



Maximum : 5.9° SUNSET Today 06:04 PM
Minimum : -4.6° SUNRISE
Humidity : 92% Tommrow 07:27 AM



Widom Quote!

No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.
— Albert Einstein

NEWS DIGEST

HC Quashes PSA Slapped On Jamaat Chief

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the Public Safety Act slapped on Jamaat-e-Islami chief Abdul Hamid Ganai saying the detention order was vitiated by "total non-application of mind" by the detaining authority. A division bench of justices Sanjeev Kumar and Rajnesh Oswal on Monday set ► [More On P10](#)

Woman Delivers Baby In Army Vehicle

SRINAGAR: The joy of Gulam Rabani, a casual labourer in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, knew no bounds when he finally cuddled his baby girl who was born in an Army vehicle in adverse weather, officials said here on Tuesday. The child was born on Monday when the mother was being shifted to a hospital for delivery in the Army vehicle, they said. The Army, which often provides relief ► [More On P10](#)

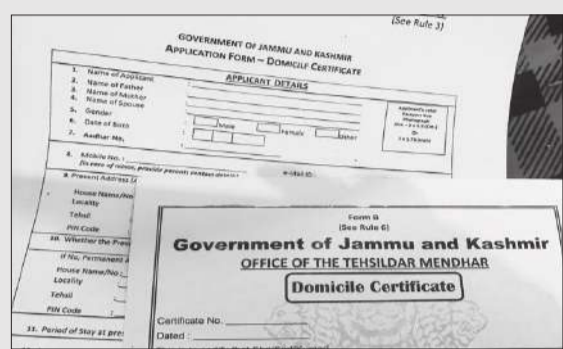
J&K Admin Issues SOPs For Cinemas, Theatres

JAMMU: A day after allowing cinema halls and theatres to operate at full capacity, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday issued fresh guidelines on preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 like noting the contact numbers of the audience and frequent sanitisation ► [More On P10](#)

Brain Dead Teen Saves Four Lives

JAIPUR: Four people got a new lease of life after the family of a 14-year-old boy, declared brain-dead after suffering critical injuries in a road accident, decided to donate his vital organs, an official said. Dr Sudhir Bhandari, the principal of Sawai Mansingh Medical College on Tuesday said with ► [More On P10](#)

34 LAKH Domicile Certificates Issued In J&K Till Jan 25



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued almost 34 lakh domicile certificates across the Union territory till January 25, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy also said that since the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories in August 2019, a total of 58 civilians have

lost their lives in 54 militant attacks. No pattern of selective targeting based on religion can be established, he said in written reply to a question. "The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has reported that up to January 25, 2021, a total of 33,80,234 domicile certificates have been issued in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Reddy said as Jammu and Kashmir is battling the menace ► [More On P10](#)

Security Expenditure In J&K All Time High

Centre Pumped Rs 1267 Cr Post Art-370 Abrogation: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Tuesday revealed that the annual security related expenditure (SRE) for the J&K was Rs 1267 crore—highest ever since the killing of top Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in 2016. The highest ever figure of SRE also coincided with the financial year of 2019-20, the year when Centre announced scrapping the article

370 and sliced the erstwhile State of J&K into two Union Territories—J&K and Ladakh. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G K Reddy in a written reply to a query raised by BJP MP Jugal Kishore in the Parliament said: "During the financial year of year 2019-2020, Rs 1267 crore were released as under the SRE (Police)." The reply further reads that in addition, the MHA also released Rs 40.20 crore for the modernization of J&K police for the same period i.e. 2019-2020. "Modernisation of the police force is an ongoing process," the reply states. Figures reveal ► [More On P10](#)

2 Day Wet Spell In Kashmir From Today
Surface, Air Traffic Likely To Get Affected: MeT



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature in Kashmir,

barring Srinagar and Pahalgam, improved on Tuesday, even as the MET Office forecast ► [More On P10](#)

Highway Open For Srinagar To Jammu Traffic
Observer News Service

One way traffic will be allowed on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar highway subject to fair weather and better road conditions, as the weather department has predicted another wet spell across Kashmir, officials said Tuesday. According to a communiqué by J&K traffic police, only one way traffic shall be allowed from Srinagar towards ► [More On P10](#)

THERE'S VERY LESS CHANCES OF HEAVY precipitation in plains of J&K but heavy snowfall especially on higher reaches of J&K can't be ruled out either especially on February 3."

Ex Excise Commissioner Faces Graft Charges
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Tuesday filed a case against a former excise commissioner for amassing wealth "grossly disproportionate" to his known sources of income. Mohammad Javed Khan, the then Excise Commissioner, J&K was booked by the anti-graft body on the basis of a preliminary enquiry that he has accumulated huge assets, both immovable and movable properties in his own name, and in the name of his wife and other family members within J&K and outside J&K, ► [More On P10](#)

From 1 Million To 84 Thousand

Tourist Arrivals Nosedived After August 2019

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Tourist arrivals in Jammu & Kashmir have witnessed a steep decline as a mere 84,000 tourists visited Kashmir in the 18 months as against over one million tourists who visited Kashmir valley in 2010-13. In a written reply to a query in Rajya Sabha, Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel informed Parliament on Tuesday that 84,326 tourists visited Kashmir since August 5, 2019 while 87,94,837 visited Jammu and 1,00,931 tourists visited Ladakh. The total number of pilgrims/ tourists who visited Jammu



File Photo: Abid Bhat

since August 2019 is 76,80,775. On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked the special status, or limited autonomy, granted under Article 370 of the Constitution ► [More On P10](#)

ON THE EVE OF WORLD CANCER DAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2021

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Is Organizing

Free Consultation for the Patients suffering from various Gastrointestinal concerns.

Patients with Gastrointestinal Problems particularly having family history of Cancer can avail the opportunity by registering their names in CSK's office or on phone no's of the society shown below.

Consultation shall be provided by reputed oncologists & other reputed experts on the subject from 10:00am to 02:00 pm on 04-02-2021.

Venue: - 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora, Srinagar 190015. TIME: - 10:00AM TO 2:00PM For prior appointment contact :- 0194-2441899/2430899

Issued In Public Interest By: **CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR**

حکومت جموں و کشمیر
محکمہ انیمل ہسپنڈری کشمیر
انفارمیشن ایجوکیشن کمیونیکیشن سیل پبلسٹی ونگ

یہ بیماری کیا ہے۔۔۔
واٹر س سے پھیلنے والا انفیکشن (عفونت) جو پرندوں میں بیکٹریا پیدا کرتا ہے اور جسے موت بھی واقع ہو سکتی ہے۔

اس سے خطرہ کس کو ہے۔۔۔
طیوری و بانی زکام پیدا کرنے والے انواع کے کئی اقسام ہیں، جن میں سے چند ایک پلٹری جیکے چند دیگر انسانوں کو جانوروں پر اثر انداز ہوتے ہیں۔

تجارتی بنیادوں پر پالے جانے والے پرندوں کے جھنڈ پر یہ وائرس کیسے انفیکشن (عفونت) کرتا ہے۔
طیوری و بانی زکام پھیلائے والے وائرس اکثر چنگی پرندوں میں پائے جاتے ہیں خاصکر آبی پرندے (ڈاٹر فاول)، بٹخ، مہنٹھ، وغیرہ ان میں سے بیماری پیدا نہیں کرتا۔ مرغوں کے جھنڈ میں یہ انفیکشن (عفونت) پھیلنے کے بعد اس بیماری کا جزوم کئی اقسام بنا تا جس وجہ سے شدید بیماری پھیل سکتی ہے۔ بیماری یا تو براہ راست رابطے کے ذریعے پھیل سکتی ہے یا واسطہ طریقہ کے ذریعے۔ مثلاً۔۔ آلودہ پانی کے ذخائر یا بیماری پھیلائے کا موزا بن سکتے ہیں۔

اس کی شناخت۔۔۔
نڈھال پن، بھوک نہ لگانا، ناک سے رطوبت بہنا، بار بار چھینکنا اور کھانسی، چہرے اور منظر (Wattles) کا اورم، اور کبھی کبھی ان کا نیلایا ہوا اور نڈوں کی پیداوار، جاننا۔ اچانک موت، خون آلودہ ڈانتریا، میں خاصی گراؤت، سانس لینے میں مشکلات، چلنے میں دشواری وغیرہ۔

محکمہ انیمل ہسپنڈری آپ کی مدد کے لئے ہر وقت تیار
قدرتی آبی ذخائر، آبی پناہ گاہوں وغیرہ چنگی، بدسی، وہاں پر پرندوں کی آماجگاہیں حیاتیاتی (بائیو کیورٹی) اور حفظان صحت کے اصولوں کو اپنانے پر خاص دھیان دیں۔ مرغ فارم میں داخل ہونے والی تمام گاؤں کا داخلے سے پہلے اور بعد میں مناسب طور جراثیم کش اودیاکتا چھڑکاؤ کریں۔

کیا کیا جانے۔۔۔
بیماری کی علامات ظاہر ہونے کی صورت میں نزدیکی و میزبانی ڈاکٹر کے ساتھ فوری رابطہ کریں۔

عالمی صحت آرگنائزیشن (ورلڈ ہیلتھ آرگنائزیشن) کے مطابق مناسب طریقے سے مسرع گوشت کو پکانے و اُبلانے سے طیوری و بانی زکام نہیں پھیل سکتا۔
منیڈ جاہاری کے لئے۔۔۔۔

تعمیر کی ویب سائٹ www.jkahd.net ای میل : iec@jkaohd.net محمد اسماعیل ہسپنڈری کے ایل او این نمبر 0194-2455369

ڈاکٹر مشتاق احمد شاہ

نوڈل آفیسر و میڈیا لیزران آفیسر برائے آئیو این انفلوانزا / ابرڈ فلیو جو اینیٹ ڈائریکٹر پولیٹری کم ایل پی پی ہاری پرست سرینگر



KO Photo Abid Bhat

AS THE CHILLING COLD FROZE water taps across Kashmir, people were seen filling water tanks on Tuesday.

Will KU Start Class Work From Feb 7 Without Opening Hostels?

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir is in a fix whether to open the varsity with or without hostels from February 7. Insiders said that there is a section of officials who want both hostels and university to open from February 15, but other section feels there is no need to open the hostels for students in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.



The Cluster University and the Islamic University for Science and Technology have already issued notices stating these universities will open on Feb 15. However, Kashmir University has decided to open the university on Feb 7, but later on it issued a separate notice extending the vacation period till Feb 7. Insiders said that over 2,000 students, both male and female are residing in different university hostels while one wonders where these students will go if university won't open up the hostels for them.

"There are students who are from far flung areas including Tulail, Gurez, Keran, Rajouri, Poonch etc. These students will face tough times if they won't be allowed to stay at hostels," said an insider alleging that the University of Kashmir is least bothered about the welfare of the students.

He said when hundreds of students despite Covid-19 guidelines in place can attend a coaching centre why can't students stay in hostels.

When contacted, Dean, Academic Affairs, Mr Akbar Masoodi said that a commit-

tee has been set up to take a decision in this regard. "The Committee will take a final decision tomorrow or day after tomorrow. This Committee will decide whether hostels will be thrown open for students or not," Masoodi said.

THERE ARE STUDENTS WHO ARE FROM FAR FLUNG AREAS including Tulail, Gurez, Keran, Rajouri, Poonch etc. These students will face tough times if they won't be allowed to stay at hostels."

Members To Elect Chairperson Of DDC Srinagar On Feb 6

SRINAGAR: The District Election Officer Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary Monday issued a notification for a meeting of members elected to the District Development Council Srinagar to elect the chairperson and the vice chairperson of the council as mandated under section 45-B of the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayat Raj Act 1989.

The notification issued in pursuance of sub-rule (4) of rule 108-ZN of the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayat Raj Rules 1996 states that



the meeting will be held at 11 am on 6 February 2021 in the Meeting Hall of DC Office Srinagar.

Stray Dog Menace Hits Activity At SKUAST-K



Observer News service

SRINAGAR: Packs of stray dogs roaming the campus of SKUAST-Kashmir at Shalimar is hampering the movement of students and staff alike in the varsity. Dogs start barking in chorus through the day and night disturbing the inmates and nearby residents alike, said Nisar Ahmad Dar Public Relations Officer and Incharge Guest House, Security & Sanitation of the university.

"The number of stray dogs in the University has risen alarmingly. The rise in their number has led to various other problems such as food and shelter besides threat for the employees, students and visitors espe-

cially during late hours", he said. The steep rise in the number of dogs has created a reign of terror among the students and employees of the university. Every morning we have to see a lot of scattered garbage and dirt in and around the campus, said Mushtaq Ahmad Ganaie who visits the university frequently. Demanding urgent attention of the Srinagar Municipal authorities, Nisar Ahmad said the university officials would heave a sigh of relief if they ever get rid of the canine menace.

The packs of dogs often get involved in fierce fights which pose serious threats to the safety of residents staying in the main campus, especially their children playing in the parks. Two girl students of this University have been bitten by these dogs during the past one week alone, he said.

"The matter was brought to the notice of concerned municipal authorities, but without any sort of action or remedial measures the menace of stray dogs will not go", he said.

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- 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
- PAMPORA: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1488 - Bartolomeu Dias discovers Mosselbaai (Angra dos Vaqueros)
- 1509 - The Battle of Diu, naval battle at port of Diu, India between Portugal and the Ottoman Empire, establishes Portuguese trading control
- 1783 - Spain recognizes US independence
- 1807 - A British military force, under Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty captures the city of Montevideo in the Battle of Montevideo, then part of the Spanish Empire now capital of Uruguay (Napoleonic Wars)
- 1815 - World's first commercial cheese factory established, in Switzerland.
- 1830 - The sovereignty of Greece confirmed in a London Protocol
- 1834 - Wake Forest University is established in North Carolina
- 1860 - Thomas Clemson takes office as 1st US superintendent of agriculture
- 1865 - Hampton Roads Peace Conference, Lincoln & Stephens reach an impasse
- 1867 - Prince Mutsuhito, 14, becomes Emperor Meiji of Japan (1867-1912)
- 1870 - US state of Iowa ratifies the 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution allowing suffrage for all races & colour
- 1876 - Albert Spalding with \$800 starts sporting goods co, manufacturing 1st official baseball,
- 1915 - Turkish & German army reach Suez Canal
- 1924 - Switzerland claims the inaugural Olympic bobsleigh gold medal at the Chamonix Games, ahead of Great Britain and Belgium
- 1928 - Paleontologist Davidson Black reports his findings on the ancient human fossils found at Zhoukoudian, China in the journal Nature and declares them to be a new species he names "Sinanthropus pekinensis"; (now known "Homo erectus")
- 1944 - World War II: United States troops capture the Marshall Islands.
- 1945 - Almost 1,000 Flying Fortresses drop 3,000 tons of bombs on Berlin
- 1962 - US President John F. Kennedy bans all trade with Cuba except for food & drugs
- 1965 - Orbiting Solar Observatory 2 launches into Earth orbit (552/636 km)
- 1971 - OPEC mandates "total embargo" against any company that rejects 55 percent tax rate
- 1978 - Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat and US President Jimmy Carter discuss the Middle East peace process in Washington, D.C.
- 1994 - President Bill Clinton lifts US trade embargo against Vietnam
- 1994 - STS-60 (Discovery) launches into orbit
- 1995 - STS 63 (Discovery 19), launches into orbit
- 1999 - In Jammu and Kashmir the political party Democratic Janata Dal (Jammu and Kashmir) is revived.
- 2007 - A Baghdad market bombing kills at least 135 people and injures a further 339.
- 2013 - 33 people are killed by a suicide bombing by an explosive-packed truck in Kirkuk, Iraq
- 2016 - US President Barack Obama visits his first US mosque - the Islamic Society of Baltimore mosque in Maryland



HIJRI CALENDAR

20

JAMADI UL-SANI

1442

PRAYERS

- FAJR 6: 03
- ZUHR 12: 44
- ASR 4:22
- MAGRIB 6:04
- ISHA 7:26

From KO Archives

HURRIYAT TEAM HEADED FOR KUMBH

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Two senior leaders of the All Party Hurriyat Conference will leave for the Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh on Friday for talks with Swami Adhyokshanada Dev Tirathjee, a rival claimant to the seat of Shankaracharya of Pun and various other prominent Hindu religious leaders.

The decision to send two executive members of the Hurriyat to Kumhh was taken after the top leadership of the conglomerate held detailed talks with Pandit N K Sharma, political advisor to former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao. Sharma will accompany the Hurriyat delegation, which is likely to include Mirwaiz Omer Farooq, religious head and Syed Ali Shah Gilani

In case Geelani is unable to go due to poor health, Abdul Ghani Lone will accompany the Mirwaiz, Sharma said. During their stay, the Hurriyat leaders will brief the religious leaders on the security and political situation in the state.

The Hurriyat leaders recently held talks with former law minister Ram Jethmalani, who is taking an active role in Kashmir affairs these days. The visit is primarily a goodwill one to explain to them that the Hurriyat wants a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem. Jethmalani also had several meetings with the Hurriyat leaders, which was also arranged by Pandit Sharma. Jethmalani met Home Minister Lai Krishna Advani and Swami Adhyokshananda before talking to the Hurriyat leaders.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 03 February, 2001)

Filthy Mounds Of Snow Along City Roads, SMC Helpless

SRINAGAR: Mounds of frozen snow adorn the city centre Lal Chowk and other roads of the capital Srinagar. Heaps of solid snow accumulated on the sidewalks and roadsides talk a lot about the 'failure' of Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No effort is being made by SMC to lift these mounds of snow. It is affecting not only pedestrian movement but business as well. The shoppers are unable to park their cars while at some place shopkeepers are finding it difficult to open up their shops.

"I want to ask Ward Officer Lal Chowk, where is he and why he doesn't take up the matter with his bosses. During the snow clearance operation, SMC workers didn't waste any opportuni-



Photo courtesy: Social Media

ty to get their photographs uploaded on social media but now they are in hibernation," said a shopkeeper. Another shopkeeper blamed

SMC workers for the present mess. "After the snowfall, SMC workers in Lal Chowk and adjoining areas cleared snow from the roads but deposited

the same on roadsides and sidewalks causing problems for both pedestrians and shopkeepers," he said and sought intervention of Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

"This is not a good sign for the development. The filthy mounds of solid snow are present everywhere and still you are describing Srinagar as 'city of lights' and 'smart city'. Do something and get these mounds of snow lifted from the city centre," said a pedestrian.

Both the cell phones of Commissioner SMC were switched off, however, Ward Officer Lal Chowk said that accumulated snow is very hard and thus can't be lifted. "Another snowfall is expected. Let that happen and then we will lift everything," he said. (KNT)

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Boost For Economy

The budget presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman sent the stock market soaring with sensex scaling over 2300 points. The total size of the 2021-22 budget was at Rs 34.83 lakh crore. Around 5.54 lakh crore was provided for capital expenditure.

Significantly, the budget also has a new vehicle scrapping policy that aims to provide the auto sector a boost. There will not be a vehicle fitness test after 20 years in case of personal vehicles and 15 years in case of commercial vehicles.

The budget was Nirmala Sitharaman's third and also India's first paperless budget. She used a 'made in India' tablet to deliver the budget address. In the budget, the finance minister has chosen to spend her way out of the current financial crisis.

But given the battering the economy has received due to the ongoing pandemic, it will be a long time before things return to normal. As per estimates released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation last year, India's Gross Domestic Product for the April-June quarter slipped by a whopping 23.9 per cent.

OTHER OPINION

A Productive Budget Session

On Friday, Parliament convened for its Budget Session. The pandemic shortened the Budget Session last year, and the winter session was not held at all.

Unfortunately, the Budget Session has started off with a note of discord - with most Opposition parties boycotting the President's address to register their resistance to the farm laws and the Centre's handling of the protests.

India has faced a national security, public health and economic crisis over the past year. And each of these elements needs greater deliberation too. The standoff with China has persisted - and a lot has happened since raksha mantri Rajnath Singh last briefed Parliament.

Hindustan Times

Need For A Separate Shia Wakf Board

All 133 Mosques And Shrines With An Annual Income Of Rs. 26 Crore And 9500 Kanals Of Land In Jammu And Kashmir Have Come Under The Central Wakf Board Under The J&K Reorganization Act

Mohammad Muzafar Thakur

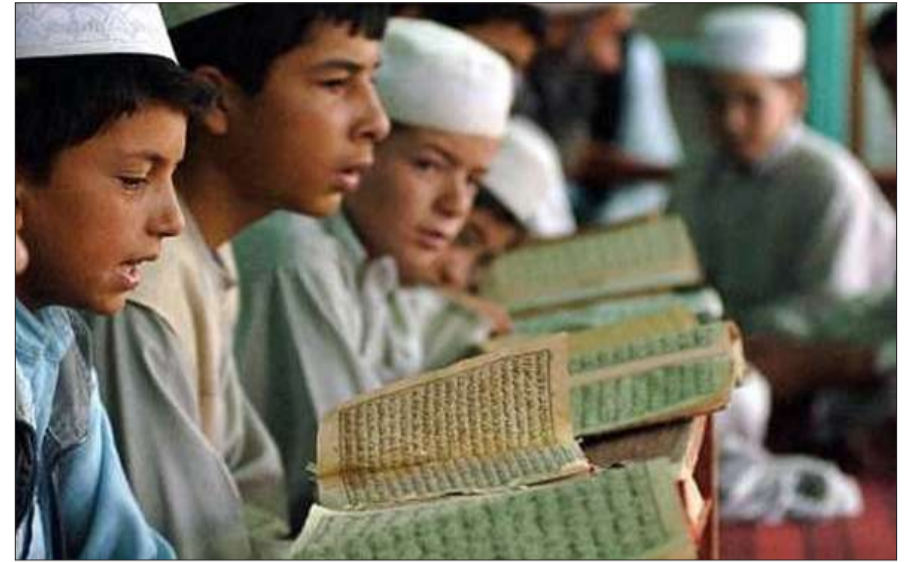
THE EXISTING Jammu and Kashmir Board for Muslims Specified Wakf in Kashmir is awaiting the decision to be implemented as it plans to open a chain of general stores next to religious shrines and start a clothing brand that would be available at nominal prices.

Since the creation of Shia Wakf Board in Jammu and Kashmir is a hot topic these days I deem it important to put across my views on the issue which I'm sure reflects views of the society at large.

I heard many statements for and against the creation of the Shia Wakf Act, but I personally feel we should have a separate Wakf Act for better administration and management of Auqaf properties belonging to Shia Muslim community for the reasons enumerated below.

Wakf Act will maintain transparency and accountability in the system. Every penny out of Auqaf property will be accounted for and if there is any mismanagement or discrepancy in the revenue, action under rules will be taken.

Some people are of the view that the 'assistants' appointed by the Mara'ja (scholars of jurisprudence) in Qom and Najaf at different places are only authorised to look into the wakf related issues. But I fail to understand that if the 'assistants' sell auqaf land to some private person or violate the fundamental principles of wakf property or conceal the income of the auqaf or there is no transparency in the system, whether that person will continue to hold the position? In fact, this is a mis-interpretation of sharia and the Mara'ja have already conveyed their decision that 'the donated land cannot be sold to anyone under any circumstances.'



THE GOVERNMENT IS FINALIZING the formation of two Wakf Boards in Kashmir and one in Ladakh under the Central Wakf Act 1995 that would map up wakf properties in the two union territories and digitise records as well.

are accountable. I have never seen in my lifetime any income and expenditure statement of wakf properties in Kashmir being published in any newspaper.

When a Wakf Board is constituted it will be manned, managed and run by local Shia persons of repute or who are elected for the post. No outsider will have a place in the Board. It is on this analogy that no Shia can be nominated on Sunni Wakf Board or any Hindu Trust.

4. The Government is finalizing the formation of two Wakf Boards in Kashmir and one in Ladakh under the Central Wakf Act 1995 that would map up wakf properties in the two union territories and digitise records as well. The Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Auqaf Trust was established by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, former Chief Minister in 1978.

agement of Wakf properties. For instance Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act was enacted 1988. With the enactment of Act the revenue of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board increased then the idea of University and Hospital was conceived, which is comparable to AIIMS.

On the contrary our Imam Hussain (AS) Hospital, Bentina was started much earlier but this institution is in a shabby condition. Much after its establishment many more acts were enacted like Jammu and Kashmir Shri Amar Nathji Shrine Act 2000, Jammu and Kashmir Mata Sukrula Shrine Act, 1988 and Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Act 1999, Shri Mata Bala Sundari Shrine Act 2013 and Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara Religious and Endowment Act of 1988 were enacted thereafter.

5. The existing Jammu and Kashmir Board for Muslims Specified Wakf in Kashmir is awaiting the decision to be implemented as it plans to open a chain of general stores next to religious shrines and start a clothing brand that would be available at nominal prices. It also plans to establish diagnostic testing laboratories on nominal charges for the benefit of the patients. We must learn lessons from other communities. Sikhs have established low price medicine shops at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, New Delhi where medicine and diagnostic facilities are available to everyone on nominal charges. The J&K BMSW also plans to provide interest free loans to budding entrepreneurs,

especially women.

All 133 Muslim mosques and shrines with an annual income of Rs. 26 crore and 9500 kanals of land in Jammu and Kashmir have come under the Central Wakf Board under the J&K Re-organisation Act. The Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Wakf Board is a rich organisation and has pushed for modernisation of education in the Kashmir Valley by supporting the setting up of the Islamic University of Science and Technology between 2002 to 2008. The Jammu and Kashmir Wakf Board is taking care of 2000 buildings and kiosks and runs three Nursing Colleges. Compared with the centralized revenue collecting system of Jammu and Kashmir Wakf Board, the Central Wakf Board gives more powers to Mutwalis, the traditional caretakers of the shrines to collect endowments in the form of cash and jewellery and run the affairs on their own. The Central Wakf Act calls for 7% of revenue share from these shrines. However, unlike the rest of the country, the Jammu and Kashmir Wakf Board centralizes all revenue and plans for expansion of basic infrastructure. The previous J&K board given the assets and revenue model, was able to foray into the health and education sectors.

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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The Times Of Covid-19 And Beyond

The year 2020 has passed, leaving behind many unpleasant memories and experiences for most of us to observe and experience. It taught us that to not be too ambitious about future, spend and invest in the present we are living in. It taught us to revisit our selfish exploitation of nature. 2020 would infamously be remembered for being the year in which a deadly contagious virus heralded into this world.

Crisis creates an exigency and panic among the common people, the paranoia which was inculcated among the people by most of the countries around the globe backfired enormously. In major countries the pathetic and underdeveloped health

sector got exposed, people lost jobs in millions and hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives while rowing through these trying times. In several countries a botched up and thoughtless lockdown forced people into poverty, the leaders in these countries heavily wrested their beliefs on conspiracy theories and unacceptable unscientific methods to deal with the pandemic.

Most everyone in the working class section felt the impact of this uneven situation however surprisingly we also observed a spike in the assets of the billionaires in this time frame. It won't be wrong to remark that the economic crisis of this magnitude wasn't felt ever since the times of The Great Depression of 1929. A year down the line we have a situation where millions are jobless, many local businesses have shut down completely, this however doesn't mean that this recession has impacted everyone equally. We have observed that globally several wealthiest people have profited during these times substantially. For instance, in USA 614 billionaires have grown their net worth by a whopping 931 billion\$ collectively.

When novel coronavirus had broken the back of the economy around the globe,

Coffee giant Starbucks came up with an initiative of supplying free coffee to healthcare workers. It's obviously less about the sympathy and more about the business and brand promotion. In contrast to that, if we take local businesses and small scale entrepreneurial initiatives or even the laborers into account, it will be clearly seen that they have been affected badly by the crisis. The problems for such small scale and indigenous businesses worsened further due to a botched up handling of this pandemic by their respective leaders.

We have overcome a deadly disease and its impact but the consequence of a potential political apathy still awaits us. Now, with the advent of a vaccine people are seeing a bleak hope of turning back to their normal lives. This becomes more interesting to see how countries with absolute privatized institutions are going to distribute the vaccine, even in a country like USA which is infamous for a very costly medical treatment of its citizens. We have witnessed issues of Insulin injections adorning the newspapers of the US. Similarly, poor and underdeveloped countries which remain under a strict influence of US capitalism could also

end up making things more unpleasant for their citizens if they follow a heavily privatized healthcare regime. The best way to rid this world of this deadly virus could be a government sponsored subsidy on the virus. But this becomes a challenging task for the governments which are mostly funded by high profile corporates and billionaires, the probability of reaping as much profit as possible from the paranoia, fear and exigency of the people becomes very high in such circumstances. The private companies and corporates involved in the development and distribution of this anti-virus can compel the governments to sell them at the price of their choice. This will hamper the distribution and immunization process in poor and developing countries particularly making it tough for them to bounce back to a normal life like the rest of the privileged nations of the world. The year 2020 might have ended but it's too early to celebrate given the uncertainties, influence and influx of rich capitalist billionaires in global politics.

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Old And Forlorn

Bashir Ahmad Dar

OFTEN WHILE making important family decisions you completely sideline your aged parents. They are watching you as mute spectators, while you take decisions and you don't bother to ask their view because you think that the old-age has taken a toll on their wit



YOUR PARENTS are aged. Old age has sucked all their strength out of their every single bone. You are their strength. But, your fearful sidelong look makes them old beyond their years.

Rights and duties are two inseparable entities. They go hand in hand. They are two sides of the same coin. Every person has certain duties that they are obliged to fulfill. However, for the effective fulfilment of these duties their knowledge is a prerequisite thing. It is only after one has done one's duties that one can talk about one's rights. Performing duties effectively and enjoying rights handsomely makes life beautiful. Right from the stepping out of the mother's womb into this world, a person holds certain identities. Being son/daughter, brother/sister, friend, student to name a few. The number of identities continue to surge as one grows. But every identity associates itself with some rights and duties. For instance, as a student your rights are that you get a good education, best teachers to teach you and opportunities to play in school. But it is your duty to work hard and excel in studies. You are also bound to abide by the rules and regulations of your school. Similarly, as a kid of your family, it is your right that you get a safe and secure environment at your home. You get a house to live in. You get love from your parents and siblings, and everyone else residing with you. You are not teased at and made fun of. But, at the same time you are obliged to respect your elders, listen to their advice and not mock your family members. So, basically as a son or daughter, your rights constitute the duties of your parents. Likewise, as you grow and turn to youth, you owe your parents the love, affection and care that you are get-

ting from them in your childhood. Parents top the list of blessings which God has bestowed upon the progeny of Adam (AS). They are the most selfless and altruistic creatures of Allah. It is only your parents who are most sincere to you, who love you unconditionally, who despite all worries and sorrows, not only raise you but also want to see you at the highest level of achievement. Only an orphan can tell you how it feels to be without parents. To him, the world is cruel and crazy. The world seems intimidating as hell. The world is a concoction of bitterness and indignation for him/her. So, value your parents while they are with you. Islam has made it obligatory for you to obey your parents and have mercy on them. Islam has told you to seek paradise under the feet of your mother and enter the paradise through the gate (your father). So, God has made it mandatory for us to care for our parents and respect them beyond measures. Like Islam, every other religion has laid special emphasis on to love and respect the parents. For example, both Christianity and Hinduism teaches that children should treat their parents with respect and honour. Often while making important family decisions you completely sideline your aged parents. They are watching you as mute spectators, while you take decisions and you don't bother to ask their view because you think that the old-age has taken a toll on their wit. Do you know how painful it is for them to see their exclusion from the very family matters of the same family which they had so carefully nurtured with

their sweat and blood? You play with your spouse and kids. The parents are watching and you don't have a word of love and kindness for them. You think it is fair? Your own kids are watching you. Remember, children are the best observers and imitators of things. What you do to your parents, will surely be emulated by your children. You are digging a pit for yourself. It reminds me of a very short but meaningful story. In the story, a man takes his aged father to a hilltop to kill him by pushing him down the hill. But, just when the son was about to push him, the father stopped him. Pointing to a nearby spot, he asks his son to take him there and push. On asking why the father wishes to be pushed from the spot, the old man replies that he too had pushed his father from that spot when his father was old. So, you reap what you sow. Parents have undergone a long toil and difficulties to raise you. They have not rested years together to make your future. They have ensured your good education and proper nutrition. They have had countless sleepless nights to ensure that you sleep comfortably. They have lost their youthful grace to build yours. They have cut their expenses to fulfill your desires. Now, it is your turn to show them the gratitude. Your parents are aged. Old age has sucked all their strength out of their every single bone. You are their strength. But, your fearful sidelong look makes them old beyond their years. God has commanded you to be fair to them but

you leave no stone unturned to hurt them. Believe me, you are inviting the wrath of His Holy Scheme. You have been mistreating your parents since long. Now, your presence is frightful to them. You are out and your parents are cracking jokes. You suddenly open the door and an awful stillness falls upon them. They have given words to your tongue when you were helpless in their lap and now the same tongue is silencing theirs. Aren't you ashamed? Medical concerns are common in old age. Chronic ailments attack the elderly people easily because of decreased immunity. Your parents are no exception. They need medication and care, and you deem them as parasites, sorry to be too harsh, who drain your money, time and mental peace. What if they had deemed you the same way when you were draining their money, health and time? Give it a thought. Still, your parents are not complaining about your negligence which has left them in a state of absolute pain and misery. They are a few moments away from their graves but they are still worried about your well-being and happiness. They won't curse you but the owner of heavens is all watching. Hammer of God hits late but batters surely. Please, fulfill your duties towards your parents before it is too late.

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How A Hypochondriac Survived The Pandemic

Anamika Chatterjee

My father never wore a monkey cap during winters. He did not believe in conforming to stereotypes about Bengali men. Rather he did the next best thing – he'd wrap his head with multiple layers of men's shawl while dropping me to school every morning. Seeing the bare heads of other parents, my claims of 'my daddy strongest' would often fall flat. Whenever I did request him to brave the cold and take off the shawl, he would warn, "It's better to be safe than sorry." I grew up ingraining these words in my mind. As a teen, the moment my temperature hit 100, I would ask for a Crocin in order to function normally, even if that function meant lying down and reading a book. When I'd be taken to the doctor for general check-ups, I'd ask for supplements that could keep me in the pink of health. As the doc warned against unnecessary pill-popping, I'd tell him exactly what I was told – "It's better to be safe than sorry." In my adult life, my friends finally found a nomenclature for my 'condition': hypochondria. A basic Google search will tell you that hypochondriacs are people who are excessively concerned about contracting illnesses. In my mind, nothing was excessive about my need to protect myself from a prospective illness, it was self-preservation. I even told myself that I possessed foresight my friends were not gifted with. After all, what was with this whole business of playing outdoors during rains? Or cycling when the heat was oppressive? Privilege, to me, meant every single opportunity that allowed me to read books or watch television, activities that demanded application of mind rather than body. To people like me, an outbreak marks a



TO PEOPLE LIKE ME, AN OUTBREAK MARKS A setback; an epidemic points to a calamity and a pandemic implies catastrophe. So, what does it mean for a hypochondriac to live through the pandemic? At the beginning, it was about compulsive sanitisation. I would sanitise my hands after touching a surface or collecting a food parcel

setback; an epidemic points to a calamity and a pandemic implies catastrophe. So, what does it mean for a hypochondriac to live through the pandemic? At the beginning, it was about compulsive sanitisation. I would sanitise my hands after touching a surface or collecting a food parcel. It reached a point where the skin on my palms began to scrape off, and I found myself

straight at a dermatologist's. A cough or a sniffle heard from a mile away would set the alarm bells ringing. I loaded my medicine box with Vitamin C supplements just so I'd never run out of the immunity booster. The few times I turned out to be secondary contact to someone who'd contracted Covid-19, not only did I lock myself up in the room, I would imagine something going terribly wrong with my throat – I'd spray perfume over my arms just to check if my sense of smell was still intact and would eat salty chips to check if my taste buds were working just fine. But the mind simply wouldn't stop playing games till the test result came out to be negative. The one time I needed to travel to India to attend to a medical emergency, I stood outside the Terminal 3 entrance wondering for half an hour whether I should go ahead and take the flight, after all. Psychologically, I have died several deaths before the impending end. A year into the pandemic, I am not any braver. But somewhere the gates of fear have been sealed. Covid-19 has taught an important lesson: the value of living in the present fully. It means not ruing about the past nor worrying about the future, but making the most of the present because it is the only certainty we have. My greatest joy once was travelling to India to see family and friends. That joy is now condensed to watching them talk on my laptop screen. My greatest disappointment was to see a loved one passing away. I have lived through that too virtually. With the pandemic having realised our worst fears, there is a lot less to be fearful of. And as mass vaccination programmes are being rolled out, it's hope whose time has come.

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