

'From Terrorist Hotspot To Tourist Hotspot': MHA Lists J&K Achievements In Year End Review

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir, which used to be a "terrorist hotspot", has become a "tourist hotspot" as 22 lakh tourists visited the Union Territory in 2022, nearly four times more than the previous highest, the Union Home Ministry said on Tuesday.

According to the 'Year End Review 2022' of the Home Ministry, released on Tuesday, the number of terror incidents in J&K decreased from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021, while the

number of security forces personnel martyred has reduced from 91 in 2018 to 42 in 2021.

"Earlier, it was a terrorist hotspot and today it has become a tourist hotspot in Kashmir Valley. Earlier, a maximum six lakh tourists used to visit every year, whereas this year till now, 22 lakh tourists have visited. This has given employment to thousands of youth," the year end review said.

The ministry said there are no incidents of stone pelting in Jammu and Kashmir now as the government under the



leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is moving ahead on the path of development with firmness in the UT. As many as 42,000 people succumbed to terrorism and in

EARLIER, IT WAS A TERRORIST HOTSPOT AND TODAY IT HAS BECOME A TOURIST HOTSPOT in Kashmir Valley. Earlier, a maximum six lakh tourists used to visit every year, whereas this year till now, 22 lakh tourists have visited. This has given employment to thousands of youth."

Delhi no one flinched an eyelid, but now under the leadership of Modi, there is complete control of the security forces on terrorism, it said.

There has been about 54 per cent reduction in terrorist incidents, 84 percent in the deaths

of security forces and about 22 percent in recruitment of terrorists in J&K, it added.

Under the Prime Minister's Development Package for Jammu and Kashmir, about 63 projects have been built at a cost of **More on P6**

Slight Respite In Cold Wave In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Even with the mercury staying several degrees below freezing point across the valley, Kashmir got a slight respite from intense cold wave conditions, officials said on Tuesday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius Monday night compared to minus 5.4 degrees Celsius a night earlier.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 7.2 degrees Celsius. The resort was also the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir this winter.

The MeT office has forecast dry weather over the next few days for the region leading to colder nights and slightly warmer days.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, also witnessed a slight appreciation **More on P6**

RAJOURI KILLINGS

Police Announces ₹10L Reward For Info On Culprits



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for sharing information about the terrorists involved in two back to back attacks in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in which six people were killed.

"#JammuAndKashmirPolice has announced Rs 10 Lakh as a reward for sharing specific information regarding the #terrorists involved in the gruesome #terror

#attack at #Dhangri,#Rajouri The details of the informer shall be kept Secret," Police said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, the sleuths of National Investigating Agency (NIA) visited the Dangri village in Rajouri.

"The NIA team this morning visited the site of attacks to investigate the matter," officials said.

Four people were killed when terrorists opened fire on three houses in Dangri village Sunday evening.

Fourteen hours later, an improvised explosive **More on P6**

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Tearful Adieu To Six Killed In Twin Attacks

The mortal remains of six people including two minor cousins who were killed in twin terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district were given a tearful and emotional farewell as they were cremated at their native place on Tuesday. Hundreds of sobbing mourners - relatives, friends and neighbours - queued up **More on P6**

Night Curfew Imposed Along IB In Samba

Authorities on Tuesday imposed night curfew on a kilometre-long stretch along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district to ensure better area domination by BSF troops, according to an official order. The step was taken in view of the threat of cross-border infiltration and smuggling of weapons through drones in the **More on P6**

Security Beefed Up At Jammu Railway Station

In wake of civilian killings in Rajouri and the upcoming Republic Day, security has been ramped up at Jammu Tawi Railway station, officials said Tuesday. The security in and around the Jammu Railway Station was strengthened with additional deployment of security forces to assure the passengers safety and security in **More on P6**

1300 AMU Students From J&K Under UP Police Radar

Aligarh Police Seeks Details Of Students Enrolled In Various Departments, Schools



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Uttar Pradesh Police has directed the administration of the prestigious Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to furnish details of the students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in the varsity.

An official communiqué issued by the Assistant Controller Examination of AMU (UP) has said that the details are to be sought on directions of Superintendent of Police, Aligarh.

The Assistant Controller Examination has asked its deans of the faculties, Dean Student Welfare (DSW), Chairmen of the all Department of Studies in

faculties to submit the details of Kashmiri students studying in the varsity.

Besides, the authorities have also sought details from the principal of colleges, polytechnic, S.H. Senior Secondary School boys and girls, STS School, AMU Girls School, RMPs AMU City School, AMU ABK School of boys and girls coordinator, AMU Centre Nodal Office, Centre of Professional Courses, Disability Unit, B.E. (Evening) Course, Interdicts, Biotech Unit, Interdisciplinary Centre for Artificial Intelligence, interdicts centre for green and renewable energy

The letter has also been shot to director, KA. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies. **More on P6**

Army Gen Briefs LG On Security Situation



Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's 16 Corps on Tuesday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and apprised him of the emerging

security scenario. The GOC 16 Corps called on the LG at the Raj Bhavan, here Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

Appreciating the role of the Army in safeguarding the nation, the LG, he said, stressed on alertness and maximum synergy between the **More on P6**

MHA Sets Up Panel To Safeguard Land, Jobs For Ladakh

MoS Home Led Panel To Discuss Measures For Protection Of Region's Unique Culture, Language

Agencies

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a high-powered committee to discuss safeguards for Union Territory of Ladakh. According to an order, the committee will be headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

"It has been decided to constitute a High Powered Committee (HPC) under the chairmanship of Shri

Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, GoI, for the Union Territory of Ladakh," reads the order.

As per the order, the committee has been set up to discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and its strategic importance.

The committee will also discuss measures to ensure protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh, the order states.

It will also discuss measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region empowerment of Ladakh

Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh and Kargil.

The composition of the committee include Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home, Chairman, Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor, Union territory of Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member of Parliament (Ladakh), Chairman/CEC, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, Chairman/CEC, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, Joint Secretary, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs, MHA, Director/Deputy Secretary (Ladakh), Department of Jammu, **More on P6**

In A First, Army Posts Woman Officer At Siachen



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Captain Shiva Chauhan from the Corps of Engineers has been posted at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier, in first such operational

deployment of a woman Army officer at the world's highest battlefield.

The officer was posted at the Kumar post, located at an altitude of around 15,600 feet in Siachen, on Monday for **More on P6**

SHORT TAKES

KPDCL Lineman Falls In ACB Net

The Anti Corruption Bureau on Tuesday arrested a lineman of Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC) from South Kashmir's Kulgam district for demanding and accepting a bribe for settlement of electricity bill. Mohammad Yousuf Dar, lineman of KPDC in sub-division Kulgam was arrested by the officials of the anti-graft body while accepting a bribe of Rs 3000 for settlement of electricity bill issued in the name of the complainant's son, an ACB spokesperson said. The complainant, he said, already had a consumer ID in his name, whereas a bill was created in the name of his son for an amount of Rs13,376 for the month **More on P6**

Gurez Road Opens For One-Way Traffic

The Bandipora-Gurez road was on Tuesday opened for one-way vehicular movement after remaining closed for five consecutive days due to snowfall. An official said that the road had got blocked due to several minor avalanches after heavy snowfall in the area. He said after hectic efforts by the Border Roads Organisation the road was cleared and thrown open for one-way traffic today. He said only those vehicles with anti-skid chains are allowed to ply on the road. Meanwhile, commanding officer BRO Col Abhishek said they are making efforts to keep the road open for traffic to connect Gurez with the rest of the world even though **More on P6**

Car Crushes Man To Death

A man was killed and two others injured on Tuesday after being hit by an overspeeding car in Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Abdul Majeed Dar, Shamim Ahmed Malik and Ishtiyaq Ahmad Malik were injured when an Alto car (JK03K-3465) knocked them down in Buchoo area of Kokernag on Tuesday, reports said. The trio were removed by the locals to the district hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared Dar brought dead. The two other injured men are being treated. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard.

Pak Intruder Shot Dead By BSF

An armed Pakistani intruder was shot dead by the Border Security Force (BSF) in Gurdaspur sector along the India-Pakistan international border in Punjab on Tuesday morning, officials said. The infiltration bid was detected around 8 am and a firearm has been recovered from the intruder. "At about 0830 hours, BSF troops of border post Channa in Gurdaspur sector observed suspected movement of an armed Pak intruder ahead of the fence. The suspected intruder was challenged and neutralised by the troops," a BSF spokesperson said. This is the first incident in 2023 where a Pakistani intruder has been killed

PM's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' On Jan 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students, parents and teachers during his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on January 27, the Ministry of Education announced on Tuesday. The interaction will be held at the Talkatora Indoor stadium here, it said. "The wait is over! #PPC2023 is going to be held on 27th January 2023 at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramod will interact with students, parents, and teachers. Stay Tuned! #ExamWarriors," the ministry said in a tweet. The first edition of the prime minister's interactive programme with school and college students was held at the stadium on February 16, 2018.

Man Dies After Falling Into Gorge

A 30-year-old man died on Tuesday while another sustained injuries after the duo fell into a deep gorge in Tumnard forest area in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. Reports said that two persons Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, son of Abdul Aziz Mir and Jaffar Ahmad Khan, son of Liyaqat Ali Khan had gone to the forest area to collect firewood and during the course of time slipped and fell down into a deep gorge. The duo suffered critical injuries and were evacuated to SDH Kupwara, where one Mushtaq Ahmad was declared as brought dead on arrival. The other injured person after initial treatment was referred to a Srinagar hospital for preferential treatment. **More on P6**

Caffeine May Boost Athletic Performance, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Caffeine may significantly improve athletic performance, according to a study which found that caffeine supplementation reduced sprint time in the 100-metre dash.

Caffeine, a stimulant that affects the nervous system, is a popular choice among athletes as a performance-enhancing aid.

The World Athletics, formerly known as the International Association of Athletics Federations, has recognised caffeine as an "ergogenic aid" in a consensus statement on nutritional strategy for athletics, the researchers said.

"While previous studies have investigated the effects of caffeine on running activity, evidence from these studies is not conclusive enough to support the World Athletics consensus," said Professor Takeshi Hashimoto from Ritsumeikan University in Japan.

"A majority of them have looked at its effects on single



sprint runs of less than 60 metres. Therefore, it was important to study the ergogenic effects of caffeine on the 100-metre sprint performance, Hashimoto said.

The study, published in the

journal Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise, recruited 13 male collegiate sprinters.

In a preliminary test, the researchers determined the time it takes for each athlete to reach

peak blood plasma caffeine concentration after ingesting it.

Taking this into account, the athletes were called two more times for 100-metre time trials after ingesting either caffeine or pla-

While previous studies have investigated the effects of caffeine on running activity, evidence from these studies is not conclusive enough to support the World Athletics consensus

cebo supplements. As measures of performance, the researchers measured the sprint velocity and calculated the sprint time.

On discounting the effects of environmental factors, the corrected sprint time was used to examine the effects of caffeine supplementation.

The study showed that the corrected 100-m sprint time was shortened significantly for ath-

letes who received caffeine, with a decrease of 0.14 seconds compared to the controls.

This decrease in the time was largely associated with a decrease in sprint time for the first 60 metres of the sprint, the researchers said.

They also found that the mean sprint velocity for the 010 m and 1020 m splits was significantly higher in the athletes who received caffeine.

No significant difference was seen in the sprint time for the last 40 metres of the sprint, despite the shortening of the sprint time in the first 60 metres, according to the researchers.

These observations suggest that the caffeine supplementation provided more explosive acceleration to the sprinters in the early stage of the race, they said.

These results could translate to the enhancement of sports performance for athletes by enhancing the usage of caffeine as an ergogenic aid during sprints, the researchers added.

'Not Neurons, But Synapses, Form Working Memory, 'Hold' Info'

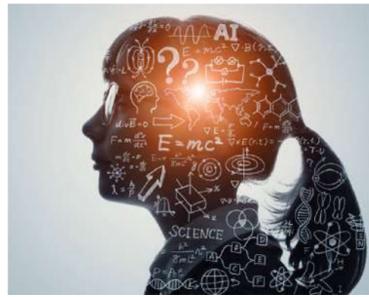
Press Trust Of India

Scientists have uncovered details about the functioning of the working memory, throwing light on how information is 'held' in the brain.

Neuroscientists at The Picower Institute for Learning and Memory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US, have found that a network of neurons 'holds' the information by making short-lived changes in the pattern of their connections, or synapses, the study said. Between the time you read the Wi-Fi password off the cafe's menu board and the time you can get back to your laptop to enter it, you have to 'hold' it in mind. This is a classic case of working memory in action that researchers have strived for decades to explain.

Scientists compared measurements of brain cell activity in an animal performing a working memory task with the output of various computer models representing two theories of the underlying mechanism for holding information in mind. The study has been published in the journal PLOS Computational Biology. The results strongly favoured the newer notion that a network of neurons stores the information by making temporary changes to their synaptic patterns. They contradicted the traditional alternative that memory is maintained by neurons remaining persistently active, like an idling engine.

While both the models allowed for information to be 'held' in mind, only the version that allowed for synapses to transiently



change connections, or "short-term synaptic plasticity", produced neural activity patterns that mimicked what was actually observed in real brains at work, the study said.

The idea that brain cells maintain memories by being always 'on' may be simpler, acknowledged senior author Earl K. Miller, but it doesn't represent what nature is doing and can't produce the sophisticated flexibility of thought that can arise from intermittent neural activity backed up by short-term synaptic plasticity.

"You need these kinds of mechanisms to give working memory activity the freedom it needs to be flexible," said Miller.

"If working memory was just sustained activity alone, it would be as simple as a light switch. But working memory is as complex and dynamic as our thoughts," said Miller.

Co-lead author Leo Kozachkov said matching computer models to real-world

data was crucial.

"Most people think that working memory 'happens' in neurons - persistent neural activity gives rise to persistent thoughts. However, this view has come under recent scrutiny because it does not really agree with the data," said Kozachkov.

"Using artificial neural networks with short-term synaptic plasticity, we show that synaptic activity, instead of neural activity, can be a substrate for working memory. The important takeaway from our paper is: these 'plastic' neural network models are more brain-like, in a quantitative sense, and also have additional functional benefits in terms of robustness," said Kozachkov.

Alongside co-lead author John Tauber, Kozachkov's goal was not just to determine how working memory information might be held in mind, but to shed light on which way nature actually does it. That meant starting with "ground truth" measurements of the electrical "spiking" activity of hundreds of neurons in the prefrontal cortex of an animal as it played a working memory game, the study said.

According to the study, in each of many rounds the animal was shown an image that then disappeared. A second later it would see two images including the original and had to look at the original to earn a little reward. The key moment is that intervening second, called the "delay period", in which the image must be kept in mind in advance of the test.

آہ! جان محمد نہ رہے



یہ خبر نہایت افسوس کے ساتھ دی جا رہی ہے کہ جان محمد بٹ ساکنہ گلشن باغ، نور باغ سرینگر اس دار فانی سے مختصر علالت کے بعد منگل کی شب انتقال کر گئے۔

مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی آبائی مقبرہ متصل منزل رشید حافظ ملکھارہ سرینگر میں جمعہ کو 2.30 بجے انجام دیا جائیگا۔ انشاء اللہ

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CITY

49 Mutton Shops Sealed In City

Agencies
Srinagar: In the ongoing drive against the norm violators, the authorities in Srinagar on Tuesday sealed nearly 50 mutton shops in the district after they were found selling meat at the exorbitant rates.
Additional Directorate, Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Department (FCS&CA) said that 49 mutton shops have been sealed in Srinagar district during the ongoing drive. "The complaints have been

received against the mutton shopkeepers by the consumers, who claim that the mutton is being sold at exorbitant rates," he said.
He said that the drive will continue until and unless the violation is put to an end.
He also appealed to the consumers to buy meat at Rs 535 per kg. "There is no A grade and B Grade system in the mutton. The mutton rates have been set after consultation with the mutton dealers. Any violation in this regard is not tolerable," he said. (KNO)

IAS Officer Trainees Join Orientation Programme With Dist. Admin

Observer News Service
Srinagar: A group of 22 IAS Officer Trainees have started their module of Training with Srinagar District Administration. The Trainees called on the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Tuesday.
The IAS Officers are presently undergoing training at Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Public Administration, Mussoorie and are doing their Bharat Darshan visit to J&K.
On the occasion, a detailed interaction session was held in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex during which the Deputy Commissioner shared valuable insights about life in public service and his experience as District Magistrate (DM) in different Districts.
While giving a brief introduction of Srinagar District through a PowerPoint presentation, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the key Developmental activities taken regarding major projects for infrastructure upgradation under Power, RDD, PWD, Health, Education sectors in Srinagar District. Besides switching over to online mode to provide hassle free service delivery to the public including beneficiary oriented schemes of the Government.

In addition, the IAS Officers were informed about landmark initiatives taken under the Revenue sector by digitizing all Revenue records to ensure ownership of land to its lawful owners.
The Deputy Commissioner also underlined the overall developmental scenario of the district and the initiatives taken under different sectors including Project Gaash, Mission Zuvan Pai, Mission Jal Thal, Mission Heddu, Mission Waapsi, Jal Jeevan Survekshan.
The IAS Officers were also given an overview about developmental activities being carried out to address urban problems in order to ensure better and hassle free civic facilities for the citizens.
The DC also underlined various initiatives taken for wellbeing of beneficiary oriented and public welfare initiatives and Good Governance practices implemented in the District.
The DC further underscored that the mantra of Reform, Perform and Transform guides us to do our best for the nation and public as well. He also wished them best for their future endeavours to serve the public with enthusiasm and dedication.
Earlier during interaction, various District Officers exchanged their views with visiting IAS Trainees

District Society For Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Holds Meet

Observer News Service
Srinagar: A meeting of District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad.
The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal about the establishment of Animal Shelter in order to provide due care to the animals after rescue and post operative stage. The Member Secretary of SPCA said that Land already stands transferred to the Veterinary department for the Animal Shelter.
The DC stressed upon the SMC Officers to expedite the pace of works for physical infrastructure besides requisite men and machinery to make Tengpora Animal Birth Control Centre operational at the earliest.
On the occasion, the DC asked the Revenue Officers to expedite the process of land allotment to SMC for physical execution of works for establishment of animal shelter at Zakura area of the District.
Similarly, the DC also emphasized on accelerating work on Chatterhama ABC Shelter to enhance the capacity for dog sterilization to overcome dog menace in the city.
The DC said work will start soon for construction of a dedicated Animal Shelter in the District at the identified piece of land.
The DC stressed on efficient functioning of the Veterinary Office at Maisuma so that sick

or injured Animals are given better and timely treatment.
Addressing the meeting, the DC said the purpose of District SPCA is to ensure the rights and welfare of the animals and to protect and address animal cruelty matters. He stressed on strengthening the committee and formulating a holistic action plan for checking the menace of cruelty to animals.
The DC emphasized on ensuring round the clock veterinary assistance for the sick and injured animals.
During the meeting, the other members and representatives of various NGOs brought various animal cruelty matters into the notice of Chairman SPCA and put forth their suggestions to address these issues.
The DC also appreciated the work of NGOs and urged them to carry forward the work with added zeal and dedication for Welfare of animals. Meanwhile he said the community Attitude/Perception is key to success of efforts directed at Animal Welfare. He appealed to civil society to join as volunteers with the SPCA in order to multiply the efforts for Animal care and Welfare.
Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Joint Commissioner SMC, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, DDMO Srinagar, other concerned and representatives of NGOs



Despite Committee Recommendations, KU Yet To Resolve Seniority Dispute

SKUAST-K VC to look after KU routine matters till Jan 22

Agencies
Srinagar: Despite the recommendations put forth by the four-member committee, the authorities at Kashmir University (KU) are yet to resolve the inter-se seniority dispute of the University professors.
The issue came to limelight once again after J&K Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha has ordered that the Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. Nazir Ganai will look after KU routine matters till January 22 of 2023.
The arrangement has been made as the incumbent VC KU has gone to Australia with regard to some personal matters.
The move has however raised eyebrows on the varsity administration with the academicians expressing their concern saying why the administration was reluctant to resolve the seniority dispute of varsity professors.
"KU is one of the oldest institutions but unfortunately it has not declared the seniority of its professors. It sends a wrong signal outside which is not good for the institution," a senior KU professor said, wishing not to be named.
"Is this such a big issue that it remains unresolved despite recommendations of the committee or the administration is delaying it deliberately," the Prof asked.
The professor said the delay in resolving the seniority dispute dents their reputation

after the look after charge of VC is given to some professor from outside KU.
"Our VC has gone for 20 days' vacation while the VC SKUAST-K, who is already overburdened with his own matters within SKUAST, will look after the routine of KU. This is not a healthy arrangement," the professor said.
The seniority dispute remains lingering at a time when the J&K LG praised the KU for positioning itself as a centre of excellence in the country noting that KU was being talked about across the country because of its academic excellence and high rankings.
Earlier in 2022, the KU a four-member panel comprised Dean School of Basic and Applied Sciences Central University of Jammu Prof Devanand as chairman, while Director DIQA Kathua campus of Jammu University Prof Meenakshi Kilam, Director NIFT Srinagar Dr Javid Ahmad Wani and Education officer UGC Kishor Kumar were its members.
The panel had submitted its final recommendations after holding through deliberations on the issue and submitted the recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor KU.
"The matter was settled after the panel devised a formula on the basis of set norms wherein joining date of the professors was deemed as an essential criteria to finalise the recommendations," a KU prof said.
Notably, the need to fix the disputed seniority arose after Professor Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Sangmi in 2022 submitted an application to the then VC KU Prof Talat Ahmad and claimed that he was the senior-most professor in the University.
Prof Sangmi had also challenged the inter-se seniority list formulated by the University authorities in 2017.
Last year, the issue came to limelight after the The Chancellor's office asked the then VC KU to hand over the charge to the third person outside the university to hold the charge of in-charge VC KU amid the dispute in the seniority of the varsity professors.
Following this, the VC of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) was given the charge to look after the routine matters of KU during the leave period of Prof Talat.
Meanwhile, the KU academicians have urged the J&K LG who is also the Chancellor of the J&K Universities for his personal intervention into the matter and resolve the seniority dispute of professors in KU.
"If there is dispute in the seniority between Serial 1 and 2, let the charge be given to the Prof who stands at serial 3 in the seniority list. That is better for the institutions instead of making arrangements outside the varsity," a senior Prof. said—(KNO)

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- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 11 Jumad al-Sani 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	6:08
	ZUHR	12:35
	ASR	3:57
	Magrib	5:37
ISHA	7:03	

This Day In History

- 1998 - Wilaya of Relizane massacres in Algeria: over 170 are killed in three remote villages. 1998 - A massive ice storm hits eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, continuing through January 10 and causing widespread destruction.
- 1999 - Former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura is sworn in as governor of Minnesota.
- 1999 - Gunmen open fire on Shiite Muslims worshipping in an Islamabad mosque, killing 16 people and injuring 25.
- 2000 - After 2 months, Catherine Hartley and Fiona Thornehill, reach the South Poll, the same day as Sir Edmund Hillary 48 years before.
- 2000 - 19 are killed after two trains collide in Asta, Norway.
- 2004 - Spirit, a NASA Mars Rover, lands successfully on Mars at 04:35 UTC.
- 2004 - Mikheil Saakashvili is elected President of Georgia.
- 2006 - Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel suffers a second, apparently more serious stroke. His authority is transferred to acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.
- 2007 - The 110th United States Congress convenes, electing Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the House in U.S. history.
- 2010 - The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention removed HIV infection from its list of communicable diseases of public health significance.
- 2010 39th Fiesta Bowl: #6 Boise State beats #3 TCU, 17-10
- 2010 - The Burj Khalifa, world's tallest building at 829.8 m (2,722 ft), officially opens in Dubai

From KO Archives

Blast In Sabzi Mandi; 17 Killed 38 Injured

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR- At least 17 people were killed and 38 others wounded in a powerful land mine explosion in a crowded vegetable market near Batmali in central Srinagar this morning. The dead were mostly shopkeepers but also included four security force personnel.
Reports also said that the security personnel present in the market resorted to firing in panic after the blast ripped through the market place. Twelve persons, two of them security personnel, died on the spot an official spokesman said adding scores of injured were rushed to hospital where five more were declared brought dead. The casualty figure was likely to rise as the condition of most of the injured was stated to be critical, doctors at-tending the injured said.
Several security personnel were at the market buying vegetables when the bomb went off. The injured included a dozen members of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) and Special Security Branch (SSB). A truck and a van belonging to each outfit were destroyed. The SSB is a new unit meant to guard top politicians in Kashmir. The BSF mans the country's land border with Pakistan.
The blast sparked panic in the morning crowd at the market, witnesses said Security force personnel resorted to firing in panic but PTI news agency quoted official spokesman as saying that the Security personnel fired in self-defence. This caused further panic with shopkeeper and customers rushing for cover leaving behind the dead and wounded. "People were wailing, some could not run because they were wounded," a labourer at the site told pressmen.
No one claimed responsibility, but the police blamed militants fighting to end Indian rule in Kashmir for the blast. The vegetable market straddles a highway and lies sandwiched between Tattu Ground army camp and BSF picket. Personnel of Central Reserve Police Force resorted to mild cane charge when large number of people mostly family members of dead and injured gathered outside the SMHS hospital. CNS said three persons were injured in the cane charge. CNS quoted a spokesman of Vegetable dealers association as saying that many people in the mandi died after security personnel opened indiscriminate fire.
Officials of the police hospital however told the agency that none of the injured brought there had gunshot wound. Scores of injured meanwhile were battling for their lives in SMHS, SKIMS and B&J hospitals. The injured included a five year old boy.
(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 04 January, 2000)

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday | 04-01-2023

Six Years After Demonitization

The Supreme Court on Monday backed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2016 notes ban today in a landmark 4-1 majority judgment saying it was "not relevant" whether the objective of the overnight ban was achieved. One judge, Justice BV Nagarathna disagreed, terming the move "unlawful". In a strong dissenting judgment, Justice Nagarathna called the notes ban "vitiating and unlawful". He, however, agreed that the status quo could not be restored now. The judge noted that the entire exercise was carried out in 24 hours. Some 58 petitions challenged the Centre's decision to ban Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 currency notes overnight that instantly wiped Rs 10 lakh crore out of circulation. The government had argued that the court cannot rule on a case when there is no tangible relief available, saying it was tantamount to "putting the clock back" or "unscrambling a scrambled egg."

While supreme court decision on demonitization makes no real impact on the ground, it has momentarily jogged public memory on this issue. The demonitization disrupted the economy for some time, especially the small businesses. It took time for these businesses to find their footing again. There was also chaos on the streets for a few months.

In Kashmir, however, the demonitization didn't make much of a difference to the routine. One of the overriding rationales of the demonitization was that it will deal a mortal blow to terrorism and bring peace to Kashmir. The opinion on whether it actually did so remains debatable. For until after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the militancy and the public unrests continued unchanged in the Valley. In the last three years, the direct control of Jammu and Kashmir by the centre has made some visible difference in the ground situation. Public unrests have ended and stone-throwing has disappeared. But militancy is still far from over as the killings of innocent civilians in Jammu underlines yet again.

Coming back to impact of demonitization in Kashmir, there wasn't much. In fact, a week after Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes being declared illegal tender in 2016, the Kashmir Valley was more or less back to normal. In Srinagar, the rush at the banks and the ATMs drastically moderated. This turn of events was surprising considering it was at variance with the official narrative about Kashmir being a hub of the unaccounted terror money. Why was it so? Economists in Valley had a more undramatic, common sense explanation. The demonitization had followed immediately after the Valley had observed an uninterrupted shutdown in the the preceding four months. Businesses were shut. Little money was in circulation. Most people thus didn't need to deposit money. Six years after the disruptive move, the Indian economy and with it, that of Kashmir has recovered from its debilitating impact. Whether demonitizations's objectives were served or not is immaterial now.

OTHER OPINION

Bad to worse: On Benjamin Netanyahu's return

The return of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's Prime Minister for a sixth time marks a decisive shift in its domestic politics and its relationship with the Palestinians. If in the past his right-wing Likud party had formed diverse governing coalitions with centrist and relatively moderate parties, in the current six-party right-wing coalition, five are ultra-orthodox and far-right Jewish nationalist parties that make even Likud look moderate. The coalition agreement, a document that determines governing agendas, suggests that Mr. Netanyahu's government would pursue radical right-wing policies, seeking to expand illegal Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, remake the judicial system by handing more powers to Parliament over courts, and amend the Basic Law, removing hurdles for those with extremist views from contesting elections. Itamar Ben-Gvir, a far-right politician convicted for Jewish terror links and inciting racism in 2007, is the Security Minister, with powers over Israel's police force. Bezalel Smotrich, leader of the ultranationalist Religious Zionism Party, and now the new Finance Minister, wants to fund more Jewish settlements. Some of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition members are also known for their anti-LGBT positions.

For Mr. Netanyahu and Likud, the formation of Israel's most right-wing coalition is a natural progression of the politics they have followed. In the past, Mr. Netanyahu embraced ultra-orthodox and right-wing parties, pursued conservative agendas, walked back from peace and cracked down on the Palestinians, and deepened the occupation. It helped him become Israel's longest serving PM. But the Netanyahu era also reshaped Israel's politics, pushing it to the extreme right. The Prime Minister has dismissed criticism that his coalition would endanger Israel's democracy. At the same time, he has projected himself as a tough Prime Minister who would implement the coalition's agenda. "The Jewish people have an exclusive and indisputable right to the entire land of Israel," he said on Wednesday, referring to historical Palestine and suggesting that settlements would continue unabated. If the Knesset passes judicial reforms, the government, with the support of 64 MPs in the 120-member Parliament, can override even Supreme Court rulings. Besides, parties such as the Shas, the United Torah Judaism and Religious Zionism will influence the government's decisions that could alter the state-religion balance in a country where over 20% of the population are minorities. As Mr. Netanyahu's coalition seems determined to remake Israel's politics internally and deepen the occupation and subjugation of the Palestinians externally, it could also quicken the country's fall into an elected Jewish theocracy.

The Hindu



Feature image caption: For representational purposes only

A Gendered Perspective on Landslides in Kashmir

Prarthna Sen

Gender-sensitive planning must include community-level consultations comprising all the female members of the communities to be affected, in attendance with their male counterparts, and holding discussions on matters of land-use zoning, conducting professional investigations and coming up with appropriate designs for reducing landslide risks

Landslides in Kashmir are a recurring phenomenon and generate economic losses amounting to lakhs of rupees every year. While most slow-moving landslides may not result in human casualties, they carry the potential to inflict heavy damage on people's properties and lands over a certain period of time.

Rising temperatures across South Asia have amplified the intensity of floods, landslides and river-bank erosion in Kashmir. Human activities too serve as a major contributing factor in causing landslides, though most human-caused landslides can be prevented or mitigated.

While much is known about the severe environmental and humanitarian impacts caused by landslides in general, less is known about how gender and landslides in Kashmir stand correlated.

Since time immemorial, local communities in the region have relied on the tradition of using earthen stoves. This practice has been passed down through several generations, and to date, wood and dried leaves are collected by women and girls to be used as cooking fuel.

In addition, geographical factors like hilly terrains constrict opportunities that ensure their safe access to cleaner sources of renewable energy— as seen in villages in the Kupwara District for instance. The availability of wood makes for a fairly sustainable source of cooking and for keeping warm, especially during the winter months.

The use of traditional sources of energy in Kashmir such as fuel-wood, dung and agricultural residues remains a common practice. In fact, a Jammu and Kashmir wood balance study revealed that villages that lacked access to forest areas, relied on unclean energy sources like agricultural residues, cow dung and kerosene instead.

By losing access to and control over forest and land resources in the aftermath of landslides, women and girls have to rely on other unclean energy sources, which in turn accentuate the possibilities of respiratory issues such as bronchitis, asthma and phlegm. The study revealed that in such villages, the consumption of kerosene witnessed a monumental rise from just a litre to around 11.5 litres!

Further, gender sensitivities stand mostly ignored or overlooked during the project design and planning phases of infrastructure development, such as hydropower projects for instance. Upcoming projects like the Bursar Dam are located in high-intensity seismic zones and thus, reflect poor decision-making and planning in landslide management practices.

Seismic activities surrounding dam locations must be determined in the initial stages of a project's concept phase. Geotechnical experts must be roped in for evaluating landslide hazards and suggest corrective techniques to decrease such risks.

Gender-sensitive planning must include community-level consultations comprising all the female members of the communities to be affected, in attendance with their male counterparts, and holding discussions on matters of land-use zoning, conducting professional investigations and coming up with appropriate designs for reducing landslide risks.

Dam-induced displacements are known to affect all irrespective of age and gender. It restricts women and girls' access to clean water, and proper sanitation facilities and compromises their safety and mobility. At any plan-

ning stage, it is imperative to identify such vulnerable groups whose voices have remained traditionally suppressed in the decision-making processes.

Also, Kashmir's farming communities constitute women farmers in large numbers, who more often than not, remain overlooked when it comes to policy-making concerns. With time, changes in the gender roles in Kashmir's agricultural sector have been observed, with women farmers forming the 'invisible' hands of Kashmir's agricultural sector.

Women in the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes for instance, are heavily involved cultivating maize in the mountainous areas of Kashmir. Despite being present in large numbers, women farmers remain constrained by their inaccessibility to credit, insurance and other such financial tools that help make lands more productive, even in the wake of natural disasters like landslides and earthquakes.

It is mostly their lack of awareness of government-sponsored insurance schemes that cover crop damage in light of such unforeseen events, leaving them highly vulnerable to the vagaries of nature in return. It is imperative to close such gender gaps concerning agricultural awareness in Kashmir, so as to ensure higher adaptation in the aftermath of landslide disasters and build resilience among women in farming communities.

To this end, counselling sessions for women farmers must be held to generate awareness and ensure capacity-building. For instance, women farmers must be encouraged to replant on lost and damaged grounds, as erosion resulting from lost ground cover can trigger flash floods and additional landslides in the near future.

It is also important to preserve the traditional land use rights, cultural rights and the right to life of indigenous communities that remain affected and/or forcibly displaced by landslides— especially, women and children, as they are found to be most vulnerable among those affected.

It is seen that governmental efforts for assisting landslide-affected persons in Kashmir re-

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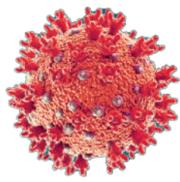
It is seen that governmental efforts for assisting landslide-affected persons in Kashmir re-

maining restricted to doling out cash grants and relief materials (such as food grains etc.). Evacuation efforts too are found replete with loopholes.

With factors such as the onset of heavy monsoons and COVID-19 restrictions at present, awareness generation campaigns for populations at risk for instance, have invariably taken a hit. Being aware of local evacuation plans, for instance, enables one to avail immediate assistance in the aftermath of landslide disasters.

Thus, raising awareness among Kashmir's female residents is of utmost priority— it enables them to render protection not only to themselves, but also to their children and other members of the family during the sudden onset of landslides, as also take adequate steps and measures for their safety and protection.

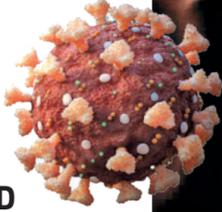
Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Prarthana Sen is a member of the Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies (IAAPS) and former researcher at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Kolkata



COVID CONUNDRUM



THERE REMAIN BIG DIFFERENCES IN PHARMACEUTICAL AND NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS IN PLACE AROUND THE WORLD, for example the use of masks, COVID testing and building ventilation. As governments loosen and at times re-tighten their responses to react to dynamic medical and social pressures, there is a risk that variants could emerge which evade some of the defences that populations have built up



Duncan Robertson

In 2020, we knew very little about the novel virus that was to become known as COVID-19. Now, as we enter 2023, a search of Google Scholar produces around five million results containing the term.

So how will the pandemic be felt in 2023? This question is in some ways impossible to answer, given a number of unknowns. In early 2020 the scientific community was focused on determining key parameters that could be used to make projections as to the severity and extent of the spread of the virus. Now, the complex interplay of COVID variants, vaccination and natural immunity makes that process far more difficult and less predictable.

But this doesn't mean there's room for complacency. The proportion of people estimated to be infected has varied over time, but this figure has not fallen below 1.25% (or one in 80 people) in England for the entirety

of 2022. COVID is very much still with us, and people are being infected time and time again.

Meanwhile, the number of people self-reporting long COVID symptoms in the UK is around 3.4%, or one in 30 people. And the cumulative risk of acquiring long COVID grows the more times people are reinfected with COVID.

The UK's health system is under huge pressure, with very high pre-COVID waiting times having been exacerbated during the pandemic.

WHY COVID PROJECTIONS HAVE BECOME HARDER

During the early days of the pandemic, simple models could be used to project the number of COVID cases and the likely effect on the population, including demands for health care.

Relatively few variables were needed to produce the first projections. That was because there was one main variant of COVID, the original strain, to which everyone in the

world was susceptible.

But now, those simple assumptions no longer hold. Much of the world's population is estimated to have had COVID and there are significant differences between individual levels of protection in terms of which vaccines, and how many doses, people have received around the world. In total, 13 billion vaccine doses have been administered – but not equitably.

Modelling also works well when people act in ways that are predictable, whether this is normal, pre-pandemic behaviour, or at times of severe social restrictions. As people adapt to the virus and make their own assessment of risk and benefits of behaviour, modelling becomes more complex.

A reduction in surveillance also makes modelling more difficult. During the peak of the emergency response to COVID this was a priority, including surveillance of people with the virus, and surveillance of

variants. This allowed new variants such as omicron to be identified early and responses to be prepared.

The UK in particular produced two million COVID sequences up to February 2022, accounting for one-quarter of the world's genome sequencing output. But sequencing activity has subsequently decreased, which may increase the time it takes to identify new variants of concern.

THE PANDEMIC IS NOT OVER

There remain big differences in pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions in place around the world, for example the use of masks, COVID testing and building ventilation. As governments loosen and at times re-tighten their responses to react to dynamic medical and social pressures, there is a risk that variants could emerge which evade some of the defences that populations have built up.

The next stages of the pandemic will also be influenced by people's

behaviour. For instance, how much we work from home and whether we reduce our social contacts when infectious.

There's no certainty that new variants will emerge that have an effect in the order of delta or omicron, but it is possible. Should this occur, it's important that plans are in place to respond in the context of waning interest in COVID and resurgent misinformation and disinformation.

BEYOND 2023 – THE NEXT PANDEMIC

It's pertinent to ask how much learning has taken place during the COVID pandemic to improve the response to the next pandemic.

During this pandemic, we've often seen short-term national interests prioritised, with a focus on national responses to vaccine equity while discounting the long-term global availability of vaccines. While laudable initiatives such as Covax were established, conceived to provide equitable access to COVID vaccines and

treatments, the challenge is to design incentives for nations to cooperate to reduce long-term global risks.

As with any political response, the priorities of the emergency phase can all too easily be forgotten, such as governments' abilities to manufacture vaccines. The UK government's sale of the Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre is an example of this. Capacity to develop and produce vaccines quickly would stand us in good stead for the next pandemic, but these priorities now have to compete against others that are more immediate or politically expedient.

The UK's COVID inquiry is bound to be presented with thousands of pages of evidence, with many submissions giving clear, self-consistent accounts of "lessons learned". Whether those lessons are put into practice is another matter entirely.

By arrangements with The Conversation

FATE VS FREEWILL

We need to look beyond the dichotomy of fate and freewill

Iffat Nazir

Humans have been created in the best shape and have been described as the crown of all creations. What makes them different from other creations is the rational faculty which the Almighty has bestowed upon them. This rational approach sometimes compels one to ponder over certain questions that knock us down. And the sad part is, without leading to any accepted conclusion, these kinds of questions and painful queries weigh so heavily upon even the minds of most cultivated and learned ones that either they think in terms of absurdity or directly fall into the whirling abyss of despair.

"A man can do what he wants, but he can't want (choose) what he wants". This quote speaks about the essential dichotomy between our choices and the conditions in which we are placed helplessly to face all that has been stored for us without taking our consent. Should we stand up and fight for our free will or admit the machinery and workings of fate passively that take us along as mere puppets of a powerful supernatural agency. Both these concepts have been debated and deliberated upon but there seems no final ruling as to which way a person should proceed for much happiness and greater satisfaction. But we have to be conscious of the fact that both fate and free will are key factors in 'how and why' major events happen in our lives.

Life is a delicate balance between the two, and both are not mathematically predestined. Fate brings you opportunity and freewill determines whether or not you take them. What has been planned for you and how much are you ready to do something with it? But honestly I have felt, the final choice we make is simply a subjective feeling, devoid of any past and present pressures inside us that makes us decide the future course of action.

There are only two ways to under-



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stand and solve this riddle with much simplicity. One is to enquire for whom is this destiny and discover that only the non-existent ego is bound by destiny and not the self. The other way is to kill the ego by completely surrendering to the Lord, by realizing one's helplessness and saying all the time "not I" but thou O Lord and giving up all the sense of 'I' and 'mine', and leaving it to the Lord to do what he likes with you. Complete effacement of the ego is necessary to conquer destiny, whether you achieve this effacement through self-enquiry or path of devotion.

Freewill without fate is no more con-

ceivable than spirit without matter, good without evil. Both these are two sides of the same coin. The only significant difference between these two is the thinking process and the experience that guides a person in the right direction of cause and effect process. From an early stage, we are made to believe that everything is predetermined. But as we become conscious of the world around us, we feel that a human being is always free not to identify himself with the established norms and regulations. Life, fate, will is basically a game but not of the set patterns and the fixed boundaries. Those who have no

knowledge of the source whence fate and free will arise, will dispute which of them can conquer the other. Those who have realized themselves, which is the source of both fate and freewill, have left disputes behind, and will have nothing more to do with them.

Most of us have come across the quote "the past is destined to repeat itself". If seen through the lens of fate, people are fated to repeat mistakes of the past irrespective of any consideration for liking and disliking. I feel it's because of human nature. What seems easy to all of us is to step into the shoes of elders and others, and walk with ease instead of carving a road for our own selves with patience and continuous struggle. People repeat the same mistakes, over and over again, no matter what the era is, because with the passage of time they have developed a taste for passivity and inaction. "You can't make your own choices", it's a kind of disgusting feeling. If you make your own choices, you don't want to make the wrong one. We all need to come out of this frigid mentality to aim for what you want to choose, don't think about fate or free will. Use freewill to change your fate, use your fate to change it for your freewill. It really doesn't matter which one is more right to the other. The point is that choices are made everyday, if you spend all your time regretting choices too hard, you will never get anywhere.

Personally, I believe that freedom from both these clutches can be delivered through hard work and determination, which only can help us to go beyond what is set for you. We need to look beyond the dichotomy of fate and freewill to break the shackles and choose the ways and actions with great dedication so that we can lead a life of contentment and happiness.

Iffat Nazir is a B.A. 6th semester student at Govt. Degree College Sogam (Lolab), Kupwara with an interest in Oratory and Poetry. Feedback at iffatnazir627@gmail.com

Cinema hall owner can determine whether food from outside be permitted: SC

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Jan 3 : The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday the owners of cinema halls are entitled to set the terms and conditions for sale of food and beverages and can determine whether outside food should be permitted within the theatre precincts.

The apex court set aside a direction of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court which had in July 2018 directed multiplex and cinema hall owners there not to prohibit movie goers from carrying their own food articles and water inside the theatres. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha observed that cinema hall is a private property of the owner, who is entitled to have terms and conditions so long as they are not contrary to public interest, safety and welfare.

"Viewers visit a cinema hall for the purpose of entertainment. We are clearly of the view that the high court transgressed the limits in the exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution by ordering and directing the state to ensure that there should be no prohibition on a movie goer bringing eatables and beverages from



outside within the precinct of a cinema hall," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging the direction given by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

The bench said whether or not to see a movie is entirely the choice of the viewer and, if he or she seeks to enter a cinema hall, they have to abide by the terms and conditions subject to which the entry is granted.

"...it is open to the theatre owner to determine as to whether food from outside the precinct of the hall should be permitted within," it said, adding that it is evidently a matter of commercial decision of a theatre owner.

The bench noted that during

the course of the arguments before it, the counsel appearing for the appellants stated that due arrangements are made for the supply of hygienic drinking water to the movie goers without levying any charge within the precinct of the cinema hall.

The apex court said it was also stated before it that where an infant or a young child accompanies the parents, as a matter of practice, the cinema hall owners have no objection to reasonable amount of food being carried for the child to serve the nutritional requirements.

It observed that whether or not to purchase, food or beverages after given admission to the cinema hall is entirely the choice of a movie goer.

"The property of the cinema hall constitutes a private property of the owner of the hall. The owner of the hall is entitled to have terms and conditions so long as such terms and conditions are not contrary to public interest, safety and welfare," it said.

Advocate Sumeer Sodhi, appearing for one of the appellants G S Malls Pvt. Ltd, argued the receipts issued by theatre owners have a specific condition mentioned on them to the effect that no outside food is allowed.

The court said the owner of a private property has the right to decide what can be brought in and what not subject to rules.

"Now, the regulation of what can be brought, what cannot be brought within the precincts of a private property, is for the owner of the property to decide, subject to statutory rules which regulate his activity," the CJ said.

"Suppose, somebody starts getting 'jalebis' into the cinema hall, the owner could say you eat your 'jalebis' and wipe your hands on the seats," Justice Chandrachud said, adding, "I am just giving you an example."

The bench observed the fundamental aspect which needs to be noted is that the trade and business of conducting a cinema theatre is subject to regulation by the state which has framed the Jammu and Kashmir Cinemas (Regulation) Rules, 1975.

It said, admittedly, the rules contain no mandate compelling the owner of a cinema theatre to allow a movie goer to bring food or beverages within the precinct of the theatre.

The bench said it needed no emphasis that the rule making power of the state has to be exercised in a manner consistent

with the fundamental right of the hall owners to carry on a legitimate trade and business within the meaning of Article 19 (1)(g) of the Constitution.

In August 2018, the top court had stayed the high court direction to the cinema hall and multiplex owners of the state not to prohibit movie goers from carrying own food and water inside the theatres.

Besides the relaxation on carrying food items inside the theatres, the high court had on July 18, 2018 passed a number of directions related to cinema halls.

The high court had issued a slew of directions on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by two lawyers, seeking a direction for the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Cinemas (Regulation) Rules, 1975 in their letter and spirit.

The PIL before the high court had sought a direction prohibiting the cinema hall owners from restraining the movie goers from taking outside eatables with them inside.

In its order, the high court had directed the state government, the licensing authority and district magistrates to ensure that a ban on polythene bags at multiplexes and cinema halls was strictly enforced.

Special Commissioner Team Visited Sultanpuri-Kanjhawala Road Stretch For Investigation: Delhi Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Special Commissioner of Police Shalini Singh with her team has inspected the 12-km-long stretch from Sultanpuri to Kanjhawala along which a 20-year-old woman was dragged after her two-wheeler was hit by a car in outer Delhi, police said on Tuesday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has sought a detailed report of the incident from the Delhi Police.

The Delhi Police has constituted an inquiry committee, headed by Special Commissioner Shalini Singh, and asked her to submit a report as early as possible in connection with the incident. A senior police officer said that as part of the inquiry, Singh with her team on Monday night visited the crime scene and inspected the stretch of road in outer Delhi, where the woman was dragged by a car after she got stuck under it.

According to sources, the team's primary responsibility is to do an analysis of the stretch and suggest improvements to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the

future. It will also be looking if all Standard Operating Procedures were followed by the police and whether they responded in time to the incident, and on the basis of the outcome, assign responsibility.

"After it has done its analysis and recorded statements of police personnel who were the first responders, a detailed report will be submitted which may also include suggestions such as if extra lights, patrolling vehicles, and CCTVs need to be installed along the stretch," said a source.

The woman, who was the sole breadwinner of her family, was dragged for 12 kilometres under the car on the December 31 night and was found naked by a road in Kanjhawala, according to police.

Five men who were allegedly in the car were booked for culpable homicide among other sections on Monday even as the police came under charges of conducting a "shoddy investigation" in the matter.

All five accused were sent to a three-day police custody on Monday.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'From Terrorist Hotspot

Rs 80,000 crore in hydro-power electricity. The work of Kiru project at a cost of Rs 4,287 crore is under progress, the ministry said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 240 development projects worth about Rs 2,000 crore in Srinagar on October 5, 2022.

The Home Ministry said earlier the explanation of 'Jamhooriyat' (democracy) in Kashmir was only for "three families, 87 MLAs and 6 MPs" but Modi has connected 30,000 people with 'Jamhooriyat' by taking democracy to the village panches, sarpanches, BDC members and zilla panchayats.

Earlier, due to Article 370, Gujjar-Bakarwal and Paharis could not get the benefit of reservation in education, elections and jobs, but now after the removal of the Article, they will all get reservation, it said.

Under the rule of the "three families" for 70 years, only Rs 15,000 crore investment came to Jammu and Kashmir and Modi has brought investment of Rs 56,000 crore in just 3 years, the year end review said.

Security forces and police are pro-actively conducting coordinated counter-terrorism operations to fulfill Prime Minister Modi's vision of a prosperous and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

Shah appreciated efforts of security agencies and the administration of Jammu and Kashmir for keeping streets free from violence and significantly restoring rule of law.

The home minister also said the terror ecosystem comprising elements that aid, abet and sustain terrorist-separatist campaign to detriment of the well-being of the common man, requires it to be completely dismantled.

Slight Respite

in minimum temperature Monday night. It registered a low of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius.

In Kupwara, a frontier district, the minimum temperature settled at minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.1 degree Celsius, the officials said.

The below-than-normal precipitation this winter has resulted in an increase in respiratory problems for the residents, particularly children and elderly, doctors said.

The sub-zero temperatures have resulted in the freezing of several waterbodies in the valley.

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.

DM Inaugurates

Commander, 760 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF), Superintendent Engineer (Civil), Sunil Chander Srivastava; Officer Commanding (Executive Engineer) 52 RCC GREF, Kumar Gautam and various other senior officers, prominent citizens.

Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road was also among the projects virtually inaugurated by Rajnath Singh and physically inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyambir at Hari Pora village of the district in presence of Brigadier Saket Singh, Chief Engineer BRO Kashmir, officials of BRO, army and district administration, the officials said.

All arrangements to witness the virtual confluence were made at the venue by the BRO.

The SSG road is a strategic road that has a social and economic impact on the population of Ladakh as they are dependent on the daily needs of their logistics and essential

commodities.

Police Announces

device (IED) went off in the village, killing cousins Samiksha and Vihan.

The terrorists, locals claimed, had planted the IED on Sunday itself and it was missed during the scanning by police and security officials.

Tearful Adieu

with flowers and wreaths to pay their last respects to the mortal remains at the government higher second school, where the bodies were kept for the night.

Amid slogans by people who took out processions, the bodies of the six victims of the terror attacks at Dhangri village, were brought to the cremation ground for last rites.

The bodies of four-year-old Vihan Sharma, 16-year-old Samiksha Sharma, Satish Kumar (45), Deepak Kumar (23), Pritam Lal (57) and Shishu Pal (32) were cremated in six pyres lined up at Dhangri cremation ground.

The cremation took place amid tight security arrangements. Security has been beefed up in and around Rajouri city and adjoining areas, officials said.

Cordon and search operations are on to track down terrorists involved in the killings, they said.

Police has announced Rs 10 lakh award to anyone who share specific information regarding the terrorists involved in the gruesome attacks.

Meanwhile, a team of NIA led by senior officer visited Dhangri village this afternoon to conduct initial investigation into the twin terror incidents that also left 11 injured on Sunday and Monday.

Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, BJP Jammu and Kashmir chief Ravinder Raina, ADGP Mukesh Singh and divisional commissioner (Jammu) Ramesh Kumar took part in the cremation besides army officers and district administration officials. They laid wreath at the mortal remains and paid rich tributes to the departed persons.

The two cousins were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off on Monday. On Sunday evening, terrorists opened fire on three houses in the area in Rajouri district killing four civilians and injuring six.

In Kishtwar district, a bandh was observed on Tuesday in protest against the attacks.

Shops and business establishments remained closed and traffic was partially off the roads in the town.

"Sanatan Dharam Sabha gave a bandh call to protest against the killings. It was aimed to sensitise the government about the security and safety of the people," a leader of the organisation said.

Night Curfew

present foggy weather, it stated.

The order issued by the district magistrate Anuradha Gupta banned the movement of civilians from 9 PM to 6 AM in area up to one kilometer from the International Border (IB) in Samba district.

"No person or group of persons shall move in the area up to one kilometer along the International Border in district Samba from 2100 hrs to 0600 hour during the night," the order stated.

During a meeting of the district-level standing committee, authorities of the Border Security Force took up the issue of imposition of night curfew on a kilometre-long strip from IB from 9 pm to 6 am daily, enabling them to perform their duties more effectively, the order said.

To ensure smooth functioning, better domination by BSF authorities and to preclude nefarious activities close to the border areas, the regulation in the movement of people has become imminent, particularly in the area from the International Border, it said.

"It is felt by district administration that it is expedient that the movement of people in

border areas is regulated so that there is better area domination by BSF in border area and nefarious designs of forces inimical to Indian security are subverted," DM said in the order.

She said in case movement is necessary, the person or persons are required to produce their respective ID cards to BSF and police authorities.

"Any person found violating the aforementioned order shall be dealt with in accordance with law. Since it is not possible to serve the order individually, it is being issued ex-parte", DM said.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from the date of its issuance, if not withdrawn or /rescinded earlier.

Security Beefed

the Jammu was as good as in any other part of the country.

Officials said that a high level security review meeting was held at Jammu Tawi Railway station.

The meeting was chaired by Station Director Uchit Singhal with ticket checking staff, Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) to discuss the various areas which need to be focused upon.

The GRP and RPF personnel were directed to ensure safety and security concerns at the station complex with the help of sniffer dogs and metal detectors.

A separate meeting was taken with the contractors and vendors working at Jammu Tawi Railway station. They were directed to keep a strict vigil on suspicious person, activity or any unclaimed luggage to ensure safety of people using the station.

Uchit Singhal said that all incoming and outgoing trains would be checked along with the luggage of the passengers with the assistance of a specially trained dog squad capable of detecting explosives—(KNO)

1300 AMU Students

CEPECAMI, Centre for Interdisc, biomedical and human factors engineering, centre for women's studies, centre of advanced study schools and nodal officer of community college.

Assistant Controller Examination of AMU said, "I am directed to request these officials to furnish the Information with regard to total number of students studying in the faculty, centre etcetera male and female wise total number of Jammu and Kashmiri students admitted with complete details during the session 2022-2023."

The officer has directed to furnish the details on priority. "The information is to be provided to the Superintendent of Police of Aligarh."

Pertinently, on December 25, scores of Kashmiri students protested at AMU following the alleged thrashing of a Kashmiri student.

Meanwhile, J&K Students Association has urged the Home Minister Amit Shah to withdraw a circular of profiling Jammu and Kashmiri students issued by Aligarh Muslim University on the directions of Aligarh Police.

In a statement, National Convener of Association Nasir Khuehami said that Aligarh Police is seeking information of 1300 J&K students enrolled in AMU.

"This is a discriminatory move, breaching the privacy of J&K students & clearly goes against the spirit of the Constitution. J&K students studying in AMU have opposed this move and termed it an act of snooping on them," Khuehami said.

He said that AMU has been asked to immediately provide details of the students hailing from Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Khuehami, the details which have been sought include the name of the student, father's name, current address, permanent address, mobile number, along with details of courses and department.

"AMU has asked different departments to furnish details on Jammu and Kashmir

students. The circular says please attend this on priority as information is to be provided to Superintendent Police Aligarh," he said.

Khuehami said, this move is quite "discriminatory" towards students of Jammu and Kashmir.

"While no students of other state or Union territories of India are asked to furnish such details, why only J&K students?," he asked.

He said the profiling of J&K students will serve an impediment and obstacle to the integration of Jammu and Kashmiri youth to India.

"Such measures alienate and estrange the youth of Kashmir in general and students studying across India in particular," JKSA National Convener said.

"The profiling has caused scepticism among students and has thrown them into anxiety. Such measures are causing immense vexation to Kashmiri students studying in AMU. It is strange that the authorities chose to target only Jammu and Kashmiri students. Was it to suggest that our students are different from the rest of country country?" he added

National Spokesperson of Association, Ummar Jamal also requested Home Minister, Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath to poste-haste look into the matter and take immediate steps to revoke the discriminatory circular.

Ummar requested them that no sort of profiling of J&K students should be done at AMU, because this makes Kashmiri students feel that they are strangers.

"We request Home Minister to kindly intervene in the matter and issue directions for cessation of the unfair profiling of Jammu and Kashmiri students, so that the students continue their studies hassle-free without difficulty" Ummar added. (With KNO inputs)

Army Gen Briefs

security agencies for ensuring a safe and secure environment in Jammu Kashmir.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, former Deputy Chief Ministers Dr Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, met the LG and discussed with him several matters of public importance.

He said Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Mayor, Rajinder Sharma also called on the LG and apprised him on the functioning of the Corporation.

"He was also informed about the recent resolutions passed by the corporation to improve its functioning among other matters," the spokesperson added.

MHA Sets Up

Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs, MHA - member Secretary and one nominated member from MHA.

The committee will have Leh Thupstan Chhewang (former MP), Nawang Rigzin Jora (ex-Minister, Ashraf Ali Barcha (President, Anjuman-e-Imamia; Shia body, Leh), Acharya Stanzin Wangtak (President, All Ladakh Gompa Association), Kushok Thiksey (Nawang Chamba Stanzin @ Thiksey Rinpoche, Leh).

From Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), Asgar Ali Karabla (Co-chairman, KDA and working President Territorial Congress Committee, Ladakh), Qamar Ali Akhoo (co-chairman, KDA and senior NC Leader), Sajad Kargili (social activist and representative, Islamia School, Kargil) and Tsewang Nurbuo (President, LBA, Kargil)—(KNO)

In A First, Army

a three-month stint after she underwent rigorous training, Army officials said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh conveyed his best wishes to Capt Chauhan and said he was happy to see more women joining the armed forces and take every challenge in stride.

"Excellent news! I am extremely happy to see more women joining the Armed Forces and take every challenge in stride. It is an encouraging sign. My best wishes to Capt Shiva Chauhan," he tweeted.

The Army said Capt Chauhan became the first woman officer to get operationally deployed at

the world's highest battlefield.

The Siachen glacier at the height of around 20,000 feet in the Karakoram range is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where the soldiers have to battle frostbite and high winds.

In the past, women officers have been posted to Siachen base camp which is at about 9,000 ft as part of their regular postings along with the unit.

"It was a proud moment for Indian Army when Capt Shiva Chouhan became the first woman officer to get operationally deployed at the world's highest battlefield, Siachen, after a month's arduous training at Siachen Battle School along with other personnel," the Army said in a statement.

Capt Shiva Chouhan from Rajasthan is a Bengal Sapper Officer.

She has done her schooling from Udaipur and holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from NJR Institute of Technology, Udaipur. She lost her father at a young age of 11 years and her mother took care of her studies.

From her childhood, she was motivated to join the Indian Armed Forces and showcased unparalleled zeal during training at Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai and was commissioned into the Engineer Regiment in May 2021.

The officer was put through rigorous training at the Siachen Battle School where she trained alongside the officers and men of the Indian Army, officials said.

The training included endurance training, ice wall climbing, avalanche and crevasse rescue and survival drills, they said.

"In spite of various challenges, Captain Shiva with unflinching commitment successfully completed the training and was all set to be inducted to the Siachen Glacier," said an official.

The Army said the team of Sappers led by Capt Shiva Chouhan will be responsible for numerous combat engineering tasks and will be deployed at the post for a duration of three months.

KPDCL Lineman

of November, 2022.

"The employee demanded him to pay Rs 3000 for settlement of the said bill. Since the contents of the complaint disclosed a demand of bribe by an alleged accused public servant which required prompt action by this investigating agency," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No 01/2023 was registered at P/S ACB Anantnag and investigations were started.

The ACB spokesperson said that after registering an FIR, a trap team was constituted that caught the lineman red handed for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 3,000.

"He was immediately arrested on the spot after completing necessary legal formalities. Further investigation is going on," he added.

Gurez Road Opens

weather conditions are extremely harsh.

He said despite risk men are clearing snow to open the road for vehicular movement for an extended period of time in the winter and for that BRO is very keen on making it possible. (KNS)

Pak Intruder

at the border.

Last year, the BSF killed two infiltrators and apprehended 23 Pakistanis along the 553-km-long India-Pakistan international border that falls in Punjab.

On Monday, the force had recovered a drone, with about 1 kg of suspected heroin, that was shot by its troops in Kassowal area of the Gurdaspur sector on December 31.

Man Dies After

It has been 1 learnt that the police has taken cognizance into the incident and started investigations to ascertain the facts. (GNS)



Dr Farooq Joins Bharat Jodo Yatra In UP

Appreciates Rahul Gandhi For Promoting Cause Of National Unity, Strengthening Democracy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of the Parliament Dr. Farooq Abdullah joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra near Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday.

The Party President joined the second leg of the Yatra which resumed Tuesday. Led by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the Yatra has covered 3122 kilometres so far from Kanyakumari to New Delhi.

The party President appreciated the Congress MP for promoting the cause of national integrity

and strengthening democratic values through the Yatra.

"The yatra celebrates the country's incredible diversity, pluralism and democratic values which were bequeathed to us by the founding fathers of our nation. The yatra has brought forth the real issues concerning the people and blunted the weapons of communalism by sharpening the message of unity in diversity. I pass on my best wishes to Rahul Ji and his associates who are on the march to spread awareness among fellow countrymen on issues that should concern us all," he said.

IKC, RTI Movement Organise Free Medical Camp

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Islamic Khidmat Centre (IKC) in association with Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement on Monday organised a free medical camp at Kathair Gund Chadoora.

Large number of patients suffer from various ailments especially the diseases that are prevalent during winters were examined by noted physician Dr Mohammad Tahir. The patients were also given free medicine by the IKC.

While addressing the volunteers of IKC and senior citizens of the area on the side-lines of the programme Chairman RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat appreciated the public spir-

ited work done by Islamic Khidmat Centre. He said that IKC was not only involved in imparting religious and moral education to the children of the area, but it was doing a lot of social work as well for all sections of society, especially reaching out to poor and needy plus providing relief material to victims during disasters. Director KOSHISH

Dr Rouf Malik Director Koshish (NGO) urged the volunteers of IKC to work with dedication and maintain proper ethics, discipline and transparency in the organisation.

Chairman IKC Azad Ahmad Parray, RTI activist Bashir Ahmad Sheikh and Mohammad Ayoub Nizam Sarpanch Kathair Gund also spoke on the occasion.

Winter Carnival Arrangements Reviewed In Kupwara



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Tuesday convened a meeting of all concerned officers and stakeholders to review the arrangements for conduct of Winter Carnival-2022 in the district.

The meeting held threadbare discussion regarding the successful conduct of the Carnival and the DC received feedback from the concerned officers.

He directed the concerned officers to work in coordination and ensure things are done with

utmost creativity and cohesion.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed various arrangements and fixed responsibilities on officers to ensure the arrangements at the ground. The arrangements reviewed include infrastructure, parking space, Audio Video system, lighting, installation of stalls, promotional activities, artists, besides, ATV, Snow/Mobile and Ice Skating facilities.

ADC Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat; OC BEACON 109 RCC, ACD, ACP, CMO, entrepreneurs and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

RAJOURI KILLINGS

Div Com Jammu Gives Ex-Gratia Relief To Victim Families

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday visited the residences of families of those who lost their lives in the terrorist Attack at Dhanagri, and handed over ex-gratia relief sanctioned by the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, had announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh for each family, who lost their members in the attack by terrorists. The spokesperson said that the Divisional Commissioner expressed solidarity with the bereaved family members and assured them of every possible support and assistance from the UT Government.

"The Divisional Commissioner also visited GMC Rajouri, to know about the condition of the persons injured in the attack. He directed the Health authorities at GMC to provide best treatment and ensure that injured and their attendants do not feel any in-



convenience," he added. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Kataria, Accounts Officer, Rajesh Sharma also accompanied the Divisional Commissioner Jammu.

Pak Making Every Effort To Disturb Peace: J&K Cong Chief

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani on Tuesday strongly condemned the twin terror attacks in Rajouri and said that Pakistan is making every effort to disturb peace in the Union territory.

Wani urged the Central government and the lieutenant governor to take strict action against the anti-national forces as well as against the neighbouring country so that such acts are not repeated in future.

"We strongly condemn the terrorist attacks at Rajouri. It is a cowardly act of terrorists and total failure of the government on security front," Wani told reporters here.

He said it is a matter of grave concern on the security front that two terror attacks took place at Dhanagri village in two days in which six people, including two children, were brutally killed and 11 injured. The J&K Congress chief said that Sunday's attack on three houses in Dhanagri would not have been possible without the support of some sleeper cells.

He criticized Pakistan for pursuing a policy of hostility against India and harbouring terrorists on its soil.

"Pakistan, which has failed to provide democracy and development to its people, is making every effort to disturb peace in the Jammu and Kashmir," Wani said.

He also demanded suitable

ex-gratia relief to the dependents of the deceased and proper relief to the injured.

Expressing sympathy to the family members of the deceased, J&K Congress working president Raman Bhalla wished for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Bhalla urged the Central government and the J&K lieutenant governor to take strict action against the anti-national forces as well as against Pakistan.

He appealed to the people of all sections of society not to fall prey to these evil designs of militants and maintain an environment of peace and harmony.

Bhalla also criticized the administration for not allowing him to go to Dhanagri to meet the victims' families on Monday.

Joint Dir Reviews Physical, Financial Progress Of CBC J&K, Its Field Offices

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Joint Director, Central Bureau of Communication, J&K and Ladakh Region, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Ghulam Abbas on Tuesday reviewed physical and financial progress of CBC Regional Office and its Field Offices across J&K and Ladakh Region in a high level review meeting held online with the Officials.

During the meeting Joint Director discussed administrative and financial matters with the officers and officials of CBC Regional office and its field offices. While appreciating their efforts, he stressed that officials must organize the remaining Integrated and Outreach Communication Programmes (ICOPs) as per the annual action plan.

Joint Director was apprised by the Programme Section of CBC Regional Office that till date out of allotted 20 Mini ICOPs, 18 Mini ICOPs had been completed & 3 small ICOPs done out of 12. Four Mediums ICOPs have been completed out of 8 allotted and the target of 3 big ICOPs has already been achieved till ending

December, 2022.

The Accounts section of CBC Regional Office apprised the chair that more than 60 percent expenditure has been incurred out of total budget allotted for the outreach programmes under DCID head till ending December, 2022.

Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC, Anantnag informed that the one medium ICOP at Kupwara is scheduled in 2nd week of January, 2023 and remaining programmes allotted to his office will be completed soon.

Khursheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Udhampur & Vijay Mattoo, Incharge CBC, Poonch apprised the chair about some administrative matters related to their respective offices for immediate attention. Yousuf informed the meeting that Field Office Udhampur had completed all allotted programmes and only one small ICOP is pending that will be organized in first week of February, 2023.

Sikander, In charge CBC Srinagar informed that due to breakdown of the office vehicle, the office is facing issues related to the field work.

Abass directed that Field Office Srinagar may use the office vehicle of CBC Anantnag and the schedule ICOPs in the districts of Srinagar and Budgam districts may be allotted to Field Office Srinagar and must start the spade work.

Joint Director passed instructions to Vikram Uppal, In charge CBC, Doda that fixation and spade work for one Mini ICOP be started soon and directed the programme section for necessary action at Regional level.

Besides others the meeting was attended by Administrative Officer, Ram Kishen, Accounts Officer, Ashok Kumar, Gurnam Singh, Technical Assistant, CBC Udhampur, In-charge CBC Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, Ravinder Vaishnavi and Muni Koul from programme section of regional office Jammu.

Joint Director gave a patient hearing to the issues faced by the field officials and said that all issues will be addressed in a phased manner. Abass directed all field officials that up to ending February, 2023 all allotted programmes must be completed and for achieving the target, spade work should be started from tomorrow.

Senior Citizens Home Inaugurated In Shopian

Administration's One More Praiseworthy Initiative In Direction Of Betterment Of Elderly: DC Sachin Kumar

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar on Tuesday inaugurated Senior Citizens Home at Shopian and dedicated it for senior citizens of the district.

The Senior Citizens Home was inaugurated in presence of District Social Welfare Officer, Showkat Ahmad; District Information Officer, Showkat Hussain; BDO Jahid Azad, other officials of the Social Welfare department and senior citizens of the district.



The facility has been set up by District Administration Shopian, Social Welfare Department under Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojna (AVYAY) scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.

The Home is aimed to provide an array of facilities to senior citizens like shelter, food, clothing, recreational facilities, library, stress management, counseling, social support, legal assistance, medical assistance and other basic life facilities.

The deprived elderly people registered at Senior Citizens Home would be provided all facilities and life support aspects at the home.

The home is manned with abundant staff including medical staff comprising of a trained doctor and a trained nurse.

The DC also took a tour of the home and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made thereof and also interacted with senior citizens and staff present there. He emphasized upon the

management to give their best in service of the elderly.

The District Social Welfare Officer informed that all the facilities have been made available at the home as per the guidelines of the scheme and are free of cost to the senior citizens. I am thankful to the Director, Social Welfare, Kashmir and District Administration, Shopian for this noble initiative in the district, DSWO added.

He said that at Senior Citizens Home, senior citizens can remain busy in a lot of activities. He added, its library has

books on the discourses of religion, philosophy, etc for the senior citizens. The facility also has a fully furnished hall fitted with fans and heating system. For recreational recourse at Senior Citizens Home, it has carrom, chess and other games on offer. Some retainers and lawyers are also available to assist senior citizens, he said, adding that the home can help senior citizens to get enlisted for various Government schemes, old-age pension, drafting of petitions against abuse and file applications etc.

Besides, senior citizens can get regular health check-ups at home as specialist doctors, trained nurses and yoga therapists are readily available there, said Showkat.

It is important to mention here that the management of the home has been outsourced to J&K Students Welfare Mission, which acts as implementing agency for the same.

Secretary Health Chairs State TB Forum Meeting

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary Health & Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar on Tuesday chaired a meeting of State TB Forum for community engagement interventions and community led TB response here.

Directors of Health Services gave a detailed presentation for their respective divisions highlighting the status of progress in Presumptive TB Testing, TB Notification rate, implementation of Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (DBT) & Ni-kshay Mitra's under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan PMTBMBMA. Action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting of State TB Forum was also discussed.

Secretary reiterated that the UT Government is fully committed to achieve the ambitious target of elimination of TB by 2025, ahead of the national target of 2030 under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBMA). In order to achieve the desired end there is need for focused approach by way of various interventions for community engagement and community led

TB response.

Directions were issued to both the Directorates to accelerate the TB elimination activities through focused approach especially in areas where TB burden is relatively higher. Further, they were asked to ensure that periodical meetings of District Tuberculosis Forum are held as per the guidelines.

Bhupinder also desired that the trend analysis of TB related deaths should be done for better understanding of current situation. It was impressed upon all the State Tuberculosis Officers and District Tuberculosis Officers to ensure contact tracing of all the active Pulmonary TB patients and exploring the possibility of 3HP for the beneficiaries.

While appreciating the efforts made by Tuberculosis team under the programme, Secretary Health stressed on the need for implementation of Joint Effort for Elimination of Tuberculosis project for extending quality TB care to the patients seeking care in private sector through developing effective partnership with private health service.

'J&K Emerging As Model Of Digital Govt Across Country'

IT Interventions, Digital Initiatives Bringing Transparency In Governance, Streamlining Public Service Delivery: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as a model of digital government across the country with focus on transparent and accountable governance system, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said that IT interventions and several digital initiatives are bringing transparency in the system and streamlining the public service delivery system for the welfare of common masses.

"J&K has achieved several milestones with solid technical architecture at the service of citizens with speedy development as the new identity of J&K," he added.

The prime objective of government, the spokesperson said,

is line to online and instead of travelling to Government offices, people just need to use digital mode for availing different government services. He said that the Government aims to establish a system which enables people to access high-quality services anywhere, anytime, on any device.

"Continuing its march on the path of providing E-governance to its citizens, J&K has been successful in providing nearly 444 services online including all the major services commonly availed by the people," he said.

"Government is working to usher the UT into an environment where its citizens would carry offices in their pockets and avail any services

without having to physically visit any of the office," he added.

The spokesperson said that Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta in a recently held meeting maintained that the contactless administration not only ensures transparency and accountability but swiftness also.

He observed that the technology happens to be panacea for all the evils and J&K envisages to utilize the IT/ITes for optimum empowerment of its population as per the vision of LG administration.

Notably, the number of online services provided by Planning Department shot to 411 in addition to 33 services integrated on Rapid Assessment System

(RAS). Moreover 195 services had already been integrated with the feedback system out of these 411 online services and some 103 more services are going to be made RAS complaint shortly.

Synchronization with auto-appeal for the services of few departments has generated encouraging results with 99% applications disposed within the stipulated time frame as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) which not only ensures timely delivery of services but penalizes those officers/officials found failing in doing so.

The UT administration is soon going to integrate all its online services with the auto-appeal so that all the services are provided

to its citizens as per the timelines specified in PSGA for these services for the benefit of one and all.

Government has directed the stakeholders to formulate short-term goals of 3-6 months and long-term vision statements to transform core ICT infrastructure, governance and services for ease of living, accessibility, innovation to transform J&K into digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

It is worth to mention that Digi Dost' program launched by Govt is aimed at developing a strong network of digitally empowered young volunteers at District, Block and Panchayat level who can work as the brand ambassadors for Digital J&K and Digital

India to achieve maximum mobilization and awareness on digital services.

'Digi Dost' volunteers assist in digital service delivery, data collection, training, spreading information regarding Digital India campaign and make the people aware about cyber hygiene and cybercrimes.

As per official data, J&K is number one in the ranking of UTs in e-governance. Host of initiatives like e-office, BEAMS, Awam ki Awaaz, MyGov, e-Unnat, DigiLocker, Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani have brought transparency and accountability in governance across J&K mad brought transformational changes in the lives of people.



J&K Toil Hard As Railways Post 322 On Day 1

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Railway batter Mohammad Saif was on 161* (263) as his team ended Day 1 of their Ranji Trophy clash against J&K on 322/8 after 85 overs. Railways won the toss on Tuesday morning and opted to bat first at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat, Gujarat.

Saif smacked 23 4's to give J&K bowlers a tough time on the field. However, J&K kept taking wickets on the other end and will hope to bowl out Railways on Day 2.

Leg spinner Abid Mushtaq

was once again the pick of the J&K bowlers, taking 3 important wickets for his team. Umer Nazir and Aquib Nabi took 2 wickets each, while Mohammad Tahir bagged 1 wicket.

A lot will depend on how J&K batters handle their first innings today, but considering the team's recent batting form, it might just be an uphill struggle.

J&K Playing XI: Shubham Khajuria (c), Fazil Rashid (wk), Vivrant Sharma, Henan Nazir, Suryansh Raina, Abid Mushtaq, Musaiif Ajaz, Mohammad Tahir, Auqib Nabi, Sahil Lotra, Umar Nazir.

1st T20I: India Beat Sri Lanka By 2 Runs In A Thriller



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Shivam Mavi made a dream debut with a relentless display of fast-bowling as his four-wicket haul made the difference in India's narrow two-run win over a spirited Sri Lanka in the first T20I here on Tuesday.

India batters found the Sri Lankan spinners hard to put

away before Deepak Hooda (41 not out off 23) and Axar Patel (31 not out off 20) took the hosts to 162 for five.

The Sri Lankans surely had the firepower to chase down 163 but Mavi's strikes at front and back end of the innings tilted the game in favour of the home team. The game went

down to the wire with spinner

Axar Patel managing to defend 13 runs in the final over. Mavi ended with enviable figures of four for 22 in four overs.

The fighting knocks from skipper Dasun Shanaka (45 off 27) and Chamika Karunaratne (23 not out off 16) went in vain as Sri Lanka ended 160 all out in 20 overs.

This is the lowest total India defend at this stadium.

Cristiano Ronaldo Presented By Al Nassr After Saudi Transfer

Agencies



RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo was officially presented by Al Nassr as the Saudi Arabian club's superstar new signing on Tuesday and said he turned down multiple other offers from Europe and North America.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus forward signed a two-and-a-half-year contract to play in the Saudi Pro League in one of the most surprising transfers in the sport's history.

"I'm so proud to make this big decision in my life. In Europe my work is done. I won everything and played for the most important clubs in Europe. This is a new challenge," Ronaldo said at a news conference.

"Nobody knows this, but I had many opportunities in Europe, Brazil, Australia, America, Portugal, many clubs tried to sign me. I gave my word to this club," Ronaldo added. "I want to give a different vision of this country and football. This is why I took this opportunity."

Selection Trials For Carrom Junior Nationals On January 9



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Carrom Association on Tuesday said that it is going to conduct selection trials for the upcoming 47th Junior National Carrom Championship, which will be held from 01.02.2023 to 04.02.2023 at Dadar, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

The selection trials will take place on January 9, 2023 at 2 PM. The venue of the trials will be Carrom Hall SKISC in Srinagar.

"All the junior player position holders of the recently con-

ducted UT Level Carrom Championship are advised to report to the association and further all the desired players, interested schools, institutions, clubs and district units of J&K Carrom Association will go through selection process, they are requested to register their players on email jkcarrom@gmail.com for the said trials in the below format: Name, Parentage, DOB, Institution, Address. For further information Contact Arif Sultan 9906767529," the association said in a statement.

The statement also mentioned the age criteria for selection:

"Players born on or after 02.02.2005 may take part in Junior (under 18) events.

Players born on or after 02.02.2002 may take part in Youth (under 21) events.

Entries shall be accepted with valid legal age proof only and valid Covid vaccination certificate," the statement concluded.

2 Students Of Grand Warriors Selected For Nationals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two students of the Grand Warriors Academy Srinagar, Imdad Ali and Shahid Hilal, have been selected by the Pencak Silat Association of J&K to compete at the upcoming nationals. The Pencak Silat Association of J&K held selection trials for the Sub Junior and Pre-Teen (Boys & Girls) players on December 31 at the Indoor Sports Complex, Polo View.

Imdad will compete in the Junior Pencak Silat Championship, set to take place from January 13 to 16, 2023, at Nanded, Maha-

rashtra, and will see the participation of 30 Indian states.

Shahid has been selected to compete in the 6th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2022, after winning the bronze medal for J&K in the 10th Senior National Championship, which was held in October at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Stadium in Srinagar. The 6th edition of Pencak Silat - Federation Cup 2022, will be held at Goa from 19-21 January 2023.

The academy's coach, Adil Husain Khan, stated that the academy is making progress every day and the results are outstanding.

YSS Employees Condole Demise Of Prof Madan Mohan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Employees of the Youth Services and Sports Department posted at the Directorate of the Department at Srinagar and Jammu on Tuesday condole the sad demise of Prof Madan Mohan Mishra father of Jatinder Mishra, Deputy Director Central of the Department.



Director of the Department and other senior officers and officials of the Department visited the family of the deceased and expressed condolences with Jatinder Mishra and other family members and relatives of Late Prof. Condolence prayer meetings

were also held at both the offices and JD office Kashmir. Calling the late Professor an epitome of knowledge and kindness Director of the Department expressed sympathies with the family of Prof Mishra and prayed for his eternal peace.

YSS employees in general have expressed their sympathies with Jatinder Mishra and the whole bereaved family.

Pertinently Madan Mohan Mishra has served the University of Jammu as a professor in the Business School.

His cremation took place at Shastri Nagar Cremation Ground on Tuesday afternoon.



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