

Widom

Quote!

“you can measure the size of a person by what makes him or her angry”  
— Dale Carnegie

NEWS DIGEST

Army porter injured in mine blast

KUPWARA: A land mine blast left an Army porter wounded in the frontier district of Kupwara on Friday.  
The blast occurred near an Army Post in Tangdhar Nad area of North Kashmir's Kupwara.  
Sources said that the porter sustained serious injuries in the blast. He was shifted to Srinagar hospital for treatment and has been identified as Showkat Chak son of Rasool Chak, a resident of Tangdhar area of Kupwara.  
● More On P6

SSB trooper dies of heart attack

SRINAGAR: A paramilitary Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel died due to heart attack during duty in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday morning.  
A police officer said that the trooper Anish belonged to F Company of SSB's 31 battalion' and suffered the heart attack during duty at Gurwath area of Khanshab.  
He was immediately referred to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, they added.

CASO launched in multiple localities

KUPWARA: Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) were launched in various areas of Kashmir on Friday.  
Reports said that a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) was launched in a locality in Devar Lolab area of frontier district Kupwara.  
Local sources said that Joint Forces including soldiers from 28 Rashtriya Rifles laid a siege in the Khan Mohalla Locality after inputs about the presence of militants. Thorough searches were made by the government forces in and around the suspect houses, as per locals.  
CASO was called off as nothing substantial was found.  
Search operations were also launched in Gooripora Sopore, Rabtaar Kakpora of Pulwama and Resripora area of Handwara.

Lawyer seeks exam centre in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir High Court Friday directed the Bar Council of India to consider the representation of Kashmiri Lawyers to get an examination centre established in Kashmir Valley for the 'All India Bar Examination'.  
Pertinently, 'All India Bar Examination' is being conducted with no examination centre in Kashmir capital Srinagar. The aspirants are decrying injustice, appealing the Bar Council to set up an examination centre somewhere in Srinagar. ● More On P6

ACB produces charge sheet

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has produced supplementary chargesheet against Showkat Ali, then Statistical Assistant, posted in Planning/ Housing & Urban Development Department, Civil Secretariat in Disproportionate Assets case.  
A spokesperson from ACB said that supplementary Charge Sheet was produced against Showkat Ali of Nangali Tehsil Basholi, the then Statistical Assistant, posted in Planning / Housing & Urban, development Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K, presently Section Officer for raising assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the tune of Rs. 44,48,078 in his name and in the name of his close friends and relatives as benami properties.  
The spokesperson said that during the investigation of another case few additional properties were detected/raised by the accused Showkat ● More On P6

Srinagar-Jammu Highway Opens for Essential Supplies After 5 Days

Weather to remain dry till Jan 14, says MET

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: After remaining closed for five days Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the only road link between Kashmir and rest of the country opened on Friday for stranded vehicles including those laden with essential supplies.  
The 270 Km road was closed for vehicular movement due to the heavy snowfall, landslides, and shooting stones at several places.  
According to reports flight operations continued smoothly at Srinagar Airport on the second day after remaining closed for four days due to heavy snowfall in the valley.  
An official said that they have only allowed the essential supplies vehicles towards the valley which were stranded at Udhampur sector that include petroleum products.  
He said that no other commercial or passenger vehicle was allowed to ply on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway today.  
Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P.K Pole (IAS) said that the essential supply vehicles which include petroleum and Gas were allowed to move towards the valley, however the road is closed for general vehicle movement.  
“The decision on re-opening the highway for fresh traffic will be taken once all the stranded vehicles are cleared and the condition of the road will be assessed as the road has become slippery at several places due to snowfall,” he added.  
He said that in view of good weather today flight operations were smooth at Srinagar Airport and there were 29 flight movements today.  
Meanwhile, Mughal Road, the alternative route which connects the Valley with Jammu division through Shopian and Rajouri, continued to remain closed for the traffic due to heavy snowfall.  
Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' the 40-day harsh winter period and has higher chances of snowfall during this period, which often leads to the disruption in air and surface connectivity between the valley and rest of the country.  
In a communiqué by Traffic Police Headquarters J&K which read, “Subject to fair weather and better road condition, only stranded vehicles between Udhampur and Banihal shall be allowed towards Srinagar on Saturday.”  
Meanwhile, the Srinagar MET department said weather condition has improved across the Valley and it is likely to remain dry till January 14.

PAGD Leaders Have No Sincerity of Purpose: Bukhari

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Friday rebutted a news report about a dinner meeting between him and one of the leaders of PAGD that has purportedly taken place in New Delhi.  
Referring to this news story, Bukhari said that he is not at all interested about the formation, composition or any kind of split within PAGD which came into existence in J&K by propagating lies and deceit among the people.  
“Such a superficial alliance was formed to make its allies relevant among the people in a politically hostile atmosphere. These parties have always duped the people of J&K for the last over 70 years through hollow and misleading slogans. People know that this alliance will collapse on its own,” he added.  
Bukhari said it hardly needs any political machinations to engineer fissures within a politically opportunistic alliance that was primarily formed without any sincerity of the purpose.  
“I have not participated in any dinner meeting in New Delhi as has been reported by the news agency. PAGD may develop cracks on its own but there are few political elements within this formation who would like to wash their dirty linen in public by spreading such canards through the media,” he observed.  
Bukhari said the so called Peoples' Alliance (PAGD) has started feeling the ● More On P6

Half of Army Under Stress, Says Military Think Tank

“Prevailing Stress Levels in Indian Army due to Prolonged Exposure to Counter Insurgency Environment”

KO MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian Army loses scores of its personnel to suicides, fratricides and untoward incidents every year and in the past two decades, there has been a significant increase in their stress levels, a survey has revealed.  
“At present, more than half of the Army seems to be under severe stress.... this is due to operational and non-operational reasons,” say the findings of the country's leading think tank, United Services Institution (USI), which is compiling a book from the outcome of a seminar “Prevailing Stress Levels in Indian Army due to Prolonged Exposure to Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism Environment”, which it had organised in October 2020, according to a report published by The Tribune on Friday.  
Excerpts of the same have been put up on the USI website under 'strategic perspectives' for the period October-December 2020.  
Among the JCOs and jawans, the study identifies reasons, including delay and denial of leave, excessive engagements, domestic problems, humiliation by seniors, lack of dignity, unreasonable restrictions on the use of mobiles, lack of recreational facilities, conflict with seniors as well as subordinates, health problems, inadequacy of train reservation, inefficient administrative support, financial problems, lack of transparency in promotions, delay in crediting of financial claims and poor quality of rations. “There is a need to remove all shortcomings at the earliest,” says the study, according to the report.

Hables-E-Commerce Fraud 2 Arrested By J&K Crime Branch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday arrested two people from Poonch and Jammu districts in connection with the 'Hables-e-commerce' multi-crore fraud case, officials said.  
The case pertains to huge financial fraud committed by a non-banking financial company in the name and style of 'Hables-e-Commerce Private Limited' run by six accused people who swindled the hard-earned money from gullible people in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri after inducement on the pretext of providing them different products with huge interest, they said.  
A case was registered in 2019 in Jammu wing of the Crime Branch in this connection.  
Ali Mohd and Mohd Sayeed Khan of Dhakki Behra in Mendhar tehsil were arrested following multiple raids in Poonch and Jammu districts, they said.  
Both the accused are involved in ● More On P6

Govt Extends Ban On 4G Till Jan 22

AGENCIES

Srinagar: The government on Friday extended a ban on high-speed 3G and 4G internet services in Jammu and Kashmir barring Ganderbal and Udhampur districts till January 22.  
The Home Department in an order issued said “certain restrictions” have been placed on access to high speed mobile data connectivity to “curb up-loading/downloading/circulation of provocative videos and defeat the nefarious designs of the forces within and from across the border to create a narrative by running a disinformation campaign.”  
The apprehensions of the law enforcement agencies regarding misuse of high speed mobile data services for infiltration and for coordinating (militant) activities gets credence from investigation of on-going cases and recent incident of interception of (militants) and recoveries of ● More On P6

BJP Worker Escapes Gun Attack in Jammu

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A BJP worker had a narrow escape as unknown gunmen attacked his vehicle near Qasim Nagar Chowk in Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu on Friday evening.  
Official sources said that at around 1805 hours, a scorio vehicle (JK02CD-0799) parked at Qasim Nagar was fired upon with a pistol. There was no loss of life or injury in the incident as the vehicle owner Liaqat Ali son of Showket Ali of Raika Bahg-e-Bahu Jammu was purchasing house goods from Narwal market, reported news agency GNS.  
Ali is said to be a BJP worker, they said. Police reached the spot and started the investigations.  
Preliminary investigations, sources said, indicate that the attack was not linked to militancy. “Those who have carried the attack will soon be behind the bars,” they said.  
DIG Jammu-Kathua Range Vivek Gupta said that FIR has been registered and investigations have been taken up. “we will share the details later,” he added.

Army to Evacuate Kargil Lower Plateau

ARMY TO EVACUATE KARGIL LOWER PLATEAU

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the LAHDC Kargil and the Army to evacuate the Kargil Lower Plateau.  
The MoU was signed between the Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil Baseer ul Haq Choudhary on behalf of the LAHDC, Kargil and Brigade Commander, 121 Infantry Division Brigadier Vivek Bakshi on behalf of the Army in presence of the Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan and the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 8 Mountain Division Major General Praveen Kumar Airy, AVSM.  
As per the MoU, substitute land shall be provided to the Army near Maratha Unit Kurbathang and Mulbekh area.  
An official statement reads that the MoU also outlines that the Army shall complete the process of evacuation within 6 months time.  
The CEC, LAHDC, Kargil and the GOC, 8 Mountain Division said that it is a landmark decision which was a long pending demand of the people of Kargil and will pave way for the establishment of a new and well planned township in Kargil with all modern amenities under Smart City Project.

Govt Providing Handholding for Talented Youth: LG

GOVT PROVIDING HANDHOLDING FOR TALENTED YOUTH: LG

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday called for creating a robust ecosystem to promote the young talent of J&K.  
Underscoring the significance of the event, the Lt Governor said that the aim is to provide a platform to bring the youth of the country together, giving opportunities to showcase their talents in various activities, promoting the spirit of communal harmony and brotherhood among the youth.  
Lt Governor was speaking at the National Youth Festival celebrations here at Teachers Bhawan, Jammu.  
Youth of J&K needs opportunities to showcase their capabilities. UT Government provides handholding to the talented youth of J&K for the promotion of their talent at national and international level, the Lt Governor said.  
Terming Youth as one of the greatest gifts to Jammu & LG Delegates Financial Powers Partly to Forest Deptt

LG Delegates Financial Powers Partly to Forest Deptt

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor office in Jammu and Kashmir has partly delegated financial powers, involving various inter-departmental transactions, to officers of the Forest Department.  
A notification in this regard, of which a copy lies with GNS, reads that “In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 67 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is hereby pleased to delegate his Financial powers to accord Administrative Approval, Technical Sanctions, Award of Contracts, Sanction for sale of Minor ● More On P6

Modern Kashmiri Architecture Lacks Professional Guidance: Top Architect

AUQIB JAVEED

When snow bound roofs caved in across the valley on January 6, Kashmir's first woman architect, IshratNowshahri took to her social media handle to censure people for constructing “ill-designed” structures.  
The ace architect joined the debate when several Kashmiris were rushing up to their rooftops on a frantic snow-clearance bid.  
The thoughtless construction boom bereft of expert advice, she said, was one of the reasons behind the roof mishap.  
As someone who has designed some top-syncretic-structures including Kashmir University's Sheikh-ul-Alam Chair building, Ishrat is counted among the best in building designs in Kashmir. Her design for the Kashmir Haat in Srinagar won her a government award in 2005.  
In an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer, the “Finest architect in Srinagar at New Delhi” awardee offers her building insights in the backdrop of the recent snow-triggered structural collapse.



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Is Kashmir's modern architecture prone to disaster?

No, it only lacks proper professional guidance.  
But after some of these new houses fell like a pack of cards recently, many are wondering as to what has changed for the otherwise weather-immune architecture of Kashmir?  
Nothing has changed except growing reliance on nativity and lack of expert assistance. If you observe vernacular form of architecture, you will clearly see the European, Iranian and Turkish patterns there.  
We've many examples in Kashmir like Jamia Masjid located in the heart of Srinagar and the settlement along the river Jhelum.  
Not only are these structures architectural marvels, but also sturdy shelters for Kashmiris.  
Since much of that architecture has faded now, what's triggering this roof meltdown in our modern houses?  
Blame it on the poor design and construction, and lack of maintenance and building code requirements.  
See, the roof slope is a major factor in preventing snow damage and safety issues on the ground. A shallow slope allows snow to linger on the roof and increase the strain on the building envelope.  
● More On P6



# Self-controlled children tend to be healthier middle-aged adults, suggests study

The findings of a study suggest that self-control, the ability to contain one's own thoughts, feelings and behaviours, and to work toward goals with a plan, is one of the personality traits that makes a child ready for school. And, it turns out, ready for life as well.

In a large study that has tracked a thousand people from birth through age 45 in New Zealand, researchers have determined that people who had higher levels of self-control as children were ageing more slowly than their peers at age 45. Their bodies and brains were healthier and biologically younger.

In interviews, the higher self-control group also showed they may be better equipped to handle the health, financial and social challenges of later life as well. The researchers used structured interviews and credit checks to assess financial preparedness. High childhood self-control participants expressed more positive views of ageing and felt more satisfied with life in middle age.

"Our population is growing older, and living longer with age-related diseases," said Leah Richmond-Rakerd, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, who is the first author on the study. "It's important to identify ways to help individuals prepare successfully for later-life challenges, and live more years free of disability. We found that self-control in early life may help set people up for healthy ageing."

The children with better self-control tended to come from more



financially secure families and have a higher IQ. However, the findings of slower ageing at age 45 with more self-control can be separated from their childhood socioeconomic status and IQ. Their analyses showed that self-control was the factor that made a difference.

And childhood is not destiny, the researchers are quick to point out. Some study participants had shifted their self-control levels as adults and had better health outcomes than their childhood assessments would have predicted.

Self-control also can be taught, and the researchers suggest that a societal investment in such training could improve life span and quality of life, not only in childhood but also perhaps in midlife. There is ample evidence that changing be-

haviours in midlife (quitting smoking or taking up exercise) leads to improved outcomes.

"Everyone fears an old age that's sickly, poor, and lonely, so aging well requires us to get prepared, physically, financially, and socially," said Terrie Moffitt, the Nannerl O. Keohane Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience at Duke, and last author on the paper. "We found people who have used self-control since childhood are far more prepared for ageing than their same-age peers."

The study appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study, based in New Zealand, has tracked these people since they were born in 1972 and 73, putting

them through a battery of psychological and health assessments at regular intervals since, the most recent being at age 45.

Childhood self-control was assessed by teachers, parents and the children themselves at ages 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. The children were measured for impulsive aggression and other forms of impulsivity, over-activity, perseverance and inattention.

From ages 26 to 45, the participants also were measured for physiological signs of aging in several organ systems, including the brain. In all measures, higher childhood self-control correlated with slower ageing.

The people with the highest self-control were found to walk faster and have younger-looking faces at age 45 as well.

"But if you aren't prepared for ageing yet, your 50's is not too late to get ready," Moffitt added.

This research was supported by the U.S. National Institute on Aging (AG032282, AG049789) and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (T32-HD007376), the U.K. Medical Research Council (P005918), the Jacobs Foundation, the U.S. National Science Foundation, and the Lundbeck Foundation. The Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study is supported by the New Zealand Health Research Council and the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Agencies

## Good News For People With Wanderlust: Frequent Travellers 7 Pc Happier

People dreaming of travel post-COVID-19 now have some scientific data to support their wanderlust. A recent study has found that frequent travellers are happier with their lives than people who don't travel at all.

The new study was published in the journal of Tourism Analysis.

Chun-Chu (Bamboo) Chen, an assistant professor in the School of Hospitality Business Management at Washington State University, conducted a survey to find out why some individuals travel more frequently than others and whether or not travel and tourism experiences have a prolonged effect on happiness and wellness.

The results of his analysis show individuals who pay more attention to tourism-related information and frequently discuss their travel plans with friends are more likely to go on regular vacations than those who aren't constantly thinking about their next trip.

Additionally, participants in the survey who reported regu-

larly travelling at least 75 miles away from home also reported being about 7 per cent happier when asked about their overall well-being than those who reported travelling very rarely or not at all.

"While things like work, family life and friends play a bigger role in overall reports of well-being, the accumulation of travel experiences does appear to have a small yet noticeable effect on self-reported life satisfaction," Chen said. "It really illustrates the importance of being able to get out of your routine and experience new things."

Previous studies have examined the stress relief, health and wellness benefits of tourism experiences, but they have tended to examine the effect of a single trip or vacation. Chen's research takes these previous studies one step further by looking at the sustained benefits of travel over the course of a year.

Participants in the study were asked about the importance of travel in their lives, how much time they spent looking into and planning future vacations, and how many trips

they went on over a year. They were also asked about their perceived life satisfaction. Out of the 500 survey participants, a little over half reported going on more than four pleasure trips a year. Only 7 per cent of respondents did not take any vacations.

As travel restrictions due to COVID-19 begin to relax in the future, the research could have important implication for both tourists and the tourism industry. Based on the results of the study, Chen said travel companies, resorts and even airlines could launch social media campaigns, such as creating hashtags about the scientific benefits of vacation, to spark people's interest in discussing their opinions about travel.

"This research shows the more people talk about and plan vacations the more likely they are to take them," he said. "If you are like me and chomping at the bit to get out of dodge and see someplace new, this research will hopefully be some additional good motivation to start planning your next vacation."

Agencies

**Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Public Service Commission**  
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**NOTICE**  
**DATED: 08.01.2021**

**Subject: Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination, 2021**

It is for the information of all the interested candidates that the Commission has received a requisition from the Government for carrying out recruitment to various posts through the Combined Competitive Examination, 2021.

**Details of Services/Vacancies alongwith category wise break for which recruitment through the Combined Competitive Examination, 2021 is to be made are as under**

Sr. No.	Service	OM	RBA	SC	ST	ALC/IB	EWS	PSP	SLC	Total
1.	Junior Scale of J&K Administrative Service	28	06	05	06	02	05	02	02	56
2.	J&K Police (G) Service	70	14	12	14	06	14	06	05	141
3.	J&K Accounts (G) Service	31	06	05	06	02	06	02	02	60
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>257</b>

These vacancies will be filled up in accordance with the provisions contained in the Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination Rules 2018 (SRO-103).

Notification inviting applications for the Preliminary Examination is likely to be issued in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January.

The preliminary examination is likely to be held in the last week of June or 1<sup>st</sup> week of July, 2021.

Candidates may take note accordingly.

**(Rajesh Sharma), KAS**  
**Secretary**  
**J&K Public Service Commission**  
 Dated: 08. 01.2021

No: PSC/DR/CCE(P)/2021  
 DIPK-11473/20

**Public Notice**

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that whosoever has any kind of monetary dealings with Nisar Ahmad Mir S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Mir R/o Wangipora sumbal is requested to contact me within 5 days of publishing this notice so that I can verify the legitimacy of the deals of anybody claiming so. Beyond the set period no cheques & affidavits will be valid.

Ahasha Parveen  
 Wife of Nisar Ahmad Mir  
 Contact: 9149460829  
 aik

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**  
**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Yousuf Wani S/o: Gh Hassan Wani R/o: Pallar Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C-2327 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J & K Bank B/U Nasrullahpora Budgam. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2113  
 Dated 02-01-2021

Assistant Regional Transport  
 officer Budgam Kashmir  
 mcb

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**  
**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Tasaduq Hussain Dar S/o: Ghulam Hassan Dar R/o: Hussaini Colony B.K.Pora Chattegam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D-0005 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Chattegam. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2115  
 Dated 02-01-2021

Assistant Regional Transport  
 officer Budgam Kashmir  
 mcb

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**  
**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Bilal Hussain Mir S/o: Mohammad Yousuf Mir R/o: Chattegam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C-3047 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S State Bank of India B/U Nowgam. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2114  
 Dated 02-01-2021

Assistant Regional Transport  
 officer Budgam Kashmir  
 mcb

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ با اجلاس چاویہ احمد حکیم صاحب**  
**درخواست منجانب :- عارف لطیف ولد محمد لطیف گاگارسا کن آزاد پورہ پچی ڈورہ تحصیل ضلع اہنت ناگ بغرض حصول شیل کاسٹ مرٹفلٹ**

معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول شیل کاسٹ مرٹفلٹ دفتر بازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ تفصیل افراد کنڈہ بڈیل درج ہے :-

نام صاحب کنڈہ معدولہ بیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
محمد لطیف ولد محمد اسماعیل	60 سال	ریٹائر ملازم	LPC
ملوری زوجہ محمد لطیف	57 سال	کھر بیوکام	
عارف لطیف پسر	30 سال	پرائیوٹ کام	Needs LPC
ملوری زوجہ عارف لطیف	27 سال	کھر بیوکام	
محمد اربان پسر	2 سال	شیر خواہ	112

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کنڈہ میں موجود نہیں ہے سال کا کنڈہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں رہا پیش پڑ ہے اور سال کی کنڈہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی حد تقریر سے کم ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزکورہ مرٹفلٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بازہ میں پیش کریں ۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ

mja

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ با اجلاس چاویہ احمد حکیم صاحب**  
**درخواست منجانب :- عارف لطیف ولد محمد لطیف گاگارسا کن آزاد پورہ پچی ڈورہ تحصیل ضلع اہنت ناگ بغرض حصول شیل کاسٹ مرٹفلٹ**

معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول شیل کاسٹ مرٹفلٹ دفتر بازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ تفصیل افراد کنڈہ بڈیل درج ہے :-

نام صاحب کنڈہ معدولہ بیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
عارف لطیف ولد محمد لطیف گاگارسا	32 سال	پرائیوٹ کام	Needs LPC
انجم جان زوجہ عارف لطیف	29 سال	کھر بیوکام	
محمد نوید پسر	13 سال	زیر تعلیم	
نعمہ عارف پسر	01 سال	شیر خواہ	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کنڈہ میں موجود نہیں ہے سال کا کنڈہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں رہا پیش پڑ ہے اور سال کی کنڈہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی حد تقریر سے کم ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزکورہ مرٹفلٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بازہ میں پیش کریں ۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ

mja

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ با اجلاس چاویہ احمد حکیم صاحب**  
**درخواست منجانب :- سائر منظورہ یا سر منظورہ اداوان منظورہ احمد بٹ ساکنان کامر تحصیل ضلع اہنت ناگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیر یا سرٹفلٹ 294 SRO**

معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیر یا سرٹفلٹ دفتر بازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ تفصیل افراد کنڈہ بڈیل درج ہے :-

نام صاحب کنڈہ معدولہ بیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
منظور احمد بٹ ولد عبداللہ	60 سال	پیشہ	30194
نعمت محمد منظور احمد بٹ	48 سال	کھر بیوکام	
سائر منظورہ دختر	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
پاسر منظورہ پسر	19 سال	---	
شعبہ نیم دختر	18 سال	---	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کنڈہ میں موجود نہیں ہے سال کا کنڈہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں رہا پیش پڑ ہے اور سال کی کنڈہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی 31029 تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزکورہ مرٹفلٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بازہ میں پیش کریں ۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ

mja

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ با اجلاس چاویہ احمد حکیم صاحب**  
**درخواست منجانب :- عارف لطیف ولد محمد لطیف گاگارسا کن آزاد پورہ پچی ڈورہ تحصیل ضلع اہنت ناگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیر یا سرٹفلٹ 294 SRO**

معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیر یا سرٹفلٹ دفتر بازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ تفصیل افراد کنڈہ بڈیل درج ہے :-

نام صاحب کنڈہ معدولہ بیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
غلام الدین کنڈہ ولد محمد افضل	50 سال	سرکاری ملازم	46620
بلکبے جان زوجہ غلام الدین	45 سال	کھر بیوکام	
انشائی الدین دختر	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
محمد اسلم پسر	16 سال	---	
مہوش کنڈہ دختر	14 سال	---	
ثانی الدین پسر	11 سال	---	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کنڈہ میں موجود نہیں ہے سال کا کنڈہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں رہا پیش پڑ ہے اور سال کی کنڈہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی 48220 تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزکورہ مرٹفلٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بازہ میں پیش کریں ۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ

mja

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ با اجلاس چاویہ احمد حکیم صاحب**  
**درخواست منجانب :- چاویہ احمد پڑے ولد محمد شرف پڑے ساکن کامر تحصیل ضلع اہنت ناگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیر یا سرٹفلٹ 294 SRO**

معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیر یا سرٹفلٹ دفتر بازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ تفصیل افراد کنڈہ بڈیل درج ہے :-

نام صاحب کنڈہ معدولہ بیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
محمد اسلم ولد نیم پڑے	80 سال	عمر پریدہ	
محمد شرف ولد محمد اسلم پڑے	60 سال	مزدوری	5000
گلنڈہ زوجہ محمد شرف	55 سال	کھر بیوکام	
چاویہ احمد پڑے پسر	30 سال	زیر تعلیم	
بیوی جان دختر	28 سال	---	
عادل احمد پسر	26 سال	مزدوری	5000
زیر احمد پسر	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کنڈہ میں موجود نہیں ہے سال کا کنڈہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں رہا پیش پڑ ہے اور سال کی کنڈہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی 11600 تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزکورہ مرٹفلٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بازہ میں پیش کریں ۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار اہانت ناگ

mja



# Protest In Kargil Against Pak Killings

**KARGIL:** Thousands of people after Friday prayers took out a massive rally against what they described as 'genocide' of 'Hazara Shia' community in Pakistan

The rally passed through city roads while participants condemned the killing of members from Shia community in Pakistan.

The protesters were chanting slogans demanding arrest and punishment for the perpetrators.

Perintently, gunmen killed 11 coal miners belonging to Hazara tribe in Macch area of Balochistan Pakistan a couple of days ago. The incident was widely condemned by people while Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan promised strict action against the assailants.



KO Photo Nasir Zaidi

"The condemnable killing of 11 innocent coal miners in Machh Balochistan is yet another cowardly inhumane act of terrorism. Have asked the FC to use all resources to apprehend these killers & bring them to justice. The families of the vic-

tims will not be left abandoned by the government," Khan had tweeted.

Meanwhile, Jammu Kashmir Anjuman Shari Shiayan while condemning the killing of Hazara Community members demanded action against the culprits.

## Degree Holders Of Fisheries Science Stage Protest

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Degree holders of Fisheries Science staged a protest here demanding besides promotions there should be direct recruitment in the Department of Fisheries.

Scores of these degree holder students from faculty of Fisheries Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology assembled at Press Enclave Srinagar.

They said there is a grave violation of recruitment rules in the Department of Fisheries. "As per rule, 50% of posts must be filled through promotions and rest through direct recruitment in non gazetted cadre. Unfortunately, only promotions are tak-

ing place and posts are being advertised," the protesting degree holders told media persons.

They said there has been no direct advertisement from past decade, except 10 posts of Fisheries Development Assistant (FDA) that were advertised in 2018.

"If over 150 promotions have taken place in the Department of Fisheries then equal number of posts should have been advertised in the interest of aspirants," the protesters questioned.

The protesting degree holders also said that the existing syllabus for the students is superficial and should be modified. "The existing syllabus is not core fisheries but superficial and it ought to be modified," they demanded.

## Enquiry Ordered On Roof Collapse Of Auditorium

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The District Magistrate Anantnag, K.K. Siddha today ordered an enquiry to ascertain the cause of damage to Auditorium Building of GDC Boys Anantnag that collapsed today due to snowfall.

As per an order issued here, a team of officers headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sheikh Ghulam Hassan with Ex-

ens R&B and PMGSY Anantnag and Representative of Principal GDC (Boys) Anantnag as the other members has been constituted.

The team has been directed to make an on-spot visit to arrive at the facts on ground, refer to records and seek expert assistance if the need arises. The team has been asked to submit a detailed enquiry report within 15 days for further course of action.

## DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS CASE

# ACB Produces Charge Sheet Against Govt Official

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has produced supplementary charge sheet against Showkat Ali, then Statistical Assistant, posted in Planning/ Housing & Urban Development Department, Civil Secretariat in Disproportionate Assets case

A spokesperson from ACB said that supplementary Charge Sheet was produced against Showket Ali of Nangali Tehsil Basholi, the then Statistical Assistant, posted in Planning / Housing & Urban, development Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K,

presently Section Officer for raising assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the tune of Rs. 44,48,078 in his name and in the name of his close friends and relatives as benami properties.

The spokesperson said that during the investigation of another case few additional properties were detected/raised by the accused Showkat Ali during the check period of case and as such permission from the Court for conducting further investigation was obtained.

He said during the course of further investigation the properties

of the accused included for raising assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the tune of Rs. 44,48,078 in his name and in the name of his close friends and relatives as benami properties. The spokesperson said that during the investigation of another case few additional properties were detected/raised by the accused Showkat Ali during the check period of case and as such permission from the Court for conducting further investigation was obtained.

The next date of hearing in the case is fixed for January 25

## KU Changes Exam Timing Of UG Exams

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir University's Controller of Examinations Prof Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo said on Friday that the new timing for UG 6th semester, UG 1st year, UG 2nd year and UG 3rd year will now be 12:00 Noon instead of 11am (previous timing).

However, Prof Nawchoo said, there shall be no change in the examination timing on Fridays. "A notification for the revised timing has also been issued and is available on the University website," he said.

## Snow Cleared From 18000 KM Road Length In Kashmir : Div Com

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Against the target of 22000 kilometres, 18000 kilometre road length was cleared of snow across Kashmir so far.

It was informed by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole that MED working on the war footing, against the target of 9654, has cleared snow from 8645 km, while as R&B department against the target of 8036, has cleared and restored 6063 km road length across the ten districts of Kashmir.

Similarly, PMGSY has cleared snow from 2015 road length against the target of 3225 across Kashmir so far.

Div Com said that over 80 percent achievement has been also made by the ULBs through 40 number of MCs by clearing snow on 910 road/lane length against the 1134 km length. While as SMC has cleared 825 lanes against 1143 target and 4225 by-lanes against 5661 target so far.

The Div Com said that over 97 per cent affected 33KV Feeders, 96 percent Receiving Stations and 90 percent 11KV feeders have been restored so far to ensure scheduled power supply is restored to the people across Kashmir. Similarly, 89 percent power supply/ transformer outage has been restored in Kashmir.

The Div Com said there was sufficient stock of food grains available including 78531 MT rice and 1498 MT wheat stocked at various FSD stores in the Valley. He said a huge stock of 246262 LPG cylinders available while as 2616 MS (



FILE PIC

in Kls), 9244 HSD (in kls) and 3526 SKO availability also.

The Div Com said that out of 441 affected/ damaged both lift and gravity WSS, 407 have been restored in Kashmir within the period of 3 days only.

He said that the major snowfall had not only disrupted the traffic movement with snow all across but also affected water and power supply in various areas due to damages to the various WSS and power lines, however, restoration work was launched promptly all across Kashmir and great achievement was made in the restoration process in short period of time.

He said that snow clearance work was taken out all hospitals including, SKIMS, GMC and associate hospitals and roads leading to DHs, SDHs, PHCs and other health institution on priority.

He said that all health institutions with facilities of Electricity, Water Supply, Heating, POL, LPG, adequate Oxygen, Gensets and backups available are working smoothly besides all essential medicine and other life saving drugs are available in hospitals.

## Locals Protest Against Erratic Power Supply

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Locals from Baitengo Sopore and Fruit Mandi Parimpore today staged protest against Power Development Department for failing to provide proper power supply to consumers.

Reports said the inhabitants of Fruit Mandi Parimpore blocked Srinagar-Baramulla highway against the non availability of electricity.

The protesters said that after the snowfall PDD has failed to supply electricity to them. "The erratic power supply has created lot of inconvenience for us. Despite paying hefty bills, we are

availing the regular power supply," they said.

Police and Civil officials rushed to spot and pacified the protesters with the assurance that their grievance will be addressed.

A similar kind of protest was held at Baitengo Sopore where locals blocked Sopore-Baramulla highway. The blockage created traffic jam and inconvenience to commuters.

The protesters alleged that since the snowfall they haven't witnessed any power supply. The officials persuaded them to end the block and protest with the assurance that power will be supplied to them as per schedule.

## 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 - (Closed)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

## This Day in History

- 475 - Byzantine Emperor Zeno is forced to flee his capital at Constantinople.
- 1296 - Earl Floris V signs accord with French King
- 1317 - Phillips V, the Tall, crowned king of France
- 1431 - Judges' investigations for the trial of Joan of Arc begin in Rouen, France, the seat of the English occupation government
- 1493 - 1st sight of manatees by Christopher Columbus
- 1558 - Geneva becomes independent from Berne canton, Switzerland
- 1718 - France declares war on Spain
- 1760 - Afghans defeat Marathas in battle of Barari Ghat
- 1792 - Russia & Turkey sign Peace of Jassy
- 1812 - Swedish Pomerania (Germany) seized by Napoleon
- 1862 - The first petroleum shipment (1,329 barrels) from the U.S. to Europe arrives at Victoria Docks, London, England aboard the Elizabeth Watts
- 1878 - Umberto I becomes King of Italy.
- 1879 - Kirilvar Warbler discovered on Andros Island in Bahamas
- 1912 - US Marines send troops to Honduras
- 1916 - The Ottoman Empire prevails in the Battle of Canakkale, as the last British troops evacuated
- 1917 - World War I: the Battle of Rafa occurs near the Egyptian border with Palestine.
- 1930 - Albert Kahn Associates architectural firm become consulting architects for all industrial construction in the Soviet Union
- 1936 - Semi-automatic rifles adopted by US army
- 1942 - US Joint Chiefs of Staff created
- 1943 - Japanese government in Java limits sale & use of motorcars
- 1952 Karel Sys wins European heavyweight boxing title
- 1957 Karachayevo-Cherkess Autonomous Region reestablished in RSFSR
- 1960 - Building of Aswan dam in Egypt, begins
- 1968 - Surveyor 7 space probe soft lands on Moon
- 1969 - First trial flight of Concorde supersonic jetliner, Bristol, England
- 1969 - Prime Minister of Northern Ireland Terence O'Neill travels to London to meet Home Secretary James Callaghan and brief him on the growing violence in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - Luna 21 launched, to Moon
- 1975 - Australia beat England by 171 runs in 4th Test to regain Ashes
- 1986 - After losing a patent battle with Polaroid, Kodak must give up its instant camera business.
- 1987 - Chinese Vietnamese border fights, 1,500 killed
- 1990 - 64th US manned space mission STS 32 (Columbia 10) launches into orbit
- 1998 Anatoly Solovoyov & Pavel Vinogradov spacewalk record 3 hrs 8 mins
- 2001 - Shenzhou 2, an unmanned Chinese spacecraft, is launched.
- 2001 - Apple announced iTunes at the Macworld Expo in San Francisco, for organizing and playing digital music and videos

## From KO Archives

## Probe Ordered 30 Injured In Prison Riots

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** At least 30 people, including a deputy superintendent of jail, were injured in a clash between detainees and CRPF jawans in the high security Kotbalwal jail near here today. A high-level en-quiry has been ordered into the incident.

Trouble arose when jail of-ficials and CRPF personnel were inspecting one of the bar-racks housing foreign militants around 1100 hours. According to NAFA, CRPF and police had gone to the jail with sniffer dogs on receipt of some information'. A Pakistani militant identi-fied as Khwaja is reported to have entered into an argument with the police who subjected him to a summary thrashing. This at-tracted die attention of other detainees in the adjacent bar-racks. Around 50 of them, mostly foreigners came out and started shouting 'provocative' slogans.

Sensing trouble, the police and CRPF personnel resorted lathicharge which was re-sponded by the detainees with stone pelting. In the ensuing clash 36 detainees besides the deputy superintendent of po-lice, Harish Kotwal, were in-jured. Several visitors who had come meet their jailed relatives and some shopkeepers also started shouting slogans. They were chased away with some of them sustaining injuries in the process.

Later, a large number of visitors and shopkeepers sat on a dharna on the Akhnoor road and caused disruption in vehicular traffic. It was only after the CRPF commandant arrived at the spot that the situation was brought under control. He pacified the agitated inmates and the protesters and later reported the matter to the higher ups.

Taking a serious note of the incident, the director general of prisons, S S Ali, ordered a high level enquiry into it and asked the jail superintendent to submit a report immediately.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 09 January, 2001)



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS, INDIRECT TAXES & NARCOTICS, FARIDABAD

## ADVERTISEMENT

### NOTICE FOR CUSTOMS BROKERS EXAMINATION, 2021

1. Applications are invited from Indian citizens to appear in the online written examination for issuance of license to act as a Customs Broker under Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations (CBLR), 2018, as amended. A copy of the regulations is available at [www.cbic.gov.in](http://www.cbic.gov.in) and [www.nacin.gov.in](http://www.nacin.gov.in).

2. Complete application is to be submitted in person or by Registered/ Speed Post in Form-A (available in the CBLR, 2018) along with two passport size photos and self attested documents on citizenship (Aadhaar/ Passport/ Voter Card), educational qualification, financial viability, mobile number, e-mail id and other requirements along with the prescribed fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred only) to the Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Customs/ Commissioner of Customs (Prev), having jurisdiction over the area where the applicant intends to carry on his business from **11.01.2021 to 10.02.2021 up to 06:00 PM**. Applications sent by post, in case received after the last date shall not be entertained.

3. Before submitting the application, applicant should ensure the completeness of the application. Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected.

4. Syllabus of written examination will be as per regulation 6(7) of CBLR, 2018.

5. Names of applicants found eligible to appear in examination will be displayed on the notice board and/or website of the respective commissionerate **latest by 17.02.2021**.

6. Information regarding roll number, admit card and examination venue will be made available on the website of CBIC and NACIN under the icon/tab <GSTP/CBLR Exam>. A link to download the admit card will also be provided therein. Admit cards shall also be sent by email to eligible applicants 12 days in advance before the date of examination. The date and time of written examination shall be **24.03.2021 from 10:30 hrs-13.00 hrs**.

7. The candidates have the option to answer either in Hindi or in English.

8. Successful candidates will be called for an oral examination for which separate communication will be sent.

9. In case declarations and information submitted by the applicant are found to be incorrect, the application shall be rejected or license, (if issued) shall be cancelled.

10. For any query regarding eligibility and process of application, please refer to the regulations available at the websites ([www.cbic.gov.in](http://www.cbic.gov.in) and [www.nacin.gov.in](http://www.nacin.gov.in)) or contact the nearest Customs Commissionerate. A helpline will be made operational by this office at e-mail id. [cbire.helpline@gmail.com](mailto:cbire.helpline@gmail.com) from the (date of start of submission of application) till the date of exam.

Principal Director General  
NACIN, Faridabad

devp\_15502/11/0009/2021



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OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



To pin the woes of this republic on Trump is to buy into the myth of American democracy, a dream that is manufactured in the exact halls that were raided on Wednesday. Getting rid of Trump won't accelerate the return to an America everyone fondly remembers. Because that America does not exist.

# Trump's Insurrection

R. Raj Rao

Suketu Mehta, author of *Maximum City*, the influential book on Bombay, and Associate Professor of Journalism at NYU, was on NDTV 24x7, commenting on the storming of the US senate by President Donald Trump's supporters on Thursday. Mehta was tempted to compare what happened in America with what might potentially happen in India, should the BJP, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, lose the next general election in 2024.

What was shocking, according to Mehta, was that everyone thought that the Republicans, even if they wanted to protest against the election results, would protest digitally, using the various social media platforms available to them. No one imagined that they would resort to hooliganism, breaching security, leading to the death of four people.

"What happened in Washington DC today can easily happen in New Delhi tomorrow," Mehta said.

Mehta sincerely hoped that the end of a regime that endorsed White supremacy in America and discriminated against racial minorities signalled the end of India's Hindutva regime, which similarly discriminated against religious minorities. The Black Lives Matter protests in America can easily be compared to the CAA and NRC protests in India. But Mehta is not the only one to suggest that India needs to see the writing on the wall and be forewarned. There are many others who see parallels between America and India, given India's "hardened polarisation".

Mehta was asked if the end of Trump's tenure as US President also meant the end of right-wing politics in America. He answered the question using scatological symbolism.

"Trump is like what is flushed down the toilet bowl, but keeps bobbing up again," Mehta said. The implication was that right-wing politics exist in all the world's major democracies today, and cannot be wished away that easily. But the American electorate had shown the way. A beginning had been made.

Trump has been temporarily blocked by Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The Republicans themselves are divided over the aggression, with Vice President Mike Pence declaring that he isn't a party to the protests. Is such a split within the ruling dispensation possible in India? After all, the Congress has split up several times, especially when Prime



Once the dust settles, Trump's actions are sure to be a great source of embarrassment to him. As such, Trump remains one of the very few American Presidents to have served for just a single term. It is probably this humiliation that provoked him to get his supporters to march to Capitol Hill in the first place.

Minister Indira Gandhi got too big for her boots. What guarantees that this will not happen to the BJP?

Narendra Modi is amongst a host of world leaders from countries like the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Australia and even China who have condemned what happened in America. However, let us not forget that in spite of Trump's regressive policies, Modi was a great ally of Trump while the latter was in power. There is no gainsaying that Trump and Modi are bosom pals. First, there was the Howdy Modi event in Houston. Then there was Kem Cho Trump in India last year, even after corona

had made its appearance in the country, and outsiders should not have been allowed to enter. And how can anyone forget Modi's favourite slogan, Ab ki Bar Trump Sarkar? Here was an Indian Prime Minister campaigning for a foreign President in a foreign country, using the very slogan that had brought him to power in 2014! Nothing of the kind had ever happened before.

Likewise, in April 2020, during the early days of the Covid 19 pandemic, Modi sent nearly 36 lakh tablets of Hydroxychloroquine to Trump at the latter's behest, even though the drug was needed to treat patients in India.

In hindsight, Modi's uncritical bonhomie with Trump is something that should worry the BJP, given the current turn of events. Most Indian-Americans, who Modi thought were in favour of Trump, actually voted for Joe Biden.

Trump's recent aggression, his refusal to accept defeat, can be described in a single word: spoilsport. Once the dust settles, Trump's actions are sure to be a great source of embarrassment to him. He is bound to regret what he did. As such, Trump remains one of the very few American Presidents to have served for just a single term. It is probably this humiliation that provoked him to get his supporters to march to Capitol Hill in the first place.

But the word 'spoilsport' can be applied to Prime Minister Modi as well. He has made the farm laws issue a prestige issue, and refuses to repeal the three problem farm laws that have upset our farmers, many of whom have lost their lives in the ongoing agitation. Then, Modi hasn't reigned in UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his unconstitutional 'Love Jihad' law, in spite of the best legal minds in the country proclaiming that the law is ultra vires the Constitution. Some Muslim men have been languishing in jails for no fault of theirs on account of the law. The law, like fungus, has now spread from UP to MP.

Back in America, there is talk of the 25th Amendment being invoked. By virtue of this, Trump can be removed from office even before he completes the last 12 days of his tenure as President, and Vice-President Mike Pence can be asked to take over.

A more sinister fear, however, is that pushed to the wall, to what lengths can Trump go? Will he press the buttons of all the nuclear bombs that are under his control?

Let us wait and watch.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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## A Riot for White Supremacy

Asad Essa

On Wednesday, hundreds of President Donald Trump supporters forced their way into buildings on Capitol Hill, the seat of the US government and bastion of American democracy, to try and stop the certification of Joe Biden's presidency.

### 'Un-American'

While the incident made headlines around the globe, drawing alarm as well as comic relief from those used to being lectured on democracy and the rule of law by American politicians, much of the outrage in the US - led by President-elect Joe Biden - appeared to hinge on how "un-American" the episode had been.

It was a lament repeated from pretty much all sides of the political establishment, the media and the pundit class. "Imagine what this looks like to the rest of the world," wrote Ben Rhodes, former aide to President Barack Obama. "This isn't Kabul, this is America," an ABC correspondent said during a live report.

But the incident was the most fundamental attestation of America's soul.

It demonstrated, without any equivocation, how white America remains so entitled, so protected, that they could literally march fully armed into the house of government, break down doors, torment government officials and be treated as disturbed patriots rather than criminals.

Reports suggest that the police attempted to block their paths, including using teargas. Other reports indicate that the police didn't try hard enough. Multiple sources show the police took selfies with the militia.

### 'Myth of America'

It also provided a snapshot of the underlying myth that is America.

"This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic - not our democratic republic," former US President George W Bush said in response to Wednesday's incident. That Bush, a member of America's premier US political dynasty and responsible for US-led state terrorism in Iraq, would insinuate that an election dispute "belongs some place else" (and gets to be quoted seriously on the matter) is an absurdity in itself. The US-invasion led to at least 500,000 deaths.

In their attempts to explain the tumultuous turn of events on the Hill, the "Banana Republic" trope would be repeated endlessly by the American media, too, showcasing how historical amnesia has come to be a permanent American condition.

For anyone in policy or the media world to express disbelief that the storming of Capitol Hill could happen in America is odd, given how much the same

It demonstrated, without any equivocation, how white America remains so entitled, so protected, that they could literally march fully armed into the house of government, break down doors, torment government officials and be treated as disturbed patriots rather than criminals.

The Capitol Hill riot was not a coup. It was an attempt to preserve white supremacy



America tramples on its most disenfranchised communities every day.

It is this same America that is held hostage by the gun lobby, the Christian right and Israeli lobby. It is the same America that peddles in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia that has led to a rise in hate crimes in the country. It is the same America that allows corporations to run riot over people's health and livelihoods.

Under Trump, the Covid-19 virus has killed more than 357,000 people, mostly Black and brown people, many of whom were working-class or essential workers - erased by their ethnicity and poverty. And there is still no plausible relief for

those left behind. Why then is it especially embarrassing or egregious that a group of white supremacists would march into government given they are the government?

In truth, this was not an attempted coup as some have described it. They hadn't come to threaten the moral basis of America; they had come to preserve it. By all accounts, as terrifying as they may have been, they were little more than pawns of the white supremacist state itself.

Why else would they not be subject to disproportionate use of force as we see in protests against racism? They walked past the police on their way out.

### 'Stop looking away'

"This is not America. No, it is not. It's the United States' history of slavery, mass incarceration, immigrant detention and exploitation, white supremacy and patriarchy, voter suppression and disenfranchisement," Melissa Castillo Planas, an assistant professor in English at Lehman College in New York City, wrote.

"Stop looking away. We are not a democracy and never have been," Planas added.

On Wednesday evening, Democrat lawmakers said it was time to ensure that Trump was impeached and ousted immediately. Representative Ilhan Omar said it was "a matter of preserving the republic". Omar has been at the receiving end of vile and life-threatening attacks from Trump and his supporters. However, violence against lawmakers - even presidents - didn't begin with Trump. This is a republic founded on violence.

Even at this stage, to pin the woes of the republic on Trump is to hanker once again for the American dream, a dream that is manufactured in the exact halls that were raided on Wednesday. It is to imagine, again, that Trump and his supporters are an aberration, a blip in the system.

Getting rid of Trump won't accelerate the return to an America everyone fondly remembers. Because that America does not exist.

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Middle East Eye



# The Chess Gender Imbalance

David Smerdon

**“The American Bobby Fischer, on whom The Queen’s Gambit’s lead character is largely based, once said women are “terrible chess players”, later opining that “I don’t think they should mess into intellectual affairs; they should keep strictly to the home”.**

Unlike the wildly popular Netflix chess-themed series The Queen’s Gambit, female players have struggled to climb to the top of the real-life chess world. Just 37 of the more than 1,600 international chess grandmasters are women. The current top-rated female, Hou Yifan, is ranked 89th in the world, while the reigning women’s world champion Ju Wenjun is 404th.

Why? There are certainly fewer female chess players to begin with, but it appears unlikely participation can explain the whole story.

The argument about chess’s gender gap often follows the classic nature-versus-nurture debate. On one side are those who believe men are “hardwired” to play chess, such as former World Championship challenger Nigel Short.

His comments caused a media storm in the United Kingdom. It’s true women have been shown to exhibit higher risk aversion and lower competitiveness across many domains, including chess, possibly driven by differences in testosterone. However, evidence is mixed on whether or how these traits affect performance over the chess board.

**‘We are capable of the same fight as any man’**

On the other side are those who argue the gender gap in chess is mainly due to societal and cultural pressures that put women off the game. A commonly cited example is Hungary’s Judit Polgár, considered the strongest female player of all time, and the only woman ever to be ranked in the world’s top ten. Her psychologist father believed geniuses are created, not born. His three daughters, home-schooled in chess from the age of three, each achieved groundbreaking success in the game.

Judit Polgár reached a peak ranking of eighth in the world and shared the same view as her father when she retired in 2015, saying:

*We are capable of the same fight as any man. It’s not a matter of gender, it’s a matter of being smart.*

**The stereotype threat effect**

Despite Judit Polgár’s success, stereotypes about female chess players remain. Her older sister Susan, a former women’s world champion, noted:

*When men lose against me, they always have a headache... I have never beaten a healthy man.*

The American Bobby Fischer, on whom The Queen’s Gambit’s lead character is largely based, once said women are “terrible chess players”, later opining that “I don’t think they should mess into intellectual affairs; they should keep strictly to the home”.

Another former world champion, Garry Kasparov, said in a 1989 issue of Playboy Magazine that “there is real chess and women’s chess”.

These sorts of beliefs may induce a “stereotype threat” that can explain part of the performance gap.

Stereotype threat is where minorities underperform solely because they’re aware of a stereotype that people of their group do worse. Confidence flags, interest wanes and a vicious cycle of self-fulfilling prophesy follows. The stereotype threat effect has been observed



in experiments involving women and mathematics performance and in studies on lower representation of women in leadership positions.

In one study, researchers pitted male and female chess players against each other online. The sexes performed equally when identities were anonymous, but when the sex of the opponents was known, female players performed worse against male players and better against other female players.

Using a dataset of more than 180,000 players and 8 million rated tournament games, my colleagues and I recently found evidence to support a stereotype threat effect for female chess players. Female players tend to perform worse against male opponents than against female opponents, even after accounting for chess strength.

The performance drop is roughly equivalent to a woman giving her male opponent the advantage of the first move in every single game.

**The winds of change**

There is still much to discover about what play the biggest roles in driving the gender performance and participation gaps in chess, what policies can be used to narrow them, and what these insights tell us about other male-dominated fields.

What we do know, however, is the chess world is starting to change. In 2001, only 6% of internationally rated players were female. By 2020 this had risen to more than 15%.

Part of this may be due to “affirmative action” policies, such as chess league mandates that clubs include at least one female player in their (typically eight-play-

er) teams. This not only increases female earnings but also has a trickle-down effect for female participation.

Two economists recently looked at the effect of this policy in the French chess league. The study, which is yet to undergo peer review, found not only that the share of female chess players in France significantly increased in subsequent years, but that the ratings gap for elite male and female players also narrowed.

Attitudes are starting to change, too. After his famous loss to Judit Polgár in 2002 — the first time a female player had beaten a reigning world champion in a rated game — Kasparov was asked about his past opinions about women’s chess. His reply: “I don’t believe that now.”

The current world champion, Magnus Carlsen, said in a recent interview:

*Chess societies have not been very kind to women and girls over the years. Certainly, there needs to be a bit of a change in culture.*

Could The Queen’s Gambit spark that change? The show is Netflix’s most-watched scripted limited series, reaching number 1 in more than 60 countries.

Chess-related Google searches have soared since its debut. And past research has shown popular television can have a significant impact on real-world outcomes related to gender.

As to whether we’ll see a “Netflix Effect” on the chess gender gap, only time will tell.

*By arrangements with the Conversation*

## Vaccine Nationalism

Nidhi Razdan



The Indian COVID vaccine is the new soldier. God forbid, you ask any questions on its efficacy and safety, it is like questioning your own country.

That is exactly what happened when independent scientists questioned the government of India for giving quick approvals to Indian manufacturer Bharat biotech’s Covaxin, which has not finished Phase 3 trials, let alone published any data on its efficacy.

Phase 3 data is the most crucial since it actually gives doctors an idea of how effective a vaccine is against the virus. Among those who raised questions on the hurried process was Dr. Gagandeep Kang, a renowned vaccine specialist and Christian Medical College professor.

She cited the DCGI (Drug Controller of India)’s own guidance where they had said they wanted safety and efficacy data and at least “two months of follow up”. “In the case of Covaxin you haven’t finished enrolment. So where is your safety data. There is no efficacy data either”, said Dr Kang to the Indian Express on January 3.

Within hours, she was under attack on social media by sympathisers of the government and by the head of the BJP’s foreign affairs department, Dr Vijay Chauthaiwale, who tweeted:

Never mind the irony that his own political views were clearly overshadowing his tweets.

Many of us are indeed proud that India can develop its own vaccine. I’m sure the Bharat Biotech vaccine will be an excellent one. But as citizens, we have every right to ask questions about its safety and the processes involved to clear it. It is not enough to say “trust our scientists”. We do.

That is why we worry when our leading scientists raise concerns about the processes. Transparency is paramount to building public confidence in vaccines. Everyone raising concerns does not become “anti BJP” OR “anti India”.

**Right of a citizen to ask**

So when officials say the vaccine is “110% safe”, or “200 % safe”, I have every right as a citizen to ask “but what is this based on?”. If I’m injecting something into my body, I will ask as many questions as I want.

The problem goes back to how the

government of India handled this in the first place. Many of the doubts people have raised could have been answered when the approvals were announced.

Instead, India’s Drug Controller only read out a statement to the media and refused to take any questions from journalists. Through the course of the day on January 3, it was then left to the health minister, Harsh Vardhan, and the AIIMS Director, Dr Randeep Guleria, to issue “clarifications” and give explanations.

Some cameras managed to chase the Drug Controller General, VG Somani, when he got into his car and one reporter

shouted out a question on whether the vaccine would make people “impotent”! That’s the extent of misinformation about the vaccines. A proper press conference, with officials or even the Health Minister himself, taking all questions, would have gone a long way in reassuring people, dispelling any doubts.

**When absurd became bizarre**

But the theatre of the absurd got even more bizarre. First, Adar Poonawala of the Serum Institute, which is mass producing the Oxford vaccine in India, said only three vaccines in the world have

proven efficacy - Pfizer, Moderna and Oxford-Astrazeneca, and that the rest “are like water”.

Dr Randeep Guleria of AIIMS meanwhile told different media outlets that the Bharat Biotech vaccine was a “back-up”.

Both these statements drew a sharp reaction from the Bharat Biotech boss, Dr Krishna Ella, who defended his company’s vaccine record; repeatedly took digs at the Oxford vaccine, while also hitting out at Dr Guleria for calling the Covaxin a “back-up”.

So now two of the biggest Indian vaccine manufacturers are taking potshots

at each other and one of them is openly taking on the director of India’s most eminent medical institute. Ordinary citizens can only watch in horror.

Dr Ella of Bharat Biotech has said the efficacy data of Covaxin will be available by February- march. So it begs the question: why did the government rush through with approvals now?

People have waited many months for a vaccine. I don’t think anyone would mind waiting a few more weeks if all safe-

**“People have waited many months for a vaccine. I don’t think anyone would mind waiting a few more weeks if all safety issues are thoroughly addressed**

ty issues are thoroughly addressed. The only explanation for this quick approval seems to be an eagerness on the government’s part to showcase an “atmanirbhar Bharat” or self reliant India.

I do not agree at all with former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav’s irresponsible comment that he won’t take a “BJP vaccine”. The vaccine does not belong to any political party. But there is a need for transparency in the processes involved and all data must be put out in public domain and independently verified.

The whole world is watching India and real nationalists won’t let the politics of vaccine nationalism hijack this critical issue.

*Gulf News*



## Covid-19 vaccination dry run held at B'gam, G'bal, Pul, Bla,Kup, Kul

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Covid-19 Vaccination dry run was today carried out in Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kupwara and Kulgam districts of Kashmir division under the supervision of the respective district heads.

During the dry run doctors and paramedics were sensitized beforehand and were directed to plug all loopholes, if any found in the present exercise and ensure foolproof arrangements for the conduct of COVID-19 vaccination.

**AT BUDGAM:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza today inaugurated dry run exercise of Covid-19 vaccination at Sub District Hospital Kremshore.

The DDC also took stock of the arrangements put in place in the designated centers and was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Budgam, Dr Tajamul Hussain during the visit.

On the occasion, CMO informed the DDC that the Department of Health Budgam is fully geared up to undertake Covid-19 vaccination in the district. He also said that the designated centers have been fully equipped with requisite facilities including men and machinery.

The CMO informed that 3 similar centers have been established at SDH Nagam, SDH Beerwah and PHC Ichgam. He further said that at each center, 25 health care workers have been registered for dry run exercises, and once they are fully trained their services will be used for Covid-19 vaccination administration process.

He said under 1st phase, health care workers including Asha, Anganwadi workers will be administered the vaccine.

**AT GANDERBAL:** As a part of the nationwide exercise, the Department of Health and Family welfare Ganderbal today conducted a mock drive on COVID19 vaccination, here at District Hospital Ganderbal.

The dry mock drive was inaugurated by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Farooq Ahmad Baba. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mehraj-u-Din, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Dy. CHO Ganderbal and other concerned were present on the occasion.

The ADC, while speaking on the occasion, directed the concerned officers to work in a mission mode to ensure the successful conduct of the mock drive of the Covid-19 vaccination to avoid any inconvenience during the actual vaccination drive in the district.

Earlier, the Chief Medical Officer said that this exercise is being done to avoid loopholes when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available for use.

A total of 25 beneficiaries who were already scheduled for vaccination on Co-WIN App were vaccinated following all Covid SOPs who were then kept under observation in the observation room for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, the functioning of Co-WIN App, on which all beneficiaries are going to be uploaded, was demonstrated to the participants.

Similar mock drive on Covid-19 vaccination was also conducted at SDH Kangan and PHC Lar.

**AT PULWAMA:** The dry run of Covid-19 vaccination was today inaugurated by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Pulwama, Dr Haseena at Tahab of Pulwama block.

The CMO monitored the sessions of administration of COVID-19 vaccination to the beneficiaries at the selected sites.

Besides Tahab, the dry run was also held at CHC, Rajpora and NTPHC, Samboora where all the operational guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination roll out were followed in letter and spirit.

The Chief Medical Officer on the occasion informed that all protocols pertaining to vaccinations were strictly followed in all the three locations and elaborated that three rooms as per the guidelines, designated for COVID-19 vaccination were set-up. These rooms included the Waiting room, Vaccination room and the Observation room.

CMO informed that 25 beneficiaries from each vaccination site were pre-identified and uploaded on to the COWIN portal. Also five members Trained Vaccination Team already uploaded on COWIN App were present with pre-designated roles and responsibilities.

She said special attention was also given to AEFI Management and on disposal of bio-medical waste.

**AT BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr G N Itoo today kick-started the COVID-19 vaccine dry run campaign across the district.

In this connection, a brief function was organised by Sheeri Medical Block of health department at UPHC Old Town Baramulla where the DC was invited as the chief guest to launch the campaign.

The DC on the occasion complimented the health functionaries of the district and said that they worked tirelessly during the tough time that emerged due to pandemic outbreak.

Dr Itoo also informed that about 300 health workers from across the district have been chosen to get vaccinated in the dry run campaign.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent Associated Hospital GMC, Nodal Officer, Block Medical Officer Sheeri and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Similar functions were also organised at GMC Baramulla, Sopore and Pattan where several health workers were vaccinated as part of the dry run campaign.

**AT KUPWARA:** The dry run for Covid-19 vaccination was today held at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Nutnusa, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Anshul Garg here.

During the day-long exercise, more than 25 health workers were administered dummy vaccines aimed at to test the mechanisms and find possible gaps in the system ahead of the actual Covid-19 vaccination.

The DC stressed upon all the stakeholders to work with added dedication so that better results are achieved at ground level.

Earlier, the DC inspected the Vaccination Room, Observation Room and Waiting Room of the PHC and took stock of the preparations for carrying out the vaccination process.

The DC on the occasion was accompanied by ADC Kupwara, Nazir Ahmad Lone, Chief Medical Officer Kupwara and other concerned officers.

Similar Dry Run exercises were carried out at PHC Trehgam and PHC Drugmulla with participation of 25 Health Workers at each location.

**AT KULGAM:** The District Administration along with the Health Department Kulgam today organised a dry run of Covid-19 vaccination in the district.

The dry run was held to assess operational feasibility, to test the linkages between planning and implementation, and identify the challenges prior to actual implementation of COVID-19 vaccinations here.

While sharing the details, the CMO said that the sole purpose of this dry run is to ensure smooth conduct of Covid-19 vaccinations and to check and fill the gaps if any imperative for conducting Covid-19 vaccinations smoothly and successfully in the district.

It was informed that earlier dry run was carried out at District Hospital Kulgam and Yaripora hospitals and today the dry run exercise was carried out at Emergency Hospital Qazigund, PHC Frisal and NTPHC Srandoo.

## Merger of officers cadre would further total integration of J-K with mainstream India: Singh

New Delhi, Jan 8 (PTI) Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said merger of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre of IAS and IPS officers into the AGMUT cadre would further the process of total integration of the Union Territory with the rest of the country.

The Jammu and Kashmir cadre of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers was on Thursday merged with the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories) cadre.

The officers of these three services are allotted cadre, which is either a state or state and union territories.

After the creation of the Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370, the merger of J&K cadre into AGMUT cadre

was a natural corollary and would further carry forward the process of total integration of J&K with the mainstream India, he told PTI.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said UT cadre offers Jammu & Kashmir wider range of officers to choose from because there is going to be a much larger pool of all-India service officers, including IAS officers, for posting in the two newly created Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

He said J&K will now be getting its officers from the common cadre available for the three states of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram as well as all the Union Territories of India.

As a result of this, the officers from J&K can now be moved seamlessly in and out of J&K among the different Union Territories of India as well as the

three states of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Mizoram, said Singh.

Such an arrangement often tends to bring in more accountability in the conduct and performance of officers, he added.

Singh said the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has also done away with the UPA-regime order whereby J&K used to have directly appointed IAS officers vis-a-vis IAS officers inducted from the erstwhile state's Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) in the ratio of 50:50.

This distribution of officers was in contrast to the ratio of around 67:33 maintained in other state/UT cadres of the country whereby 67 percent IAS officers are the ones who have been directly selected into the service through all-India civil services exam and 33 per cent from

## Centre Tells J&K to Submit List of Products For GIC

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre has advised J&K administration to furnish details of items which require geographical indications registration under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.

In a communiqué to administrative secretaries, J&K's Industries & Commerce department has written to the departments to furnish details of items which require Geographical Indications registration for sharing it with the Centre.

".....it is enjoined upon all the Administrative Secretaries to furnish details of items which require Geographical Indications registration with Industries and Commerce Department, so that the same is shared with the Ministry of commerce and Industry, Government of India," reads the communiqué.

The GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. These GI signs are used for agricultural products, food stuffs, handicrafts and industrial Products.

As a part of the efforts to protect the local goods known for their qualities and reputation, nine items from Jammu and Kashmir have Geographical Indications registration.

The products that have got GI tag are Kashmiri Pashmina, Kashmiri Sozani Craft, Kani Shawl, Kashmir Paper Machie, Kashmiri Walnut Carving, Khatamband, Kashmiri Hand Knotted Carpet, Kashmir saffron.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### COVID-19 ...

While four districts -- Anantnag, Kulgam, Kishtwar and Shopian -- did not report any fresh cases, 13 other districts recorded fresh cases in single digits.

The number of active cases in the union territory stands at 2,241. So far, 1,18,155 patients have recovered, the officials said.

Of the four deaths recorded in the union territory on Friday, two each were from the Jammu division and the Kashmir Valley, they said.

#### 2 Arrested ...

swindling money worth crores of rupees from gullible people by acting as prime agents of the above said e-commerce company on the pretext of doubling the money in a short period of time, officials said.

Ali Mohd was arrested from Bakshi Nagar area in Jammu. He had been evading arrest for long by changing his locations. He had also fled to Saudi Arabia after his name surfaced in the multi-crore fraud, an official said.

The other accused, Mohd Sayeed Khan, was arrested from his residence in Mendhar (Poonch). In a bid to evade arrest, he attacked the police team. In this regard, a criminal case under relevant sections of law was registered at the Mendhar Police Station, he said.

The officials said Khan is also accused of encroaching upon the house of one Mohammed Aziz of Chhugan tehsil in Poonch.

#### Army porter ...

Pertinently, two soldiers were injured in an accidental land mine blast in Poonch region of Jammu district yesterday. They were identified as Rifleman Vikramjeet Singh and Luvpreet Singh.

#### LG Delegates ...

Forest Produce and Crude resin, Sanction of Rewards and Power to issue raw drugs/minor forest produce in favour of the Officers of Forest Department." The (financial) powers as to their extent have been indicated in the Annexure appended to the notification.

#### ACB produces ...

Ali during the check period of case and as such permission from the Court for conducting further investigation was obtained.

He said during the course of further investigation the properties of the accused included a Santro Car bearing registration number JK02AD-1563 purchased by the accused Showkat Ali on his own name from M/S Crest Auto Craft Pvt. Ltd. Kunjwani Bye Pass Jammu and Insurance Policies of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Ltd. to the tune of Rs. 2,59,000 on the name of his wife which too had been invested by the accused before July 2007. The record pertaining to both the properties and assets was obtained from the concerned Agencies.

The next date of hearing in the case is fixed for 25 January.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Lawyer seeks ...

Sources said that in this regard Advocate Parvaiz Lone filed a writ petition before J&K High Court seeking directions for Chairman Bar Council of India to establish Examination Centre for Kashmir Division in Srinagar. The petitioner in his petition submitted that it is very hectic and undesirable for Kashmiri aspirants to visit Jammu.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar after hearing the arguments of Advocate Parvaiz Lone directed Chairman Bar Counsel of India to consider the representation and decide the same before the commencement of this examination.

#### Govt Providing ...

Kashmir, the Lt Governor observed that 70 percent of the population is below the age of 35 years, giving a great demographic dividend, and the Youth of J&K are capable of producing nectar of growth and development.

"Development and growth is nothing but creative refinement of youth energy. The energy that is being manifested in our education, sports, skilling and creativity ultimately transforms into the development of the region", said the Lt Governor.

"Socio-economic landscape of J&K is transforming. There is a new hope of jobs, hope of equitable development, hope of a vibrant society, hope of a modern-industrialized UT and this hope is going to become bigger every day because of the immense contribution of our youth, our talent pool", the Lt Governor observed.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda, the Lt Governor said that a youngster must not dwell in the

past and make his own destiny. "Only with sheer will and determination, the youth of Jammu & Kashmir would be able to shape the future of the region and the nation", he added.

Swami Vivekananda believed that the world needs to build on character. He believed that the world needs selfless individuals to make a change. The future of Jammu & Kashmir is also dependent on such individuals, observed the Lt Governor.

Highlighting Government's initiatives for skill development of youth, the Lt Governor said that in the coming days, hundreds of skill centres are going to be started in J&K which will impart skill training in innovative ways keeping the evolving industry demands in consideration. The work on a modern skill centre at Jammu is almost done and it is about to start operations very soon. Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali is planning to do a workshop for our youngsters. Similarly, some major players from the music industry are also going to work on honing the skills of our youth, in association with the Cultural Academy. Talented youngsters would be encouraged to write and perform in any of the regional languages, he added. The Prime Minister has given a priceless gift to the people of J&K in the form of a New Industrial Development Scheme for J&K worth Rs 28,400 crore that will lead to rapid industrialization, development and generation of 4.5 lakh jobs, the Lt Governor maintained.

The Government has provided assistance and handholding to the aspiring entrepreneurs during the Back to Village

programme and the same youth is emerging as a job provider. More than 12 thousand of those young entrepreneurs are earning their livelihood while fulfilling their dreams, said the Lt Governor.

Citing obstacles created due to the global pandemic, the Lt Governor said that sometimes we did overcome several obstacles of lockdown, closure of educational institutions, because our youth is progressing in leaps and bounds, our workforce, our farmers and administration is stronger than ever.

More than 5 lakh young sportspersons participated in various activities last year. 100 students from Jammu division were given skiing courses at Gulmarg, and another 200 are going to be trained soon. More than 10 thousand students from Jammu division went on inter-district trekking expeditions last year. More than 44 thousand students participated in the Back to Village and My Town My Pride programmes. This data itself speaks about the efforts of the J&K Government to promote the young talent of the UT, said the Lt Governor.

#### Modern Kashmiri ...

An extremely high slope could allow a large amount of snow and ice to fall at once. This goes for buildings with multiple roof-lines, peaks, valleys, and dormers too.

All of these tend to create valleys and back slopes that can collect snow and act as the weak points leading to roof failures. **What's carpenter's role in preventing this crisis?**

Carpenter can only follow the site drawings and instructions

from an architect.

He has to just prepare a network of trusses, which act as the backbone of the roof.

**As you mentioned in your recent social media post as well, how much snow load should a residential roof carry?**

Well, first of all, a load is something borne, carried, or supported by a building structure. And only a proper design is the key to establish sound, snow, and wind load capacity for your building.

There is a building code to determine the snow load for your area and most people unfortunately take it for granted. It depends on the building type, location, occupancy, and primary use.

The building roof should at least support 9 kilogram per square foot load.

**What would you suggest to the people before constructing buildings now?**

Well, they should definitely consult architects for designing buildings.

Architects ensure proper functioning, safety, appearance and budgeting of buildings. They are involved from the initial concept to final site drawings of the complete structure.

**But then, not everyone can afford architects?**

I suppose one reason people don't hire an architect in Kashmir has to do with the fees.

They either don't sense the value for the investment, or they think they can do it themselves.

But the fact is, there's nothing a layman can do to make a safe structure except consulting an architect.

#### Govt Extends ...

arms/ammunition, with increased activity on the IB/LoC," reads the order.

"Now, therefore, on consideration of the overall security scenario and the reports of the law enforcement agencies inter-alia bringing out the necessity for continuation of speed related restrictions on mobile data services to prevent misuse of social media as also taking note of the (militant) activities during the last fortnight, I, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, being satisfied that it is absolutely necessary so to do, in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the Security of the State and for maintaining public order, hereby order that the directions/restrictions contained in Government Order No. 143(TSTS) of 2020 dated 25.12.2020 shall continue to remain operative till 22nd January, 2021, unless modified earlier."

The IGsP, Kashmir and Jammu shall communicate these directions to the service providers forthwith and ensure their implementation in letter and spirit, the order adds.

#### PAGD Leaders ...

heat from the ground as the people want results from it on its poll promises and tall claims made by its leadership since its inception.

"It seems the PAGD leadership is now trying to maneuver a new political model to hoodwink the people before next elections attributing its absolute failure to the imminent breakup within this amalgam," he remarked.

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## Turkey, Iran Jockey To Reap Dividends Of Qatari 'Victory'



Agencies

**DOHA** --Turkey and Iran are racing to reap the dividends of what they consider a Qatari "victory" over Saudi Arabia and the boycotting countries after the latest Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit, which ended without requiring Doha to curtail its ties with Ankara and Tehran, analysts say.

Doha's ties with Ankara and Tehran were among the main reasons for the row that led the Arab quartet's boycott which spanned more than three years.

The Turks and Iranians believe that Doha's still open window will allow them to continue pushing for the expansion of their influence in the region. This window will preserve their chances of infiltrating the Gulf and preventing a unified position of the GCC countries against Iranian threats on the one hand, and against Turkish encroachment on the other hand.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif praised what he called Qatari "resistance," which he hinted could be relied upon to influence the region, referring to the sidelining of the Saudi position that seeks to build a regional balance with Iran on the security, military and diplomatic levels.

"We congratulate Qatar for its success in its courageous resistance in the face of pressure and blackmail," Zarif said on his Twitter account.

"Our Arab neighbours know that Iran is neither an enemy nor a threat," he added.

"Stop blaming others, especially when that renegade leaves power (referring to US President Donald

Trump)," he said, adding "it is time to accept our vision of forming a strong region."

Analysts say that Tehran is betting on Doha to play a major role in breaking the alliances that Saudi Arabia seeks to build in the Arab-Islamic world and in connection with the Americans in order to encircle Iran and prevent it from increasing tension in the region.

These analysts say that Iran's strategy is based on fueling tension in the region to persuade Saudi Arabia and the United States that there is a door in Doha to deal with Tehran much like the door Qatar offered in hosting a dialogue between Washington and the Taliban, or in its relationship with other militant Islamic groups, including pro-Iran factions.

Analysts have doubts about Qatar's commitment to changing its relationship with Iran in response to Saudi Arabia's demands. They see Doha continuing to bet on Tehran as a pressure card against any push to demand that it implement the conditions enunciated in 2017.

While Iran is investing in reconciliation in order to secure a foothold that disrupts efforts to isolate it, Turkey views the results of the Al-Ula summit as a gateway to a strong return to the Gulf, especially through investment and tourism, as if reconciliation is supposed to atone for Ankara's conspiring against the Saudis and not for Doha's mistakes.

The Turkish foreign ministry welcomed the "Gulf reconciliation" agreement. It said that "the display of a common will to resolve the Gulf conflict and announcement of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Qatar are a source of satisfaction."

## Umrah Pilgrims Advised To Take Covid-19 Vaccine



Agencies

Those who wish to perform the Umrah pilgrimage are advised to take the Covid-19 vaccine shot, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Hajj and Umrah Muhammad Saleh Benteen has said.

Speaking to the Al-Arabiya channel, Benteen said that all the precautionary measures and preventive protocols are being followed to curb the spread of the Covid-19 infection and that is in coordination with the Ministry of Health, reports the Gulf Business.

Directives such as social distancing, using sanitizer, wearing masks, and following the age limit for the performance of the Umrah rituals will be applied.

The Umrah pilgrimage is "safe," he added, local media

reported.

The remarks came in the wake of the minister receiving the coronavirus vaccine dose in Jeddah.

"Anyone who registers to receive coronavirus vaccine through the Sehhaty application and wants to perform Umrah, must take the vaccine," he said.

Saudi Arabia's health authority approved the registration of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine in the kingdom last month, following which the country's health minister Tawfiq Al-Rabiah received a shot.

Saudi Arabia announced 104 new Covid-19 infections, 146 recoveries and nine deaths on January 5. The case count across the kingdom has now risen to 363,259, including 354,755 recoveries and 6,265 fatalities.



**FOUR PEOPLE DIED DURING THE CHAOS** — one from gunshot wounds and three from medical emergencies — after hundreds of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in a bid to overturn his election defeat to Democrat Biden.

## US House Speaker Says Removing Trump "Emergency Of Highest Magnitude"

Agencies

**WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES:** US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Thursday for President Donald Trump to be urgently removed from power, branding him "a very dangerous person who should not continue in office."

"This is an emergency of the highest magnitude," the top-ranking Democrat in Congress



said as she urged Vice President Mike Pence and Trump's cabinet to invoke the 25th

amendment, one day after a pro-Trump mob entered the Capitol with his encouragement in a bid to overturn the presidential election results.

If the 25th amendment, allowing for a cabinet majority to replace a president deemed unable to discharge his duties, is not invoked, Congress is prepared to move forward with impeachment, she said.

## China Says US Facing 'Internal Collapse' After Pro-Trump Riot

Agencies

The assault on the US Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump reflects a failure of leadership, as well as the deep divide running through American society, editorials in China's state media said on Friday.

Hundreds of supporters of President Trump besieged the Capitol on Wednesday in what House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi described as "an armed insurrection against America".

The Global Times, a tabloid run by the People's Daily, the newspaper of the ruling Communist Party, described the riots as a sign of "internal collapse" that could not easily be reversed.

"The unprecedented mob in the Capitol, a symbol of the US system, is the result of the US society's severe division and the country's failure to control such division," it said.

"As time goes by and with abuses of resources by generations of politicians, the US political system has degraded," the paper said, adding that such politicians "deserve chaos, violence".

It also lashed out at what it described as "double standards" among US politicians who expressed support for pro-democracy protesters, who forced their way into the territory's Legislative Council in 2019.

"In Hong Kong, violent actions are described as a 'beautiful sight', in the US, people involved in this chaos are called 'mobs'," it said.

False equivalence The Hong Kong protesters, amid mass rallies against a proposed extradition law with



mainland China that evolved into calls for universal suffrage, broke through police barricades and vandalised the legislative chamber.

Hong Kong media pushed back on the comparison between the two events, saying Hong Kong protesters were fighting for more freedom at the ballot box, while the pro-Trump supporters were staging a "violent insurrection" to undermine their country's free and fair elections.

Hong Kong Free Press said the comparison between the turmoil in the US and Hong Kong protests amounted to "perverse propaganda". China has since imposed a sweeping National Security Law on the territory under which more than 50 pro-democracy politicians, activists and even academics were this week arrested.

Meanwhile, the official China Daily newspaper said Trump's "narrow nationalism" had taken a toll on the US.

"If the Biden administration can draw lessons from the 'darkest day' in US history, the pain the country experienced these days may come to be viewed as

growing pains," it said.

"The violence and chaos that have erupted in the US over the past year show what happens when a country's leaders lose touch with reality," it added.

Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, earlier said that Beijing hoped the American people could "regain peace, stability and safety", following the chaos at the Capitol.

As the violence unfolded, Global Times also published reports claiming Chinese netizens had labelled the riot "karma", juxtaposing images of the events in Hong Kong Legco and the US capital.

The publication quoted Chinese netizens as saying that they saw the "chaos in the US as revenge".

"This is the first political coup to happen in the American continent without the involvement of US embassies," Global Times quoted one unnamed commenter as saying.

On the Chinese social media platform, Sina Weibo, a photo of a pro-Trump supporter sitting inside the office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi also went viral.

**AS TIME GOES BY AND WITH ABUSES OF RESOURCES BY generations of politicians, the US political system has degraded," the paper said, adding that such politicians "deserve chaos, violence".**

### NEWS MAKERS

## Facebook, Instagram Block Trump's Accounts 'Indefinitely'

Agencies

Facebook Inc has taken the unprecedented step of blocking United States President Donald Trump's social media accounts on its platforms for the remaining 13 days of his presidency and possibly beyond, the company's CEO announced Thursday.

Facebook, which owns photo-sharing app Instagram, will also block his account there, CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote in a post the day after Trump supporters breached the US Capitol building in a violent, unruly mob, forcing lawmakers to flee and the complex to be placed under lockdown for several hours.

"We believe the risks of allowing President Trump to continue to use

our service during this period are simply too great, so we are extending the block we have placed on his Facebook and Instagram accounts indefinitely and for at least the next two weeks," Zuckerberg wrote in his post that explained the decision Thursday.

Lawmakers from both the Senate and the House of Representatives had gathered to certify the US election results in favour of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, but were forced to flee when protesters entered the building after being told by Trump at a Wednesday morning rally to go to the Capitol.

At least four people died in the post-election riots at the Capitol Wednesday. So far, 52 people have been arrested in connection with the events



at the Capitol, according to Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert Contee.

The FBI has also asked people to submit

photos, videos and tips identifying those who were inciting violence that day.

Lawmakers returned to continue their work after the building was deemed safe at 8pm (01:00 GMT) Wednesday, formally certifying Biden's victory in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Trump has frequently used social media platforms Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to speak directly to his followers and issue policy decisions, in contrast with former US presidents.

Facebook has faced criticism from lawmakers and some of its own employees in the past over how it handles disinformation related to the presidential election, as well as posts by Trump that contain falsehoods.

Zuckerberg said Facebook had "al-

lowed President Trump to use our platform, consistent with our own rules, at times removing content or labeling his posts when they violate our policies. We did this because we believe that the public has a right to the broadest possible access to political speech, even controversial speech."

But, Zuckerberg wrote, "the current context is now fundamentally different, involving the use of our platform to incite violent insurrection against a democratically elected government."

The certification of the election results — typically a formality — became a chaotic and violent scene Wednesday as Trump's supporters succeeded in breaching the Capitol and entering the building, halting the vote certification process and causing damage to the building's offices and historic art and sculptures.

## US Capitol Breach: Insurrection Fuelled By Conspiracy Groups, Extremists And Fringe Movements



Agencies

A group of Trump supporters who stormed the US Capitol on Wednesday had conspiracy theorists linked to QAnon and the Proud Boys — two right-wing extremist factions that the US president repeatedly refused to condemn during his election campaign in 2020.

The insurrection at the heart of America's democracy, egged on by Trump's rhetoric, represented a stunning show of force for the fringe movements and their adherents.

At least four people were left dead during the mayhem, according to the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department. One woman shot by a US Capitol Police officer and three other people who had medical emergencies, reports CNN.

One of the most recognizable figures in the videos and photos of the breach was a man in his 30s with a painted face, fur hat, and a helmet with horns.

Jake Angeli — known by followers as the QAnon Shaman — quickly became a symbol of the bizarre and frightening spectacle as photos circulated of him roaming the Capitol halls holding an American flag affixed to a spear in one hand and a bullhorn in the other, and even standing shirtless atop the Senate dais.

He, a resident of Arizona, couldn't be reached for comments.

However, his cousin, Adam Angeli, confirming that the man in the horns was his relative, said he thought his cousin might be between jobs and that "he's a patriot, he's a very big United States of America type of a person."

Jake Angeli's Facebook page is filled with posts evoking the conspiracy theories of QAnon, whose adherents believe in a ludicrous theory that there is a cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles who have

infiltrated the highest reaches of American government and are being opposed by President Trump.

Angeli's Facebook posts have a violent edge, such as a meme declaring "we shall have no real hope to survive the enemies arranged against us until we hang the traitors lurking among us."

One photo on Angeli's Facebook page depicts him adorned in the fur and horns, taking aim towards the camera with a rifle.

In recent months, Angeli has been a regular presence at pro-Trump protests in Arizona, including demonstrations outside the Maricopa County vote-counting center.

Other rioters photographed at the Capitol wore clothing with QAnon icons and held signs with slogans associated with the bizarre movement.

The rioters who filled the Capitol also included Nick Ochs, the founder of Proud Boys Hawaii, a chapter of the far-right group. "Hello from the Capital lol," Ochs tweeted Wednesday, with a selfie of himself smoking a cigarette in the building.

"We didn't have to break in, I just walked in and filmed," said Ochs in an interview with CNN on Wednesday night. "There were thousands of people in there — they had no control of the situation. I didn't get stopped or questioned."

Ochs ran an unsuccessful campaign for the state legislature last year, winning an endorsement from Trump confidant Roger Stone, who recorded a video with him. He claimed in an interview with CNN that he was working as a professional journalist when he entered the Capitol, and that he didn't go into any congressional offices or the chambers.

A far-right activist who was at the Capitol Wednesday was Tim Gionet, who livestreamed video of himself inside the building for more than 25 minutes, according to multiple screenshots of the recording shared on Twitter.

## Pakistan Successfully Test Fires Indigenously Developed Rocket System

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan on Thursday successfully conducted the test-flight of an indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into "enemy territory."

According to Director General of Pakistan Army, Media Wing, Major General Babar Iftikhar, Fatah-1 weapon system can hit targets up to a range of 140 km.

"The Weapon System will give Pakistan Army capability of precision target engagement deep in enemy territory," said Iftikhar.

#Pakistan today conducted a successful test flight of indigenously developed #Fatah-1, Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, capable of delivering a conventional Warhead upto a range of 140 km. The Weapon System will give Pak Army capability of precision target



engagement 1/2) pic.twitter.com/ObqBf0neJK

— DG ISPR (@OfficialDGISPR)

January 7, 2021

Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza and the Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa congratulated the participating troops and scientists on the successful flight test.

No further details were provided by the Army about the weapon system.

## US Capitol Police Chief Resigns After Pro-Trump Violence: Report

Agencies

**WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES:** The US Capitol police chief handed in his resignation Thursday, a day after Congress was invaded by a mob egged on by President Donald Trump, a source close to the agency told AFP.

Steven Sund "is resigning effective January 16, 2021," the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP, hours after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called for his resignation, following sharp rebukes for what many criticized as a lack of preparation.





# 2nd Batch Of Tourism Department Sponsored Ski Course Begins In Gulmarg

AGENCIES

**GULMARG:** The Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir Friday started the introductory Ski Course for the 2nd batch of boys here at Gulmarg, following clearing of the weather after fresh spell of Snow fall.

The second group of twenty young boys drawn from various districts of J&K will undergo the 7- Day Introductory Ski Course at Gulmarg, during which the group will be introduced to the basics of Skiing. All the lodging & boarding and the Ski equipment is being provided free of cost by the Tourism Department. A four member Ski Instructors team is imparting Skiing training to these beginners.

The Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir has drawn a weekly calender for imparting skiing training to as many as 6 groups this season. Among these 6 groups, two are exclusively meant for outside J&K youth including one girls group. Another exclusive girls group will be from the UT.

The first batch of twenty boys completed their Introductory Ski Course on 31 Dec, 2020. The boys while receiving the course certificates expressed

immense joy and thanked the Tourism Department for the unique learning and thrilling opportunity.

level courses.

Apart from the Tourism Department, hundreds of boys and girls are being



During the course of the Introductory Ski training, three of the best among the trainees in each of the six groups will be selected and sponsored by the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir for Intermediate & Advance

imparted basic Ski training this season by the Youth Services & Sports Department. The Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering has also started various Ski training courses at Gulmarg.

## ‘Would Love To See T10 In Olympics And USA,’ Says Chris Gayle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** West Indies’ swashbuckling opener Chris Gayle wants cricket’s latest and shortest format – T10 – to be included in the Olympic Games roster.

Gayle, who will be representing Team Abu Dhabi in the upcoming season of Abu Dhabi T10 League, sees T10 as a format which can propel cricket entry into the world’s biggest sporting extravaganza.

Speaking from his home in Jamaica, Gayle said he is looking forward to taking part in the tournament.

“At the moment, I’m actually getting some well-needed rest but keeping the Abu Dhabi T10 League in mind, I’m going to start some training soon and get ready to be back in business,” he said.

Expressing his delight at returning to take part in the league after a gap of two seasons, Gayle stated, “There are lots of talented players who will be on show, with the likes of Kieron Pollard and the other international players.

“So I’m definitely looking forward to be back with Team Abu Dhabi. South Africa’s Chris Morris is also in my team, and I’ve played with him before,

so it’s good to be back playing with him and the boys again.”

Talking about T10’s future prospects, Gayle added, “I would absolutely love to see T10 within the Olympics. It would be something huge for the sport from a general point of view.

“I also think T10 can be (held) within the United States also since it’s a big platform. I think most people don’t recognise the States (US) for cricket, but T10 is very much suitable to be held within USA, and I believe it can help generate bigger revenues as well.”



## Three Indonesian Badminton Players Get Life Ban For Betting And Match-Fixing Offences

**NEW DELHI:** The Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Friday handed life bans to three Indonesian shuttlers for involvement in match-fixing, match manipulation and betting.

The sport’s governing body said “eight Indonesian players who knew each other, and competed in lower-level international competitions mostly in Asia up until 2019, breached BWF Integrity Regulations

related to match fixing, match manipulation and/or betting on badminton.”

“Three of them were found to have coordinated and organised others into being complicit in the behaviour and have been suspended from all badminton related activities for life,” BWF said in a statement. “Five others were suspended for between six to 12 years and fined between USD 3,000 and USD 12,000 each.”

The BWF said it was a report by a whistleblower which allowed its integrity unit to start a probe and interview a number of players about the matter, following which all eight players were provisionally suspended in January last year. The apex body said the players can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) within 21 days.

# Sports Federations Not Complying With Sports Code Can’t Be Granted Recognition, Rules Delhi High Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** National Sports Code is the law and the federations which are not complying with it cannot be granted recognition, the Delhi High Court Friday made it clear while granting a last opportunity to the Centre to show that the 41 NSFs granted recognition were complying with the requirements of the code.

The high court said in case of failure of the Centre in complying with its direction, the secretary of sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will have to be present before in the hearing.

“We grant one last opportunity to the Respondent (Centre) to comply with the order of November 6, 2020 failing which we direct the secretary (sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to remain present during the next hearing. The affidavit shall be filed within 10 days,” a bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Najmi Waziri said.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on January 22.

The special bench was hearing a plea challenging the recognition granted to the 41 National Sports Federations (NSFs).

During the hearing, senior advocate Sachin Dutta and central government standing counsel Anil Soni, representing the Centre, sought some more time to file a reply in the matter.

This was opposed by petitioner lawyer and sports activist Rahul Mehra who said enough time has already been granted to the authorities who have filed an affidavit earlier and washed off their hands.

The bench, which was annoyed over non-compliance of its earlier order, said, “You need to change the game you are playing. You were playing soft ball, now you have to play hard ball. There is no compliance of the sports code. What is this happening?”

The bench observed that the National Sports Development Code is the law of the today because the Supreme Court has said it has to be followed in totality.

“You (Centre) will not recognise

those who are complying with the sports code. They will go out today itself. If you want to take over, do it,” the bench said.

Mehra, in his plea, has claimed “abject inaction” by the Centre with regard to alleged maladministration of NSFs and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

On November 6 last year, the high court had asked the Centre to show that the 41 NSFs granted recognition in October were complying with the requirements of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.

It had directed the ministry to show that each of the 41 NSFs, which were granted recognition, have complied with every requirement of the sports code as these bodies are funded by public money.

The bench had earlier said it was

not issuing notice to the ministry in the instant petition as the issue with regard to implementation of the sports code and recognition of NSFs was being examined by the court in another petition filed by Mehra in 2010.

He had also contended that none of the NSFs which have been granted recognition have complied with the sports code. The ministry had told the bench that the government has the discretion to decide whether or not to grant recognition.

The bench had pointed out that the Supreme Court has on several occasions held that recognition cannot be granted to a NSF which is not complying with the sports code.

The court had also asked the ministry to place before it the responses received from the NSFs to the letter issued to them by the ministry in

August asking them to show whether they have complied with the sports code. Mehra, in his instant petition, has contended that the decision granting recognition to the 41 NSFs is contrary to the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 (sports code), and “issued in a wholly arbitrary manner”.

He has also contended that the Sports Ministry has failed to take appropriate action against the NSFs which are in violation of the sports code.

The plea, filed through advocate Chaitanya Gosain, has said the ministry granted recognition to the 41 NSFs, after the Supreme Court clarified that it does not need prior approval of the high court to take any decisions.

The Supreme Court’s September 17, 2020 order had come on the ministry’s appeal against a February 7, 2020

order of the high court, in Mehra’s 2010 petition, directing that it be informed in advance by the government and IOA before taking any decision in respect of any NSF.

Subsequently, in October 2020 the ministry granted recognition to 41 NSFs, “including those that were refused recognition up to December 31, 2019 for being in violation of the sports code, and who were in violation thereof even on July 31, 2020”, the plea said.

The petition has claimed that the ministry spent nearly Rs 14,391.49 crore on sporting activities from 2009-10 to 2018-19, and nearly Rs 1,237.56 crore has been disbursed directly to NSFs, including IOA from 2009-10 to 2019-20 on the explicit, statutory understanding that they will comply with the sports code.

“Thus, (alleged) maladministration of the NSFs, including IOA, and inaction by the respondent (ministry) in this regard also concerns public monies and the reputation of India,” the petition has contended.

### AUS VS IND 3RD TEST DAY 2

## Australia All Out For 338, India Reaches 96/2 At End Of Play

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SYDNEY:** Australia were all out for 338 in their first innings on the second day of the third and penultimate Test against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

After Will Pucovski (62) and Marnus Labuschagne (91) gave the hosts their strongest start of the series, Steve Smith struck a gritty 131-run knock to ensure that the team had a fighting score on the board.

For India, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was the top wicket-taker with four scalps, conceding 62 runs in his 18 overs. Jadeja also did some excellent work in the field by running out Steve Smith.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and debutant Navdeep Saini chipped in with two wickets each to keep the visiting side firmly in the match after the hosts claimed the day one honours.

In response, the Indian side made a gritty 96 for the loss of 2 wickets at the end of play on Day 2. Cheteshwar Pujara and skipper Ajinkya Rahane were batting 9 and 5 respectively at close of play, trailing Australia by 242 runs.

India made a solid start to their first innings with Rohit Sharma (26) and Shubman Gill (50) contributing to a 70-run opening stand.

Gill, in the process, scored his maiden Test half-century. For Australia Josh Hazlewood caught and bowled Rohit Sharma just when the batsman looked set to

humiliating loss in the opener in Adelaide.

**BRIEF SCORES:**

**Australia 1st innings:** 338 all out in 105.4 overs (Will Pucovski



**Aus v Ind, 3rd Test:** India's Ravindra Jadeja celebrates after taking the wicket of Australia's Matthew Wade during play on day three of the second cricket test between India and Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Australia. (AP/PTI Photo)

increase his stay at the crease. Pat Cummins soon followed suit by taking the wicket of Shubman Gill.

The series is currently locked 1-1 after India's remarkable eight-wicket comeback win in the Melbourne Test, off-setting a

62, Marnus Labuschagne 91, Steve Smith 131, Ravindra Jadeja 4/62, Jasprit Bumrah 2/66).

**India 1st innings:** 96 for 2 in 45 overs (Shubman Gill 50, Rohit Sharma 26, Josh Hazlewood 1/23, Pat Cummins 1/19).

## Steve Smith Reveals Tactics After Hitting Century Against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SYDNEY:** Faster footwork along with the tactic of attacking Ravichandran Ashwin straight-away worked wonders for him during his first century on home soil in three years, Australian batsman Steve Smith said on Friday.

Having just managed to score only 10 runs in the first Two Tests, Smith roared back to form as his 131 single-handedly steered Australia to 338, their first innings total, despite a middle-order failure.

“I decided to be a bit more positive. I think early on, I hit him over his head, just put a bit of pressure on him so that he bowls where I wanted him to bowl. It was a concerted effort to do that and I was happy with the way I played him,” Smith said during virtual press conference.

Smith also said that he did not change his technique against the fast bowlers but was “just being faster on his feet particularly against the spin”.

“In this game, I was probably a little more aggressive early and tried to put it back on the bowler a little bit more.

“I got off to a nice start, I was almost run-a-ball 20. So (I) got myself going and got into my innings and then you just have to play the game, absorb pressure when you need to, put pressure on when you need to and I did that pretty well in this innings,” he added.

The sarcasm wasn’t lost on anyone when he

said that it was nice to be back in form even though he had scored two 60-odd ball hundreds in the ODIs.

“...I have read a lot of things as I think I have said numerous time and plenty of people said I was out of form, so it was nice to come back I guess in the form, if that’s what you want to call it,” Smith said.

“It was only two or three weeks ago when I scored two hundreds at the SCG. It kind of makes me laugh sometimes when people say that kind of things,” the anger was palpable.

“(I) missed out on the first two Test matches obviously, come-back today and scored some few runs and help I guess put us in a decent position,” the 31-year-old added.

According to Smith, the total put up by Australia is a decent one, though they would have liked to score a few more runs.

“I think it’s a decent total. It would have been nice to score a few more. You always want more.

**“IN THIS GAME, I WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE MORE AGGRESSIVE EARLY AND TRIED TO PUT IT BACK ON THE BOWLER A LITTLE BIT MORE.”**

