

## No One Can Encroach Even An Inch Of Our Land: Amit Shah

Press Trust Of India

**BENGALURU:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday lauded the Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP), calling them 'Himaveer' (snow bravehearts) and said no one can encroach even an inch of our land when they are there at the borders.

Hailing the ITBP personnel, he said they guard our borders in harsh conditions and that the title of 'Himaveer' for them is bigger than Padma Sri and Padma Vibhushan.

"We cannot even imagine how they guard our borders in minus 42 degree

Celsius temperature. This can happen only with a strong willpower and supreme degree of patriotism. The ITBP works in the odd geographical conditions in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh or Jammu and Kashmir," Shah said after inaugurating the Central Detective Training Institute of the ITBP here.

"People of India call the ITBP soldiers as 'Himaveer.' This title is bigger than the Padma Sri and Padma Vibhushan civilian awards. While the civilian awards are the government title, 'Himaveer' is the title given by the people of India," Shah told the gathering.



Among all the central armed police forces, the ITBP works in the most odd weather conditions, he pointed out. "I am always assured and never

worry at all about the Indo-China border when our ITBP soldiers are patrolling or camping because no one there can encroach even an inch of our land," the Home Minister said.

He also said the Government of India is planning to provide 100 days for the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel to spend time with their family at their headquarters.

"This is necessary from a human point of view," Shah added.

The Home Minister also told the gathering that ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government

came to power at the Centre it improved the housing and health facilities of the CAPF.

Speaking about the importance of research, he said police becomes irrelevant when it stops thinking about the changes happening in the society and reforms itself accordingly.

"The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) is an institution which gives a big strength to the police but unfortunately, it did not get the attention it deserved. Also, it did not receive the recognition it should have got," Shah said.

► More On P6

## Night Temperature Up After Fresh Snowfall

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Residents here in many places got a slight respite from the bone-chilling cold when on Saturday the minimum temperature settled above the freezing point, officials said on Saturday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at 0.4 degrees Celsius up from minus 0.3 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, was another place where the mercury settled above the freezing point last night. The town registered a low of 0.5 degrees Celsius up 2.5 degrees.

Pahalgam, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 9 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minimum in Gulmarg, the famous ski-resort, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, was minus 8 degrees Celsius down from minus 5.5 degrees Celsius.

In the frontier district of Kupwara, the minimum temperature settled at minus 1.1 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of Chilla-i-Kalan, the 40-day harshest weather period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' begins on December 21 and ends on January 30.

The cold wave continues even after that with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) following it.

Most areas of the valley received snowfall on Thursday.

The MeT Office has said the weather will remain mostly dry over the next few days.

Expect further fall in the minimum temperature across J-K, leading to warmer days, but colder nights, the MeT Office added.

## 'Mission Zero Terror in J&K' Our New Year Resolution: DGP

Says Year 2022 more peaceful compared to past 4 years; 56 foreigners among 186 militants killed; 100 youth joined militancy, 17 arrested; other killed, only 18 remaining; 159 militants/OGW arrested; 14 cops, 17 SF personnel killed



KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh Saturday said that year 2022 was the most peaceful year on the security front compared to last four years that saw the killing of 56 foreigners among 186 militants.

He also said that 100 youth joined militancy in the year 2022 of which 17 were arrested and the rest were killed in various encounters while only 18 are left.

Addressing the year-end press conference at Jammu, DGP Singh said that compared to the past four years, year 2022 was most peaceful on the security front. ► More On P6

## Hints At Legal Action Against Salahudin

Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh hinted on Saturday that action could be taken against Syed Sallahuddin, the Pakistan-based supreme commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen, and said dossiers have been prepared of almost all the local terrorists operating from across the border.

He dismissed People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti's remarks that hundreds of youngsters are languishing in jails as draconian anti-terror laws, such as the UAPA, are slapped ruthlessly in Kashmir on "flimsy and trivial grounds", saying it is a "personal perception" and adding that "we are open to any kind of scrutiny". ► More On P6



A GROUP OF TOURISTS PREPARING to celebrate New Year at the ski resort of Gulmarg on Saturday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Let's Work Together To Take J&K To New Heights: LG

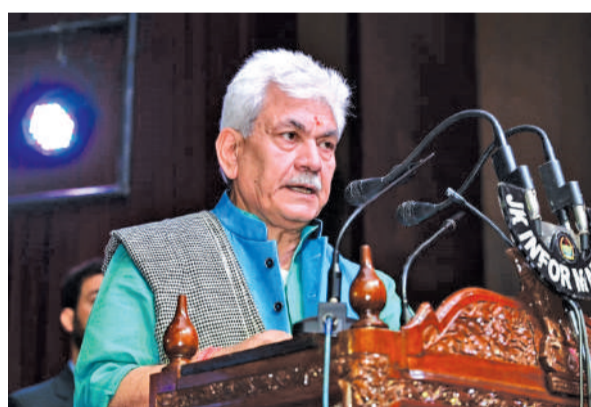
Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his government is determined to redouble the efforts for rapid growth, economic security & prosperity to meet the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha made these remarks in his New Year message for the people of J&K.

"My warmest greetings and good wishes to all on the joyous occasion of New Year, he said.

The New Year, Sinha said is an occasion to reflect upon the year gone by and to renew our resolve to strive for inclusive development and to maintain the impetus towards higher economic growth, social development and overall progress of the



society in the year ahead.

"We are determined to redouble our efforts for rapid growth, economic security & prosperity to meet the aspirations of the people. Let us work together to take J&K UT to new heights of achievement. May the year 2023 bring prosperity, good health and happiness to all," the LG added.

Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta also greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on New Year.

In his message, Dr Mehta wished the people of Jammu and Kashmir a bright and happy New Year and prayed that 2023 would usher in peace and happiness for all and see progress. ► More On P6

## J&K Bank Raises Rs 1000 Cr Capital As Tier-II Bonds

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Saturday said it has raised Rs 1,021 crore as Tier-II bonds from the market as part of its efforts to strengthen its capital position.

"The issue was oversubscribed by more than 100 per cent," J K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said.

"It will not only help boost our expansion plans as envisaged in our strategy for business growth especially in the rest of the country by improving our risk bearing capacity substantially but will also go a long way



in maintaining adequate capital buffers over and above the regulatory BASEL - III compliance requirement", he added.

Bank CFO P D Punjabi said the bank has accomplished the task well and it will be reckoned in the capital adequacy for the quarter ending December 2022.

The capital issuance Committee of the bank's board has approved the allotment of these bonds, a spokesman of the bank said.

## ACB Alerts Govt Over Purchases Effected Through GeM

Recommends Slew Of Measures To Plug Loopholes

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu & Kashmir's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has sent an alert note to the Government over purchases being made from Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

A communique sent by the ACB on September 9, 2022 to the General Administration Department (GAD) advises that departments shall avoid buying from a single vendor.

"Buying from a single vendor shall generally be avoided, and the departments shall not split the requirements which are against the principles of financial propriety," reads the ACB note.

In the communique, the

ACB has pointed out that it has observed during fact-finding that the present system with regard to purchases made on GeM is full of flaws and there seems to be a deep nexus between the buyers and vendors. "Favouring the selected vendors by the buyers in this process cannot be ruled out. In most cases, it has been reported that the buyer provides his ID and password in advance to prefixed vendors, so that the vendor may operate and manage all the things smoothly. This results in avoiding the competition and purchase of the goods and the services at exorbitant rates and further results in the exchange of huge amounts ► More On P6

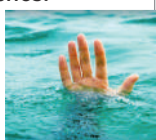
## SHORT TAKES

### Girl Jumps into Jhelum in Baramulla

**BARAMULLA:** A girl on Saturday jumped into the river Jhelum in Baramulla district while a search and rescue operation has been launched.

An official said that following the incident, a rescue team including police immediately rushed to the spot and launched searches.

He said a search operation to trace the girl was going on. The incident took place even as rescuers were still searching for a girl who jumped in Jhelum in Sopore last month.



### Search Ops Underway In Rajouri

**JAMMU:** Security forces on Saturday launched a search operation in parts of Jammu and Kashmir's border town of Rajouri, where two civilians were killed in a firing incident outside an Army camp early this month, officials said.

The search was being conducted by joint teams of the Army and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Phalyana and adjoining localities, including the Tourism Reception Center and fish pond, they said.

The officials said sniffer dogs were also pressed into service during the operation, which ► More On P6

### Man Slips To Death

**SRINAGAR:** A 40-year-old man died after he fell from a tree in Nowgam area of Sumbal in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday, officials said here.

An official said that the man identified as Bashir Ahmad Chakan of Nowgam area of Sumbal fell from a tree and died on the spot.

He said his body has been shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities, following which it will be handed to the family members. Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of this incident.



### Grey Langur Captured In Sopore

**SRINAGAR:** A grey langur was captured in Batapora area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district by the Wildlife department on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the langur was captured after the department received information about its presence in the area.

He said it was roaming in the residential areas, thereby posing a danger to people and their livestock. The official said soon after getting the information, it was captured and was subsequently released in the nearby forest area—(KNO)

# Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1  
DBS Scholarship Program

**Description:** DBS Bank invites applications from students who are currently enrolled in Class 9 or 10 to support them in continuing their education. The scholarship is meant for children of police personnel (Sub-Inspector and below ranks).

**Eligibility:** Open for children of police personnel (Sub-Inspector & below ranks) residing in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, or Puducherry. Applicants must be currently enrolled in Class 9 or 10.

- Prizes & Rewards: INR 20,000 per year (for up to 3 years)
- Last Date to Apply: 05-02-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/DBSDS11](http://www.b4s.in/observer/DBSDS11)

Scholarship Name 2

Scholarship Name 2  
Narotam Sekhsaria Scholarship Programme 2023

**Description:** Narotam Sekhsaria Scholarship Programme 2023 is an opportunity offered by the Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation (a foundation supporting NGO initiatives across the country) to meritorious Indian students who are willing to pursue a postgraduate programme at top-ranking institutions in India and abroad.

**Eligibility:** Open for Indian nationals who are below 30 years of age and have graduated from an accredited Indian University. The applicants must be planning to pursue Master's, PhD degree at top-ranking institutions starting the fall semester.

- Prizes & Rewards: Interest-free loan scholarships
- Last Date to Apply: 16-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/NSSP4](http://www.b4s.in/observer/NSSP4)



Scholarship Name 3  
Credit Suisse Scholarship for MBA and MA (Economics) Students 2022

**Description:** Buddy4Study invites applications from students enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) courses in selected institutions. The scholarship aims to provide

the necessary financial support which can help qualified candidates bridge the gap between the cost of the program fees and their ability to pay the fee.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be enrolled in MBA/MA (Economics) programs at one of the designated institutions.

They must have passed Class 12 or Graduation and scored at least 60% marks or above.

Demonstrate significant financial need, defined as family income less than or equal to INR 500,000 per annum (subject to verification by Buddy4Study)

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to 80% of total fees or a fixed sum of up to INR 200,000, whichever is lesser
- Last Date to Apply: 15-01-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/CSE4](http://www.b4s.in/observer/CSE4)

## ASF ENTERPRISES

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## OFFICE OF THE DEAN SCHOOL OF OPEN LEARNING UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

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### INTERVIEW NOTICE

The following candidates who had appeared in the written test for engagement as Contractual Assistant Programmer held on 15.12.2022 on basis of their performance in the written/academic merit have been shortlisted for interview:

**220002, 220023, 220027, 220028, 220044, 220045, 220046, 220049, 220050, 220052.**

The above candidates are informed that a meeting of selection committee for the above purpose has been fixed on 4th January, 2023 at 10:30AM in the office chamber of Director – Directorate of Distance Education. As such the above short listed candidates are required to remain present along with original testimonials on the scheduled date, venue and time.

Note: No TA/DA shall be paid for appearing in the interview.

Sd/- Dean, SOL

DIPK-NB-5843/22 dated: 31-12-2022

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER SHOPIAN

Email id: [dicinfspn@gmail.com](mailto:dicinfspn@gmail.com) Phone No: 01933-293447

### Tender Notice

**Subject:- Hiring of commercial vehicles with valid permit.**

Sealed Tenders are invited from registered tour/vehicle operators of the district Shopian for Hiring of vehicles on need basis for official use. The interested parties are requested to submit the sealed tenders. The sealed tenders must reach to the office of the undersigned on or before 10-01-2023 (10:00 AM Sharp). The acceptance and finalization of tenders will be subject to following conditions:-

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. The vehicle required must not be below the model of 2016 and in excellent running condition.
2. The contract will be only allotted after proper verification of all relevant documents and subject to the fit condition of vehicle.
3. The parties should own vehicle on his own /firm name with model registered as commercial vehicles. The proof of ownership holding should be enclosed with the bid.
4. The rates / quoted shall be all inclusive including maintenance of vehicle.
5. The rates shall be applicable for the financial year 2022-23.

(Showkat Hussain Ganie) JKAS  
(District Information Officer, Shopian)

No: DIC/INF/SPN-412/2022  
DIPK-15835/22 Dated: 31/12/ 2022

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: [xenmhchdk@yahoo.in](mailto:xenmhchdk@yahoo.in))

Gist of E-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS/2022-23/183/e-tendering

Dated: 30.12.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of	Technical Sanction No	AAA accorded vide	Earnest Money (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Servicing of 125 KVA DG Set at Sub-District Hospital, Beerwah.		100	5 Days	29 of 12/2022, (AEE SD-3 <sup>rd</sup> )	DHSK/ Acctt/6838-42, Dt:28-10-2022	800
Servicing of 30 KVA DG Set at Sub-District Hospital, Magam.		100	5 Days	30 of 12/2022, (AEE SD-3 <sup>rd</sup> )	DHSK/ Acctt/6838-42, Dt:28-10-2022	400
Providing and fitting of Automatic Temperature Regulator to the AHUs in Modular Operation Theatres at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar.		100	5 Days	54 of 12/2022, (AEE SD-2 <sup>nd</sup> )	05-MCS of 2022, Dt: 10-06-2022	600
Providing and filling of Refrigerant R-410-A in VRV System of SPS Library, Srinagar.		200	5 Days	MHCHD/ TS/137 Dated 12/22	142DL of 2022, Dated: 23-08-2022	2300

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 30.12.2022 (18:00 hrs).
2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 31.12.2022 (10:00hrs) to 05.01.2023 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 05.01.2023 (16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar

No. MHCHD/ TS/8975-82  
DIPK-15808/22  
Date: 31-12-2022

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

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

eNIT No.107 of 2022-23/6251-58/R&B SSD Uri e-tendering

DATED: 30-12-2022

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

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Snow Clearance of various roads in Boniyar Block.	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow	All Class

**1** The bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below-

Table 1:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-12-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30-12-2022, 01.00 P.M. to 05-01-2023, 01.00 P.M.
3	Bid submission Start Date	30-12-2022 01.00 P.M.
4	Bid Submission End Date	05-01-2023 01:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-01-2023, 02:00 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri

**2** Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

**3** All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri. In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.

**4** The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri (tender receiving authority).

**5** The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

**6** The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

**7** The Department shall be at liberty to add or delete a road or a stretch there off from the listed stage contract scope.

No.SSDU/2022/6251-58  
DIPK-15807/22 Dated: 31-12-2022

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Special Sub Division Uri



# 24 Erring Shopkeepers Fined In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement squad of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) on Saturday conducted a market checking drive of various areas of Srinagar City.

During market checking 141 business establishments were inspected & a penal sum of Rs. 23000 was collected as fine from 16 erring shopkeepers for violation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Besides, 24 mutton shops were also sealed.

It is pertinent to mention that during the month of December-2022, an amount of Rs. 936200 was collected as fine from 1961 erring traders for violating E.C Act. Besides, 260 establishments also stand sealed.

Moreover, the erring lot has been reprimanded to remain careful in future. The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well and whosoever found violating the norms will be brought to justice.

# Arrangements For Celebration Of Republic Day-2023 Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with celebration of forthcoming Republic-Day-2023, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here on Saturday at Circuit House.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, SP Headquarter, SP Traffic, SP Security, Superintendent Engineer, R&B, SDM East, SDM West, Chief Planning Officer, Secretary SMC, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Director Tourism, Deputy CEO, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildars of South, Khanyar and Eidgah, besides senior Officers of PDD, Information, Cultural Academy, Hospitality & Protocol, RTO, Mechanical Engineering and other line Departments were present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a Department wise review about the arrangements to be put in place by the respective Departments.

The DC directed the Officers of the concerned Departments to ensure all preparations including Seating arrangements, March Past Parade, Cultural programmes, Transport & Parking facilities, Power & Water Supply, deployment of Sanitation staff, Medical/First Aid & Fire and Emergency teams, Installation of Public Address System, besides Illumination of Government Building on eve of Republic Day.

On the occasion, matters related to Security, Media Management and entry of VVIPs, VIPs and other participants were also discussed.

The DC also stressed on making fool-proof security arrangements in and around the stadium to ensure hassle-free celebrations of the function. He also enjoined upon the concerned Officers to maintain close coordination with each other for holding the function smoothly.

Regarding parking for vehicles, the DC asked the Officers of the Traffic Department to assess the capacity of the parking slots identified for the event and formulate an action plan so that the maximum number of vehicles of the dignitaries and other participants coming to attend the function are accommodated in a hassle free manner.

While SMC authorities were asked to ensure that all washrooms are functioning properly, besides establishing mobile toilets at the venue on January 26. They were also asked to take measures for dog menace around the venue.

The DC asked the Education Department and Cultural Academy to ensure all necessary arrangements for boarding/lodging of participating school children and Artists are taken care well in advance with concern, while transport arrangements will be made by SRTC.

In order to ensure hassle free entry of the Officials of the line Departments, the DC asked the Departments to submit a list of identifiers by January 5th, 2023 so that their security passes are made well in advance.

The DC also stressed on making elaborate arrangements of dewatering pumps to tackle water logging, if any caused due to rain/snowfall on the occasion of Full Dress rehearsal proceedings and the mega event on 26th January.

# DIPR Accords Warm Send-Off To Inam-Ul-Haq Siddiqui

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Joint Director Information Kashmir, Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui was accorded warm send-off on his superannuation by Director Information & Public Relations, Akshay Labroo and Officials of Information department Kashmir.

The function was organized by the Officers/ Officials of Information department Kashmir division in honour of the retiring Officer to bid him an affectionate farewell.

Siddiqui has served the J&K government in various capacities including as Asstt. Comm. Revenue, Asstt. Comm. Development, Asstt. Comm. Settlement, Dy. Secy CM Secretariat, Secretary in various Boards, Addl. Secretary/ Project Director Governor's Grievance Cell and CEO Gulmarg Development Authority. The Officer has played an instrumental role in upgrading the Grievance portal in the Governor's Grievance Cell. He was also awarded for his Integrity and Meritorious Public Service.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director lauded the marvelous services rendered by Siddiqui during his service in

the department. He praised the maturity, wise counsel, sense of responsibility and dedication of the retiring officer adding that he holds a good human and friendly nature which would be remembered for the times to come.

He prayed for the health and wellbeing of the retiring officer.

Other Officers while sharing their work experiences with the superannuating Officer said that the exemplary leadership qualities and dedication and perseverance exhibited by Siddiqui will ever inspire them to discharge their duties with determination.

Deputy Director (PR) Kashmir, Bilal Mukhtar; Assistant Director, M Aslam Khan; Information Officer (Adv), Beenish Wani; Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain and Officials of Joint Director Information Kashmir attended the function.

The retiring Joint Director Information Kashmir also spoke on the occasion and thanked the Director Information for always being there to support him in thick and thin besides taking due consideration of resolving issues confronting employees of Kashmir division upon his request.



# Conference On Sufism Held At SKICC

### Kashmir special in every aspect: Kerala Governor

Agencies

Srinagar: In a bid to revive Sufism in Kashmir, Global strategic policy foundation Pune organized Sufi conference at SKICC Srinagar on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering, chairman of GSPFP Dr. Anant Bhagwat said that through this conference a message should be sent to the world that respect for humanity is essential in today's era and all human beings should live with mutual respect and love for each other.

On the occasion, Governor of Kerala, Arif Muhammad Khan, who was the chief guest on the occasion said that Kashmir valley is already special in every aspect and giving special status to Kashmir according to law is not mandatory.

"It is not the time to divide people on religious lines as the world is becoming a global village where people belonging to

different religions live together." Arif said.

He said Indians should be concerned about dividing people on religious lines as the country has already faced a division due to it in 1947.

While addressing the gathering, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P. K pole said that Sufism is a message of peace, security, tolerance and by following Sufism we must teach our future generations the greater need of understanding it.

During the conference, guests were felicitated and as a part of honoring them, organizers tied turbans on their heads.

A number of Sufiyana music segments were performed by the Kashmiri singers of the valley which attracted a good audience including writers, poets, authors and other intellectuals.

The conference was attended by hundreds of people who came all along the way from Kashmir valley and other

parts of the country.

Speaking to reporters on the occasion, President JK chapter, Dr. Firdous Baba said that the aim of the conference was to make people aware about Sufism, the backbone of Islam which teaches people to spread peace, love and brotherhood.

He emphasized that with the beginning of the New Year, the role of Sufis in Kashmir must be highlighted and followed so that ever-lasting peace can be imposed in Kashmir from now.

"Although elements tried hard to suppress the voice of the majority of the people of Kashmir, targeted shrines and literature to ruin the fabrics of Sufism in Kashmir, but in the present scenario the Sufism is an only option to live peacefully and in the eco-friendly atmosphere with the people irrespective of religion, creed and caste," Dr. Baba Added. (CNS)

# KU Awards Its Outstanding Scientists, Teachers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir on Saturday awarded its outstanding scientists and teachers for their remarkable achievements and contributions in the areas of teaching and research.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofar Khan presented the awards in three categories, viz. Outstanding Scientists, Prestigious Awards and Best Teachers, at a special felicitation ceremony.

The awardees in the Outstanding Scientists category are the varsity's teachers who have recently figured in the research database of the Stan-

ford University that ranks the top 2 percent of scientists worldwide. These include Prof Farooq A Masoodi, Dean Academic Affairs and Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology; Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, and Professor, Department of Earth Sciences; Prof Ghulam Jeelani, Department of Earth Sciences; Dr Imtiyaz A Khan, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology; Dr Adil Gani, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology; Dr Shabir Ahmad Parrah, Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics

and Instrumentation Technology; Dr Idrees A Wani, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology and Dr Ikhlaj Hussain, Assistant Professor, IOT Zakura Campus.

In the Best Teacher category, the awards were presented to Prof Manzoor A Shah, Department of Botany; Prof Bashir A Ganai, Centre of Research for Development (CORD) and Dr Javid Ahmad Sheikh, Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Technology. Dr Shafiq Altaf, Department of Kashmiri, was awarded in the category for 'Prestigious Awardees'.

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**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

 <b>HIJRI CALENDAR</b> 08 Jumad al-Sani 1444	<b>PRAYERS</b> FAJR 6:08 ZUHR 12:34 ASR 3:53 Magrib 5:35 ISHA 7:00
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## This Day In History

- 1724 - Glassblower Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit proposes system for making thermometers and the Fahrenheit temperature scale in a paper to the Royal Society of London and is elected a fellow on its basis
- 1758 - The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature establish the "starting point" for standardized species names across the animal kingdom, based on the binomial nomenclature by Carolus Linnaeus 10th edition of Systema Naturae
- 1772 - First traveler's cheques go on sale in London, can be used in 90 European cities
- 1800 - Dutch East Indies company dissolves
- 1801 - The Irish Parliament votes to join the Kingdom of Great Britain, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1804 - Haiti gains independence from France (National Day), making it the only state ever founded by former slaves and without slavery
- 1842 - 1st illustrated weekly magazine in US publishes 1st issue, NYC
- 1846 - Yucatan declares independence from Mexico
- 1860 - Slavery ends of in Neth Indies
- 1863 - Battle of Galveston, Texas-Confederates recapture the city
- 1869 - War of the Triple Alliance: Paraguay's capital Asuncion falls to Brazilian forces led by General João de Souza da Fonseca Costa
- 1890 - Eritrea is consolidated into a colony by the Italian government.
- 1891 - French troops occupy Niore, West-Sudan, 3000 killed
- 1895 - Norway adopts Mid-European time
- 1896 - German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen announces his discovery of x-rays
- 1903 - In Delhi, a great durbar, or formal reception, marks the coronation of King Edward VII as Emperor of India; the British release some 16,000 prisoners in honor of the occasion
- 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt and Edith Roosevelt unveil new renovations to the The White House, including a new West Wing 1927 - Turkey adopts the Gregorian calendar: December 18, 1926 (Julian), is immediately followed by January 1, 1927 (Gregorian).
- 1934 - International Telecommunication Union established
- 1935 - President Mustapha Kemal Pasha names himself "Ataturk: Father of Turkey"
- 1939 - Sydney, Australia, swelters in 45 °C (113 °F) heat, a record for the city.

## From KO Archives

### Cops Produce Youth In Court After His Fateha Khawani

**S**RINAGAR - A Kupwara youth 'missing' in police custody for the past two years and presumed dead by his family, was produced in the court last month by personnel of Soura police station after persistent efforts by the valley-based civil rights body, Human Rights Front (HRF) and the intervention of the National Human Rights Commission. All this while police had been denying they had the youth in their custody and the family had performed the Fateha Khawani as well as observed his death anniversary.

Muhammad Jamal Sheikh, of Panjar, Trihgam had been picked up during a Joint raid by Soura and the 100th battalion BSF from Batmaloo stand where he earned a living as a cart-puller.

HRF chairman Mohammad Ahsan Untoo had brought the custodial disappearance to the notice of the State Human Rights Commission, but both had drawn a blank with the police who continued to deny holding him.

It was only after Untoo took the matter to the NHRC and the commission issued a notice to the state police chief and the union defence ministry, that con from Soura police station produced Jamal in a Srinagar court on December 24, with a charge, reported fictitious, under the Indian Arms Act slapped against him.

Five day later, he was sent to Jail for a further 10 months under the Public Safety Act.

After his arrest two years ago, he had reportedly been subjected to severe physical and mental torture by a team of 'interrogators' led by the then SHO of the Soura police station, Abdul Rasheed Khan. It is pertinent to mention here that the SHO Rashid Khan wanted in a triple murder case is absconding for over an year now. Reportedly, at-tempts had also been made to liquidate Jamal in custody. (NAFA)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 01 January, 2001)

2022  
OPINION REWIND

The best of opinions  
published in 2022 by  
Kashmir Observer

KO Web Desk

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Riyaz Wani  
August 27, 2022

What Caused a Floody-  
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Can We Be Modern and  
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J&K's Unemployment Endemic  
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Khan Khawar Achakzai  
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Human Life Matters, When  
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Louay Fatoohi  
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Maan na Maan, Misogyny  
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Earthquake in War-torn  
Afghanistan Has Lessons for  
Kashmir  
Dr Afroz Ahmad Shah  
June 22, 2022

# Is Mysticism All About Psychic Practices?

## Recovering The Mysticism Of Everyday



Photo for representational purposes only. Faisal Bashir for Kashmir Observer

Almost every tradition, discourse and technology has its own pros and cons. A psychic practice based sufi path can often lead to a sort of a magic mongering, haal-centric endeavour which is not without its dangers. In almost all traditions, it is established that the highest path to Divine truths is basic fitri intelligence, what sufis call "ayn-al-qalb" or Indian tradition calls jnana yoga (the path of knowledge). Fitri (inner) intellect (ayn-al-qalb) is the faculty through which human beings are able to know math or logic or basic virtue. It is this intellect/nous (eye of the heart) that directly knows metaphysical principles (for example; essential reality behind all this apparent plurality is one (i.e. tawhid) – is directly & intuitively known) without the requirement of any special supra-ordinary psychic practices. The highest ideals of Truth, Beauty and Justice & their pursuit are part of the very substance of the intelligence within human beings. Metaphysics/irfan fundamentally stems from this inner faculty of human being which directly accesses metaphysical principles; therefore, if we find certain derailment in certain representations of mysticism, it is the job of metaphysics/irfan to explain the final aims of these practices to avoid all sorts of anomalies and meaning crises.

When it comes to psychic practices, we need to first note that this is a path that human beings have been employing since ancient times to descend down into their own souls within. Just like a scientist wanders on the outside, observes and tries to know the workings of the apparent phenomena, similarly a mystic or a shaman descends down into his own self and observes its depths and contents directly. The ultimate aim of these practices is the sharpening of the attention and the witnessing of the doings/happenings of self/reality/consciousness silently without any superimposition of ego will or mental abstraction. This puts one in contact with reality.

Metaphysics/irfan directly perceives meanings behind actions, as mentioned above, and thus clarifies confusions so that Truth becomes directly accessible. The highest station for a sufi is not triumphant claims of attaining ultimate knowledge about everything but a humble submission before the wonder and mystery of God. Only a quack can claim to have cracked the "mystery" of existence which is the very fabric of reality. The highest station is bewilderment (hairat) which is the source of joy rather than discomfort for any saalik. This bewilderment/wonder can be experienced by any human being anywhere in the world, anytime on any plane. There is no need to seek out supra-ordinary ecstatic experiences to taste the wonder of creation. Everything becomes metaphysically transparent. Since when has

MUGEES UL KAISAR

“Although, a psychic practice based mysticism might be appropriate for some seekers (owing to their personality type) but it is high time that we recover the “mysticism of the everyday” for our youth so that they do not get too obsessed with details of psychic practices which may prove dangerous for some

so-called “ordinary” reality become so alienating that it becomes a necessity to seek out occultist out of the world ecstatic experiences? If we see, a mystic is actually defined as an extraordinarily ordinary person. He sees God's doing everywhere. Everything manifests God's creativity. Everything becomes an aayah of God. Every experience per se becomes “religious” experience, for him, rather than obsessing over certain special categories of supra-ordinary mystical experiences. The mere sight of a flower is extraordinary. God is most accessible. God is the highest presence. Great authorities on mysticism across east and west define mysticism as “attention without distraction”, “seeing what is”, “choiceless awareness”, “attuning to the present moment”, etc. Although, a psychic practice based mysticism might be appropriate for some seekers

(owing to their personality type) but it is high time that we recover the “mysticism of the everyday” for our youth so that they do not get too obsessed with details of psychic practices which may prove dangerous for some. Besides, if we see, a Sage is more efficient in his faculties of appreciation/reception/enjoyment; ordinary people are excited only if they eat certain delicious food or have intimate bodily experiences but a Sage is in ecstasy all the time; his heart is in the presence of God all the time; there is no need of special psychic extraordinary mystical trips to feel ecstatic rather he is ecstatic all the time in the ordinary. This mysticism of the everyday (jahan har dam jaar ka deedar ho) is what will save our alienated youth in the overarching postmodern milieu.

For a newborn, “ordinary” is what is “extraordinary”. It is only later gaffah (heedlessness) and lack of attention and lack of silent witnessing that one gets used to so-called ordinary and starts seeking out extraordinary in some special experiences. For a child every sight is magic. Consciousness, Being, Reality is the highest wonder in itself. Every moment of consciousness is extraordinary per se. Some masters translate the Quranic word tagwa in terms of awe/wonder and not mere “fear”. Every great mystic has praised and privileged a child's mode of being. A sufi is advised to become like a child who is “ibn ul waqt” i.e. being the child of the “moment” who is free from mental abstractions of past and future and attentively opens himself to whatever is present. All ethical discipline seeks to purify psychological abstractions that insulate us from tasting reality; whether it be arrogance or desire/want or fear or any other mental abstraction, they fundamentally block us from accessing/touching “ordinary” reality which is itself “blissful wonder”. It is for this reason that Prophets & sages seek to purify us of pride, suspicion, lust and all other abstractions.

Faith, for mystics, is humble receptiveness to whatever comes in experience because every moment is a revelation/aayah of God. Sufism is fundamentally a disciplining of “attention”; learning to achieve an innocence of becoming. Philosophy i.e. love for wisdom is also fundamentally cleansing of “vision” as traditionally understood (i.e. darshana within Indian tradition) i.e. for a lover of wisdom, world doesn't change, it still is the same, but the vision has changed i.e. now God's manifestation is the most immediate presence for him. This reorientation of life i.e. seeing God's revealing/revelation/creation/hand everywhere is the aim of tassawuf.

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

# Snippets and Stories from 2022

KO Webdesk

The year 2022 witnessed an unleashing of sorts in various aspects of life in Kashmir. These pictures by Kashmir Observer's senior photographer Abid Bhat are some highlights which defined 2022. This is not an exhaustive list of events but one that defined 2022 to a large extent



### BACK TO SCHOOL

Srinagar city and rest of Kashmir sprung to life on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 as children made their way to schools after remaining closed for most part of the past three years due to lockdowns imposed to combat COVID-19 pandemic and for maintaining law and order post abrogation of Article 370 in 2019



### BONE AND JOINT HOSPITAL BLAZE

At around 9:30 on the night of March 4, 2022 was the night when B&J hospital went up in flames



### JUNE'S FLOOD FURY

Relentless summer shower had triggered a flood alarm in Kashmir with Jhelum and its tributaries overflowing and inundating civilian areas in 22nd June, 2022



### LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday, 20 September, 2022, inaugurated valley's first multiplex in Sonawar area of the city, ending the three-decade wait of the movie buffs to watch their favourite stars on the big screen



### FIRE AND FURY

Data available with Kashmir Observer reveals that the department of Fire and Emergency received over 660 calls in the first three months of this year, which according to the department is huge and might break the record of last three years if the situation remains same. Many fire incidents took place throughout the year and rendered plenty of families homeless



### FIRE ON WATER

A fire at the famous Nigeen Lake in the early hours of Monday, April 4, 2022 destroyed seven houseboats. Much like the fire incidents in residential areas, 2022 saw fire eating up the livelihood of many houseboat owners.



### WAR STUCK

Hundreds of people, including several Kashmiri students were seen trying to escape or taking shelter inside subway stations in #Kharkiv, #Ukraine in February, 2022, in the initial days of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war



### UDTA KASHMIR

Drug abuse rose unabated with multiple drug rackets exposed this year. The picture has kept getting grimmer with heroin addiction at an all time high in Kashmir. Heroin was found to be consumed by 95% of drug abusers in the valley.



### TULIPS AND TOURISTS

Deficient rainfall and warm temperature in Srinagar forced the closure of Asia's largest tulip garden, which attracted 3.60 lakh visitors this spring



### EXAM SCAM

Scores of candidates who qualified the Finance Account Assistant (FAA) exam held by the Jammu & Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) staged weeks-long protests in the month of August. 2022 became the recruitment scam year with over four corrupt recruitment processes which were either scrapped or are being probed.

## Ties With China 'Not Normal' As India Will Not Agree To Any Attempt To Change LAC Unilaterally: Jaishankar

Press Trust Of India

**NICOSIA:** India will not agree to any attempt to change the Line of Actual Control (LAC) unilaterally by China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, as he underlined that New Delhi's relations with Beijing are "not normal" and there would be no compromise on core issues.

Addressing the Indian community in Cyprus on Friday during his first official visit to this Mediterranean country, Jaishankar, in a veiled attack on Pakistan, also said that terrorism cannot be used as a tool to force India to the negotiating table.

Jaishankar said India has challenges on its borders, which intensified during the Covid period.

"Today the state of our relations with China is not very normal because we will never agree to any attempt to change the Line of Actual Control unilaterally," he said.

There will be no "compromise on the core issue" of national security, Jaishankar asserted.

Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the face-off resulted in "minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides", according to the Indian Army.

It is the first major clash between the Indian and Chinese armies since the fierce face-off in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

The ties between the two countries froze since then with India making it clear that peace and tranquillity at the border is the sine qua non for the overall development of bilateral ties.

The two countries have held 17 rounds of talks so far to resolve the standoff.

## Amit holds interaction with Mining Lessees, reviews Department's working

**JAMMU:** Secretary, Mining, Amit Sharma today held a comprehensive interaction session with Mining Lessees of the Union Territory while reviewing the working of the Mining department at Udyog Bhavan here. There was a broad section of lessees who attended this meeting, physically as well as through virtual mode while O.P Bhat, Director Geology & Mining, Arun Manhas, Additional Secretary Mining, Amir Rather, Under Secretary Mining, Nisar Ahmed and Harbans Langeh, both Joint Directors Mining and all DMOs remained present.

Secretary took a detailed review from the departmental officers regarding enhancement of revenues of the department in the upcoming last quarter through maximum royalty collection, seizures and penalties so as to supersede the already set annual targets. He disclosed that

in upcoming January itself, Department is planning to e-auction at least 20 new blocks in twenty districts of the UT. Apart from this, target is on towards acquiring two major mineral blocks of Limestone and Lithium from GSI in this month which shall be a-auctioned by the department for the first time.

Amit gave a patient hearing to multiple issues of the lessees especially relating to smooth conduct of e-Challan transactions and directed that there should be two nodal officers henceforth to handle portal related issues in both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions so that the lessees can have more efficient working in mining sector times to come. He also directed that a dedicated helpline should be created for facilitating public as well as lessees in conducting mining transactions through G2B2C portal geologymining.jk.gov.in in times to come.

## JKEDI striving to create a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in J&K: Year 2022 in Review

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has had an eventful year in 2022, from going back to classroom Entrepreneurship Development Programmes to reaching out to aspiring entrepreneurs in remote areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Institute was inspired by the stories of passionate youth who are tomorrow's change makers and champions.

It was on the International Women's day that the Institute started classroom training programs for the aspiring women entrepreneurs across the UT of J&K. These young female change makers were sponsored under the Tejaswini Self Employment Scheme of Mission Youth, Government of J&K. The Institute has trained and provided business development services to more than 5000 youth this year, each one of them leaving the classroom with ideas and solutions to tackle the problems of our society. Although they are planning to start a small business, their endeavor will help save society from unemployment's cruel grip.

The Institute implements the term loan scheme of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India. The growth story of the scheme till now has created a remarkable impact on the far flung areas of the UT and helped low income groups in minority populations to become self-reliant and financially independent. Till now the Institute has successfully financed 6003 beneficiaries under this scheme with a total project cost of more than 240 crores.

The Institute organized a number of workshops and entrepreneurship orientation programs. It started with an awareness workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) organised in collaboration with the Office of the



Controllor General of Patents Designs and Trademarks, Department for Promotion of Industry and International Trade(DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. The Institute also conducted various entrepreneurship orientation programs for the school and college going students in every nook and corner of all the districts of J&K.

To promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the UT, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JKEDI this year. The partnership will benefit all the stakeholders, especially the students from diverse regions of J&K. Google Developers Group, this year, organized a first ever 'DevFest' at Jammu in collaboration with the Institute. A number of technology speakers from all over the country participated in the event and provided a platform for local developers and students for related discussions.

The employees of the Institute also participated in flagship developmental programs of the J&K Government with full fervour this year. Back to Village (B2V4) and My Town My Pride programs need a special mention. The Director of the Institute, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat himself led the campaign in Shadab Karewa, a remote village of Shopian district. This year the outreach programs of the Institute also saw a flip. The journey from Covid-19

restrictions to organizing massive entrepreneurship awareness programs (EAP) in all the districts of the UT this year has been inspiring. Far Flung and tribal areas of the UT were also covered and senior officers including the Director of the Institute participated in these programs. The Institute has organized 146 EAPs and sensitized almost 11000 youth.

The district offices of the Institute were activated and dedicated counseling control rooms and startup cells were set up at every district centre so the youth can avail the services of the Institute. Youth can directly visit these centers for information and facilitation. In addition to this, they can email and post queries on Institute's official social media outlets.

The Institute is the nodal agency for implementing Startup Policy of the Government. This year saw a series of workshops and programs under this policy. The Institute is also reviewing and formulating new operating guidelines for this scheme, which will encourage new start-ups in J&K. The UT of J&K has been striving to create a vibrant ecosystem for sustainable startups that work on exponential technologies, developing solutions that address the problems of the society at large. A total of 89 startups are registered with the Institute. There are a number of facilities and incentives available for new startups at the Institute under this policy.

## 3rd DRSC Meeting Held At Anantnag

**ANANTNAG:** In order to review the implementation of Road Safety measures in Anantnag and to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the district, a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom at DC Office Complex, here.

The members of the committee deliberated on various issues including remedial measures taken on identified black spots, improvement of lighting on vital roads, Traffic Management System and distribution of Critical Care Ambulances in a strategic manner.

The DC emphasized upon the stakeholders to draft a traffic plan for hassle free movement particularly in the rush hours. While taking strong note of frequent traffic jams on court road,

DC directed officials to ensure existing parking spaces of Municipal council are utilised to their fullest and impose heavy fines on illegally parked vehicles.

While briefing the chair, the ARTO said that the Motor Vehicle Department along with traffic police conducted several drives on Khanabal Janglat Mandi route to create deterrence against illegal parking of vehicles and have conducted audit cum overload inspection of school buses/ passenger vehicles.

The DC emphasized adopting a multi pronged strategy as advocated by MORTH based on 4Es viz Education, Engineering, Enforcement, emergency care. He directed PWD to improve road markings and signages, to minimise high risk stretches and black spots, improvement of junctions on all cross-roads and improve road lighting near habitations.

## DC Shopian reviews Implementation of Yuva Sahakar Scheme

**SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 31:** In order to discuss and review the implementation of Yuva Sahakar scheme in the district, a meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya in his office Chamber at Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting held detailed discussion regarding the implementation and monitoring of the 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' launched by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in Shopian district.

On the occasion, the DC directed all line departments to hold interactions with the registered Cooperative Societies in the district and make them aware about the objectives and benefits of Yuva Sahakar scheme so that more livelihood generation avenues are provided to the youth of the district.

He also instructed concerned to prepare comprehensive sector wise plans

under the scheme within days so that new Cooperative Societies led by the young entrepreneurs are formed.

The DC stressed on extending the ambit of the scheme to other line departments including Handicrafts, Handloom, NRLM, Employment to achieve a desired target on ground.

Highlighting the objectives of the scheme, the DC said that the Yuva Sahakar scheme is aimed to fulfil aspirations of the youth and NCDC has come up with a youth-friendly scheme for attracting them to cooperative business ventures.

He said NCDC has created a dedicated funding with liberal features enabling youth to opt for the scheme. He also said the newly launched scheme would encourage Cooperatives to venture into new areas and the Government has been encouraging start-ups.

It was given out in the meeting that the scheme will have more incentives for cooperative members.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## No One Can Encroach

"Our society has the tendency of continuous change. In 25 to 50 years, the thinking, the shape, the goals and the path of the society change. When the police stop thinking of this change, then it becomes irrelevant. If you want to understand and feel this change, and modify with the change then research is very essential," the Home Minister said.

He also underlined systemic and systematic reform should be a continuous process and hence it is important to draw strategies based on the research work.

He pointed out that the responsibility to carry out research work on behalf of the entire police of the country and the Central Armed Police Forces lies on BPR&D.

Cooperation between the institutions, organising seminars, learning from best practices and challenges, make the police relevant, Shah said.

The Home Minister emphasised upon coordination between police of different states in India where the Law and Order is a state subject.

In India, coordination and cooperation is necessary because law and order is a state subject with cultural diversity. However, criminals too have cultural diversity because they too are part of the culture, and pose different kinds of challenges, Shah said.

It is a good decision to make law and order a state subject. But as time passed the country faced the challenge of narcotics, fake currency, money laundering, outfits causing disturbance in the society, terrorism, infiltration in the border states and problems faced in the coastal region, he explained.

"If you have to bring coordination between the police of different states, then it can be done by the BPR&D through dialogue, seminars, and cooperation. Unless there is dialogue and cooperation we cannot face these challenges," Shah said.

He cautioned police officers saying policing will be challenging in the coming days in metropolitan cities because of the presence of people from different states.

"We will not be able to protect our metropolitan cities if we do not focus on research and change our strategy according to the outcome of the research," the Home Minister said.

## 'Mission Zero Terror'

"We conducted large-scale anti-militancy operations in which 56 foreigners among 186

militants were killed. Majority of the slain militants were affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad outfits," the DGP said. "Almost 100 youth joined militant ranks of which 17 were arrested, remaining were eliminated while just 18 are left who will also be killed soon. We haven't seen such a lowest local militant recruitment in the past four years."

He said a huge number of youth who had tread the wrong path were brought back. "Their number can't be shared," the DGP said.

Mission Zero Terror for 2023: The DGP said that the new year resolution of police for the year 2023 will be Mission Zero Terror and prime focus will be on wipe out the "terror eco-system wherever it exists in J&K."

Modules Busted: J&K Police chief said that 146 militant modules were busted in the year bidding good-bye. "Each module comprised 4 to 5 youth," he said.

Weapons Seized: DGP Singh said in 2022, 188 weapons including AK 47 rifles, 275 pistols, 354 grenades, 61 grenades, 61 IEDs including some ready to use were dropped. I congratulate police and other forces for successfully foiling the drone dropping bids of weapons in Jammu region and seizing huge quantities of weapons," he said. "There were some unfortunate incidents of blasts in Udhampur but majority of bids were foiled."

Security Forces/ Civilian Casualties: The DGP Singh said that compared to previous years, forces faced less casualties in the year 2022. "Fourteen (14) policemen and 17 security forces personnel were killed in the year 2023, which is the lowest ever. Civilian casualties were also less. There were just 24 law and order incidents (all very mild in nature)," he said.

Seizure of vehicles/ houses used to support militancy: The J&K police chief said that 55 vehicles and 28 houses were seized for being used to support militancy. Similarly, 649 people were booked under PSA for supporting militancy," he said.

On Drugs: "1693 cases were registered and many modules were busted. 212 kgs of heroin, 383 kgs of charas, 12 kgs of brown sugar and a huge quantity of other drugs were seized in the year 2022," the DGP said.

Crime cases: The DGP said that 29834 cases of crime were registered in 2023. "Fast track case disposal system was followed. Year 2022 saw 2285 cases of crime against women," he said.

UPA Cases: DGP Singh said 1350 cases are under investigation. "We have set up SIU in every district for fast track case disposal," he said. "SIUs are working under SIA are doing a

great job."

About TRF/Kashmir Fight Blog: "Both of these are the mouthpieces of ISI. We have investigated almost all the threat cases and won't spare anyone issuing threats to minority community and other sections of the society," he said. With inputs from KNO.

## Hints At Legal Action

"The day is not far away," the DGP said at the year-end press conference here in response to a question on whether police are planning to take action against Sallahuddin, India's most wanted terrorist, similar to the demolition of the house of Ashiq Nengroo, the Pakistan-based commander of terror outfit Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), and an extended portion of the house of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Ghulam Nabi Khan alias 'Amir Khan' in south Kashmir.

"Many of them were earlier sitting in Pakistan and carrying on terrorist activities and were not brought into the ambit of certain legal provisions... Now, dossiers have been prepared against most of them and they have already been notified as individual terrorists," the police chief said, adding, "Further action as per law will follow against them."

He said in order to put an end to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, it is vital to take strict action against the terror ecosystem.

"We have booked 649 terror supporters under the Public Safety Act (PSA) this year, besides seizing 50 vehicles used to transport terrorists and weapons. Twenty-eight houses and other buildings used to provide shelter to terrorists were also sealed," the DGP said.

He said the anti-terror Special Investigation Agency is now more than a year old and has done a tremendous job in probing criminal activities, especially the cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

## 'Threats Being Issued To

about the threats issued by TRF. Blood-thirsty terror groups who have been bleeding Kashmiris for the past over three decades at the behest of Pakistan's ISI and terrorist handlers sitting across the border are trying to keep terrorism alive, he said.

"The Resistance Front (TRF) and Kashmir Fight are both mouthpieces of Pakistan which are being run from across the border. TRF is like an umbrella to take credit for terror actions which are mostly being done either

by the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) or the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). They do not want to own their actions for some reason," Singh said.

Barring one, he said, most of the modules involved in selective and targeted killings have been busted. "We will not let them succeed in their conspiracy and will bring the culprits to book."

"Threats are meant to keep the fear factor alive. Sometimes they are able to target a minority community member or a non-local labourer on the pretext that they are being settled (in Kashmir) or some other narrative."

"J&K residents have become settlers to them and it is decided by those sitting in Pakistan. This wrong, motivated and mischievous narrative is aimed at justifying such type of actions against minorities and poor labourers who are there for a living," Singh said.

He said analysis of the attacks on the labourers revealed that all of them were living either in one-room rented accommodations or in groups at sheds.

Giving credit to the people for the success against terrorism, he said, "People are the biggest beneficiaries of peace. Every parent wants their children to grow in a peaceful atmosphere and every businessman also wants their business to run smoothly."

Singh said it is a matter of great satisfaction that there was no terrorist- or separatist-sponsored strike in the Valley this year.

"Children are studying and businesses are running without any break. There used to be a time when even marriages had to be cancelled due to law and order situations. Nothing like that happens anymore," the officer said.

On Wednesday's encounter in the Sidhra bypass in Jammu that left four terrorists dead, the DGP said an investigation in the case is going on and some important clues have been found.

He said the group is believed to have infiltrated from Pakistan and none of those killed were local terrorists.

On the recovery of an M4 rifle from the slain terrorists, Singh said such weapons have been recovered in the past as well but there is no indication to suggest smuggling of weapons left behind by the US in Afghanistan was taking place.

In response to another question, he said the security agencies were fully prepared for the upcoming Republic Day to ensure peaceful functions across the Union territory.

The police chief further said that he would like to see a movie made on the sacrifice of J&K police personnel in the fight against

terrorism.

Singh said holding of G20 meeting in J&K is a proud moment for the people of the UT and "adequate security will be provided for the event."

## Let's Work Together

prosperity and well-being of all sections of society.

He also hoped the new year to be a year of development, harmony, social integration and better health for all the people of the UT. He wished them a successful year ahead.

## ACB Alerts Govt Over

of bribe in the process," the communicate further states.

The ACB has recommended that the reasonability of the rates should be verified through a market survey committee for all purchases through GeM.

"Generally the items are available at GeM at the rates lesser than the market rates. However, if the rates at GeM are higher, the same shall be brought into the notice of the GeM authorities and Finance department," the communicate states.

The ACB has suggested that the procuring authorities shall certify the reasonability of rates.

It has also recommended that the Finance department may make bidding/ reverse auction mandatory for purchases to be made.

"Further, all purchases should be made irrespective of the Rs 5 lakh ceiling through bidding and reverse auction mode only. It is recommended that the Finance Department may make it mandatory for all DDOs to procure for the amount of Rs 25000/- and above with bidding and reverse auction only," the note states-(KNO)

## Search Ops Underway

was still continuing when last reports were received.

Two local people of Phalyana village were killed and one person was injured in the firing outside the Army camp on December 16.

While the Army blamed unidentified terrorists for the firing, the locals staged a massive protest against the force and demanded an inquiry.

## Basic Rights In India Have Become 'Luxuries': Mehbooba Writes To CJ

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Basic rights in the country have now become "luxuries" and "entitlements" bestowed upon only those who toe the government's line on political, social and religious matters, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said on Saturday.

In a letter to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, she also alleged that the trust deficit and growing alienation has only widened in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

"I write to you with a deep sense of concern and worry about the prevailing situation in the country especially J-K. Your recent observations on the inability of lower judiciary to grant bail in ordinary cases in a functioning democracy as ours should have been adopted as a directive rather than just being consigned to a single column story churned out in newspapers," Mufti said in the letter posted on her Twitter handle.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy on Friday, CJI Chandrachud had said that over 63 lakh cases across the country have been considered to be delayed due to non-availability of counsel and over 14 lakh cases are delayed as they await some kind of document or record.

He had said that people must get rid of the colonial mindset of referring to and treating district courts as subordinate judiciary in hierarchy and in practice.

Mufti, the PDP president, said the fundamental rights enshrined in the Indian constitution and guaranteed to all Indian citizens "are being brazenly impinged upon".

"Unfortunately, it is these basic rights that have now become luxuries and entitlements bestowed upon only those select citizens who toe the Government's line on political, social and religious matters.

"And more worryingly, to those who actively contribute and not obstruct GOI's idea of an India where its strengths of diversity, religious pluralism and tolerance must be weeded out and crushed to lay the foundations of a one religion nation where minorities are relegated to the social, political and economic fringes," she said.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader further alleged that since 2019, the fundamental rights of every resident of Jammu and Kashmir have been suspended arbitrarily and the constitutional guarantees given at the time of its accession were suddenly and unconstitutionally abrogated.

She said hundreds of youngsters are languishing in jails outside the Union territory as undertrials and their condition is exacerbated since they belong to poor families who lack the wherewithal to get legal aid.

"All this is happening at a time when the trust deficit and growing alienation has only widened since 2019. Passports being a fundamental right are impounded with full impunity. Journalists are being jailed and even prevented from flying out of country," she said.

While Mufti said the only ember of hope in these "bleak circumstances" is the judiciary which only can right these "wrongs", she added, "however, it saddens me to say that so far our experience with the judiciary has not inspired much confidence".

## Achieved '100% Success' In Ensuring Peace: ADGP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police achieved "100 per cent success" in ensuring peace and stability in the Valley in 2022 but Pakistan-sponsored online terrorism is a challenge now, a senior officer said on Saturday.

Over two dozen boys have been brought back to the mainstream and all but two chiefs and top commanders of terror outfits have been neutralised, Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said in a series of tweets.

There were no hartals, street violence, internet shutdown, funeral processions of terrorists, glamorising of terrorists and stone pelting incidents, especially at encounter sites, and this benefitted all sections of society, he said.

"On L&O (law and order) front, we have achieved 100% success in peace & stability. From 2897 cases of L&O incidents in 2016 to 26 minor cases in 2022. No civilian lost life in firing while handling L&O problems in last more than 3 years," the ADGP said.

He said the security forces made major gains on the anti-terrorist operations front this year.

"All Chiefs & Top Command-



ers of terror outfits neutralised except HM's Chief Farooq Nalli & Lt Commander Reyaz Sethri and both would be neutralised soon," he added.

Continuous action against terror ecosystems is going on, Kumar said.

The process of identifying and taking cognizance of each threat by registering FIRs, making arrests is going on. Properties were attached in 49 terror-related cases this year, he said.

More than two dozen boys have been brought back to the mainstream with the cooperation of their parents and are living happily with their families, he said.



A tourist couple playing with snow in the ski resort of Gulmarg on the eve of New Year on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Youth Unrest, Targeted Killings; Political Uncertainty Highlights Of 2022: Cong

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani on Saturday lashed out at the BJP-led central government, saying the outgoing year will be remembered in the Union territory for youth unrest, minority killings, fresh migration and political uncertainty.

"It was another year of political uncertainty as the Centre failed to fulfil its commitment to restore the statehood and democracy in J&K as promised on the floor of Parliament, even after more than three-and-a-half years of lieutenant governor rule," the J-K Pradesh Congress Committee chief said in a statement here.

Wishing a happy New Year to the people of Jammu and

Kashmir, Wani hoped that the new dawn would bring some respite to the sufferings of various agitating sections, especially the unemployed youth. He said it would also hopefully see the restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir and holding of ear-

leader said.

He said targeted killing of innocents especially the minorities has led to panic, unrest and migration of employees from Kashmir. "It was a grim reminder of the situation of 1990," Wani said. The Congress leader said

“The year 2022 has gone down as a year of youth unrest due to multiple job scams, record unemployment, minority killings and fresh migration from Kashmir, besides uncertainty on the political front

ly assembly elections.

"The year 2022 has gone down as a year of youth unrest due to multiple job scams, record unemployment, minority killings and fresh migration from Kashmir, besides uncertainty on the political front," the Congress

the incidents of targeted killings nullified the claims of normalcy of the ruling party and "rather brought to square one, the efforts and achievements of the previous government in the direction of return and rehabilitation of minorities in the Valley".

## NC MP Seeks CBI Probe Into Irregularities In Postal Dept Exam

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference MP Mohammad Akbar Lone has alleged malpractices in the departmental examination of the Department of Posts and demanded a CBI probe into it.

In a letter to Union Minister of Railways and Communications Ashwini Vaishnav, Lone said results of the Departmental Competitive Examination for promotions to the Inspector of Posts cadre, held in Jammu in June 2022, be declared null and void and fresh exams conducted in a time-bound manner.

"Recently a delegation of some employees from Postal Circle J-K met me and narrated a story, which is of a very serious nature.

"I could not have taken the matter seriously as I get to hear lots of such complaints but when I went through the J-K Crime Branch's three interim reports and a detailed news article published in a reputed investigative journal 'The Probe', I thought I must bring the matter into your notice with a copy to Hon'ble Prime Minister as well," Lone wrote.

The Lok Sabha MP from Baramulla said some officials had allegedly been found copying and indulging in other malpractices during the examination and these acts had been recorded on CCTV cameras as well.

A senior Jammu and Kashmir Postal department officer, who was not authorised to perform any duty at the examination centre, had been seen in the rooms during the entire exam, according to a Crime Branch report, Lone alleged.

"Only the investigators along with other supervisory staff who have been ordered by the competent authority should have been allowed," he added.

Lone said the matter was brought to the notice of a Srinagar court, which directed the Crime Branch to investigate the issue some months ago.

Recently, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir stayed the proceedings of the subordinate court, he said.

As the matter was subjudice, the Postal department issued the result and the officials who were indicted by the Crime Branch had "qualified the exam" and had now been promoted as Inspector of Posts. This is a matter of seri-

ous concern, the MP said.

He said an aggrieved employee of the department brought the matter to the notice of the then Chief Postmaster General (J-K Postal Circle) DV Mahesh in June "but the officer has not at all taken any action".

"The aggrieved also made communication with Secretary Posts and DG Posts as well but there was no response. In the recently announced results, he has failed to qualify the exam because of this alleged malpractice," Lone said.

It is quite evident that the Postal department has not at all conducted a fair investigation, Lone alleged, and requested Vaishnav to constitute a special team to conduct a fresh investigation, he said.

"I would appreciate it if the investigation is handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the result be declared null and void and fresh exams be conducted in a time bound manner.

"I would suggest that departmental exams in the Postal department be conducted by an independent agency in future so as to ensure more transparency and accountability," the MP said.

## Search Operation Held Along IB In Samba

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Police and security forces on Saturday conducted a search operation in several forward villages along the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, a police officer said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Operations-Samba) G R

beefed up and the vulnerable areas searched," Bhardwaj, leading the joint operation of the police, CRPF and BSF, told reporters.

He said the search operation started from Chek Dhurma, the last village along the IB, Saturday morning.

"We have clear-cut directions to go for frequent search operations to maintain pressure on anti-national elements to foil



Bhardwaj said the focus of the search operation was to look for any underground tunnel and create public awareness about drones being used to smuggle weapons from across the border.

The search operation comes in the wake of a recent gunfight in Sidhra bypass area in Jammu that left four terrorists aboard a Kashmir-bound truck dead. The terrorists are believed to have infiltrated from the International Border (IB) and were heading to the Valley when they were intercepted by the security forces.

"In view of the recent encounter, security has been

their nefarious designs. The searches are being carried out especially in areas having wild grass to look for any cross-border tunnel and suspicious objects," the officer said.

He said the opportunity was also used to demonstrate drones to border dwellers so that they can immediately inform the nearest security establishment on seeing any such flying object coming from across the border or lying on the ground.

The operation covered several forward villages, including Manguchek, Sadechek, Regal and Chahwal.

## J&K Judicial Academy Organizes Workshop On JJA, 2015

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy, organized one day workshop on "Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2015 with special reference to Constitutional Vision of Justice and Concept of Social Justice, Child Abuse Prevention, Protection and Redress" for Principal Magistrates and Juvenile Justice Boards besides officers from Social Welfare Department, Jammu province here Saturday.

The event was held under the guidance of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

Shahzad Azeem, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, presented an overview of the programme saying that today's deliberations have been channelled on the discourse of a very vital aspect of justice delivery system. He hoped that the training programme will go a long way in motivating the participants to rejuvenate their efforts and work with mission spirit towards fulfillment of

Constitutional Vision of Social Justice, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Child Abuse Prevention and Redressal. The courts have special responsibility to deal with such cases with extra cautious approach to ensure proper justice and rehabilitation of such children. All the stakeholders need to ensure that children in conflict with the law are treated in a manner substantially different than adults at all stages of the proceedings, he added.

In the first technical session, Pawan Dev Kotwal, District and Sessions Judge (President, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Jammu) deliberated in detail about Juvenile Justice (Care & protection of Children) Act, 2015 with special reference to constitutional vision and Concept of Social Justice and about the issues related to the juveniles. He stressed that approach of the officers of social welfare department and the judicial system must be aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities of the children and ensuring their rehabilitation. He observed that idea behind rehabilitation is that people are not criminals by birth and have every right to get a chance to mend their character and reintegrated with society to lead a dignified life. All this can be possible with the collective efforts of all stakeholders of the society, said the expert.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Hundreds Of Kanals Of State Land Retrieved In Jammu

Observer News Service

Jammu: The District Administration Jammu conducted a series of demolition and eviction drives in different Tehsils of the district under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa to retrieve the encroached state land.

In a joint anti-encroachment drive, a team of revenue officers along with police and other concerned officials retrieved state land measuring 69 kanal in village Chowadhi Tehsil Bahu. The land retrieved is encumbrance free patch and sign boards of state land boards were erected on the spot in presence of police authorities.

In another drive, a revenue team led by SDM Khour and Tehsildar Khour retrieved state land measuring around 200 Kanal at village Danwal.

Similarly, in Nagrota a team of concerned departments retrieved state land of 8 Kanal in village Panjgrain. The Sign Boards of the state land were also installed in presence of Police authorities.

Tehsildar Pargwal conducted eviction drives in village Phagwari, Pindi and Chak Phagwari and retrieved around 145 Kanal state land including 8.10 Kanal in Phagwari, 106 Kanal in Pindi and 29.3 Kanal in Chak Phagwari.

Similarly, in Jourian, around 14.3 Kanal of state land was retrieved during the Anti encroachment drive.

## NC leader Urges Govt To Allow Dogra, KP Employees 'Work From Home'

Jammu : Senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadohra on Saturday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to allow its employees, protesting for their relocation outside the valley, to work from home till the situation becomes conducive for them to resume of-fine duties. Migrant Kashmiri Pandits and Jammu-based reserved category employees have been camping in Jammu since May following the killing of their two colleagues - Rahul Bhat and Rajni Balla - by terrorists in

the Valley

"Covid pandemic is a living example of work from home culture and this mechanism can be adopted for the vulnerable sections of government employees in Kashmir," Sadohra said in a statement here.

He said the government has failed to instill a sense of confidence among the employees in the wake of unfortunate and barbaric killings in the Valley one after the another.

"The desperate employees are protesting for months in support of their legitimate demands, but nobody seems to be serious enough in

addressing these.

"This is unethical and insensitive on the part of the government, which should have come up with a pragmatic road map to the malady after taking into confidence the stakeholders," the former minister said.

He also sought the immediate release of the employees' withheld salaries.

He demanded that pressure should not be exerted on them for resuming their duties, as "work from home" should be a guiding factor for the government to resolve the issue till situation becomes conducive in the Valley.

## House, Bakery Shop Of 2 Arrested Brothers Attached

Srinagar: Police on Saturday attached a house and bakery shop in Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district for harbouring militants.

"On 30 May 2022, Police in Awantipora received information through a credible source regarding presence of (militants) in the house of Jahangir Ahmad Lone and Umar Shafi Lone sons of Mohammad Shafi Lone of Check Rajorpora Awantipora," a police spokesperson said in a statement. Accordingly, he said input was shared with Army (42RR) and CRPF (130 Bn) and a joint cordon and search operation was launched.

As the joint operational parties were approaching to lay the cordon, he said, the suspected hiding militants fired indiscriminately with their illegally acquired arms and ammunition upon them and managed their forcible entry into the adjoining house belonging to one Parvaiz Hassan Misgar son of Ghulam Mohammad Misgar of Check Rajorpora Awantipora. The cordon was tightened and all the possible escape routes were blocked to negate the escape of militants. Subsequently, he said, all the civilians trapped in the adjoining houses and target house were safely evacuated to safer location and the hiding militants were offered an opportunity to surrender, to which they ignored and fired indiscriminately upon joint operation parties.

## Pulwama Boxer First Kashmiri Woman To Fight Senior Nationals

Kashmiri women can do wonders in any field: Shariya Manzoor



Agencies

**PULWAMA:** A young female boxer from South Kashmir's Pulwama district became the first Kashmiri woman to fight senior nationals which were held in Bhopal.

Shariya Manzoor (21), a resident of Nehama village in Kakapora, who is pursuing her Bachelor's from Government Degree College Pulwama made it to pre quarterfinals of the 6th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships where she lost to a world champion boxer.

Boxing is an Olympic game which is very rarely played in Kashmir and reaching to senior nationals in this field is considered to be a big thing.

Talking with the news agency KNO, Shariya Manzoor said that she could have performed better had there been such infrastructure in Kashmir as players have to buy items required for practice in boxing themselves.

Manzoor believes that she can do wonders in this field, if sports department along with sports fraternity will support her.

Though Shariya didn't win any round in pre-quarters but her bravery and techniques were praised by one and all, while she

was also praised for wearing Hijab even during the game, said other players who were part of the group accompanying her.

Becoming first woman to reach pre-quarters in National Championship is not a little thing but I don't want to stop here as I want to compete in more mega stages and prove my mettle, Shariya said.

Kashmiri women are very much talented and can do wonders in any field if they will be supported well, she said.

She said that lack of infrastructure is becoming an obstacle for dozens of youth especially girls who are interested in martial arts and other sports but are forced to choose some other field.

"My dream is to reach to the international stage and perform well in mega events but I want support from the government so that I can prove my mettle at mega stages," she said.

She said that she is practising hard and learning some art forms and boxing at the Lion's Den academy in Pulwama and she was hopeful that she can participate in mega international events and showcase her skills.

Notably, Shariya has won six medals at national level in different martial arts so far. (KNO)

## Ronaldo Signs For Saudi Arabian Club Al Nassr

Agencies

**LONDON:** Cristiano Ronaldo completed a lucrative move to Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr in a deal that is a landmark moment for Middle Eastern soccer but will see one of Europe's biggest stars disappear from the sport's elite stage.

Al Nassr posted a picture on social media of the five-time Ballon d'Or holding up the team's jersey after Ronaldo signed a deal until June 2025, with the club hailing the move as "history in the making."

"This is a signing that will not only inspire our club to achieve even greater success but inspire our league, our nation and future generations, boys and girls to be the best version of themselves," the club wrote.

It also gives the 37-year-old Ronaldo a massive payday in what could be the final contract of his career. Media reports have claimed the Portugal star could be earning up to USD 200 mil-



lion a year from the deal, which would make him the highest-paid soccer player in history.

Ronaldo said in a statement that he was "eager to experience a new football league in a different country."

"I am fortunate that I have won everything I set out to win in European football and now feel that this is the right moment to share my experience in

Asia," the forward added.

While the signing is a massive boost for Middle Eastern soccer, it will also fuel the debate about Saudi Arabia using so-called "sportswashing" to boost the country's image internationally. Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund owns Premier League team Newcastle, and the country is considering a bid to host the 2030 World Cup.

## New T20 Captain Hardik Meets HM Amit Shah Ahead Of SL Series

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Three days before he starts a new journey as India's full-time T20 captain, Hardik Pandya met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his official residence.

The 27-year-old flamboyant Baroda all-rounder, who was made captain for the upcoming three-match T20I Sri Lanka home series beginning January 3, was accompanied by his cricketer brother Krunal.

"Thank you for inviting us to spend invaluable time with you Honourable Home Minister Shri @AmitShah Ji. It was an honour



and privilege to meet you," Hardik posted on twitter with photos of him and his brother talking to Shah.

The Pandya-led side features fresh faces with seniors in Virat Kohli and KL Rahul not part of the T20I format and it is likely

that Rohit Sharma may not be picked again keeping the 2024 World Cup in mind. Pandya is also named as Rohit's deputy in the three-match ODI series that will follow the T20Is. Rohit is currently recovering from a finger injury.

## Ladakh Lose 1-2 To Tripura In Santosh Trophy

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Tripura defeated Ladakh 2-1 on Saturday in the ongoing Santosh Trophy. The match was played at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

Tripura took the lead in the 36th minute of the first half through Joykishan Ghoshi. The Tripura side maintained the lead till the very end of the match. However, the Ladakh side per-

sisted and found the equaliser in the 87th minute of the second half. The goal was scored by Chinba Tharchin. But it wasn't to be as deep in extra time Subhanil Ghosh found the back of the net to send the Ladakhis down on their knees.

Playing in their first Senior National Football Championship, the Ladakh side has won 1 point from 5 matches thus far, losing 4 and drawing 1 in the process.

## BCCI Lists Best Players Of 2022 In All 3 Formats



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India on Saturday announced the names of the players who have been Team India's best performers in all three formats of the game in the year 2022.

In Tests, BCCI deemed Rishabh Pant as the top batter while Jasprit Bumrah was named as the top bowler. "A look at #TeamIndia's Top Performers in Test cricket for the year 2022 @RishabhPant17 @JaspritBumrah93," tweeted BCCI.

Pant scored 680 runs in seven matches at an average of 61.81 and his highest score was 146 runs while Bumrah, who has been dealing with persistent injuries, took 22 wickets in five matches.

In the One Day International format, Shreyas Iyer was adjudged the best batter while

Mohammed Siraj was the best bowler. "@Shreyasiyer15 & @msirajofficial lead the charts for the Top Performers in ODIs in 2022," the BCCI Twitter handle said.

Iyer scored 724 runs in 17 matches with the highest score of 113\* while Siraj took 24 wickets in 15 matches in the 50-over format.

Suryakumar Yadav was adjudged the best batter in T20 format after his performances in the T20 World Cup as well as various bilateral series and Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the best bowler.

Suryakumar scored 1164 runs in 31 matches with the highest score of 117 while Bhuvneshwar snapped up 37 wickets in 32 matches.

"@surya\_14kumar and @BhuvOfficial are our Top Performers in T20Is for 2022," Indian cricket's apex body posted on Twitter.

## 2022 Sports Recap: Highs, Lows & Everything In Between

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Thomas Cup triumph made for an epic success story while Neeraj Chopra further enhanced his superstar status with a rare Diamond League title but the cricket team's struggles left a lot to be desired in a bittersweet 2022 for Indian sports.

In hockey, the women's team continued its inspiring run with a silver medal at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

The much-coveted 90m mark eluded the Olympic champion but the legend of Neeraj Chopra kept growing with podium finishes at elite tournaments.

However, wrestler Ravi Dahiya could not carry forward his Olympic success and made a shock first-round exit from the World Championship. The sincere, passionate and hard-working athlete that Dahiya is, the defeat would have raked the grappler the most.

He is not someone who can digest defeat easily and is expected to go all out in season 2023, when quotas for the Paris Games will be up for grabs.

The crashing out of Dahiya was unexpected, and so was the performance of the men's shuttlers at the Thomas Cup, where the historic title win put India on path to becoming a badminton powerhouse. The rise of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has been phenomenal in the last two years and their showing was key in India breaking the hegemony of China and Indonesia at the prestigious tournament, held in Bangkok in May.

Established stars such as PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen did not exactly set the courts on fire but they made their presence felt by winning a number of titles on the BWF Tour.

The shuttlers extended their impressive run to Birmingham CWG, winning six medals, including three golds, a silver and two bronze.

Neeraj missed the CWG

due to a groin injury but before that he won a silver in the World Championships in the USA to become only the second Indian after Anju Bobby George -- who won a bronze in 2003 Paris edition -- to win a medal at the showpiece.

In September, he became the Diamond League champion by winning the Finals of the prestigious meeting series, adding another first to his name.

He came agonisingly close to 90m mark when he threw the spear to 89.94m to finish second in the Stockholm leg of the Diamond League.

At least six top Indian athletes were caught for using banned drugs and the run-up to the Commonwealth Games was marred by a series of positive dope cases.

Indian wrestlers expectedly dominated the CWG but the tougher World Championships served a reality check for established stars such as Dahiya.

While Dahiya struggled, Aman Sehrawat made steady progress in 57kg category. He became the U-23 world champion after winning a gold at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup in Almaty.

Vinesh Phogat also struggled but the rise of Greco Roman wrestlers and an exceptional show by the juniors at the big stage made it an eventful year for Indian wrestling.

The rise of Antim Panghal, who became the U-20 world champion in Sofia, is very heartening and she could be India's best bet in 53kg when Vinesh is not around.

The Indian hockey teams continued their upward trend, with the women outperforming their male counterparts by clinching a CWG medal -- a bronze -- after 16 years.

The men's team won silver but the crushing 0-7 defeat to Australia in the final was a dampener.

Later in the year India clashed with the Kookaburras on their home turf and though they lost the series 1-4, engaging the host in a high-scoring series would have given the players con-

fidence ahead of the World Cup.

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu added a second World Championships medal to her collection, apart from a CWG gold. The sport also found new heroes in Jeremy Lalrinnunga and Achinta Sheuli, who were among 10 medal winners in Birmingham.

However, replicating the CWG success in tougher tournaments proved to be a herculean task for almost all of them, barring Mirabai.

India, though, got its maiden junior world champion in the sport in Harshada Garud.

What the Indian fans will not forget is Virat Kohli's breath-taking shots in the high-octane T20 World Cup match against Pakistan.

The cricketing world was in his awe as he proved that batting remains an art even in the T20 format, where muscle power and innovation is redefining the game style.

This was after Kohli quit the leadership role in the longest format and his relationship with the BCCI had hit a nadir after being sacked from ODI captaincy.

To say the least, Indian cricket in 2022 was chaotic both on and off the field.

The struggle of premier batters, including that of skipper Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul, remained an intense topic of debate. Their approach was questioned as the Indian team often paid the price for their struggle in powerplay overs.

Hardik Pandya emerged as a new leader of the national T20 team as Rohit paid the price for another semi-final exit in the World Cup following a crushing defeat at the hands of England.

The team also lost a Test series in South Africa.

While the established players struggled, one batter who mesmerized the fans and experts alike was Suryakumar Yadav. His ability to strike the ball hard and clean was phenomenal as he took T20 batting to another level, drawing comparisons with the great AB de Villiers.

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