29	Desilting of Thottappally spillway mouth by engaging 100t capacity suction cutter dredger	
GEM/2022/B/xxxxxxx	Collection of sand manually from beach, Loading and transportation of mineral sand from VT/Ponnana mining areas and delivering it at spiral plant at VT mine	
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Twitter Talks



"I don't remember Saddam Hussein's wife being  
on the cover of Vogue when Iraq was illegally  
invaded"

@middleeasternxx

"The terrible new Instagram UI has put me off  
the app big time—in my case, my already low  
usage (due to the messed up algorithm) has now  
gone down to nearly zero. Just reinforces what a  
critical role UX/UI design plays in the success of a  
digital product"

@somakghoshal

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Privatized Power

A nexus between Power Development Department of  
ficials, private workshop owners and consumers has  
surfaced in the central Kashmir's district of Budgam  
with startling revelations about the state exchequer be-  
ing duped of lakhs of rupees on account of the power tariff. Even  
as the power supply all over the state falls under government sec-  
tor scores of villages in the district seem to have declared their  
independence in that they enjoy the most sought-after essential  
commodity almost gratis, due to a sinister tie-up forged by the ap-  
parently helpless consumers with PDD officials and others con-  
nected with the key sector. According to a report circulated by a  
local news agency, CNS, the residents of Sebdan, Galwanpora and  
Nasrullapora, to name only a few villages out of many, have not  
paid a single penny on account of power tariff for 15 years past,  
while enjoying unlimited supply against a consideration of a neg-  
ligible Rs 50 allegedly paid into the field officials as a monthly  
tip. The villagers of Sebdan Galwanpora told CNS that when a  
transformer broke down and they approached the PDD authori-  
ties to get it repaired, they were allegedly told that an amount of  
Rs 20,000 had been fixed as bribe for a 100-kilowatt transformer.  
"People pay the money and get transformer," they were told. In-  
stead of bribing the unscrupulous officials, the villagers raised  
Rs four lakh and bought seven transformers directly from the  
market and got these installed. Having got the transformers, the  
villagers allegedly struck an arrangement with the PDD officials,  
under which every household was required to pay Rs 50 as tip  
every month instead of having to pay the prescribed power tariff.  
At least, 20 villages have reportedly bought three transformers  
from the market, while 50 odd other villages followed suit, and  
the consumers make full use of electricity, pay their tips and do  
not deposit a single penny with the state exchequer. Equally dis-  
turbng is the fact that 220 allegedly unauthorized mills have ei-  
ther purchased transformers on their own or got them installed  
by the PDD against hefty considerations. Transformers being  
provided under a centrally-sponsored scheme are also available  
at a premium. The overall loss to the state exchequer because of  
this racket is believed to run into Rs 10 crore a year.

Even otherwise, a parallel system has been in vogue in the  
PDD for decades past under which most consumers across the  
state have an understanding with its field staff under which they  
get a fixed tip every month to allow the former to get power on  
payment of token tariff. Lately, the government added yet an-  
other dimension to the mess by going ahead with selective in-  
stallation of electronic meters in some localities of the city and  
some towns leaving the vast majority of households outside the  
scheme. According to official sources, only five per cent con-  
sumers get metered power while 95 per cent get unlimited supply.  
Being penny wise and pound foolish, the department, in fact,  
incurs heavy losses of revenue due to the alleged mass hooking  
by metered consumers. Even while introducing some sanity in  
power consumption, the government is blind to some chronic ail-  
ments the department has been suffering from, particularly in  
maintenance, systems and operations wings. Lack of adequate  
maintenance of distribution system is behind the frequent snags  
because of which unscheduled curtailment is resorted to in var-  
ious areas, not as a one time exception but as a rule. It is widely  
alleged that funds provided for maintenance and oiling of the  
system is pocketed by PDD officials. As a result, there have been  
occasions when even a receiving station was rocked by a blast  
after some naughty mongoose strayed into its live machinery.  
No less scandalous has been the frequent transformer damage,  
a phenomenon sparking protest demonstrations, particularly in  
various parts of the valley during winter. On the pretext of being  
over-worked, the departmental workshops routinely direct the  
desperate consumers of the affected localities to get the repairs  
done at private workshops. Even as the authorities come out  
with paid advertisements in the local media advising the people  
against this, there is no denying bulk of the transformer repair  
work is done by private workshops suggesting their nexus with  
PDD officials. Enjoying official patronage, some former engi-  
neers of the department are believed to have set up workshops to  
make some fast bucks in the process. No wonder that, on learn-  
ing about the murky goings-on in PDD during Mufti rule, an up-  
right minister of state put in his papers after giving a piece of  
mind to a chief engineer. While admitting he had lost his cool,  
the minister was candid enough to speak of the presence of some  
"big sharks" in the department. It is time the government initi-  
ated steps to revamp the working of the top-heavy department  
sooner than later.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally  
published on Friday April 07 2006

Different Taliban?

The religious movement's return to power in Kabul hasn't been  
the nightmare security scenario New Delhi was expecting

RIYAZ WANI

I t is getting to be one year in two weeks' time since the Taliban took power in Af-  
ghanistan. And if the religious movement's  
conduct in power is anything to go by, it  
has sought to keep its focus fixed on the internal  
affairs of the country. And understandably so.  
The war-ravaged country is in dire economic  
straits. And the US hasn't helped matters by  
freezing nearly \$9.5 billion Afghanistan cen-  
tral bank assets. This has made the ideological  
group's task of governing Afghanistan inordi-  
nately difficult.

Although ongoing talks between the US and  
the Taliban officials have made some progress  
towards releasing the funds, irreconcilable dif-  
ferences over some issues make an early under-  
standing a remote possibility. The US, reports  
said, wants the Taliban to replace some of the  
bank's top political appointees, one of whom is  
under US sanctions. There is much more that  
the US wants the Taliban to do before it receives  
international recognition and aid. The demands  
include giving representation to other ethnic  
groups in the Taliban government and ensure  
gender equality and schooling of female folk

But the Taliban is unlikely to go this far. It  
is loathe to accommodate minorities who were  
fighting on the side of the US in the two decade  
long war. As for girls' education or women's  
representation in the workforce, the Taliban is  
unwilling to go beyond tokenist gestures.

It is pointless to expect the religious move-  
ment to change its stripes considering it sees its  
worldview as the source of its battlefield glory.  
Also, after fighting the US military, the world's  
most advanced war machine, to a standstill,  
the Taliban finds itself invincible now, making  
it least amenable to compromise. This further  
puts off the prospect of recognition of the Tali-  
ban by the world.

Regionally too, the Taliban takeover has  
done little to upset the existing security order,  
something its neighbours, particularly India,  
apprehended it to do. Top BJP leader Ram Mad-  
hav was the first to raise the alarm. In a tweet  
soon after the Taliban took Kabul on August 15  
last year, forcing the US into its hasty, chaotic  
withdrawal, Madhav warned of "serious secu-  
rity challenges". A year on, there has been no  
feared escalation in violence in Kashmir. The  
militancy in the Valley, despite occasional  
killings, remains at its lowest ebb in years. So  
much so, that at times its end seems very much  
at hand. True, there has been some spillover of  
arms from Afghanistan, confirmed early this  
year by none other than the then Army chief  
General Manoj Mukund Naravane. . But that  
has made no difference to the prevailing situa-  
tion on the ground.

This is unlike the Taliban's previous stint  
in power, which led to a marked rise in violence  
in the Valley. Five years of Taliban rule saw a  
sharp escalation in Kashmir violence—from  
2,903 killings in 1996 to 4,011 in 2001. The period



The Taliban itself has  
shown some indifference to  
any involvement in Kashmir.  
Craves global legitimacy, aid  
and recognition, it just doesn't  
want to get associated with  
other battles. And this is also  
apparent from the balanced  
noises its leaders have so far  
made on Kashmir. Soon after  
taking control of Kabul last  
year, the Taliban made it clear  
that Kashmir was "an internal  
and bilateral issue".

is also marked by the hijacking of 1C-814 to Ka-  
bul and Kargil war.

But that there has been no turn for the worse  
in the violence in Kashmir this time round tes-  
tifies to the fact that the world has moved on.  
The Taliban itself has shown some indifference  
to any involvement in Kashmir. Craves global  
legitimacy, aid and recognition, it just doesn't  
want to get associated with other battles. And  
this is also apparent from the balanced noises  
its leaders have so far made on Kashmir. Soon  
after taking control of Kabul last year, the Tali-  
ban made it clear that Kashmir was "an inter-  
nal and bilateral issue". Senior Taliban leader  
Anas Haqqani said in an interview with an In-  
dian Television channel that Kashmir was be-  
yond its "jurisdiction". Another leader of the

outfit, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai said  
the Taliban wants economic and political ties  
with India.

Ever since the Taliban has, more or less,  
lived up to these expectations. It has largely  
kept to itself, busy mopping up the fallout of  
four decades of war and conflict. It faces an  
egregious and nearly impossible task of rebuild-  
ing the country, and it has no resources to do  
this. Also, the twenty years of war with the US  
appear to have sobered the Taliban, at least, as  
far as exporting militancy.

But if recent reports in the international  
press are anything to go by, Afghanistan is once  
again becoming a "safe haven" for militants in-  
cluding those from Al Qaeda and ISIS. The lat-  
est report on Afghanistan by the United Nations  
Security Council contains alarming details on the  
activities of militant groups, including al  
Qaeda, now allegedly enjoying the Taliban's  
protection in Afghanistan. The report indicated  
that Afghanistan has essentially reverted to the  
state it was in before 9/11, when it hosted Osa-  
ma bin Laden, the leader of al Qaeda. Surpris-  
ingly, even a recent editorial in the Pakistani  
daily Dawn confirmed this. If so, does this mean  
that Afghanistan is in the process of becoming  
yet again a staging post for 'mujaihideen'? Will  
Kashmir be one of the destinations? Well, Ram  
Madhav's prediction could still come true.

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 at Kashmir Observer

Western Universities and Racist Roots

Hamid Dabashi

L ast April, Harvard presi-  
dent Larry Bacow released  
"the Report of the Commit-  
tee on Harvard & the Lega-  
cy of Slavery, accepted the commit-  
tee's recommendations in full, and  
announced a historic commitment  
of \$100 million to fund their imple-  
mentation," according to a detailed  
internal report on the school's four-  
century connection to slavery.

This seems to be a season of pub-  
lic penance for American universi-  
ties, as they come to terms with nas-  
ty skeletons in their closets. How  
can a university muster the moral  
authority to teach anyone anything  
with that kind of horrid past?

"The report by a committee of  
Harvard faculty members... is Har-  
vard's effort to begin redressing the  
wrongs of the past, as some other  
universities have been doing for de-  
cades," according to an article in the  
New York Times.

The racist roots of American  
and European universities are be-  
ing exposed, and their nasty impli-  
cations in human misery publicised  
for the whole world to see

But how exactly is this redress-  
ing to be done? When people heard  
"John Henry Newman's lofty ideas in  
the 1850s, later collected in the vol-  
ume The Idea of a University, they  
might be forgiven for thinking that  
Europeans and Americans were  
truly engaged in the perfection of  
the human soul, and that universi-  
ties were a place to cultivate young  
people for an upright moral life.

Really? "Enslaved men and  
women served Harvard presidents  
and professors and fed and cared  
for Harvard students," the Harvard  
report reveals. Was that evidence of  
Newman's ideas reaching the new  
world?

The racist roots of American

and European universities are be-  
ing exposed, and their nasty impli-  
cations in human misery publicised  
for the whole world to see. This is  
not a cause for jubilation, or even  
for a sigh of relief that truth is final-  
ly triumphing. This is a moment for  
sober reflection and an opportunity  
to remedy the structural issues such  
reports expose for the next genera-  
tions of higher education.

Cultural hegemony

At least since the reflections of  
the towering Italian thinker Anto-  
nio Gramsci, we have known that  
education is a solid source of cultur-  
al hegemony of the ruling class. But  
the relatively widespread availabil-  
ity of higher education, and the at-  
traction of a global body of students  
to US and European universities,  
has demographically altered their  
compositions.

A much larger and more di-  
verse body of students, faculty and  
administration is now attentive to  
the roots and fruits of these univer-  
sities.

This cycle of soul-searching  
began some two decades ago with  
Brown University examining its  
roots in slavery. Soon afterwards,  
Harvard College acknowledged  
it had relied on slave labour, and  
Princeton University admitted to  
holding a slave auction in 1766.

At my own university, Colum-  
bia, sons of merchants involved in  
the slave trade were enrolled, while  
Dartmouth College admitted that at  
one time there had been "arguably  
as many enslaved Black people... as  
there were students". This was at a  
time when University of Pennsylv-  
ania faculty and alumni "were active-  
ly involved in framing the Constitu-  
tion to support slavery".

European universities were  
not exempt. Oxford began probing  
its own role in British colonialism  
in 2019, in what the Guardian de-  
scribed as "a pioneering effort to

crowdsource and 'decolonialise' its  
own imperialist past". This led to  
the establishment of an informed  
and informative website detailing  
the history of Oxford's racist roots  
in slavery and colonialism.

These events at Oxford started  
with a student-led movement that  
originated in South Africa, called  
"Rhodes Must Fall" - a reference to  
Cecil Rhodes, Oxford's imperialist  
benefactor. But Oxford ultimately  
decided to keep its Rhodes statue in-  
tact, because it would have been too  
expensive to remove it.

Other UK universities are  
equally implicated. The University  
of Glasgow admitted it had received  
more than \$258m from people who  
derived their wealth from slavery,  
while the University of Bristol "esti-  
mated that 85 percent of the wealth  
used to found the university de-  
pended on slave labour," according  
to Reuters.

Invested in slavery

On both sides of the Atlantic,  
US and European universities were  
founded on the profits made from  
the transatlantic slave trade and the  
lucrative business of colonialism.

In these universities, the chil-  
dren of slave traders and colonial  
officers were educated, and indeed  
indoctrinated, in the validity of  
their conquests and in the political  
culture and moral depravity that  
sustained this sick tradition.

What do we do now? Admitting  
mea culpa is of course necessary,  
but not sufficient.

Revelations that top American  
and European universities were  
heavily invested in slavery, bene-  
fited from the slave trade, and were  
institutional advocates of colonial-  
ism is a major event in the history of  
higher education. But what exactly  
needs to be done once such revela-  
tions are widely publicised?

Allocation of resources to diver-  
sify the student and faculty body to

include the descendants of the im-  
poverished, robbed and denigrated  
communities - Black people, Native  
Americans, Latinx, and students  
and faculty from across the col-  
onial world - is of course an absolute  
must.

While western universities are  
today quite cognizant of the disen-  
franchised communities in their  
midst and seek to recruit more from  
these communities, this does not  
apply to students from around the  
world subject to their colonial and  
imperial violence. This is a serious  
shortcoming.

Students and scholars from  
Asia, Africa and Latin America,  
where the EU and US have been de-  
finitive to their national miseries,  
must be given particular attention.  
Today, Afghan and Iraqi students in  
particular need to be given financial  
resources for their higher education  
in American and European univer-  
sities.

The path forward

But what exactly are these stu-  
dents and scholars to study or teach  
in these universities; further in-  
doctrination in white supremacist  
curricula? The urgent task of reme-  
dying the horrors of the past must  
include serious reconsideration of  
the future of college curricula.

Meaningful reparations can  
only occur when the history of rac-  
ism, slavery and colonialism is  
brought to the forefront inside Eu-  
ropean and American university  
classrooms.

Views expressed in the article are the  
author's own and do not necessarily  
represent the editorial stance of Kashmir  
Observer. The article was originally  
published by Middle East Eye  
The author is Hagop Kevorkian  
Professor of Iranian Studies and  
Comparative Literature at Columbia  
University in the City of New York,  
where he teaches Comparative  
Literature, World Cinema, and



# Police Panache in Kashmir's Pendulum Shift

“

To hail the “great sacrifices”, J&K police has been lately paying homage to the fallen cops on its social media handles. The tribute is seen as an exercise to create an ‘ecosystem of change’.



Zaid Bin Shabir

Killing of two elite Kashmiri cops lately sent the state apparatus into a literal grieving. One's killing at his doorsteps dreaded his homebound colleagues, while other's passage during a brief firefight has created a “void” that his superiors are trying to fill by following his vogueish legacy.

A star counterinsurgent officer of Jammu and Kashmir police makes no bones about the “narrative war” that the allied forces are waging in “Naya Kashmir” to achieve normalcy.

Among the targets and trajectories of this “peace project”, he says, is to create swag in an otherwise subdued or secretive security setup.

“After successfully silencing an anti-national shrill on social media, the focus has now shifted towards the branding of our uniformed heroes,” says the officer off the record.

“There's an overwhelming feeling that unless you don't honour your own heroes, nobody will—especially in the social media driven world. We saw how the online blitz created a larger-than-life image of militants in Kashmir in the recent past. But now the pendulum has shifted.”

The echo of that “pendulum shift” was lately heard in the parliament where the government thumped benches for the astronomical rise in Kashmir firefights since 2020.

“But the so-called Kashmir problem is no longer about fighting militants alone now,” another top officer this reporter contacted to understand ‘the shifting sands in state apparatus’ said. “It's equally about checking a single-story narrative and hailing our unsung heroes bearing the brunt of militancy since 1990 now.”

To hail the “great sacrifices”, J&K police has been lately paying homage to the fallen cops on its social media handles. The tribute is seen as an exercise to create an ‘ecosystem of change’.

“But this whole exercise isn't confined to the fallen heroes only,” the officer quoted above continued. “The aim is to celebrate the 100-thousand strong police force for its constructive role in the society.”

However, spearheading this ‘change’, literally from his grave, is a chic cop whose mugshot has now become a profile picture of its parent department.

## GO-TO GUY

A regular-height Sikh officer let out a deep sigh before speaking about his unswerving combatant. The secret cop of his stature leading a counterinsurgency unit isn't trained in the art of speaking, but he's making sure to spare words for his finest fighter, a new cult for the khaki brigade in Kashmir.

The fallen man from northern heights is being recalled as a modish man who brought swag to the otherwise guarded state ranks.

The shift was seen polemic in the social media driven competing narratives.

But beyond brouhaha, officer Singh who commands his unit as Bajwa is despondent, so are his men — either basking under the afternoon sun or putting up glum faces while using cellphones in the lawn of an northern encampment.

Singh's “go-to guy” is now resting in his grave—some miles away in his hilly hometown. From those rugged heights, he had descended as a “cop with a conviction” and left his mark during his passing policing period.

But ever since his fate was sealed, Bajwa has entered into a mournful state despite his department putting up the fallen cop's mugshot as a new image of what's being hailed as a “panache policing”.

The mugshot that Baramulla police has brandished on its social media shows a bearded cop—sporting twirled moustache and cap—holding AK-7 high in the air. The picture taken in a lush-green meadow has since then become a new symbol of the state swagger that mostly remained concealed in the blitz of “security reasons” till now.

“But Bindass was a league of his own who took the lead and broadcasted the powerful image of police on social media,” sentimental Singh recalls in between his intermittent silence.

In many of his images, the fallen cop stands out because of imposing physique and trendy looks. “He was an enterprising cop who always carried a tailor-made dagger at his hip,” Singh continues his musings inside his Baramulla office overlooking the river Jhelum.

“Besides style, Bindass was about his substance as well. He was part and parcel of the biggest operations that took place in and around Baramulla in the recent times, like the recent one.”

## BANG ON POWER STREET

It was a bolt out of the blue for the police rank and file when they faced a strategic grenade blast in one of their power streets in Kashmir. The attack which took place in Dewan Bagh area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on 17th May 2022 actually saw the active participation of a cop when a battery of sleuths were still trying to unearth the modus operandi.

It took gumshoes two hours to trace the identity of the mastermind behind the bang that consumed a life and left three others badly battered.

By the time furtive cops showed up at the hideout, the brain behind the blast had already left for his mother's maternal home in the thick jungles of Sheeri, Baramulla.

Chasing him that night was Bindass forcing his way out to save his department's reputation. He was being insistently looked for among the investigative parties but except only the six team members, his team leader and the district chief, none knew what was going on with him.

Perhaps, that's why he was called Bindass—“the carefree, chic, and creative cop, who would investigate matters with his own wit”—in the police department.

This cop came from the convictional police family of North Kashmir's Uri town. His family says that his passion for the uniform was something that persuaded him to leave aside his “safe and secure” job.

Hours after his solo-quest to Sheeri, a team in Baramulla town received the mastermind's whereabouts which rested the case once and for all.

The guy whose thumping feat had traced the Lashkar-e-Taiba's Falcon Squad militant, was a “daredevil cop” Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh alias Alfaaz alias Bindass, who days after bringing down curtains on the case lost his life in a ‘chance’ encounter.

## CONTEMPLATIVE CHIEF

Inside Baramulla district police headquarters, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Rayees Mohammed Bhat describes the episode of the firefight that claimed Mudasir's life as a brisk and brief battle.

“This is where this guy was so good,” says SSP, with a long pause before pointing towards a picture of Mudasir in his chamber. “He made his presence felt everywhere.”

When Rayees first stumbled into Baramulla as a new district police chief, it was Bindass who received him by straightforwardly staring into his new boss's eyes and clearly asserting that he'd be the one who would lead the new chief's party.

Bindass was the only gunman leading the

“

The mugshot that Baramulla police has brandished on its social media shows a bearded cop—sporting twirled moustache and cap—holding AK-7 high in the air. The picture taken in a lush-green meadow has since then become a new symbol of the state swagger that mostly remained concealed in the blitz of “security reasons” till now.

escort that day while the new SSP toured the old town to make his presence felt.

With time, the dependency was such that the police chief would get awed with his personality. “Not only was he well-groomed but he was stylish and had a presence,” Rayees says.

“And this was something which made me realize that every cop should be like him. I'd proudly exemplify Bindass in front of other cops while asking them to become more like him which would exponentially enhance their presence as a cop.”

Perhaps, that's why, all of a sudden, this bonhomie materialized so much that Bindass would report cases of drug menace, counterinsurgency tip-offs and other serious cases directly to the SSP and because of which he became quite close to his new boss.

“In the one lakh police force, such people only form a very small percentage,” Rayees recalls the fallen cop's legacy. “That least percentage makes Mudasir's death a catastrophic loss. There're a lot of brave fighters in our force but he was the one who had everything...from passion to conviction to humanity. He was a part of major anti-insurgency operations, which saw top militants being killed over the period of time. Mudasir was the cop of rare breed.”

Back on 25th May 2022, J&K police had received specific inputs of a militant activity in Baramulla district. Acting on the intelligence provided, several nakas with dozens of counterinsurgents guarding and looking for any suspicious movement were put in place across the district.

One such naka point, with Mudasir leading from the front, was established at Najibhat crossing in the Kreeeri area. In a jiffy, three Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) militants showed up and went berserk—opening fire on Bindass's party.

“He was hit at the jugular vein by a steel bullet that had created a small exit point,” says SSP Rayees. “The damage was grievous and subsequently, he succumbed to his injuries!”

After a long, blank pause, the district police chief continued, “He was one of those cops who actually made a dependency for themselves in the department, given his conviction and pro-activeness in the entire police force.”

## LOST COMMAND

Inside his office space, pensive Bajwa breaks his long pause with a smile and pride. Detailing Bindass's procedures and counterinsurgency feats, the leader of six battle-hardened combatants says: “I don't think we'll ever have another Bindass. He was the bravest man I have ever seen who would put his own life at stake to save his colleague's life.”

One such moment came on 20th August 2019, when Kashmir was reeling under communication crisis following the abrogation of Article 370.

That day, Baramulla police was tipped off about the presence of a militant. The input came at the dusk hours and the secret house was located in Ganie Hamam area of old town.

Soon the allied forces chalked out an actionable plan keeping the mercurial mood of the town in mind. As soon as the first party tried to barge in, the hiding militant threw a grenade towards it—killing SPO Bilal Magray

and grievously injuring SI Amardeep Parihar's abdominal area.

“No one from the force was stepping forward to pull out SPO Bilal and SI Amardeep,” Bajwa recalls. “Only two men from my team stepped forward. One of them was Bindass. However, my other boy wasn't wearing any BP [bulletproof] vest. Without even a second thought, Bindass offered him his vest, saying, ‘You'll have to live another day for your family...I can manage.’”

This hardihood would ultimately save the injured SI—later awarded with the President's Police Medal for Gallantry.

Such stout acts not only made Bindass a “ready for action” cop, but also a favorite of his superiors. “Even if we had required someone to scan forests, he would be the one who was good at disguises,” Bajwa says. “He would reasonably inform the headquarters about every situation.”

All this actually substantiates that the only “man-hunter” behind the strategic operation which took place in Kreeeri in August 2020—where a militant outfit called People's Anti-Fascist Force (PAFF) shot several videos of firing at the armed personnel—would've been Bindass leading the operations from the front.

After two-day firefight, three militants including Sajjad alias Haider and foreign militant Taimur Khan alias Abu Usman became Mudasir's prized catch.

“Unlike other members of elite SOG group who usually maintain a tough appearance,” Bajwa says, “Bindass was an easygoing and people-friendly cop. His jolly character made him a friend of friends.”

Such an image, Singh says, comes handy for branding. “For creating cults or heroes,” he says, “the public connection is must. And this is where Bindass was too good.”

For years, as the conflict-confrontations created hostile image of police force, many say, the hunt for heroes from the other side became a compelling task.

The void was somehow capitalized by the likes of Basant Rath with his public-friendly street policing.

“But Mudasir was more fitting in that format because of his street-smartness, native-identity and elegant-personality,” Singh aka Bajwa said. “He was a no-nonsense cop who knew his job and responsibility towards his department. He was our real change-maker.”

Perhaps, that's why, his demise created a massive mourning in the police, political and media circles. And for a change, even a district police chief was seen leading from the front to pay a glorious tribute to his fallen combatant.

“In most of the cases, cops leave their job to find some risk-free vocation but in Bindass' case, it was completely opposite,” SSP Rayees says.

“He had left his stint as a health worker for a much riskier job. But, he was certainly built to become a cop. He had panache and presence. It's an irreparable loss.”



## CJ Administers Oath Of Office To Newly Appointed Additional Judge Of High Court

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Pankaj Mithal on Friday administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Judge, Justice Rajesh Sekhri as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in the Chief Justice's Court Room here.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi while as Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Mohan Lal, Justice Rahul Bharti and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal participated in ceremony through video conferencing from Jammu.

The proceedings of the oath taking ceremony were conducted by Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who read the contents of the notification received from Government of India, Ministry of Law &

Justice, Department of Justice (Appointments Division), the Warrant of Appointment issued by the President of India and the Letter of Authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorising Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, to administer the oath of office to the newly appointed Judge.

The ceremony was also attended by the former Judges of High Court, Advocate General, Additional Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Srinagar, Chairman/Convenor Bar Association, Srinagar, Principal District Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar, Judicial Officers, Officers and Staff of the Registry.

The programme was also telecasted live on Youtube Channel.

With the elevation of Justice Rajesh Sekhri as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the strength of Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has risen to 16 Judges including the Chief Justice against the sanctioned strength of 17.

## IAF Releases Names Of Pilots Killed In Last Night's MiG-21 Crash



Agenceis

**New Delhi:** The two Indian Air Force pilots killed in Thursday night's crash of a MiG-21 trainer aircraft in Rajasthan are Wing Commander M Rana and Flight Lieutenant Advitya Bal.

Wing Commander Rana hailed from Himachal Pradesh and Flight Lieutenant Bal from Jammu, an IAF official said while releasing the names to the media on Friday.

The two pilots were killed when their twin-seater MiG-21 aircraft crashed during a training sortie near Barmer in the desert state.

The IAF said the aircraft was on a sortie from the Utarlai

air base and the accident occurred around 9.10 pm.

Air headquarters has already ordered a court of inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident.

MiG-21s were the mainstay of the IAF for a long time. However, the aircraft has had a very poor safety record of late.

In March, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhat said in the Rajya Sabha that 42 defence personnel were killed in accidents involving aircraft and helicopters of the three services in the last five years.

The total number of air accidents in the last five years was 45 out of which 29 involved IAF's platforms.

## Furore Over 'Rashtrapatni' Remark Reignites Debate Over Gender-Neutral Term For Head Of The State

There Have Been Multiple Calls For A Gender-Neutral Term For The Head Of The State



**New Delhi:** The suggestions included 'Sardar', 'Pradhan', 'Neta', 'Karandhar' and 'Chief Executive and Head of the State', but the Constituent Assembly settled on the term 'Rashtrapati' for India's top constitutional post.

However, in the last 75 years, there have been multiple calls for a gender-neutral term for the head of the State and debates over it. This has been reignited by the political furore over President Droupadi Murmu being referred to as 'Rashtrapatni' by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury who claimed it was a "slip of tongue".

Some women rights activists on Thursday said over the years some words and phrases have been replaced with more gender-neutral terms in various spheres.

Spokesman has made way for spokesperson, chairman for chairperson and in cricket batsman for batter.

Yogita Bhayana, a women's rights activist who heads People Against Rape in India, said like chairperson, president is also gender neutral. Translated into Hindi, the word president gets a different overtone but the relevance is the same, she said.

"But Chowdhury's comments were very insensitive. I think he wanted to be very specific about gender because he wanted to make a patriarchal statement. We never judged Pratibha Patil (former president) like that.

"One can think about going gender-neutral while referring to the president, but he (Chowdhury) made the statement for a different reason altogether. However, there must be a suitable term for the post

in the future," Bhayana told PTI.

Social activist and human rights campaigner Shabnam Hashmi said there should be a gender-neutral term for president like that of chairperson. "Mantri also doesn't reflect gender but the moment you say 'pati' and 'patni' there are other connotations too," she said.

However, some activists believe that since president is a constitutional post it is already gender neutral.

Ranjana Kumari, a social activist and the director of the Centre for Social Research, said whether male or female, the president has similar power, and authority and it is a constitutional position. "So I don't understand why people are confused."

"But if at all the government wants a gender-neutral term they can call it 'rashtrapradhan'. But I don't see why we should look at rashtrapati as a gender-loaded term because 'pati' is not really anyone's husband here so I don't see the reason for controversy.

"I see it as a very silly thing to call her 'rashtrapatni' and it was very insulting. Rashtrapati should not be changed, making it gender neutral. I consider it a gender-neutral term already," she said.

Akancha Srivastava, social activist and the founder of Akancha Srivastava Foundation, a non-profit organisation that works towards cyber safety knowledge said, "We live and learn and a lot of things we have been using in a particular manner have changed over a period of time because context changes."

"On this issue, I think we have bigger issues to focus on and if there was something that

brings down the person by this term then we could have looked into it but there is nothing as such," she said.

There has been debate on the term 'rashtrapati' before too.

During a Constituent Assembly debate in July 1947, an amendment called for replacing the word 'Rashtrapati' with 'Neta' or 'Karandhar', but it was not pursued further as a committee was to look into it. Later, it was decided to continue with 'Rashtrapati' as the Hindi word for President of India.

As the debate resurfaced in December 1948, B R Ambedkar referred to various terms used in the draft Constitution in different languages.

While the English draft proposed the word 'President', the Hindustani draft talked about 'Hind ka ek President', using 'Hind' for the name of the country and 'President' for the top-most post.

The Hindi draft, interestingly, used the word 'Pradhan' and not Rashtrapati, while the Urdu draft used 'Sardar', Ambedkar had said.

Constituent Assembly member from Bihar K T Shah, during the debate, had called for referring to the President of India as "the Chief Executive and Head of the State". Shah's amendment was rejected after some members vehemently opposed it.

In his reply, Ambedkar said, "I do not doubt what he means by the introduction of these words. Chief Executive and Head of the State is to introduce the American presidential form of executive and not the Parliamentary form of the executive which is contained in this Draft Constitution.

## Whatsapp Group: MI Officers Move SC Seeking Review Of Its Order On Suspension

Agenceis

New Delhi: Four Military Intelligence officers suspended for allegedly being part of a WhatsApp group with a Pakistani agent as a member have approached the Supreme Court on Friday seeking review of its order dismissing a challenge to their suspension.

The officers had approached the Supreme Court claiming that they were not given any hearing before being suspended pending the Court of Inquiry against them.

The officers' petition was rejected by the Supreme Court which disagreed with their contention that before suspending them pending the Court of Inquiry, an opportunity of hearing was required to be afforded to them.

"Even under Regulation 349 also, there is no requirement of such a procedure to be followed. The petitioners can be suspended pending the Court of Inquiry, which

military custody or arrest.

They said investigation is a post-stage requirement when a decision related to military custody has been originated through the Court of Inquiry conclusions.

Both the procedures under inquiry and investigations give statutory protection and safeguards to person subject to the Army Act of rights of being heard, it said.

"Thus this Hon'ble Court has erred in its decision that the suspension of petitioners as correct and legal pending the Court of Inquiry proceedings which was not even concluded.

Thus, the order of convening the Court of Inquiry itself becomes illegal under the Acts and Rules once the suspension order is passed and the competent authority under the Acts and rules are required to proceed for investigation under the procedure stipulated under Army Rule 22 and onwards, the petition



as stated by Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General, has already been constituted and inquiry is going on," the bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagrathna held on July 14.

The officers have now filed a review petition claiming that inquiry and investigation are two different procedures according to army law.

They said the Court of Inquiry (COI) is "a fact finding tool" which is "a pre-stage to disciplinary proceedings".

On the basis of conclusions reached by the COI, the commanding officer can decide to proceed with disciplinary proceedings and carry out investigation under Army Rule 22 and while doing so he can decide to suspend the soldiers under his jurisdiction pending investigation and not during Court of Inquiry, the petition said.

They said COI is an action administrative in nature to assist the decision making process at the prior stage on making any conclusions with regards to suspension,

said.

Terming their suspension orders illegal and suffering from procedural infirmity, the officers said the decision making process of the competent authority was against law and arbitrary by denying them opportunities of being heard.

The Solicitor General has made a submission of very serious allegation which is not justified with the suspension orders placed on records, it said.

The officers were suspended in May this year. They have claimed that they were ordered by their superiors to hand over their personal mobile phones which they did without any hesitation and cooperated with the investigation.

They were told that there was one officer who is part of a WhatsApp group in which a Pakistani Intelligence Operative is active hence all digital assets belonging to them need to be checked, they had said in their first petition.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### LG Sinha Says, Govt

received medals, awards and degrees at the eighth convocation of SMVD University and wished them a bright future and success in their life.

According to the spokesperson, the LG observed that young students are the most powerful and most invaluable asset of our society and said they have tremendous energy, consciousness & the vision for a developed and prosperous world.

"I am confident that the students of SMVD University will contribute immensely with their new vision for a self-reliant India," the LG said.

"I am happy that SMVD University has started seven new Integrated Programs in Business Administration, Science, Social Sciences and Humanities under NEP-2020; two new PG courses in Hindi and Dogri have also been started," he added.

Citing the example of great teacher, scientist and former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the LG, according to the spokesperson highlighted the role of a teacher in shaping the personality, mind, talents, capabilities and vision of a student. He said the National Education Policy emphasizes on such a relationship between teacher, education and students through curriculum that builds both skills and life values.

Sinha, he said, called upon the educational institutions to prepare for the future more quickly with the goal of incubating world class research and innovation.

"Through the National Policy on Education, we have got an opportunity to transform our institutions by setting academic priorities, preparing them for international competition and having revamped, relevant, modern and progressive educational curriculum," the LG said.

Saying that education is not about the race to come first but it is about achieving the highest peak of values in life, the LG, as per the spokesperson noted that the National Education Policy emphasizes on scientific temper, knowledge and ability.

The LG, he said, further called for an outcome based education in order to convert knowledge into wealth adding that students can be

connected with a network of technical services by encouraging innovation at the university level through Outcome Based Education.

During the Convocation, Sinha conferred 44 medals which included 4 Chancellor Gold Medal, 4 University Gold Medal, 15 University Silver Medal and 21 Infosys Foundation Prize of Excellence.

A total of 1165 students have been awarded with degrees for academic year 2019-20 & 2020-21 including 484 Under Graduate, 502 Post Graduate and 81 Ph.D.

#### Weather Dept

The minimum temperatures also recorded a slight drop at most places in Kashmir Valley and Jammu division.

World famous Gulmarg resort, the MeT official said, recorded a low of 11.8°C against 12.6°C and it was 0.6°C 'below' normal for the north Kashmir place.

Kupwara town saw a low of 17.2°C against 19.2°C on previous night and it was 0.2°C 'below' normal for the place during this time of the season, the official said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 15.6°C against 17.1°C on the previous night and it was 2.3°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 17.3°C against 18.7°C last night and it was 0.9°C above normal for the place, he said.

Srinagar, he said, recorded a low of 20.6°C against 19.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.9°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 18.7°C against 18.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.7°C above normal there, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 25.2°C against 25.3°C on the previous night. However, it was 0.2°C 'below' normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 18.4°C, Batote 17.7°C, Katra 22.8°C and Bhardarwah 18.3°C, the official said. (With agency inputs)

#### Highway Reopens

allowed to move towards Kashmir valley, officials said.

The important iron tunnel passage set up in the most vulnerable stretch of the highway was damaged due to intense shooting stones on Thursday evening.

According to officials, mudslides and shooting stones struck the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Mehaar, Cafeteria Moore and Pantiyal areas.

The work is going on to clear the highway and ensure two-way traffic on it, they said. (PTI)

#### SC Notice To

State Bar Council, the plea said.

It has also sought a direction for issuing proximity cards to advocate members from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh who wish to avail the benefit of this card issued by the apex court.

The plea said that while hearing another petition in February 2017, the apex court had noted in its order that the BCI, having duly considered the Jammu and Kashmir State Bar Council Rules, has approved the same and it was submitted on behalf of the BCI that the aforesaid rules have since been forwarded for publication in the official gazette.

Despite making this statement, the Bar Council of India...has not made any efforts to establish the Jammu and Kashmir State Bar Council, the plea claimed.

It also referred to the Centre's decision in August 2019 to abrogate provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Days After India's

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

The CPEC is part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of President Xi Jinping.

India on Tuesday criticised China and Pakistan for their efforts to encourage third countries to join the CPEC projects linked to the connectivity corridor that passes through Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in New Delhi that such activities under the CPEC are "inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable", and will be treated accordingly by India.

New Delhi has consistently been critical of projects in the so-called CPEC projects which are in India's territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan."

"We have seen reports on encouraging proposed participation of third countries in so-called CPEC projects. Any such actions by any party directly infringe on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Bagchi said.

"India firmly and consistently opposes projects in the so-called CPEC, which are in Indian territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan," he said.

"Such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated accordingly by India," Bagchi asserted.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Wang said China will grant zero tariff treatment to 98 per cent of the tariff lines of the Afghan products exported to China, and is willing to import more quality specialty products from Afghanistan.

China appreciates Afghanistan's firm attitude to the counter-narcotics issue, and is willing to assist Afghanistan in planting alternative crops, he told his Afghan counterpart Muttaqi.

China's top diplomat also emphasised that Beijing will continue to urge the United States and other Western countries to remove the "unreasonable sanctions" on Afghanistan, and earnestly fulfill its primary responsibility for the economic reconstruction of the war-torn country.

China hopes that Afghanistan can build a broad-based and inclusive government and exercise moderate and prudent governance, maintain domestic stability and realise national harmony, Wang said.

He also hoped that the Taliban regime will take resolute measures to crack down on all terrorist forces, including the East Turkestan Islamic Movement in China's restive Xinjiang province, and actively respond to the concerns of the international community and gain more understanding and recognition of the

government in Kabul.

After the hardline Islamists seized Kabul August last year, the country's economy has been left shattered with the Afghan central bank's reserves abroad frozen and the US and other donors halting aid to Afghanistan. The Taliban regime in Kabul has not been recognised by the international community.

#### Moon Not Sighted,

Ashura shall be observed on August 9", Islam said.

In his message, the top Mufti urged Muslims to observe the ensuing eve with austerity and also asked them to pray for the overall well-being of Ummah, especially of youth. "People should refrain from indulging in immodest activities", Islam said, adding the ensuing eve has a fundamental message that we should not bow before falsehood and instead remain steadfast on what our religion teaches us.

#### Electricity Shock

declared him dead, reports said.

#### Two 'Hybrid Militants'

pistol magazines, 130 pistol rounds and 10 hand grenades were recovered from their possession.

"Hybrid terrorist" is a term coined by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir to describe those ultras who carry out a subversive task assigned to them by their handlers before slipping back into normal life. (PTI)

#### Man Injured

to SDH Banihal from where he was referred to GMC Anantnag for preferential treatment.

A police official confirming the incident told a local news agency GNS that they have taken cognizance into it.

#### Ladakh Sees Nine

681 in Leh and 53 in Kargil were found to be negative, they said.

Fifteen people were discharged from the hospital in Leh and two from Kargil after being cured in the last 24 hours. With this, the total number of recoveries stands at 28,472, officials said.



## Lassipora Unit Holders Rue Official 'Apathy'

Will Do Everything To Solve Their Grievances: MD SIDCO



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The unit holders at J&K's largest Industrial complex at Lassipora in Pulwama district are fuming over government's alleged ignorance in delaying the availability of basic facilities at the Industrial area, despite the unit operators petitioning the administration towards it.

The unit holders have alleged that the Small Industries Development Corporation's (SIDCO's) Industrial area at Lassipora is functioning without any basic health care facilities available at the estate. Pertinently, SIDCO Industrial Complex Lassipora is an industrial hub that has provided both space and opportunity to the local small scale entrepreneurs to establish themselves and promises even more for the future in Kashmir.

"Despite the administration allotting land for an ESIC dispensary at our industrial complex, nothing has been done so far," says Haji Mohammad Muzaffer Ahanger, President Industrial Association Lassipora.

"Across India, state governments have already established a road map to set up dispensaries in each and every industrial estate but we're yet to see that light. This dispensary can support workers of more than 500 industrial units at Lassipora."

Ahanger also said that the normal functioning of industries at Lassipora has taken a massive hit due to frequent and unscheduled power cuts. "All these units are helping in boosting Kashmir's economy. It is bizarre that power outages are happening in one of the biggest industrial estates in J&K. Despite complaints, the

power department is unmoved," says Ahanger, adding that the unit holders are suffering as the unscheduled power cut has hampered the output.

He further said that two major power lines are passing through some industrial units creating apprehensions of an unwanted event. "Two supply lines are passing through some units. These lines can prove to be catastrophic for the workers. Its department's sheer negligence in failing to streamline them through main roads," Ahanger alleged.

Besides this, Ahanger noted, the pitiable condition of internal roads at our Industrial estate has robbed the sheen of daily work. "About 70 percent of internal roads have been macadamised. However, the rest has been left incomplete by R&B. The people coming to lassipora are forced to travel on the roads resembling dust bowls," the President Industrial Association Lassipora said.

"All these issues are to be taken very seriously by the Government as lassipora industrial estate is a lifeline of kashmir's economy and any damage to units at lassipora means damage to kashmir's economy," he said.

"We want to request the concerned authorities to look into the matter and make immediate arrangements so that unit holders won't face losses again this year," he added.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, MD SIDCO Kashmir Mehmood Shah said that the issue will be solved on priority basis.

"We're here to help these unit operators and we'll do everything to solve their grievances," Mehmood shah said.

ing implemented through the Education wing of the Tribal Research Institute.

The cut-off point in today's select list was declared as 96 % with 14 girl students figuring in the list of total 22 students, an official informed.

The selected students shall be felicitated in an impressive ceremony scheduled to be held soon. As per the guidelines of the scheme these students shall be provided a laptop worth Rs. 50,000/ and Scholarship upto Rs. 25,000/ shall be provided to each student.

Pertinent to mention here, the department has for the first time initiated an exercise to assess the state of education viz a viz tribal students, literacy levels prevalent among the tribal population, and based on such surveys development of a comprehensive education plan to address specific educational needs of the tribal students.

## Director Info Holds Brain Storming Session With Student Volunteers



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Director Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Akshay Labroo along with senior officers of the Directorate of Information held the first brain storming session with 1st batch of students volunteers who had registered through a public google link to volunteer for creating digital content for various social media platforms of the Information department of Jammu and Kashmir.

The volunteers belong to different universities of Jammu di-

vision, the volunteers gave innovative and new age suggestions for creating digital content of the youth, by the youth, for the youth of J&K.

Similar brainstorming session will also be held with volunteers of Kashmir division in the next week.

Director Information said that the priority of the Information is now to move away from conservative conventional method of communication and rapidly embrace the digital revolution in media and communications.

## Govt Cancels Attachment Of Doctors, Paramedics Made By HoDs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The government on Friday cancelled all the attachment of doctors and paramedics which had been made by the Head of the Departments including Chief Medical Officers, ADMOs and Block Medical Officers or any other officer at their own level from time to time in Jammu and Kashmir.

This has been done with a view to ensure better health care facilities to the general public and to restore the healthcare facilities in the rural areas, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (IAS), Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Medical Education Department, said in an order issued here.

Subsequently, all these doc-



tors and paramedics have been asked to report back to their original place of postings.

"The concerned Head of the Departments are directed to submit compliance report in this regard latest by 1st Au-

gust, 2022, without any fail," the order said, adding, "All the concerned DDOs are also directed not to draw the salary of any doctors/paramedics attached in their jurisdiction, henceforth."

## Citizens Can Now Register, Download Golden Cards Online

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** To achieve 100% saturation of Golden cards, the Government has developed online facility for the citizens of J&K through which they can register for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)-SEHAT scheme and download their golden cards at the comfort of their homes.

The citizens have to visit website setu.pmjay.gov.in and register themselves with details of ration card issued by Food and Supply Department, J&K and Aadhar Card and download their Golden cards. The initiative has been taken to ensure all the citizens get golden cards which provide 5 Lakh health insurance cover.

Notably, State Health Agency (SHA) recently rolled out an am-

bitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT scheme by the end of August month. Under the initiative of 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman, State Health Agency (SHA) has also started ' to reach out to even last mile villages which remain cut off from the rest of the world due to adverse weather conditions so as to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to every beneficiary.

Recently, Principal Secretary, Health and Medical Education, M.K Diwedi in a high level meeting had directed for launching result oriented door- to -door campaign in all areas of J&K to achieve 100 percent saturation by end of August this year.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)-

SEHAT scheme has crossed a major milestone of providing 5 lakh free treatments to the citizens of J&K UT recently. This Scheme has become a ray of hope for poor families who couldn't afford health treatment at high-end medical institutes of the country.

Recently a special initiative was launched for women and their families associated with JKRLM to provide them free treatment.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days of post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

## Batch Of 835 Pilgrims Leaves Jammu For Amarnath

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A batch of 835 Amarnath pilgrims, the smallest so far this year, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Friday for the twin base camps in Kashmir, officials said.

The officials attributed the recent fall in the number of pilgrims mostly to bad weather conditions, they said. While 3,862 pilgrims left for the cave shrine from Jammu on Monday, 2,189, 1,147 and 1,602 devotees left for Amarnath from here on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

Till Thursday, a total of over 2.70 lakh pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing

to leave the Jammu camp in 16 vehicles, followed by the second convoy of 19 vehicles carrying 529 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

The number of pilgrims visiting the cave shrine has fallen drastically in the last three days mostly due to bad weather conditions, they said. While 3,862 pilgrims left for the cave shrine from Jammu on Monday, 2,189, 1,147 and 1,602 devotees left for Amarnath from here on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

Till Thursday, a total of over 2.70 lakh pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing

the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, the officials said. With this, a total of 141,358 pilgrims have left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

A total of 36 people, mostly pilgrims, have died during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. Additionally, 15 pilgrims died in the flash floods at the Amarnath cave shrine on July 1.

## Despite Monsoon, Mining Allegedly Goes Unchecked In Doodh Ganga



Syed Mohammad Burhan

**SRINAGAR:** Mining is allegedly going on unabated in Doodh Ganga tributary of river Jhelum contrary to the Mineral Concession Rules framed in 2016.

Locals from a Budgam locality alleged that mining is on at Doodh Ganda Nallah during the monsoon season which is in defiance of the mining regulations.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has set up the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) in every state of India which gives environmental clearance for mining.

Rules for mining have been specifically framed in every state of India keeping in view the environmental impact and other factors.

Under the specific and standard guidelines issued by the SEIAA, mining cannot be done in the Monsoon Season.

The guidelines further said that mining cannot be done more one meter deep, machines cannot be used, CCTV cameras have to be installed at the mining sites and local populace has to get fifty percent rebate intending to buy minerals.

According to guidelines, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, mining cannot be done from 1st July to 15th September keeping in view the monsoon season.

However, timings for states of monsoon are different.

In 2015, the National Green Tribunal directed the Union Environment Ministry not to grant environmental clearance for sand mining in the rivers of north India till September 1 each year and during the rainy season.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar gave the order on a plea by environmental activist Vi-

rendra Kumar alleging mining activity was being carried out by private parties during monsoons.

The open defiance of the norms has sent alarm bells among locals who have called upon the authorities to take legal action against people acting in defiance of the mining norms.

Locals allege there is gross violation of the norms and defiance of the norms is coming at a heavy cost for the environment.

It is pertinent to mention Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir issued a notice on 22nd July, 2022 to the District Mineral Officer Geology & Mining Department District Srinagar/ Budgam, urging them to regulate the illegal mining in Doodh Ganga Nallah.

Director Geology and Mining Department O P Bhagat was not available for comment despite repeated requests.

## MVD To Link PUC Certificate With Vahan Portal: Transport Commissioner

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) will soon link Pollution Under Control Certificate with Vahan portal, Transport Commissioner, J&K, Bhupinder Kumar said Friday, while chairing a review meeting of the officers of the Motor Vehicle Department.

Transport Commissioner directed the RTOs/ARTOs to immediately mobilise the resources to ensure that all the Pollution Checking Centres in their jurisdiction are made online and integrated with Vahan. NIC was asked to immediately provide technical support, wherever required, so that the linking of PUC with Vahan is ensured by 15, August 2022.

The delivery of online services of the Motor vehicle Department was also reviewed and it was emphasised to generate more awareness about the services in order to empower the general public to avail services in a hassle free manner. In this context, it was emphasised that celebration of Digital Week 2022 in every District headquarter was a great step towards bringing awareness amongst the general masses. It was impressed upon all the RTOs / ARTOs that awareness campaign should continue and people should be encouraged to avail online ser-

vices in order to reduce footfall to the offices. Further, provision of faceless services was also deliberated upon.

Transport Commissioner informed the officers present in the meeting that drive for affixation of HSRP on every vehicle should continue and no laxity be shown to the defaulters.

The functioning of Road Accident Victim Fund was also discussed and it was informed that in order to provide relief to the families of road accident victims, sufficient funds are available with the Deputy Commissioners and district wise review was taken. RTO /ARTOs were directed to ensure immediate disbursement of Accident Victim Relief to the bereaved families immediately and requirement of funds, if any, be communicated urgently.

Similarly, functioning of Integrated Road Accident Data (i-RAD) was also discussed and it was decided that the report submitted by the Police authorities for verification be reported within 24 hours by the concerned RTOs / ARTOs so that every road accident is analyzed holistically and necessary corrective measures are taken.

The meeting was attended by Additional Transport Commissioner, Additional Secretary, Road safety Council, RTO Jammu, RTO Kashmir, RTO Kashmir, Scientist "F" NIC and all ARTOs.

## Abbas Reviews Working Of CBC J&K And Its Field Units

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Joint Director Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Regional Office Jammu Sh. Ghulam Abbas on Friday reviewed the working and functioning of CBC Regional Office and its field offices in a meeting at Regional Office, CBC, Jammu.

During the meeting, Abbas discussed administrative and financial matters with the officials and officers of field units and stressed that the field units must vigorously organise series

of programmes under Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav, 200 Crore Vaccination target, Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat and programmes of various welfare scheme of Government of India.

The Joint Director was apprised of various issues faced by the field units while conducting various programmes on different themes.

The meeting was attended by Field Publicity Officer, Udhampur, Khurshheed Yousuf, Administrative Officer, Ram Kishen, Accounts Officer, Ashok Kumar and other officials of Regional Office Jammu and its field units.

### Saubhagya Scheme

## Un-Electrified Households Of Rural Areas Getting Electricity Connections

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Saubhagya scheme has successfully provided last mile electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas of J&K besides providing Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages/habitations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The J&K Power Department Development proactively worked hard in ensuring electrification to every village which is visible from the fact that almost 3,57,405 households have been electrified in whole UT till date.

Despite facing many natural barriers like hilly terrains and difficult topography of the region, J&K government fulfilled the dream of inhabitants living in these places to see the light of bulb. For the first time, after 73 years of independence village Saddal of Udhampur district and Ganouri-Tanta village of Doda district saw the light of an electric bulb ending decades of darkness from the lives of villagers.

Similarly, villagers in far flung and hilly border areas of Nowshera sub division in Rajouri are experiencing a big transformation in their lives after receiving electricity under the government's Saubhagya scheme. This area was deprived of power supply from the last seven decades. "We are grateful to the government for launching ambitious schemes like Saubhagya which has made our lives comfortable and convenient in incredible ways. Earlier, our children could not study due to lack of electricity. We had to go to another village to get our mobile phones charged," said Abdul Hamid, a resident from the area.

Similarly, residents of Tanchmaidan, Pulwama are all praise



for Saubhagya scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as it has provided them regular electricity supply.

J&K has undertaken a large-scale capacity augmentation programme in the power sector resulting in huge leap in power transmission and distribution capacity.

Residents of Jabri village also expressed gratitude to Government for creating electric infrastructure, improving the services in the remotest areas of J&K.

Besides, mobile apps like 'Gram Jyoti Doot', 'Urja Vistaar' have been devised for fast track release of power connections. 'Saubhagya Rath' in all districts, is being lauded as an innovative practice by the Power Ministry.

Recently, Batdalong area of Khrew village of Pampore Tehsil in South Kashmir's Pulwama got electricity for the first time.

The residents of the area were jubilant after seeing electric lamps of their houses glowing for the first time.

A student of the village, Showket Ahmed said that they can now read comfortably without any problem. "Earlier, due to the absence of electricity, we had to read lighting oil lamps, which used to make the task more tedious," he said.





**WEST INDIES WON THE TOSS** and decided to bowl first in the first T20I against India. Skipper Rohit Sharma top scored with 64 (44) while Dinesh Karthik chipped in with 41 (19) to help India reach 190-6. West Indies was yet to bat when reports last came in.

## We're Never Conservative: Rohit

Press Trust of India

**TARUUBA:** Captain Rohit Sharma believes the new fearless approach adopted by India in the shortest format will result in occasional failures but disagrees that they were playing "conservative" cricket during last year's T20 World Cup in UAE.

"We didn't get the result from the last World Cup but that doesn't mean we played bad cricket all these years and I don't agree we were playing conservative cricket," Rohit said ahead of the five-match T20 series against the West Indies which begins here on Friday. "If you lose one or two matches in the World Cup, it feels like we were doing this and that, we were not taking our chances. It's not like that. If you look at the overall games that we have played leading into the World Cup, we won 80 per cent of our games."

"If we were conservative, how can we win so many



matches? That's fine that we lost in the World Cup, didn't qualify but that happens. That doesn't mean we are playing with fear, not playing openly.

"Lately, we haven't made any changes, we are doing the same things but the players have been given some freedom to go out and play their own game. Play openly, no need to take any undue pressure, if you play freely, performances will show."

Rohit said change is the only constant and the Indian team and its fans too have to

move on with time.

"There are bound to be occasional failures in the way we are playing cricket now, results will not be in our favour but there is no problem in it because we are trying to learn something and trying something different."

"So, there are scope for mistakes but that doesn't mean the boys are bad, the team is bad. It's just that we are trying to do something new. Everyone has to change with time, we are changing so I think people sitting outside also need to change their thinking."

## A-Division: Majeed Bagh, Nadirgund FC Win Matches



**SRINAGAR:** Majeed Bagh FC defeated Valley XI by 2 goals to 1 on Friday in the first match of the ongoing A-Division Football league 2022 which was played at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The match between the Majeed Bagh FC and Valley XI was expected to be a closely contested affair and football fans in huge numbers had gathered at the venue to witness it. Valley XI took the lead in 19th minute through Danish of Valley XI. In 25th minute Annus of Majeed Bagh scored an equaliser for his team. Majeed Bagh FC continued to attack opposite goalpost with higher frequency, in 30th minute Musa doubled their lead. At final whistle the score line was 2-1 in favour of Majeed Bagh FC.

The second match was played between Young Edigah FC and Nadirgund FC. The match started with aggressive note, both tried to hard find the net but no one able to score till the 29th Minute. It was Mudabir from Nadirgund FC who scored a magnificent goal. Both teams tried to find the net but no one was able to score till the finale whistle blew. The match ended 1-0 in favour of Nadirgund FC.

The tournament is organised by JKFA in collaboration with JKSC

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