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**NEWS DIGEST**

**Soldier Spying For Pakistan Arrested**

**AMBALA:** Haryana Police on Thursday said it arrested an Army personnel for allegedly passing secret information to Pakistani intelligence agency ISI. Rohit Kumar was arrested on Wednesday evening on a tip-off, it said. Kumar is a **More On P10**

**Arms, Ammo Recovered In Reasi**

**JAMMU:** Security forces have busted a hideout and recovered arms and ammunition in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said on Friday. On a tip-off, a search operation was carried out in Rahwali Nari of Mahore tehsil in the district on Thursday, they said, adding a hideout where arms and ammunition was **More On P10**

**OGW Held With 2 Grenades: Police**

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Friday claimed to have arrested an alleged over-ground worker (OGW) of The Resistance Front (TRF) from north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Gulzar Ahmad Malla of Boniyar was arrested by a joint team of police, army's 29 RR and the personnel of CRPF 176 Battalion from Kharachak area of Kreeeri in the **More On P10**

**91 More Recover From Covid In J&K**

**SRINAGAR:** As many as 91 more coronavirus infected people recovered from the deadly infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, while 51 fresh cases of virus were also detected in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Officials confirmed on Friday that 91 more patients have recovered—21 from Jammu and **More On P10**

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## 2 Militants From Srinagar Killed In Twin Encounters



CRPF personnel frisking a biker in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk on Friday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Two militants were killed in separate encounters in Bemina here and south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said Friday.

Police said later the two slain militants were responsible for killing of a police officer and a civilian in Srinagar city early this month. Around 5:30pm Friday, police, Army 53 RR and the personnel of CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Wahibug area of Pulwama on the basis of a specific input suggesting the presence of militants in the village, a police spokesperson said.

"During the search operation, he said, as the presence of militant got ascertained, he

was given the opportunity to surrender.

"Instead he fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter," the police spokesperson said, adding that in the ensuing encounter one militant was killed.

The police spokesperson identified the slain militant as Shahid Bashir Sheikh of Habba Kadal, Srinagar.

As per police records, the spokesperson said that Sheikh had joined the "terror folds" recently and was linked with LeT.

"He was involved in killing of PDD employee Mohammad Shafi Dar at Batamalloo Srinagar on October 10," he said, adding that the killed militant was also responsible for "creating terror" **More On P10**

**AS PER POLICE RECORDS, HE HAD JOINED** the terror folds recently and was linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF). He was involved in killing of PSI Arshid Ashraf at Khanyar area of Srinagar on 12/09/2021."

## Militants, Troops Continue To Trade Fire In Poonch

**Agencies**

**JAMMU:** Intermittent exchange of fire between militants and government forces was reported on Friday in Bhata-Dhuria forest area in Mendhar, where two soldiers were killed in a firefight on Thursday.

An official said that extensive searches were conducted in the Bhata-Dhuria forest area in Mendhar sub-division of Poonch district after the killing of two soldiers on Thursday evening.

The killing of Riflemen

Yogambar Singh and Vikram Singh Negi came three days after five soldiers, including a JCO were killed in an encounter with militants in Dera Ki Gali on Monday.

"Firing was reported in the area of operation intermittently," said a defence official, wishing not to be named. "Given the fact that the area is tough in terrain and it's a forest area, the operation is a deliberate one to avoid casualties."

He said that it is believed that the militants were hiding in dense woods.

"Soldiers are **More On P10**

## MeT Predicts 2-Day Wet Spell From Today

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Weatherman on Friday forecast intermittent light to moderate rain at widespread places and light snowfall for two days from Saturday night.

Under the influence of the weather, an official of the local meteorological office here said that there could be landslides and shooting stones over vulnerable areas of Srinagar-Jammu and Srinagar-Leh Highways besides other hilly roads as well as possibility of dip in day temperature.

"Under the influence of approaching western Disturbance and lower level easterlies, fresh spell of intermittent light to moderate rain with **More On P10**



A nomad family migrating to Rajouri district from Kashmir, pass through Mughal Road with their herd on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Petrol, Diesel Prices Rally To Highest Ever Levels

**NEW DELHI:** Petrol and diesel prices on Friday rallied to their highest ever levels across India, as fuel rates were hiked again by 35 paise a litre.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 105.14 a litre and Rs 111.09 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In price increase petrol and diesel rates have gone up. While petrol

Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 101.78 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs Rs 93.87.

This is the second straight day of 35 paise per litre increase in petrol and diesel prices. There was no change in rates on October 12 and 13.

Since the ending of a three-week-long hiatus in rate revision in the last week of September, this is the 14th increase that

price in most of the country is already above Rs 100-a-litre mark, diesel rates have crossed that level in a dozen states, including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka and Leh.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Shedding the modest price change policy, state-owned fuel retailers have since October 6 started passing on the larger incidence of cost to consumers.

This is because the international benchmark Brent crude is trading at USD 84.61 per barrel

for the first time in seven years. A month back, Brent was trading at USD 73.51.

Being a net importer of oil, India prices petrol and diesel at rates equivalent to international prices.

The surge in international oil prices ended a three-week hiatus in rates on September 28 for petrol and September 24 for diesel.

Since then, diesel rates have gone up by Rs 5.25 per litre and petrol price has increased by Rs 4.25.

Before that, the petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 during this period.

## Govt Fastened Execution Of Power Projects: LG Says Past Practices Of Delays Eliminated, Projects Being Completed In Record Times

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Claiming that his administration has eliminated the past practices of delays and have accelerated the pace of execution of power projects, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that long overdue upgradation of power infrastructure and languishing projects are being completed in record times in the Union Territory.

"A strong power sector means Ease of Living, Industrialization, Employment Generation. We are strengthening J&K's power



infrastructure which remained dilapidated for the last several decades," Sinha said.

He made these remarks after jointly e-inaugurating 6

transmission and distribution projects worth Rs 118 crore with Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh at Raj Bhavan **More On P10**

## Saturate 2nd Vaccine Dose On Priority: LG Tells DCs

**Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday directed Deputy Commissioners to saturate the 2nd dose of Covid vaccine on priority basis, while congratulating the officers for achieving 100% coverage of first dose of vaccination for above 18 age group. Chairing the weekly meetings to review Covid containment measures and status of vaccination coverage with the Covid Task Force and DCs, SPs, the LG impressed upon the officers for robust implementation of Covid protocols and following of Covid SoPs in their respective **More On P10****

## From Turtles To Cats: Kashmir's Pet Business Booming Amid Distress

**Syed Burhan**

Two years after picking up a grueling indoor routine, Zahoor Sofi's children insisted him to buy a 'talking parrot'. Mindful of their mental weariness due to the rigorous online-classes, Sofi, a native of Batamalloo Srinagar, promptly visited Old City's Saída Kadal area which in the last few years has emerged as a hub of pet birds.

He purchased a parrot at Rs 6,000 after the pet-seller promised him that the bird will talk and amuse his children.

But as time passed, Sofi's children became upset as the parrot failed to utter a word. This forced him to pay an exchange visit to the pet-seller.



However, the pet seller, Ghulam Rasool Dar, blamed Sofi for failing to take proper care

of his pet. He eventually gave Sofi a new parrot in exchange of an old one, with an additional

amount of Rs 2000.

"Such exchange deals have become a routine here," Dar says.

"Many of these new pet-keepers of Kashmir don't know how to handle their pet and end up exchanging them. But that hardly stops people from keeping these pets."

Dar who has been selling pets for the last three decades is witnessing a growing rush of customers for pet buying in the valley.

"I tell my customers that it's good to keep a pet, but caring is the most important thing," he says.

"If his cage remains dirty, the parrot will not eat anything. If I'm rude towards him, he won't even eat the food. A pet is like your own child."

Parrotting these **More On P10**

## Amit Shah To Address Rally In Jammu On Oct 24

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address a huge public rally on October 24, the first in the winter capital after the abrogation of Article 370, said Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Thursday.

Raina made the announcement while addressing a party meeting at its headquarters here.

"The Union home minister will address a huge public rally in Jammu on October 24," he said.

He stressed that the minister was going to address the first public rally here after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution **More On P10**

## J&K Govt Amends Industrial Land Allotment Policy

**Constitutes Two Apex Committees For Allotment Of Land**

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has amended the Industrial Land Allotment Policy, 2021-30 and accordingly constituted two apex level committees for allotment of land.

The order in this regard has been

issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, Ranjan Prakash Thakur.

The order reads that a high-level land allotment committee shall be headed by the Administrative Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department and will have nine other members. Also, the Chief Secretary shall be the Chairman of the apex level land allotment committee. **More On P10**

**THE ORDER FURTHER SAYS THAT BOTH COMMITTEES** shall decide land allotment applications within 45 days from the date of receiving recommendation from the Divisional Level Industrial Appraisal Committee.



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**Over 50% Of Covid Survivors Experience Symptoms Upto 6 Months: Study**

**M**ore than half of the 236 million people who have recovered from COVID-19 worldwide since December 2019 will experience post-Covid symptoms - more commonly known as long COVID - up to six months after recovering, according to a large study.

The lingering Covid symptoms majorly include tiredness, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, sore joints and loss of taste or smell.

A research team from Pennsylvania State University in the US examined 57 global studies involving 250,351 unvaccinated patients who recovered from COVID-19 from December 2019 through March 2021.

The findings showed that adults, as well as children, can experience several adverse health issues for six months or longer after recovering from Covid-19. Generally, these complications affected a patient's general well-being, their mobility or organ systems, while overall, one in two survivors experienced long-term Covid manifestations.

More than half of all patients reported weight loss, fatigue, fever or pain, roughly one in five survivors experienced a decrease in mobility.

Nearly one in four survivors experienced difficulty concentrating, and one in three patients were diagnosed with generalised anxiety disorders.

Six in ten survivors had chest imaging abnormality and more than a quarter of patients had difficulty in breathing.

Chest pain and palpitations were also among the commonly reported conditions and nearly one in five patients experienced hair loss or rashes.

Digestive issues such as stomach pain, lack of appetite, diarrhea and vomiting were also among the commonly reported conditions, the study showed.

"One's battle with Covid doesn't end with recovery from the acute infection. Vaccination is our best ally to prevent getting sick from Covid-19 and to reduce the chance of long-Covid even in the presence of a breakthrough infection," said co-lead investigator Dr Paddy Ssentongo, assistant professor at the Penn State Center for Neural Engineering.

While the mechanisms behind these lingering symptoms in survivors are not fully understood, the researchers believe that an immune-system overdrive triggered by the virus, lingering infection, reinfection or an increased production of autoantibodies (antibodies directed at their own tissues), may be the reason. According to the researchers, early intervention will be critical for improving the quality of life for many Covid-19 survivors as in the years ahead, health care providers will likely see an influx of patients with psychiatric and cognitive problems, such as depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder, who were otherwise healthy before their Covid-19 infection.



**Open Internet more at risk now than ever before: Twitter**

The Open Internet is not something to be taken for granted

**Press Trust Of India**

**A**mid raging debate globally over social media regulation and controls, micro-blogging platform Twitter on Tuesday cautioned that 'Open Internet' is more at risk now than ever before, and asserted the need for coordinated, multi-stakeholder strategy to defend free, secure, and global open internet.

In its position paper on 'Protecting the Open Internet', Twitter said governments that seek to defend and ex-

policy and language of law will be co-opted and weaponised by those seeking to usher in an age of technological nationalism is real," Twitter said.

In the paper, Twitter outlined five guiding principles for regulation. "The Open Internet is global, should be available to all, and should be built on open standards and the protection of human rights," Twitter said.

Trust, it noted, is essential and can be built with transparency, procedural fairness, and privacy protections. "It is essential that there is

policy and language of law will be co-opted and weaponised by those seeking to usher in an age of technological nationalism is real," Twitter said.

In the paper, Twitter outlined five guiding principles for regulation. "The Open Internet is global, should be available to all, and should be built on open standards and the protection of human rights," Twitter said.

Under the new rules, social media companies are required to take down flagged content within 36 hours, and remove within 24 hours content that is flagged for nudity, pornography etc. The new rules are designed to prevent abuse and misuse of platforms, and offer users a robust forum for grievance redressal.

"As has been noted by a range of voices, the combination of significant administrative penalties for individual pieces of content and expected removal in short time periods whether one hour or 24 hours creates a significant corporate incentive to over-remove content, particularly in edge cases," Twitter said.

It more acutely impacts small companies and new services who have more limited resources to litigate or pay fines, the social media platform said.

These frameworks must be underpinned with strong, independent processes and free from political interference while allowing for civil society participation, Twitter's paper said.



pand online freedom cannot stand by while other countries seek to silence critics, censor journalists, and block access to information.

"The harassment of employees of service providers is a worrying norm, accelerated by proposals to require local staff to be liable for decisions rather than the corporate en-

coordinated, multi-stakeholder strategy to respond to these threats and defend the free, secure, and global Open Internet," it added.

The Open Internet is not something to be taken for granted; and in the coming years, decisions will be made that define its future, Twitter observed.

"Recommendation and ranking algorithms should be subject to human choice and control," Twitter said.

It contended that competition, choice and innovation are foundations of the Open Internet and should be protected and expanded, "ensuring incumbents are not entrenched by laws and regu-

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# Friday Prayers Again Disallowed At Jamia Masjid

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities here on Friday disallowed congregational Friday prayers at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid – the grand mosque of Kashmir for the 11th consecutive Friday.

Earlier, Auqaf of Jamia Masjid had announced that Friday prayers will be offered after getting a green signal from administration.

However, Friday prayers were again suspended at the historic mosque following an advisory by the administration limiting gatherings to 25 people.

Eyewitnesses said that the prayers were not offered as authorities had locked the main gate of the mosque with armed forces personnel deployed in front of it.

The Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid lamented that despite the fact that the worshippers were fully adhering to COVID-19 SOPs, the prayers at the largest place of worship in Kashmir were not being allowed for the last many Fridays.

In a statement, the Auqaf said, when employees opened up the gates of the mosque police personnel forced them to close all the gates and no namazis were allowed inside the mosque for offering the Friday prayers.



KO Photo Abid Bhat

**"A LARGE GROUP OF NAMAZIS, INCLUDING WOMEN, WHO had gathered outside the mosque protested what they termed as 'authoritarian move' and demanded that they be allowed to go inside the mosque to offer prayers, but to no avail,"**

day prayers.

"A large group of namazis, including women, who had gathered outside the mosque protested what they termed as an 'authoritarian move' and demanded that they be allowed to go inside the mosque to offer prayers,

but to no avail," reads the statement.

"It is extremely unfortunate and disdainful of the authorities to disallow Muslims of the valley from praying at the Central mosque by use of brute force and cause them hurt and grief. Muslims of the

valley denounce this injustice and interference in religious freedom in strongest terms", Auqaf said.

Earlier, shrines and mosques were shut due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the valley. However, the congregational prayers were allowed at Jamia

Masjid after four months as it had remained off-limits for prayers due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, people alleged that the 'dual policy' adopted by administration is confusing as on the one hand it has closed places of worship and are yet to reopen educational institutions while on the other hand, tourist resorts are open and the administration and political parties are holding functions, sports tournaments and other Melas in the valley.

"It's ironic that on one hand all concerns regarding Covid are being ignored when it comes to asking people to participate in official functions while restrictions are being imposed on Friday prayers and worship in central mosques, shrines and imambaras where Covid SOPs are being fully followed," one of the devotee said.

"If you go to any tourist resort on weekdays or weekends, you will see most of the people roaming around without adhering to any COVID guidelines," he added.

Various political parties have asked for immediate opening of all the religious places including Dargah Hazratbal and Jamia Masjid Srinagar.

## Delay In Developmental Works Won't Be Tolerated: DC City To Officials

Reviews Progress Of Works Under District Capex Budget 2021-22

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Friday chaired a meeting of all District/Sectoral Officers to review the status and progress of works taken under District Capex Plan for year 2021-22.

The meeting discussed detailed proposals under the District Capex Plan, 2021-22 including physical status of all approved projects targeted for completion in the current fiscal and progress of works under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The DDC took a detailed review of all works under each sector and asked the officers to ensure 100 percent tendering and allotment of all approved/authorised works is completed within the next 2 days so that physical execution of works is undertaken as soon as possible. He also asked the concerned officers to reconcile the works nomenclature and check out any pendency in works to ensure early execution and timely completion of all the developmental works.



DDC Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, addressing a meeting.

The DDC directed the officers to work in coordinated manner with line departments and work with synergy to achieve development goals well in time keeping in view the limited working season and to cater to the developmental needs of the district with focus on creating tangible assets. DDC stressed on the concerned authorities to take all possible measures to accelerate the pace of ongoing works for their time-bound completion.

He also cautioned that any kind of laxity in completing the works within the fixed time line will not

be tolerated at all. He also exhorted for mobilizing men and machinery for completing the projects in stipulated time frame besides urged to ensure productive and fruitful utilization of the available resources.

Earlier, the Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation and informed that out of total 425 works taken up for current fiscal, 355 have been accorded administrative approval and tendering process for 345 works has been completed. He also highlighted the achievements made under different sectors including PHE, PDD, R&B, Education, Health, MGNREGS, NRLM, Social Welfare, ICDS and other sectors.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Superintendent Engineers of R&B and PDD, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Panchayat Officer and other officers.

## Div Com, Convener EPG Visit Dal Lake, Participate In Cleaning Operation



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The dewatering drive in Dal Lake which commenced on 2nd October, 2021 under Swachhta Pakhwada as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has been running successfully with the participation of thousands of volunteers NGO's, students, SDRF, NDRF, SMC & other stakeholders.

Various VIPs also participated in the dewatering process since the day of inauguration by Lt. Governor J&K.

The Div Com Kashmir has been actively associated with the cleanliness programme and has participated in the dewatering process. Today as well he participated in cleaning operations of Dal Lake.

The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) led by its Convener, Faiz Bakshi today were the visitors of Dal Lake. He was accompanied by his team members Ab

Majid Bhat, Peerzada Fayaz, Muzamil Bakshi and Tawseef Bhat. The team participated in the dewatering process.

The team visited areas where lily extraction is being done on a large scale in Lokut Dal and Bod Dal. The team expressed satisfaction on the lily extraction works and hoped that in future LDA will take forward its mission of cleaning of Dal Lake.

Later on the team interacted with VC LDA, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat and had discussion with regards to steps being taken up by LDA for conservation, Rehabilitation and watershed management of Dal Lake. The team hoped that with the present team led by VC is surely going to achieve a foot in the conservation of Lake.

The team was accompanied by Executive Engineer LDA & AEE LDA besides other officials. Meanwhile, the Swachhta Pakhwada will conclude on 16th October, 2021.

### ...COVID-19

## Over 57 % Active Cases In Kashmir From Srinagar Sgr District Has Double Active Cases Than Entire Jammu Division

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Though the Covid-19 positive cases are decreasing, over 57 percent of the active cases in Kashmir division are still from Srinagar district.

As per the data available with news agency till 14 October evening of 724 active cases in Kashmir 415 are from Srinagar that constitutes around 57.2 percent active cases from the summer capital.

In total there are 935 active cases in Jammu and Kashmir in which around 45 percent are from Srinagar alone.

In the whole Jammu division there are just 211 active cases, while in Kashmir only Srinagar

district has 415 cases.

In Jammu division, Poonch has the highest active cases of 97 while as in rest of the districts activity cases are below 50 with 47 in Jammu, 23 in Reasi, 21 in Doda, 11 in Rajouri, three each in Udhampur and Kishtwar and two each in Kuthua, Samba and Ramban.

In Kashmir division Srinagar has 415 active cases followed by 93 from Baramulla, 83 from Budgam, 30 each from Kupwara and Ganderbal, 24 each from Pulwama, Anantnag and Bandipora, one from Kulgam and none from Shopian.

Notably, active cases during peak second wave were over 50,000 in entire J&K which have now reduced to below 1000-(KNO)

## Train Crushes 27-Yr-Old Youth To Death At Nowgam



**SRINAGAR:** A 27-year-old youth was killed after he was hit by a train at Nowgam Railway Station on Friday.

Official sources told the news agency that Feroz Ahmad Malla, 27, son of Fayaz Ahmad Malla of New Colony Samarbhain Lasjan was hit by a train at Nowgam railway station.

He was taken to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for treatment where doctors declared him brought dead.

## CUK's Botany Deptt Holds Lecture On 'Sustainability & Ecosystem Services'

KO News Service

**Ganderbal:** Department of Botany, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organized an online invited lecture on "Rethinking to Rebuilding-Stepping Towards Environment, Sustainability & Ecosystem services" by Prof. Mohammad Latif Khan, Director Academic Affairs, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya.

In his presidential address, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, welcomed the speaker and highlighted the importance of educating young minds in J&K about the vanishing biodiversity in Kashmir Himalayas.

In his lecture, Prof. M Latif Khan highlighted various environmental

challenges and the need to rebuild link with nature to mitigate & reverse the same for better sustainable future. "Healthy ecosystem leads to better health in the human population." He deliberated upon the current coal shortage in Delhi due to "overexploitation & subsequent consequences in near future." He said there is an alarming rate of deforestation. "Approximately 80 percent of the world's forest cover has been lost at the rate of 375 km2/day. About 5 to 10 percent of species are lost in a decade. With the current deforestation rate, 60 percent forest cover will be lost from the surface of planet earth," he said. He talked about the "damage" caused by road construction in the Himalayas and the need to rethink and reverse the trend to protect biodiversity. Besides, increase in the incidences of forest fires and it's devastating consequences in the ecosystem were also explained in detail by the speaker. He said "each species has a right to live on earth" in a healthy biosphere, adding the land use change is the topmost cause of communicable & other diseases in ecosystems.

## Recent Killings Lead To '20% Cancellation Of Bookings'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The recent civilian killings have impacted the tourism sector in Kashmir with tourism players saying these incidents have led to 20 percent cancellation of bookings.

Since October 2, seven civilians have been killed in Kashmir with six alone in Srinagar. Among them three were Muslims and four non-Muslims.

The killings have also impacted the tourism sector, which is considered the backbone of the Kashmir economy. Tariq Ahmad Patloo, a houseboat owner, told news agency, "There

has been 20 cancellation of bookings. The reason is that the way the media exaggerates the news about Kashmir, tourists are afraid to come here. An atmosphere has been created about Kashmir that non-Muslims are being selectively killed here, but the reality is different."

Abdul Rashid, Secretary General of the Houseboat Owners Association, says that 10-20% of bookings have been canceled after the recent killings.

Farooq Kuthu, President of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir, said that after the recent killings, a few bookings have been canceled.

"Tourism showed good recovery after improvement in COVID situation. Tourists who used to go to other countries are coming to Kashmir. But recent killings have led to some cancellation of bookings," he added.

Mohammad Shafi who runs a photography shop in Dal Lake would earn Rs 2000-2500 a day, but suddenly his earnings have fallen in the last one week. He said, "First there was a lockdown after the removal of Article 370, then everything was closed due to COVID. Now tourists are coming here but after the recent killings, tourists have started cancelling their bookings."

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

### RAILWAYS

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

### This Day in History

- 1710 - British troops occupies Port Royal, Nova Scotia
- 1757 - Austrian troops occupy Berlin
- 1793 - Battle of Wattignies: French defeat Allied forces and lift siege of Maubeuge.
- 1900 - Great Britain and Germany sign the Anglo-German Treaty, agreeing to maintain territorial integrity of China and support 'open door' policy called for by US Secretary of State
- 1901 - Baron Hayashi of Japan begins negotiations in London to make an alliance with the British and strengthen Japan's position against Russians
- 1913 - Booth Theater opens at 222 W 44th St NYC
- 1915 Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria
- 1926 - Mohammed Nadir Khan begins coup in Afghanistan, 1200 killed
- 1926 - Troop ship sinks in Yangtze River, killing 1,200
- 1934 - Mao Zedong & 25,000 troops begin 6,000 mile Long March
- 1943 - US 1st Army establishes headquarter in Bristol
- 1944 - Hungary: Horthy government falls/ nazi count Szalasi becomes premier
- 1945 - UN's Food & Agriculture Organization comes into existence
- 1951 - The first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, is assassinated in Rawalpindi.
- 1952 - Pakistan's 1st Test starts, v India at Delhi
- 1953 - Fidel Castro sentenced to 15 years (Havana)
- 1957 - USAF sends 2 aluminium bullets into space
- 1962 - Cuban missile crisis begins as JFK is shown photos confirming the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba
- 1964 - China becomes world's 5th nuclear power
- 1968 - China removes removal of president Li Siao-tji
- 1968 - Czechoslovakia & Russian "accord" rules allies Soviet forces
- Sports AwardsBlack Power Salute.
- 1969 - Soyuz 6 returns to Earth
- 1970 - Pierre Trudeau invokes the War Measures Act as a response to the October Crisis, the only peacetime use of the War Measures Act in Canadian history.
- 1973 - Israeli tanks under Gen Sharon move through Suez Canal
- 1976 - Soyuz 23 returns to Earth
- 1978 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Herbert A Simon
- 1982 - Shultz warns US will withdraw from UN if they vote to exclude Israel.
- 1985 - Challenger vehicle moves to launch pad for STS 61A mission
- 1985 - Intel introduces 32-bit 80386 microcomputer chip
- 1985 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Herbert Hauptman & Jerome Karle.
- 1986 - US government shuts down due to disputes between President Reagan and the House
- 1990 - US forces reach 200,000 in Persian Gulf
- 1993 - General Omar al-Bashir appointed Sudan president
- 2001 - The US Coast Guard lifts a ban on liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers entering Boston Harbor to make deliveries to Distrigas' Everett LNG terminal that had been imposed on September 26 in response to the attacks of September 11

### From KO Archives

## MoU Contained Some Deficiencies

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a candid admission, the chief minister, Dr Fa-rooq Abdullah, today said the centre had taken him for a ride when the former union energy Minister P K Kumaramanglam, obtained his signatures on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) whose contents later turned out to be detrimental to the state's interests

According to a CNS report Dr Abdullah told the state assembly during an obituary reference to the late Kumaramanglam that a MoU had been signed between him and union minister. However, when the documents were prepared the union energy minister allegedly with malafide intentions, obtained his signatures on such papers which, on closer scrutiny later revealed that these were against the interests of the state.

However an official handout issued today said the chief minister had said "the MoU signed by him with the then union energy minister had been signed in good faith to benefit the State." However the handout said "Later on the state officials pointed out some deficiencies." He said he immediately up the matter with Kumaramanglam who "readily agreed". But before correction could be effected, the union minister passed away. "These clauses have to be modified to protect the interests of the State" Dr. Abdullah added.

When contacted the principal secretary power development department Ajit Kumar told Observer News Service, the 'deficiencies pertained to the state's claim for reimbursement of the expenditure it had already incurred on the power projects. The MoU did not mention this. However, Kumar said the centre had agreed to reimburse the expenditure and necessary modifications would be incorporated in the MoU shortly.

(Kashmir Observer, October 16, 2000)

NEWS

FM: Saudi 'Serious About' Detente With Iran, Talks 'Cordial'

**Agencies**  
Riyadh : Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud has signaled his country's desire to repair relations with Iran, saying the kingdom is "serious" about talks with the Islamic Republic.



The two Middle East heavyweights have held four rounds of talks since April, including a first meeting last month with the government of new President Ebrahim Raisi.

In an interview with the Financial Times published on Friday, Prince Faisal described the negotiations as "exploratory" but "cordial".

"We are serious about the talks," he said. "For us it's not that big a shift. We've always said we want to find a way to stabilize the region."

Saudi Arabia unilaterally cut diplomatic ties with Iran in January 2016 after angry protests were held outside its embassy in Tehran in reaction to the kingdom's execution of a senior Shia cleric.

The Financial Times cited an unnamed Saudi official as saying that Riyadh was considering an Iranian request for it to open its consulate in Jeddah. Riyadh was also considering allowing Tehran to reopen its representative office for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the port city, it added.

Under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's stewardship, Riyadh had aggressively pursued a confrontational policy vis-a-vis Iran, but Prince Faisal indicated that his country has changed tack.

"The leadership has a clear policy that the priority is prosperity, building the country, Vision 2030, and you can't deliver those things with a region in turmoil," he said. "So while we will vigorously defend our national security and our sovereignty, we will try to resolve them through diplomacy as well."

Saudi Arabia has been waging a destructive war on Lebanon which has left the kingdom mired in a quagmire. Its brief detention of Saad Hariri while he was Lebanon's prime minister and murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi also landed it in hot water.

Prince Faisal cited a "confluence of events that made it feel like it was the right moment" to talk to Iran.

Sadr May Have To Bargain With Pro-Iran Groups To Choose Iraqi PM

**Agencies**  
BAGHDAD: Cleric Moqtada Sadr may be Iraq's big election winner but he will still have to haggle with his opponents, linked to armed pro-Iranian groups, to forge a new government.

War-scarred Iraq — an oil-rich country plagued by

that it will be he who chooses Iraq's next prime minister.

At first glance, his bloc's election win would seem to reinforce that view.

The Sadrist won 70 out of the assembly's 329 seats, according to preliminary results, boosting their lead.

But analysts say Sadr will now have to come to terms



corruption and poverty — last Sunday held its fifth parliamentary elections since the 2003 US-led invasion toppled dictator Saddam Hussein.

Sadr, a preacher who once commanded an anti-US militia, had campaigned as a nationalist and criticised the influence of big neighbour Iran, which has grown strongly since Saddam's fall.

The political maverick had initially vowed to boycott the polls but then sent his movement into the race, proclaiming in recent months

with his adversaries — the pro-Iran parties linked to the Hashed al-Shaabi network of paramilitary forces.

The Fatah (Conquest) Alliance, Hashed's political wing, lost more than half of its 48 deputies, according to preliminary results.

"The results give Sadr an upper hand when it comes to politics and his negotiating position, but that is not the only thing that is important here," said Renad Mansour of the Chatham House think tank.



Bibi Fatima Mosque in Kandahar- The mosque was stormed by suicide attackers during Friday prayers killing 32 worshippers

Friday Prayers Targeted In Afghanistan's Kandahar, 32 Killed

**Trans Asia News**

Kabul: At least 32 worshippers were killed and 45 others wounded after suspected Daesh suicide bombers stormed a mosque during Friday prayers in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar.

The coordinated attack on Friday afternoon took place in the Bibi Fatima mosque, the largest mosque for Shia Muslims in the city, believed to be a Taliban stronghold.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Eyewitnesses described three terrorists, one of whom blew himself up at the entrance to the mosque with the two others detonating their devices inside the building.

It came just a week after a bomb attack claimed by the Daesh terror group killed more than 150 Shia worshippers and left score of others injured during Friday prayers at a mosque in the northeastern city of Kunduz.

Interior ministry spokesman Sayed Khosti said on Twitter:

"We are saddened to learn that an explosion took place in a mosque of the Shia brethren in the first district of Kandahar city in which a number of our compatriots were martyred and wounded."

Taliban special forces arrived in the area "to determine the nature of the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice", he added.

A witness told the AFP news agency he heard three blasts, one at the main door of the mosque, another at a southern area, and a third where worshippers wash themselves.

Murtaza, another witness who, like many Afghans, goes by one name, told The Associated Press news agency that four suicide bombers attacked the mosque.

Two detonated their bombs at a security gate, allowing the other two to run inside and strike the congregation of worshippers.

Speaking to The Associated Press by phone, he said Friday prayers were attended by about 500 people.

Photographs posted by journalists on social media showed many people apparently dead or seriously wounded on the bloody floor of the mosque.

Al Jazeera quoting hospital sources reported that they were inundated with injured, and that based on the number of increasing intakes, they feared a high casualty toll.

The attack in Kandahar, the stronghold of the Taliban, seemed to send "a message that nowhere is safe", channels correspondent in Kabul said.

"The security card, the one the Taliban always played by saying they were the only group that could ensure security to the country, is now very much challenged," she added.

Today's incident took place a week after dozens of people were killed and more than 100 others were wounded when a mosque in the northern province of Kunduz was targeted.

The Taliban-led government promised a quick response and to hold the perpetrators for the Kunduz attack responsible.

BEIRUT PORT BLAST

Day Of Mourning In Lebanon After Bloodshed At Protest

**Agencies**

Beirut: Seven were killed and dozens injured when gunfire broke out during a protest by Shia Muslim groups against the judge investigating last year's huge blast at the city's port.

Hezbollah, which organised the protest, said demonstrators were fired on by gunmen on rooftops. They blamed a Christian faction, although the group denies the charge.

Huge tension surrounds the inquiry into the port explosion that killed 219 people in August 2020.

Swathes of the city were devastated by the blast, but no one has yet been held accountable.

Hezbollah and its allies have said the investigating judge is biased, but the victims' families

**Local residents had to flee their homes as men armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers - believed to have been members of Shia and Christian militias - exchanged fire in the streets.**

support his work.

The protest began outside the Palace of Justice - the main court building - with hundreds of people arguing the investigation had become politicised and demanding the removal of Judge Tarek Bitar. It then quickly escalated.

Heavy gunfire erupted in

the streets as the crowd passed through a roundabout in the central Tayouneh-Badaro area.

Local residents had to flee their homes as men armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers - believed to have been members of Shia and Christian militias - exchanged fire in the streets.

At a nearby school, teachers instructed young children to lie face down on the ground with their hands on their heads, a witness told Reuters news agency.

The clashes continued for several hours before calm was restored.

Hospital and military sources said some of those killed had been shot in the head. They included a woman who was hit by a stray bullet while inside her home.

Turkey Ready To Help, But Will Not Recognise Taliban

**Agencies**

ANKARA: Turkey said on Thursday it was ready to help the Taliban overcome Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis, but would not recognise its rule as it hosted the war-scarred country's new leaders for the first time.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu received his acting counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi as the movement seeks to gain international legitimacy upon returning to power after two decades of war.

Muttaqi arrived in Turkey following talks with US and European envoys in Doha during which he warned that Western sanctions on the Taliban threatened to further undermine security in Afghanistan.

Cavusoglu supported that message after the closed-door talks in Ankara.

"We have told the international community about the importance of engagement with the current Taliban administration. In fact, recognition and engagement are two different things," Cavusoglu said.

"The Afghan economy should not collapse. Therefore, we have said the countries that froze Afghanistan's accounts abroad should act more flexibly so that salaries can be paid."

The World Bank halted its funding projects in Afghanistan after the Taliban swept back to power in August.

Turkey has sought to use its position as the only Muslim-majority member of the Nato defence alliance to secure a greater role in Afghanistan after the US troop withdrawal.

But its offer to provide security for Kabul's airport — the main point of access for humanitarian aid — has been rejected by Taliban leaders and the sides made no apparent progress on the issue during their most high-level talk to date.

Cavusoglu said he reaffirmed to Muttaqi that ensuring security at the airport was vital before regular flights could resume.

"Today we explained to them once more the expectations on the issue of security — not only ours but the entire international aviation community — for running the airport and especially the start of regular flights," he said.

Cavusoglu added that he urged the Taliban to give girls open access to education and allow women to return to their jobs.

"We asked them not to see this as a precondition or a demand, but that this is also the expectation of the other Muslim countries," he said.

Muttaqi issued no immediate comments after the talks.

US Rejoins UN Human Rights Council, Years After Trump Walk-Out



**Agencies**

United Nations: The UN General Assembly on Thursday elected the United States to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, more than three years after the Trump administration quit the 47-member body over what it called chronic bias against Israel and a lack of reform.

The United States, which was unopposed, received 168 votes in the secret ballot by the 193-member General Assembly. It begins a three-year term on Jan. 1 - pitting Washington against Beijing and Moscow, who began council terms this year.

US President Joe Biden took office in January pledging that human rights would be the center of his foreign policy and his administration has not shied away from criticizing China over Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Taiwan and calling out Russia.

But a Reuters review of the Biden administration's record so far showed concerns over human rights in other countries had several times been pushed aside in favor of national security priorities and engagement with foreign powers.

"The US will have an opportunity to demonstrate just how serious the Biden administration is about making human rights central to its domestic and foreign policies," said Human Rights Watch UN Director Louis Charbonneau. "With a lot of missteps so far, they should use their time on the council to promote human rights among friends and foes alike."

US Ambassador to the United Nations in New York, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said Washington would initially focus on "what we can accomplish in situations of dire need, such as in Afghanistan, Burma, China, Ethiopia, Syria, and Yemen."

"Our goals are clear: stand with human rights defenders and speak out against violations and abuses of human rights," she said in a statement, adding that the United States would also "oppose the council's disproportionate attention on Israel."

NEWS MAKERS

Joe Biden To Have Audience With Pope Francis At Vatican On October 29

Washington: US President Joe Biden, America's second Catholic president, and his wife Jill will have an audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican on October 29, the White House announced Thursday.

Biden's Vatican visit will come ahead of his participation in the G20 summit in Rome on October 30-31. From Italy, he is scheduled to travel to Glasgow for the COP26 climate change summit.

"They will discuss working together on efforts grounded in respect for fundamental human dignity, including ending the Covid-19 pandemic, tackling the climate crisis, and caring for the poor," the White House said in a statement.

The 78-year-old Biden is a practicing Catholic, who attends Mass at least once a week. John F. Kennedy was the country's first



Catholic president.

Biden often quotes scripture, and sometimes wears a rosary around his left wrist from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico that his son Beau was wearing the day he died of brain cancer in 2015.

When Biden took office, the pope warmly congratulated him and

said he hoped the new president's decisions would be "guided by a concern for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom."

Recognizing that Biden has his work cut out for him, the pontiff wished him success in fostering "understanding, reconciliation and peace within the United States."

London: A partially shredded canvas of one of British artist Banksy's most celebrated works sold at auction in London Thursday for a record 18.58 million euros (\$25.38 million), three years after being bought for a fraction of that price.

The artwork - now called "Love is in the Bin" - sold for nearly 1.1 million euros at Sotheby's where in October 2018, before it dramatically passed through a shredder hidden in its frame moments later.

Thursday's sale, which saw nine bidders battle for 10 minutes for the work formerly called "Girl With Balloon", beats the previous record of 16.75 million euros set for the celebrated street artist in March.

The work, the seventh lot in a wide-ranging contemporary arts sale, had an estimated selling price of 4-6 million euros.

"It is almost three years to the day since one of the most ingenious moments of perfor-

Shredded Banksy Canvas Sells For Record \$25.4 Million In London



mance art this century made auction history," Alex Branczik, of Sotheby's, said following the record sale.

"Banksy is no stranger to making headlines and this latest chapter in his story has captured

imaginations across the world - we can only begin to guess what might come next."

The 2018 stunt, which poked fun at the staid world of fine art, is typical of the graffiti artist's irreverent style after his work

began appearing on the streets of Bristol in southwest England in the 1980s.

It was the latest in a long history of unpredictable moves for the provocative guerilla artist, whose work has appeared across Britain and around the world.

The partially shredded canvas shows a small child reaching up toward a heart-shaped red balloon.

The original, which first appeared on a wall in east London, has been reproduced endlessly in prints and online, and appropriated by some of the world's best-known brands.

It had been called one of the most significant artworks of the early 21st century in the British press, before the shredded version was granted a new certificate and date by Pest Control, Banksy's authentication body, and given the new title.

His latest works have appeared recently in several British seaside towns.

## Centre Delegates Power To Ladakh LG Under FRA

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** The President of India has empowered the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the State Government under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 within the Union territory.

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday issued a notification regarding the matter empowering the LG to exercise the powers under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which is a key piece of forest legislation passed in India on December 18, 2006.

It has also been called the Forest Rights Act, the Tribal Rights Act, the Tribal Bill, and the Tribal Land Act. "In pursuance of clause (1) of Article 239 of the Constitution, the President hereby directs that the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Ladakh shall, subject to the control of the President and until further orders, also exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the State Government under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007) within the said Union territory," mentions the notification.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognises the rights of the forest-dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

The forest management policies, including the Acts, Rules and Forest Policies of Participatory Forest Management policies in both colonial and post-colonial India, did not, till the enactment of this Act, recognise the symbiotic relationship of the STs with the forests, reflected in their dependence on the forest as well as in their traditional wisdom regarding conservation of

the forests.

The Act encompasses Rights of Self-cultivation and Habitation which are usually regarded as Individual rights; and Community Rights as Grazing, Fishing and access to water bodies in forests, Habitat Rights for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), Traditional Seasonal Resource access of Nomadic and Pastoral community, access to biodiversity, community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge, recognition of traditional customary rights and right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource for sustainable use.

It also provides rights to the allocation of forest land for developmental purposes to fulfil the basic infrastructural needs of the community.

In conjunction with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Settlement Act, 2013 FRA protects the tribal population from eviction without rehabilitation and settlement.

The Act further enjoins upon the Gram Sabha and rights holders the responsibility of conservation and protection of bio-diversity, wildlife, forests, adjoining catchment areas, water sources and other ecologically sensitive areas as well as to stop any destructive practices affecting these resources or cultural and natural heritage of the tribals. The Gram Sabha is also a highly empowered body under the Act, enabling the tribal population to have a decisive say in the determination of local policies and schemes impacting them.

Thus, the Act empowers the forest dwellers to access and use the forest resources in the manner that they were traditionally accustomed to protect, conserve and manage forests, protect forest dwellers from unlawful evictions and also provides for basic development facilities for the community of forest dwellers to access facilities of education, health, nutrition and infrastructure.

## Parents Urge LG Admin To Reopen Primary, Middle Schools

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Parents on Friday urged the LG Administration to reopen schools for primary and middle classes in Jammu and Kashmir as life has been back to normal and almost every sector is functioning normally.

Parents while talking to KNS, expressed their concern about the closure of primary and middle schools. They said that the administration should devise a mechanism to reopen schools for these classes as the future of their children is at stake.

Even though after a gap of 18 months, the government recently allowed reopening of higher educational institutions and schools for classes 10 and 12 with Covid-19 guidelines in place, however, schools for primary and middle classes continue to remain closed.

"No doubt the pandemic is highly infectious but administration cannot wait for cases to go

to zero level and the reopening schools cannot wait for a longer period now as it is affecting the education and well being of the future generation," they said.

They said that they worried about the future of their children as it has been for about two years that the kids in the Valley haven't attended offline classes.

"Attending hour long classes and preparing for exams through online modes have affected the eyesight of many children. Many states in the country recently have reopened the primary schools with proper guidelines to be followed. The children who are the future of our society have every right to go to school and to learn which is crucial for their overall development, safety and well being," the aggrieved parents said.

They expressed their concern over the matter and urged the administration in J&K to devise a proper mechanism for reopening of the primary schools as well.



**AN AUTO DRIVER ASKING** to be heard during security checking in Lal Chowk, Srinagar on Friday, October 15.

## Union Power Minister RK Singh Visits Gurez



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**BANDIPORA:** Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh on Friday visited Gurez where he visited the Dam Site of Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project (KGHEPP) in Gurez valley of Bandipora district and took stock of the working of the power project. The Minister is on a two day visit to the Union Territory as part of the Central Government's Public Outreach Initiative.

He was accompanied by Principal Secretary, PDD, J&K, Rohit Kansal, NHPC CMD Abhay Kumar Singh and Union Additional Secretary Power S K G Rahate.

On the arrival at the dam site in Gurez, the Minister was presented guard of honour by the CISF personnel who are guarding the dam site.

During his visit to the 330MW KGHEPP, the Minister reviewed

the generation capacity of the project besides assessing its other relevant aspects. He interacted with the officers who appraised the minister about the power generation capacity, working, implementation of CSR and other related issues.

Talking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Central Government is committed to improving the power scenario of Jammu and Kashmir as the development of the place is high on the agenda of the Prime Minister.

He said a lot of schemes have been introduced to improve the overall efficiency of the power sector in Jammu and Kashmir and they have set a target to provide electricity connection to every household in the Union Territory. Union Minister said the government has taken commendable initiatives to harness hydroelectric power generation in J&K. He said the KGHEPP has

helped in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people as it offered jobs to a number of local people besides helping in resolving power crisis of the UT.

Later the minister held a public interaction programme wherein the people apprised him about various public issues. The locals raised the demands with regard to absence of regular power supply in the Gurez valley, pending compensation, implementation of CSR and other related issues.

The Minister gave patient hearing to the delegations and assured positive response from the government with regard to their demands.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad, District Development Council member Tasleema Begum and SDM Gurez besides other senior officers and officials were also present on the occasion.

## Masoodi Anguished Over Fire Incident In Halsidar, Verinag

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Member of Parliament Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi on Friday expressed deep anguish over the massive fire incident in Halsidar in Verinag Tehsil that resulted in massive damages to various residential houses.

While expressing sympathies with the affected, Masoodi impressed upon the District and divisional administration to

walk an extra mile to help the fire victims. He impressed upon the administration to rush revenue teams to the spot to assess the losses incurred by affected families so that a compensation is worked out at the earliest.

"It is quite imperative for the administration to ensure that compensation and relief is distributed to the affected families before the onset of harsh winters. Meantime, the local district administration should also distribute free monthly

ration consisting of rice, sugar, and other kitchen condiments to the affected families. Providing subsidized building material, warm thermal wears, and blankets will also go a long way to help the families withstand the tragedy," he said.

Masoodi also drew attention of the government towards the shortfall of fire stations in the higher reaches and far-flung hamlets of Larnoo, Halsidar, Qamer, and Karpan in south Kashmir.

## CS Reviews Arrangements To Mitigate Dengue Outbreak



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting to review the medical preparedness in mitigating dengue breakout in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, along with concerned officers and medical professionals participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the Jammu province is witnessing a rise in dengue cases which has necessitated a dedicated campaign to prevent accumulation of stagnant water; breeding of vector mosquitoes; early detection of dengue infection; and availability of suitable medical care.

The Additional Chief Secretary briefed the meeting about the need to undertake extensive thermal fogging exercises across the region as a precautionary measure and introduction of

larvivorous fishes in ponds besides making arrangements of free testing for early detection of dengue infection. He stressed the processing of test samples within 12 hours to reduce the response time in cases where the patient tests positive for dengue.

Chief Secretary Dr. Mehta impressed upon the Department to issue cautionary advisories/alerts and carry out an extensive IEC drive highlighting the Do's and Dont's to contain and mitigate the disease by preventing water pile up; mosquito breeding; mosquito bites, besides, making operational a dengue helpline to extend telephonic consultation on dengue-like symptoms.

The Health and Medical Education Department was also asked to ensure proper treatment facilities for dengue patients through dedicated cell/wards and appropriate human resource deputation.

## Submit Time-Bound Response To ACB Complaints: RDD To ACDs

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move to ensure transparency and accountability in its functioning, the department of Rural Development Kashmir has directed the Assistant Commissioners of Development (ACDs) to submit replies to complaints of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a time-bound manner along with their opinion/recommendations.

In a circular, a copy of which is in possession of news agency KNO, director, Rural Development Department, Kashmir has directed ACDs (district vigilance officers) to send the replies of all complaints to ACB in a time-bound manner.

"..... It is impressed upon all DVOs to send the replies of all complaints particularly ACB

complaints in a time-bound manner and accord top priority to furnishing of the replies along with their opinion/ recommendations," read the circular.

The ACDs are functioning as district vigilance officers of the RDD. The department has pointed out that "most of DVOs are not replying to complaints factually nor recording their opinion/ recommendations despite repeated reminders on the same which hampers the process of disposal of these complaints."

The ACDs (DVOs) have been directed to avoid the practice of simply enclosing replies submitted by their subordinates in a casual manner in future and they should clearly and unambiguously record their opinion/ recommendations in each as is expected of them as district vigilance officers (DVOs).

## PDF Urges Centre To Fulfil Constitutional Promises

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Chairman People's Democratic Front (PDF) Ha-keem Yaseen on Friday urged Centre "to respect and implement with sincerely and honesty all the constitutional guarantees enshrined in the accord of accession to end prevailing socio-political uncertainty in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State".

He stressed for establishing a popular government in Jammu

and Kashmir to fulfil socio-political and developmental aspirations of the people. He said Centre should initiate meaningful CBMs to build an atmosphere of mutual trust and faith among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

PDF Chairman also impressed upon the present Central Government to "rise to the occasion and initiate a result oriented process to win hearts and minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

## SEC Inaugurates AJKPC Headquarters In Jammu

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** State Election Commissioner (SEC), J&K, Kewal Kumar Sharma on Friday inaugurated the Head Office of All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC)—a registered frontline organisation of elected PRI members here.

Scores of District Development Council (DDC) and Block Development Council (BDC) members, and Sarpanches, besides Corporators of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) attended the inaugural function. The function was organised by the UT President of AJKPC Anil Sharma who welcomed the State Election Commissioner on his arrival.

Speaking on the occasion, State Election Commissioner appreciated the efforts made by the AJKPC to strengthen the grassroots level democracy and empowerment of Panchayati Raj System in Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted the role of grassroots level democratic institutions in the strengthening of the democracy and stressed upon the elected PRI members to work with dedication to serve the people.

## Essential Items Price Hike Makes Life Difficult For Common People

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The skyrocketing prices of daily use commodities including fuels, fruits, milk, meat and vegetables have irked consumers who have expressed anguish over failure of administration to control price-hike in the Valley.

According to a report, CNS revealed that one dozen banana and one kilogram melon are being sold at Rs 100-120 and Rs120-150 in city markets whereas one kilogram of grapes is being sold at Rs220, which are beyond purchasing power of middle-class people.

Locals told the news agency that with the latest hike in the fuel prices, they were finding it difficult to make ends meet and was burdening their monthly household budgets.

Sameer Ahmad, a resident of the Old City, said that earlier the spike in prices of oil and pulses and now the rise

in the cost of gas has made his kitchen budget go awry. "The government should curb the rise in prices of everyday items," he said.

While the price of mustard oil was Rs 110 to 120 per kg last year, the price is now Rs 185 to 195 per kg. Refined oil is now being sold for Rs 150 to 165.

Another city resident Ghulam Nabi said, "Single-earning hand families with limited income will be the most affected. The government seems to have failed to deliver its promise of easing people's problem."

The consumers and people have requested Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other senior officials of district administration to make a close check on price of daily commodities and take strict action against profiteers and hoarders as it is imperative for provision of all essential items to consumers at affordable rate.

## 3 Held For Illegal Extraction, Transportation Of Minerals In Pulwama

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have arrested three persons and seized three vehicles involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

A police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency KNO, officers from PS Kakapora in presence of District Magistrate Officer Pulwama, during naka checking at Kandizal Kakapora area seized two tippers and one dumper bearing registration numbers JK13E-1679, JK13E-2147 & JK13E-0301 and arrested three persons involved in extraction and transportation of sand and Bajri.

They have been identified as Shafiq Ahmad Rather of Nehama, Muhammad Shahid Bhat of Lelhar and Abdul Majeed Panjo of Kakapora.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 138/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Kakapora and further investigation initiated.

## Unemployment, Inflation In J&K Belies Govt Claims: Tarigami

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Friday said that the unemployment and inflation in Jammu and Kashmir is hugely disturbing and belies the BJP government's tall claims of "growth and development" in the region.

"The highest unemployment rate of 21.6 per cent and staggering inflation rate of 7.39 is hugely disturbing and gives a false impression of growth and development in the region," Tarigami claimed in a statement.

He claimed according to the figures of Ministry of Statistics and Programme and the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) unemployment rate of 21.6 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir is the highest among all states and Union Territories (UTs) in the country. Similarly, the Centre

for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) reports states that the inflation rate of 7.39 percent has made the region the costliest place to live in India.

He said the level of unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir can be gauged from the fact that for mere 8575 class-IV posts advertised by the Services Selection Board (SSB) in June 2020 while tens of thousands of highly educated unemployed youth applied.

The CPI(M) leader said these figures expose the claims of the BJP government that Jammu and Kashmir witnessed large "growth and development" after the revocation of the former state's special status under Article 370 in August 2019.

"The government gives concocted and fabricated stories vis-à-vis development, employment and other parameters of growth to mislead the people," Tarigami added.

## 7 Sheep Killed In Leopard Attack In Budgam

AGENCIES

**BUDGAM:** A shepherd from Central Kashmir's Budgam district Friday claimed that wild beasts killed his seven sheep while many more have gone missing.

Gulzar Ahmed Chopan, a resident of Arwah village of Beerwah told news agency

KNT that 7 sheep owned by him have been killed in a leopard attack. He said at least six sheep are missing.

Ironically, most of the sheep killed in alleged leopard attack have no blood stains, nor they have sustained injuries.

Authorities are verifying the claim made by the owner.

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
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Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Twitter Talks



"PMDD is not often acknowledged as an issue, because, well, it concerns women. But if you care about your sister, partner, or friend do raise awareness about PMDD. It's scary how real it can get. You start picking ways and spots to end your life. You start planning it!"  
-@Shehla\_Rashid

"Just a reminder that divorce is not haram. Abuse is. Avoid that!"  
-@farihala

"The kind of support Shahrukh is getting in India is heart-warming. But even among his supporters, the constant need to insist that he is an Indian superstar and not a Muslim superstar is heartbreaking. Because the fact of the matter is, Shahrukh is a Muslim superstar"  
-@Bluemagicboxes

For The Kids



With Bharat Biotech developed Covaxin receiving a recommendation for approval for use among children over two years of age, India is now the only country to have a Covid-19 vaccine for every age group. No other vaccine has so far been

This is crucial at a time when schools and colleges are opening up, and there is a discernible rise in the number of infections amongst children, even those below 10 years of age. As reported by this newspaper, the proportion of children in the new infections has been much higher in July and August this year, compared to any time earlier in the pandemic. This is not surprising given the fact that a large proportion of the adult population could have developed some immunity, either because of a prior infection, or due to vaccination. Reassuringly, there is no perceptible rise in serious cases amongst children.

There are still about 24-25 crore people in India above the age of 18 who are yet to get a single dose. Among them are the elderly and the sick, and those in remote areas where access to vaccines is not easy. Among those who have received the first dose, less than 30 per cent are fully vaccinated. The exercise to vaccinate children must not slow down vaccinations in this group, which must continue to remain the priority. Bharat Biotech is yet to release the data from phase 2/3 trials on the basis of which it has received the recommendation for approval for use among children. While the company says it would soon publish the results in a journal, it would have been better if it had made the results public before the approval – it would help build confidence among the public. Covaxin's application for emergency use authorisation from the World Health Organisation has been pending for a long time now. Proactive disclosure of relevant trial data can help in clearing such bottlenecks.

approved for infants and young children. Pfizer and BioNTech had announced last month that their vaccine had elicited robust responses among children of 5 to 11 years of age in phase 2/3 trials, but that is yet to be approved. As of now, only three vaccines are available for the 12-18 age bracket, those developed by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, and another by Zydus which was cleared by India in August.

The formal clearance to Covaxin for younger children brings in another layer of protection against Covid-19.

The Indian Express

ECONOMY CENTRAL

Corporatisation Of J&K's Retail  
Repercussions On Trade And Agricultural Sector



Image Credits: PTI

Ejaz Ayoub

On 22nd of the last month, a very significant form of protest was registered by the trading and business community of Jammu division. The protest was observed against the proposed plan of upcoming retail outlets in Jammu by India's biggest retail chain – Reliance Retail. Although the giant corporate entity brushed away the news as untrue, a wide range of authentic sources did show that Reliance has been working on an aggressive plan of setting up 100 odd retail grocery stores in Jammu division and 7 in Kashmir Division. Those against the plan saw this move as a lethal blow to the wide unorganized retail sector operating in the region. They fear that the sheer size of the economies of scale and supply chain efficiency in retail available with Reliance, can unleash a tangible and immediate risk of making lakhs of small shopkeepers totally irrelevant. Those favoring the decision say that it can create a lot of employment along with incomes for commercial real estate owners. From a consumption point of view, they anticipate efficiencies in end-prices and easy availability of commodities for consumers. They also see formalization of agrarian supply-chains in the region as an added benefit.

Before embarking on the pros and cons of corporatization of retail in Jammu and Kashmir, it is essential to understand the underlying drivers of the region's economy and whether these dynamics suit the proposed changes as envisaged under the new economic reality.

J&K is primarily an agrarian economy with consumption driven structure. When we talk of supply chain,

**POLICY MAKERS SHOULD RATHER FOCUS ON** developing a vibrant co-operative structure for saving the interests of agriculturists while also helping them in enhancing their margins through marketing support. The retail sector which has already been suffering from a long economic winter in the region deserves safeguards rather than throwing them in an arena which they are not prepared to fight

we see the majority of businesses in this region playing at either the extreme north or the extreme south end of it i.e most of us are either into farming or farm related businesses or as shopkeepers providing support to the last leg of the supply chain. All the fun of skimming margins is in-between, which unfortunately, in case of J&K remains the weak zone. To put things into perspective, among a total labor force of 44 lakh in J&K, the trading and retail sector provides employment to over 10 Lakh people. This shows the systemic importance of this sector. Its employment soaking capacity is second to agriculture. Now, imagine the lethality of something which has the potential to directly disrupt both these systemically important labor-intensive sectors of the region.

A wide range of research done by reputed institutions across the world have proved it time and again that the entry of corporate entities into retail space creates an immediate drop in profitability of existing small businesses in the region. It leads to a shake-out resulting in a majority of small retail outlets winding up operations due to their shallow loss bearing capacities, inability to contain market share, drying up of supplies due to monopolistic buying by retail giants and other economies of scale. With deep pocketed retail entities in the arena, the sales impact on small shops gets intensified and earnings keep falling till all these micro-accumulators become micro-subsistence seekers.

**What about the new employment opportunities that will be created by the corporate retail entity?**

There is an old (June'07) but very relevant research piece published by the "Economic & Political Weekly" titled, "Impact of Malls on small shops and Hawkers". As per the report, which was based on data around malls in Mumbai, the number of jobs created by the corporate entities is barely 10% of the number of jobs that are lost with its emergence. Essentially, the kind of jobs created by the organized retail chains have certain entry barriers like minimum qualifications etc. Rehabilitating the entire labor force who lost their livelihood and are barely literate, into this new framework can result in even more pain. Although, we are not talking about malls here, however, the underlying dynamics which can be disrupted by the corporatized retail entity will have somewhat similar repercussions as well.

**What about formalization of the agrarian supply chain?**

Well, luckily, we have bundles of case studies from the developed world where it has been proven with hard facts that the condition of farmers, when exposed to monopolistic buyers, gets more miserable. When they lose the choice of trading with multiple small entities, they lose the ability to maneuver the markets with

a fair degree of freedom. This leads to surrendering the pricing power entirely. It becomes a one-way game there onwards.

In 2014, there was an insightful report carried by the Los Angeles Times titled, "Hardship in Mexican farms translated into bounty on US tables". Contrary to the rosy picture projected by the Walmart PR machinery, the procurement for Walmart from Mexico had not benefited the local economy of Mexico. The condition of farmers and workers on contract-farming had worsened. Wages had shrunk. More output was demanded on existing terms and even cases of man handling farmers were reported. The race to beat the other big retail competitors puts a major brunt of cost efficiency on the supply side. Leveraging the power of monopolistic bargaining, the corporate entity often ends up hammering the farmers by exploitative purchase pricing. Most of the international evidence we have at hand portrays the dangers of capitalistic business models in retailing for geographically distributed small producers who are not in a position to bargain for a fair price with these bulk buyers.

On the socioeconomic front, a sharp rise in income inequality and poverty has also been witnessed. The per capita income does rise, but, being an average data point it tends to even out the ugly picture of poverty and income inequality.

J&K is an agrarian economy which has a wide and thriving retail trading sector. These two sectors collectively provide employment to over 70% of the region's labour force. Facilitating policies which will directly disrupt the income flows of both these core sectors might prove to be an economic disaster. Policy makers should rather focus on developing a vibrant co-operative structure for saving the interests of agriculturists while also helping them in enhancing their margins through marketing support. The retail sector which has already been suffering from a long economic winter in the region deserves safeguards rather than throwing them in an arena which they are not prepared to fight. Let's hope that the bandh announced by Jammu traders did wake up the administration and policies in future are more about safeguarding the interest of the indigenous businesses without losing the sight of facilitating productive investment.

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

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Covid-19 Vaccines: Time To Reset Impact Bar

K V Balasubramaniam

The rapid response in developing vaccines to tackle the Covid pandemic has led to approval of sub-optimal vaccines. While these vaccines may have helped tame the pandemic, they still fall way short of the benchmarks of safety and efficacy for a good vaccine. It is time to reset the benchmarks so that the combating transmission of the virus and control of the disease is effectively achieved.

**The Story So far on Covid-19 Vaccines**  
The Covid-19 pandemic has been unprecedented in human history. As it ravaged across planet earth, it left in its wake extensive loss of human lives, inflicted huge morbidity, and threw out of gear the world economy, and with it the livelihoods of people. It was crisis of untold dimensions.

Even as the medical community began to tackle the new pandemic, the pharmaceutical industry scrambled to find solutions to limit the damage and find more permanent solutions to the viral infection. The vaccine industry, which had some experience with the previous SARS and MERS epidemics was quick to come up with vaccine candidates against Covid-19. Western governments and multilateral agencies pitched in with huge resource outlays. The light at the end of the tunnel emerged and the vaccine industry was able to come up with reasonable vaccine solutions. The speed of vaccine development and approvals on emergency mode by regulators was unprecedented.

There are about six different vaccines which are presently internationally approved for emergency use – the mRNA vaccines of Moderna and Pfizer/Bio-

tech, the live vectored vaccines of Astra Zeneca and Johnson & Johnson Janssen and the inactivated vaccines of Sinopharm and Sinovac. In addition, four vaccines await international approvals – the live vectored vaccine of Gamaleya Institute, the inactivated vaccine of Bharat Biotech, the sub-unit vaccine of Novovax and the DNA vaccine of Cadila Heathcare.

**Disadvantages of First Mover Vaccines**

Now that many countries have achieved a reasonable level of vaccination of their population and the pandemic's fury has greatly reduced, it is time to call for better vaccines to be available. However, the vaccine companies which had the first mover advantage seem to be persisting with their vaccines. Compounding this is the reluctance of governments and even WHO to prescribe new benchmarks for vaccine efficacy and safety. It can be said that there could possibly be comfort with the status quo.

If the disadvantages are overlooked for too long, there will be much price to be paid due to the dire consequences of using relatively unsafe and ineffective vaccines, some of which are getting to be all too apparent now.

**Need for Safe and More Effective Covid-19 Vaccines**

It is only after safety considerations are met that the efficacy considerations merit attention, since good efficacy without adequate safety can create more problems than they solve. Safety is manifest in the technology platform chosen for the vaccine, whereas efficacy is an aspect which can be achieved by proper application of the technology and in the vaccine construct. For example, inactivated vaccines are considered safe, and their efficacy can be enhanced by proper

formulation with good adjuvants.

Therefore, it is now time to redefine the benchmarks for a good vaccine and the choices that governments make in the use of the vaccines for the vaccination campaigns. The key benchmark is of the safety of the vaccine, that the vaccine must be very safe across age groups and across the healthy and sick populations. On the efficacy parameter, the benchmark must be set with efficacy stipulated to be above 90%. It is also important to look at the immunity period conferred by the vaccine. The expectation being that the vaccine must confer robust and long-term immunity, not in months but in years.

**Good Vaccines on the Horizon**

A few good vaccines have emerged on the development horizon. Among them are the sub-unit protein vaccines based on recombinant technology. It is a well-known fact that recombinant vaccines are generally safe since what is injected as the antigen is a protein. A recombinant vaccine formulated with good adjuvants can confer good neutralising and long-lasting immunity. Likewise, an inactivated vaccine is also considered safe and can confer good immunity with a good choice of adjuvant. In the list of such vaccines are Novovax (Covovax by Serum Institute in India), RelCovax (by Reliance Life Sciences) and Corbevax (by Biological E) as sub-unit vaccines. Not surprising that the seasoned multinational vaccine majors – Sanofi and GSK, are jointly developing a subunit vaccine against Covid-19. Likewise, Covaxin (by Bharat Biotech) as an inactivated vaccine can also be safe. However, the issue with inactivated vaccine is the higher cost of manufacture and difficulties with manufacturability at scale.

It is pertinent to note that both the sub-

**WHO HAS ALSO RECENTLY** recommended a third dose for the inactivated vaccines from China and this means an implicit acceptance of the low efficacy of the Chinese vaccines. As regards the Indian inactivated vaccine – Covaxin, it appears that WHO is still not convinced about the robustness of the clinical trials and the efficacy results, as it has repeatedly asked the company for more data

unit and inactivated vaccines are safe for use in children. With vaccination coverage advancing to cover children, it would be appropriate to choose only these subunit or inactivated vaccines rather than the mRNA, live vectored or DNA vaccines. Most countries are at the threshold of vaccinating children, and they would do well to redefine the safety and efficacy parameters of the Covid-19 vaccines so that the world at large gets better vaccine to tackle the pandemic.

**Conclusion**

In the matter of making appropriate choices regarding Covid-19 vaccines, safety is of paramount importance. With the Covid pandemic receding and much of the world population to be still vaccinated, especially children under 18 years, the need to reset the safety and efficacy bar for Covid-19 vaccines assumes much importance. The world now needs safer and more efficacious Covid-19 vaccines. The time to act is now.

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

The author is Ph.D. Life Sciences Consultant and Former M.D. Indian Immunologicals Ltd. The article was originally published by FE Healthcare

# Hearth And History – The Kangir Tales

**IN ITS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT,** Kanger has assumed a political significance and an emotional iconography. In ancient Kashmir when courtiers used to deliberate over the succession issue of the kings, Kanger was hurled at the opponents



**ONE OF THE CRUDE FORMS** of Kanger is called “Manun” mainly used by the boatmen. Among famous Kangers are: ‘Bandapur Kanger’, “Islambaed Kanger” and “Tsar Kanger”. ‘Isband Soz’ is actually a brazier to emanate scent to the assembly of invitees or “salars” on happy occasions

Khan Khawar Achackzai

**K**anger, a fire pot that Kashmiris use to keep warm in chilling winters. In Kashmiri literature Kanger is considered as one's beloved. Moti Lal Saqi writes in praise for Kanger: “Kashmir and Kanger are each others'. Present the brazier anywhere and at any time you identify Kashmir.”

The word ‘Kanger’ according to De Hultzseh seems to be derived from the word ‘Kasthangarika’. Auriel Stein also agrees that it is derived from the same word. Dr. W.F Elmslie, a well known missionary observed that the Kashmiris probably learnt its use from the Italians who accompanied the retinue of the Mughal emperors. In winters no lower middle-class woman in Florence walks outside without carrying Scaldino, which according to GMD Sufi resembles the ‘Kanger’.



Scaldino

However a few historians and authors go back to the twelfth century to trace its usage and origins. In ‘The Symbolism of East and West’ (1900), Mrs. Murray Aynsley comments on the work Eugen Hultzsch and observes that

he “has shown that the use of portable fireplaces or braziers was known in Kashmir – as early as the twelfth century C.E., and here we have their use in Persia (and if [Pietro] Della Valle's word tenor be right, in Arabia also), as well as in Spain and Italy, in a manner implying a long previous history.”

A similar vessel is also used in Japan. Although it is not clear when Japanese braziers were first used, the oldest existing Japanese brazier is believed to be one known as ‘Dairiseki sei Sankyaku tsuki Hoya’ (three-legged marble hoyo) stored in the Shoso-in treasure repository.

The Japanese pocket stove is much advanced. It employs a specially prepared fuel with origins in ancient experiments to produce a slow match for preserving fire for a long time. The pocket stove is made of copper or tin with a perforated lid and is designed to fit the wearer. The cartridges of special charcoal are filled in it and lighted up and the lid is closed and the user enjoys that warmth for half a day with the special Japanese charcoal.



Japanese Portable Stove

Chinese stove is quite similar to that of Kashmiri Kanger in that it consists of a ceramic pot which is encased in small bamboo sticks. The whole structure is

balanced upright of a wide base so as to prevent tipping over. The French have on corresponding to it in their “Chauffer chemic” or pot of charcoal fire. But there are contestants from old historians about the origin of Kanger from the Italians and they maintain the existence of Kanger or Bazier was early as twelfth century C.E. Kalhana used the word “Hasantika” in Rajtarangni.



1. POTTERY MICHAMAR BOTTLE WITH DEPRESSION FOR THE FEET. 2. ITALIAN BAZIER OF ABRUZZO AND STOVE. 3. A. CHINESE PANDA WARMER. 4. KASHMIRIAN WOODEN PANDA STOVE.

Similar Baziers are available in Iran, Arabia, Spain and Italy as already mentioned above in Mrs. Murray's quote. Delle-Valle's word tenor or perhaps ‘Tannur’ in Arabia or in present times in Kashmir the word ‘Tannuri’ is an indication that such Baziers were used worldwide.

However, the Kashmiri crafting technique is new. Kanger has mainly three

parts, the innermost earthenware to the ‘Kundal’, the outer woven grills of Kani branches got out of witch hazel (Parrotia jacquemontiana), the plant known as ‘pohh’ in Kashmir and to a ring attached to it at its back hangs the chain or ‘Tsalan’, sometimes made of wood sometimes made of metal. There are various types of Kangers according to decoration, durability and antiquity. These include “Run-dar Kanger”, “Sarposh Kanger”, “Zajeer” and “Zeendar” Kanger.

One of the crude forms of Kanger is called “Manun” mainly used by the boatmen. Among famous Kangers are: ‘Bandapur Kanger’, “Islambaed Kanger” and “Tsar Kanger”. ‘Isband Soz’ is actually a brazier to emanate scent to the assembly of invitees or “salars” on happy occasions.

In its historical development, Kanger has assumed a political significance and an emotional iconography. In ancient Kashmir when courtiers used to deliberate over the succession issue of the kings, Kanger was hurled at the opponents.

On the first day of ‘Hartal’ following the theft of sacred relic from Hazratbal Shrine, people collectively assaulted a leader with their Kangers at the Amirakadal Chowk. During the early nineties, those carrying Kangers in their Pherans (cloaks) were often subjected to friskings and searches by Police and Army, possibly because the pout inside the pheran gave them an impression of some weapon being carried.

With all its emotional, cultural and political significance, Kanger has found a mammoth mention in Kashmiri art and literature. A famous Kashmiri poem reads: “Mann me zolum lolle naaren,

*Tan me zejim Kangre.  
Waare warey praye khejim,  
Maye lejim Kangre.”*

*My soul is burnt by the fire of love,  
And my skin by the fire of Kangir.  
The fire has made me so sluggish as in incubation,  
I am lovestruck with my Kangir.*



Photo by [G. W. Pascoe].  
7. KASHMIRI PEASANT HOLDING A “KANGRI.”

Kanger remains beloved to the Kashmiri from time immemorial and will continue doing so. Historian Hassan Kuilhami writes: “What Laila was to Majnun's bosom, so is the Kanger to a Kashmiri”.

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## Social Constructs And The Politics Of Shame

Sabrina Amrane

**S**ocial conduct is driven by a multitude of virtues that are held important in a society. One that has been fashionably put under scrutiny is shame. And perhaps the emotional impulse to do so is reasonable. Shame is distinguishably uncomfortable and brings us to the miserable realization of our own weakness. The harsh reality is that shame, though unpleasant, is a vehicle for order that seeks to maintain certain morals, some of which are deemed unimportant in the modern world. However strong the push is to dismantle the need for inhibition, shame rarely evaporates. The escape people have found is to broadcast their embarrassments and preen themselves while doing so. The hope is that, the more vulgarity diffused, the less taxing shame will be for all. The collective swims in their open cesspool of unfettered satisfactions in perfect mutual distraction.

A criticism of what is called “purity culture” has led to the growing acceptance of promiscuity. In the language of

post-modernists, “chastity” dwindles down to an unnecessarily burdensome “social construct.” The constant discursive revisitation of the social construct as a means of removing value and utility from societal norms is ironic. The politics of shame that keep us from flaunting multiple sexual partners is the same that keeps us from profusely swearing in front of small children, and yet people only reserve serious contentions for maintaining the former. Social constructs come about as an organic manifestation of ideas, which have grown more sophisticated with time, but are nonetheless derived from what is primordial and real. Shame, as it pertains to both protecting the privacy of our bodies and moral responsibility of past malfeasance, in particular, is linked to the beginning of creation. When Adam (AS) and Hawa disobeyed Allah, their private parts were exposed. They henceforth quickly fastened the leaves of Paradise over their bodies. This event is incredibly telling in how intrinsically corporeal dignity is. It is only natural for humans to then organize around this principle of self-preservation, especial-

**THOUGH THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY** that constructs may disturb us, in that they interrupt what the nafs beckons, or are simply not as fitting given our context, they are not all founded upon insignificant fables or orchestrated by yesteryear's virtue-signalling aristocracy. Stating as much is to paradoxically simplify the force that social constructs have and, subsequently, the purpose they visibly serve.

ly as it ties to moral servitude, and this across all Abrahamic traditions. Though there is the possibility that

constructs may disturb us, in that they interrupt what the nafs beckons, or are simply not as fitting given our context, they are not all founded upon insignificant fables or orchestrated by yesteryear's virtue-signalling aristocracy. Stating as much is to paradoxically simplify the force that social constructs have and, subsequently, the purpose they visibly serve. It ignores the role nature, ever-so controversial, plays in what we qualify as appropriate – which never exists in a cultural vacuum. The other aspect to consider is that, when people speak of removing shame from the public space, they do not mean removing shame holistically, which is quite impossible. Rather, they refer to shame of specific taboos. We ought to then be privy of what people are asking to toss out and let in.

Those who support this selective opposition to shame employ the following logic: What exists as clear violation to others merits both inner humiliation and outer ostracization; in contrast, what primarily concerns individual behavior (for instance, how an adult chooses to dress) merits neither. The problem is, in

the realm of sexual image, it is becoming increasingly unclear what our personal responsibility is to public decency, and what constitutes the bounds for violating others in that ambiguity.

Contrary to other worldviews, the Islamic perspective treats shame as the glue to achieving communal goodness; after all, we have the opportunity to be forgiven for sins so long as we work to conceal them. This promotes a culture of respectable prudence and a cohesive standard of modesty, and concurrently removes some of the weight of agonizing guilt. We can relieve ourselves of crippling shame if we keep in mind that we should not reveal our blunders to others. This coupled with tawba provides healthy rehabilitation and invites humility. The wisdom behind this divine mercy is that we do not have to heedlessly wrestle with why we must feel so ignoble after making mistakes however grave they may be. We instead focus on our own duty to keep our struggles with temptation private. Because this is not an option for the secular-minded, they begin to ask for forgiveness not from God but from the public, and this – in the form of desperate calls – turns unbearable shame into unhinged pride.

Traversing Tradition

# People with low income saw smallest drop in travel during COVID-19: Study

Agencies

A recent case study in Columbus suggests that low-income people were the least likely to reduce their local travel during the COVID-19 lockdown, probably because they still had to go to work.

In fact, their average travel distances increased during the pandemic, as they were often forced to find work further away from their homes.

Meanwhile, high-income people reduced their travel the most during the lockdown, most often leaving home for recreational and non-work purposes and taking shorter trips, The Ohio State University study showed.

Researchers used cell phone location data to compare trips made by people living in high-, middle- and low-income areas of Columbus during the early days of the lockdown in Ohio (March 15 to April 30, 2020) with the same period in 2019.

Results showed that people living in low-income areas reduced their travel by 41 per cent during the lockdown - significantly less than the 51 per cent reduction found for people living in high-income areas and 49 per cent reduction for those from middle-income neighbourhoods.

The findings reveal the stark differences between people whose jobs allowed them to work from home with those mostly lower-income residents who worked in person for essential businesses, said Armita Kar, lead author of the study and a PhD student in geography at Ohio State.

"The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted which socioeconomic groups could work from home and limit their trips to stay safe and which groups couldn't avoid travelling to work," Kar said.



Kar conducted the study with Huyen T.K. Le, assistant professor, and Harvey Miller, professor, both in geography at Ohio State. Their research was published yesterday (Oct. 4, 2021) in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

The researchers used cell phone data that allowed them to see travel flow between specific Columbus neighbourhoods and destinations around the city.

They classified trips as originating in the low-, middle- or high-income areas of the city based on U.S. Census data. Destinations were classified

by the dominant business categories at each location, such as service jobs, arts and recreation, and accommodation and food services, among others.

There wasn't just a change in the amount of travel during the pandemic lockdown, results showed. The nature of travel also changed, with the pandemic revealing how socioeconomic status affected where people needed to go or were able to go.

For high-income people, trips became shorter as they didn't have to commute to work and they patronized businesses closer to home. They also

showed increased travel during the lockdown to places like parks and outdoor recreation, which was not seen in the lower socioeconomic groups.

"Now instead of travelling because they had to, higher-income residents were travelling more because they wanted to, for discretionary and recreational purposes," said Miller, who is also director of Ohio State's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis, which supported this project.

"They had the work flexibility to seek stress relief at area parks and recreational facilities when they wanted to."

In contrast, low-income people actually travelled greater distances during the lockdown than they did before. The results suggest that many residents in this category had to travel to multiple jobs to make ends meet during the pandemic, according to the researchers.

"We believe their job opportunities became more scattered and so they had to travel more to get to their jobs," Kar said.

Results showed that low-income residents travelled more during the lockdown to areas with concentrations of fast-food restaurants. That was probably both because they were more likely to be working at these businesses and they had to rely more on them for their meals, according to the researchers.

Middle-income residents of Columbus didn't reduce travel as much as high-income people did during the lockdown, probably because they had a wider variety of occupations that couldn't work from home.

Some of them may have been construction workers, the researchers said, since these workers were considered essential by the state of Ohio, as well as other states.

## Study Finds Sense Of Purpose Is Associated With Better Memory

Agencies

A new study, led by Florida State University researchers, has shown a link between an individual's sense of purpose and their ability to recall vivid details.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Memory'. The researchers found that while both a sense of purpose and cognitive function made memories easier to recall, only a sense of purpose bestowed the benefits of vividness and coherence.

The study focused on memories related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Personal memories serve really important functions in everyday life," said Angelina Sutin, a professor in the College of Medicine and the paper's lead author.

"They help us to set goals, control emotions and build intimacy with others. We also know people with a greater sense of purpose perform better on objective memory tests, like remembering a list of words," Sutin explained.

"We were interested in whether the purpose was also associated with the quality of memories of important personal experiences because such qualities may be one reason why purpose is associated with better mental and physical health," Sutin added.

Nearly 800 study participants reported on their sense of purpose and completed tasks that measured their cognitive processing speed in January and February 2020, before the ongoing coronavirus pandemic took hold in the US. Researchers then measured participants' ability to retrieve and describe personal memories about the pandemic in July 2020, several months into the public health crisis.

Participants with a stronger sense of purpose in life reported that their memories were more accessible, coherent and vivid than participants with less purpose.

Those with a higher sense of purpose also reported many sensory details, spoke about their memories more from a first-person perspective and reported more positive feelings and less

negative feelings when asked to retrieve a memory.

The researchers also found that depressive symptoms had little effect on the ability to recall vivid details in memories, suggesting that the connection between life purpose and memory recall is not due to the fewer depressive symptoms among individuals higher in purpose.

Purpose in life has been consistently associated with better episodic memory, such as the number of words retrieved correctly on a memory task. This latest research expands on those connections to memory by showing a correlation between purpose and the richness of personal memory.

"We chose to measure the ability to recall memories associated with the COVID-19 pandemic because the pandemic is an event that touched



everyone, but there has been a wide range of experiences and reactions to it that should be apparent in memories," said co-author Martina Luchetti, an assistant professor in the College of Medicine.

Along with the association with better memory, previous research has found other numerous benefits connected with having a sense of purpose, from a lower risk of death to better physical and mental health.

"Memories help people to sustain their well-being, social connections and cognitive health," said co-author Antonio Terracciano, a professor in the College of Medicine.

"This research gives us more insight into the connections between a sense of purpose and the richness of personal memories. The vividness of those memories and how they fit into a coherent narrative may be one pathway through which purpose leads to these better outcomes," Terracciano added.

## Hit hard by the pandemic, researchers expect its impacts to linger for years

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**About half (52 percent) of respondents felt positive about the flexibility of working from home. In fact, we may see a shift in the work culture following the pandemic. An Australian Bureau of Statistics survey in June found one-third (33 percent) of Australians said working from home was the aspect of COVID life they would most like to continue.**

Agencies

The impacts of COVID-19 on Australian university researchers are likely to have consequences for research productivity and quality for many years to come.

According to an online survey of academics at the University of Canberra between November 2020 and February 2021, they have deep concerns about their ability to undertake research during the pandemic and the flow-on effects of this. The findings are consistent with those of Research Australia from research in 2020 and 2021 and suggest Australia's research sector will take a substantive hit from COVID-19.

The knowledge produced by university research generates an estimated 10 percent of Australia's GDP. Without access to JobKeeper in 2020, universities across the sector cut back on casual staff and increased the teaching load of full-time academics. Combined with the challenges of working from home, this has had a real impact on research, not just immediately but in the longer term.

Almost three-quarters (73 percent) of respondents reported teaching commitments increased in the transition to online learning. Almost two-thirds reported delays in project milestones (63 percent) and publication (62 percent).

In addition to reduced re-

search productivity, staff expressed concerns about the quality of outputs as they are aware their general mental well-being has been affected. As one academic said:

Although I have completed the usual number of papers, I am concerned about their quality due to the sense of being so overwhelmed by work and the COVID impacts that I couldn't apply my usual critical judgements.

Impacts on researchers are highly uneven

About half (52 percent) of respondents felt positive about the flexibility of working from home. In fact, we may see a shift in the work culture following the pandemic. An Australian Bureau of Statistics survey in June found one-third (33 percent) of Australians said working from home was the aspect of COVID life they would most like to continue.

However, working from home did not translate into work-life balance and productivity for many academics. Domestic arrangements for a significant number have had an overall negative impact. These impacts particularly affected those with carers' responsibilities.

Of those with children up to year 12, 64 percent said working at home had a negative impact on the hours of work, compared with 50 percent of those with no children at home. Those with children at home were three times more likely to say their domestic responsibilities had a negative

impact on their research.

The impacts of COVID-19 on academic staff are not evenly distributed. There was a disproportionate gender impact, which is in line with previous reports across the sector. Impacts were greatest on academics in the early stages of their careers, often with young families.

This differential impact is reflected in other research into academic publishing, which shows the gender gap widening during the pandemic.

**What does the future hold?**

Research is a long-term endeavour. It takes years and even decades for research to come to fruition.

We asked respondents how they saw the future of their research. The majority felt pessimistic about all aspects of research: funding, publication, collaborating and supervising PhD students. More than two-thirds of respondents had negative views about their ability to attract funding and pursue research projects in the near future.

More importantly, those who have young families are feeling despondent about their research careers. A majority of them say their ability to publish will be hampered for the next two to three years. This group is the future of Australian academic research, so the negative impact of COVID-19 is of serious concern.

This is bad for Australia in terms of lost or delayed advances in science and technology, stalled or postponed advances in health care and treatment, reduced capacity to inform public debate, and fewer opportunities to contribute to Australia's lifestyle and culture. The impacts of the pandemic on the emerging generation of researchers will have long-term consequences.

In June, the ABS survey of pandemic impacts found one in five (20 percent) Australians experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress due to COVID-19. This has not changed since last November. Like many Australians, academics are under enormous pressure trying to balance work and home life.

As well as the concerns about the blurring of work and home life, we found evidence of low morale and exhaustion among staff. These findings match those of a report released today by Professional Scientists Australia.

There is a need for both the government and universities to develop a long-term, tailored strategy to support the research community. This will help ensure Australia's research effort continues at its above-world-class level, with the associated societal benefits it brings.

(The Conversation: By Sora Park, Jennie Scarvell and Linda Botterill, University of Canberra)



## Dip In India's Rank In Global Hunger Index 'Shocking', Methodology Used Is 'Unscientific': Govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Friday said it was shocking that India's rank was lowered on the Global Hunger Index and it termed the methodology used for rankings "unscientific".

India slipped to 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 of 116 countries, from its 2020 position of 94th. It is now behind its neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

The GHI report, prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hungerhilfe, termed the level of hunger in the country "alarming".

Reacting sharply to the Global Hunger Report 2021, the Women and Child Development Ministry said it is "shocking" to find that it has lowered the rank of India on the basis of FAO estimate on proportion of undernourished population which is found to be "devoid of ground reality and facts, and suffers from serious methodological issues".

"The publishing agencies of the Global Hunger Report, Concern Worldwide and Welt Hungerhilfe, have not done their

due diligence before releasing the report," the ministry said in a statement.

The methodology used by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is "unscientific", the ministry claimed.

"They have based their assessment on the results of a 'four question' opinion poll which was conducted telephonically by Gallup. The scientific measurement of undernourishment would require measurement of weight and height, whereas the methodology involved here is based on Gallup poll based on pure telephonic estimate of the population," it said.

The ministry said the report "completely disregards" the government's massive effort to ensure food security of the entire population during the Covid period, verifiable data on which are available.

"The opinion poll does not have a single question on whether the respondent received any food support from the government or other sources. The representativeness of even this opinion poll is doubtful for India and other countries," it said.

## Court Order To Affect Working Capital Of Companies Filing GST Appeals

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** In what may affect the working capital of taxpayers looking at filing appeals against GST claims, it had now been held that anyone seeking remedy against indirect tax decision would have to make pre-deposit amount in cash and not by debiting electronic credit ledger.

Recently, the Division Bench of the Orissa High Court held that pre-deposit at the time of filing an appeal under section 107(6) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) cannot be made by debiting the Electronic Credit Ledger (ECL). The payment of pre-deposit should be made by debiting the Electronic Cash Ledger (ECL) in accordance with section 49(3) of the CGST Act read with Rule 85(4) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 (CGST Rules).

What this order in effect does is that it puts the burden on taxpayers to pay the pre-deposit (ie 10 per cent of disputed



tax) amount in cash by transferring money from electronic cash ledger (ECL) for any tax dispute raised by them. This would mean more cash outflows leaving little for working capital needs.

In case that went to the Orissa High Court, the revenue raised demands of GST along with interest on the petitioners, who were engaged in execution of works contract. The petitioner filed an appeal and made payment towards pre-deposit (i.e. 10 per cent of disputed tax) for filing an appeal, by utilising the balance in the ECL. The revenue dismissed the appeal and considered it to be defective, emphasising that the liability of pre-deposit can be discharged only by debiting ECL.



## Petrol, Diesel Prices Rise Again, Burn Bigger Holes In Consumers' Pockets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Petrol and diesel price rose again on Friday taking its retail rates to record high levels across the country affecting consumers this festive season.

Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol and diesel prices increased by 35 paise per litre to Rs 105.14 per litre and Rs 93.87 per litre, respectively.

In India's financial capital of Mumbai, petrol became costlier by 34 paise per litre to Rs 111.09 a litre on Friday, the highest across all the four metro cities. Diesel also costs Rs 101.77 for one litre in Mumbai.

The price hike on Friday is for a second consecutive day after the

rates remained static on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Diesel prices now have increased on 17 out of the last 21 days taking up its retail price by Rs 5.25 per litre in Delhi.

With diesel price rising sharply, the fuel is now available at over Rs 100 a litre in several parts of the country. This dubious distinction was earlier available to petrol that had crossed Rs 100 a litre mark across the country a few months earlier.

Petrol prices had maintained stability since September 5 but oil companies finally raised its pump prices last week and this week given a spurt in the product prices lately. Petrol prices have also risen on 14 of the previous 17 days taking up its pump price by Rs 3.95 per litre.

OMCs had preferred to maintain their watch prices on global oil situation before making any revision in prices. This is the reason why petrol prices were not revised for last three weeks. But extreme volatility in global oil price movement has now pushed OMCs to effect the increase.

Crude price has been on a surge rising over three year high level of over \$84.5 a barrel now. Since September 5 when both petrol and diesel prices were revised, the price of petrol and diesel in the international market is higher by around \$9-10 per barrel as compared to average prices during August.



## Forex Reserves Rise By USD 2.039 Bln To USD 639.516 Bln

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI:** The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 2.039 billion to USD 639.516 billion in the week ended October 8, according to RBI data.

In the previous week ended October 1, the reserves had dipped by USD 1.169 billion to USD 637.477 billion. The reserves had surged by USD 8.895 billion to a life time high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3.

During the reporting week ended October 8, the rise in the reserves was on account of an increase in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released on Friday showed.

FCA rose by USD 1.55 billion to USD 577.001 billion in the reporting week, as per the data.

Expressed in dollar terms, FCA include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held

in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by USD 464 million to USD 38.022 billion in the reporting week.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by USD 28 million to USD 19.268 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF declined by USD 3 million to USD 5.225 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

## IMF Warns Economy Recovery Threatened By Virus, Inflation

AGENCIES

**WASHINGTON:** The International Monetary Fund is warning of rising threats to the global economic recovery posed by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and an outbreak of inflation.

The lending agency called Thursday for greater efforts from wealthy nations to boost coronavirus vaccination rates in poorer countries, while also urging the Federal Reserve and other central banks to respond quickly if current inflation pressures prove not to be transitory.

The IMF panel that sets policy for the 190-nation organization wrapped up its annual meeting with a joint statement expressing concerns about the wide divergence in vaccination rates between wealthy and poor countries.

The group urged greater efforts by wealthy nations toward achieving a goal of having 40 per cent of the population of all countries vaccinated by the end of this year and 70 per cent by the middle of next year.

While nearly 60 per cent of the population in advanced economies are now fully vaccinated, only about 4 per cent of the population in poorer countries are.

We will take steps to help boost the supply of vaccines and essential medical products and inputs in developing countries and remove relevant supply and financing constraints, the finance officials pledged.

The emergence of virus variants has increased uncertainty and risks to the recovery are tilted to the downside, the group said. The crisis is exacerbating poverty and inequality.

The United States was represented at the finance meetings by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell.

The finance officials also

noted rising global inflation pressures and said the Fed and other central banks need to act appropriately if the price spikes prove to be more of a threat to the economic recovery.

The Fed signalled last month that it soon could begin the process of unwinding some of the extraordinary support it put in place in response to last year's coronavirus-triggered recession.

The move would be a first step toward possible interest rate hikes that would slow growth and keep inflation under control.

The IMF issued an updated economic forecast this week that slightly downgraded its forecast for global growth to 5.9 per cent from 6 per cent in July. The downgrade reflected persistent supply chain disruptions and the wide disparity in vaccination rates. For the United States, the IMF forecast growth of 6% this year, down from its July forecast of 7 per cent.

The IMF policy panel also endorsed the findings of the agency's executive board on Monday of full confidence in IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

The support for Georgieva came following an investigation into allegations that, while a top official at the World Bank, she and other World Bank officials pressured staff to boost the rankings of China and other countries in an influential business-climate survey that has since been discontinued.

Georgieva told reporters Wednesday that the review showed there was no there there to the charges.

But Yellen said in a speech Thursday to the IMF policy panel that the results of the review by an outside law firm could reduce confidence in the international financial institutions if there is not strong action to boost accountability, protect data integrity and prevent misconduct.



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## Economy Recovered Very Fast After Tough Phase Of Covid-19 Pandemic: PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SURAT:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the recovery of India's economy after the difficult phase of Covid-19 pandemic has been robust.

He was speaking after a virtual ground-breaking ceremony of a boys' hostel in Surat.

"After the difficult phase of the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian economy has recovered very fast. The world is hopeful about India because of this recovery," the Prime Minister said.

He added that an international organisation had recently said that India is once again on its way to becoming the fastest growing economy of the world.

PM Modi was apparently referring to International Mon-



etary Fund's report 'Recovery During a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions and Price Pressures', which made a projection that India will grow at 9.5 per cent in the current fiscal. As per the IMF's projection, India will be the fastest growing economy among big countries of the world.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Animal Husbandry Deptt Organises Calf Show In Bandipora

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**BANDIPORA:** The Department of Animal Husbandry on Friday organised a mega Calf Show at Veterinary Complex Bandipora as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' besides observing Clean India Programme.

During the event, calves of different breeds including CBHF, CBJ and Denmark were kept at the show that attracted a number of people. The public especially breeders were made aware about different breeds and their hygienic ways of management.

On the occasion, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Bandipora, Dr. G A Lone addressed the gathering of dairy farmers, poultry farmers, milk-men, senior citizens, employees of the department besides PRIs members of the district.

Dr Lone stressed upon the importance of cleanliness in farm management, hygienic methods

of milk production, chemical/antibiotic residue free poultry production, organic egg production etc.

The event concluded with the prize distribution ceremony in presence of PRIs, where 03 best calves out of all the calves in the show were chosen based on different criteria viz Hygiene, Body Condition Score etc and were awarded accordingly.

Upon the directions of CAHO Bandipora, all the VASs of the district organized drives to explain and demonstrate different methods of maintaining clean and hygienic environment of dairy/poultry farms.

Likewise a yak show was organized at Gurez, where in hygienic methods of management were explained to the farmers by BVO Gurez Dr Izhar-ul-Haq.

The farmers thanked the department and the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, for their efforts in promoting hygienic milk and poultry production in the district.

#### India To Remain Accommodative In Its Monetary Policy: Rbi Governor

WASHINGTON

**WASHINGTON:** India, which is experiencing robust economic recovery which remains uneven across sectors, has decided to remain accommodative in its monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India Governor told the international community on Thursday.

India is witnessing a very robust economic recovery, but there is still unevenness across sectors, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his address to the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Video of the excerpts of his speech were posted and released by the IMF.

We have therefore decided to remain accommodative in our monetary policy, while being closely watchful of the evolving inflation scenario, Das said in the short video. (PTI)



#### Apple Regains 2nd Spot In Global Smartphone Market, Xiaomi Slips To 3rd

**NEW DELHI:** Apple regained second place in the global smartphone market with 15 per cent share in the third quarter (Q3) this year, thanks to strong early demand for iPhone 13, a new report showed on Friday.

Samsung was the leading smartphone player with 23 per cent share. Xiaomi took 14 per cent share for the third place, while vivo and OPPO completed the top five with 10 per cent share each, according to preliminary data provided by global market research firm Canalys.

Global smartphone shipments fell 6 per cent in the third quarter (July-September period) this year, as vendors struggled to meet demand for devices amid component shortages.

"The chipset famine has truly arrived. The smartphone industry

is striving to maximise production of devices as best it can. On the supply side, chipset manufacturers are increasing prices to dis-incentivize over-ordering, an attempt to close the gap between demand and supply," said Canalys Principal Analyst, Ben Stanton.

Despite this, "shortages will not ease until well into 2022. As a result of this, as well as high costs of global freight, smartphone brands have reluctantly pushed up device retail pricing", Stanton stated.

"At the local level, smartphone vendors are also having to implement last-minute changes in device specification and order

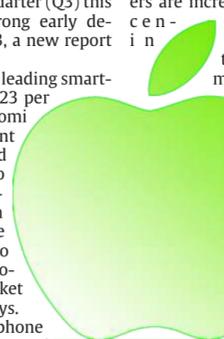
quantities. It is critical for them to do this and maximise volume capacity, but unfortunately it does lead to confusion and inefficiency when communicating with retail and distributor channels," he added.

Many channels are nervous heading into important sales holidays, such as Singles' Day in China, and Black Friday in the west.

"Channel inventories of smartphones are already running low, and as more customers start to anticipate these sales cycles, the impending wave of demand will be impossible to fulfill," Stanton added.

Customers should expect smartphone discounting this year to be less aggressive.

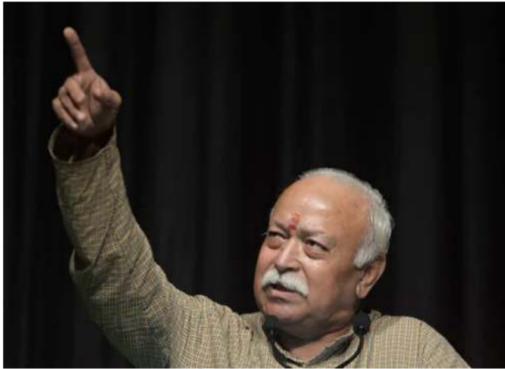
"But to avoid customer disappointment, smartphone brands which are constrained on margin should look to bundle other devices, such as wearables and IoT, to create good incentives for customers," Stanton said. (Agencies)



## "We Still Feel Pain Of Partition", Says RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

**NAGPUR:** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat came out in support of the Centre's decision to remember the pains of partition so that "repetition of that painful history will not happen."

Mr Bhagwat recalled sacrifices made by many freedom fighters and stated that while the country got its independence, the pain of partition hasn't gone yet. "We still feel the pain of partition. We should know the truth of the history of partition. To reclaim the integrity and unity of the country, the new generation should learn about this history," said Mr Bhagwat.



Speaking on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami, which is also the foundation day of RSS, he said that the animosity because of which partition happened should not be repeated and for this, it is vital to learn about partition. "We should avoid repetition of animosity to remain united. The new generation needs to be conscious about self for an unbiased society which is a pre-condition

for a united country. We need to welcome those who got separated from us," he added. Mr Bhagwat also mentioned Savarkar and Yogi Arvind to draw home the point of the united self and country. "Savarkar has said that united Hindu society when it rises will speak about Gita and Vasudhev Kutumbkam, the world is one family and if we follow it, India will solve every dispute of the world," he said. Mr Bhagwat, however, cautioned people against those who do not want a war-free peaceful society. "There're elements in the world for whom India's progress and its rise to a respected position are detrimental to their vested interests. Efforts are

underway to condemn India's traditions, religion, present history. The attack on us is also micro and cultural. And such people have formed a coalition," he added.

Citing struggle within the country, the RSS chief, without naming anyone, recalled clashes between the police of two states. Mr Bhagwat was making a reference to the clashes that happened in the Northeastern states of Assam and Mizoram.

"We see police of two states engaged in the war despite the fact that governments run by the Constitution are unfortunate. This can be for political gains for some but we should remember our system is federal, people are not. They are one. How is society be united if those sitting in power are not propagating it," he said.

The Vijaya Dashami address of the RSS chief is considered the most important event for the organisation as it is during his address that future plans and the RSS vision are put forth.

## No Political, Dynastic Or Caste Backing, But People Gave Me Opportunity: PM Modi



**Agenceis**

**SURAT, GUJARAT:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that despite his common background and although he did not have any political, dynastic or caste backing, people gave him opportunity to serve them - first in Gujarat and then at the national level. He was speaking during his virtual address after laying the foundation stone of a boys' hostel in Gujarat's Surat. "I come from very common background and did not have any political or dynastic background and did not have support of caste-based politics. Despite that, you gave your blessings and

gave me the opportunity to serve Gujarat way back in 2001," he said.

"And, such is the power of your blessings that even after 20 years, I am still serving. First I served the people of Gujarat and now the country," he added.

In his address, he urged people to walk on the path as shown by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister and also the Deputy Prime Minister. "Sardar Patel had said that we should not let castes and religious faith turn into hindrance for us. We all are sons and daughters of India and we all should love our country. We all should love each other," PM Modi added.

## Man's Body With Chopped Hand Found At Singhu Border

**Agenceis**

A body of a man with a chopped hand was found near the Haryana-Delhi Singhu border on Friday morning, local police sources confirmed.

According to images that have surfaced on social media, the semi-naked body was seen hanging from a barricade. Reportedly, the body was found at the same place where farmers have protesting against the three contentious farm laws for the past one year. It is being alleged that the man was caught while desecrating the Sikh religious holy book, however, an official confirmation about this is still awaited.

As per the images, it is possible that the man was tortured before he was killed. This incident of brutal killing of the man has sent shockwaves around every corner. As per the latest reports, a police team reached the spot and recovered the body.

"The body has been sent to a nearby Civil hospital and further investigation is going on," the sources said.

The police from both Haryana and Delhi can be seen on both sides of the border. Notably, the farmers' protest has also been in the past taken violent turns.

## CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

### 2 Militants From

among the locals by threatening, intimidating and killing civilians.

In a separate encounter, the police spokesperson said another militant was killed in Bemina area of Srinagar city.

Tanzeel Ahmad of Habba Kadal Srinagar was killed after police launched an input driven search operation around 6:55pm Friday in Hamdaniya Colony in Bemina area here, he said.

He said the militant turned down surrender offer and instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, he said, Ahmad was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter.

"As per police records, he had joined the terror folds recently and was linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF). He was involved in killing of PSI Arshid Ashraf at Khanyar area of Srinagar on 12/09/2021," the police spokesperson said.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 2 AK-47 rifles have been recovered from the site of encounters. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. Police have registered cases in both the incidents under relevant section of law in respective police stations and further investigation is in progress," he added.

The police spokesperson quoted IGP Kashmir as appreciating Police for generating specific input and carrying out anti-militancy operation in professional manner without any collateral damage.

"IGP Kashmir also said that besides these two specific killings, terrorists Shahid and Tanzeel were also collaborators in recent killings of one chemist and two teachers in City Srinagar," he said.

He further said that 11 militants have been killed in 8 successful operations carried out in Kashmir Valley after the recent killings of civilians in Srinagar city.

"IGP Kashmir once again appeals to the parents of newly recruited terrorists to bring their children back to mainstream and assured that Police will assist and facilitate them," the police spokesperson said.

### MeT Predicts 2-Day

thunderstorm and lightning is most likely (to occur) over J&K at widespread places from night of 16th October and will likely to continue till 17th evening," the official said.

"Moderate rainfall activity (is) most likely over Pirpanjal range of Jammu division (Baderwah- Banihal axis) during period," the official said.

He said there is possibility of light snow most likely over higher reaches of Gulmarg, Kupwara, Bandipora, Pahlgam and Sonamarg (Zojila pass), higher reaches of Drass and Zanskar and Leh-Manali highway.

Regarding probable Impacts, he said, landslides and shooting stones can occur at vulnerable areas of Srinagar-Jammu, Srinagar-Leh Highway and other hilly roads.

He said there could be dip in day temperature. Farmers have been asked to postpone harvesting of agriculture and horticultural crops.

### Militants, Troops

moving swiftly and will try to zero in on the hiding militants soon," the officials said.

In the wake of the ongoing operation, authorities have closed the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch national highway 144 from Bhimber Gali to Surankote as a "precautionary measure."

Meanwhile, the officials said that search operation continued for the fifth consecutive day on Friday at Dera Ki Gali near the border area of Poonch and Rajouri district where five soldiers were killed on October 12 in an encounter with militants. (KNO)

### Govt Fastened Execution

here on Friday, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, outlined the efforts made by the government to meet the power supply-demand of the people. He said that the LG further outlined how the UT had attained remarkable progress not just in adding over 150% transformation capacity but also succeeding in increasing revenues by over 23%.

"The UT Government was already working on detailed plans to add infrastructure, address

obsolescence and cut down losses," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"We have eliminated the past practices of delays and have accelerated the pace of execution of power projects. Now long overdue upgradation of power infrastructure and languishing projects are being completed in record times," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the UT presented an investment plan of Rs. 12000 Cr by 2025 in transmission and distribution sectors in order to strengthen infrastructure as well prepare a future-ready power infrastructure that would not just provide power on demand to all citizens but would also cater to the industrial demand in line with the proposed investment of Rs 28,400 crores under J&K's new Industrial Policy.

In the transmission sector, he said, J&K suggested evacuation of Renewable Power, both Solar & Wind from Ladakh, through J&K and presented a detailed proposal.

"It was agreed that the comprehensive Rs 4971 crore investment plan prepared by the UT with the support of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) would be executed immediately. JKPPD would explore the option of a Joint Venture Company between the J&K TRANSCO and any reputed CPSU like PGCIL to execute the projects," he added.

Earlier, the Union Minister, as per the official spokesperson assured that the government of India is committed to providing all possible support to J&K across generation, transmission and distribution sectors in order to make J&K power surplus, remove all supply constraints and provide 24x7 quality power to all citizens of J&K.

On the distribution side, he said, the Minister of Power reiterated his commitment of full support to the UT under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme and asked J&K would prepare a comprehensive plan by including the latent power increase predicted on account of the Industrialization of J&K and by conducting area wise system studies including a comprehensive gap analysis and a future proof roadmap.

"It was agreed that as a first step, J&K DISCOMS would introduce a new arrangement in the current year to maximum power to all feeders with the least losses and where electricity meter coverage is progressively saturated. RECPDCL was also asked to accelerate the pace of installation of meters so as to complete the installation of 2 lakh meters by March 2022," he said.

Earlier, the official spokesperson said that the Union Minister took a detailed review of the Power Scenario of J&K including status of implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). He said that the Principal Secretary PDD, Rohit Kansal made a presentation in which he presented a brief overview of power demand, availability, consumer mix and energy consumption.

Referring to the IT sector and e-governance initiatives, Kansal, as per the official spokesperson informed the Chair that in order to ensure data authenticity and integrity, the Department has initiated the process of monitoring energy flow, consumption, revenue realization and other critical information related to the feeders to monitor AT&C losses, feeder-wise outages and reliability indices on real-time basis through an in-house developed e-portal.

"The department has achieved 100 percent feeder metering and a total of 647 Urban Feeders of JKPPD have been on-boarded on the National Power Portal (NPP) and the process of on-boarding of remaining feeders is in process. Similarly, for improving the life cycle of DTs, an innovative step of assigning Unique Identification Number (UIN) to all the DTs, punching of UIN on the DTs and maintenance of the computerized database of DTs containing complete technical details/repair history is already underway," he said.

### Saturate 2nd Vaccine

districts, an official spokesperson said Friday. "While congratulating the Deputy Commissioners, the Lt Governor directed them to prioritise the saturation of the second dose of Covid vaccine," he said.

Sinha, he said, also directed the DC to take prior measures for preventing dengue in their districts.

In the meeting, the official spokesperson said, the LG also passed directions to all the DCs on a number of issues of public importance, including check on the rates of minor minerals, implementation of transportation charges for minor minerals fixed by the Transportation department, besides others.

He further said that Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed presentation on the Covid containment measures and weekly trend in Covid cases.

### President Meets

The president was received by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, at the Leh airfield and was accorded a guard of honour.

Late in the evening, Kovind arrived at the main ground of the Army's Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur.

He was received by top officials, led by Kargil war hero and Northern Command chief Lieutenant General Y K Joshi, the officials said.

The president interacted with the troops and their families amid "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" slogans raised by the soldiers. He enquired about the welfare of the troops and gave a chocolate to the child of a jawan.

On the occasion of Mahanavami, the president had "bada khana" with the troops and their families, the officials said.

Patriotic songs were sung by boys and girls at the venue and the troops of the Army's Sikh regiment showcased their martial arts skills before the president.

Kovind will celebrate Dussehra with the soldiers of the Indian Army in Ladakh's Drass area, one of the coldest places in the world. He will be breaking away from tradition to celebrate Dussehra in Drass. The president usually participates in the Dussehra celebrations in Delhi every year.

Kovind will fly to Drass from Udhampur along with the Army commander, where he will first pay tributes to the martyrs of the 1999 Kargil War at the Kargil War Memorial.

### From Turtles To Cats

routine lessons, Dar has become one of the go-getting names in Srinagar for pet-buying. But he's not alone making most out of the growing passion.

Amid the pet business boom, many young Kashmiris have come out with their stores for catering to their community's 'distress demand'. Among them is Basit Zargar.

Zargar runs his pet outlet in the city outskirts of Ellahi Bagh since 2015. Within six years of its inception, his store has become a popular pet shop in Srinagar.

"Pet business in Kashmir is flourishing than ever before," Zahoor, offloading fish into his shop, says.

The young pet-seller sees the lockdown and internet gag of recent times as the main reasons for the surge in sales in the pet market.

"Since lockdown," Zargar says, "we've seen surge in pet business because people are restricted to their homes and in order to pass time people need something to do. Since nothing remains hidden in the digital age, children come to know about pets online. This also generates interest."

Zargar whose Instagram page has more than fourteen thousand followers says that Kashmiris are willing to spend on pets.

While the minimum cost to setup an aquarium is around Rs 6,000, he says,

"I've also installed an aquarium worth Rs 3 lac at a house in Srinagar and have sold a single unit of fish for Rs 70,000."

Zargar goes on to say that Kashmiris are now looking for exotic animals.

"The other day," he says, "a customer came looking for a snake!"

But while snake-keeping supposedly stays an individualistic pursuit as of now, Zahoor is catering to the community passion for turtles he sells alongwith cats and fish. "Each turtle costs Rs 15,000 and has registered a good sale," he says.

Persian cat is equally registering a good sale making preference of people quite clear.

This surging pet passion is quite visible at Government Central Veterinary Hospital in Srinagar—where pet owners are arriving in droves for doses and diagnoses.

This footfall, says Dr.Qazi Mudasir, was not there till some years back. "There has been an

increase in pet culture in Kashmir quite recently," the veterinarian with years of clinical experience says.

He attributes the surge to the ever-modernizing society and the post-covid scenario where children have nowhere to go.

"A pet owner lately came to my home to treat his puppy," Dr. Qazi says. "As soon as my children saw the puppy, they insisted for the one. This is how it is."

Since children have nowhere to go, this has led to an increase in the pet culture."

Among others, a young pet-keeper Tajamul is cooling his heels in the veterinary along with his pet. Travelling a long distance from north Kashmir's Sopore town, he has brought his Persian cat in a critical condition.

"This has happened to my pet for the first time," says Tajamul. "My cat's condition deteriorated since yesterday night and since morning, she's critical."

But thanks to the efforts of the alert veterinarians, Tajamul's cat improves as the day progresses.

"Keeping a pet in Kashmir was thought as a taboo till some years back," Dr. Iqra Shafi Khan, a veterinarian who practices at a private pet clinic, Pet Erena in Karan Nagar, says.

"But now, people pet animals for different reasons. A pet acts as a support system during loneliness and some also prefer pets out of depression."

This growing surge is gradually getting intriguing as well, she says. "We run a pet clinic and don't sell pets. But then, we receive five to six people every week."

"They come looking for a pet in a clinic!"

With this rising pet culture, many pet stores selling products like shampoos and other items have cropped up in the city. People mainly shop for cat accessories there, as people of Kashmir prefer cats over dogs, Dr. Iqra says.

"Cats may be easy to handle and keep, but they're vulnerable to viral diseases as well," she warns.

"After a cat is purchased it needs to go through deworming and vaccination. After 21 days a booster shot is also important."

Amid this rising passion, Safa Kadal's pet market is getting animated with the regular buying.

After agreeing exchange, the pet-seller Dar has a final word for Sofi about the pet handling: "It will talk, just handle it with care. Remember, this is just like your own child, treat it like the one!"

### Amit Shah To

and the long-sought integration of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India.

Raina said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the charismatic companionship of Shah, could do this and give justice to Jammu and Kashmir and its residents.

"Now this is the time we show Shah ji how we are grateful to him and Modi ji for this wonderful decision," he said.

Raina, on the occasion, also formed teams and allotted different responsibilities to senior party leaders for the successful conduct of the public rally.

He said the rally should be organised in such a professional manner that no inconvenience is caused to the visitors as well as people living nearby and commuters.

### J&K Govt Amends

which will constitute eleven other members.

"The land shall be allotted on lease to the investors for a period of 99 years, initially for 40 years which may be extendable. The land allotment letter shall define all the terms and conditions of the lease including compliance of the timelines for coming into production," the order reads.

"Projects with land requirement more than 25 acres shall be decided by the apex level land allotment committee, after proper screening and recommendation, by the Divisional Level Appraisal Committee," it adds.

The order further says that both Committees shall decide land allotment applications within 45 days from the date of receiving recommendation from the Divisional Level Industrial Appraisal Committee.

"Once approved, the Industrial Development

Corporation shall immediately issue a land allotment certificate to the applicant," it reads.

For the payment of premium, the order states that an allottee must pay 100 percent land premium within 60 days from the date of issuance of the allotment letter and before the execution of the lease deed. Further, all payments shall be made in online mode through the Single Window Portal as per the Jammu and Kashmir Single Window (Industrial Investments and Business Facilitation) Act 2018.

Regarding the execution of Lease Deed and Physical Possession, the order reads that a lease deed in the prescribed format will be executed between the allottee and Industrial Development Corporation concerned within 60 days from the date of issuance of the allotment letter.

### Soldier Spying

resident of Kodwa Khurd village in the Naringarh area in Ambala district. Currently, he is employed as Havaladar in an engineering regiment of the Army in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the police said.

He had come to his village a few days back on leave, Superintendent of Police Hamid Akhtar said.

Akhtar said police had received an input about Kumar and on the basis of which he was taken into custody.

During interrogation, it came to the fore that he was in contact with a Pakistani agent and was sharing secret information and photographs to Pakistani intelligence agency, the SP said.

He said Kumar's two mobile phones, which were used for sharing information, were seized.

The police will check all the details of his mobile phones, he added.

Akhtar said Kumar joined the Army in 2012 and had been indulging in espionage activities since 2018.

Police said during interrogation, Kumar confessed that he had shared some information with the Pakistani intelligence agency.

A case has been registered against him under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, they said.

Kuamr was produced before a court on Thursday evening, which remanded him to police custody for seven days, police said.

### Arms, Ammo

dumped was busted. One AK-47 rifle, one magazine, cartridges of AK-47, an under barrel grenade launcher (UBGL), hand grenades and a walkie-talkie were recovered, the officials said.

A case in this regard was registered at police station Mahore and investigation set in, they said.

It is the second recovery of arms and ammunition in two weeks after an IED was found in the Mahore area.

### OGW Held With

district, a police spokesperson said. He said 2 hand grenades were recovered from Malla, who is currently residing in Kreeeri.

### 91 More Recover

70 from Kashmir after being infected by the virus. During the same time, 51 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were reported in the UT—47 from the Valley and the remaining four from Jammu, taking the total number of people infected by virus in J&K to 330885.

In Kashmir, the officials said, Srinagar reported highest 27 new cases of Covid, followed by Budgam with 5, Baramulla and Kupwara 4 each, Bandipora 3, Pulwama 2 and one new case each in Anantnag and Ganderbal districts. The twin districts of Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir reported no new case of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, the officials said just four new cases of virus were reported, the lowest daily count after months. While Jammu reported 3 new cases, a single case was detected in Rajouri district. Eight of the ten districts, including Udhampur, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi reported no new case of coronavirus.

Also, the officials said, the death in J&K remained 4426—2174 in Jammu and 2252 in Kashmir, as no Covid-19 related fatality was reported on Friday.

## GDC Tral Wins Inter-College T-10 Cricket Tournament



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The final of south Kashmir Inter-College T-10 Cricket Tournament was held on Friday at Degree College Kulgam, and was won by GDC Tral by 4 wickets, chasing the target in just 7 overs.

The final of the Cricket Tournament was played between GDC Tral and GDC D.H. Pora.

Batting first, GDC D.H. Pora was bundled at a paltry score of 41 in the allotted 10 overs, which was also the lowest score in the tournament. The bowling attack of GDC Tral was led by M. Moosa, who scalped 4 wickets, while Ubaid bagged 3 wickets. For D.H.Pora, Umair Wani was the highest individual scorer with 26 runs to his credit.

In reply, GDC Tral managed to chase the total in 7 overs, with 4 wickets remaining, despite a tough time given by D.H. Pora bowlers, especially Mushkoor who bagged 4 early wickets. For GDC Tral, Nisar Ahmad scored a match-winning 12 runs.

The presentation ceremony was presided over by Prof. Tariq

Ashai, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Cluster University Srinagar, Showkat Ahmad ADC Kulgam, was the guest of Honour on the Occasion.

In his address, Principal GDC Kulgam, Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmad Simnani highlighted the importance of sports in personal development and impressed upon the students to actively participate in extra co-curricular activities.

Prof. Ashai highlighted the importance of Colleges in functioning as nurseries for the production and grooming of young talent. The ADC Kulgam praised the College Administration for organizing the tournament and providing a platform to the students to showcase their talent.

In the felicitation ceremony, trophies and medals were distributed among the finalists and the best performer of the tournament.

The tournament was organized by Government Degree College Kulgam in which eleven teams from south Kashmir Colleges participated on a knock-out basis.

## Bradburn Steps Down As Pakistan's Head Of High Performance Coaching

Bradburn is the 5th high-profile resignation since Ramiz Raja took charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**LAHORE:** Former New Zealand cricketer Grant Bradburn has stepped down as Pakistan's Head of High Performance Coaching to pursue new opportunities, ending a three-year stint in the country, the PCB announced on Friday.



The former New Zealand Test spinner also served Pakistan cricket as the national side's fielding coach from September 2018 to June 2020, before taking on the development of coaching responsibilities.

"It has been an honour and privilege to serve Pakistan, providing challenge and support, to drive the players, coaches and teams forward. I will leave PCB grateful for the wonderful opportunities and the experiences I have gained," Bradburn was quoted as saying in a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) release.

Bradburn is the fifth high-profile resignation since former Test captain Ramiz Raja took charge as PCB chief.

Soon after Ramiz was elected, the head coach of the Pakistan

team, Misbah-ul-Haq and bowling coach, Waqar Younis had resigned followed by the resignations of CEO Wasim Khan and apparently now Babar Hameed, the head of Marketing.

The 55 year-old Bradburn said the COVID-19 regulations had made it difficult for him to spend time with his family.

"My wife Maree and three children have also sacrificed a lot in allowing me to serve Pakistan cricket. Covid-19 regulations made it challenging for them to visit Pakistan and feel the warmth, love and friendship this country offers."

"It is now time for me to prioritise family and move forward to the next coaching challenge."

An off-spinner who played seven Tests and 11 ODIs from 1990 to 2001 for New Zealand, Bradburn also coached New Zealand A and New Zealand U19.

He had been handed the responsibility of raising the overall standard of player support personnel across all the high performance centres of the country.



## Chennai Super Kings Crowned IPL 2021 Champions

Defeat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs to lift 4th title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Chennai Super Kings on Friday defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in IPL 2021 final in Dubai to lift their 4th IPL crown.

Faf du Plessis smacked 86 off 59 balls, including seven fours and three sixes, to help CSK post 192 for 3 after KKR invited them to bat first.

Chasing the mammoth target, KKR could only manage 165 for 9 in their 20 overs with Shubman Gill and Venkatesh Iyer hitting 51 and 50, respectively.

From 91 for no loss in the 11th over, KKR slumped to 125 for 8 in the 17th over in a dramatic

batting collapse to lose the final.

For CSK, Shardul Thakur took three wickets while Ravindra Jadeja and Josh Hazlewood got two each.

Earlier, the highlight of the CSK innings was the three half century partnerships that du Plessis shared.

He first put up 61 runs with his opening partner Ruturaj Gaikwad (32) and that was followed by a 63-run stand with Robin Uthappa (31 off 15 balls) for the second wicket.

Moeen Ali then made a late flourish with a stroke-filled 37 not out off 20 balls, laced with two fours and three sixes as he

stitched a 68-run stand with du Plessis.

CSK added 112 runs in the back end of their innings after they were 80 for one at the halfway mark.

For KKR, Sunil Narine took two wickets for 26 runs.

**Brief Scores:**

Chennai Super Kings: 192 for 3 in 20 overs (Faf du Plessis 86, Moeen Ali 37 not out, Ruturaj Gaikwad 32, Robin Uthappa 31; Sunil Narine 2/26).

Kolkata Knight Riders: 165 for 9 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 51, Venkatesh Iyer 50; Shardul Thakur 3/38, Josh Hazlewood 2/29, Ravindra Jadeja 2/37).



## Premier Division: J&K Police, J&K AG's Register Wins

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches of the JKFA Khyber Premier Division League 2021 were played on Friday at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

In the first match, J&K Police XI defeated J&K Forest XI by 4 goals to 2. J&K Police dominated the proceedings in the first half and Faisal Rasheed gave his team the lead in 42nd minute. After a 1-0 half time score, the second half saw 5 goals scored by both teams.

Nainjoot doubled Police's

lead in 46th minute. J&K Forest pulled a goal back in the 48th minute through Javed Hussain.

However, Police's Faisal scored two goals in 65th and 83rd minute to score the tournament's first hat trick. J&K Forest XI was awarded a penalty in the dying moments of the match which was converted by Ashiq Mushtaq. At full time, the score read 4-2 in favour of J&K Police XI. Faisal Rasheed was awarded the man of the match award.

In the second Premier League match, J&K Accountant General's (AG's) XI defeated Ali Jana

FC by a solitary goal.

An evenly contested match saw no goals scored in the first half. However, AG's midfielder, Hanan Tariq managed to find the back of the net in 46th minute of the second half. The AG's XI held on to their slender lead till final whistle. AG's XI captain Shahnawaz Bashir was awarded man of the match award.

In A-Division League 2021, one match was played at Gindun Ground, Rajbajr. Central Academy and Mehjoor United FC played a 0-0 draw.

## It's A Tough Job: Muhammad Nabi On Leading Afghanistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Handed the leadership role for a second time just a few days ago, Afghanistan cricket team captain Mohammad Nabi acknowledged that he has a tough job at hand in the ICC T20 World Cup but is nonetheless hopeful of steering his strife-torn country "until the end" of the showpiece.

Nabi was named captain of the final Afghan squad on October 10 after star all-rounder Rashid Khan declined the role alleging that he was not consulted while selecting the team. The 36-year-old Nabi is, however, not new to captaincy, having led the side from 2013 to 2015.

"Yeah, it's (captaincy) a tough job at the end, I will try my best to lead the team in the World Cup and perform well in the tournament. (I am) really excited to play as a captain in this event," Nabi said in a conference call with the media ahead of the event starting on Sunday.

The Afghans will play their first match on October 25 against a yet-to-be-decided qualifier from round one. They are pooled in Group 2 of Super 12 alongside India, Pakistan, New Zealand and a qualifier. The team has made it to the World Cup despite the Taliban

takeover of the country after the US forces withdrew amid large-scale upheaval and violence.

Nabi steered clear of the matter, only mentioning some visa trouble that the team faced before getting here. "The team is brilliant and they are preparing from the last one and half month, and there was little-bit (of) struggle on visas, so didn't arrive in UAE early, they were practicing in Qatar," Nabi said.

Handed the leadership role for a second time just a few days ago, Afghanistan cricket team captain Mohammad Nabi acknowledged that he has a tough job at hand in the ICC T20 World Cup but is nonetheless hopeful of steering his strife-torn country "until the end" of the showpiece.

"They (the players) adjust with the weather, Qatar and UAE weather are all (almost) the same. We will try our best to perform well in the tournament...and go until the end," added the right-handed batter and off-break bowler. According to Nabi, he always plays as per the match situation. "It depends on the match situation, whether the team needs me. If there is pressure on the top (order) that we didn't get any runs, then I try and save my wicket until the end and then I try to hit at the end."

## India To Play Nepal In SAFF Championship Final



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MALE:** Having endured a topsy-turvy beginning to their campaign before a fine turnaround, seven-time champions India will start title favourites when they take on first-time finalists Nepal in the summit clash of the SAFF Championships here on Saturday. The final will be the 12th for India in 13 editions which shows the domination of the Blue Tigers in this regional tournament. The third-place finish in 2003 was the worst performance for them.

A win against Nepal will also be head coach Igor Stimac's first trophy after taking charge of the Indian team in 2019. Should the team come good, he will become the sixth coach to win the SAFF Championships title and third foreigner after Jiri Pesek (1993) and Stephen Constantine (2015).

India drew against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in their first two matches which had put them in

danger of missing the final but the win against Nepal brought them back in the reckoning.

The 3-1 outplaying of hosts Maldives, thanks to a double strike from talisman Sunil Chhetri, sealed India's place in the final.

The frayed nerves before the must-win Maldives match are no longer there after a dominant win over the defending and two-time champions, who were considered the toughest opponents in the region but the job is not yet done.

Nepal, ranked 61 places below India at 168th, has shown that they are no pushovers in this tournament and it needed a late goal (82nd minute) from Chhetri for India to beat them in the round-robin match. They have beaten Maldives while drawing with Bangladesh.

India will, however, have the psychological advantage over the Himalayan country as historical or recent statistics will show that Stimac's side is the clear favourites to lift the title yet again.

## Negotiated Evacuation Of 100 Football Family Members From Afghanistan: FIFA

AGENCIES

**LAUSANNE:** Football's world governing body FIFA on Friday said it has evacuated almost 100 members of the "football family", including women players, from Afghanistan after "complex negotiations" and with support from Qatar.

The evacuation, especially of women footballers, was necessitated by Taliban's takeover of the strife-torn country in August this year.

"FIFA can confirm, following complex negotiations, it has, with the support of Qatar, evacuated almost 100 members of the football family from Afghanistan, including female players," stated the world body.

"FIFA would like to express its sincere thanks to the govern-

ment of Qatar for its support facilitating extensive discussions and for ensuring the safe passage of these individuals,



deemed to have been at the highest risk," it added. The evacuees were brought to Doha aboard a Qatar Airways charter flight from Kabul. Qatar is due to host the men's World Cup next year.

In September, members of Afghan women's youth football team had fled to Pakistan but

several others were stranded during the turmoil triggered by the Taliban takeover.

The volatile situation was exacerbated by the suicide attacks outside the Hamid Karzai International airport in Kabul that killed several Afghans desperately trying to flee the country.

"The FIFA leadership has been closely coordinating with the government of Qatar since August on the evacuation of the group, and will continue to work closely on the safe evacuation of further members of the sporting family in the future," the statement from FIFA read, promising more such evacuations from the war-torn nation.

## The Joy Is Back For Neymar In World Cup Qualifying

AGENCIES

**SAO PAULO:** Neymar started the week facing criticism after a poor performance in a World Cup qualifying match and his suggestion that the next tournament in Qatar might be his last.

But the striker helped erase many of those thoughts by providing key elements in all of the Brazil goals in Thursday's 4-1 win against Uruguay.

The 29-year-old Neymar, who had a disappointing performance in Sunday's 0-0 draw at Colombia in the previous round, arrived in the northwest Brazilian city of Manaus on Monday with dozens of fans in front of the team's hotel. That would be the usual, were it not for a wave of criticism he has faced at home for months.

Neymar scored the opening goal against Uruguay after dribbling past goalkeeper Fernando Muslera. He then took the shot that allowed Raphinha to add the second. And then he provided



two assists; one in a through pass to Raphinha and a cross that landed on the head of Gabriel Barbosa.

Midfielder Fred, who assisted Neymar on his goal, said Brazil players felt the difference in atmosphere since they arrived in Manaus. And that includes the team's star.

"These fans gave us support every day in the stadium, in the hotel. They bought all the tickets and it was an extra strength for us," he said, referring to the

attendance of 12,500, the maximum allowed by COVID-19 protocols in Brazil.

"We want them to be here supporting us, giving this great energy again in the next matches," he added.

Raphinha praised Neymar's performance on Thursday.

"Playing with Ney was very easy. I am a big fan of his, I take a lot of inspiration from him, in the way he plays and dribbles the opposition," Raphinha said.

"I watch a lot of his videos. To

have played alongside is a dream coming true." Neymar also showed his reinvigorated happiness on social media.

On Instagram, he posted pictures celebrating his goal with teammate Lucas Paqueta, a montage to mark his 70th goal for Brazil and also a video of himself hugging his friend and Uruguay striker Luis Suarez.

"A giant by nature," Neymar said in the caption of a picture of himself celebrating.

The Brazil star, who has been overshadowed by Kylian Mbappé and Lionel Messi's arrival at his club Paris Saint-Germain, once again dribbled past defenders with a smile on his face.

Before Neymar's showing against Uruguay, local fans were still accusing him of being in poor shape, failing in delivering the latest Copa America, focusing too much on his events off the pitch and, finally, of remaining mostly silent about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Brazil.

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