

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

## Uniform Academic Calendar Facing Winter Test in Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

**A**MID the ongoing debate on the pros and cons of the Uniform Academic Calendar (UAC) in the Kashmir valley, the government Wednesday said that the move will mainstream Kashmiri students with the mainland and help them progress in the right direction.

"Since the logic behind the move is very obvious, the government has made all the arrangements for the students this

winter," Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG Manoj Sinha on School and Higher Education, told Kashmir Observer.

"It's a well thought-out move and I'm sure it will benefit the students in the long run."

In October this year, the government announced that all classes up to 9th standard will follow UAC—with final exams and admissions now commencing from March-April next year. Such directions were already announced for Classes 10 and 12 this summer.



On 31 August 2022, the school education department had issued an order for the implementation of the UAC on the recommendations of a committee formed in April for

both divisions "in sync with higher education departments and the rest of the country".

So far, Kashmir and Jammu divisions were having separate academic sessions in tune with the different weather conditions as the exams in the valley would start in October-November, just before the beginning of harsh and bone-chilling winters after which the students would stay at home for vacations. The exams in Jammu are held in March, just before the hot and humid

summers begin there.

"The government should've at least taken the stakeholders on board before taking such a decision for the valley staring at the long winter," said Asrar Imtiyaz, an engineer and an anxious parent.

"A thorough discussion on the pros and cons of this step should've taken place, but unfortunately nobody was approached. The parents are very worried as the children are ready to give the exams but what will they do for the | [More on PIO](#)

## Srinagar Records Season's Coldest Night



Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar: Cold conditions set in Kashmir as most places recorded sub-zero night temperature, even as the meteorological office has forecast dry weather with colder nights till the end of this month, officials said on Wednesday.**

Mercury across the Valley, except Kokernag in South Kashmir, settled below the freezing point on Tuesday night, the officials said.

They said Srinagar, too, experienced sub-zero night temperature for the first time this season.

The city recorded the minimum temperature of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, about a degree below the normal for this time of the year, the officials said.

The popular ski-resort of Gulmarg in North Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam tourist resort, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, reeled at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, recorded the minimum temperature of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while the mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 2.9 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag, which recorded a low of 0.3 degrees Celsius, was the only meteorological station in Kashmir where the minimum temperature stayed above the freezing point.

Leh town in Ladakh recorded a low of minus 9.6 degrees Celsius, while the minimum in Drass was minus 13.5 degrees Celsius.

The Met office said the mercury is expected to dip further as the days would be clearer and warmer, but the nights will be colder. | [More on PIO](#)

## Kashmir University Education Talked About Across India: LG

Says Responsibility Lies With Educational Institutions To Ensure Freedom, Creativity & Engagement

Observer News Service

**Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that young students are multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and it is the responsibility of Educational Institutions to ensure freedom, creativity & engagement for them to become multi-achievers, acquire knowledge & skills to thrive and shape their future**

"Creative pursuits are a great medium for the young students to develop leadership skills, human values, willingness to take risks, understanding the power of new ideas, competency to face future challenges and to nurture personality traits," the LG said.

Sinha made these remarks during the inauguration of Annual Youth Festival 'Sonzal-2022' at the University of Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

Extending his best wishes to the participating youth on the occasion, the LG said that the



annual festival is a great opportunity for young artists to showcase their talents and 'Sonzal' provides them much-needed platform to achieve the dream of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

"Sonzal means rainbow, which is a symbol of hope, inspiration and good fortune. For students, rainbow finally arrives when they have space for individual growth, independent thinking and opportunity to discover their own hidden treasure that will contribute in nation building," the LG said.

Observing that young students

are multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, the LG entrusted upon the Educational Institutions to discharge their responsibility to ensure freedom, creativity and engagement for them to become multi-achievers, and acquire knowledge & skills to thrive and shape their future.

"Our focus on ensuring choice, collaboration, curiosity, communication, critical thinking, creativity, research & enhanced engagement in education system can create better education goals and equip students with the necessary skills, knowledge

& values," he added.

The LG said that education is not about the race to come first but education is about achieving the highest peak of values in life. Institutions must ensure that the new learning framework and key concepts as recommended by National Education Policy are incorporated in curriculum, he added.

He further emphasized on laying specific focus on creativity, critical thinking, collaboration to replace curriculum overload, more hours of learning to quality learning time.

"Syllabus should | [More on PIO](#)

## People Calling for Hartals Wiped Out: DGP

Says Number Of Terrorists In J&K Below 100

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar: The number of militants in the Valley has come down below hundred and the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is better than before, police chief Dilbag Singh said on Wednesday.**

He said security forces have been doing a commendable job which has led to better results on ground.

"I feel happy to inform you that the security situation is improving and is better than before," Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh told reporters in Anantnag after reviewing the security situation in south Kashmir.

On militant attacks on non-locals and minorities in the Valley, he said such actions were condemnable.

"These are barbaric attacks. They are attacking common people who come to Kashmir for their livelihood. Police and security forces have taken action whenever such attacks have happened. Some of those involved in the killing of innocent people have been killed in encounters. They



face the same fate," he said.

The DGP said there is a need for society to condemn such attacks in the strongest possible terms.

"Society needs to stand up against such crimes and we cannot remain silent on it...It is our responsibility also to keep labourers from outside safe and secure.

"People have to a large extent expressed their resentment against such attacks but, it is not enough and people have to identify terrorists or their supporters and humiliate them in society. As far as police action is concerned, people indulging in such crimes will not be forgiven," he added.

About the number of militants present in the Kashmir valley, Singh said, | [More on PIO](#)

## White Paper on Waqf Encroachments Next Year: Andrabi

Says Preparing Files To Trap Big Fish Involved In Encroachments

Agencies

**Srinagar: Waqf Board Chairperson, Darakshan Andrabi on Wednesday said the white paper about encroachments of Waqf property will be made public in April next year.**

Andrabi said files are being prepared to trap big and the white paper will be made public when Waqf day will be observed in April next year.

She said Waqf day will be observed on the day when the board was reconstituted last year.

Andrabi further said six months have elapsed since the new Waqf Board assumed charge and one year will be completed in April. "We are just removing the dust from files so far and have taken some steps that will be completed one by one."

She added | [More on PIO](#)

## IAF Officers Killing: Special Court Seeks Yasin Malik's Appearance

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu: A special court here on Wednesday issued a fresh production warrant for physical appearance of jailed JKLF chief Yasin Malik for cross-examination of witnesses in a case related to the gunning down of IAF personnel by terrorists in 1990.**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) informed the court that it has already challenged the order before the Supreme Court.

The agency's senior special prosecutor Monika Kohli said the much publicised case came up for hearing, with the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)



chief appearing through video-conferencing from Tihar jail and the other accused being present in the court.

"The court again issued a fresh production warrant for the physical appearance of Malik on the next date of

hearing on December 22," Kohli, who is also Senior Additional Advocate General, told reporters.

She said the CBI has already challenged the order for physical appearance of Malik before the Supreme Court as there is a direction from the Home Ministry because of another case pending against him.

"Since he has moved an application seeking his physical appearance, the court issued a fresh production warrant to facilitate cross-examination of witnesses by him," she said.

On September 21, the court conceded Malik's demand for the first time | [More on PIO](#)

## CONSTITUTION DAY J&K Govt Orders Celebrations On Nov 26

Observer News Service

**Srinagar: Government on Wednesday ordered holding of preamble reading ceremonies in all its offices, autonomous bodies, PSUs, local self government institutions (Panchayats/Municipal Bodies), schools and colleges across the Jammu and Kashmir.**

"The Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas' is celebrated every year on 26th November to commemorate adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950. The sanctity of the auspicious occasion necessitates rightful duty of the citizens to celebrate the august occasion. This year the Constitution Day is being celebrated on 26th November on the subject - 'India-the Mother

of Democracy,'" reads a circular issued by government.

"Accordingly, for the celebrations and sensitizing citizens in respect of ideals enshrined in the Constitution, Preamble reading ceremonies shall be held across the country on 26th November, 2022 at 11.00 a.m. It has been also decided that similar Preamble reading ceremonies shall be held across the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in all Government offices/Autonomous Bodies/PSUs/Local Self Government Institutions (Panchayats/Municipal Bodies)/Schools/Colleges," the circular, reads, adding, "Further, talks, webinars, discussions to embolden the constitutional values and fundamental principles, shall also be taken up on the Constitution Day. The copy of the Preamble is also enclosed for reference. Besides, to facilitate online | [More on PIO](#)

### S H O R T T A K E S

#### Young Cricketer Dies On Field



**A** 23-year-old cricketer died on the spot after he was hit by a cricket ball in his chest while playing in Narbal area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday. Quoting a senior police officer, news agency GNS reported Firdous Ahmad Dar, a resident of Syedpora Narbal, was hit by a cricket ball | [More on PIO](#)

#### Man Found Dead In Udhampur



**A**n unknown man was found dead on Wednesday in Kaldi area of Udhampur district. Official sources said that an unidentified man was found dead under suspicious circumstances along the roadside in the Ansu area. The body was taken by police for carrying out legal-medico formalities, besides ascertaining his identity. | [More on PIO](#)

#### Searches Carried Out Along IB

**S**pecial Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday conducted a search operation in several forward villages of Samba district along the International Border (IB) here, an official said. The SOG was assisted by the Central Reserve Police Force and the nearly three-hour-long combing operation was carried out as part of border area domination following the recent infiltration attempts from across the border, a police official said. The search operation started in the early hours from S M Pora and covered Sapwal. | [More on PIO](#)

#### Bear Fear Grips Handwara Village

**T**he presence of black bears has panicked residents of Guloora village of Handwara with authorities finding it difficult to catch the wild animals. People, particularly children and women, are reluctant to come out from their homes after word about the presence of black bears spread in the area, reports said. The residents said that the presence of black bears from at least six days have panicked them "It's very unfortunate that the department has completely failed to capture these animals," said Sajad Ahmed. He said that there is | [More on PIO](#)

## 3 Siblings Jump From Bridge As Train Approaches, 1 Killed

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu: An 11-year-old girl was killed and her two siblings injured after they allegedly jumped from a railway bridge here on Wednesday when they saw a train approaching, an**

official said. While Hadia Fatima died in the accident, her brother Mohiuddin (12) and sister Alia (six) sustained injuries, he said.

The three siblings were on their way to school in the Bajalta area when the incident occurred. | [More on PIO](#)





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2

## The Ultimate Guide to High Cholesterol Prevention and Management

Cholesterol's had a bad rap for decades (just ask anyone who refuses to eat eggs), but our bodies actually can't function without it.

Yes, having too much cholesterol is one of the major risk factors for heart disease — aka the leading cause of death in American adults — but that doesn't mean cholesterol is 100 per cent evil.

We need some cholesterol; we wouldn't be able to live without it. Instead of banning cholesterol from our diets entirely, maintaining heart health is about finding a healthy balance.

But cholesterol can be confusing — which is why we've put together the ultimate guide to help you better understand what cholesterol is (and isn't), what causes high cholesterol and, most importantly, how to prevent and manage high cholesterol levels with diet and exercise.

What Is Cholesterol, Exactly?

Woman and doctor preparing for cholesterol blood test

Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance produced by the liver and also found in some of the foods we eat. It's present in every cell in the body and helps make hormones and vitamin D (which is actually a hormone) as well as build cells.

There are three types of cholesterol you need to know about:

**HDL:** high-density lipoproteins, the "good" kind of cholesterol that works to prevent heart disease-causing plaque in the arteries

**LDL:** low-density lipoproteins, the "bad" type of cholesterol that can cause plaque buildup

**VLDL:** very low-density lipoproteins, another type of "bad" cholesterol that can lead to increased plaque

Then you've got triglycerides, which are a type of fat that comes from sugar as well fatty foods such as butter and oil. Triglycerides technically aren't a type of cholesterol, but they're usually measured at the same time, and they're also involved in your risk of heart disease.

Here's everything you need to know about the types of cholesterol and the levels that are considered



healthy.

What Causes High Cholesterol?

Having high cholesterol levels simply means there is too much of the waxy substance in your blood, which puts your heart at risk.

"It's easy to assume that high cholesterol is an older person's disease, but the reality is more and more folks are developing it in their 20s and 30s — especially if they have risk factors such as being overweight," says Suzanne Steinbaum, DO, a cardiologist in New York City and spokesperson for the American Heart Association.

More than 12 percent of adults over the age of 20 have high cholesterol, defined as levels greater than 240 mg/dL, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Aside from a genetic condition that leads to high cholesterol levels (called familial hypercholesterolemia), lifestyle factors play a significant role in those high numbers. The good news is that, in many cases, high cholesterol levels can be lowered by making a few changes to your daily habits.

How to Lower Your Cholesterol

Numbers close up of healthy plant-based bowl to lower cholesterol

If a recent blood test shows you have high or borderline-high cholesterol, it's not all bad news.

"Your cholesterol, especially your

LDL, is incredibly responsive to lifestyle," Dr. Steinbaum says. "So, after six weeks of healthy strategies such as eating right and exercising, you should start seeing changes."

There are other effective ways to lower your cholesterol levels and bolster your heart health, such as losing just 5 to 10 percent of your body weight if you're overweight. And it's pretty easy to get started.

Apply these cholesterol-lowering tips to help you drop a few points.

How Food Affects Your Cholesterol

Levels Table filled with plates and food for a low-cholesterol diet

Cutting back on saturated fat is a great place to start when you want to lower your LDL levels, but it's important to add more of the right foods to your diet, too.

Try swapping saturated fatty foods, such as meat and full-fat dairy, for foods rich in unsaturated fats, such as avocados, nuts, seeds and olive oil. It's also important to include plenty of high-fiber foods in your diet.

Eating 5 to 10 grams of soluble fiber (aka the type of fiber that binds with cholesterol in the intestines and shuttles it out of the body) each day can help drop your total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol levels by 5 to 11 points, according to the National Lipid Association.

## 'Eating Ultra-Processed Foods Linked With Premature Death Risk'

Press Trust Of India

Consumption of highly processed foods such as sliced white bread and sugary soft drinks is associated with a higher risk of premature deaths, according to a study.

The research, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, found that consumption of ultra-processed foods containing little or no whole foods in their ingredients contributed to 57,000 premature deaths in Brazil in 2019. Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) have gradually been replacing traditional foods and meals made from fresh and minimally processed ingredients in many countries, the researchers said.

These ready-to-eat-or-heat industrial formulations, made with ingredients extracted from foods or synthesised in laboratories, are known to be unhealthy, they said.

The study found that increased consumption of these foods was associated with more than 10 per cent of all-cause premature, preventable deaths in Brazil in 2019. This is despite the fact that Brazilians consume far less of these products than countries with high incomes.

"Previous modelling studies have estimated the health and economic burden of critical ingredients, such as sodium, sugar, and trans fats, and specific foods or drinks, such as sugar-sweetened beverages," said study lead investigator Eduardo AF Nilson, from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"To our knowledge, no study to date has estimated the potential impact of UPFs on premature deaths. Knowing the deaths attributable to the consumption of these foods and modeling how changes in dietary patterns can support more effective food policies might prevent disease and premature deaths," Nilson said.

The team modelled data from nationally representative dietary surveys to estimate baseline intakes of UPFs by sex and age group.

Statistical analyses were used to estimate the proportion of total deaths that were attributable to the consumption of UPFs and the impact of reducing the intake of UPFs by 10 per cent, 20 per cent and 50 per cent within those age groups, using data from 2019.

Across all age groups and sex strata, consumption of UPFs ranged from 13 per cent to 21 per cent of total food

intake in Brazil during the period studied.

A total of 541,260 (over 5.4 lakh) adults aged 30 to 69 died prematurely in 2019, of whom 261,061 were from preventable, non-communicable diseases.



The model found that approximately 57,000 deaths that year could be attributed to the consumption of UPFs, which corresponded to 10.5 per cent of all premature deaths and 21.8 per cent of all deaths from preventable noncommunicable diseases in adults aged 30 to 69.

The researchers suggested that in high-income countries such as the US, Canada, the UK, and Australia, where UPFs account for more than half of total caloric intake, the estimated impact would be even higher.

Nilson noted that UPFs have steadily replaced the consumption of traditional whole foods, such as rice and beans, over time in Brazil.

Reducing the consumption of UPFs and promoting healthier food choices may require multiple interventions and public health measures, such as fiscal and regulatory policies, changing food environments, strengthening the implementation of food-based dietary guidelines, and improving consumer knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour.

Reducing the consumption of UPFs by 10 per cent to 50 per cent could potentially prevent approximately 5,900 to 29,300 premature deaths in Brazil each year, the researchers added.

### Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM

FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (Call 5<sup>th</sup>)  
NIT No: 222-MDB-2022-23/13721-40 DATED:-23.11.2022

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Snow Clearance Stage-05 (Beeru)	Rs.200/-	Rs.5000/-	3054 Snow	All classes
2.	Snow Clearance Stage-06 (Beeru)	Rs.200/-	Rs.5000/-	3054 Snow	All classes

1 The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), 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 as per schedule of dates given below:-

Table I:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-11-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23-11-2022
3	Bid submission Start Date	23-11-2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	29-11-2022 upto 2.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29-11-2022 at 2.10 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

No: 13721-40  
DATED:- 23.11.2022

DIPK-14014/22

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Muffasil R&B Division  
Budgam

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate Of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir

#### ABBREVIATED TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 09 of 2022-23  
Dated:- 22-11-2022

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs 5/- accompanied with the CCR For Rp 50000 ( Rupees Five thousand Only ] are invited from registered/ authorized dealers / firms having GST registration with TEN No. etc for supply of Da-Haired Wool for use in Handicraft Namdha Training Centres The Tender document along with detailed terms & conditions can be had from the office of Stores & Supplies Officer Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir against cash payment of Rs 200/- [Two hundred Only ) non-refundable on any working day during the office hours wef 22-11-2022 from 1:00AM). However, the agencies registered as MSEs and SSI Units are Exempted for both the EMD and Tender Fee, subject to the production of documentary evidence. The tenders shall be deposited in the office of store & supplies officer Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir upto 30.11-22 (4:00PM) either personally or by registered post. The tenders received would be opened on 01-12-2022 at 11:00 AM in presence of tenderers or their representative who wish to remain present at the time of opening of tenders. In case it happens to be Non working day for any valid reason, (Then the tender would be opened on the following working day

No: HD/DDT/622-623/2022

DIPK-13945/22

Accounts Officer  
Handicrafts & Handloom  
Kashmir

Dated 22-11-2022



**The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department(IAPMD)  
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## Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002.

Whereas Mr. Asaf Rasool Kenue as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 30.07.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely 1. M/S Mohammad Yousuf & Sons Prop Mohammad Yousuf Jet S/o Abdul Aziz Jet R/o Rose Avenue Lane No. 02 HMT Srinagar (Residence) (Borrower cum Mortgagor) 2. Mohammad Shafi Jet S/o Abdul Aziz Jet R/o Gazalla abad Lane No. 1, HMT, Srinagar (Guarantor) 3. Mr. Mohammad Imran Khan S/o Abdul Razak Khan R/o Mustafabad Near Gowhar Road, HMT Srinagar (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs. 3,05,92,260.01/- (Rupees Three Crore Five Lacs Fifty Ninety Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty And Paise One Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.03.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November of the year 2022.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.3,19,17,382.00/- (Rupees Three Crore Nineteen Lacs Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Two Only) together with future interest thereon from 01-11-2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

#### Description of the Immovable Property

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

Mortgage of three storied residential house with land underneath and appurtenant there to measuring 1 kanal under khasra no 1323,166/27, khata no 462 and khawat no 135 situated at estate Khushipora Tehsil & District Srinagar Standing in the name of Mohamad Yousuf Jet.

Ref. No. JKB/ZOKC/IAPM/SRFS/2022-

Dated: 18.11.2022

Place: Srinagar

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DIPK-NB-5165/22

Dated 23-11-2022

## RECRUITMENT OF MERITORIOUS SPORTSPERSONS IN CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE AGAINST SPORTS QUOTA

This is with reference to Advertisement published in Employment News Edition 29th October - 4th November 2022 at page-67 and Addendum No. R.II-21/2022-TRG-15 dated 09/11/2022 likely to be published in Employment News shortly.

- Post: Head Constable( General Duty) - 322 Posts (Male-257 & Female-65).
- Last date of receipt of Applications: - 27h November, 2022( 12th December, 2022 for residents of far flung areas).
- Age Limit : Between 18 to 23 years as on closing date of receipt of application.
- Educational Qualification: 10+2 or equivalent from a recognized Board/University and Sports Qualification.
- Physical Standard: Height for Male Candidate- 170Cm, Female-157 Cm. Other physical standard as per the details in the advertisement Relaxation is permissible as per Govt. guidelines.
- Pay Scale :
- a) Revised Pay Scale as per 7th CPC pay matrix: Level-4 (Rs. 25500-81100)
- b) Other Allowances: The above posts carry Dearness Allowance, HRA and any other allowances as admissible in CRPF time to time as per Government orders.
- Distribution of Vacancies :
- a ) For details of Discipline/Event/Weight Category /Position/Specialisation wise vacancies, please visit CRPF website http://www.crfp.gov.in.
- b) The number of advertised vacancies are tentative and subject to change at any stage.
- c) New Defined contributory pension scheme implemented vide Government of India, Ministry of Finance OM NO. I(7) (2)/2003/TA dated 07/01/2004 will be applicable to candidates selected for appointment.

#### HOW TO APPLY

The eligible and desirous candidates may download the application forms from CRPF website http://www.crfp.gov.in. Application form duly filled along with relevant documents and requisite application fees (if applicable) in the form of Crossed Indian Postal Order / Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of the authority as mentioned in advertisement may please be send to respective Recruitment Centers. Detailed Notification / Advertisement along with Physical Standards, Medical Standards, Educational Qualifications, Sports Qualifications, Selection process, Requisite forms etc. are available at CRPF website http://www.crfp.gov.in .

CBC - 19140/11/0009/2223

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on Electricity Bill bearing Consumer ID No; 0203010005437 from Bashir Ahmad Matta to Umar Bashir Matta if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Umar Bashir Matta  
S/o Bashir Ahmad Matta iko

## RASM E CHAHARUM

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mushatq Ahmad Haji who passed away on 22nd November 2022. His Rasm e Chaharum will be held on 25 November 2022 at his ancestral home at Haji Mohalla Saida Kadal Srinagar.



From: Abid Hussain Teli  
Cell No. 70068 28013

Abbas Ads.





## Quality Of Edu At KU Talked About Across India: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that with the reforms in achieving success, the quality of education at University of Kashmir (KU) is not only popular here but is talked about across India.

Speaking during the ceremony of cultural festival 'Sonzal' at KU, Sinha said, "As I have already said that the KU has brought a lot of reforms, be it innovations, teaching learning process, value based education or scientific humanities research."

The LG also said that the

"We are proud to have NAAC A plus grade and 53rd NIRF ranking. With all these achievements, the varsity had made its place in the centre of excellence in India. I congratulate all the students and the staffers of KU for achieving the milestones," he said.

Sinha added, "I think nowadays the knowledge and art of physics, chemistry, biochemistry, social science and history is not the only need to compete. There are other subjects as well through which the students can get groomed in the colleges and universities."

He also said that besides history of artificial intelligence, I believe that the edu-



quality of education at KU is not only being talked about in Kashmir only but is popular across the country.

cation of a student gets completed when the campus of any university develops skills of the students.

## Street Vendors Occupy Footpaths Outside Super Specialty Hospital

Agencies

Srinagar: Even the ambulances carrying critically ill patients had to wait sometimes outside the Super Specialty hospital, Shireen Bagh, Srinagar as the roadside and the footpaths remain occupied throughout the day by the street vendors and the illegal car parking, causing hardships to the people, especially the patients.

Several commuters as well as the attendants, whose patients are presently admitted at Super Speciality said that the footpaths have been permanently occupied by the street vendors.

"There is no space left for the pedestrians to walk on the footpaths as the street vendors have completely occupied it, forcing the people to walk on the middle of the road," Nazir Ahmad, a local resident said.

He added that forcing the people to walk on the roadside instead of footpaths is tantamount to risking their lives as the possibility of the accident cannot be ignored. "It is not only footpath oc-

cupation that has shrunk the space for commuters and the pedestrians, but the illegal car parking at the other side of the road has further congested the road, thereby leading to the frequent traffic congestion as well as the sufferings to the people as well," he said.

Other locals and attendants echoed similar views and said as the road is in between the two prominent and busiest hospitals—Super Speciality and SMHS, the road witnesses huge rush of people and vehicles almost every second. "However, the illegal occupation of the road always pushes the people to suffer and even forces the commuters many times to get stuck in traffic mess. Sometimes the ambulances carrying patients can be seen stuck in the traffic mess," they said.

The locals as well as the attendants here have appealed the concerned authorities to look into the matter and ensure that the illegal occupation of the footpath and the road is put to an immediate end so that the people could heave a sigh of relief—(KNO)

## Public Grievance Redressal Camp Held At Balhama

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing its endeavor to bring Administration to the door steps of the people particularly living in remote areas of the District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wenesday presided over a Public Grievance Redressal Camp under weekly Block Diwas programme at Balhama in Panthachowk Tehsil of the District for on spot resolution of public issues and listen developmental demands of the local people.

The Grievance Redressal Camp was attended by local public representatives including DDC Member Balhama, Engineer Ajaz, BDC Member Khonmoh, Manzoor Ahmad, other PRI members and a large number of people of Balhama, Zaffran Colony and other areas.

While Programme Officer, ICDS, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Chief Agriculture Office, Chief Horticulture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Zonal Medical Officer, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Lead Bank

Manager and other District Officers were also present on the occasion.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, local PRI representatives, public delegations and individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC including upgradation of Health Centre to NTPHC, construction of multipurpose Community Hall, retaining walls, Playground, augmentation of drainage system, resumption of work on dewatering pump station, upgradation and macadamization of link & inner roads, providing ATM facility and other issues.

The DC after giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp. He also assured them that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned to ensure their fulfilment.

The DC also gave on the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.



## In A First, SKIMS Conducts Rare Stenting Procedure

Observer News Service

Srinagar: For the first time in UT Of Jammu and Kashmir, Airway stenting procedure (Y-SEMS Tracheobronchial stent) was done with the flexible video bronchoscope system at SKIMS.

It was done by the Department of Pulmonary Medicine team including Director SKIMS & EOSG, Prof. Parvaiz A Koul, Prof. Sonaulah Shah, Dr. Nazia Mehfooz, and Dr. Zubair Ahmad (Thoker) supported by the Anesthesia team headed by Dr. Altaf Hussain Mir and Dr. Irfan Hussain Dar of Anesthesiology along with the team of technicians.

HOD General Medicine informed that this procedure was done on a 35 year old male who is a case of operated CA esophagus

with nodal recurrence compressing his left main bronchus causing collapse of his left lung with hypoxemic Respiratory failure.

In view of non-affordability and difficulty in transporting this patient outside of UT of J&K due to severe respiratory failure for this procedure, the pulmo-

tinely this procedure is done by a rigid bronchoscope system under general anesthesia. Previously patients were referred to outside for airway stenting.

These types of palliative procedures are important in giving quality life to such patients and will be continued by the Depart-

**Routinely This Procedure** is done by a rigid bronchoscope system under general anesthesia. Previously patients were referred to outside for airway

nary medicine team decided to conduct this procedure at SKIMS Soura. After arranging all the logistic support, the procedure was successfully performed. The patient is now planned for radiotherapy, he added.

He further said that rou-

ment in future to avoid referral outside UT of J&K.

Director SKIMS, Dr. Parvaiz A Koul congratulated the Department for conducting the procedure and assured support on behalf of the administration for such endeavors in future.

## Police Cracking Whip On Vehicles With High Beam Headlamps

Agencies

Srinagar: Traffic Police, Srinagar continued to act tough against the commuters for using high beam lights in the City areas as several people, who were found violating the norms, were fined on Wednesday evening.

Pertinently, use of high beams is prohibited in city limits under section 177 of the Mo-

tor Vehicles Act.

During the drive today near Zero Bridge, Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) City Traffic, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah said that the drive has been launched to act against the commuters, who are found using high beam lights or have installed LED lights or strips.

"These LED lights and high beams increase the threat of accidents while plying on the

busiest roads. It is not highway and thus the commuters should only opt to use low beam lights to prevent the road accidents in evening," he said

"We have launched the drive to take action against the offenders and also remove the LED strips from the vehicles," he said.

SSP City Traffic also appealed people to commute responsibly on the roads—(KNO)

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### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



### PRAYERS

FAJR	5:44
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3:47
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	7: 51

## This Day In History

- 380 - Theodosius I makes his adventus, or first formal entry, into Constantinople
- 1542 - Battle of Solway Moss: English beat Scottish King James V
- 1587 - Battle at Auneau: Henri de Guise wins
- 1639 - 1st observation of transit of Venus by Jeremiah Horrocks and William Crabtree - helped establish size of the Solar System
- 1643 - Battle of Tuttlingen: Beiers army under Gen Mercy beats France
- 1800 - Naturalists Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland depart Caracas for Cuba where they met fellow botanist John Fraser
- 1859 - English naturalist Charles Darwin publishes "On the Origin of Species" radically changing the view of evolution and laying the foundation for evolutionary biology
- 1905 - Moshav Hertzlia forms in Israel
- 1912 - Conflict in the Balkans grows into an acute international crisis with major powers supporting either Austria or Serbia.
- 1914 - Benito Mussolini leaves Italy's socialist party.
- 1916 - Mexican and US representatives sign a protocol at Atlantic City, under which Pershing's troops will withdraw and each nation's army will guard the border. President Carranza of Mexico will refuse to accept it.
- 1944 - US bombers based on Saipan begin 1st attack on Tokyo
- 1949 - British steel & iron industry nationalised.
- 1950 - UN troops begin an assault intending to end Korean War by Christmas.
- 1950 - US infantry division conquers Chonju Korea.
- 1951 - British auto manufacturers Austin and Morris Motors merge.
- 1954 - Air Force One, 1st US Presidential airplane, christened.
- 1954 - France sends 20,000 soldiers to Algeria.
- 1955 - 1st test flight of Fokker's F-27 Friendship.
- 1958 - Mali becomes an autonomous state within French Community.
- 1965 - Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu becomes President of Zaire.

*From KO Archives*

## 5 Hindus Gunned Down In Kishtwar

Rajinder Singh

JAMMU: Five Hindu passengers were abducted and later shot dead in a Kishtwar village of Doda district today. The massacre took place barely three days after as many truck drivers belonging to Sikh and Hindu communities were gunned down on the Srinagar-Jammu highway near Bani-hal in the same district. A top police official told Observer News Service that six Hindus, including an employee of the state food and supplies department, were abducted from a bus stop in Teh Mohalla of Dachau area, 30 km off Kisht-war by a group of ten suspected militants this evening.

Some of the victims were pulled out of a bus and the others were waiting at the bus stop. The six Hindus were separated from the Muslim passengers and were taken to a forest on the mountains three kilometres away where five of them were shot dead. One of them managed to escape, he said. The assailants escaped from the spot leaving the bodies in a pool of blood. Police recovered the bullet-riddled bodies from the forest.

The victims were identified as Bhushan Kumar, Santosh Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Ramesh and Roshan Lal.

This was the second attack on minorities in three days. On Monday, unidentified gunmen wearing army uniforms, who the authorities said were militants, shot dead five truckers, four of them Sikhs, on Srinagar-Jammu highway.

Today's killings triggered tension in one locality of Kishtwar town where demonstrators raised slogans denouncing Pakistan and militants. Quoting Ashkoor Wani, senior police superintendent of Doda district, an AFP report said that "four Lashkar-e-Toiba militants boarded a bus and kidnapped seven Hindu passengers".

"They released two of them after some Muslim passengers pleaded with the kidnappers to let them go because they were old men," Want said. The police official said the rebels took the five men to a nearby forest, about three kilometres away from the bus depot.

"Police gave them chase. We fired at them. But they managed to escape. We found five bodies in the evening in the forest with their throats slit."

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 24 NOVEMBER, 2000)



## UK Supreme Court Rejects Scottish Independence Referendum Bid



### Agencies

**LONDON:** The United Kingdom's top court ruled on Wednesday the Scottish government cannot hold a second referendum on independence next year without approval from the British parliament, dealing a hammer blow to nationalists' hopes of holding a vote next year.

In 2014, Scots rejected ending the more-than 300-year-old union with England by 55 per cent to 45 per cent, but independence campaigners have argued the vote two years later for Britain to leave the European Union, which the majority of Scottish voters opposed, has materially changed the circumstances.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP), announced earlier this year that she intended to hold an advisory independence vote on October 19, 2023, but that it had to be lawful and internationally recognised.

However, the British gov-

ernment in London has said it would not grant permission for another plebiscite, saying it should be a once-in-a-generation event. Polls suggest voters remain evenly split over whether or not they support independence and a vote would be too close to call.

The Scottish government's most senior law officer had asked the UK Supreme Court whether the Scottish government could pass legislation paving the way for an advisory second referendum without the approval of the UK parliament.

The court ruled it could not. "The Scottish Parliament does not have the power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence," Robert Reed, the president of the UK Supreme Court, said.

Under the 1998 Scotland Act, which created the Scottish parliament and devolved some powers from Westminster, all matters relating to the Union of the Kingdoms of Scotland and England are reserved to the UK parliament.

## Russia Slams Ukraine's "Godless, Immoral" Raid On Kyiv Monastery



### Agencies

The Russian foreign ministry criticised Ukraine as "godless", "wild" and "immoral" on Wednesday for raiding an old Orthodox Christian Monastery in Kyiv. Ukraine's SBU security service and police raided the 1,000-year-old Kyiv Pechersk Lavra complex - or Kyiv Monastery of the Caves - early on Tuesday as part of operations to counter suspected "subversive activities by Russian special services," the SBU said.

The site is a Ukrainian cultural treasure and the headquarters of the Russian-backed wing of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church that falls under the Moscow Patriarchate.

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, saying a "special operation" was needed to demilitarise

the country. Ukraine and the West have dismissed this as a baseless pretext for a war of conquest that has killed thousands, displaced millions, and turned cities to rubble.

On Wednesday, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said there was no justification for the raid and compared the "Kyiv regime" to Bacchus, the Roman god of wine whose name is often associated in Russian with immoral mayhem, chaos and revelry.

"This is just some kind of total godless Bacchanalia. There is no justification or explanation for this. And there cannot be," Zakharova said on Sputnik radio. "This is another part of the absolutely immoral and wild actions of the Kyiv regime."

Russia's Orthodox Church said on Tuesday the search was an "act of intimidation".

## Produce file related to appointment of Election Commissioner Arun Goel: SC tells Centre

### Press Trust of India

The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Wednesday to produce before it the file related to the appointment of Election Commissioner Arun Goel, who was appointed on November 19.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said it wants to know whether there was any "hanky panky" in Goel's appointment as election commissioner as he was only recently given voluntary retirement from service.

The bench rejected the objections of Attorney General R Venkataramani on the court willing to see the file related to Goel's appointment while the hearing is on.

Venkataramani said the court is dealing with the larger issue of appointment of ECs and the chief election com-



missioner (CEC) and it cannot look at an individual case flagged by advocate Prashant Bhushan.

"I take serious objection to this and have my reservation to the court seeing the file amidst the hearing of a Con-

stitution bench," he said.

The bench said it started hearing the matter last Thursday and Goel's appointment was effected subsequently on November 19 and therefore, it wants to see what prompted the step.

## Bengal School Students Wear Saffron Scarves "In Protest Against Hijab", Exams Cancelled Amid Row

### Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Two groups of students at a state-run school in Howrah district came face to face over the demand by one group to be allowed to don 'namabali' (saffron scarf) during exams as some girls wore Hijab during an exam.

A video of the purported incident showed a small group of few students, along with some people, having assembled outside the school gate donning saffron scarves even as another group of students stood inside and the co-educational school authorities and police present at the spot to prevent any scuffle between the two sides.

PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the video shot on Tuesday but a spokesperson of the school, Dhulagor Adarsha Vidyalaya said around five students wanted to enter the school compound donning namabali as the pre-board exam for class 12 on Tuesday.

The students demanded they be allowed to don the scarves while writing papers for the pre-board ex-



ams of class 12 claiming that some of their batchmates had already turned up in the previous day's exams wearing 'hijab', the spokesperson said.

He said the school authorities asked every student to follow the dress code to prevent any flare-up. A police contingent soon arrived at the spot on being informed by the school authorities and persuaded the students standing outside the gate and those inside to leave the spot even as the day's exams were postponed, the spokesperson said.

He said a meeting was held on Wednesday in which guardians, managing committee and the headmaster and teacher-in-charge were present and everyone

agreed to restore normalcy and ensure peace and amity on the campus.

He said a decision would soon be held about holding the postponed exams at a later date.

A police officer said there was some commotion before the school gate on Tuesday morning but it did not spin out of control and the situation is normal now.

Trinamool Congress MLA and state minister Arup Roy told reporters there was an attempt to foment trouble on the campus by outsiders but it was foiled. He said police were investigating the incident.

BJP leader Agnimitra Paul said every student should follow the dress code of an educational institution.

## 'Promotes Toxic Behaviour In Family': Delhi Panel On NCERT Class 9 Book

### Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Commission For Protection of Child Rights has asked NCERT to modify or replace a chapter in Class IX English textbook, claiming that it normalises "violent masculinity, depicts women in "stereotypical ways and teaches children to accept violence at home".

The panel's chief Anurag Kundu said the chapter titled 'The Little Girl' narrates the story of a girl Kezia, who is scared of her father and is constantly threatened by him to a point that it starts impacting her speech.

Later in a tweet, Kundu wrote, "I have written to @ncert Director advising removal of the chapter 3 titled 'The Little Girl' of class IX English textbook as it normalises violent masculinity, perpetuates patriarchy and promotes toxic behaviour in the family." No immediate reaction was available from the NCERT.

According to the story, Kezia's grandmother asks her to prepare a gift for her father as his birthday is around the corner. She prepares a pin cushion, but stuffs it with papers which contain a speech her father is supposed to deliver at an event.

On finding this out, the father beats her up, but the grandmother asks her to forget the incident.

In the night, while sleeping beside her father, Kezia "realises" that the father works too hard to be playing with her, and that explains him getting angry frequently. She forgets about the incident and forgives him, the DCPCR said.

The panel said it consulted gender experts over the chapter and concluded that "it is deeply problematic".

It said Kezia's grandmother and mother are shown in stereotypical ways.

"Both women are docile, unable to stand up to the father when he beats or screams at Kezia. The mother is shown as an enabler of the abuse and patriarchy in the house... The grandmother is kind and compassionate, lovingly soothes her granddaughter, but never defends her... Her grandmother, being an elder, is shown as powerless in front of her son," the letter to NCERT director read.

Noting that this "portrayal of women is at odds with the kind of gender equal society we all aspire to build", the panel stressed that children ought to be exposed to more progressive portrayal, making them question and critically examine her own surroundings.

"It teaches children to accept violence at home because the father works too hard... The material does not empower girls in any way, and in fact, provides harmful examples that girls and young women can forgive perpetrators of violence while boys can learn that they will be forgiven even if they are violent... All characters seem to be stuck in a psychologically unsafe environment," the letter said.

Kundu stressed that textbooks play an important role in shaping young minds as they grow up to challenge the notions of misogyny and violence.

## ₹75 Lakh Cash Seized From Car In Poll-Bound Gujarat, 2 Arrested: Cops

### Agencies

**SURAT, GUJARAT:** The Gujarat police on Wednesday arrested two persons and seized ₹75 lakh in cash from a car during vehicle checking in Surat.

As per the police, they have impounded the car and arrested the accused persons who had ₹75 lakh in their possession.

This vehicle checking by the Election Commission of India and Surat Police was underway amid the security setup for checking any irregularities and any untoward incidents in the upcoming Gujarat assembly elections that are slated to be held next month.

Gujarat which has 182 assembly constituencies will go for polling in two phases on December 1 and 5. The counting of votes will occur on December 8, which coincides with Himachal Pradesh's result date.

The Deputy Commissioner of Surat Police Pinakeen Parmar said: "We recovered ₹75



lakhs from a Mumbai-based car while the checking was underway in the wake of elections. These two persons could be arrested with the help of joint efforts of the sleuths of the Election Commission and Surat Police and the former will now decide how the investigation will take place."

He further said that the preliminary inquiry found that the recovered money belongs to a political party and the police have found posters of Congress.

Besides, the police have also found VIP pass for the parking, he said adding that they will seek help from Enforcement Directorate in this case.

## NEWS MAKERS

### Haryana Woman Jumps Into Water Tank With 3 Kids, Only She Survives: Cops

#### Press Trust of India

**NUH, HARYANA:** A woman in a Haryana village on Tuesday allegedly jumped into a water tank with her three children, killing all three of them, police said. The woman survived and is in a critical condition. The water tank was built inside the woman's house in Kherla village of Nuh district, they said. The incident happened around 12 pm.

Neighbours rushed to the woman's house hearing the children cry and pulled them out, but by then all three had died, said police.

Shakunat, 33, who was rushed to a hospital and is in a critical condition, jumped into the tank allegedly to commit suicide, said police. Children who died in the incident were Shabana, 10, Saad, 8, and a four-month-old Ikrar. Shakunat's 12-year-old son was in school at the time of the incident, said police.

"We have lodged a case on the complaint of Mohammad Aarif, the husband of the woman and handed over the victims' bodies after their post-mortem in late evening today. A further probe is underway," said Inspector Bharat Singh, SHO, City Police Station, Nuh.

## Pakistan PM Set To Appoint New Army Chief

### Press Trust of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's nuclear-armed army will soon have a new commander, with the prime minister's office confirming that it had received a list of names of six senior generals for arguably the most powerful post in the country.

The current chief of army staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, is to step down on November 29 after serving for six years.

The office of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tweeted on Wednesday that it had received the names for the positions of army chief as well as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee.

"The Prime Minister will take a decision on the appointments as per the laid down procedure," it noted.

Bajwa took charge of the 600,000-strong army for three years in November 2016. He was granted an extension in August 2019 by then-Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The confirmation from the prime minister's office followed confusion, claims and counter-claims on Tuesday night that played out in the news as well as on social media, triggering speculation of strained ties between the government and the military.

The military is considered to be Pakistan's most powerful institution and has ruled the country for more than three decades of the 75 years since it gained independence in 1947, and also imposed

martial law thrice.

As prime minister, Sharif has the authority to pick any general from a recommended list. Defence minister Khawaja Asif tweeted that the list of names would be sent to the prime minister's office in "due time" after a private broadcaster reported that the names were in.

"The Prime Minister has not received the summary as yet. God willing, receipt of the summary to PMO will be done in due time," he posted.

However, past midnight, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, confirmed, through a tweet, that the six names had been sent to the defence ministry.

"The summary from Ministry of Defence has been received at the PMO. God willing, rest of the steps will also be completed soon," he wrote.

Asif tried to downplay what appeared to be a deadlock over the choice for the top job. He said in a TV interview that the government and military don't have any differences and any claims to the contrary were unfounded.

Neither the ISPR nor the ministry mentioned the names of the top generals, who are, in order of seniority: Lt General Asim Munir, Lt General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Lt General Azhar Abbas, Lt General Nauman Mehmood, Lt General Faiz Hameed and Lt General Mohammad Amir.

## Shraddha Walkar Had Withdrawn Her 2020 Complaint, So Closed Case: Police

### Agencies

**PALGHAR:** Maharashtra Police on Wednesday said that based on a complaint by Shraddha Walkar in 2020, they had begun an investigation but the case was closed after she gave a written statement to withdraw the case.

DCP of Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar (MBVV) Commissionerate, Suhas Bavache said that Shraddha in her written statement had stated that "the dispute between herself and Aaftab Poonawala was resolved."

"Whatever necessary action had to be taken in that matter was done by police at that time. The application that was given by the complainant was also investigated. After the investigation, the complainant herself gave a written statement that there is no dispute. Her friend's parents also cajoled her to resolve the dispute. She gave the written statement and after that the case was closed," said Mr Bavache.

Aaftab has been accused of strangling to death his alleged live-in partner Shraddha and chopping her body into pieces. He is also alleged to have preserved the chopped body parts in a refrigerator before dumping them in the forests of south Delhi's Chhatarpur.

The Maharashtra Police said that in the year 2020, Shraddha had made a complaint at the Tulinj Police Station in Maharashtra's Palghar, in which she stated that Aaftab Poonawala, had beaten her and threatened to kill her.

The Maharashtra police have confirmed that Shraddha had written a complaint letter on November 23, 2020 to the Tulinj police station. In the complaint letter, Shraddha said that she "did not have the guts to go to the police" because Aaftab had threatened to kill her. However, she added that Aaftab tried to kill her on the day she was writing the letter, and he also threatened to cut her into pieces and throw her away.

"It's been six months he has been hitting me," the letter read. The letter further claimed that Aaftab's parents were aware that he beat her up and that he attempted to kill her.

"I lived with him till date as we were supposed to get married anytime soon and had the blessings of his family. Henceforth, I am not willing to live with him. So any kind of physical damage should be considered coming from him as he has been blackmailing me to kill me or hurt me whenever he sees me anywhere," Shraddha's complaint alleged.

Aaftab was produced before the Saket court in the national capital on Tuesday after his five-day police custody expired. "What happened that happened in heat of the moment," Aaftab told the court.

A court-sanctioned polygraph test on Aaftab was initiated yesterday. Assistant Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Rohini, Sanjeev Gupta said the process of conducting a polygraph test on Aaftab has begun and the report will be out in a week's time.

Delhi Police had previously said Aaftab, following his arrest in the case, confessed to killing his live-in partner Shraddha in their apartment in West Delhi's Chhatarpur and to chopping her body into 35 pieces.



## SED Identifies 83 Govt Institutions To Showcase NEP Implementation

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The School Education Department has identified 83 government institutions here to showcase the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) on pilot basis to emerge as exemplar schools, a local news agency KNO reported Wednesday.

The agency has learnt that the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Srinagar in an official communique to government has said, "In context of the PM Schools for Rising India (SHRI), Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India has approved centrally sponsored scheme PM SHRI."

The CEO said that the initiative is intended to prepare selected existing schools as PM SHRI schools. "These schools will help showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and emerge as exemplary schools over a period of time," it reads.

It also reads that these schools will provide leadership in their respective regions in providing high-quality educa-

tion in equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs and different academic abilities of children and makes them active participants in their own learning process as per the vision of NEP 2020.

The communique further reads, "Selection of PM SHRI schools will be done through Challenge Mode wherein schools will compete to become exemplar schools. The pool of schools that are eligible to take part in the challenge to be selected as PM SHRI schools have been identified based on prescribed minimum benchmark through UDISE plus data."

"Selection would be done through a three-stage process with definite time lines. Maximum of two schools would be selected per zone," CEO said.

It also said, "In this context, 83 schools of District Srinagar have been found to be eligible, as per UDISE plus data, to take part in the challenge."

The CEO also said that the required information should reach its office by or before November-24 without fail.



**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, MANOJ SINHA** lighting up lamp during the inauguration of Annual Youth Festival 'Sonzal-2022' at the University of Kashmir on Wednesday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Ladakh Admin Frames Draft Recruitment Rules For Gazetted Posts

Only Those In Possession Of Resident Certificate Eligible

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The administration in Ladakh Union Territory has begun the process to frame draft recruitment rules for gazetted posts after the Government of India empowered the Lieutenant Governor of the UT to do so.

To begin with, the UT administration has framed draft recruitment rules for engineering posts in the Roads & Buildings department and Public Health Engineering/ Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

According to draft recruitment rules, only natives of Ladakh are eligible to apply for these posts.

The draft proposals state that no person shall be qualified for appointment to the said post unless the person is a resident of Union territory of Ladakh and must possess a resident certificate issued by a compe-

tent authority in accordance with the Union Territory of Ladakh, Grant of Resident Certificate (Procedure) Order, 2021.

According to the Union Territory of Ladakh, Grant of Resident Certificate (Procedure) Order, 2021, those who are in possession of a permanent resident certificate in Ladakh UT are eligible to get the resident certificate.

The draft recruitment rules have been framed after the President of India empowered the LG of Ladakh UT to do so.

On November 01, 2022, the President of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to article 309 of the Constitution, directed the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Ladakh to make rules for regulating the recruitment to the public services and posts of Group 'A' and Group 'B' (Gazetted) under his administrative control in con-

nection with the affairs of the said Union Territory.

The President of India also empowered him to frame rules for the qualifications necessary for appointment to such services and posts; and the conditions of service of persons appointed to such services and posts for the purposes of probation, confirmation, seniority and promotion.

According to the notification issued by MHA, any rule made under this direction shall be subject to previous consultation with the Union Public Service Commission. "In the case of services and posts, appointment to which requires the prior approval of the Central Government, the prior approval of that Government shall also be obtained in respect of the rules, as to be made under this direction, for such services and posts," the notification reads—(KNO)

## People Have Rejected Divisive Politics In J&K: Bukhari

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday said people have rejected the divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir which was responsible for seven decades of suffering.

Addressing a joining programme here at the Apni Party Office, Gandhi Nagar, Bukhari said that Apni Party is committed for equitable development without playing with the emotions of the people.

In this programme, prominent social activist and former general secretary of Bar Association, Samba, Lovely Mangol joined Apni Party with his supporters. They were welcomed into the Party by Bukhari. Apni Party State General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya, Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh and other leaders of the party were present on the occasion.

In his speech, Bukhari hoped that his joining would strengthen the party in Samba district and expressed gratitude towards the people who have expressed their faith in the party and its leadership.

He said that the people have accepted the politics of development and rejected the politics of hate and division.

"We promise what is achievable without misleading the people to gain their support. The people of J&K have remained the victim of these traditional political parties who promoted divisive politics and restored to emotional sloganeering," he said.

He said that "We believe that the issues of Jammu as well as Kashmir Regions are similar and their concerns must be addressed equally by providing them equal opportunity with regard to development and employment."

He said that the unemploy-

ment which has grown from the last several years needs to be addressed timely before it is too late by the Govt but the LG administration has failed on all fronts.

"The bureaucracy has been creating hurdles and delaying the development. Shockingly the recruitments turned out to be major scams in J&K and it has shaken the faith of the unemployed youth on the recruitment agencies. It was claimed that the recruitments would be conducted with honesty and transparency but the opposite is happening," he said.

He said that "These things can be corrected when there is a popular Govt in J&K. Hence, the holding of assembly elections is a must and the restoration of statehood will restore the lost faith of the people in the Govt and in the administration."

He said that the Apni Party is committed to protect the rights of the people and the natural resources of Jammu and Kashmir for the local residents.

"The people in Kathua, Samba, Jammu and other districts have serious objections against the outsiders grabbing their natural resources, contracts and other sectors due to which the locals have lost their source of earning," he said.

He said that the industrial sector established in Samba and Kathua districts have employed outsiders.

"Employment must be reserved for the local unemployed youth in the industrial sector in J&K and accordingly required skills should be provided to them so that the growing unemployment issue can be addressed," he said.

He also demanded advertisement of all the vacant posts in various Govt Departments for fast track recruitment and special on the spot recruitment drives for the border residents of J&K in security forces.

## Janjatiya Divas Held At Tribal Village Ringzabal In Budgam

### Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The District Administration Budgam held a first of its kind, Janjatiya Divas at remote village Ringzabal in Khansaheb area of Budgam.

The programme was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, S F Hamid.

Speaking on the occasion, DC vowed to bring the Ringzabal area on the tourist map for its abundance in natural scenic beauty and falling in the lap of Tosamdaan area.

DC said that the area has huge tourism potential and it's the ongoing development process of the area shall open new economic resources for locals.

He said all efforts will be made to create required Tourism related infrastructure including Home stays and other facilities for tourism promotion in the area.

He said that the District Ad-



ministration Budgam is committed for the development of Tribal belts and special focus is being given on the welfare and prosperity of Tribals.

DC praised Tribals for remaining connected to their culture and identity and for their commitment towards the welfare of their community.

Besides other areas, speedy work process is carried out on the development of Road network and completed in a stipulated timeframe to ensure better connectivity to the residents of these remote villages.

In order to ensure benefits of schemes reach to the doorsteps of public, the DC said that the

District Administration will organise awareness camps regarding scholarships, employment and other public welfare schemes of all departments in all remote areas of the district. He said that the under vision of Hon'ble PM and guidance of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor- UT, for the first time in history pathbreaking work is being done for the welfare of the tribals.

On the occasion, local PRIs, students and other respected from village Ringzabal, Zoogu, Khairan, Konzabal and other adjacent villages interacted with the DC and presented their suggestions and ideas.

## AC Okays Advance Payment To Meet Demand Of Over 4600 FPS Dealers

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal for Advance Payments in favour of FPS Dealers on account of their margin on monthly basis under NFSA Scheme.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K attended the meeting.

Administrative Council approved Advance Payments of 75% Central share on account of FPS Dealers margin, on monthly basis under NFSA Scheme, out of Revolving Fund (Foodgrains) Account, pending release of such claims by



Government of India.

Since the flow of funds of Government of India under NFSA is not regular and there was persistent demand of FPS dealers for payment of commission at the rate of Rs.180/quintal to Fair Price Shop Dealers, the AC authorized for making payments as commission in advance of receipt of funds there by

benefitting 4630 FPS dealers across the UT. This amount shall be recouped as and when Central share is released by the GoI.

The proposal has financial implications of Rs. 32,95,05,998/- (@Rs. 180/quintal) during each Financial Year but the same shall be recouped as and when funds are received from GoI.

## DM, SSP Doda Conduct Checking Of Vehicles On NH244

Ask Authorities To Ensure Speed Governors, GPS On Every Commercial Vehicle

### Observer News Service

**DODA:** Taking cognizance of the complaints received from the general public, recent unfortunate road accidents and to enforce safety regulations ahead of winters, District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan along with SSP Abdul Qayoom and ARTO Kuldeep Singh Wednesday conducted random checking of vehicles on NH 244 (Batote Doda Kishtwar Highway).

Vehicles were checked for validity of papers and Driving licences. The commercial vehicles were checked for Speed Governors and GPS as mandated under norms.

The DM and SSP conducted counselling of drivers enroute and sensitised them about safe speed and other

road safety rules. They also took stock of the nuisance of wrong parking and roadside encroachments.

The DM directed the authorities to take strict action against the traffic violators, wrong parking and roadside encroachments. He also directed to ensure 100% installation of Speed Governors and GPS on commercial vehicles.

The DM directed the Traffic Police, ARTO, Police, and Revenue authorities to work in close coordination and act tough against traffic rules violators. He directed the concerned officers to devise an effective mechanism for better traffic regulation especially during winter season.

The DM appealed stakeholders to follow traffic rules for better traffic management.

## JMC Passes Resolution To Make Graduation Minimum Qualification For Councillors

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma on Wednesday batted strongly for making graduation mandatory as the minimum qualification for elected representatives to contest elections.

The general house of the Jammu Municipal Corporation passed a resolution, which was moved by Sharma, to make graduation as minimum qualification for those who would contest elections for councilors of the municipality.

Sharma said the resolution had been sent to the Jammu and Kashmir administration and they were awaiting its implementation.

However, he added, it has to get approval from the administration first and the Election

Commission of India then before the graduation criteria becomes a rule.

"We urged the central government to take cognisance of the resolution passed by the JMC general body and enact a law to make it mandatory for elected representatives that they can contest elections if they are graduates", Sharma told reporters in Jammu.

"It is probably first such initiative across the country that a municipal body has passed resolution fixing graduation as minimum educational qualifications for the councilors contesting elections."

Sharma said that it becomes a base for the executive that the elected representatives have passed this resolution and they must work on it.

## BJP Creating Confusion In J&K To Rule Directly From Centre: JKPC President

### Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani on Wednesday accused the BJP of creating an atmosphere of confusion in the union territory so that it can rule it directly from the Centre.

"The BJP is indulging in falsehood and promotion of hate politics in the country in order to divert people's attention from its failures for the sake of power while adding more confusion in J&K aiming to continue ruling it directly from the Centre," Wani said at the party workers' convention at the Valtengo area in Kulgam district.

Wani blamed BJP government for the losses caused to J&K due to the "wrong policies adopted by it (BJP) while having failed

people miserably on developmental, economic, employment and various other fronts".

Wani said the developmental process initiated in J&K by UPA-I and UPA-II is nowhere to be seen

"What the people of J&K got under the BJP rule is only unemployment, lack of development, unprecedented price hike on essentials and hardships which has made the living condition of common people more pathetic," the JKPCC president said.

Wani said democratic institutions for safeguarding the rights of people are being targeted one after the other with the aim of suppressing the genuine voices "while politics of hate and division are being promoted by the BJP for the sake of remaining in power".

## Mehta Approves 8.35 Cr Action Plan Of Rehabilitation Council

Plan To Benefit 6800 Beneficiaries; Saturate Provision Of Tricycles Among SAP

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday chaired the Executive Council Meeting of the Council for Rehabilitation of Widows, Orphans, Handicapped & Old Persons (Victims of Militancy) established by Social Welfare Department (SWD), J&K.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, SWD; Executive Director, Rehabilitation Council; Representative from Department of Planning along with other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta enquired from the Council about its performance during previous year. He impressed upon them to accelerate the seeding of beneficiary accounts with Aadhar numbers. He directed them to complete the task within a month.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the Council that their work is of paramount importance. He asked them to provide timely assistance to all the victims and take all measures to rehabilitate them well.

He stressed on saturating the distribution of tricycles among all the Specially Abled Persons

(SAP) as per the directions of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT. He directed that all the youth taken to different parts of the country under 'Watankojano' programme should be facilitated in every manner and their stay made comfortable at every city they visit.

During the Council meeting it was revealed that an action plan of Rs 8.35 Cr has been formulated for the year 2022-23 for coverage of 6800 beneficiaries. It was stated that its components consists of pension of Rs 1000/month to widows, old aged persons and Specially Abled Persons besides marriage assistance of Rs 40000 to young widows or grown up daughters.

The meeting was also informed that the Council proposes to provide Motorized Tricycles to all the remaining registered 2700 cases of SAPs during the year as per the directions of the Lieutenant Governor. It was further informed that under 'Watankojano' sponsored by Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI the Council is going to take about 500 children from its orphanages, Balashrams/ Narineketan of the Department to cities like Mumbai, Lucknow, Jaipur, Hyderabad etc.

## ADC Shopian Chairs Road Safety Committee Meeting

### Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** Additional Deputy Commissioner, Yar Ali Khan on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee, Shopian ( DRSC) here at Mini Secretariat.

ADC took department wise review of measures taken in connection with the different achievable targets as set by DRSC in the previous meeting and sought Action Taken Reports from all concerned departments.

It was apprised by the stakeholders that signage boards, posters, hoardings, removal of black spots, construction of crash barriers, installation of speed limits, and student rallies have been done throughout the district, at vulnerable spots in

order to ensure road safety.

ADC also sought measures taken to regulate traffic in the main town and directed all concerned departments to identify more places for parking in the town.

Motor Vehicles, Traffic authorities were also directed to enhance enforcement of Motor Vehicles Act across the district and intensify checking on main routes.

Barricading at identified road stretches, road safety measures and awareness on traffic regulations were also discussed in detail.

The meeting was attended by SDM Zainapora, Mushtaq Ahmad, ARTO Muazzam Ali, DIO,Dy.SP, EO MC and representatives of Health, R&B, Traffic, Education, Mughal Road Organization and other concerned.



KASHMIR OBSERVER

Thursday | 24-11-2022

Abating Militancy

The Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh on Tuesday said that the number of local militants has been brought down to double digits which is a big achievement for the security forces. This has taken Kashmir back to 2012-13 when the number of militants had reduced to double digits and South Kashmir which has now become the hotbed of militancy boasting no more than 15 of them. As for foreign militants, Singh said there are fewer of them left. The DGP indicated that the militancy was on its way out as the anti-militancy operations had achieved great success in recent years. Citing the example of North Kashmir, Singh said that the area which once was once badly affected by militancy is calm now. The DGP, however acknowledged, that hybrid militancy remains a challenge as so far over 100 modules of hybrid militants have been busted across J&K.

Ever since the withdrawal of J&K autonomy in August 2019, over 500 militants have been killed in the UT, most of them local youth. Though this has reduced the number of militants, the violence has continued unchanged. And over the last year, the violence has increased as militants have chosen to attack civilians, panchayat workers, J&K police personnel visiting home, outsiders and minorities instead of engaging security personnel. Security forces, as a result, now not only have to combat militancy but also protect a large section of population including many from among their own ranks.

It is, however, true that militant activities have come down substantially. The objective of the ongoing counter-insurgency campaign has been to eliminate militancy by attempting to kill all the militants within a specific timeframe. Viewed from that perspective, the security agencies have been exceptionally successful following the withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. They expect that the killings of the militants at this rate could drastically reduce their number. This, in turn, is expected to alter the political dynamics in the Valley and usher in peace. However, whether this would address the deeper factors underpinning the current state of affairs is impossible to predict. More so, when the current uncertainty goes back three decades. The militancy has gone through its crests and troughs but has never been wiped out. One can't, however, deny the fact that an uneasy peace has by and large held after the abrogation of Article 370.

What does the near future, therefore, hold for Kashmir? Many a security expert hope that the continuing successful anti-militancy operations would substantially reign in the militancy. It, however, remains to be seen whether the contemplated final assault on the militancy would deliver results. The coming weeks and months would be crucial on this score.

OTHER OPINION

On the National Suicide Prevention Strategy

The best first step towards addressing a malaise is to recognise that it exists. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's recently published National Suicide Prevention Strategy fits right there. It has been a long time coming, but the Strategy, finally in the public realm, calls attention to the massive burden of suicides in the country, and initiates steps to achieve a reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030. At the same time, it has measured the paces forward with a time-bound action plan that takes into account the grim realities of a varying ground situation in India. The problem is indeed dire, and without targeted intervention programmes, and stigma reduction strategies, a public health crisis of gargantuan proportions is imminent. Globally, suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds and also the second leading cause of death for females aged 15-19 years, as per WHO estimates. In India, more than one lakh lives are lost every year to suicide. In the past three years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 population. As per National Crime Records Bureau statistics, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka have the highest percentage share of suicides (2018-2020), ranging between 8% to 11%. The most common reasons include family problems and illnesses, while other causes include marital conflicts, love affairs, bankruptcy, substance abuse and dependence. Further, in approximately 10% of cases, the cause for suicide remains unknown. Importantly, the document notes that contrary to belief, the majority of suicides are preventable.

The Hindu

The Afghan Conundrum

The Moscow Conference on Afghanistan has shown the resolve of the regional players to play an effective role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and help the masses, who are facing a bleak future



Feature image caption: NoAfghan participation at the Moscow Format meeting on Wednesday (Images courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia)

Asad Mirza

After a relatively silent phase on the Afghan situation, which was overtaken by the global geo-political concerns after the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, the Afghan situation was once again on top of the agenda of regional and global powers in Moscow, last week.

At the Moscow Conference on Afghanistan, representatives and officials from more than 14 countries exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan. The meeting was hosted by Russia and participants discussed the political, economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

The 10 countries, none of which was involved in military occupation of Afghanistan, were meeting after over a year in Moscow. The participants included representatives from India, Pakistan, Russia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Representatives of Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye were also present.

At the start of the conference, special Russian envoy Zamir Kabulov stated that we have to provide a comprehensive solution to the Afghan economic issue. To achieve this, the main responsibility lies with the collective West. Those who drove the country for 20 years to the current deplorable state, as well as shamelessly continued economically suffocating the country by holding the frozen national assets of Afghanistan, are not ready to step in, an obvious reference to the USA, which was not present at the conference.

Regional Views

At the conference, MEA's Joint Secretary JP Singh, who called for joint work to ensure that the "voice" of the Afghans is not lost, represented India. We all need to work together to ensure that the voice and aspiration of Afghans is not lost and reassure them that we are standing with them at this difficult time, he said.

The Chinese special envoy on Afghan affairs, Yue Xiaoyong said that the United States has shamelessly seized the \$7 billion assets of the Afghan Central Bank and suspended all development aid, unilaterally.

The Iran special envoy for Afghanistan, Hassan Kazimi Qomi, said that there will be a meeting of the regional foreign ministers in Tehran very soon to discuss Afghanistan's economic woes.

Right from the beginning India's view has been that of engaging with the Taliban. Though after making an initial foray by engaging in dialogue with the leadership in Doha, before the formation of the Islamic Emirate, it acted rather slowly afterwards. Yet, it remains firm that development and reconstruction of Afghanistan should be dealt with by its regional neighbours

Right from the beginning India's view has been that of engaging with the Taliban. Though after making an initial foray by engaging in dialogue with the leadership in Doha, before the formation of the Islamic Emirate, it acted rather slowly afterwards. Yet, it remains firm that development and reconstruction of Afghanistan should be dealt with by its regional neighbours and those countries, which in the past have played a factitious role in Afghanistan politics, should be kept away from it

and those countries, which in the past have played a factitious role in Afghanistan politics, should be kept away from it.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Emirate has made clear that meetings in which there is no representative from Kabul are not effective. The Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement said that, "We want to underscore that Islamic Emirate - just as it fought against the 20-year occupation posing a direct threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan and the region - as an independent government will not allow any third country to place military facilities in Afghanistan. Similarly, we strongly urge other countries to not put their land and airspace at the disposal of other countries against Afghanistan."

It also said that the interim Taliban regime is an "accountable government" and has taken "serious steps against antagonistic groups."

Pakistan's Criticism

However, in an unusual move, Pakistan gave a damning assessment of the Afghan Taliban regime's 16 months in power, saying the interim government has done little to form inclusive government, protect the rights of women and eradicate terrorist groups.

Pakistan's special envoy for Afghanistan, Sadiq Khan, called for support for Afghans. The lack of progress, he noted, means that the critical support needed by Afghanistan to deal with the humanitarian and economic crises and other challenges has faltered.

Sadiq said the progress report of the last 16 months was mixed - while some of the worst fears, including a rapidly deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, mass exodus of refugees and a prolonged period of instability and

violence did not materialise, the interim Afghan government had also not made the kind of progress that the international community would ideally expected.

Despite assurances by the interim Afghan government, the rights of women and girls also appeared to have regressed, not progressed, according to the Pakistani envoy. He added that the footprint of terrorist organisations in Afghanistan, had yet to be fully eradicated.

He said that Pakistan has been the advocate of engaging with the Afghan Taliban government after the withdrawal of foreign forces. But the latest assessment suggests Islamabad is not happy with the interim government. Pakistan is increasingly frustrated over the Taliban's lack of intent to eradicate threat posed by certain terror outfits to Pakistan.

But despite expressing strong reservations, Ambassador Sadiq made a passionate appeal for help to millions of Afghans, who he said, were in desperate need of urgent humanitarian support, including food, medicine and essential life supplies, before the advent of winter.

On top, he said, Afghanistan remained cut off from the international banking system and faces serious liquidity challenges. Billions of Afghan assets are frozen, thus deprived of being gainfully used for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan.

Though Pakistan wants to be seen as an important and sincere player for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, yet there is a lot of bad blood between Pakistan and IEA. During the last 16 months, their forces have acted against each other on the border issue several times. Moreover, even the international community does not seem ready to entrust Pakistan with any meaningful role in Afghanistan, which might be a replay of its earlier roles during the Soviet and American interference in the country.

In the given scenario, the Indian government should step up its diplomatic and outreach activities with the IEA and international players. India's past role in Afghan affairs can't be erased easily and now as the G20's chair, India can definitely move forward in a resolute manner to start a meaningful and result-oriented outreach for Afghanistan.

Further IEA should be made a part of the consultative process of any future action on Afghanistan, as without their presence no one can guarantee the actions and provide legitimacy to any sincere intervention.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi.

He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. He can be contacted



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All Hands on Deck for Privacy

When personal data is openly shared at various digital platforms, it is all the more critical that there are sound firewalls to protect it from any breach. If the Centre itself has given too much access to per-

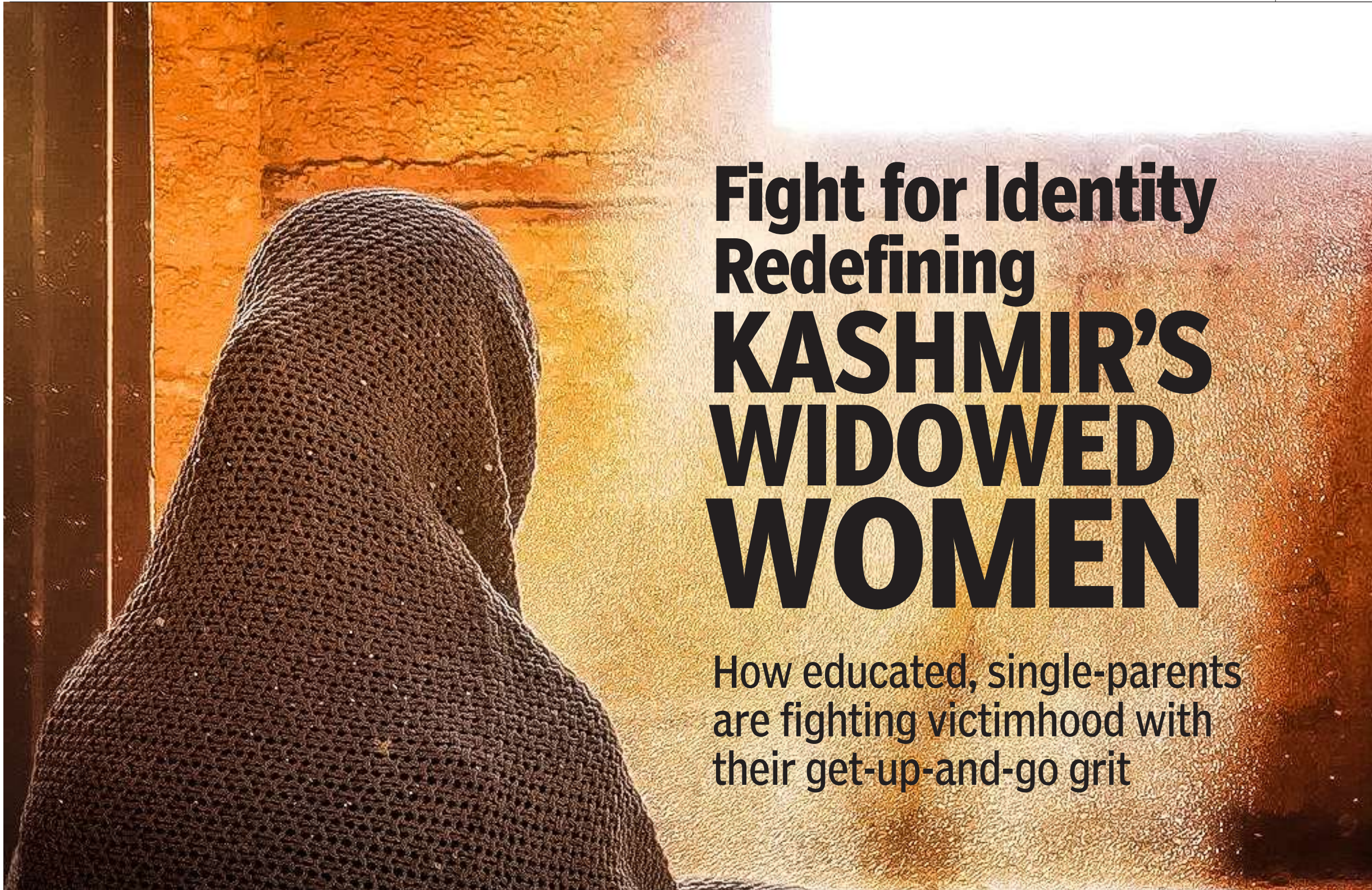
sonal data and the common public has the fear of getting exploited then they do not have anywhere to go for reprieve. Yes, there have been revisions over the last draft but if there are still some huge gaps which are still putting people at risk then they

must be sorted out without any delay before this personal data protection bill is passed and becomes law. With the kind of dynamic environment we are living in and technology playing a huge role in our lives, we would become all the more vulnerable in terms

of personal data, so GoI would do well to take a pragmatic approach and not make people live at their mercy. Personal privacy and data protection is too serious a matter to be left to the discretion of the government alone.

Bal Govind





# Fight for Identity Redefining KASHMIR'S WIDOWED WOMEN

How educated, single-parents  
are fighting victimhood with  
their get-up-and-go grit

Muntaha Mehraj Hafiz

She buoyantly opened her cupboard and took out her wedding album with a palpable pining. Dusting it with her faded and oiled dupatta, she stopped at a glowing face of her husband wearing wedding gear.

The betrothal looked beautiful, as many jaws had dropped at the sight of a “match made in heaven”.

“But who knew the same charming man would be struggling for his life two years later,” laments Shazia, caressing her beaming bridegroom’s photo with a palpable longing. “They tell me it was an evil eye that consumed him, but I tell them I was meant to be a widowed woman. And it’s ok!”

In a place like Kashmir where widowed women are known for leading a hopeless life, the story of Shazia is spirited as she refuses to embrace the victimhood. While many in her tragedy-torn tribe face the social indifference and apathy, she’s fighting for her rights.

“It’s not about me alone,” she says, flipping the photo pages with a sense of wistfulness, “it’s about my daughter. If I can’t fight for her, then there’s no point of my life.”

As a prevailing practice of sorts, a married woman is sent back to her parent’s home in Kashmir after the death of her husband. Some of them are forced to leave their in-law’s place some decades after their wedding. Even their children—otherwise raised with love and affection—become bargaining chips in this crisis point. The young ones mostly end up at their maternal.

But when Shazia’s husband died due to cancer, she fought for her rights and refused to leave. “I had to challenge the insensitivity of the society,” she tells me, looking directly into my eyes. “I had left everything after I got married. And now, when he was not there anyone, didn’t I and my daughter deserve his share of property?”

Shazia’s fight is unique in a place where human bonds are being celebrated for their compassion and community-welfare spirit. But the marital mess and “murders”, as increasingly being alleged now, are casting aspersions at the same time.

However, while the majority of women are still facing the set-societal conditions, many are feeling some change. “Daughters-in-law are mainly being sent to their parents’ home after the death of their husbands for a new beginning,” says Molvi Naseer Khan, a religious scholar from Kashmir.

“The aim is to continue the existential cycle. Birth and death is a twin-reality of life, and so are sudden shocks and separations. But yes, we need to handle such trauma cases with utmost sensitivity. I mean, I

know for a fact, how many in-laws help their daughters-in-law to grow in life after these tragedies. They even bear the expanses of their remarriage. But just to streamline the marital chaos, we need to evolve a clear system.”

While the consensus remains that Kashmir should proactively attend and address marital discords and save the sanctified institution from distress and divorce, the fight of widowed women has gone beyond their rights.

It’s more about identity now.

When Beenish’s husband died in a freak road accident in 2011, the first thing this MBA-degree holder did was to resume her job hunt.

Her banker husband had earlier motivated her to be a “happy homemaker”. But when his untimely departure confined her to home with their two school-going children, she decided to seek employment.

“It was a tough call,” Beenish tells me, as we met in a city café. “My trauma was fresh and then these societal norms you face only escalate your situation. But then, I had to take care of my kids.”

While she was sending her resume to different corporate offices, her parents and siblings wouldn’t leave a chance to give her long speeches on the importance of remarriage.

Among other things, she was told that it’s very hard for a young widowed woman to survive alone in the hostile world. “I took those comments on heart,” says Beenish, hiding her teary-eyes from me. “It felt as if I had become some baggage with no voice and will of my own. Everybody was taking calls and decisions on my life except me.”

Beenish refused those proposals as she wanted to become a responsible mother. Besides, she says, she wanted to keep her husband’s memory alive. “I was told to accept the reality and move on, but I was already moving on with my new identity.”

Her months-long search ended when an American company hired her as their remote HR manager. The job self-sustained her and sparked a new confidence. “I then sold my wedding jewelry to buy me and my sons a new home,” Beenish says. “I’m raising my boys in a very cordial atmosphere. Even my parents and siblings have stopped interfering in my life now. This fight for identity gives me a lot of assuring feeling now.”

But despite such heartwarming stories of resilience, the valley still awaits a bigger welfare plan for the widowed women. Barring some paltry social welfare schemes and community help, the larger change is yet to come.

To understand this human problem, I met Salika Hameed, a young women-welfare campaigner in

Srinagar.

Even before talking about the issue, Salika’s phone rang up. She excused herself and attended the call. Throughout that five-minute-long conversation, she sounded empathetic.

“Sorry, it was a call from a lady from Srinagar outskirts,” she told me. “The poor soul has run out of ration and needs her daughter’s school fees and some home expanses immediately.”

Salika runs a boutique which gives livelihood to around 12 widows. “The woman who was just calling me also works there,” the young welfare worker said. “She wasn’t seeking any freebies, but advance payment for putting her home in order.”

In other words, Salika said, most of her widowed-women workers work and earn, rather than seeking societal support for sustenance. “These women hold their self-respect very high, and rightly so,” she said. “They work extra hours to sustain their families and are gritty enough to fight their victimhood.”

While many are working day jobs to sustain their families, the others like Shameema are only taking the single-parent to a different level.

In a chilly November day, this single-parent is stoking embers in a firepot. The Kanger smoke makes her cough and turns her eyes red. Her blackened hands and face reflects her daily grind.

Shameema lives in a single-room at Srinagar’s Noorbagh area. The signs of pathos are glaring from her neighbourhood full of dirt roads and rundown structures.

“Ten years back, I came here as a young bride,” says Shameema, a widowed-woman in her mid-thirties. “It was hard life from the word go. My husband mostly struggled for means and market.”

But despite hardship, she said, life was good. “And then one day I lost him to a heart-attack,” Shameema said with a frozen face. “It was a shattering loss because I had none except him.”

For a time being, some Samaritans sent her some support to run her family expanses, but it never helped in the long run. Eventually, Shameema decided to do odd jobs.

“From a beloved of my husband who wouldn’t let me work at home, I became a maid at people’s resi-

dences,” she says. “The change initially felt uneasy, as I wasn’t used to this life, but then it eventually made sense. Working gracefully for your family is far better than relying on people’s mercy. The work keeps your self-respect alive and morale high.”

Be it snow, shower or sun, Shameema leaves home early and works at three different households in the first shift. By noon, she returns and attends her home chores. “Life of a widowed woman is very hard in Kashmir,” she says. “You’ve to earn and survive in a society where there’s hardly any fall back system for us. But then, you can still live with grace by resorting to hard work. Tragedy can happen to anyone, but your response towards it determines your story.”

In a Kashmiri society where the strife situation has produced myriad half- and war-widows, the struggle and suffering remains unaddressed. Most of these women survive on social support. But their tragic life and end highlight their helplessness.

But now, many of these women are challenging the shackles of helplessness with their will. The growing awareness driven by the 4G-smartphone has also propelled this change.

“Most of these women now seek newer means to create their space in the society,” says Afshan Gul, a Srinagar-based women-welfare worker. “They’re looking for small opportunities to sustain their lives and are becoming more vocal about their rights.”

Being vocal about her rights is today defining a new change in Shazia’s life. She closes her wedding album and converses about the long life she has in front of her.

“We tend to dismiss young women as deviant if they become vocal about their rights,” says Shazia, with a gritty body language. “The norms set by elders need regular review. What was acceptable to my mother won’t be necessarily acceptable to me. Not everyone can accept the torment for the heck of it. Somebody has to take stand against the social injustices and end this life of victimhood. I could do that and found a larger community support, especially from the young and educated people around me. But we need to do a lot for driving out the darkness haunting many lives around us.”

With these resounding words, she closed her wedding photo-album and stood up to attend her daughter.

*This story was produced as part of Ladli Media Fellowship.*

“**IN A KASHMIRI SOCIETY WHERE THE STRIFE SITUATION HAS PRODUCED MYRIAD HALF- AND WAR-WIDOWS,** the struggle and suffering remains unaddressed. Most of these women survive on social support. But their tragic life and end highlight their helplessness.”





# A Novel Immunotherapy Could Bolster Cancer Treatment: Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have found a novel immunotherapy that could bolster the effectiveness of cancer treatment, according to a study.

Rather than rally T cells against cancer, scientists have used different human immune cells called natural killer (NK) cells as a novel means to fight cancer, according to a study.

The team of scientists at Albert Einstein College of Medicine described findings that could boost the impact of immune-checkpoint therapy, the study said. Findings have been published in The Journal of Clinical Investigation (JCI).

Immune checkpoint inhibitors such as Keytruda and Opdivo work by unleashing the immune system's T cells to attack tumour cells. Their introduction a decade ago marked a major advance in cancer therapy,

but only 10 per cent to 30 per cent of treated patients experience long-term improvement, the study said.

"We believe the novel immunotherapy we have developed has great potential to move into clinical trials involving various types of cancer," said study leader Xingxing Zang.

The surfaces of immune cells are studied with receptors known as 'checkpoint' proteins, which prevent immune cells from straying beyond their usual targets, which are pathogen-infected cells and cancer cells. When checkpoint receptors on immune cells bind with proteins expressed by the body's own normal cells, the interaction puts the brakes on a possible immune-cell attack, the study explained.

Diabolically, most types of cancer cells express proteins that bind with checkpoint proteins, tricking immune cells into standing down and not attacking the tumour, the

study said.

Immune checkpoint inhibitors are monoclonal antibodies designed to short-circuit immune-cell/cancer-cell interactions by blocking either the tumour proteins or the immune-cell receptors that bind with tumour proteins. With no brakes to impede them, immune cells can attack and destroy cancer cells, the study said.

The limited effectiveness of checkpoint inhibitors prompted Zang and other scientists to look at checkpoint pathways involving NK cells, which - like T cells - play major roles in eliminating unwanted cells, the study said.

A cancer-cell protein called PVR soon captured their attention.

"We realized that PVR may be a very important protein that human cancers use to hobble the immune system's attack," said Zang.

PVR protein is usually absent or very scarce in normal tissues but is found in

abundance in many types of tumours including colorectal, ovarian, lung, esophageal, head and neck, stomach, and pancreatic cancer as well as myeloid leukemia and melanoma, the study said.

Moreover, PVRs appeared to inhibit T cell and NK cell activity by binding to a checkpoint protein called TIGIT, prompting efforts to interrupt the TIGIT/PVR pathway by using monoclonal antibodies made against TIGIT. More than 100 clinical trials targeting TIGIT are now in progress worldwide. However, several clinical studies including two large phase 3 clinical trials have recently failed to improve cancer outcomes. Meanwhile, according to the study, the cancer-cell protein PVR was found to have another 'binding partner' on NK cells - KIR2DL5.

"We hypothesized that PVR suppresses NK cell activity not by binding with TIGIT but by binding with the recently recognized

KIR2DL5," said Zang. To find out, he and his colleagues synthesized a monoclonal antibody targeting KIR2DL5 and carried out in vitro and in vivo experiments using the antibody, the study said.

Zang and colleagues demonstrated that KIR2DL5 is a commonly occurring checkpoint receptor on the surface of human NK cells, which PVR cancer proteins use to suppress immune attack, the study said.

In studies involving humanized animal models of several types of human cancers, the researchers showed that their monoclonal antibody against KIR2DL5 - by blocking the KIR2DL5/PVR pathway - allowed NK cells to vigorously attack and shrink human tumours and prolong animal survival.

"These preclinical findings raise our hopes that targeting the KIR2DL5/PVR pathway was a good idea and that the monoclonal antibody we have developed may be an effective immunotherapy," said Zang.

## We’ve Got News for You About Supercharging Your Brain

By Sidney Perkowitz | NautiUs

In 2019, Edward Chang, a neurosurgeon at the University of California, San Francisco, opened the skull of a 36-year-old man, nicknamed “Pancho,” and placed a thin sheet of electrodes on the surface of his brain.1 The electrodes gather electrical signals from the motor neurons that control the movement of the mouth, larynx, and other body parts to produce speech. A small port, implanted on top of Pancho's head, relayed the brain signals to a computer. This “brain-computer interface,” or BCI, solved an intractable medical problem.

In 2003, Pancho, a field worker in California's vineyards, was involved in a car crash. Days after undergoing surgery, he suffered a brainstem stroke, reported the New York Times Magazine.2 The stroke robbed Pancho of the power of speech. He could communicate only by laboriously spelling out words one letter at a time with a pointing device. After training with the computer outfitted with deep-learning algorithms that interpreted his brain activity, Pancho could think the words that he wanted to say, and they would appear on the computer screen. Scientists called the results “ground-breaking”; Pancho called them “life-changing.”

The clinical success of BCIs (there are other stories to go along with Pancho's) appear to vindicate the futurists who claim that BCIs may soon enhance the brains of healthy people. Most famously, Ray Kurzweil, author of The Singularity Is Near, has asserted that exponentially rapid developments in neuroscience, bioscience, nanotechnology, and computation will coalesce and allow us to transcend the limitations of our bodies and brains. A major part of this huge shift will be the rise of artificial intelligences that are far more capable than human brains. It is an inevitability of human evolution, Kurzweil thinks, that the two kinds of intelligence will merge to form powerful hybrid brains, which will define the future of humanity. This, he predicted, would happen by 2045.

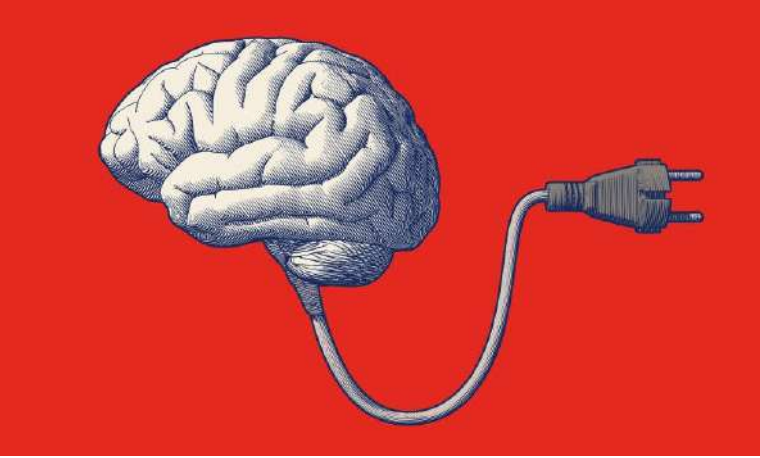
While futuristic scenarios like Kurzweil's are exciting to ponder, they are brought back down to Earth by the technological capabilities of brain-computer hybrids as they exist today. BCIs are impressive, but the path from helping stroke victims to giving people superpowers is neither direct nor inevitable.

One of the first great steps in BCIs came in 1998, when neuroscientist Phil Kennedy inserted a single electrode into the brain of Johnny Ray, a paralyzed stroke survivor, and produced the first example of human mind control of an external device via an implant. This enabled the “locked-in” Ray to communicate by mentally moving a cursor to select letters on a computer screen and earned Kennedy international acclaim.

Implanted BCIs can also work oppositely, directing external electrical signals to trigger specific neurons. In 2021, a team at the University of Pittsburgh put electrodes into the motor cortex of a paralyzed man to allow him to control a robotic arm, and into his somatosensory cortex, where incoming sensory impulses activate

neurons.3 As he grasped an object with the arm, he felt that he was contacting and holding the object through signals sent by sensors in the robotic hand. This substantially improved control of the artificial limb.

In another example, Columbia University biomedical engineer Ken Shepard has used advanced nanotechnology to construct a tiny chip a half-inch square with 65,000 microelectrodes.4 The idea is to place the chip on the surface of the brain's visual cortex and wirelessly send in data from a camera to restore sight to the blind. If this device passes human trials, it



will represent a big advance over an earlier effort with fewer electrodes, which limited the quality of the image a camera could send to the brain.

Along with triggering sensory responses, electrical or other input to the brain can alter its functions in a process known as neuromodulation. In deep brain stimulation (DBS), a small “brain pacemaker” is embedded under the skin in the upper chest and sends electrical impulses to electrodes placed in specific brain regions. DBS was approved by the FDA to treat Parkinson's disease and manage epileptic seizures, and has been used to treat other conditions such as chronic pain.

Some neuromodulation methods work without invasive surgery. In transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), electrodes placed on the scalp and connected to a battery produce a weak electric current that influences brain activity. Any electronics hobbyist can build this simple device, and commercial models can be found for as little as \$125. tDCS is not FDA-approved and there are concerns about its unregulated use, but tests show promise to relieve certain conditions and improve brain function. In 2020 and 2022 the FDA approved full clinical trials to test the efficacy of tDCS to treat depression.

These examples show how the capability to record and influence brain activity can benefit body and mind for those who have lost function in either. The new pathways to the brain also suggest ways to enhance the bodies of healthy people; for instance, through a neurally controlled exoskeleton that provides greater-than-human power or speed. But can these technologies augment human cognition? Can human and machine intelligences merge into a greater whole?

In 2011, Paul Allen, cofounder of Microsoft and founder of an institute to study the brain, and AI

expert Mark Greaves, declared the singularity was not near, and called Kurzweil's prediction of a major realignment in 2045 “far-fetched,” notably because it is unlikely we will understand the human brain so soon. In 2022, we remain at the beginning of knowing the brain.

We have, though, made incredible progress knowing the brain—progress that highlights how much is left to do. Kurzweil projected that swarms of nanobots would explore the human brain in unprecedented detail. We're nowhere near that technology. Rather, the National Institute of Health's

Brain Initiative has mounted \$500 million to bring together hundreds of scientists to map and catalog the brain's 86 billion neurons with existing methods such as staining them to reveal their shapes. Instead of having software models of human intelligence as Kurzweil predicted, a 1 billion European project to simulate the brain on a supercomputer has after 10 years only simulated the mouse brain, a thousand times smaller.

The state of BCIs today presents another stumbling block in the road to singularity. Surgically implanted electrodes and non-invasive methods like tDCS have serious drawbacks. Inserting wires and silicon chips requires skilled brain surgery and risks infection or collateral damage. Implants can deteriorate within the brain's wet environment, and the recipient is awkwardly tied to a computer by the connecting wires. Electrodes are implanted only in clinically monitored patients like Pancho. They are not implanted for human experimentation, nor is their use in healthy people likely to earn regulatory approval anytime soon.

Technology companies have announced the invention of improved and less invasive surgically implanted BCIs. Neuralink, founded by Elon Musk, redolent of his grand ambitions, promises that its BCIs will help clinicians treat people with paralysis and “could expand our abilities, our community, and our world.” After several years of development, though, Neuralink has yet to begin human trials. Synchron, another start-up, dedicated to the treatment of people with neurological diseases, has passed human trials abroad and has just started an FDA-approved trial of its method, which puts electrodes inside the brain's natural blood vessels without major surgery. Both efforts would use Bluetooth technology to eliminate wires from the brain and increase portability.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
(Retender)  
NIT No: - 216/Xen/Rew/Bla/2022-2023 Dated.22/11/2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/ TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	C/O Bath room near Masjid Shareef Kayan Mohalla ward no 2 Nawa year 2022-23 Block Parenpilla	3.46	200	6920	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
2	C/O Fencing around graveyard Khan Mohalla ward no 3 Halqa Noorkhak under ADP(PRI) Block Bijhama	7.90	300	15800	30days	CEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
3	Construction of Road Poad Muhalla and Gurilla Muhalla at Nilsar Halqa Doudbug Under ADP(DDC) 2022-23 Block wagoora	2.74	200	5480	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
4	C/O Tile path from the H/O Gulzar Ahmad Mir to Nazam ud din Mir and Ayooob Sheikh Nazir Sheikh Sulttan Daki Under ADP(DDC) 2022-23 Block Parenpilla	2.62	200	5240	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
5	C/O road with culvert from main road to H/O Gh Mohd Rather, Nazir Ahmad Mir and others at Check Dudbugh Under ADP(PRI) Block Wagoora	4.95	200	9900	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
6	C/O Road with culvert from Chopan Mohalla to Check Patti (Bandibala) Under ADP( PRI) 2022-23 Block wagoora	5.94	300	11880	30days	CEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
7	Renovation of community Hall at Kachwa Under ADP(DDC) 2022-23 Block Wagoora	4.93	200	9860	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
8	Chain link fencing at old Graveyard Uranbowa Under ADP( PRI) 2022-23 Block Boniyar	7.20	300	14400	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
9	Providing of barbed wire fencing for newly accorded land to Sariculture department at tapper Pattan Under UT Capex budget Mulbary Farms and Nursaries 2022-23 Block Pattan	26.88	1100	53760	30days	AAA BEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
10	Construction of underground drain BWO concreting and slab from H/O Afzal Malla to onwards at Mirgund B(Alambal) Under ADP( PRI) 2022-23 Block Singhpora	9.85	600	19700	30days	CEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
11	C/O ICDS Building at Danna ward no 03 Pyt Halqa Balkote under ADP(PRI) Block Luri	10.54	600	21080	30days	CEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
12	Construction of Fencing around of Graveyard at Goiwa Dangerpora Under ADP( PRI) 2022-23 Block Pattan District Baramulla	4.18	200	8360	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
13	C/O Retaining Wall infront of Dilnawaz Khanam W/O Syed Gh Mustafa Uranbawa. under ADP (PRI) P/H Uranbua. Block Boniyar.	3.00	200	6000	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
14	C/O path at different spots Gantmulla Bala under ADP (BDC) Block Narwah	4.00	200	8000	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
15	C/O Community Sanitary complex in ward no 3,4,6 and 7 at Hardmadan under ADP(PRI) Block Tangmarg	5.67	300	11340	30days	CEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
16	C/O Community Sanitary complex in ward no 1,2,5 and 9 at Hardmadan under ADP(PRI) Block Tangmarg	5.94	300	11880	30days	CEE DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
17	C/O 2 NO Bathrooms near Masjid Umerat Umerabad TuijerA under ADP(BDC) Block Tuijer Sharief	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded

1.

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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 the scheduled date given below.

2.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-10-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-11-2022 to 29-11-2022 up to 6:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start date	22-11-2022
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29-11-2022 up to 6:00 PM

5.

Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 30-11-2022 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.
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- The G.O.No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt)that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat.In the event of inadequate response to a tender ,participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted.
- If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq, the SOR rate along with its unit will be applicable.

1.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla ( Tender inviting Authority).

2.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of theExecutive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.

3.

All The Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.

4.

The 1ST Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3 % of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.

4.a

Unbalanced Bid:  
The successful bidder shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply thereto: -

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv. Cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on
1.	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2.	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3.	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4.	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5.	>30% below	20%

5.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6.

The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-  
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.  
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No:1897-1904  
Dated: 23/11/2022

DIPK-13959/22

Executive Engineer.  
REW Baramulla



## Dulloo Urges Farmers To Adopt Diversification Of Crops For Round The Year Earnings



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of R.S Pura area of Jammu.

On the occasion, he was accompanied by Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak, PRI members and other officers of the department.

During the tour, the ACS inspected the orchards of Lime, Strawberry, Guava, & Fig of the beneficiaries namely S. Attar Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Kulbir Singh, Raman Gupta, at villages Kadyal and Badyal of R.S pura zone.

Dulloo also planted a sapling of Guava cv. Taiwan pink in the farmer's field at Kadyal for plantation of Guava in 100 kanal area.

The ACS also chaired a Interaction Programme in the field of a progressive farmer namely Sukhdev Singh at Kadyal who has adopted a multi-tier cropping pattern by planting Teak, Strawberry & Guava in his field.

While speaking on the occasion, ACS said that there is a great scope of horticulture sector in the area especially Strawberry and plantation of High Density orchards of Guava & Litchi. Moreover, the department is supporting the farmers both

financially and technically and they should take benefit of this. He asked the farmers to adopt the diversification of crops in their fields so that they can earn during the whole year.

During the programme Director Horticulture Jammu apprised the ACS about the progress being made in respect of plantation in sub-tropical areas of Jammu division under various departmental schemes. He informed the gathering of farmers about the incentives available under various centrally and state sponsored schemes of the department and urged them to come forward and avail the benefits on different components viz: Bore Well, Geo-tanks, Custom Hiring Centres etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.

Atal Dulloo laid emphasis on plantation of Strawberry as this is a short duration crop and by adopting cultivation of this crop, the farmers can enhance their income manifold.

He also interacted with the farmers who informed the chair about the income they are generating from plantation of horticulture crops especially strawberry and also about the benefits from the horticulture department.

## Dubai Airport Chief Says Passengers Top Pre-Pandemic Level

Associated Press

**DUBAI:** Dubai International Airport passenger numbers surpassed pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels in the third quarter of 2022, the airport's chief executive said, causing the airport to revise its annual forecast by another 1 million passengers.

Paul Griffiths, who oversees the world's busiest airport, told The Associated Press the annual forecast at Dubai International, or DXB, is more than 64 million. The airport saw 18.5 million passengers in the third quarter of this year, up from 17.8 million during the first quarter of 2020 prior to and at the dawn of the pandemic.

Most of the growth, Griffith said, comes from the traditional markets of India, the UK, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. He added that the end of COVID-19 testing requirements and people's eagerness to travel have contributed to the increase.

"Recovery is very much on the agenda and has been a phenomenon here ever since the end of the pandemic, Griffiths said.

The new numbers are welcome news for the tourism-driven economy of Dubai, which accounts for about 12% of the tiny nation's GDP. A year ago in the third quarter, 6.7 million came through the airport.

Still the figure is nowhere near the pre-pandemic milestone of 86.4 million in annual traffic logged by the airport in 2019.

The 46 million passengers who travelled through DXB in the first nine months of this year represent 72% of the airport's pre-pandemic levels, Griffiths says they expect to reach pre-pandemic levels annually by 2023.

The largest share of traffic to Dubai came from India, with 6.8 million travellers, followed by Saudi Arabia, with 3.4 million travellers this year. A key growth market for travel to and from Dubai is Pakistan and the United States.

The United Arab Emirates is home to more than 100,000 British citizens. Dubai's main airport logged 3.2 million passengers from the UK up to September this year, making it the third largest share of traffic numbers.

## J&K Bank Doing Commendable Job: MoS Finance

Inaugurates 3 branches, 4 ATMs; Hands over sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs, micro-ATMs to Digi Pay Sakhis

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** I feel delighted to be part of this programme of J&K Bank that is doing a commendable job of providing self-employment to the youth, progressing ahead with a clear digital vision, enhancing financial awareness of the people while deepening financial inclusion.

Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad made these remarks on Wednesday in presence of MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, General Managers Sudhir Gupta and Syed Rais Maqbool at an event organised as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. The function was attended by the Bank's General Managers, DGMs, and AGMs besides beneficiaries, media persons and other officials of the Bank.

On the occasion, Dr Bhagwat Karad gave sanction letters to 16 beneficiaries financed by the Bank under various self-employment schemes like PMEGP, Mission Youth, NRLM and AIF etc besides e-inaugurating Bank's 4 branches and 3 ATMs. He also handed over few Micro ATMs and Bio Metric Devices to Digi Pay Sakhis, who were on-boarded as female Business Correspondents of the Bank.

"The main objective of Union Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to increase financial literacy, deepen financial inclusion and ensure that all the financial transactions are done digitally across the country. And I commend J&K Bank for their progressive contributions in this direction", Dr Bhagwat Karad said and expressed hope that with strong commitment and smart services, the Bank would surely achieve its envisaged business goal of Rs 4 Lac Cr in next five years.

Emphasizing upon the need to reach out to every section



of society, Dr Karad said, "During the last couple of days here I have observed that J&K Bank is far ahead of the lot in implementing all the flagship schemes of Union Government meant for poor and marginalized ranging from PM Jan Dhan Yojana and PM Jeevan Jyoti Bh ma Yojana to PMSVANidhi. And more so the Bank takes lead in financing the schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswani sponsored by the UT Government; for which I congratulate the MD & CEO Baldev Prakash and his entire staff".

While acknowledging the comprehensive support and quality services the Bank is providing to people through a wide range of its initiatives, Dr Karad urged the Bank's management to continue to deepen digital presence and enhance the quality of services while the country accelerates towards achieving the twin national goals of 5 trillion dollar economy and Digital India.

Earlier, the MoS Finance visited the J&K Bank's Digital Banking Unit (DBU) at Lal Chowk. He also visited the stalls at CHQ, wherein the entrepreneurs financed by the Bank under various self-employment schemes showcased their products. The stall owners expressed their gratitude to the Bank for providing them requisite support at right time of their career.

Welcoming the visiting dig-

itary on the occasion, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Setting a target of Rs 4 lac crore business in next five years with annual profit of 4 thousand crores, we are aiming to improve share of rest of India in our overall loan book to 50% through the re-oriented business strategy to not only increase our business but also to diversify the concentration risk in our core-geography i.e. J&K and Ladakh."

He apprised the visiting dignitary about the steps taken to align the Bank's strategy with the national vision of Digital India. "The idea is to enhance the customer experience from satisfaction to delight through end-to-end digital solutions with secure services", he said adding, "We remain committed to contribute our part actively in achieving the Union Government's vision of digital India with inclusive economy. On this occasion, let me reiterate that we will also extend every possible support to the UT Government's vision of saturating self-employment of youth in J&K."

The function concluded with vote of thanks from Bank's General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool, who expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the visiting dignitaries, beneficiaries, media persons and all other participants for their presence on the occasion.

## FDI Equity Inflows Dip 14% During April-September To USD 26.9 Billion

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 14 per cent to USD 26.9 billion during the April-September this fiscal, according to the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The inflows had stood at USD 31.15 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The total FDI inflows (which includes equity inflows, re-invested

earnings and other capital) too declined to USD 39 billion during the first six months of the current fiscal year as against USD 42.86 billion in the year-ago period.

During the first half of this fiscal, Singapore emerged as the top investor with USD 10 billion FDI. It was followed by

Mauritius (USD 3.32 billion), UAE (USD 2.95 billion), USA (USD 2.6 billion), the Netherlands (USD 1.76 billion), and Japan (USD 1.18 billion), the data showed.

The computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows of USD 6.3 billion during the six-month period of this fiscal.

It was followed by services (USD 4.16 billion), trading (USD 3.28 billion), chemicals (USD 1.3 billion), automobile industry (USD 932 million) and construction (infrastructure) activities (USD 990 million).



## GSTN Included In Financial Information Providers List Under Account Aggregator Framework

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has been included in the list of financial information providers under the Account Aggregator framework to facilitate cash flow-based lending to MSMEs.

An Account Aggregator (AA) is a type of RBI-regulated entity (with an NBFC-AA license) that helps an individual securely and digitally access and share information from one financial institution they have an account with to any other regulated financial institution in the AA

network.

"Department of Revenue shall be the regulator of GSTN for this specific purpose and Goods and Services Tax (GST) Returns, viz. Form GSTR-1 and Form GSTR-3B, shall be the financial information," the Reserve Bank said in a circular.

The list of financial information providers includes banks, non-banking financial companies, asset management companies, depository, depository participants, insurance companies, and pension funds.

GSTN, the technology backbone of GST, has 1.40 crore registered taxpayers.

## Tragedy-Hit Mistrys Have \$29 Billion Locked In Bitter Feud With Tatas

Bloomberg

**NEW DELHI:** It's been a harrowing year for Shapoor Mistry. After losing his father and younger brother in the span of three months, the scion of one of the world's richest clans now faces a major business challenge.

Through five generations and 157 years, the Mistrys have grown an empire responsible for building palaces, factories and stadiums across Asia. But the family fortune, estimated at \$29 billion by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, is about 90% locked up in a festering feud with India's biggest conglomerate, Tata Group.

Now Mr Mistry, 57, will have to figure out how to resolve that dispute and free up cash as a weakening economy and rising interest rates rattle his Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which just emerged from years of financial stress during the pandemic. He has met with lawyers and consultants, people familiar with the discussions said. Those, along with family friends, have offered to mediate when the time is right, they added, asking not to be identified discussing confidential information.

The Mistrys and Tatas - who both belong to the Parsi Zoroastrian community - had been close for almost a century before they fell out.

Most of the Mistrys' wealth is derived from the about 18% stake the family holds in Tata Sons Pvt., the main holding company of the \$128 billion giant that owns marquee brands including Jaguar Land Rover. The bad blood between the two parties has meant Mr Mistry can't sell those holdings, making it one of the most illiquid fortunes on the planet.

"The yearslong dispute between Tata Sons and Shapoorji Pallonji Group has re-emphasized the need for Indian companies to build in specific clauses around acquisitions, mergers and sales," said Kavi Ramachandran, a professor and senior advisor at the Thomas Schmidheiny Centre for Family Enterprise of the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad. He added that he expects some senior members of the Parsi com-



munity to help initiate a mediation process between the two families at some point.

Representatives for Shapoor Mistry declined to comment for this story.

Pallonji Mistry, who died in June, controlled the SP Group that started off as a construction company in 1865 before expanding into sectors including water, energy and financial services. Some of the conglomerate's most iconic structures include the Reserve Bank of India buildings and the Tower wing of the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai.

Brought together by common business interests and their close-knit community that fled religious persecution in Iran centuries ago, the Mistrys and Tatas began forming financial ties in 1927. SP Group has helped build some of Tata Group's automobile factories and steel mills, and the Mistrys increasingly expanded their stake in Tata Sons by buying shares from Tata family members and through a rights issue, eventually amassing the current 18% holding.

That symbiotic relationship was expected to get a boost when Shapoor Mistry's now-dead younger brother, Cyrus, was chosen in 2012 as chairman of Tata Sons, succeeding Ratan Tata, who spent more than two decades at the helm. Cyrus sought to aggressively reduce the group's debt, threatening in the process to undo the legacy of the conglomerate's patriarch. That eventually led to a boardroom coup less than four years later, resulting in Cyrus's shock ouster.

Then came a courtroom battle between the two business families that Tata Group ultimately won last year. Meanwhile, Tata Sons changed its status to become a private firm in 2017, restricting the Mistrys' ability to sell its stake to other investors.

## SHORT TAKES

### NABARD, GDC Ang Hold Workshop On Agri-Preneurship

**ANANTNAG:** The Botany Department of Government Degree College (GDC), Anantnag organized a one-day workshop on "Agri-preneurship" in collaboration with NABARD.

On the occasion, District Development Manager NABARD, Rouf Zargar was invited as guest speaker while Prof. Abdul Majeed Chalkoo, Head of the Department chaired the session.

Abdul Ahad, a successful Agri-preneur from Future Agro was specially invited to the workshop.

The session was attended by students of the department and faculty members.

Speaking on the occasion, DDM NABARD said that NABARD has been implementing various schemes of Govt of India which aim to provide business opportunities to unemployed graduates and the doorstep delivery of agricultural extension services to farmers to cater to their local needs and affordability.

He stated that through the schemes of the government, we want to motivate students to adopt agriculture as their profession rather than looking for white collar jobs.

These workshops are the means of reaching out to students and make them aware about the opportunities in new markets for agri products. ows

### Dir Horti Visits IGC Lassipora, FPN Bijbehara

**SRINAGAR:** Director Horticulture Kashmir, who is also Mission Director, Integrated Development of Horticulture, G. R. Mir Wednesday visited Industrial Growth Centre (IGC) Lassipora, Pulwama and Fruit Plant Nursery Bijbehara Anantnag. He was accompanied by Deputy Director Horticulture and respective Chief Horticulture Officers.

During his visit to IGC Lassipora, dir inspected various CA stores, grading lines and other post-harvest infrastructure and took stock of functioning of these infrastructures.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mission Director said that the Department is committed to strengthen the post-harvest infrastructure in the valley and is exploring every possible opportunity to have the infrastructures like CA stores, Processing Units etc.

He further stressed on use of mechanization at all stages for enhancing the work productivity rather than depending upon manual work. He further advised CA Store owners to create grower friendly atmosphere and urged them to provide quality services to the growers.

He further added that currently we have CA storage capacity of around 2.00 lakh metric tonne and enjoined upon the entrepreneurs to come forward and set up more CA Store and other post-harvest units as we still have low CA storage capacity when compared to the annual production which results in distress sales. ows

### 'Kulgam Produces 205 MTs Of Fish In 2021-22'

**KULGAM:** District Kulgam is bestowed with vast pristine water resources which offer ample scope for development of cold water Fisheries particularly Trout.

The Department of Fisheries has infused cohesive and elaborated steps to tap the aqua potential of district and ensured proper implementation of Centrally Sponsored schemes on ground for creating employment avenues to double the income of fish farmers with focus on enhancing fish production of the District through intervention of new technology in the field of aquaculture under various schemes.

Assistant Director Fisheries Kulgam, Mush-taq Ahmad Shah said that fish production of 205 MTs has been recorded during the year 2021-22, which includes 80 MTs of trout.

He added that the department has established 98 fish farming units in the private sector besides one trout feed mill and one hatchery (Trout Seed Production Unit) in the district.

During the current FY 2022-23, 15 Trout Units have been sanctioned under PMMSY Scheme for which DLIC has been conducted and beneficiaries have been selected.

We have a Trout Hatchery Unit in the District where quality trout seed is being produced and supplied to private trout fish famers of the District. ows

### SKUAST-J, KVIB Discuss Establishing Of Agri Enterprises

**JAMMU:** An Interface interactive session was held today at SKUAST Jammu. The interactive session was presided by Dr. J. P. Sharma Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu along with Dr. Hina Shafi Vice Chairperson J&K KVIB. Among other officers present were Secretary/ Chief Executive Officer J&K KVIB, Director Extension SKAUST Jammu and officers of KVIB and university.

In the meeting, the convergence programme was discussed in order to work together. The SKUAST Jammu will facilitate the skill development programmes and KVIB will help the skilled unemployed youth to establish their Agri Enterprises, which shall generate employment avenues.

The schemes will be environmental friendly and shall have a great impact on the economic sustenance of Agri entrepreneurs. The Vice Chairperson along with the Vice Chancellor visited different departments viz. Entomology, Mushroom Cultivation, department of Animal Husbandry, department of Vermi-compost, given to understand that if skill development under the said scheme is undertaken, it will create a great hub of employment under the Agri entrepreneurship.

During the meeting, under implementation SFURTI Clusters being established in Jammu Division was also discussed and it was reiterated in meeting that SKUAST Jammu being the Technical Agency for the beekeeping clusters of Jammu, the completion of the projects will be ensured in a time bound manner. ows

### KVK Anantnag Organises Kisaan Mela

**ANANTNAG:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra Doru Anantnag Wednesday organised a mega awareness cum Kisan mela on Natural farming at KVK Doru. Stalls of various departments were installed in the Kisan Mela besides the stalls of SHG. NRLM SHG entrepreneurs added to the charm of the event.

Director Extension SKUAST Dil Mohd Muqddumi while accompanying the DC Anantnag Dr Basharat Qayoom, gave a detailed introduction and highlighted achievements in various fields by the SHGs, entrepreneurs, and the departments who have installed their stalls in the mela. Director also highlighted the scientific role and contribution of KVK in providing all possible technical guidance, training awareness, etc for progressive farming besides the role played by the SKUAST in over all development of the agriculture and allied sectors.

Dr Ishfaq Khan, the head of KVK, briefly discussed the developmental scenario of the KVK and the role played by this center for technical support, training, awareness to the farmers of Anantnag and to the SHGs. He said that the centre is providing support to enable the farmers to adopt ecologically sustainable and economically viable techniques. He laid stress on the natural farming and methods for sustainable expansion in agriculture and allied sectors. ows



SC asks Centre to produce file related to appointment of Election Commissioner Arun Goel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Wednesday to produce before it the file related to the appointment of Election Commissioner Arun Goel, who was appointed on November 19.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said it wants to know whether there was any "hanky panky" in Goel's appointment as election commissioner as he was only recently given voluntary retirement from service.

The bench rejected the objections of Attorney General (AG) R Venkataramani on the court willing to see the file related to Goel's appointment while the hearing is on.

Venkataramani told the bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar, that it is dealing with the larger issue of appointment of ECs and the chief election commissioner (CEC) and it cannot look at an individual case flagged by advocate Prashant Bhushan.

"I take serious objection to this and have my reservation to the court seeing the file amidst the hearing of a Constitution bench," he said.

The bench said it started hearing a batch of pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the appointment of ECs and the CEC last Thursday and Goel was appointed as an EC subsequently on November 19. Therefore, it wants to see what prompted the step.

"We want to see what is

the mechanism. We will not treat it as an adversarial and keep it for our record, but we want to know as you claim that everything is hunky dory. Since we were hearing the matter and appointment was made amidst, this may be interlinked. You have time till tomorrow. Produce the documents," it told the AG.

At the outset, Bhushan, who appeared on behalf of petitioner Anoop Baranwal and made his rejoinder submission, said after the court started hearing the mater, the government hurriedly appointed an election commissioner.

"This election commissioner was, till Thursday, working as a secretary-level officer in the government. Suddenly, he was given VRS on Friday and appointed as an election commissioner," Bhushan said.

Justice Joseph said as far he recalls, it takes three months for a person to get voluntary retirement. On November 19, Goel, a 1985-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Punjab cadre, was appointed as an election commissioner.

He was to retire on December 31 on attaining the age of 60 years.

Once he assumes his new role, Goel would be in line to be the next CEC after incumbent Rajiv Kumar demits office in February 2025.

He will join Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey on the poll panel.

There was a vacancy in the Election Commission (EC) following the retirement of previous CEC Sushil Chandra in May.

Uneasy Calm In Mukroh Village After Six Killed In Violence At Assam-Meghalaya Border

AGENCEIS

**Mukroh (Meghalaya):** Mukroh village on Wednesday wore an eerie calm, a day after six people were killed in violence there, along the disputed Assam-Meghalaya border.

Shops remained closed and streets were largely empty as most people stayed indoors.

Security personnel, in large numbers, stood guard in the village to prevent any further untoward incident.

Two persons, who are undergoing treatment at a local hospital, having received bullet injuries in the clashes on Tuesday, said they had visited the violence-hit area after learning that some of the fellow villagers were in "danger".

Cheini Nartiang (48) was shot in his nose, and Elias Samaiang (36) in the chin.

"I saw five people falling unconscious right in front of me before getting hit myself. I don't remember anything after that," Samaiang told PTI, before the two left for North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) in Shillong.

Violence had broken out at the Assam-Meghalaya border in the early hours of Tuesday after a truck allegedly laden with illegally felled timber was intercepted by forest guards from Assam.

Six people, including a forest guard, were gunned down amid the clashes.

Meghalaya CM Conrad

Sangma had complained that the Assam police and forest guards "entered the state and resorted to unprovoked firing".

Assam officials, however, asserted that the truck was intercepted in West Karbi Anglong district of the state by a forest department team and a mob from Meghalaya attacked the forest guards and policemen from the state, who, in a bid to bring the situation under control, opened fire.

Officials in Assam also said that a group of people from Meghalaya vandalised and burnt down a forest office in West Karbi Anglong district, shortly after the firing took place.

Mukroh village chief Hamboi Sumer, talking to PTI, claimed that similar incidents along the border had gone unreported in the past.

"Six villagers in Mukroh were shot by armed personnel from Assam back in 2002, but the matter was not reported. No one had the courage to talk about it.

"In neighbouring Moolber village, one person was shot dead two years ago and the victim did not get justice till date," Sumer said, adding that "locals want justice".

Mukroh village, 30 km east of West Jaintia Hills district headquarters of Jowai, is located around 10 km from the interstate border inside Meghalaya.

"We want the murderers involved in yesterday's killing to take responsibility. The Assam government should hand them over to the Meghalaya Police for a fair trial," Sumer said.

Khasi Students Union echoed Mukroh village chief's sentiments.

KSU general secretary Donald V Thabah said the "perpetrators should be named, arrested and handed over to the authorities in Meghalaya for a fair trial".

Activists of the KSU, who were camping since Tuesday at Ialeng Civil Hospital at Jowai where the post-mortem of the six deceased persons was being conducted, left in the afternoon after talking to deputy commissioner, who assured them that necessary actions will be taken in the case.

Internet services have been suspended in Meghalaya following Monday's violence.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said the administration, as a precautionary measure, has asked vehicles from Assam and other states not to travel through Meghalaya till the situation normalises. Meghalaya and Assam have a longstanding dispute in 12 areas along the 884.9-km-long interstate border, and the location where the violence took place is one of them.

The two northeastern states had signed a memorandum of understanding in March this year in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi towards ending the dispute in six areas.

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972 and had since then challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, which had demarcated the border between the two states.

4 Detained Over China Trading Company Fire That Killed 38

Agenceis

Beijing: Four people have been detained over a fire at an industrial trading company in central China that killed 38 people, reports said Wednesday.

The fire Monday was caused by welding sparks that ignited cotton cloth being stored at a facility run by the firm Kaixinda, authorities said.

Two of the company's employees and two from a clothing firm were detained, Anyang Mayor Gao Yong told reporters late Tuesday, according to state media. They have not been formally arrested and there was no immediate word on what charges they may face.

In addition to the dead, two people were injured in the fire that took more than four hours to extinguish.

Gao said the city would thoroughly inspect all possible safety risks in the city of

more than 5 million people in the central province of Henan.

"This accident has taken such a huge toll on human life, the lessons must be understood at a very deep level," Gao was quoted as saying.

Densely populated and economically prominent Henan has seen a number of recent deadly incidents blamed on violations of safety regulations and lax government supervision.

Five officials were arrested after a building collapse that killed 53 people on the outskirts of Henan's provincial capital Changsha in April.

The central government has pledged stronger safety measures ever since an explosion in 2015 at a chemical warehouse in the northern port city of Tianjin killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and police officers. In that case, a number of local officials were accused of taking bribes to ignore safety violations. (AP)

New Laws For Digital Media Soon

AGENCEIS

**Jaipur:** Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday said that the Centre is working on a bill to regulate digital media.

He said that earlier there used to be one-way communication of news, but with the development of electronic and digital media, communication of news has become multidimensional. Now even small news of a village reaches the national platform through digital media, he said. In a statement, he said that the government has left most of the print, electronic, and digital media to self-regulation.

"Digital media presents opportunities as well as challenges. To have a fine balance, government will see what can be done on this. "I would say that whatever

changes have to be brought in law, we will bring that to make your work simple and easy. We are working to introduce a bill," Thakur said at an event organised by Hindi news daily Mahanagar Times.

Thakur also said that the process of registration of newspapers would be simplified, and the central government will soon bring a new law to replace the 1867 Press and Registration of Books Act.

Under the new law, it will be possible to complete the registration process, which now takes about four months, in a week through online mode.

The Union Minister said that the central government is working to bring 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Ease of Living' and the change in registration of companies was a step in that direction.

OPD For Children Healthcare In Srinagar On 26th Nov

**Srinagar:** One of Delhi's best children's hospital, Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital is starting its OPD in Chanpora, Srinagar. Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital and Birth Right has established a first-of-its-kind 150 bed, super specialty tertiary care hospital with the most advanced perinatal centre in the City. The hospital has well-planned and seamlessly designed separate wings for children, women and expecting mothers. The conceptually designed infrastructure has imaginatively designed interiors replete with rich

colours, that aid the healing process. A dedicated and well-trained medical team also offers round-the-clock critical care and tertiary services in its Neonatal, Paediatrics and Perinatal wings.

Rainbow Children's Hospital in assistance with Florence hospital, Chanpora, Srinagar, has taken this initiative for providing medical assistance to children. Under this, specialist doctors of Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital will be available at Florence hospital, Chanpora, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir 190015 on 26th November 2022 (10:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

NIA Set To Formally Take Over Mangaluru Blast Case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mangaluru:** The Mangaluru autorickshaw blast case would be formally handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) soon, Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood said on Wednesday.

He said the objective of the prime accused Mohammed Shariq was to create a divide between communities.

"What else was the objective? His aim was to create differences between two communities, there is no doubt. Differences between communities be it Hindu, Muslim, or Christian grow when there is a blast. It means destabilising the country. He definitely intended to disturb communal harmony and unity..." the DGP said.

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra visited the blast site near here, along with Sood, and also the hospital where Shariq and auto-driver Purushottam Poojary were being treated

Jnanedra said Shariq had visited different places like Coimbatore and Kanyakumari

and an investigation has been on. Several police teams have been formed and been sent to different places as part of the probe.

Sood said the NIA and other central agencies have been working with the Karnataka police from day-one of the blast, adding that the case would be formally handed over to NIA.

With demand growing for an NIA office in Mangaluru, Jnanendra said the State government has brought this to the notice of the Centre, and expressed confidence there would be set an office in this coastal town.

The Minister said the police were working to find the background of the accused in the November 19 blast at Nagori here, his financiers, and, "the forces which are compelling him to repeatedly do such acts."

Jnanendra said Shariq had planned a major blast, but "the bomb exploded midway and did not go off the way it was planned".

"If the entire cooker (carried by Shariq in the autorickshaw) had exploded then it would have led to major damage. He (Shariq) had managed to create a bomb

using materials available locally," said the Home Minister.

He said the Home Department has resolved to "completely eradicate the fanatical forces which want bloodbath and kill people and try to disturb the unity and integrity of the country".

"Our department has not taken this case lightly. An indepth study and inquiry will take place. We will expose the forces behind the case," the Minister vowed.

Jnanendra said Shariq was travelling as a Hindu and carrying a Hindu photo identity card with him, "so that no one could suspect him". Further, he used to frequently change his address and that it became difficult to trace him.

The Minister said Shariq was arrested in an objectionable graffiti case in Mangaluru showing his support to the Islamic State and the Lashkar-e-Toiba, but the High Court granted him bail after he spent seven to eight months in jail.

After coming out, he worked in a shop at Thirithahalli in Shivamogga district. He was

under watch till then, but he disappeared all of a sudden, Jnanendra said.

According to him, those involved in this case used different modes of communication.

"These people (terror accused) do not use telephone. This is the latest development. They are using different mechanisms for communication," he pointed out.

Sood said the details of the investigation against the financiers and organisations cannot be revealed now.

"The survival of the accused is important, for we have to interrogate him. We have got many technical materials' such as phones and computers. We have to confront him with that," Sood explained.

Sood requested the media to not portray people brought for interrogation as accused.

Citing the example of Prem Raj, whose Aadhaar card Shariq had used, Sood said he has an important role in the investigation, as he is the main witness.

Also, the police would call Mohan Kumar who had rented his house in Mysuru to Shariq

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Uniform Academic

whole winter?"

Teachers in Kashmir would traditionally cover a major portion of the syllabus in winters and the students would appear in the golden test in the month of June.

"But now, with the new session, the students won't get that much time," Mohammad Owais, a teacher, said. "This order needs an honest review because it remains to be seen how the government conducts exams in March when the snow is still accumulated in the border and other hilly areas of the valley. It will be a challenging situation."

Even if the weather doesn't permit administration to hold exams in hilly areas, Advisor Bhatnagar said, "we will be able to conduct examinations in 90 percent of the region."

Kashmir Observer also reached out to Principal Secretary School Education, Alok Kumar, Director Education, Tasaduq Mir and Joint Director for their comments on the story. The calls went unanswered.

"You need to understand that Jammu and Kashmir divisions have separate weather patterns," said Mohammad Bazil, a worried parent. "You can't compare Kashmir with Jammu and have a uniform academic calendar. You've winter in Kashmir till April and sometimes it snows. This decision needs to be revoked."

There's another lurking concern, said Mubashir Mir, a teacher from Srinagar. "Students appearing in competitive exams won't get enough time now for preparation because when their exams were conducted in

the October-November session, they would utilize winters for preparation," Mir said.

"Now I think they will have to waste a full year to appear in competitive exams."

However, many, including a former school headmaster, Akhtar Hussain, believe that there won't be any difference.

"The exams that were conducted in October-November will now be held in March and that's it," he said.

"The students and the teachers might find it difficult initially but they will get used to it later on. And since this new calendar was recommended by an expert committee, they must have kept everything in mind before coming up with the proposal."

Kashmir University

be more adaptable and dynamic, providing space for cutting edge innovation," Sinha said, while appreciating the efforts of the Kashmir University for making necessary changes to incorporate recommendations of National Education Policy.

"University of Kashmir has been transformed into a centre of excellence and promoting scientific research, new ideas & knowledge, and adapting to rapid change across the world in fundamental aspects of the educational landscape," he added

Prof Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir spoke about the broad contours of the Mega Youth festival. In line with the directions of the LG, the academic progression as well as empowerment of youth is the core

aim of the university and this youth festival is a step in that direction, she added.

During the inaugural ceremony, the students of University presented a mesmerizing performance on University Tarana and a colorful Rouf dance performance.

The best-performing youth will also get the opportunity to participate in the North Zone Youth Festival and later in the National Youth Festival.

People Calling

"it is for the first time after a very long time that the number of terrorists – both FTs (foreign terrorists) and locals – has fallen to two digits".

"The number of militants in south Kashmir has fallen to the lowest ever. It is because of people's support and the synergy between the forces and a result of good operations (by the forces)," he said.

Appealing to parents and society to make sure children do not fall prey to the narrative aimed at the destruction of Kashmir, he said they need to show the right path to the children. "Our social and religious leaders need to get involved in this." The DGP said no person was getting harmed in the security forces' action and people in the Valley were living their lives like those in other parts of the country.

"Schools are functioning without any disruption. There is no hartal. People calling for hartals have been wiped out. If the fake chapter of Hurriyat in Pakistan calls for strikes, it finds no support from people here.

"Journalists have the courage to say

the right things, but Kashmir Fights like useless blogs threaten them. It is up to all of us to either adopt or condemn and make unsuccessful this narrative which is against Kashmir, against the peace and development in Kashmir.

"We have to use every platform available to us to make these plays, which originate from Pakistan, unsuccessful," he said.

Singh said narcotics were a bigger crime than terrorism as far as the collective health of society was concerned.

"Terrorists carry out sporadic attacks, while narcotics destroys families together and society as well. The J-K police has vowed to fight narcotics-related crime. More than 500 cases have already been registered so far this year," he said.

White Paper

concrete steps for Waqf will be taken shortly and big fish involved in encroachments will be trapped—(KNO)

IAF Officers Killing:

for physical appearance to cross examine the witnesses in the abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, by his group in 1989.

The special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) court has already framed charges separately against the JKLF chief and several others in the two cases.

While the charges were framed against Malik and six others on March

16 last year in the killing of four IAF personnel in 1990 on the outskirts of Srinagar, charges against Malik and nine others in the 1989 abduction case of Rubaiya were framed on January 11 this year.

Malik is currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in April 2019 in connection with a terror funding case, a month after his group was banned by the central government.

J&K Govt Orders

reading of Preamble to the Constitution in 22 Official languages, a online weblink has been created viz, www.readpreamble.nic.in."

The citizens, it said, in addition can participate in an online quiz on the theme 'India-the Mother of Democracy' on the web portal www.constitutionquiz.nic.in.

3 Siblings Jump

he said, adding it is possible that the children panicked and jumped off the bridge after noticing a train approaching.

The injured were rushed to a hospital for treatment, the official said.

Young Cricketer

on his chest around 2:30 pm which led to his on-the-spot death.

"A case has been registered in this regard and investigation has been taken up," the officer said.

Man Found Dead



# 2022 FIFA World Cup: Japan Stun Germany, Morocco Draw With Croatia

## Japan Defeat Germany 2-1



**DOHA:** Substitutes Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano scored late goals Wednesday to give Japan a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Germany at the World Cup.

Ilkay Gündogan had given four-time champion Germany the lead with a first-half penalty. But Doan, who plays for German team Freiburg, pounced on a rebound to equalize in the 76th minute after Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer blocked a shot from Takumi

Minamino.

Then Asano, who plays for German team Bochum, sprinted clear of Nico Schlotterbeck and beat Neuer from a narrow angle in the 83rd.

It was the first competitive meeting between the two nations.

Before the game, Germany's players covered their mouths during the team photo in an apparent rebuke to FIFA following its decision to stop plans to wear armbands to protest discrimination in host nation Qatar. (AP)



**G**ermany's players covered their mouths for their team photo before their opening World Cup match in an apparent rebuke of FIFA's clampdown on plans to wear armbands to protest discrimination in host nation Qatar.

The team lined up in the traditional formation before Wednesday's game against Japan and each of the 11 players covered their mouth with their right hand.

It seemed to be a response to FIFA's warning to the seven European federations, including Germany's, that players would be penalized if they wore colorful "One Love" armbands as a symbol for inclusion and diversity. The seven team captains had planned to wear the armbands.

Football's governing body issued the warning Monday just hours before the first teams were set to play with their captain wearing the armband. FIFA said the players would immediately be shown a yellow card.

## Morocco Holds Croatia 0-0



**ALKHOR:** Another surprisingly strong performance by an Arab country at the World Cup in Qatar stifled the threat of Luka Modric and held 2018 finalist Croatia to a 0-0 draw.

Morocco's resilient performance Wednesday came 24 hours after Saudi Arabia sparked the first World Cup in the Middle East into life by beating Lionel Messi's Argentina in one of the biggest upsets in the tournament's history.

Tunisia followed that up with

a scoreless draw against European Championship semifinalist Denmark.

Morocco managed to do enough to rein in Croatia captain Modric, who was still his team's best player in their Group F opener and had one of the best chances when his shot just rose over the crossbar in the first half.

The result was a major confidence-booster for Morocco and coach Walid Regragui, who was only hired at the end of August. (AP)

## J&K Defeat Uttarakhand To Progress In Vijay Hazare Trophy

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K senior men's cricket team on Wednesday defeated Uttarakhand by 9 wickets at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai to enter the pre-quarterfinal stage of the 2022 Vijay Hazare Trophy.

J&K team went into the match against Uttarakhand knowing that only a victory would seal their progression in the tournament. Winning the toss, J&K decided to bowl first. The move paid off as Uttarakhand batters were left reeling at 36/4 after 10.1 overs.

However, a resilient display from the low-order batters helped Uttarakhand post a re-

spectable 251/6 in their allotted 50 overs. Priyanshu Khandari 97 (125), Swapnil Singh 61 (82) and Dikshanshu Negi 52 (48) top scored for the team.

For J&K, Aquib Nabi took 3 wickets, while Mujtaba Yousuf and Yudhvir Singh took 1 wicket each.

In reply, the J&K batters got off to a wonderful start with the opening pair of Vivrant Sharma 154\* (124) and Shubham Khajuria 71 (90) striking an 182 run opening partnership in 34.3 overs. Henan Nazir contributed 24 (41) to seal the match in J&K's favour.

J&K will now face Kerala on November 26. The match will be played at Gujarat College Ground in Ahmedabad.



**FEMALE VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS** in action as the 2nd Inter College Women Volleyball tournament kick started at Women's College, M A Road, Srinagar on Wednesday.

Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

## District Baseball Championship Concludes At Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The District Baseball Championship organised by Srinagar District Baseball Association under My Youth My Pride Initiative of J&K Sports Council under the banner of Amateur Baseball Federation of India, concluded on Wednesday with awards distribution ceremony among the winning team of the championship.

The competitions were held from 22-11-2022 to 23-11-2022 at Gindun Sports Stadium Rajbagh Srinagar, in which 8 teams participated.

Firdous Baba, Patron J&K Baseball Association was the chief guest on the concluded

function, distributed medals among the winners. Hilal Ahmad, Manager, Gindun Stadium Rajbagh, Gulzar Ahmad were Guest of Honours. Firdous Ahmad, Secretary Srinagar District Baseball Association was also present at the awards ceremony.

Appreciating the sports talent of budding players they exhibited in the event, Firdous Baba encouraged them to accord focussed attention on their game and work hard towards bringing laurels for J&K. The chief guest thanked District Srinagar Baseball Association who provided an opportunity to players of Srinagar district for participating in the said championship.

## Junior Judo Championship & Selection Trials On Nov. 26

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Judo Association on Wednesday announced that it is holding District Srinagar Junior Judo Championship cum selection trials for Junior National Judo Championship of Kashmir province on 26th November, 2022, at 12 Noon at Indoor Sports Hall, Polo Ground, Srinagar.

The championship will be held under the auspices of J&K Sports Council. Those selected Junior judokas of Kashmir province will participate for final selection trials cum JK UT Judo Championship being held at Jammu.

The player who gets selected at Jammu will represent JK UT in the Junior National Judo Championship, which is going to be held at Ranchi, Jharkhand from 16th to 20th December, 2022.

All the eligible junior judokas are informed to report to the concerned coaches along with Aadhaar card, DoB certificate and two passport photographs on the said date and venue.

The competition will be organised under the supervision of Abdul Hamid Khan, Vice-President J&K Judo Association and Gowher Khan, Joint Secretary J&K Judo Association.

For more information play-

## Man United Owners Prepared To Sell Premier League Club

Agencies

**DOHA:** Manchester United's American owners confirmed Tuesday they would consider putting the iconic Premier League club up for sale.

United said the Glazer family was exploring outside funding to enhance growth — a move that could pave the way to a potential buyout.

"As part of this process, the board will consider all strategic alternatives, including new investment into the club, a sale, or other transactions involving the company," it said in a statement.

American investment bank the Raine Group has been enlisted to handle any sale or fresh investment.

Raine earlier this year handled the sale of Premier League club Chelsea to Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, successfully securing 2.5 billion pounds (\$3 billion) plus a commitment of 1.75 billion pounds (\$2 billion) of further investment.

While there is no guarantee the Glazers will cede complete control of United, the news will provide hope to the team's supporters who have long-campaigned to drive out the American family, which also owns the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The late tycoon Malcolm Glazer bought United in 2005 for 790 million pounds (then about \$1.4 billion) amid a backlash from fans.

Unrest has continued in the following years and in recent times seen increasingly angry protests. A game against Liver-

pool had to be postponed last year following demonstrations at Old Trafford.



"The strength of Manchester United rests on the passion and loyalty of our global community of 1.1 billion fans and followers," said co-chairmen Avram Glazer and Joel Glazer in the statement.

"As we seek to continue building on the club's history of success, the board has authorized a thorough evaluation of strategic alternatives. We will evaluate all options to ensure that we best serve our fans and that Manchester United maximizes the significant growth opportunities available to the club today and in the future."

They added that throughout the process "we will remain fully focused on serving the best interests of our fans, shareholders, and various stakeholders."

United fans have been critical of the leveraged nature of the Glazers' buyout that loaded debt onto the club, as well as a perceived lack of invest-

ment and the dividends taken out by the owners.

The club has endured a sustained period of decline since the retirement of Alex Ferguson in 2013 — failing to win a league title since then — and has had to watch as fierce rivals Manchester City and Liverpool have dominated English soccer.

United said among its plans for growth was the potential redevelopment of its Old Trafford stadium — something supporters have long called for.

It is likely Raine would use the Chelsea sale as gauge for any valuation — and hope to exceed that figure for one of the most popular sports teams in the world.

Jim Ratcliffe, the billionaire owner of petrochemicals firm INEOS, this month dropped his previously held interest in buying United, despite being a longtime fan.

INEOS already owns French club Nice.

"Our position has developed since the summer and we are now focusing our efforts in Nice and raising our ambitions for the club to make them into a top tier club in France to compete with PSG," INEOS said in a statement. "This would represent much better value for our investment than buying one of the top tier Premier league clubs."

Liverpool — another storied Premier League club with American ownership — is exploring similar options. Fenway Sports Group said earlier this month that it was open to selling shares of the club it bought in 2010.

## Where Will Ronaldo Go After Leaving Manchester United?

Agencies

**DOHA:** Cristiano Ronaldo has left Manchester United with immediate effect. Where will he turn up next?

The Portugal star has put himself on the market with his explosive pre-World Cup interview that led to the termination of his contract on Tuesday.

As a free agent, the 37-year-old forward now has the chance to impress potential suitors and prove he can still perform on the highest level for his country in Qatar.

His future may well depend on it after failing to secure a

Arsenal fan Piers Morgan is pushing for a move to his club, but the Premier League leader has invested in building a young team under manager Mikel Arteta and Ronaldo would be a departure from that.

Could Saudi-backed Newcastle be tempted to make a first truly statement signing under its new ownership?

**A RETURN HOME**

To finish his career where it started at Sporting Lisbon would provide a romantic bookend for Ronaldo, while the Portuguese club could provide him with a route back to the Champions



transfer to a Champions League club in the summer.

**A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB**

There are only 16 to choose from if Ronaldo harbors ambitions of playing in the competition when it resumes in February. Then it is a question of who would could afford him.

A dream scenario would be to have one last fling with a truly elite club. But perhaps his best chance of that would be as a short-term fix until the end of the season.

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema has been ruled out of the World Cup with injury and so has Bayern Munich's Sadio Mane.

Perhaps Ronaldo would be an attractive emergency option if either of those clubs feared being left short in the second half of the campaign.

**A PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB**

Chelsea considered a move in the summer, but that never materialized.

Ronaldo would not appear to fit in with the long-term planning of new manager Graham Potter, who is already having to deal with one ageing striker in Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

League next season.

He would have to take a considerable pay cut if he were to take up this option.

**SAUDI ARABIA**

The only serious interest in Ronaldo in the summer came from Saudi Arabia. While a move there would likely present the most lucrative option for him, it would be a marked step down in terms of his remaining sporting ambition.

It would deny him the chance to further extend his record as the all-time leading scorer in the Champions League, with 140 goals, and hand his great rival Lionel Messi, who has 129, the chance to overtake him.

**MLS**

Perhaps it is time to take his brand to the United States and become the biggest star ever to play in MLS.

He could not hope to match his salary and he would have to accept his days playing in the Champions League are over.

But for a man who has more than half a billion followers on Instagram this would be the chance to move to the biggest market in the world off the field — and a new adventure. (AP)



## India Calls For Global Framework To Prevent User Harm From Artificial Intelligence

Agenceis

India has urged the global community to develop a common framework for data governance, safety and trust around artificial intelligence to prevent user harm, an official statement said on Tuesday.

India assumed the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) at a summit held in Tokyo.



"We all should be concerned about user harm. I would encourage member states to think about evolving a common framework of rules and guidelines about data governance, about safety and trust as much to do with the internet as to do with AI," Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at the closing session of the three-day GPAI Summit.

He represented India virtu-

ally at the event.

The minister said the India-Stack that has transformed governance and democracy in India and benefitted millions of Indian citizens is designed to be open sourced.

He emphasised on developing a common framework on creating skills and talent around AI -- an area in which India could take a lead.

He also spoke about tak-

ing up collaborative research projects including establishing Centres of Excellence (COEs) in member nations to be able to work together in building the future of AI.

GPAI is a congregation of 25 member countries, including the US, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Singapore. India had in 2020 joined the group as a founding member.

## This Gujarat Village Will Fine Locals For Not Voting In Elections: Report

Agenceis

**Rajkot:** With the Gujarat assembly elections round the corner, the entire state is engulfed in election fever, the residents of Raj Samadhiyala village in Rajkot district are free from these political dramas as they have barred entry of political parties and campaigning in the village because they think that allowing candidates to campaign would be detrimental to the region.

No political party can enter the village as they have been banned to campaign. Raj Samadhiyala village which is 20 km away from Rajkot, not only banned political campaigning but it also imposes a fine of ₹ 51 on those who do not come out to vote, in order to ensure maximum participation at the time of elections.

Villagers are bound by several rules and regulations framed by the Village Development Committee (VDC) and breaking any of these invokes monetary fine - one of which is not casting vote during elections.

The village has been recording close to 100 per cent voting percentage and whosoever deliberately abstain from voting attracts a fine of ₹ 51. The Sarpanch of the village is also elected by consensus.

The Sarpanch of the village says that with this decision



almost 100 per cent of voting takes place here.

A small village having a population of 1700 people has formed a committee. A few days before the polling, the members of the committee convene a meeting of the villagers and if someone is unable to vote then a reason has to be given to the committee.

"The rule of not allowing political parties to campaign in the village exists since 1983. No party is allowed to campaign here. The political parties are also aware of this belief that if they campaign in Raj Samadhiyala village they will be harming their prospects. It is compulsory for all the people of our village to vote otherwise ₹ 51 fine is imposed on them. If someone cannot vote for any reason, they will have to take permission,"

said the Sarpanch.

The village has almost every modern amenity like internet connection through Wi-Fi, CCTV cameras, RO plant for providing potable water, and so on, making life convenient for the villagers.

A local said that around 995 voters are there in the village and people here vote as per their wishes.

"Here in our village candidates are not allowed to campaign, so the people of our village give a vote to the leader whoever they think is good for them," said a local.

Another local said that political parties are also not allowed to put up banners or distribute pamphlets. "Here people vote in the election as per their wishes but everyone has to come for a vote," he said.

## Pakistani Intruder Sent Back After 10 Years In Indian Jail



Agenceis

A Pakistani national, who had illegally entered India, was repatriated through the Attari-Wagah border on Tuesday after he completed his 10-year jail term, said an official.

Kala Massi, who belongs to Pakistan's Narowal region, was released from prison after the completion of his jail sentence, Protocol Officer Arunpal Singh told news agency ANI.

Massi had entered India through the Ramdass area in 2011 without a passport and visa, he said. He was caught in Majitha (Punjab) with a pistol and cartridge. A court had sentenced him to 10 years in prison and fined him ₹ 2,10,000, said

Mr Singh.

"Kala Massi is being sent to Pakistan. No currency was recovered from him," said the officer.

Kala Massi told ANI that he was involved in smuggling and was sent to India by a man named Faisal Sheikh, who had accompanied him to India a few times in the past. He said that he will be returning to Pakistan after 12 years.

In July, India repatriated four Pakistani prisoners who had completed their imprisonment here, via the Attari-Wagah border in Amritsar, said the official.

Mr Singh said that the four Pakistani prisoners had illegally entered India through different regions. They were released after completing their prison sentence.

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