

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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YEARENDER 2022

## 180 Militants Killed In 115 Gunfights In J&K This Year

### Agencies

The year 2022 saw 115 encounters in which over 180 militants were killed while local militant recruitment remained lowest in the last six years in Jammu and Kashmir. Majority of encounters were reported in the first six months of the year 2022. The last two months of the year bidding goodbye saw a few encounters only.

As per the details, 180

militants of various outfits were killed in 115 encounters in the year 2022.

The slain militants include around 130 local militants and 50 non-locals including top commanders. Majority of slain militants belonged to the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit.

Data reveals that Kupwara district reported nine encounters resulting in killing of 16 militants including 12 affiliated with LeT and four with JeM. Baramulla district



saw eight encounters which resulted in killing of 15 militants and among them eight were affiliated with LeT

and seven with JeM.

Bandipora district reported three encounters resulting in the killing of two JeM militants. In Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, there was only one encounter in which one LeT militant was killed while Budgam district reported three encounters in which seven militants include four from LeT and three from JeM.

Summer capital Srinagar reported 11 encounters in which 19 militants were

killed including 15 from LeT and four from AuGH.

In South Kashmir, Pulwama (along with Awantipora) reported at least 17 encounters where 37 militants including 17 from JeM, 16 from LeT and two each from AuGH and Al-Badr.

Anantnag district reported at least 12 encounters in which 19 militants were killed including 11 from HM, 6 from LeT and two from AuGH. Shopian district reported at least 19 encounters **More on P6**

## Soldiers Fire Warning Shots Along LoC

### Agencies

**Jammu:** Alert troops of Army on Thursday opened fire after witnessing a suspicious movement along Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch sector.

Official sources said that Army troops this evening observed suspicious movements on LoC in Poonch sector.

They said that the troops fired some rounds towards the Pakistan side with small calibre weapons.

Sources, however, said that no further engagement or retaliation was reported when the report was last filed.

The fresh firing came a day after security forces gunned down four heavily armed militants in Sidhra area of Jammu.

The high-alert was sounded for the forces and especially for border sectors—(KNO)

## Snowfall Ends Prolonged Dry Spell In Kashmir Valley

### Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Srinagar and other areas in the Kashmir plains received light snowfall, the season's first, on Thursday while moderate snow broke the dry spell in the Valley's higher reaches.

Most of the plains in the Valley, including Srinagar, received light snowfall from late in the afternoon.

The snowfall was continuing when the last reports came in. However the Met office here has predicted improvement in weather conditions from Friday

till January 07, 2023.

Most of the stations across Kashmir are recording sub-zero temperatures every night, thus intensifying the cold wave in the Valley. The Meteorological department (MeT) officials

said that the plains in South and north other than higher reaches of Kashmir would receive light to moderate snowfall till tomorrow (Friday).

Reports said that Gulmarg ski-resort, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Gurez received fresh snowfall today. **More on P6**



The plains in Kashmir Valley, including Srinagar received season's first snowfall on Thursday ending the prolonged dry spell. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Mughal Road, Leh Highway Closed

**M**ughal road, connecting twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri with Shopian, as well as Srinagar-Leh highway were closed after fresh snowfall. A traffic department official here however said that traffic was plying on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world. **"Mughal road **More on P6****

**6** IN VIEW OF THE WEATHER ADVISORY ISSUED BY THE INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, general public of Kangan Sub-Division and those living in higher reaches of the district are advised to remain cautious and not to venture out in slopes, hilly areas or flood/landslide prone areas till weather improves."

## COVID-19 RESURGENCE

## Most Kashmiris Have Hybrid Immunity, No Need To Panic: DAK

### Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** With a surge in Covid-19 cases in various countries, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday said there is no need to panic as most people in Kashmir have hybrid immunity because of a combination of widespread natural infection and vaccination.

"Hybrid immunity offers robust and long lasting protection against Covid-19," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement.

Dr Hassan said according to a new study people with hybrid immunity developed by both vaccinations and previous infections have significant protection against future Covid infections. **"The **More on P6****

## Negative Report Must For Flyers From 6 Countries

**A** negative Covid report will be a must for passengers arriving in India from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand from January 1, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday. **More on P6**

## JAMMU ENCOUNTER

## Searches Intensified To Trace Absconding Truck Driver

### Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** A day after four militants were killed in an encounter here, police on Thursday launched search operations in several areas, including at the general bus stand and railway station, to trace the truck driver who fled from the spot before the gunfight started.

The encounter broke out between the militants and security forces after a truck loaded with husk was intercepted near Tawi Bridge along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Wednesday morning, while the vehicle was on its way to Kashmir.

The truck driver fled the scene taking advantage of dense fog before the gunfight started, a police official said,



adding search operations and checking of vehicles were intensified to trace him.

Security forces were also seen checking the identity cards of commuters at bus stands and Jammu railway station. Besides this, several checkpoints have also come up at various places in the city and along the highway including Indira Chowk. **More on P6**

still underway and further details are awaited.

Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police cordoned Bajalta forest, about seven km from the scene of the gunfight, and carried out a thorough search operation, the official said, adding the operation is

## Amit Shah Calls For Making UTs Role Models For Country Asks Them To Prepare Their Vision For 2047

### Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** A Conference on Union Territories was organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Home & Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah, in New Delhi on Thursday.

The conference was attended by the Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, the Cabinet Secretary, the Union Home Secretary, the Chief Secretaries/Advisor to the Administrator and other officers of the Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and senior officers from the concerned Central Ministries.

In his address, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister emphasized on making Union Territories a role model for the country and said that if the potential of Union Territories is fully harnessed, India will be able to achieve the goal of becoming the third largest economy in



the world. Shri Amit Shah also directed the Union Territories to prepare their vision for 2047. He said that Union Territories should take inspiration from the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's motto of "vocal for local" and "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" while striving to become a hub of tourism, development and welfare.

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister said that all Union Territories should come together and work synergistically on **More on P6**

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

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# Five Space Exploration Missions To Look Out For In 2023

### The Conversation

It's been an eventful year for space exploration, with successes including the completion of Nasa's Artemis 1 mission (finally), the inauguration of the James Webb Space Telescope, and the completion of China's Tiangong space station.

2023 is set to be another busy year. Here are five of the most exciting missions to watch out for.

### Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer

In April, the European Space Agency (Esa) is set to launch the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice), in what will be Europe's first dedicated robotic mission to Jupiter. Juice is due to reach the planet in July 2031 after performing an incredible flight path through the Solar System. The mission will enter into orbit around Jupiter and perform numerous flybys of its large icy moons: Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.

After four years of moon flybys, Juice will then enter into orbit around Ganymede, the largest moon in the Solar System becoming the first spacecraft ever to reach orbit around the moon of another planet.

The icy moons of Jupiter are interesting as they are all believed to host oceans of liquid water beneath their frozen surfaces.

Europa, in particular, is regarded as one of the most likely abodes in the Solar System for extra-terrestrial life.

Juice will be equipped with ten scientific instruments including ice-penetrating radar to study the internal oceans.

This use of radar is a practical first step in mapping the sub-surface oceans, paving the way for more exotic future missions involving submersible vehicles some of which have already been put forward. The launch window runs from April 5 to April 25.

### SpaceX Starship

Although no date has been announced by aerospace company SpaceX at the time of writing, the first orbital test flight of the super-heavy Starship spacecraft is highly anticipated to occur in early 2023.

Starship will be the largest spacecraft capable of carrying humans from Earth to destinations in space (the International Space Station is larger, but it was assembled in space).

It will be the most powerful launch vehicle ever to fly, capable of lifting 100 tonnes of cargo to low Earth orbit.



After four years of moon flybys, Juice will then enter into orbit around Ganymede, the largest moon in the Solar System becoming the first spacecraft ever to reach orbit around the moon of another planet.

The exact date will depend on the successful test of Starship, but has been on the books since 2018. It will be the first true deep space tourism launch.

Financed by business entrepreneur Yusaku Maezawa, a competition was set up to select eight members of the public (and an unknown number of crew) to join Maezawa on the trip all completely paid for. The winners and criteria used have not been disclosed, although it is suspected the guests may be established or aspiring artists.

This mission will mark a big change in the way we think about space, as previously only astronauts picked using incredibly stringent criteria have been able to go into deep space (note: we are not counting brief 10-minute jaunts up to 100 km).

A full trip of several days poses extreme risks, both in terms of health and engineering.

The success or failure of the dearMoon mission could affect whether deep space tourism becomes the next big thing, or it is relegated back to being a pipe-dream.

### Asteroid explorer returns to Earth

The Orignis Spectral Interpretation Resource Identification Security Regolith Explorer, mercifully more commonly known as OSIRIS-REx, is a Nasa mission to near-Earth asteroid Benu.

A key goal of this robotic mission was to acquire samples of Benu and return them to Earth for analysis. OSIRIS-REx is now fast returning to Earth with up to a kilogram of precious asteroid samples stored aboard. If all goes well, the capsule will detach from the spacecraft, enter the Earth's atmosphere and parachute to a soft landing in the deserts of Utah on September 24.

Asteroid sample return has only been achieved once before, by the Japanese Space Agency's Hayabusa 2 mission in 2020.

Benu is an approximately diamond-shaped world just half a kilometre in size, but has many interesting characteristics.

It is believed to have broken off from a much larger asteroid in the first 10 million years of the Solar System. Some of the minerals detected within it have been altered by water, implying that Benu's ancient parent body possessed liquid water.

It also has an abundance of precious metals, including gold and platinum. Finally, Benu is classed as a potentially hazardous object with a (very) small possibility of Earth impact in the next century.

### India's private space launch

While SpaceX is the most prominent private space launch company, there are many others developing their own series of launchers around the world.

Skyroot Aerospace, which successfully launched its Vikram-S rocket in November 2022, is soon to become the first private Indian company to launch a satellite.

The rocket itself reached 90km in altitude, a distance that would need to be improved upon to get a constellation of satellites into orbit.

Skyroot's first satellite launch is planned for 2023, with a goal of undercutting the cost of private space launch rivals by producing its 3D-printed rockets in a matter of days.

If successful, this could also provide a route for cheaper launches of scientific missions, enabling a faster rate of research.

Clearly, interest in the space sector remains high. With many bold advances and launches due in 2023, we are entering a new phase akin to the Golden era of space launches in the 1960s and '70s.

## ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K), Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops, Desktops, Printers, Photocopiers, Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

## SAD DEMISE

It is to inform that Dr. Ghulam Rasool Tantri, Ex Director Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir expired on 27-12-2022. Mourning will be only for 3 days & Fateha khawaani will be held on 30-12-2022 at 2.30 PM at their ancestral grave yard Solina Payeen

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Health And Medical Education Office of the Principal Government Medical College Baramulla

Supply of Philips 128 Slice CT Pressure Injector Syringes to GMC Baramulla.  
e-Tender Notice No: 18-GMCB of 2022, Dated: 27-12-2022

E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory through Principal, Govt. Medical College Baramulla for supply of Items for 128 Slice CT Scan Machine as per the Annexure "A" to this tender notice from manufacturers / firms / companies / authorized dealers for Govt. Medical College & Associated Hospital Baramulla on urgent basis. The detailed tender document can be downloaded from the website www.gmcbaramulla.com and www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f. 27-12-2022 to 12-01-2023. The tender details and schedules as per following.

Item Description	Tender Fee	EMD
Items for 128 Slice CT Scan Machine	Rs.1,000.00	Rs. 1,00,000/-

Date & Time of release of bid	27-12-2022 (05:00 PM)
Last date for entertaining any clarification/representation	29-12-2022 (09:00 AM)
Online bid submission start date	29-12-2022 (09:00 AM)
Last date for submission of online bids	12-01-2023 (09:00 AM)
Opening of Technical bids	12-01-2023 (11:00 AM)

- Any query to clear can be done through email id on principalmedicalcollegebla@gmail.com.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received or cancel the whole tendering process without assigning any reason thereof.
- The items which will be available with JKMSCL shall not be procured through this tender

Sd/-  
Principal/Dean  
Govt. Medical College,  
Baramulla

NO:-GMC/BLA/PO/2022/5611-17  
DIPK-15705/22  
Dated:29-12-2022.

"Annexure A" FINANCIAL BID  
e-NIT Reference No:- 18-GMCB OF 2022

S.No.	Item name	Specification
1.	Disposable Angiographic Syringe 200ml	Compatible to 128 Slice Philips CT Scan Machine Pressure Injector.
2.	T Tube Coiled Connector 1.5m	Compatible to 128 Slice Philips CT Scan Machine Pressure Injector.

Sd/-  
Principal/Dean  
Govt. Medical College,  
Baramulla

## JK SET AGENCY UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Hazratbal, Srinagar 190006 | NAAC Accredited Grade A+  
Email: jkset@uok.edu.in | Phone: 0194-2272170; 22722192

### SCHEDULE FOR THE VERIFICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS

As per guidelines received from JKSET Agency, University of Jammu, the candidates who have been declared qualified in the JKSET / LASET held on 24.07.2022 from Kashmir Division are informed to get their eligibility and reserve category certificates verified at JKSET Agency, University of Kashmir as per the following schedule along with the required documents/certificates for verification:-

S. No	Category	Date	Time
1.	> SC > WUP > Open Merit /General Category (Students who appeared for the examination from centres in South Kashmir)	02.01.2023	10:30 am to 4:30 pm
2.	> ST > PSP > Open Merit /General Category (Students who appeared for the examination from centres in North Kashmir)	03.01.2023	10:30 am to 4:30 pm
3.	> ALC-IB > EWS > Open Merit /General Category (Students who appeared for the examination from centres in Srinagar)	04.01.2023	10:30 am to 4:30 pm
4.	> RBA > PWD	05.01.2023	10:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Original documents along with photo copies (self attested) of the following are required for verification of documents/certificates:**

- Marks Card/Grade Sheet of qualifying Post Graduation Degree Examination;
- Valid Reserved Category Certificate duly issued by the competent authority along with Domicile Certificate of the relevant UT, if qualified under any of the reserved category;
- For PWD (VH/PH) candidates, Valid disability certificate issued by the competent authority/board;
- Copy of the online application form with a recent passport size colour photograph, fee receipt and score card;
- A valid government issued photo ID Card;
- A self addressed A4 size cloth lined envelop affixed with postal stamp worth Rs. 45 on it for dispatch of their SET certificate. Please mention your subject, Roll No, and Mobile No. on left top corner of the envelope;
- In case of any query regarding the above, please contact 0194-2272170.

No: F (verification/documents//KU/22  
Dated: 27.12.2022  
Sd/- (Dr. Seema Singh)  
Coordinator

DIPK-NB-5818/22 DATED: 29-12-2022

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING SRINAGAR

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 85 of 2022-23 DATED: -27-12-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways/anotherState/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Cost of tender Documents	Earnest Money/ Bid Security (Amt in Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Head of Account	Treasury challan Account Head
1	Repairing of Corridor Tiles at School Dara A	2.97	200	Bid Declaration Certificate	15 Days	DEE	DDC	0515
2	Constt of Boundry wall of Darul- uloom Astan Mohalla Sirhandi Khonmoh-B	2.94	200	Bid Declaration Certificate	15 Days	DEE	DDC	0515

- (i) Position of AAA- Accorded (ii) Position of funds: Demanded
- 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 as per schedule of dates given below:-

A	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-12-2022
B <th>Period of downloading of bidding documents</th> <td>27-12-2022 6.00PM</td>	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27-12-2022 6.00PM
C <th>Bid Submission Start Date</th> <td>27-12-2022 6.00PM</td>	Bid Submission Start Date	27-12-2022 6.00PM
D <th>Bid Submission End Date</th> <td>02-01-2023 4.00PM</td>	Bid Submission End Date	02-01-2023 4.00PM
E <th>Date &amp; time of opening of Bids (Online)</th> <td>03-01-2023 at 11:00AM in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar</td>	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	03-01-2023 at 11:00AM in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar

Special Condition: 1). As per Govt. Order No: 251-FD OF 2020 Dated: 17-09-2020. Allotments of works can be Limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat for B2V3 part.

- The participation in the tendering process of works up to an amount of Rs. 3 lacs may be restricted to the residents of concerned Panchayat.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REWDivision Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
  - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "BiddersManual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.
  - To participate in bidding process, bidders must get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
  - The bidders must submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
  - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original/ photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/by registered post/through courier before the date specified in Para-1.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, the earnest money and tender document fee is to be submitted in both soft as well as hard copies. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arise.
  - The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document Fee in original, irrespective of Hard Copies, failure of submission of Tender documents fee by the bidder using the site shall entail him for blacklisting.
    - On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.
    - Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
  - The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
  - All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
(REW) Division SRINAGAR

No. Xen/REW/SGR/5767-83  
DIPK-15698/22 Dated: -29-12-2022

### SSP Chairs Year-End Meeting, Appreciates Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Police on Thursday held a comprehensive year-end meeting in District Police Office Srinagar under the chairmanship of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rakesh Balwal.

A statement issued to Kashmir Observer said that the meeting was attended by all Zonal SPs, SP/Hqs, SP/PC, all DySPs, all SHOs, DOs, all PC camp incharges etc.

The main agenda of the meeting was to take appraisal of the work done during the past year 2022.

The good work done during the preceding year was appreciated and a stock of crime disposal, public-centric Policing, Investigation work, law and order work, anti-militancy work, measures for protection of vulnerable sections of society like

Kashmiri Pandits, non local-labourers, vulnerable locals was also taken, the statement said.

Stress was also laid by the SSP Srinagar on transparency, working tirelessly against drug menace & being ruthless in eliminating this menace.

Emphasis was laid on prevention and tackling of social crimes, crimes against women and most importantly improving public-police relations by making public as equal stakeholder for developing a crime free society.

Tangible targets were set for the coming year and the officers were directed to ensure that the work done during 2022 is taken to the next level during the coming year 2023.

SSP Srinagar also set targets for all officers vis a vis crime disposal and services like timely verification as envisaged in Public Services guarantee Act.

### Milchaar Organized At Tagore Hall To Showcase Communal Harmony In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: In a bid to share a bit towards communal harmony within the society, "Milchaar—Unity is strength, Division is weakness", was on Thursday organized at Tagore Hall here in Srinagar.

Milchaar was presented by Kvirus group and Roshni productions while the event was organized by Advocate Barkat Kour Rattan, Abid Hussain Casting Director Kashmir and Associate Line Producer Kaiser Farooq.

"The event was organized with an aim to showcase that the essence of every religion is one while only approaches are different," one of the organizers said.

Kaiser Farooq said that

the event was aimed to share a bit towards the communal harmony at a time when hatred is being spread within the community.

"We all are equal in society. We belong to different religions, but all of us have a major goal in our lives i.e. humanity," he said, adding that no religion teaches hatred and thus the people belonging to different sects and religions should work in unison to fight against the evil designs that are hell-bent to create communal rift within the society.

"Through this event, we wanted to send a message to the whole world that Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs are one and nobody on earth can separate them come what may," Kaiser said—(KNO)

### KU's NSS Organises Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A blood donation camp was held at the University of Kashmir to encourage young students, NSS volunteers, research scholars and faculty members to donate blood and help save lives.

The day-long programme was organised by the Office of Programme Coordinator, National Service Scheme KU, in collaboration with SMHS Hospital, Government Medical College Srinagar and University Health Centre (UHC).

Several points of blood were donated under the supervision of medical practitioners and paramedics, who also raised awareness on the occasion about the importance of blood donation.

Programme Coordinator

NSS KU, Dr Mussavir Ahmad, said the camp was organised as part of the ongoing collaborative activities by the NSS that aim to infuse a passion for social service amongst young students.

He said blood donation is an act of serving humanity and students can become torchbearers of this message in the society.

Dr Mussavir thanked the Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan and Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir for their support to the programmes held by NSS as part of the University's endeavor to have a greater linkage with the society.

He thanked the SMHS-GMC authorities, in-charge University Health Centre, its Medical officers and staff for extending their full support to the blood donation camp.

### Outreach Prog On 'Women's Health And Hygiene' Held

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Centre for Women's Studies and Research (CWSR) University of Kashmir in collaboration with the Department of Sociology organised an outreach programme on 'Health and Hygiene for Women'.

The day-long activity was held in Shanpora area of Srinagar, in the interiors of Dal Lake, on directions of the Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan, under the banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Coordinator CWSR Dr Roshan Ara led the outreach programme, which was attended by other faculty members of CWSR including Dr Shazia

Malik, Dr Rabiya Bazaz and Dr Suhail Hakak, besides students of CWSR semester 3rd (Batch 2021) and a few non-teaching staff members.

Dr Roshan Ara highlighted the objectives of the programme, which, she said, aimed at raising awareness in the locality about the importance of women's good health and hygiene. She impressed upon the participating women to not neglect their health concerns and also offered tips to them on how they can maintain good hygiene.

Dr Ara thanked the University authorities for their constant support to programmes being held by the CWSR.



Amid light snowfall, a motorist rides a bike with his head covered in a polythene bag on Thursday. KO Photo/ Abid Bhat

### Harwan, Shalimar Residents Decry Lack Of Public Transport Facilities

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The residents of Harwan and Shalimar localities have voiced their displeasure over the lack of public transport facilities during evening hours.

Residents from Shalimar and Harwan areas said that the lack of transportation during late hours is taking a heavy toll on the residents living in the outskirts of the city.

Social Activist, Nasir Husain said the unavailability of transport during evening hours is a cause of worry for the residents.

"Most of the commuters from Harwan and Shalimar use public transport to reach their respective destinations on a daily basis. The public transport disappears from the roads during evening hours. We are unable to find a cab after 5 pm even from Lal Chowk to Harwan," Nasir said.

Pertinently, a large number of commuters can be seen daily waiting for passenger buses and Cabs near Regal Chowk, Ghanta Ghar, Dalgate and its adjacent areas.

Moreover, commuters allege that some cabs plying on the Lal Chowk-Harwan route ply only up to Shalimar.

"Some cab operators, due to their own convenience, don't go beyond Shalimar. This is despite the fact that they are part of the Harwan Cab service. Sumo's ferrying passengers on the Harwan route change or shorten their destinations after 3 pm," a female student said on anonymity.

She further said the residents of Harwan particularly the students and the elderly are suffering the most.

"Due to the lack of transport during evening hours, students have to hitchhike in the evening. It is not safe for female students. Authorities should ensure that apart from cabs other modes of transport need to be made available for the convenience of passengers."

In a bid to raise the issue with the concerned authorities, Kashmir Observer tried to contact Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir Sajid Yahya Naqash. However, he did not respond to repeated calls.

### NIT Alumnus Secures AIR 1 In UPSC ESE 2022

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An alumnus from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has secured AIR 1 in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Engineering Services (Main) Examination 2022 in Civil Engineering discipline for which results were declared last week.

Mr. Ishaan Gautam, a former BTech student of Civil Engineering Department, Class of (2019) has secured All India first rank (AIR1) in UPSC ESC 2022 and has brought laurels to the entire NIT Srinagar family.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr). Rakesh Sehgal extended warm greetings to Ishaan Gautam and congratulated him for qualifying the prestigious UPSC ESC 2022 with flying colors.

"It is a proud movement for the NIT Srinagar and our alumni will continue this dedication in the future also. The faculty in NIT is working for the students. They will not leave any stone unturned for the overall development of students," he said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari also extended warm greetings to Ishaan Gautam and urged him to work hard to achieve more success in the future.

"Our alumni network has always brought great glory to our institution. They have set the example of being successful and have inspired us to have a clear conscience, the courage to speak the truth, and the importance of being authentic," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said alumni have established themselves as successful individuals in almost every field across the globe, and that is what makes us prouder.

Head Department of Civil Engineering Dr. A. Q. Dar also congratulated Ishaan Gautam for securing AIR1 in UPSC ESE 2022. It is a proud moment for entire department and such students become an inspiration for other students, he said.

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

🌙  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
 06 Jumad al-Sani 1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	6:07
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	3:51
Magrib	5:33
ISHA	6:58

**This Day In History**

- 1786 - Grand Duke of Tuscany Leopold II promulgates a penal reform, making his the 1st state to abolish the death penalty. November 30 commemorates as Cities for Life Day.
- 1803 - Spain cedes her claims to Louisiana Territory to France
- 1864 - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee: Confederate attack fails, 7,700 casualties
- 1864 - Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina (Broad River) 96 dead, 665 wounded
- 1876 - Archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann finds the gold Mask of Agamemnon at Mycenae (modern Greece) "the Mona Lisa of prehistory"
- 1908 - The US Secretary of State and Japan's ambassador to the US exchange notes in what becomes known as the Root-Takahira Agreement: they affirm support for an independent China with an 'open door' policy and for the status quo in the Pacific
- 1909 - British House of Lords rejects David Lloyd George's 'People's Budget', which tried to shift tax burden to the wealthy. Leads to the Parliament Act; intent to stop unelected house overruling will of the elected house.
- 1916 - Costa Rica becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1922 - 1st speed test of 1st genuine Japanese aircraft carrier Hoshio.
- 1922 - Hitler speaks to 50,000 national-socialists in Munich.
- 1944 - Biggest & last British battleship HMS Vanguard launched.
- 1950 - US President Harry Truman threatens China with atom bomb.
- 1961 - USSR vetoes Kuwaits application for UN membership.
- 1962 - U Thant of Burma becomes the 3rd Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- 1964 - USSR launches Zond 2 towards Mars; no data returned.
- 1967 - People's Democratic Republic of Yemen declares independence from the UK.

*From KO Archives*

### Farooq Lashes Out At Delhi, Big Powers

Urges Powers Urges India, Pakistan To Buy Peace

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The State Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah today lashed out at the big-powers for instigating and exploiting the under-developed countries, while urging India and Pakistan to make efforts in establishing peace in the region.

Abdullah, who reached Srinagar this morning and flew back after spending some hours here said, "Some super powers are instigating under-developed countries to live in a hostile atmosphere so that they are able to establish regional markets for their weapons and other deadly arms." Farooq, who was here to condole death of a National Conference block president, Mohammad Ranzan Wani, who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on December 12, appealed the senior functionaries in India and Pakistan to realise the importance of peace and endeavour for accomplishment of the same.

"Everyone wants to live in peace and tranquility. Both India and Pakistan should create friendly atmosphere so that both are able to devote time and resources for overall development of their people," he said while addressing a large number of party cadres at Baghat-e-Kaniporta here today.

Reports suggested that during his address the Chief Minister said that his block president was not killed by Pakistan-trained militants but by the local miscreants. The chief minister has ordered a thorough probe into the killing, "so that the culprits are booked."

The State Chief Minister said that his party would go all out in restoring eroded autonomy to the state and blamed the central governments for blocking the state's way to autonomy.

"I will not succumb to any pressure," Abdullah said, "and I am determined to restore the autonomy to the state, which was gradually eroded by the successive state governments at the behest of New Delhi after 1953."

The Chief Minister once again mentioned LoC in his speech. He suggested that the line be taken as a dividing line between India and Pakistan and the people of Pak administered Kashmir and this side of Kashmir be allowed to visit the two sides freely.

Abdullah who was accompanied by the Rural Development Minister, Abdul Rahim Rather left for Jammu after the ceremony was over. Baghat-e-Kaniporta Water Supply Scheme has been dedicated to the slain NC block president and named after him. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 30 DECEMBER, 1998)

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## KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday | 30-12-2022

### Security Review

Reviewing the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir at a high-level meeting in Jammu and Kashmir with the top intelligence, investigating, anti-terror, and policing and security agencies on Wednesday, the home minister Amit Shah reiterated that the outfits and the ecosystem that “aid, abet and sustain” terrorist-separatist campaigns need to be “dismantled” on priority. The meeting was attended by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union home secretary, director (IB), RAW chief and other senior officials of the government agencies, including the officers of Jammu and Kashmir. Shah said there will be “zero-tolerance” for terrorism. He also reviewed the various development projects being implemented in the union territory, and emphasised on their timely completion.

The meeting came close on the heels of the raids conducted by the NIA on the offices of Jamaat-i-Islami and the other elements believed to be a part of the ecosystem that fans militancy. Incidentally, on Wednesday also, security forces killed four militants at Sidra area in Jammu following an intense gun battle. They were headed to Kashmir Valley. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them. The encounter in Jammu city should be a source of concern for the security agencies. Earlier also in the same area, a grenade was hurled which fortunately didn't cause any loss of life.

Though security forces have killed over 500 militants since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, the militancy continues to pose a formidable challenge. The militants have struck recurrently to announce their presence. The predominant targets of their attacks over the last two years have been civilians including those belonging to minorities.

As many as 120 civilians, including over twenty Hindus, have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370. It is also true that there has been a substantial decline in the militancy-related violence in the last three years. The 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. It is expected 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 peace has by and large held after the abrogation of Article 370. The civil unrest, particularly, has been wiped out. We hardly witness stone-throwing or the protests. As we cross over into 2023, we can only hope that the prevailing peace holds.

#### OTHER OPINION

### Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal: The new Kathmandu

Its pre-election alliance with Dahal's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) was an extension of Dahal's support to NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba in their joint 2021 project to oust the Communist Party of Nepal (unified Marxist-Leninist) leader Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli from prime ministership. At the time, Dahal walked out on Oli as he was denied the prime ministership for the second half of the five-year term that began after the election in 2017. It was clear that in return for Dahal's support last year, Deuba had made an effort to retain him on his side, and that nothing less than a grand bargain would have to be negotiated. But there was nothing of the kind. It appears that Dahal's decision to break out of the Deuba-led coalition came after a firm no from the Nepali Congress leader to Dahal's demand that he be made PM. Oli knew his old foe Dahal only too well, and was quick to read his mind. His decision to give Dahal what he wanted has brought the two left rivals back together in a ruling alliance in which Oli is sure to play the back-seat driver. That by itself portends friction in a coalition that is a reprise of two previous alliances between the two communist parties since 2015.

This time, there are other parties in the mix whose presence in the left-led coalition is surprising. One party wants Nepal to return to its days as a Hindu monarchy and has declared “outside support” to the Prachanda government. Another is a new party that seeks to represent Nepal's youth. Since the monarchy was abolished, Nepal has seen at least 10 governments come and go. It is safe to assume that this government too will be short-lived.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first foreign leader to congratulate Dahal, but for Delhi, Deuba's departure is a disappointment. In the short duration that he was PM, the two countries managed to repair several broken parts in bilateral ties. While Dahal has a positive equation with Delhi, the oversize influence of Oli, who wooed Beijing assiduously during his two terms in office, is likely to throw up challenges for Delhi's diplomacy. But India's ties with Nepal are more than the bilateral equation. Delhi's focus must remain on building on the ties that bind, while dealing with the issues that divide.

Indian Express

“  
Posting videos on social media networking sites, writing obituaries in newspapers, exhibiting commiserations on different print and digital rostrums won't heal the scar, won't eradicate the malignant tumor from our social setup



## Sopore Suicide is a Social Comment

Mushtaq Hurra

A heart-wrenching episode of death by suicide of a teenage girl from Sopore township, in northern Kashmir, has shaken every soul, has grieved every heart, has moistened every eye. Her body is still in the deadly maelstrom of river Jehlum. Netizens on social media platforms have expressed their sorrow and sympathies with the bereaved family. Though suicides and suicidal attempts by young people has seen a surge in Kashmir but the recent Sopore incident has shattered and shattered every Kashmiri.

An ailing young girl, suffering at the hands of a harsh and cruel life was set to difficult trials at a tender age. She was too young to understand the ebbs and flows of life. She was a girl whose wings of aspirations and longings were about to spread out but her lack of privilege made her succumb to miseries.

It's a pathetic tale and we have a reason to bow our heads down in shame. We still look at the tragic incident as spectators – as something outside of the tragedy. We look at the incident with an animalistic approach, with an inconsequential grief.

Posting videos on social media networking sites, writing obituaries in newspapers, exhibiting commiserations on different print and digital rostrums won't heal the scar, won't eradicate the malignant tumor from our social setup. We need to rise to the occasion. We must take pragmatic measures to check the menace. We must do meticulous planning and ensure surgical execution to make our society an exemplary and ideal one. We should not wait for any divine apostle or prophet to descend upon us and nudge us into the right direction. Angels won't come to mend and rectify our skewed value systems. The onus on us. We should come forward to initiate the desired changes.

Let's pledge to give a serious thought to it. Let's all introspect our ways of living as true Muslims and real human beings, and ask ourselves a simple question, “Is there a contradiction between what we proclaim and what we do? Undoubtedly, there is. Aren't we filling the shoes of Abdullah Bin Abai? Hypocrisy is the most suitable term which probably defines our character and faith. Ibadah (Worship) alone won't secure our place in Jannah and win the pleasure of Allah. There

are of course other parameters which will decide our eternal fate. Rubbing our foreheads on the prayer-mat rigorously, moving our fingers on the beads of rosary frequently, hurting our bodies by abstaining from drinking and eating during Ramadan, circumambulating around Kaaba and other holy places of Makkah, sporting long beards, covering our hair under a white turban and donning Kurta Payjama is not the licence to paradise.

We need to ask some tough questions. What made the young girl feel so helpless? How can we, as a society, be so oblivious of those in need around us? We are either complacent with our paltry contributions of charity or insensitive towards the poor, needy and destitute.

Only giving alms is not charity in its true sense. We need to have the skill and

Kashmiri Muslims pay Zakat”.

We brag and boast big in Masjids but weigh very meager when scrutinized against the true spirit of Islam. Custodians of Pirvaer can't afford double standards. It is sheer hypocrisy. Disciples of Makhdoom Sahab (ra) and Nundreshi (ra) can't be hypocrites.

Hazrat Syedna Umar (ra) had threatened Zakaat defaulters of dire consequences during his reign. He (ra) had called Jihad obligatory against the defaulters. We don't have the power to intimidate Zakaat dodgers but we can't evade it either. Zakaat is one of the five foundational pillars of Islam. One who demolishes it, is actually razing the building of Islam down. True believers calculate Zakaat and Ushr of their belongings, in accordance with Islamic jurisprudence, and pay the calculated amount with utmost care.

“It's a pathetic tale and we have a reason to bow our heads down in shame. We still look at the tragic incident as spectators – as something outside of the tragedy. We look at the incident with an animalistic approach, with an inconsequential grief.

sympathy to identify who around us needs help. Some people do not open up about being in need. We often value our own self-esteem but hardly weigh others'. So, reaching out to the needy without hurting their self-esteem is very important.

Now, let's look into the remedial measures. Allah swt and Rehmatal-Lil-Aalameen (Peace be upon him) have already taught us how to overcome such scenarios and circumstances in our society. Zakaat (obligatory tax) is a panacea for poverty in our society. Even Sadaqah is believed to please Allah the most.

According to stats available with the chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Yateem Trust, Mr Zahoor Ahmad Tak, “Only five percent Sahibi Nisab (Muslims possessing requisite wealth and assets to pay Zakaat)

We have Masjid Intizamiya Committees in villages, towns and cities. We should entrust the job to honest, determined and compassionate souls of our society. We must come up with a robust strategy to tackle the issues of destitution and poverty. Creation of Baitulmal will resolve many burning issues of our society. It will even cease stray collections, a menace that has now turned into a mafia. Allah SWT will definitely hold us accountable for our silence and indolence. Yet, there's still time.

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### Risky Bid

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has said that we would bid for the 2036 Olympics and host it in Ahmedabad. The costs of hosting Olympics have skyrocketed while the economic benefits out of hosting this biggest sporting event is not clear and tangible. 2020 Olympic host city Tokyo has

faced multibillion dollar bill debt after the game and it is not an isolated case, other host cities too faced similar situation. And some candidate cities have withdrawn their bids after seeing this financial drain on cities. There is no doubt that in both the 1982 Asiad or 2010 Commonwealth Games, Delhi built a solid infrastruc-

ture during these games and few of the flyovers etc are still more than useful for the people of the national capital. But if we do cost versus benefit analysis, it is not worth investing million dollar into these games, because we should not forget that all said and done, we struggle to reach to even double digits in the medals and

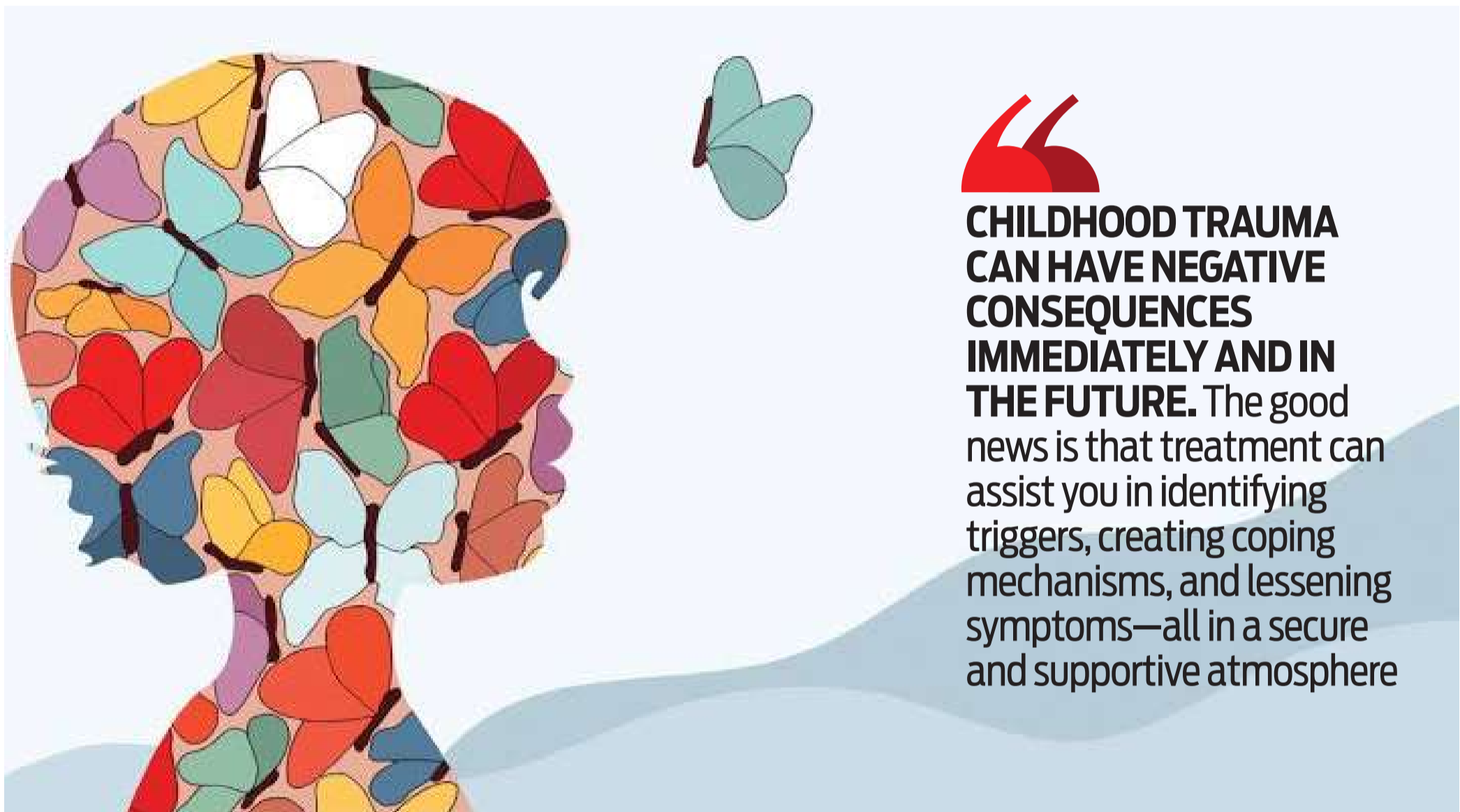
stadiums and infrastructure created during 2010 Commonwealth Games was not put to optimum use for the young kids after the event. At best we should aim for Asian Games only and nothing beyond.

Bal Govind

## MINDFUL FRIDAYS

# RECOVERY FROM CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

## *Psychotherapeutic Options*



**CHILDHOOD TRAUMA CAN HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES IMMEDIATELY AND IN THE FUTURE.** The good news is that treatment can assist you in identifying triggers, creating coping mechanisms, and lessening symptoms—all in a secure and supportive atmosphere

Wasim Kakroo

As children get older, they may experience bad things. Some experiences are very impactful, such as a natural disaster destroying a home, physical abuse, or the passing away of a parent. Community violence or a parent's drug usage can both undermine a child's feeling of safety and wellbeing. Some other kids may experience trauma from relatively simple incidents such as being in a vehicle accident or from hearing their parents argue frequently and intensely.

It is a natural part of a child's growth to learn how to comprehend, analyze, and deal with challenges — even catastrophes. However, kids can sometimes become stuck somewhere in the past because of such experiences. A child may develop a profound sense of fear and loss after a single or a series of traumatic events, leaving them with the impression that they are unsafe and powerless about their lives. Some children experience these feelings to the point where they interfere with their ability to continue growing intellectually, emotionally, physically, or socially. This is childhood trauma.

#### WHAT ARE THE EXAMPLES OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA?

Examples of childhood trauma include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological and emotional abuse
- Childhood physical and/or emotional neglect
- Natural disasters like earthquakes, or fires
- Homelessness
- Serious accidents or life threatening illness
- Violent loss of a loved one
- War experiences
- Bullying/cyberbullying
- Community and school violence
- Sudden and/or serious medical condition
- Witnessing or experiencing family or partner violence

#### HOW CAN CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AFFECT YOU?

Each person experiences childhood trauma in a different way. There are several common signs and symptoms, that we can look for among such children and adults.

6 Adults who have had PTSD as a result of children trauma can have difficulties at work, in social interactions, and with their own mental health

In preschool and elementary school age children:

- Separation anxiety
- Being anxious and afraid
- Having difficulty in sleeping and having sleep disturbed by nightmares
- Crying or acting out
- Poor appetite
- Losing weight
- Being moody
- Heightened anger and aggression

Teenagers may exhibit all of the warning signs listed above in addition to the following:

- Irritability
- Disengagement from social activities
- Issues in the academics
- Self-blame for the incident (guilt and shame)
- Eating disorders and other self-harming habits
- Depressive symptoms
- Difficulty concentrating
- Academic underperformance
- Overreacting or underreacting to emotional events
- Heightened hypervigilance, clinginess, anxiety, protracted worry, or explosive anger
- Hopelessness, sluggishness, fatigue, loneliness, or quietness
- Emergence of impulsive behaviors such as age inappropriate sexual behaviors and drug or alcohol use

Among adults, unresolved childhood trauma can manifest in many different ways. According to the research, female adults who experienced sexual abuse as children or teenagers frequently exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), distorted self-perception, shame, fear, guilt, self-blame, humiliation, and chronic physical pain.

Adults who have had PTSD as a result of

children trauma can have difficulties at work, in social interactions, and with their own mental health.

#### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP IN RECOVERING FROM CHILDHOOD TRAUMA?

Childhood trauma can have negative consequences immediately and in the future. The good news is that treatment can assist you in identifying triggers, creating coping mechanisms, and lessening symptoms—all in a secure and supportive atmosphere.

Here are some of the typical therapeutic approaches used with adolescents, young adults, and adults.

#### 1. COGNITIVE PROCESSING THERAPY (CPT):

It is a subtype of CBT. When treating PTSD, CPT is frequently the first option, especially when dealing with adult survivors of childhood trauma who have endured long-term effects. This usually entails education on the thoughts and feelings associated with PTSD, formal processing of the trauma, and the development of skills for recognizing and dealing with unhelpful thinking connected to traumatic events.

#### 2. TRAUMA FOCUSED CBT:

Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy is a subtype of CBT that is similar to CPT. This research-based therapy relies on the involvement of dependable parents and caregivers in the treatment process and introduces trauma-sensitive interventions with cognitive behavioral techniques, humanistic values, and family support.

Children, teens, and adolescents who are experiencing severe emotional challenges as a result of a traumatic event can benefit from TF-CBT.

#### 3. EYE MOVEMENT DESENSITIZATION AND REPROCESSING (EMDR):

Another therapy for treating trauma and

PTSD is Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. In EMDR, trauma-related memories are reorganized using repetitive eye movements.

Eight processes make up EMDR, including history, planning, assessment, therapy, and evaluation. According to research, EMDR is an experimentally supported therapy for dealing with repressed memories of traumatic events and unfavorable life experiences.

#### 4. PLAY THERAPY:

Play therapy employs the healing potential of play to assist children in overcoming trauma. Children aged three to twelve are the target population for play therapy.

A child can be observed by the therapist while engaging in play during a session of play therapy. They can address trauma and create coping mechanisms using this age-appropriate behavior.

#### 5. ART THERAPY:

The aftereffects of traumatic situations can be addressed and healed using artistic expression in art therapy. There are many different art media, such as sculpting, painting, coloring, and drawing.

It can help in increasing cognitive function, promoting self-worth and self-awareness, easing conflict and stress, and developing emotional resilience.

In conclusion, therapies focused on childhood trauma can help minimize the effects of abuse, neglect, violence, natural disasters, major accidents, or life-threatening illnesses.

Taking care of these problems in early childhood or adolescence might lower the likelihood that a person would experience chronic illnesses or mental health problems like depression and anxiety. But getting counseling as an adult can also be helpful for identifying trauma and dealing with its effects.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196*

## Cough-Syrup Deaths In Uzbekistan: Drug Regulatory Body Starts Probe

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Drug regulatory body CDSCO has initiated a probe in connection with the death of 18 children in Uzbekistan allegedly linked to a cough syrup made by an Indian firm, with Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya saying further action would be taken based on the inspection of the pharma company.

Mandaviya said the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is in regular contact with the national drug regulator of Uzbekistan regarding the matter since December 27.

The health ministry of Uzbekistan has claimed that 18 children have died after consuming the cough syrup 'Dok-1-Max'.

"Immediately on receipt of information, joint inspection of the NOIDA facility of the manufacturer, Marion Biotech, was carried out by UP Drug Control and CDSCO team and further action as appropriate would be initiated based on the inspection report," Mandaviya said in a series of tweets.

Marion Biotech is a licenced



manufacturer and holds licence for manufacturing of 'Dok-1 Max' syrup and tablet for export purpose granted by drug controller, Uttar Pradesh, the health ministry said in a statement.

The samples of the cough syrup have been taken from the manufacturing premises and sent to the Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory (RDTL), Chandigarh for testing,

Mandaviya said.

Hasan Harris, legal representative of Marion Biotech, said the governments of both countries are looking into the matter and inquiring.

"There is no problem from our end and no issue in testing. We have been there for the past ten years. Once the government report will come, we will look into it. For now the manufacturing

has stopped," Harris said.

According to the ministry, chemical ethylene glycol was found in a batch of syrup during laboratory tests.

Earlier this year, death of 70 children in Gambia was linked to cough syrups manufactured by Haryana-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals following which the unit was shut for violation of manufacturing

standards.

However, later the samples tested in a government laboratory in India were found to be complying with specifications.

India's drug regulator had told the World Health Organisation (WHO) earlier this month that the global health body drew a premature link between the deaths of children in Gambia and the four India-made cough syrups which adversely impacted the image of the country's pharmaceutical products across the globe.

In a letter to Dr Rogerio Gaspar, Director (Regulation and Prequalification) at WHO, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr V.G. Somani had said that a statement issued by the global health body in October in the wake of the deaths "was unfortunately amplified by the global media which led to a narrative being built internationally targeting the quality of Indian pharmaceutical products".

The DCGI had said that India has been committed to rigorous monitoring and oversight to ensure that the highest standards of manufacture are maintained in quality control of drugs and cosmetics.

## More Than 11,500 Police Personnel To Be On Mumbai Streets On New Year's Eve

AGENCEIS

**Mumbai:** Mumbai Police will deploy more than 11,500 personnel across the city to prevent untoward incidents and ensure people's safety on New Year's Eve, an official said on Thursday.

No senior police officer including himself will take leave on December 31, said city police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar.

The police are expecting large gatherings near the Gateway of India, Marine Drive, Girgaum Chowpaty beach, Juhu beach, Bandra Bandstand and other prominent locations on the evening of December 31.W

Accordingly, security arrangements have been made to avoid any law and order problem or street crimes, a police official said.

A traffic police will also be on duty to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

As many as 10,000 police constables, 1,500 officers, 25 deputy commissioners of police and seven additional commissioners of police will be part of the security deployment, he said.

Besides, 46 SRPF platoons, three Riot Control Police units

and 15 QRTs will also be deployed, the official said.

Speaking about the preparations, Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar said this being the first New Year's Eve celebration after two years of COVID-19 restrictions, police expect people to step out in large numbers to welcome the new year.

"Besides the police personnel deployed for duty, all the senior police officers including myself will not celebrate New Year, will not take leave but we all will be on the ground on 'bandobast duty' on New Year's Eve," he said.

Safety of citizens, especially that of children and women was their top priority, the top cop added.

Plain clothes police personnel would also be deployed in crowds and a close watch will be kept on popular spots through CCTV.

There will be checkpoints at more than 100 or 125 locations in the city and action will be taken against drunk drivers, the commissioner said.

He also warned that strict action will be taken against rave parties and consumption of narcotic drugs.

## Scuffle Onboard Bangkok-Kolkata Plane: Bcas Files Police Complaint; Scindia Says Such Passenger Behaviour Unacceptable

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) on Thursday filed a police complaint regarding the scuffle between passengers onboard a Thai Smile Airways plane from Bangkok to Kolkata earlier this week, and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said such passenger behaviour is unacceptable.

The security watchdog said the police has already started its investigation, and further action will follow.

"With regard to the scuffle between passengers on board a @

ThaiSmileAirway flight, a police complaint has been filed against those involved. Such behaviour is unacceptable," Scindia said in a tweet.

According to sources, the airline in a report submitted to aviation regulator DGCA said the scuffle started sometime after a passenger refused to return his reclining seat to the straight position despite requests from the cabin crew, and that there was no serious injury to any passenger.

A video clip of the incident that happened before the take-off of the A320 plane from Bangkok on December 26 was

shared on social media on Wednesday. In the clip, a male passenger was being slapped multiple times by a few male co-passengers.

"BCAS has examined all reports from various entities, including those on social media and has taken a serious view of the incident. It has filed a police case under appropriate sections against all involved in the jurisdictional police station in Bidhannagar, West Bengal. The police has already started its investigations. Further action shall follow," BCAS Director General Zulfiqar Hasan told PTI on Thursday.

According to the report submitted to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the male passenger refused to follow the cabin crew's instruction to bring the seat back to the reclining position, saying he was having backache.

The crew also told the male passenger that in case of an evacuation, a reclining seat will block passengers behind him from moving and that he will not be able to perform the bracing position properly. While the passenger refused to follow the instruction, another passenger came and the fight started, as

per the report.

The captain was informed about the situation and the take-off was delayed. Later, things calmed down and the flight continued as normal, it added.

On Thursday, a senior DGCA official said that in this case, the aircraft is registered in a foreign country and the incident also happened on foreign soil.

"Our laws do not apply in this case as it is a foreign operator and as per Chicago Convention, the oversight is with their regulator. Therefore, that regulator has to take appropriate action," the official told PTI.

Since the incident happened in Thailand, the regulator concerned will be the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT).

Queries sent to CAAT seeking comments on the incident did not immediately elicit any response.

Thai Smile Airways could not be immediately contacted for comments.

According to a male passenger who along with his mother was onboard the plane, the incident happened on December 26 before take-off. Later, other passengers and an air hostess pacified the individuals involved in the scuffle and the plane landed

in Kolkata on Tuesday morning.

The passenger, who is from Kolkata, told PTI that he was worried about his mother who was sitting near the seat where the incident happened.

In the clip, two passengers were seen arguing before one of them first said 'haath neeche kar' (put down your hands) and then started slapping the other person. A few other passengers were also involved in the scuffle.

Last week, a video clip of a heated exchange between a passenger and an air hostess onboard an IndiGo flight from Istanbul to Delhi was shared on social media.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 180 Militants Killed

in which 26 militants were killed including 20 from LeT, four from JeM and two from HM. Kulgam district reported at least 18 encounters in which 23 militants were killed including 10 from JeM, 9 from LeT and two each from Al-Badr and HM.

Moreover, there were several encounters in several districts in which militants managed to give slip to forces after a brief exchange of fire.

Moreover, Jammu division reported nine encounters in which 13 militants were killed who were affiliated with LeT/JeM.

As per data, one militant was arrested during the encounter besides that around 130 militants/militant associates were arrested while six security forces were killed while 52 were injured during encounters in Kashmir division. The figures also suggest that 32 civilians including Kashmiri Pandits, non-local labourers were killed in year 2022 in Kashmir among them two civilians were killed in grenade while one was killed in misfire in Hall Shopian.

Four civilians including one each from Pandoshan Shopian, Turkwangan Shopian, Amshipora Shopian and Redwani Kulgam during cross fire during encounters in the year 2022.

As per data 126 security forces were died in year 2022 in different incidents like attacks, suicide incidents, mysterious firing, heart attacks, IED, Avalanche, helicopter crash and hit and run incidents.

"In year 2022, around 100 youth joined militant ranks and among them around 65 were killed, 17 were arrested while the rest 20 are active. The figure is less since 2017 as in year 2017, 126 youth joined militant ranks, 218 in year 2018, 126 in 2019, 167 in 2020 and 128 in year 2021," the figures reveal, adding that 53 youth had joined militant ranks in year 2014, 65 in year 2015 and 88 in year 2016--(KNO)

### Car Fall Into

accident in Ramban district, police said a cab fell into a deep gorge near Kela Morh along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway around 7.15 am.

The cab's driver Mudassar Ahmad Langno (37), a resident of Srinagar's Dalgate area, died in the accident. He was going to Jammu, the official said.

### Snowfall Ends

Almost 3 inches of snow accumulated in Gulmarg while two inches of snowfall has accumulated in higher reaches of north including Gurez and Sadhna Top.

Four inches of snowfall accumulated in Mughal Road, Sinthan Top and Margan Top while Pahalgam received light snowfall and in Sonamarg two inches snowfall had accumulated when the report was being filed.

Moreover, Deputy Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar

Ahmad said that there is a possibility of light snowfall in plains of Kashmir while the plains in southern and northern districts may receive light to moderate snowfall till tomorrow.

He added that the higher reaches of Kashmir would also receive light to moderate snowfall.

He also said that the night temperature would plummet further across Kashmir in coming days as there is no forecast of any major wet spell till January 07 next year.

The snowfall has led to the closure of major roads in Kashmir including Srinagar-Jammu highway, Srinagar-Leh highway, Bandipora-Gurez road, Mughal road and others.

Jammu-Srinagar highway has been closed due to heavy rainfall at Cafeteria Morh, near Ramban, while higher reaches of Pir Panjal mountain range received heavy snowfall, resulting in the closure of Mughal road, officials said.

Officials said that due to fresh snowfall, Karnah-Kupwara, Gurez-Bandipora roads and Srinagar-Leh highway have been closed as precautionary measures.

Moreover, Sonamarg-Zojila road was also closed after fresh snowfall at Zojila in Ganderbal district.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued helpline numbers, asking the general public to contact the officers mentioned in case of any assistance.

The district administration Ganderbal has also issued an advisory, asking people to avoid venturing out in landslide prone areas.

"In view of the weather advisory issued by the Indian Meteorological Department, general public of Kangan Sub-Division and those living in higher reaches of the district are advised to remain cautious and not to venture out in slopes, hilly areas or flood/landslide prone areas till weather improves," the advisory reads.

Municipal Council, Baramulla and Sopore in north Kashmir also issued helpline numbers for the general public, requiring assistance in view of the prevalent weather situation and to facilitate the movement of the public.

The general public have been asked to contact the following numbers in case of eventualities. For Baramulla, the helpline numbers are : 9469099988, 9419405699, 7006830599, 6005838686, 9419046071 and 70062 82550. Similarly, for Sopore, the numbers are : 7006409155, 7006960388, 7006616552, 7780815655 and 7006104721. With inputs from KNO

### Mughal Road

and SSG road closed for vehicular movement due to fresh snowfall," the official said. He said subject to fair weather and road clearance, LMVs Passenger and Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar highway viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. "TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with

TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."

### Most Kashmiris

research has found that a major and durable immune response occurs if a person has been both vaccinated and got infected with the virus," he said.

The DAK President said more than 90 percent of the population in Kashmir is vaccinated and people have contracted the virus more than once during three Covid-19 waves that we witnessed since the beginning of the pandemic.

"The third wave was caused by omicron and its sub variants which are responsible for Covid-19 cases globally even now. We have been exposed to almost all of them over the last few months without there being any sign of surge in cases or hospitalization. And, we don't see this trend changing soon," he said.

"So there is no need to panic over Covid rise in China and other countries as Kashmiris have excellent protection against currently circulating variants," said Dr Nisar.

"However, we need to enhance genome sequencing of Covid-19 to look for newer variants," he said.

"There is an urgent need to set up a genetic testing lab in Kashmir to detect and track Covid-19 variants," he added.

### Negative Report

The Covid test must be conducted within 72 hours of undertaking the journey to India and the negative report from the RT-PCR test has to be uploaded on the Air Suvidha portal before their departure, the minister said.

This requirement is in addition to the random testing of international passengers on their arrival in India irrespective of their port of departure. Last week, the government made random coronavirus testing mandatory for two per cent of passengers arriving on each international flight.

Already many countries, including the US, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Italy have announced testing requirements for passengers from China.

The government ramped up its surveillance against Covid-19 amid a spike in coronavirus cases in some countries, including China, and tightened Covid guidelines and asked states and Union territories to prepare for any eventuality.

According to the Union health ministry data on Thursday, India recorded 268 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases increased to 3,552.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.11 per cent while the weekly positivity was pegged at 0.17 per cent, the ministry said.

### Searches Intensified

Immediately after the encounter, Additional

Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh said the search is being done at bus stands, railway stations and marketplaces, while all checkpoints have also been alerted to arrest the fleeing truck driver.

"The number plate of the truck is fake. The engine and chassis number has also been tampered and the help of forensic teams will be sought in this regard," he had said.

A huge cache of arms and ammunition including seven AK-47 rifles, one M4 rifle, three pistols, 14 grenades and around 50,000 were recovered from the possession of the slain militants whose identity and group affiliation are awaited.

The officials said sniffer dogs were also pressed into service and efforts are on to nab the driver and also to identify the owner of the truck.

### Amit Shah Calls

a common platform to achieve the national objectives and vision and take the country forward in the journey of development. Shah said that Union Territories are small in geographical size and have a relatively simple administrative set up, therefore Union Territories are ideal prototypes to experiment with pilot programmes. These experiments can be tested on a small scale in the Union Territories and then replicated in larger regions and States. He said that the focus should be on cooperatives, especially in the fisheries sector, for development and public participation. At the same time, Union Territories should focus on increasing their manufacturing sector to reduce their dependence on external resources so as to reduce the loss of revenue in the process. Shah said that tourist circuits should be developed in the country to attract more tourists and reduce the cost of transportation etc.

Amit Shah said that in this Amrit Kaal, all Indians should take a pledge to transform India into "Best India". It is an overall vision year for the year 2047 when India will complete 100 years of Independence. All Union Territories have been given a roadmap for 2047 and an action plan for the next 5 years and the goals set for the next 5 years to be achieved. An annual plan should be drawn up. The implementation and progress of these action plans should also be monitored and reviewed regularly and rigorously to derive maximum benefits.

The Home Minister said that development should reach the grassroots level, the indicator of development cannot be measured only by the rising figures of GDP, but it can be measured only by the positive impact it has on the remotest and most deprived people of the society. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kept the Panch Pranas of Amrit Kaal and every Union Territory Administration should imbibe the spirit of these Panch Pranas in the performance of their duties. The Union Territories should be guided by these five

principles: creation of safe and secure Union Territories; achieving saturation in flagship schemes; Minimum Government, Maximum Governance; zero tolerance towards corruption; and develop best practices for the overall development of the Union Territories.

The Union Home Minister said that primary education is an important medium to ensure that the future generations of the country imbibe these five principles. He said that the inspirational life of Sri Aurobindo has many lessons and meanings for administration. The Union Territories, especially Puducherry, should take the lead in documenting the lessons of his life and spreading awareness about them.

Amit Shah called upon all Union Territories to exchange best practices while stressing on safe Union Territories, completion of flagship schemes, minimum government and maximum governance and zero tolerance against corruption. He said that Union Territories should become models of self-reliance and every Union Territory should be proud of its heritage. The Home Minister also said that immense tourism potential will be developed in Union Territories. Appreciating the progress made by the Union Territories so far, he also encouraged all the participants to work in synergy to realize the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The conference provided an opportunity for cross learning and knowledge sharing between Union Territories and other stakeholders, as well as a platform for Union Territories to voice their aspirations, achievements, local priorities and unique challenges. As a preparation for the conference, a brainstorming session was held in Puducherry in November this year in which officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as officials from 8 Union Territories met for two days. The three working areas - economic development, tourism and flagship plans and best practices were discussed in detail and shaped the agenda of the conference.

The conference began with a welcome address by the Union Home Secretary and presentations on each of the three verticals followed by introduction of the topics of discussion. Each presentation was followed by in-depth discussions and key findings were outlined. The three sectors discussed the strengths and challenges, uniqueness and potential of each of the Union Territories and how to fully tap them to become engines of growth. The aspirations of the Union Territories for the next 5 years were also highlighted and ways to achieve these aspirations and goals were put forward. In his address, the Cabinet Secretary congratulated and wished all the participants well for conducting an insightful session on Union Territories. The conference ended with the guidance and way forward given by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah.

## Secy Health Reviews Fire Safety Measures In Health Institutions

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar, today chaired a meeting of officers to review fire safety measures put in place in health institutions across the UT.

Secretary sought institution-wise status of fire fighting system and other alternative mechanisms available in hospitals from concerned heads of the institutions.

Bhupinder maintained that fire incidents are more prone to occur in winter conditions as there are issues of over-usage of heating devices for which he cautioned all the officers to remain vigilant.

He laid stress on conducting

fresh mock drills, getting fresh fire audits conducted through Fire and Emergency Department besides addressing the deficiencies identified in the previous fire audits. With respect to projects of fire fighting systems under execution, he exhorted upon the officers to chase the executing agencies for early completion of the projects.

The meeting was attended by the Principal's of all Government Medical Colleges, Government Dental Colleges, Director Health Services Jammu and Kashmir, Director Coordination, new GMCs, Additional Secretaries of Health and Medical Education Department, Superintendents of SKIMS and other hospitals, Chief Medical Officers and others.

## 7 People Charged For Duping People On Pretext Of Jobs In JKP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offence Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has produced Challan against 7 accused persons for grabbing huge amount from complainants on the pretext of providing jobs in Jammu and Kashmir police.

According to a statement, challan was filed in case FIR No.19/2015 U/S 419, 420, 120-B RPC before the court of JMJC Ganderalb against Rakesh Kumar, Manzoor Ahmad Ganaie, Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Gh. Mohammad, Ab. Qayoom Sheikh, Shakeel Ahmad Mir S/O Ghulam and Ab. Hamid Bhat.

The statement reads the instant case was registered upon a receipt of written complaint, wherein it was alleged that Rakesh Kumar and others in league with each other have dishonestly and fraudulently

grabbed huge amount from the complainants on the pretext of providing jobs in J&K Police.

"Subsequently, preliminary verification was ordered to be conducted into the matter which culminated into registration of Case FIR No. 19/2015 of Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir ( Now Economic Offence Wing) and investigation set into the motion," it reads.

It reads during the course of investigation, it was established that all accused persons under a well planned criminal conspiracy lured the victims on the pretext of providing jobs in J&K Police and dishonestly grabbed huge amount by cheating them.

"The acts committed prima facie disclosed commission of offence punishable U/S 419, 420, 120-B RPC and accordingly challan of was produced in the court of law for judicial determination," it reads.

## Syed Adil Becomes Second Kashmiri To Crack ISS Exam

Agencies

BARAMULLA: 26-year-old Syed Adil Zahoor from Hajibal village of Baramulla has become the second Kashmiri in the last three decades to crack the Indian Statistical Service (ISS) exam held by the UPSC.

Adil, currently serving in the Block Development Office Qaziabad as Accounts Assistant, has cracked the prestigious examination in his first attempt.

He told a local news agency KNO that he is happy to crack this examination and gave credit for his success to his teachers at University of Kashmir and to his parents who guided and supported him.

"One must learn to overcome challenges and believe in himself besides follow dreams with dedication and hard work as these things are key to success in any field," he said.

Adil with Master's degree in statistics from University of Kashmir completed his secondary education at Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Baramulla before pursuing his bachelors in Arts from Government Degree College Boys in Baramulla and later joined boys college Baramulla.

"I qualified Junior Research Fellowship in 2020 followed by Accounts Assistant examina-



tion conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board in 2021," he said.

"I have faced many challenges in my life including the lack of access to mobile network, road connectivity besides financial issues as father is working in the private sector at a meagre salary," he added.

His father Zahoor Ahmad said that parents must encourage their children and support them to face challenges in their life. "They will definitely shine in their fields," he added.

The first Kashmiri who passed the ISS examination is Haji Altaf who is now holding the Deputy Director General position and cracked this exam around 3 decades ago.



A VENDOR HOLDING AN UMBRELLA packs fruits for his client during season's first snowfall in Srinagar on Thursday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Union Minister Meghwal Assures Fast-Paced Development In Rajouri



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday assured fast-paced development of Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Rajouri.

He also promised a ropeway project for Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah shrine at Shahdra Sharif and setting up of a museum of Baba Bandha Singh Bahadur in the district.

"I was here with a twin objective to ensure speedy development of the district and garner public support for the next Lok Sabha elections...We have received many suggestions related to developmental works and other issues which will be taken care of," the minister told reporters at the end of his two-day tour of the district.

Meghwal said he met BJP leaders and workers and cross-section of the society besides the district administration including civil and police officers, and the main focus of the meetings remained speedy development of the region.

"I am preparing a detailed report for the party (BJP) president. The purpose of my visit

was to look into the shortcomings or obstacles, if any, in the development works so that appropriate action is taken to ensure all round development," he said.

Referring to the suggestions about setting up of a ropeway project from Sharda Sharif shrine to DKG top for tourism promotion, the minister supported the demand and said he would like to see the project sanctioned and completed.

He said he has asked the deputy commissioner, Rajouri, to submit a proposal for construction of a museum in the name of Sikh warrior Baba Bandha Singh Bahadur in his hometown Rajouri.

The minister said many issues related to slow pace of work on construction of roads, bridges and mini-secretariat building also came up during the discussions.

On the demand for regularization of daily wagers who are performing their duties for the last 30 years, he said the government will work out a solution to the long-standing issue to the satisfaction of the workers.

"They have been engaged by the previous governments against non-sanctioned posts.

Their issue needs a long term plan, whether in the form of their regularization or some other way so that they live a dignified life. The government is looking into it," he said.

The minister said he will also look into the people's demand for a rail link between Jammu and the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

On the first day of his tour, the minister took a comprehensive review of the progress made under centrally-sponsored schemes during a meeting with officers of district administration.

At the outset of the meeting, Rajouri District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal gave a detailed account of the physical and financial progress under centrally-sponsored schemes being implemented by different departments in the district, an official said.

He said the minister also held a detailed discussion on the roads being executed by the Border Roads Organisation.

Issues impeding the execution of work on Badalamang and Vedanta Ashram bridge were also discussed in detail during the meeting, the official said.

## COVID-19 RESURGENCE

# No Need To Panic As Most Kashmiris Have Hybrid Immunity: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With surge in Covid-19 cases in various countries, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday said there is no need to panic as most people in Kashmir have hybrid immunity because of a combination of widespread natural infection and vaccination.

"Hybrid immunity offers robust and long lasting protection against Covid-19," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement.

Dr Hassan said according to a new study people with hybrid immunity developed by both vaccination and previous infections have significant protection against future Covid infections.

"The research has found that

a major and durable immune response occurs if a person has been both vaccinated and got infected with the virus," he said.

The DAK President said more than 90 per cent of the population in Kashmir is vaccinated and people have contracted the virus more than once during three Covid-19 waves that we witnessed since the beginning of the pandemic.

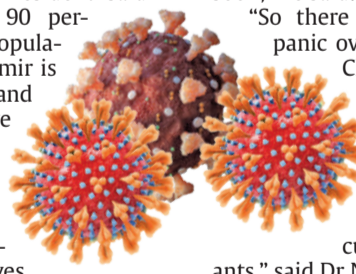
"The third wave was caused by omicron and its sub variants which are responsible for Covid-19 cases globally even now. We have been exposed to almost all of them over the last

few months without there being any sign of surge in cases or hospitalization. And, we don't see this trend changing soon," he said.

"So there is no need to panic over Covid rise in China and other countries as Kashmiris have excellent protection against currently circulating variants," said Dr Nisar.

"However, we need to enhance genome sequencing of Covid-19 to look for newer variants," he said.

"There is an urgent need to set up a genetic testing lab in Kashmir to detect and track Covid-19 variants," he added.



## Rana Calls For Setting Up Of Helplines For Consumer Redressal In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devesh Singh Rana Thursday urged the Union Territory Government to set up Consumer Helplines across Jammu and Kashmir, as part of grievance redressal mechanism, saying consumer satisfaction is imperative for growth and success of businesses.

"District Consumer Forums assume immense significance for being the immediate platform for the consumer to seek redressal", Rana said while speaking at a function held in observance of National



Consumer Day, organized by Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Pan-

chayat (ABGP) at K L Sehgal

Sabharwal, here.

Rana, who was the Chief Guest at the function, said special emphasis needs to be laid on mitigating the consumers of rural areas who form a large chunk of the end clientele. Since they have limited access to the redressal forums, helplines are needed to be set up to cater to their requirements. He also sought a vibrant consumer awareness campaign, hoping that the participants could be change agents in this regard.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Arun Gupta, President

Jammu Chamber of Commerce, Madan Lal Magotra, Deputy Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, Jammu and Suhail Qazmi, Member Waqf Board.

The programme began with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp by the guests. The students of the Bhartiya Vidya Mandir and Bal Bharti Ved Mandir performed Grahak Geet and Sarawati Vandana.

Mahant Rajesh Bittu State President ABGP along with office bearers of the organization formally welcomed the eminent dignitaries by presenting them bouquets.

## DC Anantnag Inaugurates Jashn E Chilai Kalan At Kokernag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom Thursday inaugurated Jashn E Chilai Kalan, Winter Tourism Festival at Kokernag here. The festival has been organized by Kokernag Development Authority to promote tourist footfall at Kokernag during winters.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Basharat said that Kokernag is blessed with unparalleled scenic landscape. He said that increased tourist influx will create earning avenues for the local people as well. He appreciated the efforts put in by KDA in organizing the festival and appealed to tourists to visit Kokernag to experience nature.

Prince Ahmad Sheikh, President MC, Kokernag said that MC Kokernag is committed to the development of the area. He said that MC is playing a critical role in the development of a clean and green Kokernag. He informed that there is particular focus on planned development of the area.

CEO KDA Mohd Altaf Wani said that KDA is taking all necessary steps to facilitate tourists visiting the area and expected that the festival will boost tourist footfall in the area.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner inspected stalls put up by various departments to showcase their products and services.

Impressed by the craftsmanship demonstrated in weaving a cashmilon wool blend blanket prepared by local weavers with support from Handicrafts and Handlooms Department, he said that such exquisite craftsmanship will attract buyers anywhere in the world given adequate marketing.

The dignitaries also had words of appreciation for young children participating in the painting competition. Colourful cultural programs highlighting rich heritage and culture associated particularly with winters in Kashmir were presented by various artists and by Alamdar Theatre Group from Akhngam.

The Deputy Commissioner later inaugurated the Boiler Plant and laundry section at SDH Kokernag. On the occasion, the CMO briefed the DC that the boiler plant will provide central heating to the patients at the hospital. He added that the boiler plant is the first of its kind in the district and will help in enhancing patient care.

The Deputy Commissioner accompanied by SDM and CMO inspected the functioning of the hospital and interacted with the patients and staff. He also inspected the 400 LPM oxygen plant at the hospital and directed the CMO to ensure operational readiness besides availability of manpower and machinery to respond to re-emergence of COVID cases.

## Dr Owais Visits Bandipora Hospital, Reviews Specifications Required For DNB Courses



Press Trust Of India

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad along with J&K Nodal Officer DNB Courses Dr. Jitendar Mehta visited District Hospital Bandipora to review the provisions for starting DNB Courses.

The duo took a thorough inspection of District Hospital Bandipora to review DNB District Residency Programme and implementation of DVDMS.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad said, the visit was aimed to review the facilities available for starting DNB courses of Gynaecology and ophthalmology which will enhance manpower and exper-

tise in DH Bandipora. He said efforts are on to meet the guidelines and requirements for DNB courses and hoped that both the courses will be sanctioned to DH Bandipora which will ultimately improve patient care.

He said establishment of additional wards including geriatric ward, chemotherapy ward, paediatric ward in addition to establishment of gynaecology HDU unit ICU besides other facilities are also under process.

He expressed satisfaction for the pace of work in ongoing works and extended best wishes to the MS and staff of the hospital for ranking 1st on JK e-Sahaj for the month of November 2022.

## Guru Gobind Singh Ji Parkash Purab Celebrated With Gaiety in Poonch



Observer News Service

POONCH: The Prakash Parv (birth anniversary) of Tenth Guru Sri Gobind Singh Ji was celebrated with great religious fervour and gaiety across Poonch District.

A grand function in this connection was held at Gurdwara Singh Sabha city Poonch. A large number of people from all walks of life participated in the congregation and paid the obeisance.

After the accomplishment of Shri Akhand Path Sahib, Gurbani kirtan was recited by the Hazuri Ragi Jatha Shri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar Bhai Jagjit Singh Noor, Dadih Jatha Bhai Shemshar Singh from Akal Takhat Sahib and local Ragi Jathas Bhai Harcharan Singh, Bhai Rasmeem Singh, Bhai Man-

jeet Singh and others. In the programme, General Secretary DGPC, Poonch, S.Harcharan Singh anchored the programme.

Bhai Ravinder Singh, Parharak from Sikh Missionary Circle Poonch, threw light on the sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

During the smagam, President DGPC, Narinder Singh, threw light on the life of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He said Guru Gobind Singh Ji laid down his own life and sacrificed his father, mother and sons for the sake of humanity and protection of the right cause of humanity.

Finally, President of DGPC, Narinder Singh thanked the Sangat, Sewadars, Ragi Jatha and Parharak for participation and cooperation. Guru ka langer was also served during this smagam.



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