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Quote!
Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.
—William James

NEWS DIGEST

Heart Attack Kills CRPF Driver

SRINAGAR: A middle-aged Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel died on Friday after suffering a massive heart attack in this capital city. Around 3:20 am Friday, Head Constable Sharvan Kumar of CRPF 19th battalion suffered **More on P10**

Kashmiri Student Dies In Rawalpindi

SRINAGAR: A Kashmiri student pursuing his bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery (MBBS) died in a road accident in Rawalpindi city of Pakistan. Nasir Khuehami, spokesperson of J&K Students Association said the deceased has been identified as **More on P10**

Stray Dogs Injure 4 People In Handwara

SRINAGAR: At least four persons, two of them minors, were injured after being attacked by a pack of stray dogs in Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday. Reports said that four persons identified as Hafeza Begum, 27, wife of Ishfaq Ahmad **More on P10**

Ladakh Gets Its First Forensic Lab

JAMMU: The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the establishment of the first forensic science laboratory (FSL) in Ladakh, officials said on Friday. Forensic examinations and reports play an important role in investigations as well as trials. The forensic **More on P10**

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From Winter Capital To Political Capital—Growing Posturing In Naya Jammu

Auqib Javeed

Chaudhary Lal Singh continues to oil and twirl his “Dogra-pride” moustache even as the “king slayer” of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has been rendered nonentity post the abrogation of Article 370.

But the “shunted-out” stature doesn't make him a puny politician in the region where the calls and cries for separate Jammu are now dominating the new political discourse. Even Kashmir's grand old party lately lost its Jammu face to the same demand with a Dixon twist.

“We're demanding a separate state for Jammu as Kashmir is demanding it,” Lal Singh, founder of Dogra Swabhimman Sangathan (DSS), told Kashmir Observer, rejecting the fringe demand of “joining the idea of separate statehood for Jammu and UT within the UT in Kashmir”.

“We won't endorse the politics of hate and discrimination on the basis of religion,” Singh, known for his infamous 1947-remark as a forest minister in the PDP-BJP coalition government, said. “We will take everyone along irrespective of religion.”



As the clamor for the restoration of statehood grows in Kashmir Valley and Ladakh, a few lesser known, newly created political parties are demanding a separate statehood for Jammu.

After the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two Union territories in August 2019, the people of Jammu and Leh had welcomed the decision. But two years later, while the cold desert is changing, gulfs in Jammu are glaring.

At the same time the political activities in JK's winter capital seem to get momentum amid the speculations of Assembly elections. These heightened political activities—even drawing Kashmiri leaders to the region for rallies and meetings—are fast making Jammu a political capital of JK. “It was former chief minister

and senior Congress leader GN Azad who reignited the political activities in Jammu region,” Zafar Choudhary, a political analyst and journalist from Jammu, told Kashmir Observer.

“Before Azad, the first person who came to Jammu with large-scale political activities was Mehbooba Mufti. But since Azad started doing political rallies in the region the other political parties picked-up and started an outreach. We may call it inspired political activity since Azad's presence made it competitive.” Later, even Omar Abdullah followed the footsteps with his Chenab campaign. **More on P10**

LG Calls For Tough Measures To Stop Omicron Spread

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As the world remains engaged in battling the new variant Omicron, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday called for the need to have tough measures in place to prevent the spread of the deadly infection.

“Due to surge in cases of new variant Omicron worldwide, we need to have tough measures in place to prevent contagion. Civil & Police administration to ensure everyone follows COVID-appropriate behavior,” Sinha said in a tweet. Sinha reviewed J&K's COVID-19 situation and discussed preventive measures to be implemented against the emerging scenario.

“District Admins to carry out analysis of Covid trend in their respective districts and identify the reasons of surge to deploy effective strategies. Optimal utilization of RTPCR tests and accelerated vaccination drive is the top priority,” he said.

He also directed the health department to ensure every patient gets the benefit of



Sehat Golden Card.”

“The J&K administration's aim is to provide the best medical care to everyone without any strain on their finances. “Districts with low number of Sehat Golden cards to ensure its 100% saturation,” he added. Meanwhile, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather visited Srinagar International Airport to review Covid-19 testing and other health care facilities.

A spokesperson of the Directorate of Health Services said the Director took first hand appraisal of Covid testing for travelers and other related protocols.

He also took a review of

fresh guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in view of rise in omicron cases.

During the visit, the director along with the health officials deputized at the airport, interacted with travelers and inspected their vaccination certificates.

Mushtaq also interacted with travelers and discussed with them the arrangements like testing and other protocols at the airport. The Director appreciated the work of Covid management team of the airport.

He also visited the dispensary at the airport which is run by the health **More on P10**

Valley Shivers Under Sub-Zero Temperature

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Cold wave conditions intensified in Kashmir as the minimum temperature settled several degrees below the freezing point across the valley, officials said on Friday.

The weather office has forecast a further dip in the minimum temperature across the valley in the next few days.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, down by 1.7 degrees from the previous night's minus 2.1 degrees Celsius. This was the second coldest night of the season so far in the city which has witnessed a low of minus 3.9 degree Celsius 48 hours ago. **More on P10**

PAGD To Hold Meet In Jammu On Dec 21

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Continuing its outreach in the winter capital to garner support, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) will hold a meeting of its constituents in Jammu division next week to discuss among other issues the amalgam's fight for the restoration of erstwhile state's semi-autonomous status.

According to sources, the meeting will begin at 11:30 am on December 21 at the Bathindi residence of PAGD Chairman, Dr. Farooq Abdullah. The former J&K Chief Minister will chair the meeting in which the prevailing situation in the Union Territory will be discussed, sources said. They said that **More on P10**

Politicians Slam Changes In J&K Land Use Policy

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Several mainstream politicians, including two former chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah Friday lashed out at the Jammu and Kashmir administration for changes in the land use laws, claiming the new policy would adversely impact the people of the Union Territory.

Mehbooba Mufti, the PDP president, alleged the new laws enabling conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes reveals designs to engineer demographic change in Jammu and Kashmir.

The development agenda is a ruse. Latest regulation

doesn't even require the 15 yr domicile certificate as a prerequisite, she tweeted.

She was reacting to the government's change in land use laws that allows the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

“After depriving locals of their rightful share of govt jobs, such abrupt policy decisions that pave the way for outsiders to buy land in J&K are taken only to further disempower locals,” she said.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the changes in the land use rules would undo the major reform undertaken in the erstwhile state.

Allowing use of agricultural **More on P10**

Financial Help To Turtuk Villagers

MPs Panel Dismayed Over Non-Furnishing Of ATR

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The department-related parliamentary standing committee on Home Affairs has expressed disappointment over the fact that no reply has been furnished on the action taken for extending the relief and financial assistance to the people living in the Turtuk village under the scheme “relief and rehabilitation for migrants and repatriates”.

Pakistan till 1971.

In its report, the committee has expressed disappointment over the fact that no reply has been furnished on the action taken for extending the relief and financial assistance to the people living in the Turtuk village under the scheme “relief and rehabilitation for migrants and repatriates”.

In its earlier report, the committee **More on P10**

JKPCL To Buy 200 MW Solar Power To Overcome Shortage

Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&K government on Friday approved purchase of 200 MW solar power through the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to meet the growing power demand and promote the use of green and clean energy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision in this regard was taken in the Administrative Council (AC) meeting chaired by J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here on Friday, an official spokesperson said. LG's Advisors Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Principal Secretary to the LG Nitishwar Kumar, attended the meeting.

According to the official spokesperson, the decision will allow the purchase of renewable energy at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.52 per kWh for the next 25 years, which is by far the lowest rate ever offered to J&K.

Accordingly, he said, the Power Department was also given financial approval for Rs. 110.37 crores per annum for purchasing the electricity from the Solar Energy Corporation of India.

As per the official spokesperson, the envisaged purchase of additional power will help JKPCL to partially meet the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) as fixed by the Ministry of Power Government of India, besides ensuring **More on P10**

3.1% Women In J&K Highly Diabetic: NFHS Survey

Blood Sugar Level Found 'Very High' In Urban Areas Than Rural

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As the adverse condition of health and nutrition in J&K continues to haunt people, the erstwhile state has yet again hit a major demographic milestone as 8.3 percent of population is found to be diabetic with more women suffering from “very high” blood sugar level than men.

These figures were placed according to the findings of phase two of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

The Government of India on November 24 released the



factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India including J&K, clubbed under phase two of the 2019-21 NFHS-5.

File Photo

states in India. As per NFHS, 3.1 percent of women are suffering with “Very High” blood sugar level than men whose percentage was found to be 2.7 percent.

Several of J&K's nutritional indicators have worsened since the fourth round of the NFHS, which was held in 2015-16. But, in terms of diabetes, the erstwhile state has hit a worrying milestone as the percentage of people suffering from different types of diabetes is rapidly growing, as per NFHS.

Another report has also flagged the rising cases of diabetes in the valley. The report by the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar's Department of Community Medicine suggests that one

out of every ten residents of Srinagar aged over 20 years has diabetes. The study also projects that 22 percent of the Srinagar population suffers from impaired fasting glucose.

Several other independent studies conducted in J&K have also revealed that most of the patients are affected by Diabetes Mellitus Type-2, which is slowly making its inroads in small towns and rural areas and possibly linked with the changing dietary pattern among the major chunk of population in the past two decades.

As per the NFHS, the diabetic patients who are suffering from high or very high blood sugar levels in J&K were found to be more in urban **More on P10**

از نیات واکو کمال پورہ با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی مجسٹریٹ دیو جاول
عنوان: مضمون درخواست منجانب: عبدالحمید خان ولد عبدالغفار خان ساکنہ موضع محمود پورہ تحصیل کنڈر نسبت: لیگل ہیئر سرفکیٹ بین خود برادر (Transfer of Pony License)

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذرائع زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات درکار طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ کا والد عبدالغفار خان ولد سلطان خان مورخہ 2019-01-13 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے کہ نسبت بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

عطاء اللہ خان ولد عبدالغفار	مزدوری	60 سال
عبدالحمید خان ولد عبدالغفار	مزدوری	52 سال
مسما نرینہ دختر	گھریلو کام	45 سال
گلدیہ دختر	گھریلو کام	38 سال
مسما نرینہ دختر	گھریلو کام	32 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے سرفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار دگرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار واکو **msk-r**

از نیات ساگام با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی مجسٹریٹ دیو جاول ساگام
درخواست منجانب: جمید کاس ولد سلیمان کاس ساکنہ چولگام (شانارز) بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ دفتر بذرائع پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کہ نسبت بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	جمید ولد سلیمان کاس	82 سال	عمر سیدہ	
2	ارشا احمد ولد جمید کاس	50 سال	مزدوری	6000/=
3	معروفہ دختر ارشا احمد	48 سال	گھریلو کام	
4	مینا زہرہ دختر ارشا احمد	17 سال	گھریلو کام	

اس طور پر سائل کا کہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار دگرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار۔ **RMA**

از نیات ساگام با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی مجسٹریٹ دیو جاول ساگام
درخواست منجانب: محمد شرف کوثر چچی وراشیدہ اختر ساکنان ساگام اندرون بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ دفتر بذرائع پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کہ نسبت بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد شرف ولد عبدالعزیز کوثر چچی	40 سال	مزدوری	
2	عارفہ دختر محمد شرف کوثر چچی	38 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	راشیدہ اختر دختر محمد شرف	18 سال		
4	بالا احمد ولد محمد شرف	15 سال		
5	طارق احمد ولد محمد شرف	09 سال		

اس طور پر سائل کا کہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار دگرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار۔ **RNA**

PUBLIC NOTICE

We have applied for the registration of business unit under name & style "Hike The Trails Adventure Pvt Ltd". If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of Dy Dir Tourism Srinagar within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Danish Showkat (Director)
Amir Lateef (Director)
Waseem Hasaan (Director)
Cell: 7006061001

I KO_R

NAME CORRECTION

This is for the information to the general public that I, Gulam Rasool bearing passport no K0676204 intend to correct the name of my wife which is mentioned as Haseena while as her actual and correct name is Haleema. This needs to be corrected. In this regard if anybody have any objection he/she may file the same with Passport Officer Srinagar within 7 days. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

Public Notice

I have lost Sale Letter, Invoice Bill, Form 22 & Tern. Certificate of my Tractor (Swaraj) bearing Ch. No: MBNBF 52ACLD 9385 Engine No: 4750025BDD06935. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Farooq Ahmad Mir
S/o Gh. Nabi Mir R/O Achabal
(C/O Shakeel Achabal) **RNA**

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انتقال پرملاں

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ دی محمد حکیم ساکنہ چکواکنڈ قاضی گنڈ طویل علالت کے بعد بروز جمعہ 17 دسمبر 2021ء کو صبح 9 بجے اس دارفانی سے رخصت ہو گئے (اٹا لله وانا الیہ راجعون)۔ مرحوم نیک سیرت اور صومو و صلوٰۃ کے پابند انسان تھے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا گو ہیں کہ مرحوم کو جوار رحمت میں جگہ عنایت فرمائے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتح خوانی سوموار یعنی 20 دسمبر 2021 کو ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع چکواکنڈ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران:
محمد عارف حکیم..... (فرزند)

9149683528, 9596464674

از نیات ساگام با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی مجسٹریٹ دیو جاول ساگام
درخواست منجانب: عبدالقیوم ولد میاں کاس ساکنہ چولگام (شانارز) بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ دفتر بذرائع پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کہ نسبت بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	عیان ولد جمعد علی کاس	70 سال	عمر سیدہ	
2	عبدالقیوم ولد میاں کاس	45 سال	مزدوری	6000/=
3	نذیرہ زوجہ عبدالقیوم	40 سال	گھریلو کام	

اس طور پر سائل کا کہ 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار دگرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار۔ **RNA**

از نیات ساگام با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی مجسٹریٹ دیو جاول ساگام
درخواست منجانب: خالدہ رشیدہ و عاصف علی اولاد عبدالرشید کیگی بکروال ساکنہ چولگام تحصیل کوکر ناگ و ضلع ہشت ناگ بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفکیٹ دفتر بذرائع پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنان کا کہ نسبت بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	عبدالرشید کیگی بکروال ولد محمد اسحاق	49 سال	ملازم	LPC
2	بی بی زہرون زوجہ عبدالرشید کیگی	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	خالدہ رشیدہ دختر عبدالرشید کیگی	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	عاصف علی ولد عبدالرشید کیگی	10 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار دگرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار۔ **RNA**

7 In 10 Parents Confess Their Phone Use Hurting Relations With Kids

AGENCIES

At least 69 per cent of parents believe that they lose track of their children, surroundings when they are immersed in their smartphones and 74 per cent admit to getting irritated when their children ask them something, said a report.

A new report titled 'Smartphones and Human Relationships' by the smartphone brand Vivo in association with Cybermedia Research (CMR) showcases the impact of smartphones on users and its effect on their relationships. "The most difficult thing in any behaviour change that we need is to take that first step," addressing the excessive use of smartphones, Yogendra Sriramula, DGM, Brand Strategy, Vivo India, told IANS. "Our job here through this survey and the rest of the campaign is to bring that knowledge from the subconscious mind to the conscious mind," Sriramula added. The report underlines that the average daily time spent on smartphones remains at alarming levels in the post-Covid era as there has been a 32 per cent increase in the



time spent on smartphones from the pre-Covid period. Interestingly, the report also highlighted that while the time that is spent with kids and family, in general, has gone up, the quality of time spent has deteriorated. At least 80 per cent of smartphone users are on their phones even when they are spending time with their kids and 75 per cent admit to having been distracted by their smartphones and not being attentive to kids even while with them. While 85 per cent of parents feel that their children find it difficult to mix with other kids in a social

setting and the overall outdoor experience to be daunting, 90 per cent of parents said that their children are sometimes found to be lacking in acceptable moral and social behaviour. The overall dependency on phones has increased. People use their phones while eating food (70 per cent), in the living room (72 per cent) and even while sitting with family (75 per cent), said the survey that covered 1100 consumers, across age groups and demographics, in the top 8 Indian cities, including, New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata.

Study Finds 1500 Endangered Languages At High Risk Of Being Lost This Century

Agencies

A study has found that 1,500 endangered languages could no longer be spoken by the end of this century. The research has been published in the 'Nature Ecology and Evolution Journal'. The study, led by The Australian National University (ANU), identified predictors that put endangered languages at high risk. Co-author Professor Lindell Bromham said that of the world's 7,000 recognised languages, around half were currently endangered. "We found that without immediate intervention, language loss could triple in the next 40 years. And by the end of this century, 1,500 languages could cease to be spoken," she said. Their study charted the widest range of factors ever putting endangered languages under pressure. One finding was that more years of schooling increased the level of language endangerment. The researchers said that it showed that we need to build curricular that supported bilingual education, fostering both indigenous language proficiency as well as the use of regionally-dominant languages. "Across the 51 factors or predictors we investigated, we also found some really unexpected and surprising pressure points. This included road density," Professor Bromham said. "Contact with other local languages is not the problem - in fact, languages in contact with many other Indigenous languages tend to be less endangered," she added. "But we found that the more roads there are, connecting country to

city, and villages to towns, the higher the risk of languages being endangered. It's as if roads are helping dominant languages 'steam roll' over other smaller languages," she explained. The researchers said that the findings also have important lessons for preserving many of the endangered languages spoken by Australia's First Nations peoples. "Australia has the dubious distinction of having one of the highest rates of language loss worldwide,"



Professor Felicity Meakins, from the University of Queensland and one of the study's co-authors, said. "Prior to colonisation, more than 250 First Nations languages were spoken, and multilingualism was the norm. Now, only 40 languages are still spoken and just 12 are being learnt by children," Meakins explained. "First Nations languages need funding and support. Australia only spends \$20.89 annually per capita of the Indigenous population on languages, which is abysmal compared with Canada's Dollar 69.30 and New Zealand's Dollar 296.44," Meakins explained. Professor Bromham said that as the world enters the UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages in 2022, the study's findings would be a vital reminder that more action was urgently needed to preserve at-risk languages. "When a language is lost or is 'sleeping' as we say for languages that are no longer spoken, we lose so much of our human cultural diversity. Every language is brilliant in its own way," she said. "Many of the languages predicted to be lost this century still have fluent speakers, so there is still the chance to invest in supporting communities to revitalise indigenous languages and keep them strong for future generations," she concluded.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
JK SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION COUNCIL
Department of Science & Technology
SDA Colony, Bemina Srinagar /5-B/C Gandhi Nagar Jammu
Website: www.jkstic89.co.in E-mail: ikstic89@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE
AWARD OF SCIENCE TALENT PROMOTION SCHOLARSHIP OF JKST&IC

Online Applications, as per format are invited from the students of UT of JK, who are pursuing science subjects at 11th, BSc(1st Year) and PG(1st Year) in Government recognized institutions of UT of JK. Scholarship shall be awarded to the students on the basis of merit obtained in class 10th, class 12th and BSc and shall be awarded as per the availability of slots during the year 2021-22.

Eligibility
All the Student who have secured 60 % of marks or above in class 10th for + 10 level, class 12th for +2 level, and B.Sc for PG level and are currently pursuing science subjects at class 11th, BSc 1st year and PG 1st year. The students must be on the active rolls of school/college/university during the year 2021.

Mode of applying
Eligible student can apply through an open link available at our website http://www.jk-stic89.co.in/Notice.aspx through which ONLINE auto generated applications shall be received by JK Science, Technology and Innovation Council. The link shall be open from 1 8th December 2021 to 8,h of January 2022 till 5:30 pm .

For further information, please feel free to contact on the following Mobile Nos.
94191-34530 - For Jammu Division .Timing (3:00 pm to 5:00 pm)
7006959315 - For Kashmir Division. Timing (3:00 pm to 5:00 pm)

(Dr Nasir Shah)
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR
J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council
Department of Science & Technology
J&K Govt

DIPK-15117/21

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)
Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject :- Compulsory Service Bonds from the candidates selected for the MBBS, BDS & various PG Courses under Reservation Quota from the UT of Ladakh.

Reference:- i) Letter No. M-17030/7/2021/1729-1735 dated 23-08-2021.
ii) Letter No. M-17030/7/2021/2641-46 dated 09-11-2021

Notice No:- 084- BOPEE of 2021
Dated:- 16 -12-2021

The administration of the UT of Ladakh vide Notification issued vide No. M-17030/7/2021/1729-1735 dated 23-08-2021, has decided to implement Compulsory Government Service Policy for MBBS / BDS / Post Graduate Courses (MD/MS/PGD/MDS) so that such candidate(s) who obtain admission in various Medical / Dental Colleges / Institute both in Clinical & Non-Clinical subjects shall have to execute a compulsory Service Bond to the effect that they shall serve in the UT of Ladakh for a prescribed period immediately after the completion of the course, if the Administration requires so.

In view of above, it is hereby notified for information of all eligible candidates of UT of Ladakh to prepare the Compulsory Service Bonds on the prescribed format which is annexed as **Annexure-I** for PG / DNB / Diploma Courses and **Annexure-II** for UG Medical Courses, which are available on website of Board only along with notification issued by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh, Department of Health and Medical Education dated **23-08-2021**.

E & O.E.
DIPK-NB-5946/21

Sd/-
(Dr. Sunil Gupta),
Controller of Examinations,
J&K BOPEE

No.:- BOPEE/Exam-23/2021 Dated:- 16 -12-2021

19 Weeks On, No Friday Prayers In Jamia Masjid

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar:- Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar expressed deep regret over the continuous closure of the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar, the spiritual centre and the largest place of worship of Jammu and Kashmir, for the 19th consecutive Friday.

Condemning this oppressive move, the Anjuman Auqaf in a statement issued, said that like previous Fridays, the authorities and police once again today morning stopped the Auqaf employees from opening the doors of the grand mosque.

“As a result, the people having come from parts of the city as well as remote areas were deprived of praying Friday prayers at the Jama Masjid, thereby preventing them from performing their religious obligations and hurting their religious sentiments.”

The Anjuman has also expressed strong resentment against the continuous incarceration of its head Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq who continues to be under house arrest since 5 August 2021, saying it is extremely unfortunate for all sections of people that their topmost religious leader is being forcibly detained and disallowed from delivering majlis e waz on Fridays at Jamia mosque.

Elderly Woman’s Murder Puts Consultancy Under Lens

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: A day after an elderly woman’s murder by her domestic help triggered shock waves in Srinagar, the Jammu and Kashmir police said on Friday that the role of consultancies in providing domestic helpers without following norms were being looked into and accordingly legal action will follow.

A sensational murder of octogenarian woman for cash and jewellery left Bhagwanpora locality of Lal Bazar in shock on Thursday.

85-year-old Mala Puffi, 85, wife of late Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh of Behrar, Bagwanpora was found dead at her home on Thursday with serious injury marks on her neck and head.

The family’s domestic help Omprakash Sah, 21, son of Gopal Sah of village Tatuli Gormadn in Uttarakhand emerged as the main suspect as he was nowhere to be found when the elderly woman was spotted lifeless by her family.

The accused, however, was arrested on the way to Jammu, five hours after committing the crime. The looted cash and jewellery was also recovered



85-year-old Mala Puffi, 85, wife of late Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh of Behrar, Bagwanpora was found dead at her home on Thursday with serious injury marks on her neck and head.

from his possession.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Station House Officer (SHO) Lal Bazar Samir Jamid said that primary investigation has revealed that the intention behind the crime was the robbing of jewellery, which the lady was donning at the time of incident.

“Since she was alone at home, the accused took advantage of it and killed her,” he said.

He further added that the accused had tried “all possible means” to kill her and they have started an investigation into how the accused actually did it. The officer further added

that the family had hired the helper from a local private agency some days ago on a yearly contract.

The officer maintained that the tragic murder could have been averted if the domestic help would have been verified with the help of police. He urged people to get their tenants and domestic helpers verified from their concerned police stations.

According to the police, the accused has confessed to committing the crime.

A Police statement said that the further revelation and role of consultancy agencies while providing these domestic helpers without following norms are being looked into and accordingly legal action will follow.

“The investigation of the case has been taken up, and the case has been solved within one hour of reportage of the incident,” a police spokesperson said.

The operation to nab the culprit was supervised by SP Hazratbal Irshad Hussain Rather and SDPO Zadibal Shafat Ahmed and was investigated by SHO Lalbazar Samir Jamid.

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
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
13 Jumada al-awwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 01
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	3:47
Magrib	5:28
ISHA	6: 53

This Day In History

- 1941 - Dutch & Australian troops lands on Portuguese Timor.
- 1941 - World War II: Beginning of the Siege of Sebastopol.
- 1942 - Allies in London sentence German war criminals.
- 1944 - US Army announces end of excluding Japanese-Americans from West Coast, detainees released.
- 1944 - US destroyers sink in storm off Philippines, 790 killed.
- 1949 - Burma recognizes People's Republic of China.
- 1953 - US Federal Communications Commission approves RCA's black & white-compatible color TV specifications.
- 1954 - 1st fully automated railroad freight yard (Gary, Indiana).
- 1957 - US successfully test-fires Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile.
- 1961 - India seizes Goa & 2 other Portuguese colonies.
- 1963 - West & East Berlin sign accord about travel rules.
- 1965 - British government proclaims ends oil-embargo against Rhodesia.
- 1965 - Largest newspaper-Sunday NY Times at 946 pages (50 cents).
- 1971 - Cease fire between India & Pakistan in Kashmir.
- 1978 - OPEC raises oil prices by 18% and agrees on a 14.5% petroleum price increase for 1979, to be implemented quarterly.
- 1980 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1999 - The United Nations General Assembly passes resolution 54/134 designating November 25 as the annual International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women.
- 2002 - Second Congo War: The Congolese parties of the Inter Congolese Dialogue sign a peace accord which makes provision for transitional governance and legislative and presidential elections within two years.
- 2007 - Republic of Lakotah asserts independence from the United States.
- 2012 - Jiroemon Kimura of Japan becomes the world's oldest verified man at 116 years old.
- 2012 - 17 people are killed and 70 are injured by a blast in a market in the Khyber Agency, Pakistan.
- 2012 - NASA completes a successful mission to map the Moon's gravity field.
- 2013 - Angela Merkel is elected Chancellor of Germany for a third term.
- 2015 - Libyan warring political factions sign a UN-brokered deal to form a unified government.

From KO Archives

Decision on APHC's Pak visit soon: Advani

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Government would soon decide on the issue of allowing Hurriyat Conference leaders to travel Pakistan for parleys in connection with the peace process in Kashmir valley, home minister L.K.Advani said here today.

Zaldi Nirnay Hojaega (decision will be taken soon), Advani told Zee news in an interview when asked about the possibility of Hurriyat leaders visit to Pakistan.

The home minister asserted that while government was not averse to holding talks with Hurriyat, it would also hold dialogues with those forces like National Conference, BJP, Congress and leftists who are fighting the cross-border terrorism. At times, Hurriyat tries to give an impression that it is the lone representative of the people of Jammu and Kashmir This is not true, Advani said.

On the cease-fire, Advani lamented that the term was being often used loosely. I will repeat what prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has already said that our jawans will not open fire first. But if the militants are taking shelter in some hideouts and planning some as-saults, they (jawans) should go and do their job, he said.

Humne Koi Banduke Rukh Nahi Di (it is not that we have put down our arms,) the home minister added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today blamed 'certain elements' to Pakistan for the attack inside Red Fort last week but asserted that the current cease-fire in Jammu and Kashmir would go on unaffected

Certain elements in Pakistan might be behind the attack, Vajpayee, who arrived here on his way to nearby Kumarakom for a week-long holiday, said when asked whether Islamabad was behind the last week's attack.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 18 DECEMBER, 2000)

Public Notice

For the purpose of passport renewal,I want to correct my name in my passport bearing No J7215915 from sheikh Moheed. Bin Muzaffar to Moheed Bin Muzaffar as per my 10th class certificate/Aadhar Card .Anybody having any objection may contact regional passport office srinagar within a week at most

Moheed Bin Muzaffar
S/O Sheikh Muzaffar
R/O 63 New Colony Nigeen
near masjid Medina Srinagar
j&k 190006

inf

Public Notice

I have lost my driving licence bearing dl no: Jk1320010016950 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Pulwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Manzoor Ahmad Dugga
S/o Abdul Khaliq Dugga
R/o nai basti Anantnag

RNA

J&K State Disaster Management Authority

Safety Tips for Cold Wave



- ❖ Wear several layers of lightweight and warm clothes; rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water-repellent. Cover your head, as most body heat is lost through the top of the head and cover your mouth to protect your lungs.

- ❖ Keep dry. Stay indoors as much as possible

- ❖ Maintain proper ventilation when using kerosene, heater or coal oven to avoid toxic fumes.

- ❖ Eat healthy food to supply heat to the body and keep yourself well hydrated.

- ❖ In case of non availability of heating arrangement, go to public places where heating arrangements are made by administration.

- ❖ Listen to local Radio/ Follow Weather/Disaster Management Department Social Media for weather updates.

- ❖ Watch for signs of frostbite: loss of feeling and white or pale appearance on fingers, toes, ear lobes and the tip of the nose.

- ❖ Watch for signs of hypothermia (subnormal body temperature): uncontrolled shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion.

DIPK-15161/21

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject :- Provisional Rank of Sports Category candidates in NEET PG 2021.

- Reference:- (i) Notification No. 113-BOPEE of 2021 dated 20-10-2021.
(ii) Letter No.SC/491-NEET-PG/1149 dated 30-11-2021 and No. SC/491-NEET-PG /1719 dated 10-12-2021, from Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

**Notification No. 148-BOPEE of 2021
Dated: 16 -12-2021**

It is hereby notified for the information of all the candidates, who have appeared in NEET PG, 2021 and whose result has been declared by the Board vide Notification No. 113-BOPEE of 2021 dated 20-10-2021 that the J&K Sports Council has provided the list of candidates to whom the Sports points have been awarded vide Letter No.SC/491-NEET-PG/1149 dated 30-11-2021 and No. SC/491-NEET-PG /1719 dated 10-12-2021, from Secretary, J&K Sports Council. The Board has accordingly prepared a provisional list of the Sports Category eligible candidates on the basis of Sports Rank in accordance with the rules, which is annexed as Annexure 'A' to this Notification and the same is available on the BOPEE website www.jkbopee.gov.in only.

Further, any candidate desirous of making representation(s) against the rank assigned to him/her or to other candidates, may do so in the BOPEE office at Jammu/Srinagar upto 22-12-2021 (3.00 p.m.) physically along with documentary evidence in support of his/her claim.

Note:-

- Sports ranking is only for determining the eligibility under the Sports category and not for determination of merit of the candidate.
- As provided under Section 19 of J&K Reservation Act, 2004, the candidate(s) having two reserved categories shall have to apply under only one category.

E & O E.

DIPK-NB-5948/21

No. BOPEE/Exam-23/2021

Sd/-
(Dr. Sunil Gupta),
Controller of Examinations,
J&K BOPEE
Dated: 16 -12-2021



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'Weeks' Left To Salvage Iran Nuclear Deal As Vienna Talks Pause

Jamie Prentis

The co-ordinator of talks in Vienna that aim to resurrect the 2015 nuclear deal that Iran signed with world powers has said officials have only weeks left to find an agreement as the seventh round of negotiations concluded. Senior EU official Enrique Mora said he hoped the talks would resume by the end of the year, but said a "very complex" task lay ahead. Iran's nuclear envoy Ali Bagheri Kani said "good progress" was made this week in Vienna and added that there would be

decisions have to be taken." Gaps remain in Vienna nonetheless, and Britain, France and Germany this week warned Iran that time is running out. The 2015 deal Iran signed with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as well as Germany and the EU offered Tehran sanctions relief in return for limits on its nuclear programme. But since US president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed heavy sanctions on Iran, the country has repeatedly breached the terms of the deal. The seventh round of negotiations began late last month



a break of a few days.

China's representative said the talks will "resume hopefully before the end of the year", while Russia's top official in Vienna said they would recommence soon. "We don't have months, we rather have weeks to have an agreement," Mr Mora said. "There is a sense of urgency that is absolutely important if we want to really have success in these negotiations." He added: "For the eighth round, we have a lot of work ahead, a very complex task, I have to say. Difficult political

after a hiatus since June when presidential elections in Iran brought hardliner Ebrahim Raisi to power. He appointed Mr Kani as the new head of the Iranian delegation in Vienna. European negotiators this week expressed their frustration at the Iranian delegation's behaviour, accusing them of introducing a new series of demands in return for compliance with the accord. US diplomats have been involved indirectly in Vienna, with Mr Trump's successor, US President Joe Biden, saying he wants a return to the deal.

UN Says Hunger On The Rise In The Arab World



Agencies

A third of people in the 420-million-strong Arab world do not have enough to eat, the United Nations said on Thursday, highlighting that 69 million suffered from malnutrition last year. In a report, the world body's Food and Agriculture Organization said that between 2019 and 2020, the number of malnourished in the Arab world rose by 4.8 million people to 69 million, nearly 16% of the population. "The increase in the levels of undernourishment has occurred across all income levels, in conflict-affected as well as non-conflict countries," the FAO said. "In addition, nearly 141 million people did not have access to adequate food in 2020 -- an increase of more than 10 million people since 2019." It said the Covid-19 pandemic

"brought another major shock", with the number of undernourished people in the region increasing by 4.8 million compared with 2019. Conflict-hit Somalia and Yemen remained the worst-affected countries last year, with nearly 60% of Somalis going hungry and more than 45% of Yemenis undernourished. "Yemen had the highest prevalence of anaemia in 2020, affecting 61.5% of women of reproductive age," it said. The FAO said hunger has increased by 91.1% in the Arab world over the past two decades. "Rates of stunting (20.5%) and overweight (10.7%) among children under five years of age were high in 2020," the FAO noted. It said adult obesity, especially in the richer Arab states, was also on the rise.



67 FOCUSED ON GLOBAL ACCESS to diagnostics, genome sequencing, vaccines to combat Omicron spread

Omicron "Biggest Current Threat" To World Health, Says G7

Agence France-Presse

LONDON: The G7 on Thursday called the Omicron variant the "biggest current threat to global public health", saying its emergence meant it was "more important than ever" for countries to "closely cooperate". "Deeply concerned by the rise in cases, ministers agreed that these developments should be seen as the biggest current threat to global public health," Britain, which is currently chair of the group, said in a statement.

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the rise in cases, ministers agreed that these developments should be seen as the biggest current threat to global public health,"

"It is more important than ever to closely cooperate, and monitor as well as share data," it added. The G7 health ministers ear-

lier held their final meeting hosted by Britain, which has seen spiralling case rates over recent days, registering record numbers on Thursday. The ministers focussed on global access to diagnostics, genome sequencing, vaccines and therapeutics in a bid to combat its spread. "They also agreed on the increasing importance of booster campaigns and regular testing alongside continued non-pharmaceutical measures," the statement said.

"Winter Of Death" For Unvaccinated, Warns Biden As Omicron Spreads

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden warned Thursday of a "winter of severe illness and death" for those unvaccinated against Covid-19, as the G7 called the Omicron variant the biggest threat to global public health. The stark words came as Britain saw more than 88,000 Covid-19 infections, a second consecutive record daily number, prompting France to impose "drastic" new limits on travel to the UK. Scientists remain uncertain how dangerous the highly mutated Omicron variant is, but early data suggests it can be more resistant to vaccines and is more transmissible than the Delta variant. The World Health Organization said earlier this week that the strain has been reported in 77 countries and has "probably" spread to most nations undetected at a higher rate than any previous variant of the virus. Countries worldwide have begun advising against foreign travel while ramping up domestic restrictions to battle Omicron and bolstering vaccination efforts. The G7 on Thursday called the variant the "biggest current



threat to global public health", saying its emergence meant it was "more important than ever" for countries to closely cooperate and share data. In a meeting hosted by group chair Britain, the countries' health ministers emphasized the "increasing importance of booster campaigns and regular testing", according to a statement. Biden's warning about the winter came as he urged Americans who have already had two shots to get boosters, and vaccine sceptics to step up and get jabbed. "The only real protection is to get your shot," he said, with the White House saying the administration did not intend to take specific restrictive measures but would instead focus on vaccination.

THE ONLY REAL PROTECTION IS TO GET YOUR SHOT," HE said, with the White House saying the administration did not intend to take specific restrictive measures but would instead focus on vaccination.

Top Pak Taliban Commander Escapes Suspected Drone Strike: Report

Agence France-Presse

PESHAWAR: A top leader of the Pakistan Taliban escaped unhurt from a suspected drone strike on a safe house in eastern Afghanistan, the terrorist group said Friday. The strike on Thursday evening came a week after a ceasefire between the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the government collapsed, with terrorists accusing Islamabad of killing its fighters. The TTP -- a separate movement but sharing common roots with Afghanistan's new leaders -- plunged Pakistan into a

period of horrific violence after forming in 2007. Two TTP sources currently in Afghanistan told news agency AFP that Maulvi Faqir Mohammad was the target of what they described as a drone strike on a compound in Chawgam village, in the eastern province of Kunar bordering Pakistan. "Maulvi Faqir Mohammad was not present at the time... two fighters of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan were wound-



ed," one source said. The compound was being used as a base by TTP fighters from Pakistan crossing the porous border with Afghanistan, he said. Mohammad was arrested by the previous US-backed Kabul government and spent years in Afghanistan's notorious Bagram prison, but was released after the Taliban's lightning takeover of the country in August. It was not clear who was responsible for Thursday's attack, but both Pakistan and the United States have previously used unmanned aerial vehicles to conduct assassinations in the region.

Bilal Karimi, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban, told AFP from Kabul that the strike was an explosive fired from the ground. The TTP emerged 14 years ago and have been blamed for around 70,000 killings by successive Pakistani governments. Thursday marked the seventh anniversary of the TTP massacre of nearly 150 schoolchildren in Peshawar, an atrocity that remains seared on Pakistan's national consciousness

Can Your Pet Get Covid-19? Here Is What Experts Have To Say



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW YORK: Yes, pets and other animals can get the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, but health officials say the risk of them spreading it to people is low. Dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, otters, hyenas and white-tailed deer are among the animals that have tested positive, in most cases after contracting it from infected people. While you don't have to worry much about getting COVID-19 from your pets, they should worry about getting it from you. People with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should avoid contact with pets, farm animals and wildlife, as well as with other people, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "If you wouldn't go near another person because you're sick or you might be exposed, don't go near another animal," says Dr. Scott Weese on Ontario

Veterinary College. Not all infected pets get sick and serious illness is extremely rare. Pets that show symptoms typically get mildly ill, the CDC says. Some zoos in the U.S. and elsewhere have vaccinated big cats, primates and other animals that are thought to be at risk of getting the virus through contact with people. This particular coronavirus most likely jumped from animals to humans in the first place, sparking a pandemic because the virus spreads so easily between people. But it does not easily spread from animals to people. Minks are the only known animals to have caught the virus from people and spread it back, according to Weese. Three countries in northern Europe recorded cases of the virus spreading from people to mink on mink farms.

NEWS MAKERS

An Uncrowned King: Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohammed Takes The Reins

Agencies

From greeting foreign leaders to heading regional summits, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is taking over the reins from his elderly father and becoming Saudi Arabia's uncrowned king. With increased concerns over the nearly 86-year-old King Salman's health, Prince Mohammed, 36, is taking charge of presidential meetings and reception of dignitaries, with the king rarely making public appearances. While Prince Mohammed has been considered the de facto leader since his appointment as heir to the throne in June 2017, his growing prominence has never been more apparent than when he met with French President Emmanuel Macron in early December, and led the Gulf Cooperation Council summit on Tuesday. King Salman, who usually heads the annual meeting after warm embraces and friendly handshakes,



was a no-show. "The idea that a crown prince is the de facto ruler of the country, meeting with foreign presidents and presiding over summits, only happened before when Saudi kings were not in good health," Yasmine Farouk, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told AFP. "What's new is that there is now national and media acceptance of a

parallel, even more important, role for the crown prince even when King Salman fulfils all his duties." Since the outbreak of Covid-19, King Salman has been residing in Neom, a futuristic development on the Red Sea. His last meeting with a foreign official in Riyadh was in March 2020, when he sat down with then-UK foreign minister Dominic Raab, and his last trip abroad was to Oman to

offer his condolences over the death of Sultan Qaboos in January 2020. Royal cover Prince Mohammed has sought to position himself as a champion of moderate Islam, even as his international reputation took a hit from the 2018 murder and dismemberment of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate. The crown prince, also known as MBS, has opened Saudi Arabia to tourists and foreign investments in an effort to diversify the economy of the world's largest oil exporter economy away from crude. He has overseen sweeping social changes, including allowing women to drive and work in the public sector, enabling citizens to enjoy the additional income and recreational outlets that opened up across the country. These changes have come alongside a crackdown on dissent and free speech.

Boeing Wants To Build Its Next Plane In Virtual World. How Will It Work?

Agencies

SEATTLE/PARIS: In Boeing Co's factory of the future, immersive 3-D engineering designs will be twinned with robots that speak to each other, while mechanics around the world will be linked by \$3,500 HoloLens headsets made by Microsoft Corp. It is a snapshot of an ambitious new Boeing strategy to unify sprawling design, production and airline services operations under a single digital ecosystem - in as little as two years. Critics say Boeing has repeatedly made similar bold pledges on a digital revolution, with mixed results. But insiders say the overarching goals of improving quality and safety have taken on greater urgency and significance as the company tackles multiple threats. The planemaker is entering 2022 fighting to reassert its engineering



dominance after the 737 MAX crisis, while laying the foundation for a future aircraft program over the next decade - a \$15 billion gamble. It also aims to prevent future manufacturing problems like the structural flaws that have waylaid its 787 Dreamliner over the past year. "It's about strengthening engineering," Boeing's chief engineer, Greg Hyslop, told Reuters in his first interview in nearly two years. "We are talking about changing the way we work across the entire company." After years of wild market competition, the need to deliver on bulging

order books has opened up a new front in Boeing's war with Europe's Airbus, this time on the factory floor. Airbus Chief Executive Guillaume Faury, a former automobile research boss, has pledged to "invent new production systems and leverage the power of data" to optimize its industrial system. Boeing's approach so far has been marked by incremental advances within specific jet programs or tooling, rather than the systemic overhaul that characterizes Hyslop's push today. The simultaneous push by both plane giants is emblematic of a digital revolution happening globally, as automakers like Ford Motor Co and social media companies like Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc shift work and play into an immersive virtual world sometimes called the metaverse.

'THE Awards Asia 2021'

KIIT Wins Award In 'Leadership And Management Team Of The Year' Category

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar has been awarded 'THE Awards Asia' Leadership and Management Team of the Year for its phenomenal pandemic response and relief work.

The award was announced by the Times Higher Education (THE) on 14th December 2021. KIIT is the only University from India and also the only university in Asia to get this award in one of the categories, for the second year in a row. KIIT has been declared the winner in the category 'Leadership and Management Team of the Year', while it was declared winner in the category 'Workplace of the Year' last year.

KIIT got this recognition for its readiness to react to uncertainties, reach the unreachable, and endeavor to serve society. This includes

setting up free Covid hospitals, distributing masks and sanitizers, food and essentials, scholarships, adopting orphans, and leveraging community education.

Staff and faculty members gave all the credits to its Founder, Dr. Achyuta Samanta for the achievement.

Expressing his happiness, Dr. Samanta said, this is an award for each and every staff and student of KIIT and KISS who constitute a prompt team and never delay to give back to the society based on its ethos of humanitarianism and compassion. It is a matter of pride for Odisha as KIIT is the only University in India as well as in Asia to get such a prestigious award.

The Times Higher Education judging panel evaluated the work of KIIT during the Covid pandemic situation and also gave importance to the growth and development of KIIT which has been acclaimed across the globe, leading to its selection for the award.

Teenager Killed In Ramban Road Accident

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A teenager from Bhaderwah area of Jammu's Doda district died while two others sustained injuries after the car they were on board overturned at Bhagu Nala Batote in Ramban district, police said on Friday.

As per a police official from Police Station Batote, the accident took place near Gurudwara Bhagu Nala Batote at about

07:30 hrs this morning when the car (JK06-8771) was on its way from Bhaderwah to Jammu.

In the accident, one Vikas Kumar son of Sanjay Kumar, 19, a resident of Bhaderwah died on the spot and two others were injured and have been shifted to CHC Batote for further treatment.

The injured have been identified as Rahul Anand son of Dhuni Chand, 27 and Shiv Prakash, 22, son of Dhuni Chand-both residents of Bhaderwah. (KNT)

SSTA Hails Ganai's Appointment As New VC SKUAST

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Scientists and teachers association of the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-Kashmir) on Friday felicitated Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai for assuming charge as the new Vice-Chancellor of the Varsity.

In a statement issued here on Friday, SKUAST scientists and teachers association (SSTA) under the chairmanship of President Dr Javed A. Mughal, felicitated Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai

for assuming the charge of Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Kashmir.

"SSTA lauds the great decision taken by Hon'ble Chancellor/ LG and Govt. of India for accessing to the demand of appointing a scientist from SKUAST-K, which is the 6th best university in the country," Dr. Aflaq Hamid, General Secretary SSTA, said.

The association, he said, extends its gratitude and whole heartedly welcomes the new dynamic Vice-Chancellor and assure full support for overall development of this prestigious Institution.

Govt To Start Remedial Teaching Classes During Winter Break

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Friday said that it will start remedial teaching classes during winter vacations by teachers on a voluntary basis.

In this regard, Principal Secretary, School Education department said that the move was aimed to enhance the learning outcomes and competency of students as per past practice.

According to reports, the principal secretary has said that the remedial teaching classes would be held in the Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu region.

The order issued by the govern-

ment pertaining to the remedial classes read, "In view of present circumstances and to mitigate learning gaps of students, it is ordered that Director School Education, Jammu & Director School Education, Kashmir shall start Remedial Teaching Classes (RTC) during winter vacations 2021-22 by teachers on voluntary basis to enhance learning outcomes and competency of students as per past practice in vogue."

"The funds on account of heating and logistics shall be borne by Samagra Shiksha, JKUT from relevant head," reads the order- (KNO)

Rakesh Balwal Joins As SSP Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Rakesh Balwal, IPS officer who led the NIA investigation into the 2019 Lethpora car bombing that killed 40 CRPF personnel, on Friday joined as Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar. He replaced Sandeep Chaudhary who has been posted as SSP Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence.

A police statement said the outgoing SSP Chaudhary thanked Srinagar Police for their support and display of great professional integrity during tough times.

J&K government on Thursday transferred 27 police officers including SSP Srinagar. Balwal, a Manipur cadre 2012 IPS officer's was moved to inter-cadre deputation to AGMUT (UT of Jammu and Kashmir) in October this year. Balwal was earlier on deputation with the NIA, where he investigated the high profile 2019 Lethpora Pulwama bombing case. (Agencies)

3 CRPF Men Hurt As BP Vehicle Overturns

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least three CRPF paramilitary personnel, including an ASI rank officer, sustained injuries after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an

accident in Kader area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said. They said that the 'BP Bunker' of 18 Battalion CRPF was on way from Behibagh to Kulgam.

In the incident, two constables Ambit and Anil including ASI Naurang sustained minor injuries, they said adding all of them are stable. (GNS)



A CRAFTSMAN MAKING 'KANGRI', a traditional fire pot used in harsh winters, inside his workshop in the outskirts of Srinagar on Friday.

Abid Bhat/KO

LG Hails PM's Dedicated Focus On Development Of J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday expressed his gratitude towards NITI Aayog headed by the Prime Minister, for giving dedicated focus on the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an official spokesperson, the LG made these remarks during an interaction with member NITI Aayog, Dr. V K Saraswat here at Raj Bhavan on Friday. He said LG and Saraswat discussed various development related issues of J&K.

Saraswat, as per the official spokesperson apprised the Lt Governor regarding setting up of Atal Tinkering Laboratories in the schools, capacity building of the officers for outcome monitoring, providing of transaction Advisors to Tourism and other departments for resolving



pending issues of the UT with various Central Ministries.

"He also apprised the Lt Governor about his meetings with the Chief Secretary and Administrative Secretaries of the various departments of the UT Administration where several schemes being run under the aegis of Central Ministries were discussed," he said.

The NITI Aayog member, he said, also appreciated the efforts of the UT Administration regarding Education Quality Index and improvement of

Health Index. He also apprised the Lt Governor that UT of J&K is the best performing in terms of own tax revenue generation under GSDP.

"The Lt Governor expressed his gratitude towards NITI Aayog headed by the Honorable Prime Minister, for giving dedicated focus on the holistic development of the UT of J&K. He also assured all possible help from UT administration in implementing the vision of NITI Aayog on the ground," the official spokesperson said.

Mehta Directs Making Urban Areas Litter-Free By Mar 2022

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday asked the officials to ensure 'litter-free' urban areas by 2022 and implementation of scientific waste management techniques including safe disposal in landfills.

He passed these directions while reviewed the functioning of the Housing & Urban Development Department and took stock of the progress under developmental programmes and schemes, an official spokesperson said.

Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Commissioner Secretary, Jal Shakti, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Directors Urban Local Bod-

ies Jammu and Kashmir along with concerned officers participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the Department observed the first-ever 'My Town My Pride' programme in October 2020 with a 3 fold objective of enhancing public outreach across the urban areas and towns of J&K; providing door-step service delivery; and strengthening the grass-root democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the 2-day programme, 553 developmental works were identified, of which 345 have been completed so far and the remaining will be completed by March 2022.

Regarding, the Mass Rapid Transit System-Metrolite (MRTS), it was informed that the two projects coming up in the twin capital cities, on completion, will provide

a safe, reliable, convenient, cost-effective, and sustainable mode of urban transportation.

The Metrolite corridors will run from Bantalab to Bari Brahmana (23 km) in Jammu, Indra Nagar to HMT Junction (12.50 km), and Hazuri Bagh to Osmanabad (12.50 km) in Srinagar. Once functional, MRTS will promote public transportation

with a corresponding reduction in traffic congestion by reducing per capita vehicle ownership and also the per capita traffic accidents.

Mechanical Engineering Department Ups Winter Preparations

Strengthens Fleet By Adding 28 More Snow-Cutters

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir Division, has upped its preparations for winters with the addition of 28 more snow-cutters taking the tally to 210.

The department has also kept three heavy-duty snow cutters on standby to meet out any eventuality in case it snows heavily.

Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering Department, Division Kashmir, Abdul Rasheed Dar said that three heavy duty cutters have been imported from Italy, which according to him, have a clearance speed of 5000 tonnes per hour.

"Previous year we had 182 machines available with us, however we have added 28 more machines to strengthen the fleet", he said adding more machines are in offing.

"We still have a requirement of special purpose machinery to clear snowfall of four feet and above, for which we have sent a proposal to SDRF and other relevant agencies and we do expect the demand would be fulfilled in a year or two for effective clearance operations", he said.

"We have distributed the machinery in three divisions which include Baramulla, Anantnag and Srinagar and each of the

divisions' have a sub-division and districts falling in these divisions' each have a control room", he informed adding there are around 80 snow-cutters on standby for three north Kashmir districts of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara and the rest for other parts of Valley.

"We currently have the best of machinery available which I deem is at par with other countries, witnessing snowfall, but we only are aiming to strengthen the machinery to facilitate the people in a more better way", he said.

In his message the Chief Engineer urged people not to take roads if there is any forecast or it snows. "It happens that if it snows during night time, we start the clearance early in the morning, but if snows during morning, it gets a bit difficult to clear the snow and as such I would suggest public to restrain from any unnecessary movement on the roads to facilitate the clearance operations", he said.

"People should also avoid parking their cars on roads, because it becomes a hindrance for us while clearing the snow off the roads", he said, urging further the owners of residential houses near roads to erect snow stoppers on roof tops to avoid inconvenience during clearance operations. (GNS)

Advisor Khan Favours Cooperative Super Bazar In Each District

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Friday asked the officers to devise a mechanism for establishment of at least one Cooperative Super Bazar in each district.

Advisor, while chairing a review meeting of Cooperative Department, maintained that the Super Bazaars have the potential of doing tremendous business if run on professional lines. He asked the officers of the department to upgrade these business outlets on modern lines making them attractive and preferential place to go for the customers.

Among others the meeting was attended by Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal; Registrar Cooperative Societies, Shafqat Iqbal; Special Secretary, Cooperatives, Rachna Sharma; Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Jammu, Nirupa Rai; Additional Registrars, Joint Registrars and Deputy Registrars from

all the districts while all Kashmir based officers participated through video conferencing.

Advisor emphasized upon the officers to work for over achieving the targets fixed for each of them. He asked them to utilize the local contacts by visiting the field regularly to know about strengths of their respective areas so that the required number of societies is established. He asked them to facilitate people in establishment of societies that have potential to grow in their areas.

Advisor stressed on the need of running cooperative banks on professional lines by involving relevant people having necessary expertise in the field to man the board and management of banks. He asked the department to look for ways and means to reduce the NPAs in these banks and focus on recovery of loans being extended by them.

Secretary Cooperatives elaborately explained the activities and achievements of the department.



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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT JAMMU AND KASHMIR, JAMMU.

No.GS-18(N+liv)2000/5506

Dated:17-12-2021

Sub: Quotation for supply of Summer Uniform along with stitching charges and Uniform shoes for liveried staff of Raj Bhavan, Jammu.

Sealed quotations are invited for supply of following uniform items for liveried staff of Raj Bhavan, Jammu from authorized dealers:

S.No.	Name of item	Qty Required
01	Raymond Trovine (White, Blue, Khaki, Grey)	As per requirement
02	Stitching charges	
03	Uniform leather Shoes (black with laces)	

Terms & conditions for supply of above items:-

- The material should be of good quality and according to requirement.
- The rates should be quoted inclusive of all the taxes, levies and duties etc.
- Supply should be F.O.R destination at Raj Bhavan, Jammu within thirty days from the date of issuance of supply order.
- Payment shall be made after getting satisfactory report from the concerned.
- The department reserves the right to accept/reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.
- Overwriting or illegible quotations shall be rejected forthwith without notice.

The interested parties may send their quotations in sealed envelope addressed to "The Deputy Secretary, Raj Bhavan, Jammu" superscribing "Quotation for Summer Uniform cloth/Stitching charges/uniform shoes" on the top of the envelope. Last date for receipt of quotation in the office of Deputy Secretary Raj Bhavan, Jammu is 30th December, 2021 upto 5 PM.

Deputy Secretary

DIPK-15162/21

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

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ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from highly motivated and eligible candidates for the position of Project Assistant to study "Characterization and antimicrobial activity of walnut hull extract. The research will evaluate the characteristics of the walnut hull for its industrial application. The high content of polyphenols of the walnut hull having potential antimicrobial, and antioxidant capacity will be utilized for the use of the extract in antimicrobial food packaging film/ coating and formulation of the oral cavity disinfectants. The details and requirements for this position are given below:

Qualification	Essential	BE/ B Tech in Food Technology. Food Processing Technology, Food Process Engineering, Food Science and Technology or relevant field
	Desirable	ME/ M Tech in Food Technology. Food Processing Technology, Food Process Engineering, Food Science and Technology or relevant field
	Marks	Minimum 55% or equivalent CGPA for OM (Relaxation for reserved category will be given according to the UGC rules).
Age		22-28 years.
Consolidated Emoluments		Rs 10,000/- per month.
Status of the Job		
		Temporary initially for 01 year extendable up to 02 years after due evaluation of the progress made in the first year.

Interested candidates are requested to send their recent CV via e-mail to hilal.makroo@islamicuniversity.edu.in with the subject marked as "Application for PA position". The last date for the submission of the CV is **24-12-2021**. List of eligible candidates to be called for interview shall be available on university website on 27/12/2021. Interview of the eligible candidates will be held on **28-12-2021** at 10:00 am in the Office of the Dean Research, IUST, Awantipora. No TA/DA will be paid for appearing in the interview.

Sd/-

Dated: 17-12-2021
DIPK-NB-5953/21
Principal Investigator

The article was originally published
by Nature

I Book Review I

Kashmir Through A Partial Frame

A Kashmiri Century Does Succeed In Evoking Nostalgia For A Once Serene Valley Where Kashmiri Pandits Didn't Live In Segregated Colonies But Right In The Middle Of Muslim Neighbourhoods

Riyaz Wani

Book: A Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux
Author: Khem Lata Wakhlu,
Publisher: Harper Collins
Price: Rs 599

More than any other state or region of India, Kashmir's political discourse remains aswirl with competing narratives. There's a pan-India narrative with many shades: right-wing (which is dominant at the moment), centrist, secular and leftist. There's a Pakistani narrative with its moderate and extremist variants. And, then, there are discourses within Kashmir: a Kashmiri Muslim narrative and a Kashmiri Pandit version of reality.

At their extremes, the discourses are absolutist but they become more differentiated down the line, refracted by religion, community and politics. These discourses compete, clash and overlap in Kashmir's daily life. With each narrative, frames change: similar events and incidents come to be interpreted differently depending upon the politics, ideology, interest group or community one belongs to.

It is rare for Kashmir to be seen for what it is: most articles, stories and books end up becoming participants in a version of Kashmir's history. Few rise above the discourses and seek to investigate, interrogate and enlighten about what is going on. Khem Lata Wakhlu's A Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux doesn't distinguish itself on this count. As a reviewer, too, I face a fault line: a Kashmiri Muslim is reviewing a book by a Kashmiri Pandit. It is difficult not to be conscious of it at a time when people are primarily and, more often, exclusively identified and judged by their religious identity. Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits have come to develop differing perceptions of their histories and memories even if they share language, dress, cuisine, culture and, above all, genes. So it



MUSLIMS DO MAKE A FLEETING APPEARANCE IN THE BOOK, but as Sad-Makkars (charlatans) like Lassa Joo, the gardener, Hassan Bhat, or “Amma, Momma, Ahada, Nabba”, the menial helps for a caravan of Maheshwar Nath, a senior irrigation department official, who has been transferred to Gilgit.

is natural that the narrative of the past century of Kashmir that comes across in Wakhlu's book would run up in some of its aspects against that of mine. But then this way of looking at the book only compromises the integrity of the review.

So I will first focus on an aspect that by its very nature transcends politics: for example, the memoir's celebration of the lived experience of the Kashmiri Pandit life epitomized by Rishi Vihar, a sprawling house on the banks of the river, Jhelum, housing the affluent joint Kashmiri Pandit family of Dhars. Its rooms reverberated with the noise of dozens of inmates who partied on the occasion of Nav-sheen (fresh

snowfall) every winter. Its entrances, courtyard, and interconnected corridors were places of play for the young siblings and cousins.

uilt around the turn of the nineteenth century, Rishi Vihar was a multi-generational family household steeped in Kashmiri Pandit tradition but also alive to modernity. The household produced officials for the government, something that the Kashmiri Pandit community did invariably over the centuries, serving as employees for successive rulers right from the Mughals to the Afghans to the Dogras. In return, many Pandits received land grants from the rulers. This lent the tiny community,

which constitutes little over two per cent of Kashmir's population, its clout in society. The Pandits ran the governments and executed government schemes on the ground. They taught in schools and with the dawn of mass communication in Kashmir in the mid-nineteenth century were active in the media too. These are irrefutable facts of Kashmir's history of the past four hundred years, if not more.

And this is perhaps why when Wakhlu writes about a Kashmiri century in her eponymous book, she, in fact, writes about a Kashmiri Pandit century. The Muslim community — it comprises 98 per cent of Kashmir's popu-

lation — is hardly a part of this story. It is simply erased from the scene and rendered peripheral to the account. The conversion of Kashmiris to Islam is said to have happened through “waves of unspeakable brutality” without any historical proof being cited for it.

History books on Kashmir say that Islam was spread in Kashmir in the fourteenth century by the Sufi saints from central Asia who have scores of shrines built in their name across the region, some of whom were, incidentally, frequented by Kashmiri Pandits as well. And if we apply the popular binary of ‘good and bad Islam’, the strain of the faith practised in Kashmir in the past seven centuries has invariably qualified as ‘good’: it is regarded as a variant of Sufi Islam, tinged with Shaivist influences. But for Wakhlu, the past seven centuries have been “the darkest period” in Kashmir's long history.

Muslims do make a fleeting appearance in the book, but as Sad-Makkars (charlatans) like Lassa Joo, the gardener, Hassan Bhat, or “Amma, Momma, Ahada, Nabba”, the menial helps for a caravan of Maheshwar Nath, a senior irrigation department official, who has been transferred to Gilgit. They are on the distant margins of what is a Kashmiri Pandit story playing out all the way.

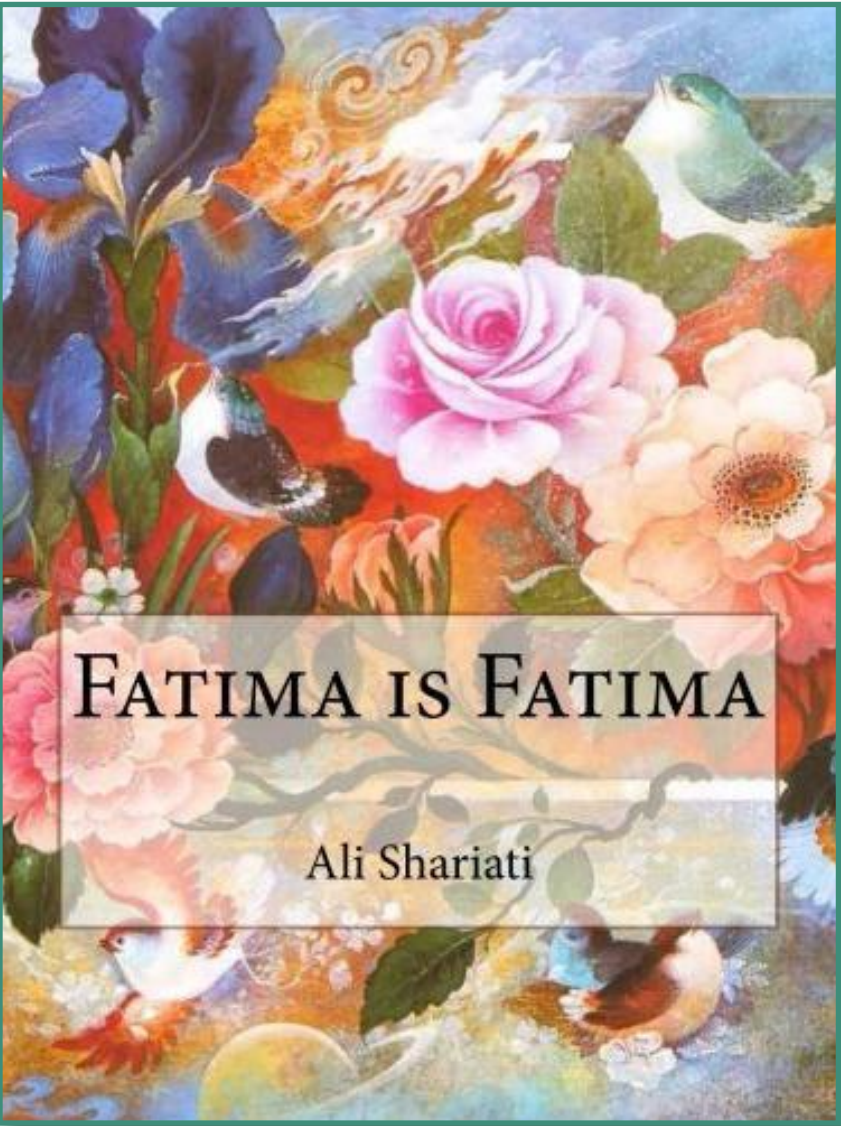
That said, A Kashmiri Century does succeed in evoking nostalgia for a once serene Valley where Kashmiri Pandits didn't live in segregated colonies but right in the middle of Muslim neighbourhoods. The Dhars, too, were neighbours to the Peers, a high-caste Muslim family: “The two families lived so close to one another that only a common compound wall and that too not a very high one, segregated their homes”. But apart from the occasional encounters along the boundary wall between the children of the two families when they played in the courtyard, the Peers don't make for a story in A Kashmiri Century.

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Telegraph India

Fatima Is Fatima



YET, IN SPITE OF THE LITTLE MUSLIMS KNOW ABOUT HER, THEY accept Fatima, her majesty and power, with their whole hearts. They offer her their hearts with all the spiritual strength, faith and will that a people can have or a human community build.



Excerpts from the Book by Dr Ali Shariati

Who am I?

In our society, women change rapidly. The tyranny of our times and the influence of institutions take women away from 'what she is'. All her traditional characteristics and values are taken away from her until she is made into a creature 'they want', 'they build'. We see that 'they have built'! This is why the most important and relevant question for the awakened woman at this time is, 'Who am I?' She knows full well that she cannot remain what she is. Actually, she does not want to accept modern masks to replace the traditional ones. She wants to decide for herself. Her contemporaries choose for themselves. They consciously adorn their personalities with awareness and independence. They dress themselves. They manifest an essence. They reflect a sketch. But they do not know how. They do not know the design of the real human aspect of their personality which is neither a reflection of their ethnic heritage nor an artificially imposed imitative mask. With which of these do they identify??

The second question which arises from this, stems from the following: we are Muslims, women of a society, who wish to make decisions through reason and choice and to relate them to a history, religion and society which received its spirit and basis from Islam. A woman in this society wants to be herself. She wants to build herself, 'herself'. She wants to be reborn. In this re-birth, she wants to be her own midwife. She neither wants to be a product of her eth-

nic heritage nor to adopt a superficial facade. She cannot remain heedless of Islam, and she cannot remain indifferent to it.

Thus, it is natural that this question should arise for the Muslim woman. Our people continue to speak about Fatima.

EACH RELIGION, school of thought, movement or revolution is made up of two elements: wisdom and love. One is light and the other is motion.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Muslims cry for her. There are hundreds of thousands of gatherings, prayer meetings, festivals and mourning ceremonies in her memory. There are ceremonies of praise, joy, honor and majesty for her in which her generosity is remembered through unusual customs. They hold rituals of lamentation where they recreate her sorrows and speak ill of and damn those who offended her. In spite of all of this, her real personality is not known.

Yet, in spite of the little Muslims know about her, they accept Fatima, her majesty and power, with their whole hearts. They offer her their hearts with all the spiritual strength, faith and will that a people can have or a human community build.

Wisdom and Love

Each religion, school of thought, movement or revolution is made up of two elements: wisdom and love. One is light and the other is motion. One gives common sense and understanding, the other,

strength, enthusiasm and movement. In the words of Alexis Carrel, 'Wisdom is like the lights of a car which show the way. Love is like the motor which makes it move.' Each is nothing without the other. A motor, without lights, is blind love, dangerous, tragic and potentially fatal.

In a society, in a movement of thought or in a revolutionary school of thought, men of letters (who are clear thinkers, who are aware and responsible) show, through their works, that there is a way to come to know a school of thought or a religion. They show that there is a way to give awareness to people. The responsibility of the people, on the other hand, is to give their spirits and their strength to a movement. They are responsible for giving the starting push.

A movement is like a living body. It thinks with the brain of scholars and loves through the hearts of its people. If faith, sincerity, love and sacrifice seldom found in a society, people are responsible. But where correct understanding of a school of thought is at a low level (where vision, awareness, logical consciousness and deep familiarity with the goals of a school of thought are lacking, where the meaning, purpose and truths of a school of thought are missing) the scholars are responsible. Religion, in particular, needs both. In religion, knowledge and feelings are not treated as separate entities. They are transformed into understanding and faith by means of common sense and knowledge.

This is Islam. More than any other religion, it is a religion of the recitation of the book, a religion of struggle in God's Way (jihad), a religion of thought and love. In the Koran, one cannot find the boundaries between love and faith. The Koran considers martyrdom to be eternal life. It blinds one to the pen and writing. If Muslims are unaware of this, who is responsible?

A Booster In 100 Days To Beat Omicron: The New Challenge

Robert Langreth, Bloomberg

At a plant nestled along a highway 20 miles north of Boston, hundreds of Pfizer Inc. workers are gearing up to produce millions of doses of a new vaccine that looks more and more like the next phase of fighting Covid-19.

Work on the project started the day after Thanksgiving at the 70-acre facility in Andover, Massachusetts, just as the World Health Organization designated a new coronavirus strain, omicron, a variant of concern. The goal of the effort: make a booster shot customized against the highly mutated virus in less than 100 days.

Nobody yet knows how widely omicron will spread, how serious its infections will be or even whether the new shots will be necessary. Top White House medical adviser Anthony Fauci has said that reports on severity have so far been "encouraging." But if laboratory data rolling in from around

the world are reliable, the strain is better able to sidestep existing vaccines than any to date.

Of 43 US omicron infections analyzed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, four-fifths were in fully vaccinated people, although almost all the cases were relatively mild. UK health officials expect omicron to overtake delta as the dominant strain there within days.

Researchers are alarmed by some 30 mutations in omicron's spike, the protein that facilitates coronavirus's entry to cells. Changes in its appearance make it harder for antibodies to find and destroy the variant. That's prompted Pfizer, its partner BioNTech SE and their messenger RNA rival Moderna Inc. to start crash efforts to target it directly.

"It was the list of mutations we never wanted to see," said Moderna President Stephen Hoge, who heads the company's scientific operations. The vaccine maker, whose mRNA factory stands just 40 miles from Pfizer's, started working on omicron the Tuesday before



Thanksgiving, and meetings ran straight through the holiday. Many employees "had their Thanksgivings ruined" by omicron, Hoge said.

Early lab data suggest that three doses of existing mRNA vaccines protect against omicron. What's less clear is how long that protection lasts, since Covid an-

tibodies have been seen to wane over time. Pfizer hopes to have the first real-world effectiveness data about how its existing vaccine fares against the variant before the end of the year.

While the companies are tightlipped about the details of exactly where they stand, both are bent on

a fast response. When news of the variant emerged from South Africa, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla decided almost immediately to begin large-scale manufacturing of an omicron-specific shot. The work ramped up so quickly that Pfizer hasn't tallied its costs.

"I couldn't give you the number right now; I'm not even sure we talked about it," said Mike McDermott, Pfizer's global supply chain head, who gives Bourla regular updates on progress. It's very unusual for a drug company to start large-scale manufacturing on a product that may not be needed, he said.

The production process at Andover could start any day now, McDermott said. Workers are waiting for company researchers in Chesterfield, Missouri, to finalize and deliver a master cell line containing a genetic sequence that will be used in the targeted vaccine.

Pfizer's Andover plant, acquired in 2009 in the \$68 billion purchase of vaccine maker Wyeth, specializes in biologic products. For the Covid vaccine, it performs two

early steps: producing large quantities of a DNA template for the vaccine from the cell line, and then converting that into the mRNA that forms the core of the vaccine.

The mRNA will be sent to another Pfizer facility in Kalamazoo, Michigan. That facility makes the lipid nanoparticles that coat the mRNA and protect it from enzymes in the body that degrade it. Kalamazoo also has vaccine vial-filling operations.

South of Boston, Moderna's Norwood, Massachusetts facility has clean-room suites for making mRNA and the lipid nanoparticles that coat the fragile genetic material. Formerly owned by Polaroid, the factory is the vaccine maker's first and has been rapidly scaling up since the pandemic began.

In 2020, it took Moderna 42 days to produce batches of its original Covid vaccine and 63 days to start human trials with government researchers. With omicron, "our goal is to hit a timeline like that for sure" Hoge, the Moderna president, said.

'Shaming Unvaccinated People Has To Stop'

Agencies

Unvaccinated mother, 27, dies with coronavirus as her father calls for fines for people who refuse jab.

This is the kind of headline you may have seen over the past year, an example highlighting public shaming of unvaccinated people who die of Covid-19.

One news outlet compiled a list of "notable antivaxxers who have died from Covid-19".

There's shaming on social media, too. For instance, a whole Reddit channel is devoted to mocking people who die after refusing the vaccine.

Covid-19 vaccinations save lives and reduce the need for hospitalisation. This is all important public health information.

Telling relatable stories and using emotive language about vaccination sends a message: getting vaccinated is good.

But the problem with the examples above is their tone and the way unvaccinated people are singled out. There's also a murkier reason behind this shaming.

Why do we shame people?

Public shaming is not new. It is entrenched in human history and psychology. From an evolutionary perspective, shame is a way of keeping individuals accountable to the other members of their community for their perceived anti-social behaviours.

Philosophers Guy Aitchison and Saladin Meckled-Garcia say online public shaming is a way of collectively punishing a person "for having a certain kind of moral character". This punishment (or "reputational cost") can be a way of enforcing norms in society.

However, shaming others is also a way of signaling our own virtue and trustworthiness. Moralising about other people's behaviour can help us feel better



about ourselves.

The online world exacerbates this human tendency. It polarises two heavily moralised camps: the self-perceived good, responsible people on one side (the shaming ones), and the ones considered bad, irresponsible people on the other (the shamed ones).

Vaccination has become such a sensitive issue it easily triggers the instinct to shame others.

Do people deserve to be shamed?

Shaming people for their health-related choices disregards the complexities about whether people are individually responsible for their own decisions.

Take obesity, another example associated with public shaming. The extent to which individuals are responsible for their obesity or for the lifestyle that causes obesity is complex. We need to consider issues including genes, environment, wealth, as well as choice. Indeed, shaming people for their obesity ("fat shaming") is widely considered unacceptable.

Likewise, low levels of vaccine uptake in some communities is often linked to structural inequalities, including health inequality, and a resulting lack of trust. The blame for this situation is typically placed on broader society and institutions, and not on the affected groups or individuals.

If someone cannot be blamed for something, then shaming them is not ethically justifiable.

In discussions of responsibility it is now common to focus on "structural injustice" or "inequality" – the injustice of various social factors that shape choice and behaviour.

This applies not only to obesity, drugs, alcohol but also to vaccination decisions.

Even where this is not the case, there has been a targeted, systematic and even state-sponsored misinformation campaign about vaccines. People who are misinformed are victims, not perpetrators.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website:<http://jkpsc.nic.in>
email:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f)2566530
Srinagar:0194-2312629(f) 2312631

Subject: Filling up of vacant post of Lecturers in Indra Gandhi Government Dental College Jammu and Government Dental College, Srinagar.

i) Health & Medical Education Department's Letter No. ME/GAZ-26/2021 dated 16-03-2019 ii) No. MEGAZ-207/2004-II dated 24-10-2017.

Notification No: 13 - PSC (DR-P) OF 2021 Dated: 15-12-2021

Applications through online mode are invited from the applicants who are domiciled in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir possessing the prescribed Academic/Professional qualification and age for the post of Lecturers in Indra Gandhi Government Dental College, Jammu and Government Dental College, Srinagar in terms of J&K Dental Education (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules issued vide SRO 75 dated 15-04-1993, "Jammu & Kashmir Probationer (Conduct of Service, Pay & Allowance) and Fixation of Tenure Rules, 2020" notified vide S.O. 192 of 2020 dated: 17-06-2020 read with the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021.

IMPORTANT

- > Candidates are advised to update their one time Registration before filling the application forms
- > The Application Form together with instructions for filling up the Application Forms will be available at the website of the Commission from 20.12.2021
- > Candidates are advised to go through the instructions and all the eligibility conditions prescribed for the post before filling the online Application Form.
- > Last date for filling of online Application complete in all respects along with the requisite fee (online mode only) is 19.01.2022
- > The last date for receipt of online applications provided in the notification shall be the cut-off date for determining the eligibility as regards acquisition of Domicile Certificates and educational and professional qualifications.
- > The minimum and maximum age will however be reckoned with reference to 1st January, 2021.
- > Candidates can edit some of the fields in their online application form from 22.01.2022 to 24.01.2022 (up to 11.59 PM). Instructions in this regard will be separately made available on the website.
- > Candidates are required to upload all the mandatory prescribed/requisite documents with their online application form.
- > Candidates will not be required to submit a hard copy of the online application form or the mandatory prescribed/requisite documents to the Commission.
- > In case the mandatory prescribed/requisite documents are not uploaded with the online application form, the application form/Candidate of the applicant is liable to be rejected.
- > Candidates are advised in their own interest to submit online applications much before the closing date and not to wait till the last date to avoid the possibility of disconnection/inability to pay fee or failure to login to the online application portal on account of heavy load on the website during the closing days.

1. Details of post with category wise breakup is given below:

ITEM No	Post with Pay Scale	OM	RBA	SC	ST	ALC/ IB	SLC	PSP	EWS	Total
Lecturer, Indra Gandhi Dental College, Jammu - Level 9 (52700-166700)										
32	Conservative Dentistry	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01
33	Operative Dentistry	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01
33	Public Health Dentistry	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01
Lecturer, Indra Gandhi Dental College, Jammu - Level 9 (52700-166700) (2nd Special Drive)										
34	Oral Dental Pathology	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
Lecturer Government Dental College, Srinagar - Level 9 (52700-166700) (2nd Special Drive)										
35	Oral Surgery	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
36	Periodontia	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
37	Conservative Operative Dentistry	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	01

2. Prescribed Qualification

Designation	Qualification	Experience
Conservative Dentistry and Operative Dentistry	Masters Degree or equivalent in the concerned speciality recognized by the Dental Council of India	2 years teaching experience as Registrar/Demonstrator/Tutor
Public Health Dentistry		
Oral Dental Pathology		
Oral Surgery		
Periodontia		

3. Age as on 1st January 2021

The requirement of age for candidates belonging to Open Merit (OM), Reserved Categories & In-Service Categories is as follows-

S.NO	Category	Age limit	Not born after	Not born before
1	OM	40	01.01.2003	01.01.1981
2	SC	43	01.01.2003	01.01.1978
3	In service candidate/ Government	45	01.01.2003	01.01.1976

4. Reservation

- i) A candidate seeking his/her consideration under any Reserved Category must ensure that he/she possesses a valid requisite Category certificate on the cut-off date.
- ii) The candidature of the candidates will be provisional till the genuineness of the reserved category certificate is verified by the Appointing Authority.
- iii) Candidates may note that in case a claim for reservation is made on the basis of false/fake/fraudulent certificate, he/she shall be debarred from the examination(s) conducted by the J&K Public Service Commission, in addition to any other penal action as may be deemed appropriate.

5. Domicile

The candidate should be a Domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The candidate must possess a valid Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority, in the prescribed format, on the last date as prescribed for submission of online application form.

6. Requisite Fee

After successful submission of the online application form, candidate will be required to deposit requisite fee through online mode. The amount of fee to be paid is given below:

Category	Rs.
General Category	1000.00
Reserved Categories	500.00

Note

- i. The application Form submitted without deposition of the fee, which gets substantiated through reflection of the same on the application form, shall be treated as incomplete and candidature shall be deemed to have been rejected without any further notice. No representation against such rejection shall be entertained.
- ii. Submission of multiple applications by way of prefixing Mr/Ms or through generation of multiple User ID's or any other mode, followed by either nonpayment of fee particulars or fee particulars (TID) of one application (RID) being mentioned against another application with a different RID would lead to rejection of the online application. The applicants who are submitting multiple applications should note that only the applications with higher Registration ID (RID) number shall be entertained by the Commission and fee paid against one RID shall not be adjusted against any other RID number. Besides a strict disciplinary action shall be taken including the cancellation of candidature and debarment for future examinations of J&K PSC will be taken against such applicants.

7. Documents to be uploaded

While filling the online application form the applicants are required to upload the documents as per details given below:

- a) Documents (Mandatory):-
- i) Date of Birth certificate (Secondary School/Matric Certificate- 01 leaf
- ii) Domicile certificate - 01 leaf
- iii) B.D.S Degree certificate along with consolidated Marks Cards-up-to- 05 leaves
- iv) Masters Degree or its equivalent in the concerned specialty recognized by the Dental Council of India with consolidated marks card certificate alongwith Registration certificate, from competent authority-up to 04 leaves.
- v) Two years experience certificate from the teaching institutions recognized by the Dental Council of India, as per format - 01 leaf
- b) Documents (Mandatory) if claiming benefit under that category:-
- i) Valid category certificate - 01 leaf
- ii) For Physically Challenged Candidates Disability certificate on the prescribed format, if required-01 leaf.
- iii) In-Service Certificate Signed by HOD.
- c) Any other document for which the candidate is claiming weightage as per Provisions laid down in J&K (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021:-
- i) Certificate of Distinction in Sports in terms of J&K (Appointment of Outstanding Sports Persons) Rules, 1998- 01 Leaf
- ii) "C" Certificate in NCC activities- 01 Leaf
- iii) Gold Medal Certificate for overall first position in the minimum prescribed qualification- 01 leaf. In case the con-vocation for award of Gold Medal has not been convened, a certificate from the competent authority shall be uploaded to the affect that he/she is entitled to Gold Medal for securing overall first position in the prescribed qualification and that the same shall be awarded in the Convocation of the University/Institution.
- iv) List of Research Papers/Publications as per format- 01 leaf
- v) List of Conferences (Participation & Presentation) as per format - 01 leaf.
- vi) List of Books as per format- 01 leaf.

It may be noted that no further opportunity to upload any document shall be provided hereafter and action under rules including rejecting of application/candidature etc will be taken.

8. Scheme of Selection /Criteria

Selection shall be made in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission's (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021 as amended from time to time.

Candidates are especially advised to apprise themselves with the provisions of Rule 44 of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission's (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021.

9. Important instructions regarding filling up of online applications are given herein below:

- a) Candidates are required to apply online through the website of the Commission i.e. <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>. No other means/ mode of application shall be accepted.
- b) Candidates are first required to go to the JKPS website <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in> and click on the link "One Time Registration" or click on Login menu if you have already created your profile with the JK PSC.
- c) After logging into your account, candidates are required to fill all the requisite fields of One Time Registration (OTR) i.e. personal information, contact information & educational qualification, service details etc.
- d) The candidate shall also be required to upload the image of date stamped recent passport size color photograph and signature. The photograph should not be taken earlier than 01.01.2021.
- e) Size of the photograph (passport size) and signature must be between 10KB to 20KB in *.jpeg or *.jpg only.
- f) After successful submission of all the details in your OTR account, check the eligibility conditions as mentioned in the advertisement notification before applying for the post.
- g) Click on the "show examination" as shown against the respective post/examination you want to apply.
- h) On Clicking on the "show examination" a window will appear on your computer screen. Select the month of the advertisement notification for which you want to apply, a link(s) for the post(s) will appear on the computer screen.
- i) An "APPLY" button is shown against the respective post and the candidates will click on the APPLY button against the post he/she is eligible.
- j) On clicking "APPLY" button, an instruction window will appear. Candidates should read instructions carefully before clicking on "APPLY" button at the bottom of the webpage.
- k) On clicking "APPLY" button, the system will display all facts/particulars that a candidate may have mentioned while filling up the necessary fields of his/her OTR account. Candidate shall fill up the remaining required fields in the application form and accept the declaration thereof.
- l) Once the candidate is satisfied about the correctness of the filled in details, then, he or she may click on "SUBMIT" button to finally push the data into server with successful submission report.
- m) On successful submission of the basic details, the candidates will be required to pay the online fee and uploading of the documents, for final submission of the online application form.
- n) Candidates can pay the requisite fee through online mode in the "SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS" menu in your account.
- o) After successful payment of the fee, the fee status will get reflected on the Online Application form. Candidates can check the fee status by clicking on the Print Application Button in the submitted Applications menu in your JKPS account. In case the payment status shows either "not submitted or under processing or status has not been reflected on your submitted application form", candidates(s) are advised to contact the JKPS Office at Solina Srinagar/ReshamGhar Colony Jammu immediately for clarification. Further where the online fee is paid through other service providers the candidate must ensure that not only the amount of fee is debited from his/service provider's Account but also credited into the official account of JKPS.
- p) The candidate would be able get the printout of his/her submitted application only after the payment of the requisite fee and uploading of requisite documents viz Date of Birth Certificate, Degree Certificate, Category Certificate and Domicile Certificate.
- q) The JKPS will not undertake detailed scrutiny of applications for the eligibility and other aspects at the time of Preliminary examination and therefore, candidature will be accepted only provisionally. The candidates are advised to go through the requirements of educational qualification, age, etc and satisfy themselves that they are eligible for the post(s). Copies of supporting documents will be sought at the time of document verification. When scrutiny is under taken, if any claim if made in the application is not found/substantiated by proof, the candidature will be cancelled and the Commission's decision shall be final and binding.
- r) Please note that the above procedure is the only valid procedure for applying. No other mode of application or incomplete steps would be accepted and such applications would be rejected.

10. Editing of the online application form

Candidates who have successfully submitted the online application form along with requisite fee will be allowed to edit some of the fields in their submitted online application form from 22.01.2022 to 24.01.2022(11.59 PM). Detailed instructions in this regard will be made available on the website.

11. Action against candidates found guilty of misconduct

Candidates are advised that they should not furnish any particulars that are false or suppress any material information. A candidate who is, or has been, declared by the Commission, to be guilty of:

- i. obtaining by wrongful support of his/her candidature by any means, or ii. impersonating, or
- iii. procuring impersonation by any person, or iv. submitting fabricated documents or documents which have been tampered with or v. making statements which are incorrect, or false or suppressing material information, or
- vi. resorting to any other irregular or improper means in connection with his/her candidature for the selection, or vii. using unfair means during the test, or viii. writing irrelevant matter including obscene language or pornographic matter, in the script(s), or
- ix. misbehaving in any other manner in the examination hall, or
- x. harassing or doing bodily harm to the staff employed by the Commission for the conduct of their test, or
- xi. attempting to commit or, as the case may be, abetting the Commission of all or any of the acts specified in the foregoing clauses may, in addition to rendering himself/herself liable to criminal prosecution, shall be liable;
- (a) to be disqualified by the Commission from selection for which he/she is a candidate, and/or
- (b) to be debarred either permanently or for a specified period:-

- (i) By the Commission from any examination or selection held by them. (ii) By the Union Territory Government from any employment under them, and
- (c) If he/she is already in service under Government, disciplinary acti" can be taken against him/her under the appropriate rules.

(Vinay Samotra) JKAS
Deputy Controller of Examination
J&K Public Service Commission

No:PSC/DR/Lect/H&ME/Dental/Jammu/33/2021
Dated: 15.12.2021

DIPK-15025/21

Clearance Of 38 Lakh Cheques Worth Rs 37,000 Cr Affected By Bank Strike

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The ongoing two-day nationwide bank strike against the privatisation of government banks has affected clearing of cheques worth about Rs 37,000 crore, said C.H. Venkatachalam, General Secretary of the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA).

"There are three cheque clearing centres in India -- Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai. In two days - Thursday and Friday - about 38 lakh cheques worth about Rs 37,000 crore were held up," Venkatachalam said.

Giving a grid wise break up, Venkatachalam said in about 10 lakh cheques worth about Rs 10,600 crore in Chennai, about 18 lakh cheques worth about Rs 15,400 crore in Mumbai and some 11 lakh cheques worth Rs 11,000 crore in Delhi were not cleared.

He said, in addition to public sector bank staff, employees and officers of old generation private banks like Federal Bank, Karnataka Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, CSB Bank, South Indian Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank, Ratnakar Bank, J&K Bank and also Kotak Mahindra Bank were also on strike.

Employees of foreign banks like Citi Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Sonali Bank, Bank of America and others though very small in number are also on strike.

A section of employees and officers of Regional Rural Banks are also on strike, he added.

About one lakh bank branches remain closed and some others headed by senior officials were kept open as they did not participate in the strike.

However, there were no transactions in those branches as other staff were on strike.

Venkatachalam said cheques drawn and between private banks like ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank are getting cleared as they are not on strike.

The strike was called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of several bank unions.

Venkatachalam said the strike is against the Centre's move to



privatise public sector banks (PSB) and to introduce the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the current session of Parliament.

The passage of the Bill will enable the government to reduce their equity capital in the PSBs to less than 51 per cent and allow private hands to take over them.

The Centre had earlier said it would privatise two of its banks.

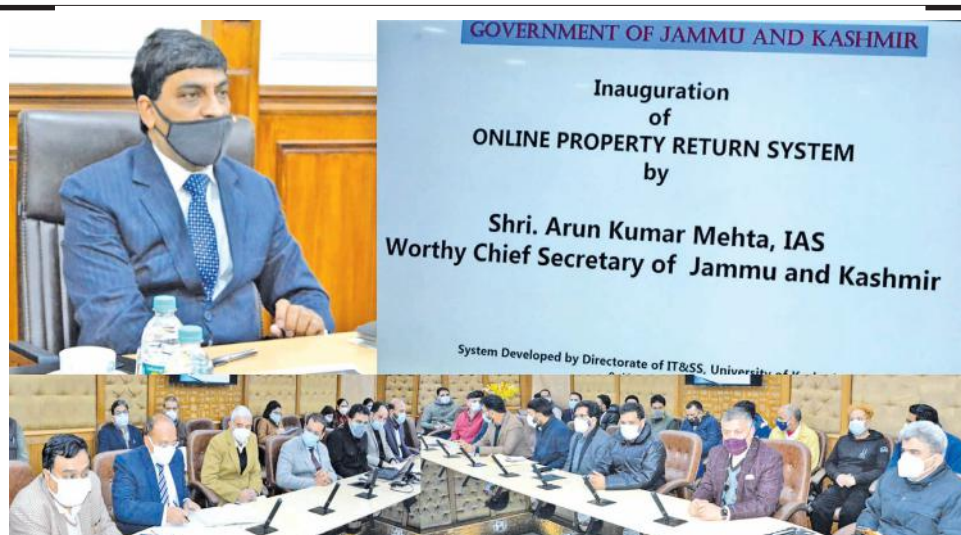
Venkatachalam said that at the conciliation meeting held in Delhi on Wednesday, where representatives of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Finance Ministry were also present, the unions reiterated that they would defer the strike if the Central government assures them that it would defer the introduction of Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 in Parliament.

According to him, the only issue being confronted with the PSBs was that of huge Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in which the major share was that of big corporates.

"Successful governments have taken initiatives such as Debt Recovery Tribunals, SARFAESI Act, IBC, etc, but they have not yielded the desired results and therefore ultimately banks were forced to write off those loans resulting into huge losses," he said.

This shows that it is not the nationalisation of banks, which has failed but it is the wilful default of the corporate and big business houses, which have dragged the banks into this crisis, Venkatachalam added.

"Even under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, while bad loans have been resolved and banks could get back some portion of the loan, it has been with huge haircuts for the banks," he said.



J&K Govt Launches Portal For e-Filing Of Property Return Statement

Manual filing of Property returns to be dispensed

Observer News Service

JAMMU: As a major relief to 4.5 lakh employees serving in various departments across the UT of J&K, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta launched an online portal for submission of yearly property returns mandated by the Employees Conduct Rules. It replaces the existing cumbersome system of manual filing and is aimed at ensuring the ensure timely compliance by all government employees.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department,

Director, Anti Corruption Bureau, CEO, JAKEGA and Director, IT&SS, University of Kashmir were present on the occasion.

The portal has been developed as a collaborative venture between the General Administration Department, Information Technology Department, Anti-Corruption Bureau, and the University of Kashmir and is extremely convenient and user-friendly.

The new portal will facilitate access and monitoring of the property details of all employees especially while processing vigilance clearances in their favour, besides

assisting the Anti Corruption Bureau in investigating the cases of disproportionate assets expeditiously.

The Government employees can conveniently log in using their CPIS No. and OTP verification, fill up/submit their property return statement, and download/take print of the same for record-keeping. Similarly, the DDOs can also monitor and assess compliance from all concerned employees.

The Government employees can now submit their property details on the portal <https://prs.jk.gov.in>, for the calendar year 2021 between 1st and 31st January, 2022.

How A Chennai-Based Renewable Energy Company Bagged A \$2.2 Billion Order

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI: Ram Charan Company, the Chennai-based chemicals-trader-turned-renewable energy specialist with focus on sustainable R&D, has bagged a \$2.2 billion order from the Ghana-based Masri Company to supply waste to energy units that is expected to generate 300 MW of power in the African nation.

Last month, the New York-based impact fund TFCC International had entered into an

into research on managing end-of-life chemicals, and since then has developed products that can process large quantities of unsegregated waste.

Later, it moved from chemicals trading and distribution into compound and specialty chemical manufacturing, as also testing and research, according to its website. It has presence across the country apart from in Britain, North America and Japan.

The company is currently headed by third generation entrepreneurs Divyesh and Kaushik Palicha.

Since 2016, Ram Charan has moved into deep-tech, end-of-life chemicals converting unsegregated waste into energy and manufacturing new-generation energy storage devices -- the primary reason for the American fund to go for such a high valuation and equity partnership.

"We've bagged a \$2.2-billion order Masri Company from Ghana, which is working in the energy and mostly renewable energy space and this is their first foray into the waste to energy business," Kaushik Palicha, a director and part of the promoter family of Ram Charan, said in a statement on Friday.

The supply is expected to commence in November 2022, with setting up of units across Ghana over the next two years.

The agreement and delivery of waste to energy products and services will be delivered un-

der the brand name Entity One, he added.

"This is our first agreement to supply waste to energy units and this \$2.2 billion order goes well with our overall mission of processing bulk waste to energy without leaving behind any residue," Palicha said.

"We are confident that our waste to energy products and new generation energy storage devices will help the environment of Ghana in a significant manner," he added.

Ram Charan's waste to energy technology allows for zero toxic residue, and can be used to convert all types of unsegregated waste into energy, with zero residue to the environment, making it the first of its kind globally and also the safest.

Ram Charan is implementing modern techniques considering a zero part per million production unit, and is also amongst the first globally to set up end product responsibility for their products.

The technology, developed in-house after research from 2016 by the current team at Ram Charan headed by Palicha, has been branded under the name 'Entity One', and has a slew of products lined up for release from 2022 till 2024. Manufacturing facilities are planned in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Ram Charan started off as a chemical distributor and has of late moved to research based on managing end of life chemicals. It began research on these projects in 2016, and since then has proceeded to develop products which can process large quantities of unsegregated waste.

'Maruti Suzuki Super Carry' Sales Cross 1 Lakh Milestone

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki Super Carry, the country's most powerful mini-truck has recently achieved the record milestone of 100,000 cumulative unit sales in just 5 years of its launch.

"The only mini-truck in India that offers a 4-cylinder engine, Super Carry serves the versatile requirements of the commercial customers who need an efficient goods carrier," said an official statement.

"Available in both petrol and CNG option, Maruti Suzuki Super Carry was developed specifically for India, keeping in mind the unique requirements of Indian mini-truck customers."

Maruti Suzuki forayed into the commercial segment in 2016 with the introduction of Super Carry in India. Within a short span, Super Carry has won widespread appreciation from customers for its best-in-segment power, excellent mileage, easy maintenance, comfort and enhanced storage capacity, which helps enhance their profitability.

Speaking on the milestone, Shashank Srivastava, Senior

Executive Director (Marketing & Sales), Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "In a very short time, Super Carry has received



a phenomenal market reception and has found wide acceptance among customers. Through Super Carry, we have been able to cater to a diverse range of goods carrying customer requirements to enable them to be more efficient and profitable. The S-CNG variant of Super Carry has helped businesses enhance their profitability with its excellent mileage of 21.55km/kg. Super Carry has proven that mini-trucks can be powerful, comfortable to drive, easy to maintain and profitable for the owner and that is the reason why customers vouch for its quality. We thank our customers for bestowing their trust in us and making Super Carry, the second best-selling mini truck in the light commercial vehicle space."

RBI Board Discusses Private Cryptocurrencies, CBDC

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Central Board of Reserve Bank on Friday discussed various aspects related to Central Bank Digital Currency and private cryptocurrencies.

The government has proposed to bring in legislation on cryptocurrencies. It has listed Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, for consideration in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament.

However, sources said that it may not be taken up during the session scheduled to end next week.

The RBI in a statement said the 592nd meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held at Lucknow under the Chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"The Board also discussed various aspects relating to Central Bank Digital Currency and Private Crypto Currencies," it said.

Parliament was recently informed that the government had received a proposal from the RBI in October 2021 for the amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to enhance the scope of the definition of 'bank note' to include currency in digital form.

The RBI has been examining use cases and working out a phased implementation strategy for the introduction of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with little or no disruption. CBDC is introduced by a central bank.

The central bank has repeatedly expressed its strong views against cryptocurrencies, saying they pose serious threats to the macroeconomic and financial stability of the country, and also doubted the number of investors trading on them and their claimed market value.

Governor Das too had reiterated his views against allowing cryptocurrencies, saying they are serious threats to any financial system since they are unregulated by central banks.

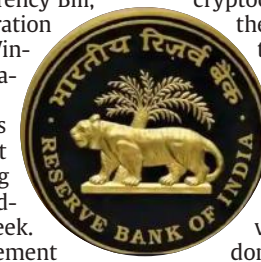
The RBI statement further said the Board also reviewed the current domestic and global economic situation, evolving challenges and remedial measures.

The Board also discussed the half-yearly income statement of the RBI for the half-year ended September 30, 2021.

"The Board also discussed various areas of operations of the Reserve Bank including the functioning of the Local Boards, activities of select Central Office Departments and the draft Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2020-21," the central bank added.

Deputy Governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, and T Rabi Sankar were present in the meeting.

Other directors of the Central Board Satish K Marathe, S Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi attended the meeting. Debashish Panda, Secretary, Department of Financial Services also participated.



Dir Tourism Invites IATO To Host Their Next Session In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo Friday attended the 36th convention of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat today.

In his presentation, Dr. Itoo gave details about the efforts being made by the J&K Government in reviving tourism activities in the Union Territory post pandemic. He gave a detailed overview of the recent initiatives taken by the Tourism Department activating stakeholders and markets across the equally.

The Director Tourism Kashmir also briefed the delegates about the series of festivals and events, particularly the icons festivals, held during the last year or so by the Department across Jammu & Kashmir. The Department, he added, undertook a massive capacity building programme of stakeholders to prepare them for the post Covid business scenario coupled with a rigorous vaccination drive among stakeholders. This, he added, has been showing encouraging results with increasing bookings and enquiries.

Inviting the organizers of IATO to hold their next session in J&K, Dr. Itoo informed them that Government has identified 75 lesser known tourist destinations across the UT for promotion among the tourists. Every destination, he said, is with a specific tourism potential and marketability. He hoped the organizers would choose J&K for their next session.



Earlier in the day, the Director, Tourism, Kashmir participated in a run for responsible tourism held to raise awareness about conducting tourism business post COVID in a responsible manner with all health precautions. He also had a series of meetings with heads of travel trade organizations during his stay.

The Tourism department has also put up a display stall at the counter with all products and services. Dr. Itoo also visited the stall and interacted with the visitors.

The convention was inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel yesterday. Jammu & Kashmir is co-partnering the event along with states like Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan and MP.

A delegation of J&K Chapter of IATO comprising Nasir Shah, Akram Siya, Zahoor Qari and Showkat Pakhtoon are also participating in the convention.

Airtel Pre-Pays Rs 15,519 Cr To Clear All Deferred Liabilities

SRINAGAR: Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier digital communications solutions provider, Friday said that it has paid Rs 15,519 crores to the Department of Telecom (Government of India) towards prepayment of the entire deferred liabilities pertaining to spectrum acquired in auction of year 2014.

The company had acquired 128.4 MHz spectrum (including Telenor spectrum) for a consideration of Rs 19,051 crores in the 2014 auction. These liabilities were due in annual instalments from FY 2026-2027 to 2031-2032 and carried an interest rate of 10% (the highest rate amongst the deferred liabilities and borrowings) and an average residual life of 7+ years.

17% Rise In Number Of Domestic Air Passengers In Nov: DGCA

NEW DELHI: Around 1.05 crore domestic passengers travelled by air in November, 17.03 per cent higher than the 89.85 lakh who travelled in October, the country's aviation regulator said on Friday. While IndiGo carried 57.06 lakh passengers in November, a 54.3 per cent share of the domestic market, Spicejet flew 10.78 lakh passengers, accounting for a 10.3 per cent share of the market, according to the data shared by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Air India, Go First (previously known as GoAir), Vistara, AirAsia India and Alliance Air carried 9.98 lakh, 11.56 lakh, 7.93 lakh, 6.23 lakh and 1.20 lakh passengers, respectively, in November, the data showed. (PTI)

Benchmarks Bleed As Virus, Taper Trigger Global Retreat

MUMBAI: The Sensex plummeted 889 points while the Nifty sank below the 17,000-mark on Friday, in line with a selloff in global markets as hawkish central banks and rising Omicron cases sparked a retreat from riskier assets. Continued selling by foreign institutional investors put further pressure on domestic bourses, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 889.40 points or 1.54 per cent to finish at 57,011.74. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty plunged 263.20 points or 1.53 per cent to 16,985.20.

IndusInd Bank was the top laggard on the Sensex chart, shedding 4.89 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, HUL, Titan, HDFC, Bajaj Finserv and SBI. (PTI)

Gold Climbs Rs 398; Silver Zooms Rs 1,033 On Global Cues

NEW DELHI: price in the national capital on Friday rallied by Rs 398 to Rs 47,762 per 10 gram reflecting gains in precious metal prices in the international market, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 47,364 per 10 gram. Silver also gained Rs 1,033 to Rs 61,147 per kg from Rs 60,114 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,808 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.62 per ounce. "Gold prices traded higher with spot gold prices at COMEX trading over half a per cent up at USD 1,808 per ounce on Friday. Gold prices rallied supported by weaker dollar and plunge in US bond yields," HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel said. (PTI)

CBI Charges Corporation Bank Ex-Chairman In Rs 79 Cr Fraud Case

NEW DELHI: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against former chairman cum managing director Ramnath Pradeep of Corporation Bank and other executives in connection with alleged loss of Rs 79 crore incurred by the bank due to loan default by a company, officials said on Friday. In its charge sheet filed before the court of ACMM, Esplanade, Mumbai, the probe agency named S N Murthy Shankar, the then chief manager, and A P Shiva Kumar, the then senior manager, Corporation Bank, LCB, Mumbai, they said. The agency had taken over the investigation on the complaint of the bank on June 16, 2017 against Parekh Aluminex Limited, its directors and chartered accountant (CA). (PTI)

Delhi University To Hold Entrance Exams For Admissions From 2022: Officials

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Delhi University's executive council on Friday approved holding of entrance examinations for admissions from next year, officials said.

The executive council (EC) is the highest decision-making body of the university, and despite dissent by two of its members, it approved the proposal to hold a common entrance test (CET). The Delhi University currently follows the cut-off based system.

Am academic council meeting was held on December 10, and it had approved the proposal. A nine-member panel constituted by DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh had recommended that the university should hold a common entrance test (CET) to ensure substantial objectivity in the process of admissions, amid a controversy over high number of 100 per cent scorers from the Kerala board getting admissions to the university.

According to the dissent note signed by the two members, Seema Das and advocate Ashok Aggarwal, the committee's report is silent on the estimated fees for such an examination and the format of CET that can successfully assess the students and the basis for various kinds of supernumerary admissions.

The note also said that currently, students can change streams and asked whether the CET process would allow this.

"This report mentions that through CET, merit and only merit of a prospective applicant will be the benchmark for undergraduate admissions. Does this mean that students who were admitted are not meritorious? Does this mean that the interim report is alleging that the admissions system the university has been following since many generations is not based on merit," it asked.

The committee, in a very arbitrary manner, labelled CET as a procedure which will provide "equitable opportunity", they alleged. "It ignores the increased

pressure on students because of an additional examination for admission. The committee ignores the fact that such a filter results in an additional expenditure towards coaching and therefore, marginalises those coming from disadvantageous backgrounds," said the note.

It also cited observations of the Madras High Court in a case on NEET, in which it concluded that entrance exams benefited only students who spend lakhs of rupees on coaching classes and put rural students at a disadvantage.

"The committee is silent on the total expenditure by the university in running such an entrance exam for lakhs of students. What will be the mode and format of this examination? How much duration such an admission process will require? No timeline has been proposed. The committee does put any proposal on the number of centres required across the country to make such an exam accessible. Neither it produces any guidelines for the arrangements required to make these centres safe for students and examinations," the note said.

The committee formed under the chairmanship of Dean (Examinations) D S Rawat was supposed to examine the reasons for over and under admissions to undergraduate courses, study board-wise distribution of admissions in these courses, suggest alternative strategies for optimal admissions, and examine OBC admissions with reference to the non-creamy layer status.

"The committee is of the considered view that admissions may be carried out through a Common Entrance Test (CET)," said the report.

"It may be conducted through an appropriate mode by the university through a well-devised internal arrangement or through any external agency, depending upon prevailing operational feasibility and administrative convenience at that time followed by declaration of a list of eligible candidates for admissions under various course of study," the committee said in its report.

India Couldn't Have Won 1971 War Without Indira's Strong, Decisive Leadership: Karan Singh

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh on Friday said India could not have won the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War "without the strong and decisive leadership of Indira Gandhi" but said she let then Pakistan prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto "off the leash rather generously".

Singh, who was a minister in former prime minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet during the 1971 war, said she could have used the opportunity to put pressure on Bhutto over the Kashmir issue.

His remarks came after the Congress accused the Narendra Modi government of indulging in petty politics by not remembering former prime minister Indira Gandhi during Vijay Diwas celebrations and termed it of being "misogynist".

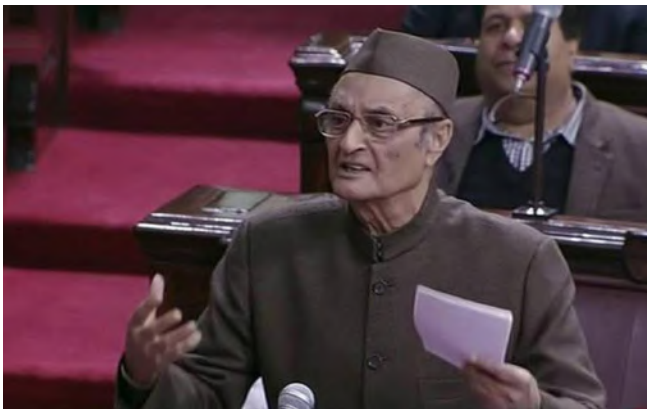
"As the only surviving member of Shrimati Indira Gandhi's cabinet during the Bangladesh War, I would like to say that there can be no doubt whatsoever that without Indira Gandhi's strong and decisive leadership we would not have achieved this victory," Singh said in a statement.

India on Thursday celebrated the 50th anniversary of its victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to redrawing of the political map of South Asia and ended the horrific violence unleashed by the Pakistani army on millions of Bangladeshi people.

"Of course credit must go to our armed forces, but, I reiterate, it was Indira Gandhi's strong and decisive leadership that culminated in India's first victory after a thousand years. Rightly was she called Durga by the great Atal Bihari Vajpayee," Singh said.

"Having said all this, I must admit that I did feel she let Zulfikar Ali Bhutto off the leash rather generously.

"Although the purpose of the war was the liberation of East



Pakistan and not directly linked with Jammu and Kashmir, she could perhaps have used the opportunity to pressure Bhutto regarding that beautiful state founded by my ancestors. But that is another story," the former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir said.

Singh, a former Rajya Sabha member, said the armed forces under outstanding soldiers as Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Lt Gen J S Aurora, Lt Gen J F R Jacob, Lt Gen Sangat Singh and many others created history by their brilliantly planned and coordinated campaign.

The Chief of Naval Staff Admiral S M Nanda and Chief of Air Staff P C Lal also deserve full credit for the significant role played by the Air Force and the Navy, he said.

Recalling the events in 1971, Singh said, "I have vivid memories of that day in the Lok Sabha. Indira Gandhi, who seldom showed any emotion, was clearly overjoyed and almost ran into the House and took her seat. My seat happened to be immediately behind her's."

"As soon as she entered, the House immediately fell silent. She got up and said Mr Speaker, Dhaka has fallen to the Indian Army and the Mukti Bahini. The House exploded in joy and had to be adjourned," the former union minister recalled.

He said it is difficult for later generations to appreciate the

emotional intensity with which Indians followed events in Bangladesh, including the terrible Tika Khan massacres, culminating in the extraordinary victory.

"It is often forgotten that during that year Indira Gandhi did make genuine efforts to encourage a political solution to the conflict between East and West Pakistan," he said.

She sent her ministers around the world to meet Heads of State and impress upon them the necessity to persuade the rulers of Pakistan and come to a political settlement with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Singh said.

Singh recalled that he was sent to the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia "where I met up with Field Marshal (Josip Broz) Tito whom I had accompanied around India during his State visit earlier. On the way back I met the Shah of Iran with whom also I had travelled India, he said.

In these meetings, Singh said he carried Indira Gandhi's message on the importance of bringing about a political solution to prevent an armed conflict.

"She also, in a brilliant masterstroke, signed The Treaty of Friendship with the USSR which played an important role in preventing China or the United States from intervening during the War," the veteran Congress leader said.

Proposed K'taka Anti-Conversion Bill: Up To 10 Years Imprisonment And A Max Rs One Lakh Fine

AGENCEIS

BELAGAVI: The proposed anti-conversion bill, which the BJP government in Karnataka intends to introduce in the ongoing Legislature session here, has a provision for imprisonment of those who indulge in mass conversion from three to 10 years and a fine of Rs one lakh.

The draft also says that the 'religious converter' shall give one month's prior notice in 'form-II of such conversion' to the district magistrate or any other officer not below the rank of additional district magistrate. Also, the marriages done for the sole purpose of unlawful conversion or vice-versa will be declared void, as per the draft copy of 'The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill-2021'.

The law once it comes into effect will encompass those who "misrepresent, force, undue influence, coercion, allurements or by any fraudulent means or by marriage, or abet or conspire such conversion."

However, this Act will not attract the penal provisions of the act for re-converting to his immediate previous religion.

"Provided that if any person reconverts to his immediate previous religion, the same shall not be deemed to a conversion under this Act," section-3 of the act read.

Under the proposed law, "any aggrieved person, his parents, brother, sister, or any other person, who is related to him by blood, marriage or adoption may lodge a First Information Report of such conversion, which contravenes the provisions of section-3."

According to the draft regulation, whoever contravenes the provisions of section-3 should, without prejudice to any civil liability, be punished with imprisonment for a term, which should not be less than three years but which may extend to five years and should also be liable to fine, which should not be less than Rs 25,000.

The consequences will be stern in case SC/ST and minors

are converted.

"Whoever contravenes the provision of section 3 in respect of a minor, a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to 10 years and shall be liable to fine, which shall be not less than Rs 50,000," the draft read.

Further, whoever indulges in mass conversion shall be punished with imprisonment from three to 10 years and will be liable for Rs one lakh fine.

The proposed law says that the victim may get a compensation up to Rs five lakh in addition to the fine.

In case of marriage done for the sole purpose of unlawful conversion, the marriage will be declared void by the family court. In case there are no family courts, then the court having jurisdiction to try such cases can also declare such marriages void.

The offences attracting the provisions of the proposed Act will be non-bailable and cognisable.

Further, whoever desires to convert his religion should give a declaration in 'Form-I' "at least 60 days in advance" to the district magistrate or the additional district magistrate who should be specially authorised by the district magistrate "in this regard that he wishes to convert his religion on his free consent and without any force, coercion, undue influence or allurements".

After receiving the information, the district magistrate should conduct an enquiry through police "with regard to real intention, purpose and cause of the proposed religious conversion"

The proposed law further says that any institution or organisation which violates the provisions of the proposed Act shall be subject to punishment and their registration will be cancelled by the competent authority upon reference made by the district magistrate.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

From Winter Capital

But amid these political shows, said a political activist from Jammu, people are getting confused with "so many narratives" from the different political parties. "While each party has its own narrative, everyone including Kashmir centric parties have an eye on Jammu."

For instance, the activist said, the newly created parties including Ikkjut Jammu, Dogra Sadar Sabha and Dogra Swabhimana Sangathan are demanding a separate statehood for Jammu.

"This idea has very few takers in the region and such ideas have been flouted from time to time," Choudhary continued. "BJP has never endorsed such demands."

But Jammu, asserts advocate Ankur Sharma, wants a separate state to control the political order.

"It's in the interest of nation to secure Jammu for Islamisation," Sharma, Chairman of Ikkjut Jammu, told Kashmir Observer.

"More political parties have liked this idea and are in talks. Although there're some differences, I think we will sort it out."

However, ex-JK Minister GM Saroori argues that a demand from just a few individuals from Jammu doesn't mean that whole regions demand it. "You need to understand that Jammu consists of 10 districts and such a demand [separate state] from Jammu district is unacceptable to the rest of the 9 districts," Saroori told Kashmir Observer.

Saroori is the part of the Azad's "group" apparently working on accepting the "reality of abrogation of Article 370" and working restoration of statehood for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have been telling people that since Article 370 is subjudice, so we should demand protection of land and job rights including the restoration of statehood," Tara Chand, former deputy chief minister of JK, considered as a loyalist to the Azad group, told Kashmir Observer.

It may be noted that at least 20 Congress leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, considered close to Azad resigned from their party positions last month and are reaching out to the people of Jammu and Chenab valley amid speculation about Assembly elections in J&K. The group has been unofficially referred to as the 'G-23' faction.

"We want Secretariat to function in both Jammu and Kashmir throughout the year," Gurchain Singh Charak, former JK minister and chairman of Dogra Sadar Sabha, told Kashmir Observer. "This is the only way through which we can stay together otherwise it's time to separate Kashmir from Jammu."

Even Lal Singh, who greets his visitors with "Jai Dogra", said it's time to take responsibility for "our own regions" and work for their development.

"All the regions [Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu] have their own identity, culture and religion and so everyone should fight to protect it," Singh said.

"And that's why we are demanding separate

status for all but that doesn't mean we want to destroy Kashmir on the basis of religion. We don't endorse such ideologies."

LG Calls For

department and took stock of the health care arrangements being provided to travelers.

Dr Mushtaq said that due to the coordinated efforts between the health department, district administration and the airport authorities they have been able to manage COVID-19 situation at the airport.

He said the health department is trying its level best to maintain high standard protocols as laid down by the Government of India from time to time.

The Director directed the health officials to implement the guidelines and ensure that every traveler is tested and all the precautionary measures are put in place to help contain the virus spread.

J&K Logs 136

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported highest 54 new cases of coronavirus, Ganderbal 11, Baramulla 10, Budgam 7, Kupwara, Anantnag and Bandipora 4 each and Pulwama 2 new cases of Covid-19. The twin districts of Kulgam and Shopian registered no fresh cases of virus.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 18 new cases of virus, Udhampur and Doda 6 each, Kathua 5, Rajouri 3 and one new case each in Samba and Poonch. No cases were detected in the three districts of Kishtwar, Ramban and Reasi.

"Moreover, 121 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 32 from Jammu Division and 89 from Kashmir," the officials said.

Also, the officials said that no new confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) were reported Friday. So far 50 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said.

Valley Shivers

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 8.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 10 degrees Celsius previous night.

The officials said Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius. The south Kashmir resort had recorded minus 6.9 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag also recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius.

PAGD To Hold

the meeting has been convened to discuss several issues including their reach out to the Central government, civil society members and opposition parties in New Delhi regarding abrogation of Article 370.

Sources also said that the meeting will also discuss further course of action regarding a writ petition filed by its spokesperson M Y Tarigami in the Supreme Court regarding article 370.

The ongoing delimitation process in Jammu and Kashmir and future strategy regarding the same, they said, is also on the agenda.

Senior Leader and NC Parliamentarian, Hasnain Masoodi confirmed that a meeting is being convened in Jammu to discuss a range of issues.

He also said that the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir will also be discussed in the meeting. (With KNS inputs)

Politicians Slam

land for non-agricultural purposes is another nail in the coffin of the land to the tiller reforms in J&K. This landmark reform has been a major reason for the low levels of poverty and it will also threaten the food security of the people of J&K, he said.

"The fact that this conversion of land use doesn't even require the 15 year domicile certificate as a prerequisite will also rekindle fears about the motives behind such decisions," he added.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami also criticised the changes made to the land use laws.

"The slogan of 'development' is a red herring. Converting agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes is a plot to serve the interests of corporate and real estate.

"It will adversely impact our food security and be insidious for our economy," Tarigami said.

An official spokesperson had said Thursday the Administrative Council (AC) approved the change of land use from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes in Jammu and Kashmir.

The AC, which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved the regulations framed by the board of revenue for conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, he said.

These regulations were necessitated after the legislative changes in the land revenue act post reorganisation of the erstwhile state, the spokesman said.

The new guidelines have been issued to regulate the uncontrolled conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes on the one hand and keep the developmental aspirations of the UT and the people on the other, the spokesman said.

Under the new regulations, the district collector has been empowered to grant permission to the change in land use from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes in accordance with the procedure as to be notified by the board of revenue, he said.

The powers have been delegated to the district collector to grant permission for land up to 12 standard acres against a fee of five percent of the market value of the land notified under the stamps act, he added.

However, the regulations provide an exemption from seeking permission in cases of conversion of land for construction of residential houses or farm-related buildings and storages with a ceiling of 400 square metres, the spokesman said.

The decision is aimed at ensuring production

of sufficient quantity of food grains, besides promoting orderly growth of industrial and services sector in the Union territory and creation of employment, he said.

MPs Panel Dismayed

recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) may consider extending the relief and financial assistance to the people living in Turtuk under the scheme of "relief and rehabilitation for migrants and repatriates".

"The committee observes that when Turtuk became part of India in 1971, the families have left their land which was on the other side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and, therefore, is deprived of livelihood and is living under poverty," reads the report.

In its ATR, the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted that assistance to the border villages including Turtuk is being provided under different schemes.

After going through the reply of MHA, the committee reiterated its earlier recommendation for extending the relief and financial assistance to the people of Turtuk.

Turtuk is an area in Nubra valley of Ladakh Union Territory and was controlled by Pakistan till 1971—(KNO)

JKPCL To Buy

enhanced power reliability due to diversity in the power bucket of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The decision will also prioritize the generation and usage of renewable solar energy in consonance with the national endeavour of promoting green energy for a reduction in carbon footprints and mitigating global warming," he said.

"It is expected that with the addition of this power the JKPCL will be better placed to meet the increasing power demand which increased from 18091.386 MU during 2020-21 to 19500-2000 MU in the current financial year," he added.

The Power Development Department, the official spokesperson said, has been working towards ensuring 24x7 reliable electricity in major cities and towns in Jammu and Kashmir by augmenting assets both at Transmission and Distribution levels under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Flagship Programs).

"It is anticipated that with the completion of major ongoing flagship programs, the energy requirement will further grow and touch the 22000 MU mark, thus creating a demand for an additional, stable, and reliable supply of 300-500 MW power," he added.

3.1% Women

J&K where the percentage stood at 8.65 percent compared to rural J&K where the percentage was recorded at 8.3 percent.

In terms of individual data on "High Sugar level" among men and women in J&K, the report has revealed that 4.2 percent of women and 4.3 percent of men have been suffering from high sugar levels. For both genders, the rate was higher in rural J&K than urban areas.

"The number of diabetic patients (both men and women) in terms of "very high" blood sugar level was found to be higher in urban J&K (3.15 percent) than rural J&K (2.85).

As per World Health Organization (WHO), diabetes is a chronic disease whereby the body experiences an increased blood glucose level, a condition medically termed as Hyperglycemia. This defect comes to light when Pancreas either does not produce enough insulin or when the body can't effectively use insulin that it produces.

It is pertinent to mention here that the NFHS-5 fieldwork for Jammu & Kashmir was conducted from July 1, 2019 to January 30, 2020 and the Information was gathered from 18,086 households, 23,037 women, and 3,087 men.

Heart Attack

a heart attack inside his camp in Akhara Building in Lal Chowk area of the city, reports said.

Kumar, who was a driver in the paramilitary force, was removed to the hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead.

Kashmiri Student

Tawseef Rashid Wani, son of Abdul Rashid Wani, a resident of Batpora Naina village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Wani was a 4th year MBBS student in Rawalpindi Medical College (RMC).

Stray Dogs Injure 4

Paray: Asma Shabir, 3, daughter of Shabir Ahmad Bhat; Farhat Ahmad Ganie, 13, son Mohammad Ayub Ganie and Safena Begum, 29, wife of Lateef Ahmad Rather, all residents of Sadergund Hangah were admitted to District Hospital Handwara with dog bite injuries.

The canines have also killed two sheep of Abdul Aziz Hajam also, reports said.

A medical official at District Hospital Handwara said that four persons with dog bite injuries were received at the health facility.

"They all are stable and responding well to the treatment", the official said. (GNS)

Ladakh Gets Its

science laboratory in Ladakh will provide an unbiased scientific opinion on different types of evidential material referred to them by the investigating agencies and in turn, help the judiciary, they said.

In the absence of such a laboratory in Ladakh, specimens had to be sent outside the union territory which affected investigations especially when the specimens were perishables like human viscera, the officials said.

The FSL Ladakh will be a multidisciplinary forensic laboratory capable of examination and analysis of biological, chemical, print, and documentary evidence, they said.

The establishment of the forensic science laboratory unit in Ladakh will go a long way in giving better, strong, and reliable evidence in the court of law and will also act as a deterrent to possible crimes in the future.

Ajaz Patel's 10-Wicket Ball Will Have 'Pride Of Place' In MCA Museum

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) president Vijay Patil has lauded New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel for donating his "10-wicket" ball for the upcoming MCA museum where it would duly be the "pride of the place".

"What he (Ajaz Patel) achieved at the Wankhede stadium was something completely phenomenal. And the fact that he did at our iconic (Wankhede) stadium just gives us another memory to savour from his historic ground, Patil told PTI.

Earlier this month, the Mumbai-born 34-year-old Ajaz, a left-arm spinner became only the third bowler in Test history to return a 10-for in an innings after Jim Laker (1956) and Anil Kumble (1999) and that too in the city of his birth.

And the fact that he traces his roots back to Mumbai made it extra special for us.

"He was gracious, once the feat was achieved, he generously gave us the cricket ball, by which he took those 10 wickets, so that is something that we greatly value and it will occupy pride of place in our MCA museum, added Patil, who has been the MCA chief since October 2019.

Patil also stressed that the upcoming museum would inspire the youth.

"I think it (the museum formation) is a right step, because we (Mumbai cricket) had such a great legacy. We had 80 odd in-



ternationals and almost 1/5th of the international runs scored by India have been scored by Mumbai batsmen. So, our history goes back decades.

So, to preserve our rich heritage, that will truly inspire our present as well as the future cricketers." Mahendra Singh Dhoni had won India the 2011 ODI World Cup by hitting a six at the Wankhede stadium.

Asked whether the seat where the ball landed would be preserved, Patil quipped, "Those were very special moments, the 2011 World Cup of course was such a special moment in the Indian cricket history, the fact that it happened at the Wankhede stadium is etched in our hearts."

"We have had so many historical moments in Mumbai cricket and all those need to be put together. The museum will be an apt place to record these historical moments."

Patil is also upbeat about university and collegiate sports, which needs to develop and progress in years to come.



J&K Bank football team with the 15th Edition Christmas Gold Cup trophy.

J&K Bank Win 15th Christmas Gold Cup

Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&K Bank football team on Friday lifted the 15th Christmas Gold Cup by defeating Shaheen FC 3-0 in the finals played at GGM Science College Ground here.

Bank's talismanic striker Akif Reshi scored 2 goals to give his team the much-deserved victory.

Akif opened the score in the 30th minute, before adding another in the 60th minute of

the match. Adnan Ayub scored J&K Bank's 3rd goal in the 87th minute. For his brilliant display, Akif was awarded the player of the match.

Advisor to LG, Farooq Khan was the chief guest on the occasion, while other guests included BJP State vice president, Yudhvir Sethi, J&K Bank Zonal Head Shareesh Sharma, among others.

Advisor congratulated the winning team and appreciated the runner up team as

well for their outstanding performance. He also distributed trophies among the winning and runner up teams.

The Christmas Gold Cup was organised by All J&K Sports & Cultural Welfare Association. The tournament was held under the aegis of JKFA and JKSC, and saw the participation of 18 teams.

Pertinently, this J&K Bank football team has won all major local tournaments played in the year 2021.

Anti-Doping Bill Introduced In Lok Sabha

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A bill which seeks to provide statutory framework for the functioning of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) besides strengthening measures to tackle drug abuse in Indian sports was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The bill was introduced by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur amid protests by the opposition over the Lakhimpur Khri violence.

The bill is intended to provide a "statutory framework for the



operation of the National Anti-Doping Agency, the National Dope Testing Laboratory and other dope testing laboratories and for creation of a National

Board for Anti-Doping in Sports to strengthen anti-doping activities in sport."

The bill seeks to give NADA powers of "investigation, levying sanctions for Anti-Doping Rule Violations, the disciplinary procedures to be adopted and the powers of inspection, sample collection and sharing and free flow of information."

It also provides for the establishment of the NDTL and other dope testing laboratories.

The NDTL is currently suspended by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for failing to meet technical requirements.

69m High Lionel Messi Mural Appears In Hometown Rosario

Agencies

ROSARIO: The Argentine City of Rosario paid homage to its most talented football player with a giant portrait.

A 69-meter tall mural dedicated to Lionel Messi has been inaugurated at his hometown of Rosario. The graffiti "From Other Galaxy, From My City" was designed and painted by local artists Marlene Zuriaga y Lisandro Urteaga.

The painting depicts Messi as captain of the national squad, wearing the jersey number 10,



touching his chest with the hand and a bright sun lighting him.

A group of primary school children were invited to attend

the inauguration ceremony, organized by Rosario authorities.

The piece takes part of a wider project called Common Messi which aims to spread the image of the Rosario born football superstar all over the city buildings.

The now Paris Saint Germain player took his first steps in football at his Rosario neighborhood club Grandoli and then, at the age of six, the already incipient star moved on to Newell's Old Boys, a Rosario club that plays in the first division of Argentine football. (AP)

Pakistan Beat West Indies By 7 Wickets To Sweep T20 Series



Agence France-Presse

KARACHI: Pakistan beat the West Indies by seven wickets in the third and final Twenty20 International (T20I) in Karachi on Thursday, sweeping the series 3-0.

Mohammad Rizwan scored 87 and skipper Babar Azam hit 79 as Pakistan achieved their highest purchase in all T20Is by reaching the 208-run target in 18.5 overs.

Babar and Rizwan, who put on 158 for the opening wicket, registered their sixth century stand in T20Is — all this year. It is the most by any pair in the shortest format.

In the first innings, West Indies skipper Nicholas Pooran struck a rapid 37-ball 64 to lead the tourists to 207-3 in their 20 overs after they won the toss and opted to bat.

Brandon King and Shamarh Brooks contributed to the total

with knocks of 43 and 49, respectively.

The match was nearly called off after five more members of the touring squad — including three players — tested positive for Covid-19.

Six players were ruled out overall, but the West Indies agreed to play after the remaining 14 players tested negative.

Gudakesh Motie made his international debut at 26, with Darren Bravo also coming into the side.

Shai Hope and Akeal Hosein were both left out after testing positive for the virus.

Pakistan, meanwhile, rested pace spearheads Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf and brought in Mohammad Hasnain and Shahnaaz Dahani.

The Green Shirts won the first match in the series by 63 runs and the second by nine runs, also played in Karachi.

Liverpool Wins, Chelsea Held As EPL Teeters Amid Virus Surge

Agencies

LONDON: If the Premier League is to take an enforced break amid another surge in coronavirus cases, Trent Alexander-Arnold gave it quite a send-off.

The Liverpool full back has the perhaps the most dangerous right foot in English football and he used it to devastating effect with a late long-range strike to seal a come-from-behind 3-1 win over Newcastle on Thursday. "A stunner. Unbelievable," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "The boy's shooting technique is on a different level."

The victory meant Liverpool stayed on the shoulder of league leader Manchester City in what is shaping up to be an exciting title race. Chelsea couldn't keep pace, though.

A 1-1 draw at home to injury-hit Everton was Chelsea's latest disappointing



result in the league and left the European champions four points behind City.

On current form, the title race is looking like a two-team race, even if it could soon be halted as the league approaches a busy program of festive fixtures.

The growing number of infections among Premier League squads as the omicron variant spreads is being reflected in the number of matches being postponed, almost on a daily basis. Just before kickoff in Thursday's games, the league announced half of the weekend fixtures have been called off because of coronavirus outbreaks in many teams.

There have now been nine postponements in a week. Thursday's games went ahead, though both Liverpool and Chelsea each had three players unavailable because of positive cases.

Virgil van Dijk and Fabinho were among them for Liverpool, while Chelsea was forced to do without strikers Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner. (AP)

Mercedes Withdraws Appeal Of Formula 1 Season Finale

Agencies

ABU DHABI: Mercedes ended the dispute over the Formula One season finale on Thursday when it withdrew its appeal of the controversial finish that cost Lewis Hamilton a record eighth championship.

Mercedes had filed a pair of protests following Sunday's race, in which a late crash at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix helped Max Verstappen beat Hamilton for the title. Both protests were dismissed and Mercedes then asked for reconsideration at the International Court of Appeal, a process that could have dragged into next year.

"We left Abu Dhabi in disbelief of what we had just witnessed," Mercedes said in a statement. "Of course, it's part of the game to lose a race, but it's something different when you lose faith in racing."

Mercedes was protesting

the use of the safety car following a crash with five laps remaining. Hamilton had a nearly 12-second lead with Verstappen in second when the crash brought out the yellow flag.

Verstappen pitted for fresh tires while Hamilton stayed on track. The race director initially said lapped drivers could not pass the safety car, then reversed the call in a decision that returned Verstappen to second when the race resumed with a lap remaining.

Verstappen then passed Hamilton to win his first world championship; Hamilton was denied a record eighth title, one more than Michael Schumacher.

Mercedes said Thursday, ahead of the season-ending gala in Paris later in the evening, that it decided with Hamilton not to move forward with the appeal. Hamilton and Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff both skipped the gala, and Mercedes did



not send its constructors' championship-winning cars to Paris for photographs.

"I won't be there because of my loyalty to Lewis and because of my own personal integrity," Wolff said.

The Mercedes protest was over safety car rules that "were applied in a new way that affected the race result, after Lewis had been in a commanding lead and on course to win (the championship)" and Mercedes said its appeal was "in the interest of sporting fairness."

Mercedes said it was satisfied after discussions with both the FIA and Formula One over clarity on the rules "so that all competitors know the rules under which they are racing, and how they will be enforced."

The FIA late Wednesday said it will conduct an analysis of the ending and acknowledged the controversy is "tarnishing the image of the championship." The FIA delivered a report on the incident to the World Motor Sport Council in Paris and

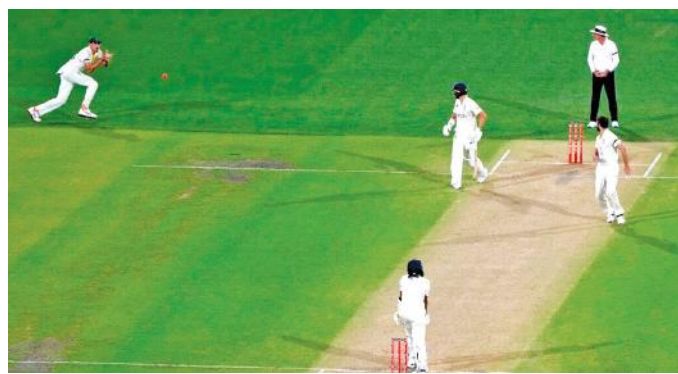
said a further review will help understand why the race ended as it did.

"We welcome the decision by the FIA to install a commission to thoroughly analyse what happened in Abu Dhabi and to improve the robustness of rules, governance and decision making in Formula 1. We also welcome that they have invited the teams and drivers to take part," Mercedes said.

Mercedes also congratulated Verstappen and Red Bull, and called the 24-year-old Dutchman a "flawless sportsman on and off the track" who "delivered a flawless performance."

"We would like to express our sincere respect for your achievements this season," Mercedes said. "You made this Formula 1 championship title fight truly epic. Max, we congratulate you and your entire team. We look forward to taking the fight to you on the track next season." (AP)

England Limp To 17-2 After Australia Declares At 473-9



Press Trust of India

ADELAIDE: Marnus Labuschagne became the first player to hit three centuries in day-night test matches while captain Steve Smith missed out on a ton as Australia strangled England with a powerful total of 473-9 declared in the second Ashes test on Friday.

Labuschagne made 103 and Smith scored 93 before Australia's tailenders knocked off some quick runs against England's worn-out bowlers and Australia declared after tea.

England limped to 17-2 in 8.4 overs -- still trailing by 456 runs -- before a massive flash of lightning took the players off the field and brought an early closure to the second day's play.

Michael Nesser got a wicket off his second ball in test cricket when he had Haseeb Hameed (6) caught at mid-on after Mitchell Starc had Rory Burns (4) caught in the slips off a delivery which went across the left-hander and took the shoulder of the bat.

Starc (39 not out) and Nesser (35) had earlier shared a rapid half century stand for the eighth wicket after England seemed to have contained the damage and had Australia on 390-7 at tea.

Jhye Richardson lofted Chris Woakes (1-103) for a big six off his second ball over midwicket before Smith declared when Richardson was caught behind off Woakes.

Ben Stokes, who dropped a hard catch of Starc off his own bowling, finished with 3-113 but Australia removed both England

openers cheaply before play was called off early.

Smith and Alex Carey (51) combined in a 91-run sixth wicket stand before Anderson removed both batsmen in successive overs just before tea. Smith shuffled back across the line and was adjudged lbw and Carey chipped an easy catch in the covers.

Earlier, England took three wickets during an even first session after Australia resumed on 221-2.

In a dramatic 40 minutes to start the day, Labuschagne, resuming on 95, edged Jimmy Anderson to third man for four to record the sixth century of his career and first in the Ashes.

Moments later he was caught behind off Ollie Robinson, re-treating all the way to the boundary rope before replays showed it had been a no-ball.

Labuschagne eventually fell in the 400th minute of his innings, lbw after trying to leave a ball in Robinson's next over that came back at him.

Of the 3,068 players in test cricket's 144-year history, only Don Bradman, George Headley, Herbert Sutcliffe and Mike Hussey have reached 2,000 runs faster than Labuschagne's total in 34 innings.

Bradman achieved his 2,000 runs in 22 innings, Jamaican Headley in 32 and England's Sutcliffe and Australia's Hussey in 33.

Labuschagne has now scored centuries in three consecutive day-night tests at the Adelaide Oval, averaging almost 100 and with just one score below 40. (AP)

Andy Flower Appointed Head Coach Of IPL's Lucknow Franchise

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Former Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower was on Friday appointed as the head coach of the yet-to-be-named Lucknow franchise, which will make its debut in the 2022 Indian Premier League.

Flower was working with Punjab Kings as assistant coach for the past two seasons.

KL Rahul, who was Punjab's skipper for the last two seasons, is also expected to move to the Sanjiv Goenka-owned franchise.

"I am incredibly excited to be joining the new Lucknow franchise and I am very grateful for the opportunity. Since my very first tour to India in 1993, I have always loved touring, playing and coaching in India," said Flower in a statement.

"The passion for cricket in India is unrivalled and it is a real privilege to lead an IPL franchise and I am looking forward to working closely with Dr Goenka and the Lucknow team.

"I will relish the challenge to



build something meaningful and successful with the Lucknow franchise, I am looking forward to meeting the management and staff when I visit Uttar Pradesh in the new year."

Goenka added: "As a player and a Coach Andy has left an indelible mark in the history of cricket. We respect his professionalism and hope he will work with our vision and add value to our team."

The Zimbabwean great, who coached England to the T20 World Cup title in 2010 and also the number one spot in Test rankings, is at the helm of Punjab Kings owned franchise in the Caribbean Premier League -- Saint Lucia Kings.

The Goenka-led RP-SG Group had shelled out Rs 7090 crore to own the Lucknow franchise.

ISIS Has 66 Known Indian-Origin Fighters: US Report On Terrorism

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: There were 66 known Indian-origin fighters affiliated with the global terrorist group ISIS, the latest US State Department report on terrorism has said as it commended India's counterterrorism forces, including the NIA, for actively detecting and disrupting transnational and regional terror forces.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in the 2020 Country Reports on Terrorism issued on

operatives from Kerala and West Bengal on September 19 and 26. "Through the end of September, the NIA had investigated 34 terrorism cases it indicated were related to ISIS and arrested 160 persons," it said.

The Kolkata Police counterterrorism Special Task Force on May 29 arrested Abdul Karim, the second-in-command of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, on suspicion of involvement in a 2013 bombing in Bodh Gaya, it said.



Thursday, said that India collaborates with the United States on implementing UNSCR 2309 and is enforcing compliance with the dual-screen X-ray mandate for cargo screening at airport locations.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2309 calls governments to meet their responsibility to keep citizens secure while travelling by air.

The report said that there were 66 known Indian-origin fighters affiliated with ISIS, as of November.

No Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) were repatriated to India during 2020, it said.

Highlighting the US-India cooperation, the report said that the United States continues to build its strategic partnership with the Government of India, including through bilateral engagements such as the 17th Counterterrorism Joint Working Group and Third Designations Dialogue in September, as well as the third 2 Ministerial Dialogue in October.

It also commended the Indian counterterrorism forces, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA), for actively detecting and disrupting transnational and regional terror forces.

"Indian counterterrorism forces, at the federal and state levels, actively detected and disrupted transnational and regional terror forces."

"The National Investigation Agency examined 34 terrorism-related cases related to ISIS and arrested 160 persons, including 10 alleged al-Qaeda operatives from Kerala and West Bengal, in September," the report said.

Giving details of the terrorists' arrests made by the NIA, the report said that the premier investigation agency arrested 10 alleged al-Qaeda-affiliated

THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY examined 34 terrorism-related cases related to ISIS and arrested 160 persons, including 10 alleged al-Qaeda operatives from Kerala and West Bengal, in September."

"India responds to the US requests for information related to terrorism investigations in a timely manner and makes efforts to mitigate threats in response to US information."

"Over the past two years, collaborative efforts have disrupted terrorist travel and alerted US authorities to possible threats in the United States and against US interests," the report said.

Officials in India remain concerned about internet use for terrorist recruitment and radicalisation to violence, as well as for fomenting interreligious tensions, it said.

"In 2020 there were multiple reports in the media and from the NIA of suspected cases of online terrorist radicalisation, particularly in southern Indian states," the report said.

India is active in leadership roles in the many regional and international fora in 2020, where it has promoted multilateral counterterrorism cooperation, it said.

India has agreed to share intelligence on terrorism with Sri Lanka and the Maldives. India's longstanding defence relationship with Russia extends to counterterrorism issues, the US State Department report added.

Parliament Passes Surrogacy Bill, Seeks To Constitute National Surrogacy Board



Agenceis

Parliament passed the surrogacy (regulation) bill, 2019 on Friday, with Lok Sabha passing it with voice vote amid a protest by opposition members demanding the removal of Ajay Mishra as Union minister in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Last week, Rajya Sabha passed the bill after amendments, and returned it to Lok Sabha on December 14.

The bill aims to constitute a national surrogacy board and state surrogacy boards, and appoint appropriate authorities for regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy.

It was earlier passed by Lok Sabha on August 5, 2019, and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence. The Rajya Sabha sent the bill to the select committee for further deliberation.

Lok Sabha passed the

amended bill amid uproar by opposition members demanding the removal of the minister whose son Ashish Mishra is among the accused in the October 3 Lakhimpur Kheri violence in Uttar Pradesh.

Eight people, including four farmers, were killed in the violence.

The 228th report of the Law Commission had recommended that the government should enact a legislation to ensure that there is only restrictive surrogacy in the country and commercial surrogacy is banned.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, only Indian couples who have been legally married for at least five years would be allowed to opt for surrogacy.

The bill seeks to "allow ethical altruistic surrogacy to the intending infertile Indian married couple between the age of 23-50 years and 26-55 years for female and male, respectively".



OMICRON Spreading Fast Across Europe, Other Parts Of World; Avoid Non-Essential Travel: Govt

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: As many as 101 positive cases of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus have been detected across 11 states and union territories so far, the government said on Friday and advised people to keep New Year celebrations at low intensity.

It said that though daily COVID-19 cases are below 10,000 for the past 20 days, there is a need to stay vigilant in view of the new variant and rising cases in other countries.

With the coronavirus' Omicron variant spreading very fast across Europe and other parts of the world, people need to avoid non-essential travel. They must also avoid mass gatherings, and New Year celebrations need to be at low intensity, the government said.

Giving details of Omicron cases in India, it said Maharashtra has reported 32 cases of the variant, Delhi (22), Rajasthan (17), Karnataka (8), Telangana (8), Gujarat (5), Kerala (5), Andhra Pradesh (1), Chandigarh (1), Tamil Nadu (1) and West Bengal (1), the government said.

Citing the World Health Organization (WHO), it also said that the Omicron variant is spreading faster than the Delta variant of the coronavirus in South Africa, where Delta circulation was low.

It is likely that Omicron spread will outpace Delta variant where community transmission occurs, the government said citing the WHO.

On the COVID-19 situation in

the country, it said 19 districts are reporting weekly positivity between 5 and 10 per cent and five districts over 10 per cent.

Districts with over 5 per cent Covid case positivity rate need to ensure restrictive measures until it is below 5 per cent for at least two weeks, the government said.

It assured that sufficient systematic and strategic sampling is being undertaken for genome sequencing for detection of Omicron cases in India.

On COVID-19 vaccination, the government said that India has so far administered 82.8 crore first doses and 53.72 crore second doses.

More than 136 crore doses have been administered in the country which is 2.8 times the total doses administered in the US, it said. PTI

DECLASSIFIED TAPE

How US 'Saved West Pakistan' As India Separated Its East Wing

Agenceis

KOLKATA: A day after Bangladesh was liberated from Pakistan on December 16, 1971, the then President of the US, Richard Nixon was told by his strategic advisor Henry Kissinger that he had managed to "save West Pakistan," according to confidential papers since declassified by the US department of state.

The 1971 war between India and Pakistan saw Bangladesh liberated and over 93,000 Pakistani troops surrender to the Indian Army. The war was fought on both the western and eastern fronts with Pakistan signing the instrument of surrender in just over 2 weeks.

The journey to this ironic compliment in the midst of a defeat for US diplomacy at the time came eight-and-a-half months after leaders of the world's most powerful nation - the United States - agreed in a secret meeting that they had wrongly believed their protégé Pakistani General Yahya Khan would be able to subdue the rebellion in East Pakistan with naked military might.

"Congratulations Mr President. You saved West Pakistan," said Henry Kissinger over the phone to his boss Richard Nixon, about 16 hours after Gen AAK Niazi signed the surrender of East Pakistan and about the time India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared the unilateral ceasefire on the Western front on December 17



Indian Standard Time.

Explaining the strange conversation, Ambassador Pinak R Chakravarty, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, who is currently writing a book on the 1971 liberation of Bangladesh, said "Kissinger was playing a dubious role. Their (US administration's) main objective was to befriend China using the Pakistanis as middlemen during the conflict months. His comments should be read as both an attempt to take credit with the Pakistanis in the face of a hopeless situation and a bid to please a difficult boss."

However, the fact remains that this was one war of liberation which the Americans probably misread from the very beginning. About eight-and-a-half

months before, on March 29, 1971, Henry Kissinger was telling Richard Nixon in a similar telephone conversation that Pakistan would be able to contain the rebellion in its eastern wing and his President cited the example of British invasion of India to justify that belief.

The US National Security Adviser told then President Nixon in a phone call soon after the Pakistan military regime cracked down in East Pakistan on March 26, 1971: "Apparently Yahya has got control of East Pakistan... all the experts were saying that 30,000 people (Pakistan Army at that time in the East) can't get control of 75 million (Bangladesh's population)... as of this moment it seems to be quiet."

"No Impropriety", As Top Election Officials Summoned By PM's Office: Report

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and fellow Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anoop Chandra Pandey recently held an "informal interaction" with the Prime Minister's Office to bridge gaps in understanding of key electoral reforms between the poll panel and the Law Ministry, with Election Commission sources insisting today that the question of propriety does not arise in doing so.

The commission had been pushing for reforms in electoral laws and related issues, and the virtual interaction in November was held to "bridge the gaps in understanding the points of views of the Law Ministry and the Election Commission (EC)", they said.

The sources told news agency PTI that amid a series of correspondence between the government and the poll panel on electoral reforms, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) took the lead in organising the "informal interaction" with the three commissioners.

Responding to a news report by The Indian Express on Friday that the Law Ministry had sent a letter to the Election Commission saying that the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister will chair a meeting on common electoral roll and "expects the CEC" to be present, the sources told Press Trust of India the three commissioners did not attend that formal meeting.

Responding to the news report, former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) SY Quraishi said it was "absolutely shocking". When asked to explain his remarks, he said his words have summed up everything.

The Congress too has slammed the government saying "PMO summoning ECI was unheard of in independent India. Treating EC as a subversive tool is yet another low in Modi Government's record of destroying every institution."

The sources told news agency PTI that senior Election

Commission officials attended the formal meeting, besides officials from the Law Ministry.

The Legislative Department in the Law Ministry is the nodal agency for Election Commission-related matters.

The sources told Press Trust of India that the result of the informal interaction with the PM's Office resulted in the Union Cabinet on Wednesday clearing various electoral reforms that the Election Commission had been insisting be brought in the ongoing Winter session of Parliament.

One of the reforms is linking Aadhaar with electoral rolls on a voluntary basis. The other will allow eligible young people to register as voters on four dates every year. As of now there is one qualifying date - January 1 of every year - to register as a voter for those who have turned 18 or above on January 1.

The sources pointed out that crucial electoral reforms have been pending for the last 25 years.

The Election Commission had been writing to the government for pushing reforms and the Law Ministry had been seeking clarifications. The informal interaction, the sources said, helped bridge the gaps in understanding on key issues. "Reforms have to be done like that," a senior Election Commission functionary told PTI.

There is no impropriety in pushing for reforms, the sources asserted.

They reminded that Chief Election Commissioners have written letters to law ministers, including Ravi Shankar Prasad and incumbent Kiren Rijju, seeking their help in implementing electoral reforms.

Usually, law ministers and legislative secretaries have been meeting the commissioners on various issues at the Nirvachan Sadan. The commissioners never call on the ministers as part of protocol since the Election Commission is an independent Constitutional body.

Madhya Pradesh Boy, 15, Injured As Mobile Explodes During Online Class



Agenceis

A 15-year-old boy was injured after his mobile phone exploded when he was attending his school classes online in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred in Chandkuiya village, some 35 km off the district headquarters, on Thursday afternoon, they said.

The boy, Ramprakash Bhadauria, a student of Class 8, was attending the school classes online when the mobile phone suddenly exploded.

He suffered injuries to his jaw, Nagod police station inspector R P Mishra told PTI over phone.

He was alone at his home when the incident took place as his parents and other family members had gone out for work. But the blast created such a loud sound that the boy's neighbours rushed to his place to see what happened, the police official said.

He was then rushed to the Satna district hospital from where he was referred to Jabalpur for advanced treatment, he added.

PM Modi Seeks List Of Cities Which Turned A Blind Eye Towards Cleanliness

Agenceis

VARANASI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said there was a need to prepare a list of cities where a blind eye has been turned towards the cleanliness campaign.

Speaking after inaugurating the All India Mayors' Conference in Varanasi via video conferencing, PM Modi asked Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri to not only give awards to the city excelling in 'swachata' (cleanliness) but also recognise those making earnest efforts in the field of cleanliness. As many as 120 mayors from across the country are participating in the conference whose theme is 'New Urban India'.

PM Modi welcomed them as the host in the capacity of being a Lok Sabha member from Varanasi.

He also said that there is a need to prepare a list of cities which have turned a blind eye towards the 'swachata abhiyan' and towards other civic amenities.

In his address, PM Modi also suggested hosting a 'Nadi Utsav' (river festival) for a week every year involving local citizens. The Prime Minister also considered the idea of celebrating the birthday of a city to highlight its glory.



Members of Rajput community pay floral tribute at the statue of Maharaja Hari Singh on the occasion of his birth anniversary, in Jammu. PTI Photo