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P4 WORLD

COVID DISRUPTS TRAVEL WORLDWIDE ON CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

At least three major airlines have reported cancelling dozens of flights as illnesses largely tied to the omicron variant of COVID-19 take a toll on flight crew numbers during...

THINK

HOW TO UNDERSTAND YOUR GRIEF THROUGH WRITING

"Bereavement is a universal and integral part of our experience of love", CS Lewis wrote in A Grief Observed (1966) and no time of year offers a greater sense of this than Christmas, with its traditions and jollity and its focus on family and



P11 SPORTS

TEAM COMBINATION ON KOHLI'S MIND AS INDIA TAKE ON SOUTH AFRICA

Skipper Virat Kohli will be battling on multiple fronts with an aim to get the tricky team combination right as India have a real shot at winning their first-ever



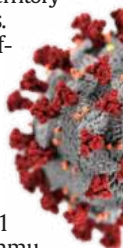
J&K Logs 164 New Covid Cases, 2 Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two more died of coronavirus related complications in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday while 164 fresh cases of infection were registered in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, two more people in Kashmir Valley succumbed to Covid-19 on Saturday, taking the death toll in the ongoing pandemic to 4521 in the UT—2196 in Jammu and 2325 in Kashmir.

About the new cases detected during the last 24 hours, officials said 124 were reported from the Valley and the remaining 40 from various districts of Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected **More on P10**



South Kashmir Witnesses Serial Encounters

4 Militants Killed In Pulwama, Shopian; Another Gunfight Rages On In Anantnag
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four local militants were killed in two separate encounters in Pulwama and Shopian districts of south Kashmir, while another encounter raged on in neighboring Anantnag district, police said Saturday.

According to a police spokesperson, a cordon and search operation was launched by a joint team of police and army in Hardumir in Tral on the basis of specific information suggesting the presence of militants in the village. During the search operation, he said, as the presence of militants got ascertained, they were given ample opportunities to surrender.

"However, they denied the surrender opportunities and instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party

which was retaliated leading to an encounter," he said.

In the ensuing encounter, the police spokesperson said, two militants were killed and their bodies were recovered from the encounter site.

He identified the killed militants as Nadeem Nazir Bhat of Koil Shikargah and Rahi Rasool Bhat of Kanipora Dadsara.

"As per police records, he said, Nadeem and Rahi were categorized militants linked with AuGH and were part of groups involved in several cases including IED blast and grenade attacks on Police/SF establishments

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 02 AK series rifles were recovered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

The police spokesperson further said that earlier in the day, two militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed in a similar operation in **More on P10**



A Priest offers prayers at the newly renovated St Luke's Church in Srinagar on the occasion of Christmas. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Chill Returns After Snowfall In Higher Reaches

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature at most places in Kashmir dipped on Friday night, even as the weatherman has forecast widespread light to moderate rains and snowfall in the Union Territory over two days from Sunday, officials said.

Barring Qazigund, the minimum temperature dipped across the valley on Friday night, the officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of 1.7 degrees Celsius on Friday night down from Thursday night's 2.4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded the minimum temperature of 2.2 degrees Celsius a degree up from Thursday night. The nearby south Kashmir town **More on P10**



Bail To Convict In Kathua Rape 'Perturbs' Mehbooba

'Wheels Of Justice Have Completely Collapsed'

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The wheels of justice have "completely collapsed", said PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday after one of the convicts in the 2018 Kathua rape case



was granted bail by a court in Punjab. On December 21, the Punjab and **More on P10**

Vaccination For Children Above 15 From Jan 3

Health Workers, Elderly Will Also Get Booster Doses, Says PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that vaccination against COVID-19 for children between 15-18 years will start in the country from January 3, while "precaution dose" for healthcare and frontline workers begin from January 10.

In an address to the nation amid increasing Covid cases through the Omicron variant of the virus, he said the precaution dose will also be available for citizens above 60 years of age and with comorbidities on the advice of their doctor from January 10 next year as well.

The prime minister used the term precaution dose and



did not call it booster dose as it has been generally referred to. Modi said global experience shows that following all preventive measures at personal level is a big weapon to fight

Covid as he asked people to be alert and take all precautionary measures but cautioned against any panic.

He said vaccination is also an important weapon **More on P10**

Quote!
Impossible is just an opinion
Paulo Coelho

NEWS DIGEST

Biker Knocked To Death

SRINAGAR: A teenage scooter rider died on Saturday after being hit by a tractor in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. The incident as per police occurred in Makad Pora area of Arwani Bijbehara on Saturday morning. Police said that a tractor hit a scooter (JK13-2248) rider leaving him injured. The scooter rider was shifted to PHC Frisil **More on P10**

Six Drug Peddlers Arrested In J&K

JAMMU: Six alleged drug peddlers were arrested and narcotic substances were seized from their possession at separate places in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. Yogeswar Singh and Shivraj Singh were arrested after 13 grams of heroin was seized from their private car during checking at Vijaypur in Samba district, a **More on P10**

Ladakh Reports First Omicron Case

LEH: After making its way to Jammu and Kashmir, the neighboring Ladakh region reported its first variant case of Omicron virus after a man with a travel history of Nepal tested positive on Saturday. The Omicron variant is a variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. **More on P10**

Verinag Villagers Catch 10 Bears In A Week

ANANTNAG: Locals from Verinag hamlets of South Kashmir's Anantnag district captured at least 10 wild bears in a week. Six bears were captured alone in Kokagund village. Locals said wild animals are damaging vegetation and pose risk to livestock. **More on P10**

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Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

19% People Above 15 Years In J&K Suffering From Hypertension

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Hypertension has assumed an epidemic proportion in Jammu and Kashmir as 19 percent of the population above 15 years are suffering from high blood pressure and taking medicines to control it.

The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has revealed alarming statistics on hypertension prevalence in the erstwhile state as 19 percent of the "over 15 years" of population in J&K has elevated blood pressure and is taking medicine to control it with more women suffering from elevated blood pressure than men.

As per NFHS, elevated hypertension among women in J&K was recorded at 20 percent and 18.9 percent for men, while the national average settled at 21.3 percent and 24 percent, respectively.



Notably, several of J&K's nutritional indicators have worsened since the fourth round of the NFHS, which was held in 2015-16.

The data in NFHS 2019-20, the fifth in the series, show that among both the genders the mildly elevated blood pressure (Systolic 140-159 mm

of Hg and/or Diastolic 90-99 mm of Hg) was higher among men (12.3 percent) compared to women (11.7 percent).

"For women, the percentage was higher in rural areas (11.8) than urban areas (11.4) while for men, the rate was higher in urban J&K (12.50) than rural

areas (12.2)," the report reads.

The worst figures for "Moderately or severely elevated blood pressure (Systolic ≥ 160 mm of Hg and/or Diastolic ≥ 100 mm of Hg)" was recorded among women with a worrying percentage of 3.0 percent than 2.8 percent among men. In the same category, the ratio among rural women was higher than urban women. "For men, the ratio was higher in urban areas (2.8 percent) than rural areas (2.7 percent).

Notably, High blood pressure or commonly known as hypertension is a common condition in which the long-term force of the blood against the artery walls is high enough that it may eventually cause health problems, such as heart disease.

The findings of the latest National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5), fifth in the series of such surveys **More on P10**

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Sunday | 26.12.2021

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ساگام

درخواست منجانب:- جاوید احمد، خورشید احمد و عارف احمد پسران محمد شریف گوہر کھٹانہ ساکنان ہل آرماء بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

استہتار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دینا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنان کا کنڈیڈ بیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد شریف ولد بشیر احمد گوہر کھٹانہ	50 سال	مزدوری	=/5000
2	بٹی شائمان زید محمد شریف	48 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	جاوید احمد ولد محمد شریف	24 سال	مزدوری	=/5000
4	خورشید احمد پسر محمد شریف	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	عارف احمد پسر محمد شریف	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	یاسر احمد پسر محمد شریف	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	
7	عویس احمد پسر محمد شریف	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کنڈی 107 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ 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 گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار۔

RNA

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ساگام

درخواست منجانب:- سیدہ فیاض، رقیہ فیاض، سہیل فیاض و اطہار فیاض اولاد ان فیاض احمد گوہر کھٹانہ ساکنان ساگام بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

استہتار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دینا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنان کا کنڈیڈ بیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	فیاض احمد گوہر ولد عبد الرحیم	45 سال	ملازم	LPC
2	نصرت بانو زید فیاض احمد	42 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	سہیل فیاض ولد فیاض احمد	15 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	اطہار فیاض ولد فیاض احمد	10 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	سیدہ فیاض دختر فیاض احمد	19 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	رقیہ فیاض دختر فیاض احمد	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کنڈی 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ 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 گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار۔

RNA

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ساگام

درخواست منجانب:- محمد عظیم و فکیل احمد پسران لالہ دین چچی سائنہ چولگام (شانارڈ) بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

استہتار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دینا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنان کا کنڈیڈ بیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	بٹی بیہما بیوہ لالہ دین چچی	65 سال	گھریلو کام	
2	محمد یاسین ولد لالہ دین چچی	37 سال	مزدوری	=/4000
3	محمد ذوق زید محمد یاسین	34 سال	گھریلو کام	
4	محمد عظیم ولد لالہ دین چچی	26 سال	مزدوری	=/4000
5	فکیل احمد ولد لالہ دین چچی	22 سال	مزدوری	=/2500
6	نشاط دختر لالہ دین چچی	20 سال	گھریلو کام	
7	الفت جان دختر محمد یاسین	13 سال	زیر تعلیم	
8	سفیدہ دختر محمد یاسین	11 سال	زیر تعلیم	
9	رفعت دختر محمد یاسین	09 سال	زیر تعلیم	
10	مطہ دختر محمد یاسین	03 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کنڈی 10 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ 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 گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار۔

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از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ساگام

درخواست منجانب:- زاہدہ زیدہ شوکت علی، عادل احمد، محمد مدثر، محمد عمر، عاصیہ و عافیہ اولاد شوکت علی ساکنان چولگام (شانارڈ) بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

استہتار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دینا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنان کا کنڈیڈ بیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	شوکت علی ولد لالہ دین چچی	43 سال	سرکاری ملازم	LPC
2	زاہدہ زیدہ شوکت علی	38 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	عادل احمد ولد شوکت علی	13 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	محمد عامر ولد شوکت علی	10 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	محمد عمر ولد شوکت علی	04 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	عاصیہ صدف دختر شوکت علی	09 سال	زیر تعلیم	
7	عافیہ صدف دختر شوکت علی	07 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کنڈی 107 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ 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 گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Subject: Filling up of the posts of Assistant Professor in Higher Education Department, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under 1st & 2nd special drive respectively.

Reference: Higher Education No. HE-Coll/Coord/Appt/AP/2014 Dated 19.05.2014. Higher Education No. HE/Coll/Coord/Appt/AP/2017 Dated 18.10.2017.

NOTIFICATION NO: 15- PSC (DR-P) OF 2021 DATED: 23-12-2021

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 Assistant Professor, in terms of J&K (Gazetted) College Service Recruitment Rules of 2008 notified vide SRO 423 of 2008 as amended vide SRO-124 dated 21.4.2014 and "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 and the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021.

MOST IMPORTANT

- Candidates are advised to update their One Time Registration before filling the application Form
- The Application Form together with instructions for filling up the Application Forms, will be available at the website of the Commission from 28.12.2021.
- Candidates are advised to go through the instructions and ensure that they meet all the eligibility conditions prescribed for the post before filing the online Application Form.
- Last date for filing of online Application complete in all respects along with the requisite fee (online mode only) is 27.01.2022.
- The last date for receipt of online applications provided in the notification shall be the cut-off date for determining the eligibility including acquisition of requisite educational or 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 29.01.2022 to 31.01.2022 (upto 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 alongwith the online application form.
- In case the mandatory prescribed/requisite documents are not uploaded with the online applications form, the application form/candidature of the applicant is liable to be rejected without any further notice.
- Candidates are not required to submit hard copy of the online application form or any other documents to the Commission at the time of filling up of online application form.
- The candidates will however, be required to present/produce a down loaded copy of the online form alongwith original certificates at the time of documentary verification.
- 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.

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

S. No.	Name of the Post	1 st /2 nd Special Drive	OM	RBA	SC	ST	ALC	SLC	Total
1.	ENGLISH	1 st Special Drive	-	06	-	-	01	-	07
		2 nd Special Drive	-	05	-	-	01	-	06
2.	FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH	1 st Special Drive	-	01	-	-	01	-	02
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	01	01	-	-	02
3.	ENGLISH LITERATURE	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
4.	PHYSICS	1 st Special Drive	-	-	06	04	-	-	10
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	01	-	-	-	01
5.	CHEMISTRY	1 st Special Drive	-	-	01	-	-	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
6.	BOTANY	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
7.	BIO-TECHNOLOGY	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	10	01	02	02	-	15
8.	COMPUTER APPLICATION	1 st Special Drive	-	01	01	-	-	-	02
		2 nd Special Drive	-	01	-	01	01	-	03
9.	STATISTICS	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	-	01	-	-	01
10.	FOOD SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	01	-	-	-	01
11.	FISHERIES	1 st Special Drive	-	-	01	-	-	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	-	-	03	-	03
12.	POLITICAL SCIENCE	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	03	-	-	-	03
13.	ARABIC	1 st Special Drive	-	-	02	-	01	-	03
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
14.	ISLAMIC STUDIES	1 st Special Drive	01	04	02	03	-	-	10
		2 nd Special Drive	-	01	-	-	-	-	01
15.	PUNJABI	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	02
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	01	01	-	-	02
16.	SANSKRIT	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	01
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	01	-	-	-	01
17.	MASS COMMUNICATION	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	02
		2 nd Special Drive	-	-	01	-	-	-	01

18.	BIO-CHEMISTRY	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	01	01	-	02
19.	ANTHROPOLOGY	1 st Special Drive	04	01	-	-	01	-	06
20.	CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	1 st Special Drive	-	03	02	02	01	-	08
21.	MUSIC	1 st Special Drive	01	05	-	03	-	-	09
22.	NUTRITION & DIETETICS	1 st Special Drive	-	01	-	-	-	-	01
23.	SOCIAL WORK	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
24.	DOGRI	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	05	-	-	05
25.	SPOKEN CHINESE	1 st Special Drive	02	01	01	-	-	-	04
26.	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	1 st Special Drive	-	01	-	-	01	-	02
27.	BIO-RESOURCES	1 st Special Drive	02	02	01	01	01	-	07
28.	HOME SCIENCE	1 st Special Drive	-	01	-	-	01	-	02
29.	WATER MANAGEMENT	1 st Special Drive	-	-	01	-	-	-	02
30.	COMMERCE	1 st Special Drive	-	-	-	-	03	-	03
31.	SPOKEN FRENCH	1 st Special Drive	03	01	01	-	-	-	05
32.	MATHEMATICS	2 nd Special Drive	-	-	02	-	-	-	02
33.	Total 1 st Special Drive		13	39	21	24	24	Nil	121
	Total 2 nd Special Drive		Nil	06	06	01	02	Nil	15
34.	Grand Total		13	45	27	25	26	Nil	136

3. Prescribed Qualification

Designation	Qualification
Assistant Professor (Serial No.01-32)	a. Good academic record as defined by the Concerned University with atleast 55% marks [50% excluding any grace marks in case of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled tribe/Differently-abled (Physically and Visually differently abled) Categories/Ph.D degree holders, who have obtained their Master's Degree prior to 19th September, 1991] or an equivalent grade in a point scale where grading system is followed at the Master's Degree level in the relevant subject from an Indian University, or an equivalent degree from an accredited foreign University,
	b. The candidate must have cleared NET/SET/SET conducted by the UGC, CSIR /AIU.
	c. The candidate who are, or have been awarded a Ph.D degree in accordance with the University Grant Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D degree regulations), 2009, shall be exempted from the requirement of the minimum eligibility condition of NET/SET/SET.
	d. NET/SET/SET shall also not be required for such Master's Programme in discipline for which NET/SET/SET is not conducted.

4. Age as on 1st January 2021

The prescribed age (minimum/maximum) for candidates belonging to Open Merit (OM) & various Reserved Categories is as below:-

S.NO	Category	Age limit	Not born after	Not born before
1	OM	40	01.01.2003	01.01.1981
2	RBA, SC, ST, ALC & SLC	43	01.01.2003	01.01.1978
3	PHC	42	01.01.2003	01.01.1977
4	In service candidate/Government	40	01.01.2003	01.01.1981

5. Reservation

- A candidate seeking his/her consideration under a Reserved Category must ensure that he/she possesses a valid requisite Category certificate on the cut-off date.
- The candidature of the candidates will be provisional till the genuineness of the reserved category certificate is verified by the Appointing Authority.
- 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.

6. 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 as on the last date prescribed for submission of online application form.

7. Centre of Examination

Interview of the candidates will be held at the Headquarter of J&K P.S.C i.e. Solina Srinagar or ReshamGhar Colony Bakshi Nagar Jammu.

8. 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:

General Category = Rs.1000.00

Reserved Categories = Rs.500.00

PHC = Nil

Note:

- The application Form submitted without deposition of the fee, which gets substantiated through reflection of the same on the application form, such application form shall be treated as incomplete and candidature shall be deemed to have been rejected without any notice. No representation against such rejection shall be entertained.
- Submission of multiple applications by way of prefixing Mr/Ms or through generation of multiple User IDs or any other mode, followed by either non-payment 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.

9. Documents to be uploaded

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

i. Documents (Mandatory):-

- Date of birth certificate (secondary School/Matric Certificate)
- Domicile Certificate of the UT of J&K.
- Graduation Degree alongwith consolidated Marks Card (s) upto 05 lvs.
- PG Degree certificate alongwith Consolidated marks card upto 05 lvs.
- NET/SET/SLC/Phd(one of the three is Mandatory).

ii. Documents (Mandatory if claiming benefit under that category):-

- Category Certificate. 01 leaf
- Disability certificate.
- In-service certificate signed by HOD

iii. Any other document for which the candidate is claiming weight-age as per J&K (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021:-

- M.phil degree certificate alongwith result Notification
- JRF Certificate (NET+JRF)
- Experience Certificates, as per format-upto 05 lvs.
- "C" Certificate in NCC activities. 01 leaf
- Certificate of Distinction in Sports in terms of J&K Appointment of Outstanding Sports Persons Rules, 1998. 01 leaf.
- List of Publication of books as 1st and 2nd Authors as per format.
- Gold Medal Certificate for overall first position in the prescribed qualification. 01 leaf
- List of Research papers as I/II or corresponding author as per format.
- Post Doctorate Certificate minimum 1 year.

It may be noted that no further opportunity to upload any document shall be provided hereafter and action under rules including rejection of application/candidature will be taken. While uploading the documents, the following guidelines, wherever applicable, shall also be kept in view before claiming weightage on such parameters:-

- The weightage available for the Gold Medal(s) shall be for securing the overall first position in the minimum prescribed qualification. In case the convocation for award of Gold Medal has not been convened, a certificate from the competent authority shall be uploaded to the effect that he/she is entitled to Gold Medal for security overall 1st position in the prescribed qualification and shall be awarded the same in the convocation of the University/Institute.
- Foreign Degree shall only be entertain if equivalence Certificate issued by Association of Indian Universities(AIU) is made available.
- Post Doc Experience at different Fellowships/ Institutions shall not be clubbed to obtain



AFTER 30 YEARS, Srinagar's St Luke's Church reverberates with Christmas carol, prayers KO Photo Abid Bhat

Damaged Wooden Bridges At Saida Kadal Prone To Accidents, Local Aghast



Syed Burhan

SRINAGAR:- The damaged wooden bridges in Saida Kadal locality of Srinagar are giving a tough time to residents. In absence of concrete bridges, residents find it difficult to travel in the inner areas of Mir Behri as wooden bridges are damaged and are prone to accidents.

The inhabitants allege many accidents have been reported and people along with their vehicles have fallen in the water body.

Interestingly, incumbent Mayor of Srinagr Junaid Azim Matoo represents the area in the Srinagar

Municipal Corporation (SMC)

Abid Hussain, a resident of Akhoon Mohalla,told Kashmir Observer Saida Kadal said past generations living in the interiors of Dal Lake have borne the brunt of illiteracy and unawareness but the new generation is not ready to give up its rights.

"The wooden bridges pose a risk to life and property of people. We the inhabitants of this area and government need to construct the requisite infrastructure for the people.

"We have witnessed exploitation at the hands of politicians in the past, but this time around we

understand the realities and we won't allow ourselves to get exploited" said Abid.

Similar views were echoed by other people who are up in arms against authorities.

"The wooden bridges have deteriorated over the period of time and it is difficult to commute especially when there is a medical emergency. We tried to approach the corporator of the area as well but our pleas have fallen to deaf ears" said Mohammad Shafi, who lives in the vicinity.

Sources said the government does not construct concrete bridges in the area as it is notified and construction is not allowed going by the government norms. But the residents allege that by labelling Mir Behri, Dal as a no construction zone, it does not change the reality that people have been living in the lake for decades and have valid papers of their properties.

Meanwhile, residents have installed a stall voluntarily to collect money from locals to get the bridges repaired.

Repeated attempts to contact Corporator Boud Dal Junaid Azim Matoo failed as he did not respond to phone calls.

Mayor Writes To LG Over Closure Of Jamia Masjid



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation Mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu on Saturday said that he has written a letter to LG Manoj Sinha and has requested him to restore Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid Srinagar.

"Closing the Masjid pre-emptively is not a good step, but responsibility also lies with its Aqaf to ensure that the place remains peaceful and is not politicised," he said.

Talking to reporters after visiting St. Luke's Church Srinagar on the occasion of Christmas, Mattu said that all communities are one here and the city has a syncretic identity and historicity.

He said that under the leadership of Athar Aamir, the Srinagar smart city corporation has beautifully and with utmost attention restored this historic St. Luke's

church in the city and it was an appreciative gesture.

"To preserve this syncretic culture all these steps, which are taken, by all stakeholders are absolutely appreciable and welcome. Our Christian brethren are celebrating this festival with cheerfulness and they are feeling happy as their festival is being respected. This is the essence of Srinagar city that all communities feel respected, equal, cherished and valued," he said.

Mattu said that Saint Luke's Church is 125-year-old historic church of Srinagar and due to the efforts of Srinagar smart city corporation that after a period of more than 30 years, a religious congregation was held here on this auspicious occasion of Christmas.

"The Department of tourism has also played a positive role in reopening this church," he added.

THE WOODEN BRIDGES POSE A RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY of people. We the inhabitants of this area and government need to construct the requisite infrastructure for the people.

Reports Of Poultry Farm Being Run In Our Premises Frivolous: Convent School

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Presentation Convent School Management on Saturday refuted reports that a poultry farm is being run by the school inside its premises and stated that the information propagated was false and frivolous for mere sensationalism and publicity.

According to a statement, the management said that it is very unfortunate that some people with ulterior motives are trying to put the School's name in bad light by propagating false and frivolous information against the School for mere sensationalism or publicity.

"A concocted story is being propagated about the School running a poultry farm on School land. This allegation is baseless and without merit. Moreover, the person levelling such allegations has never visited the School and their credentials remain doubtful. The appropriate authorities have already verified the actual situation on ground," reads the statement.

THIS IS FOR THE INFORMATION of all that no poultry farm is running in the School premises and any facts being propagated on social, print and electronic media are false and baseless.

It reads that Presentation Convent School's main aim remains to be quality education for girls in the Kashmir valley and they have and will always strive for the same.

"This is for the information of all that no poultry farm is running in the School premises and any facts being propagated on social, print and electronic media are false and baseless. This is being done for some ulterior motives, which are sinister and beyond comprehension," it reads.

The statement further reads that legal action will be ensued against all such derogatory statements against the School wherein the School's reputation is put at stake.

Sumo Drivers Stage Protest Over Alleged Seizure of Vehicles

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sumo drivers in Srinagar Saturday staged a protest at SP Traffic Office Srinagar over alleged seizure of vehicles by the traffic authorities.

The agitated sumo drivers taking exception over the seizure of vehicles said that authorities have been seizing their vehicles for entering the city centre without notifying them any proper route plan to ply on. "After asked not to ply through Jahangir Chowk, we currently are plying from LD (hospital) up to Chana-pora", a sumo driver said adding "Even as plying on the newly directed route plan police came from two opposite directions and seized our vehicles from the stand."

Asking the authorities to notify a proper route plan, the driver said, "We ask them (authorities) are we supposed to ply from Rambagh or Nati-

pora, if that is the case give us in writing, we won't enter the City. Provide us with a stand."

We are facing all kinds of inconvenience due to the prevailing uncertainty, the driver further said.

When contacted, SP Traffic Srinagar Muzaffar Shah told GNS that the seizure of vehicles has nothing to specifically do any-



thing with the route plan. "The vehicles have been seized for different traffic violations, the officer said, adding the action has been taken against the vehicle drivers for choking the vital road along LD hospital besides for overloading the vehicles amid

prevailing Covid-19 situation and not wearing seat belts."

"If somebody has any grievance he is more than welcome to come to the office, however if anyone causes any unnecessary issue in Srinagar, that is not acceptable to us as traffic regulating authority", the officer said.

Regarding the route plan, the officer said, "Route plan is not something drafted on arbitrary lines, there is a proper commit-



tee who drafts it. If there is any issue regarding the same, the best person to approach is the RTO, as mandated under MVA (Motor Vehicles Act)."

Meanwhile, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir feigned ignorance about the issue and declined to comment further.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 268 - Saint Dionysius, Roman Pope (259-260), dies
- 795 - Leo III is elected to serve as Pope on the day his predecessor was buried and is consecrated the following day
- 1198 - French bishop Odo van Sully condemns Zottenfest
- 1261- John IV Lascaris of the restored Eastern Roman Empire is deposed and blinded by orders of his co-ruler Michael VIII Palaeologus.
- 1492 - Christopher Columbus' flagship the Santa María runs aground and sinks on the north coast of Hispaniola. The crew are left to found a colony as Columbus returns to Spain
- 1553 - Battle of Tucapel: Mapuche rebels under Lautaro defeats the Spanish conquistadors and exetutes the governor of Chile Pedro de Valdivia.
- 1741 - Astronomer Anders Celsius introduces Centigrade temperature scale
- 1745 - Prussia and Austria sign Treaty of Dresden giving much of Silesia to the Prussians
- 1758 - Return of Halley's comet 1st sighted by Johann Georg Palitzsch
- 1925 - The Communist Party of India is founded
- 1928 - World record 10th wicket stand 307 (Kippax / Hooker) NSW v Vic
- 1941 - Winston Churchill becomes first British Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of the US Congress, warning that Axis would "stop at nothing"
- 1943 - Earl Claus von Stauffenberg vain with bomb to Hitlers headquarter
- 1944 - Battle of Bastogne: US General Patton's 3rd Army repulses Germans
- 1966 - Maulana Karenga establishes Kwanzaa (1st fruits of harvest) holiday
- 1973 - 2 Skylab 3 astronauts walk in space for a record 7 hours
- 1973 - Soyuz 13 returns to Earth
- 1975 - 1st supersonic transport service (USSR-Tupolev-144)
- 1978 - India's former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi is released from jail
- 1979 - Soviet Special forces take over presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- 1982 - TIME's Man of the Year is a computer
- 1986 - Captured Iraqi Airways Boeing-737 in Saudi Arabia, about 60 killed
- 1991 - Militant Sikhs kill 55 & wound 70 in India
- 1993 - Antonov-26 crashes at Gyumri, Armenia, 36 killed
- 1998 - Iraq announces its intention to fire upon U.S. and British warplanes that patrol the northern and southern no-fly zones
- 1999 - Severe weather in France kills over 100 people and causes extensive damage to property, trees and the French national power grid (see Lothar).
- 2004 - 9.3 magnitude earthquake creates a tsunami causing devastation in Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Maldives and edges of the Indian Ocean, killing 230,000 people
- 2012 - China opens the world's longest high speed rail route from Beijing to Guangzhou

From KO Archives

Hizb Steps In As Huriyat Leaders Bicker

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:Hizbul Mujahideen on Tuesday asked sepa-ratist alliance Hurriyat Conference (APHC) to muffle the internal discord which has emerged since India declared a unilateral ceasefire in Kashmir.

Hizb urged leaders of the APHC, an alliance of social, political and religious groups, not to "sling mud" at each other.

Hizb statement came after several members of alliance criticised one of their leaders, Abdul Ghani Lone,for issu-ing a statement against non-Kashmiri militants.

Lone, viewed by New Delhi as a key player in initiat-ing possible peace talks over Kashmir, said that foreign militants fighting alongside Kashmiri militants against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir could not take part in any political dialogue.

"In present circumstances, the Hizbul Mujahideen does not doubt the sincerity of Hurriyat leaders and requests that they should not sling mud at each other and doubt each other's intentions," Hizbul Mujahideen said.

"Hizbul Mujahideen urges leaders of Hurriyat to be cau-tious while issuing statements," it added.Cracks within Hurriyat surfaced during a seminar on human rights in Srinagar at the weekend. The meeting erupted in acrimo-ny with supporters of foreign militants and Lone support-ers exchanging body blows.

Many lower rung Hurriyat activists including former chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, openly criticised Lone for issuing statements against "foreign militants" fighting Indian security forces in Kashmir.

Sowing division: Indian troops stopped offensive op-erations against separatist militants for the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan from November 28. Most militant groups, which India says are supported by Pakistan, have rejected the temporary ceasefire.

However, Hizb which is dominated by local Kashmiri fighters rather than Muslim warriors from different coun-tries gave a less strident response to the Indian initiative. Analysts had said at the time of the ceasefire announce-ment that New Delhi could be trying to sow division with-in the ranks of Hurriyat to gain the upper hand. Latest de-velopments show that if that was the strategy it may have worked.

While Geelani dubbed India's suspension of hostilities a sinister move to sabotage Kashmir's freedom struggle, other Hurriyat leaders have spoken more optimistically of a possible breakthrough in the decade-old insurgency.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 26 DECEMBER, 2000

Pope Francis Calls For 'Dialogue' To Heal A Divided World



Agencies

Pope Francis has used his Christmas message to decry increasing polarisation in personal and international relationships, saying only dialogue can resolve conflicts ranging from family feuds to threats of war.

In his "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) message delivered on Saturday, Christmas Day, the head of the Catholic Church called on individuals and world leaders to talk to each other rather than dig in their heels, a distancing he said has been worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our capacity for social relationships is sorely tried; there is a growing tendency to withdraw, to do it all by ourselves, to stop making an effort to encounter others and do things together," Francis said from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica in a wet and windy Rome.

"On the international level too, there is the risk of avoiding dialogue, the risk that this complex crisis will lead to taking shortcuts rather than setting out on the longer paths of dialogue. Yet only those paths can lead to the resolution of conflicts and to lasting benefits for all."

Francis, who turned 85 last week, listed conflicts, tensions or crises in Syria, Yemen, Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan and elsewhere.

"We continue to witness a great number of conflicts, crises and disagreements," he said, speaking from the same balcony where he first appeared to the world as pope after his election in March 2013.

"These never seem to end, by now we hardly even notice them. We have become so used to them

that immense tragedies are now being passed over in silence; we risk not hearing the cry of pain and distress of so many of our brothers and sisters," he said, speaking to an unusually small crowd reduced by COVID-19 restrictions and the weather to only a few thousand.

Refugees, environment and COVID-19

Francis used the word "dialogue" 11 times in a speech of little more than two pages as he spoke to people huddled under rain parkas and umbrellas.

He asked people not to be indifferent to the plight of refugees, migrants, the displaced, political prisoners and female victims of violence, and urged leaders to protect the environment for future generations.

In his Christmas Eve Mass on Friday night in St Peter's Basilica, Francis said that people who are indifferent to the poor offend God, and urged all to "look beyond all the lights and decorations" and remember the neediest.

Francis also prayed in particular for those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including women and children who have suffered increased abuse during lockdowns.

He prayed for "consolation and warmth" for older adults who are alone, as well as for health care workers who "generously devote themselves" to caring for the sick. "Grant health to the infirm and inspire all men and women of good will to seek the best ways possible to overcome the current health crisis and its effects," Francis said.

For the second day in a row, Italy on Friday set a daily pandemic record with 50,599 new cases. Another 141 people died, bringing Italy's official coronavirus death toll to 136,386.



Image used for representational purpose.

COVID Disrupts Travel Worldwide On Christmas Weekend

Associated Press

FRANKFURT: At least three major airlines have reported cancelling dozens of flights as illnesses largely tied to the omicron variant of COVID-19 take a toll on flight crew numbers during the busy holiday travel season.

Germany-based Lufthansa said Friday that it was cancelling a dozen long-haul transatlantic flights over the Christmas holiday period because of a "massive rise" in sick leave among pilots. The cancellations on flights to Houston, Boston and Washington come despite a "large buffer" of additional staff for the period.

The airline says it couldn't speculate on whether COVID-19 infections or quarantines were responsible because it was not informed about the sort of illness. Passengers were booked on other flights.

Lufthansa said in a statement that "we planned a very large buffer for the vacation period. But this was not sufficient due to the high rate of

THE NATIONWIDE spike in omicron cases this week has had a direct impact on our flight crews and the people who run our operation,"

people calling in sick."

In the U.S., Delta Air Lines and United Airlines said they had to cancel dozens of Christmas Eve flights because of staff shortages tied to omicron.

"The nationwide spike in omicron cases this week has had a direct impact on our flight crews and the people who run our operation," United said in a statement to several news outlets. "As a result, we've unfortunately had to cancel some flights and are notifying impacted customers in advance of them coming to the airport."

The airline said it was cancelling over 100 flights and working to rebook as many people as possible.

Delta said it cancelled

around 90 flights Friday because of the possibility of bad weather and the impact of the omicron after it had "exhausted all options and resources including rerouting and substitutions of aircraft and crews to cover scheduled flying."

It said in a statement to several outlets that it was trying to get passengers to their destinations quickly.

The cancellations come as coronavirus cases driven by the new variant further squeeze staffing at hospitals, police departments, supermarkets and other critical operations struggling to maintain a full contingent of front-line workers.

Countries including Spain and the U.K. have reduced the length of COVID-19 quarantines to ease staffing shortages by letting people return to work sooner after testing positive or being exposed to the virus.

Delta CEO Ed Bastian was among those who have called on the Biden administration to take similar steps or risk further disruptions in air travel.

Report: Women, Children Among Dozens Killed By Government Troops In Myanmar

Associated Press

BANGKOK: Myanmar government troops rounded up villagers, some believed to be women and children, fatally shot more than 30 and set the bodies on fire, a witness and other reports said Saturday.

The purported photos of the aftermath of the Christmas Eve massacre in eastern Mo So village, just outside Hpruso township in Kayah state where refugees were sheltering from an army offensive, spread on social media in the country, fueling outrage against the military that took power in February.

The accounts could not be independently verified. The photos showed the charred bodies of over 30 people in three burned-out vehicles.

A villager who said he went to the scene told The Associated



Press that the victims had fled the fighting between armed resistance groups and Myanmar's army near Koi Ngan village, which is just beside Mo So, on Friday. He said they were killed after they were arrested by troops while heading to refugee camps in the western part of the township.

The government has not commented on the allegations, but a report in the state-run Myanmar Alinn daily newspaper on Saturday said that the fighting near

Mo So broke out on Friday when members of ethnic guerrilla forces, known as the Karenni National Progressive Party, and those opposed to the military drove in "suspicious" vehicles and attacked security forces after refusing to stop.

The newspaper report said they included new members who were going to attend training to fight the army, and that the seven vehicles they were travelling in were destroyed in a fire. It gave no further details about the killings.

Pakistan Says Border Spat With Taliban Resolved



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan and Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have resolved the recent row over border fencing by agreeing that further work on the project that led to a tense situation would be done through consensus, a media report said on Saturday.

A senior official, who spoke to a group of journalists on the background on Friday, said it has been decided at a senior level that fencing-related issues would in the future be dealt with through mutual agreement, he said.

The official, however, did not exactly specify at which level the talks between Pakistan and the de facto Afghan government were held after Wednesday's incident in which Taliban fighters disrupted border fencing and took away spools of barbed wire, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The fighters had then also warned Pakistani soldiers against resuming fencing. The incident led to a tense situation in the area where it occurred, it said.

Defence ministries of the two sides later held talks on the issue. The Taliban ministry of the border and tribal affairs also reportedly took part in the parleys.

The official said Taliban Defence Minister Mullah Yaqoob visited the area on Wednesday and defused the situation.

"The dispute has been quietly and calmly settled," he said.

Pakistan has been fencing the 2600-kilometer-long border with Afghanistan since 2017 to end terrorist infiltration and smuggling despite very intense opposition from the neighbouring country, the report said.

Besides the erection of a fence, the project also includes the construction of border posts and forts, and the raising of new wings of Frontier Corps, the paramilitary force that guards the border.

The official said 90 per cent of the fencing had been completed.

A large part of the fence has been constructed in inhospitable terrain and in some places at very high altitudes. The fencing is expected to be completed at a cost of about \$500 million.

Fencing has been a contentious issue in Pakistan-Afghanistan ties because the Afghans dispute the border demarcation done during the colonial period.

Pakistan, however, insists that the line separating the two countries, also called the Durand Line, is the valid international border.

The differences over the status of the border have been so intense that they have in the past resulted in several fatal clashes between the troops of the two countries.

Pakistani construction teams installing the fence have on a number of occasions endured cross-border attacks by terrorists, the report said.

World's Most Powerful Space Telescope Sets Off On A Million-Mile Voyage

Agence France-Presse

KOUROU, FRANCE: The world's most powerful space telescope on Saturday blasted off into orbit, headed to an outpost 1.5 million kilometres (930,000 miles) from Earth, after several delays caused by technical hitches.

The James Webb Space Telescope, some three decades and billions of dollars in the making, left Earth enclosed in its Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou Space Centre in French Guiana.

It is expected to take a month to reach its remote destination.

It is expected to beam back new clues that will help scientists understand more about the origins of the Universe and Earth-like planets beyond our solar system.

Named after a former NASA director, Webb follows in the footsteps of the legendary Hubble -- but intends to show humans what the Universe looked like even closer to its birth nearly 14 billion years ago.

Speaking on social media, Webb project co-founder John Mather described the telescope's unprecedented sensitivity.

"#JWST can see the heat signature of a bumblebee at the distance of the Moon," he said.

All that power is needed to detect the weak glow emitted billions of years ago by the very first galaxies to exist and the first stars being formed.



'Exceptional measures'

The telescope is unequalled in size and complexity.

Its mirror measures 6.5 metres (21 feet) in diameter -- three times the size of the Hubble's mirror -- and is made of 18 hexagonal sections.

It is so large that it had to be folded to fit into the rocket.

That manoeuvre was laser-guided with NASA imposing strict isolation measures to limit any contact with the telescope's mirrors from particles or even human breath.

Once the rockets have carried Webb 120 kilometres, the protective nose of the craft, called a "fairing", is shed to lighten the load.

To protect the delicate instrument from changes in pressure at that stage, rocket-builder Ariane-space installed a custom decompression system

Putin: Insulting Prophet Of Islam 'Violation Of Religious Freedom'



Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin says insulting Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace upon Him) is a "violation of religious freedom", according to Russian News Agency TASS.

Insults to the Prophet are a "violation of religious freedom and the violation of the sacred feelings of people who profess Islam," Putin said in his annual press conference on Thursday.

Putin also criticized the publication of blasphemous sketches of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

in French magazine Charlie Hebdo last September, saying that such acts give rise to extremist reprisals.

"Praising artistic freedom in general has its limits and it shouldn't infringe on other freedoms," the Russian president said.

He said Russia has evolved as a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional state, so Russians are used to respecting each other's traditions.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, in a twitter post, welcomed Putin's statement, saying, "Putin's statement reaffirmed my stance that insulting our Holy Prophet (PBUH) is not freedom of expression."

The premier urged leaders of the Muslim countries to spread this message to heads of non-Muslim nations to counter Islamophobia.

He also called on the Western world to respect sentiments of the Muslim communities while practicing "freedom of expression" for the past many years.

NEWS MAKERS

Reindeer With "Herd Immunity" Jokes Wear Thin On 2Nd Pandemic Christmas

Agence France-Presse

The rise of the Omicron variant heralded on Friday another pandemic-tinged Christmas for billions, with Santa's arrival and longed-for family reunions overshadowed by the prospect of yet more Covid restrictions.

Festive jokes about reindeer having "herd immunity" and millions isolating "Home Alone" may be wearing thin, but the emergence of the ultra-infectious Omicron variant means the pandemic is not going away anytime soon.

For the second year, surging infections have complicated yuletide plans from Sydney to Seville.

The new coronavirus strain has also disrupted holiday travel, with tracking website Flightaware.com



reporting more than 2,300 flights had been cancelled around the world by 2015 GMT. In Bethlehem -- the Palestinian town in the Israeli-occupied West Bank that Christians believe was Jesus' birthplace -- hoteliers have been disappointed.

After a near-total lockdown last year, Israel has again closed its borders. Celebrations on Friday were subdued ahead of Christmas Eve midnight mass, which was to be reserved for just a small circle of people by invitation only.

"It is a bit surreal," American student Hudson Harder told AFP.

"There is a selfish part where it's like 'Oh I get to see this place so empty' but on the other hand you feel for the shops, all the money they are losing, it's really quite tragic."

'Little things in life'

In Europe, governments are re-imposing misery-inducing safety measures that are draining the fun from Christmas for many.

The Netherlands is back in lockdown while Spain and Italy have made wearing masks compulsory outdoors.

And with Britain hitting a record high number of Covid-19 infections again on Friday for a third day in a row, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suggested getting a vaccine booster shot as a Christmas gift for relatives.

Bus Or Train? World's First 'Dual-Mode Vehicle' To Begin Operating In Japan

Agencies

TOKYO: It's a bus, it's a train, it's a DMV! The world's first dual-mode vehicle, equally at home on road and rail, is set to make its public debut on Saturday in the town of Kaiyo in Japan's Tokushima prefecture.

The train wheels lift the front tyres off the track while the rear wheels stay down to propel the DMV onto the railway.

The CEO of Asa Coast Rail-



way company, which operates the DMVs, said the vehicles could help small towns like Kaiyo with an ageing and shrinking population, where local transport companies struggle to make a profit.

"This (DMV) can reach the locals (as a bus), and carry them onto the railway as well," CEO Shigeki Miura told Reuters on Friday. "Especially

in rural areas with an ageing population, we expect it to be a very good form of public transport."

The DMV can carry up to 21 passengers and runs at a speed of 60km/h (37 mph) on rail tracks and can go as fast as around 100km/h (62 mph) on public roads, Asa Coast Railway said.

Powered by diesel fuel, the small fleet of vehicles, which come in different colours, will run along part of the coast of Shikoku island in southern Japan, connecting several small towns and offering passengers attractive seaside scenery.

Miura said he hoped the project would encourage railway fans from around Japan to visit.

Booster Shots Crucial To Protect People From Omicron: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said booster shots of Covid-19 vaccine are crucial to protect people from the highly transmissible Omicron variant of coronavirus.

"Booster doses offer a significant increase in protection against Omicron," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Quoting a lab study from Oxford University, Dr Hassan said the levels of antibodies against Omicron after a booster dose of AstraZeneca vaccine were significantly higher compared to titers after a second dose.

"Neutralizing levels of antibodies against Omicron after a booster were similar to those against the Delta variant after two doses," he said.

"The findings of the study hold significant implications for Jammu and Kashmir, where more than 90 percent doses are of Covishield, which is the local version of AstraZeneca vaccine," he added.

The DAK President said similar studies from Pfizer and Moderna have also shown that their booster shots effectively neutralized the new variant.

"The results of lab studies support the use of booster dose to limit the spread of Omicron variant," he said.

Dr Nisar said while two doses of Covid-19 vaccine may still offer protection against severe disease, lab results suggest that

two shots of the vaccine are not effective in preventing omicron infection.

"Early real-world data produced by the UK Health Security Agency confirmed that two doses show significantly reduced antibody levels against Omicron," he said.

The agency suggested that vaccine effectiveness against Omicron more than 25 weeks after second vaccine dose was negligible for AstraZeneca and only about 35 percent with Pfizer," said Dr Nisar.

"But after a booster, effectiveness was around 75 percent," he added.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said being fully vaccinated is not enough against the new variant.

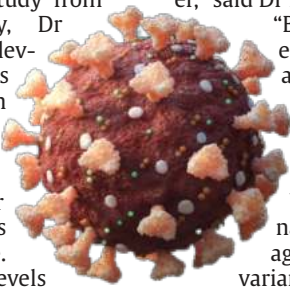
"It is essential that every eligible adult receives a booster as soon as possible to keep the variant at bay," he said.

Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Dagga said booster shot is the third or the additional dose of Covid-19 vaccine given to ensure the protection is maintained against the new variants.

"The booster dose can be the same as your original vaccine or it can be from a different vaccine," he said.

"CDC and FDA have approved booster shots for all adults to be given at least six months after the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

While many countries including US and UK have started administering booster shots, India is yet to take a call," he added.



JCB Owner Booked For Beating Mining Employee

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid reports against land and mining mafia for illegally earth filling wetland and agriculture land in Pampore tehsil of Pulwama district, an employee of Mining department was taken hostage and beaten by the mafia while he tried to stop illegal soil extraction in Wuyan.

Following complaints of illegal soil extraction in Wuyan area of the district, District Mining team led by DMO Pulwama Fayaz Ahmad and assisted by Tehsildar Pampore Ishiyad Mohiuddin inspected the Mining spot at Wuyan near petrol pump.

Officials said that machines and tippers including JCB and earth moving machine were working illegally at the spot.

"An employee of the Mining department was beaten and taken hostage by the mafia, who freed him after three hours after

police intervention," officials said.

DMO Pulwama Fayaz Ahmad said that he filed a complaint about the incident following which police swung into action and booked a JCB owner Sheeraz Ahmad Rather son of Abdul Rashid Rather of Zawoor for illegally operating the machine and soil extraction at Wuyan.

An FIR no 84/2021 under sections was registered against him at Police station Khrew and further legal proceedings are going on.

The police has booked him under Section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant and causing injury to a lawful employee), Section 342 (wrongful confinement) and Section 427 (causing mischief and damage).

Illegal mining and soil extraction was done at Wuyan by the land mafia during night hours but after media reports and vigil by the Mining department, the illegal extraction got stopped. (KNT)

Azad Fires Fresh Salvo At BJP

Says Maharajas' Rule Was Better Than Present Govt

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: There has been a slump in business and developmental activities in Jammu and Kashmir over the last two and a half years and people are heading towards poverty, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said here.

In a veiled attack at the BJP, Azad said the autocratic rule of the maharajas was far better than the current dispensation, which stopped the traditional practice of the biannual 'Darbar Move'.

Under the Darbar Move, the civil secretariat and other move offices used to function in Srinagar for six months of summer and in Jammu for the remaining six months of the year. It was initiated by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had on June 20 announced the end to the practice.

"I was always supportive of the Darbar Move. The maharajas gave us three things which were in the interest of the public of both Kashmir and Jammu regions, and one of them was the Darbar Move," Azad told report-

ers here.

He said the maharaja (Hari Singh) ensured protection of land and jobs from people who were not from the region.

"Today after so many years, we see the maharaja who used to be called a dictator was much better than the present government. The actions of the maharaja were for the welfare of the public, while the present government has taken away all the three things (Darbar Move, protection of land and jobs) from us," he said, referring to the abrogation of Article 370.

On a series of public meetings he held across Jammu and Kashmir over the past two and a half months, the senior Congress leader said they had nothing to do with upcoming assembly elections.

"People are anguished as there is no business, no jobs, high prices and developmental works have come to standstill," he said.

"I was of the opinion that people in cities are happy. Ragunath Bazar, City Chowk and Kanak



Mandi (in Jammu) represents the pulse of the whole business community. Every shop I visited, I found that people are disappointed because business is down for the past five years," Azad said.

"The overall situation in whole Jammu and Kashmir is very bad, and we are badly heading towards poverty," he said.

High inflation and zero developmental work are the main contributors for the present situation, the Congress leader said.

He, however, expressed happiness over the growing political activity in the region. "Politicians lost contact with the public over the past two years (since August 2019). We started and others followed, which is a welcome development," Azad said.

He avoided a direct answer on the draft report of the Delimitation Commission to enhance six assembly seats for Jammu and one in Kashmir, saying, "For me, Jammu and Kashmir is one, and so, I cannot take sides for one or the other region."

Jammu Man Returns Home After Spending 29-Years In Pak Jail

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: After spending 29 years in a Pakistani jail, Kathua resident Kuldeep Singh returned to a rousing welcome at his hometown here on Friday night, following which he asked the youth to never pull back from making any sacrifice for the country.

Singh (53), along with Mohammad Gufran from Aurangabad, were released by Pakistan on Monday and they reached Red Cross Bhavan at Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in Punjab after their repatriation.

Singh said Pakistani agencies tortured him for three years after his arrest in 1992. He was produced in a court for alleged espionage and subsequently sent to 25 years of imprisonment.

A resident of Makwal village at Billawar in Kathua, Singh was accorded a warm welcome by the villagers who burnt firecrackers and raised slogans in praise of the country and him.

My message to all my friends, villagers and especially the youth is to stay away from wrong paths that can harm them. But, never

pull back when it comes to making any sacrifice for the country, he told reporters.

After his arrest in Pakistan, his family members said, they learnt about his whereabouts only when he wrote to them from Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail.

They said they had lost all hope as there was no contact with Singh for the past eight years following the killing of Indian prisoner Sarabjit Singh, who was also convicted of spying.

We are happy that he is back and among us after so many years, a relative said.

Govt Walking On Path Shown Vajpayee: LG

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his government is continuously working to make development, peace, progress, and social harmony the most integral part of the narrative of Jammu and Kashmir, while walking on the path shown by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

He made these remarks while addressing a special event to commemorate birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee here at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, an official spokesperson said.

While speaking on the occasion, the LG paid tributes to Vajpayee on his birth anniversary and termed him a true statesman, poet, writer, and the greatest orator country has heard after Independence.

Throwing light on Vajpayee's political life, the LG said that the late PM has deeply enriched the Indian political space.

The big shift in economic reform was the brainchild of Atal Ji. Despite large and difficult co-alignment partners, he fast-tracked several futuristic policies including Golden Quadrilateral, PMGSY, disinvestment, Telecom revolution & Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, the Lt Governor observed.

Through his sharp political understanding and cross-party appeal, Atal Ji significantly shaped the political discourse of his era. He even encouraged regional aspirations by accommodating smaller parties for larger national cause, added the Lt Governor.

As the nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence, we must remember the contribution of all the great personalities who worked tirelessly for strengthening the Indian democracy, nationalism, and upliftment of the marginalized sections. Among all the leaders, Atal Ji was a true statesman, who rose above the party lines in the larger interest.

Tourism Dept Organises Christmas Festivals At Gulmarg, Pahalgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the week long year ending celebrations, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir on Saturday organised grand Christmas festivals at tourist destinations of Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

The yearend celebrations which started yesterday would culminate with new year celebrations on 31st of this month, an official spokesperson said. He said that during these festivals, a large number of tourists from various parts of the country as well as locals participated.

Many hotels and prominent buildings at Gulmarg were illuminated to give the place a festive look. A colourful musical programme was organized at the Golf Club which witnessed the participation of a large number of tourists and local visitors.

Earlier yesterday members of the Christian community organised special prayers at the local Church. They also prayed for communal harmony, love and compassion for humanity.

Secretary Tourism, Sarma Hafeez who inaugu-

rated the festival yesterday said that it has been a tradition of the Tourism Department to organize Christmas Eve celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Department has planned this festive week to invite people around the world to come and visit Jammu and Kashmir.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo, senior officers of the Department, and representatives of local hoteliers were present on the occasion.

Similarly at Pahalgam, the Pahalgam Club, local hotels, buildings and the market were illuminated and the whole place wore a festive look. A variety cultural programme was organized in the evening by the Department which saw the participation of a large number of tourists and local visitors.

As part of the festival, the Department yesterday had organized a cake baking competition which saw an encouraging participation from young enthusiasts from across the Kashmir valley.

The participants of the final round were awarded a cash prize of 20000 each and mementos.

Samba Farmers To Resume Cultivation Beyond Border Fence

Observer News Service

SAMBA: Border area farmers of Samba District have resolved to start cultivation on fields beyond IB Fence after visiting the Suchetgarh sector where BSF has facilitated their counterparts to resume agricultural activities on the fields across the IB fence, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

District administration Samba in collaboration with Border Security Force (BSF) today organized a farmers' tour to Suchetgarh sector and encouraged them to take up agricultural activities beyond fence in Samba sector as well.

During the exposure visit the group of 100 farmers along with PRI members from Rajpura, Samba, & Ramgarh had detailed interaction with their counterparts at Suchetgarh and agriculture officers on cultivable crops and practices that can be taken up along the International Border.

The farmers group included Block Development Council Chairman Rajpura, Radhey Shyam.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta informed that on the direction of J&K LG Manoj Sinha, district administration is encouraging Border farmers of Samba to cultivate their fields in the forward areas. "An exposure visit of Samba farmers was organised to the Suchetgarh bor-

der to encourage them to follow the suit."

The DC said that the District administration and BSF authorities will extend full cooperation to farmers by addressing their concerns and also support them in doing routine farming beyond the border fence.

Pertinent to mention 500 Hectare of cultivable land beyond border fencing is available for cultivation in district samba along International Border.

The District Officers accompanying the farmers informed them that crops like aloe-vera, lemon grass etc can also be sown in the area along with conventional crops. The uncultivated land across the fence can also be sown with the help of BSF and the farmers can be encouraged to take up agricultural activities, said the District Officer.

"We stopped cultivation due to the fear of Pakistan firing. Now with the government's encouragement farmers here are cultivating their land beyond the fence and we can also resume the cultivation under security cover of BSF" said a visiting farmer.

Later farmers also attended the retreat ceremony at Suchetgarh Post.

Among others Chief Agriculture officer Samba Sanjeev Verma, Chief Horticulture Officer Samba Ashwani Sharma besides officers from BSF were also present.

Eight Held For Impersonating As Police Officers To Dupe Online Shoppers

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Eight persons, who were using pictures of senior police officers to impress on people to purchase goods from an online platform, were arrested from Rajasthan by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, an official said on Saturday.

They were arrested during a raid in Alwar district of Rajasthan following a complaint at the Cyber Police Jammu cell on December 8, a police spokesman said.

He said several mobilephone handsets and other evidence were seized during the raid and further investigation is going on.

Terming the arrests as a major breakthrough, the spokesman said Sanjib Kumar Baishya of Delhi lodged a complaint at the Cyber police station in Jammu, saying that some unknown person impersonating himself as an officer of the CISF working in Guwahati, Assam, had posted a few pictures of household items for sale on an online platform.

Being interested in buying the items, the complainant, said he contacted the person and consequently was duped, the spokesman said, adding a case under relevant sections of the law has been registered.

During the course of investigation, the spokesman said, it was found that the fraudsters were using pictures of senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police to impress upon buyers to purchase goods from online platforms.

"During investigation transactions involved were also scrutinised, registration details of Quikr advertisement were obtained and accordingly, based on location of the fraudsters, it was ascertained that these fraudsters are operating from different areas of Alwar city of Rajasthan," he said.

Accordingly, the spokesman said, with the help of local police, a special team from Jammu and Kashmir Police Cyber cell succeeded in arresting eight accused including the kingpin.

He identified the arrested accused as Mousam Khan, his brother Arish Khan, Manish Khan, Soket Khan, Irfan Khan, Mustaq Khan and Sahib Khan of Kakrali village and Asif Khan of Garhi Mewat of Rajasthan.

GOOD GOVERNANCE WEEK

Horticulture Dept Organizes Outreach Programme In Shopian

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Horticulture on Saturday organized a 10th mega awareness cum training camp at Arhama, Shopian to reach out to the farmers. The camp was held under Good Governance Week and as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

Director General Horticulture, Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat was the Chief Guest of the function while as District Development Commissioner Shopian was the guest of honor.

In his address, DG Horticulture, elaborated in detail about the various central and UT sponsored schemes offered by the Department and highlighted the various components of these schemes and advised the farmers to avail the benefits under these schemes.

Regarding post-harvest management, DG informed that the Department is offering various initiatives like establishment of walnut de-hulling units, grading/packaging lines, low-cost processing units etc.

He also assured that special focus will be given to organic farming and said that vermi-

compost units particularly in tribal areas will be established on a large scale. He further appraised that about 3 lakh Apple Colonial rootstock imported from Netherlands have been successfully transplanted and further propagated in the District at Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development (ACHD), Zainpora.

He also said that an Almond Nursery is also being established in the district at Fruit Plant Nursery Zainpora to revive the declining almond production.

DG Horticulture further informed that the Shopian district is being developed as a cluster district for apple under the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) and JKHPMC has been nominated as Cluster Development Agency for the same.

Speaking on the menace of growing narcotics crops in various parts of the District, DG assured that the Department will devise a more profitable crop substitution programme and will also provide farmers with material and technical assistance for growing alternate horticultural crops like HD apple plantation.

Regarding the modified High-Density Plantation Scheme, He said a targeted area of 5500 hectares will be covered in the

UT and encouraged the farmers of the area, particularly marginal and small farmers, to come forward and take advantage of the Scheme.

He further elaborated that besides Apple other fruit crops like Cherry, Pear, Plum and Walnut Almond etc. can be planted and a minimum 01 and maximum of 20 kanals of land will be covered per beneficiary.

He further added that shifting to High Density Plantation is the only way forward to increase the production and productivity and to compete with the international market.

At the end the Director General thanked all the participants and said more such camps will be held in the area. He also gave on spot instructions to the Chief Horticulture Officer to reach out to the farming community by organizing awareness camps particularly tribal and far-flung areas of the district.

Besides, Chief Horticulture Officer, Shopian the camp was attended by District Development Council (DDC) Member Raja Ab. Waheed, President Fruit Growers Association Shopian Mr. Shabir Peer, Mr. Adnan Ali an innovative fourth-generation farmer and various PRI members.

When asked that Friday prayers are not being allowed in grand mosque here in Srinagar, Bukhari said he requests LG Manoj Sinha to treat every religion equally. "Please, throw Jama Masjid open for devotees," he requested the government. (KNT)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks

“Israel to offer 4th dose of COVID-19 vaccine to people over the age of 60....It seems unending. Mask up”
@ParvaizKoul

“Saw at least 5 patients of retinal vein occlusion today secondary to sudden raised BP.
Drop in temperature leads to increased blood pressure.
Elderly hypertensive patients should avoid any outdoor activity early morning & late evening”
@ShaziaShafi5

“Most men in our society will be attracted to strong independent women but will not know how to deal with one. Instead, they will be threatened by her qualities, downplay her achievements and remain conflicted about their own personalities”
@ZeeZabardast

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Schools For Scandal

The unfortunate tendency of being captivated by gloss and losing sight of the dross, howsoever glaring the latter might be, has engendered a crippling sense of self-satisfaction that threatens to choke the very bloodstreams of social progress in Kashmir. Indeed, the signs have been more than evident for a long time in the most critical sector of school education. If, on the surface, the results of high school examinations expose the absolute incompetence of the massive government apparatus engaged in imparting primary and secondary education, a closer look reveals a much more disturbing scenario – even the students cleared by the state-run system barely make the grade in rudimentary literacy. The classes that have been, and are, ruling Kashmir, both in the bureaucratic and the political spheres, cloak their abysmal performance on this front in the achievements of a handful of private schools, totally ignoring the colossal waste of public funds in running a vast network of under-performing institutions. Howsoever sound the system may appear on paper, on the ground it is as rickety and run-down as the school houses spread all over rural Kashmir that are chronically starved of staff and proper equipment. Reports of under-manned schools, particularly at the primary level, are a routine feature from rural Kashmir, while institutes in the city appear to bursting at the seams with unneeded staff, making a mockery of the department of education which has grown bloated and unwieldy down the years. Schools in far-flung areas function at the sweet discretion of their often lone teachers, and instances of just one or two tutors handling multiple classes and hundreds of students are common. The standards of such schools and the education they impart can well be imagined. The large-scale recruitments the government makes for teachers posts make such a situation incomprehensible, unless of course it is done pure on political considerations with absolutely no thought to the quality and the suitability of the manpower engaged for a highly sensitive and critical enterprise. By an ironic twist of circumstance, the teaching profession has been turned into the very last resort of the capable and the destination of choice for those who are unable to fit in anywhere else. When the screening process for entry into this vital sector - on which the entire social edifice rests - should have been highly stringent, it has been turned into a hit- and-trail exercise with the barest minimum regard to the talent, skill and temperament required of a teacher. Societal trends guided by the political elite have shorn the teaching profession of its status and sanctity, turning it into just another vocation with little to distinguish it from, say, hawking garments on the streets. The adventurous, glamorous and challenging enterprise of kindling, illuminating and enlightening tender young minds has become a lack-luster and uninspiring activity devoid of a sorely-needed missionary spirit, mainly because successive leaderships (if they deserve that name) have been too occupied with other, more lucrative, concerns to bother about what is the corner-stone of the well-being of a people. This has had a direct bearing on the condition of our schools and their performance.

Having been active partners in ruining the state-run school system, the ruling classes now abdicate all responsibility by dumping the educational sector into the private lap. This is seen in the lavish support to fashionable and prohibitively expensive private schools and the mushrooming of lesser copycats who are making a financial killing in the absence of a dependable and affordable public structure. It is nothing short of a scandal that parents should avoid sending their wards to government schools on account of the latter's dismal record, and prefer seedy and crowded private options no matter how mercenary they are.

The authorities are preying on the vulnerabilities of the public by letting the situation drift in the hope that with time the growing, engineered preference for private schools would phase the government system out of existence. This is a classic case of the government abdicating its basic responsibility towards a society comprised largely of low-income, rural and agrarian classes for whom state-run schools were the mainstay of hope.

Any government worth the name would take immediate remedial steps to improve the standing and image of government schools by engaging trained and motivated manpower, and allocating generous funds to equip them with the wherewithal to deliver quality education. Strict, uncompromising monitoring of schools coupled with adequate deployment of manpower even in remote areas is essential to raise the standard of teaching and restore public confidence in the system.

The article is an Editorial from KO Archives

Normalising “Domestic” Violence In Kashmir



Anam Mukhtar

An ingrained pattern followed by a closely-knit partner who poses as a powerful agent to promote his authority on his soft target by harsh means gives a classic descriptive understanding of domestic violence. The abuse diversifies itself as it goes alongside different socio-economic factors of both the offenders and the victims. The accumulation of potentiality of a person through any capacity, when played out to assure him of his power, can come out to be destructive on the part of the relatively timid person. The permanence of the laws and seriousness with which they are enacted on the ground marks the beginning of dismembering powers that pierce through one's self-esteem and existence. The labelling of physical abuse as the base image of domestic violence discloses the primacy assigned to the body over the mind. The narrative of the abuse is often relied upon by the witnesses because victims are thought of as emotionally unstable to give out definitive clarification on their sufferings.

Why Kashmir?

Kashmiris have more proclivity to become high-strung for the sheer disruption in the valley. Women, more than men, are deemed to have become a bundle of nerves which later justifies the abuse on them and get qualified as occasional mishaps. Over the past decade, a lot has gone into the analytics of abuse done in the ambit of what's to be one's safe space “home.” The statistical inquiry into the domestic violence in Kashmir led us to harrowing results of about 9.4% of women of the age group of 18-49 who have had to endure the impact of such menacing acts of violence in the year 2019-2020. This percentage leaves out the women whose cases go unreported because of their in-

tense fear of rejection in society. The data for the last six years (from 2013 to 2019) of 1046 rapes that are still under trial stand to explain the legal aids turning deaf ears to the issue. Around 820 of these unresolved cases have minors as their victims. Alluding to the prevalence of abuse in Kashmir, we learn that it is rooted in

Women who don't earn and are abused often don't voice their miseries in public because they fear being taken off of the financial assistance they get from their male counterparts. Nevertheless, it is not only the housewives who experience the trauma of domestic violence; women with an income

VICTIMS DON'T GET OFFERED SYMPATHETIC ears to help them vent out, which results in them bottling their emotions until they declare defeat before shame and vulnerability. Women buy the nice guy-girl act after the abuse is done with and get lured to get back into the loop. The challenge is to come out of that and let the realisation seep in for taking the proper measures

a centuries-long facade strengthened by the shackles of patriarchy. While men also get caught on with the incidents of abuse due to the gendered disparities, women are more often captured as hostages to anger and revolt coming from their own homes, which shows no sign of dissipation. The mistreatment of women is mel- lowed down by the family in hopes of keeping it hushed down and saving the supposed “saviours” from plunging into the cancel-culture. It's imperative to scrape together the focal causes of abuse that many women are the subject of in order to subdue the harm that's implanted in more than one way. Most Kash- miri women get beguiled by a rather hideous form of abuse through the abundance of credulity among them that they think fits the moulds of a morally righteous lady. In an attempt to abide by the standardised norms, they euphemise their experiences for acceptance. Often the lack of ac- countability for men puts them on a pedestal where misusing their venerated position among their spouses is not out of the ordinary.

Are some categories of women safe?

of their own can also get entrapped in the spiral of abuse, mostly when they have children at stake. The evil perpetrated by male dominance amongst families has succeeded to tear down women and their as- pirations of a happy home. While dowry is no longer a factor in most cases of abuse, it plays some part in rural areas where the practice remains unaltered. Despite the pro- visions for dowry-related abuse, people file a complaint only after the wrong has been done irrevoca- bly. Religion is often misused as a garb to survive the atrocities com- mitted in its name by the offenders. However, the theology of each reli- gion uplifts women as the carriers of humanity who need to be treated with regard. Women become the scapegoats of the anger that's dis- placed onto them for the reason of them being considered as anger- absorbents who would take it all in without ever resorting to wanting out. What's worse is that they go on a guilt trip for giving their partners a hard time which they take com- plete onus for.

A need for a women's shelter is tantamount to the first step taken to paving the way out for victims to know where to seek help from. A

ALLUDING TO THE PREVALENCE of abuse in Kashmir, we learn that it is rooted in a centuries-long facade strengthened by the shackles of patriarchy. While men also get caught on with the incidents of abuse due to the gendered disparities, women are more often captured as hostages to anger and revolt coming from their own homes, which shows no sign of dissipation

systematic force should be in place to keep an eye out for such heinous acts who could then mobilise women to speak up in a public sector that as- sures them of an action being taken against these wrongdoers. Victims don't get offered sympathetic ears to help them vent out, which results in them bottling their emotions until they declare defeat before shame and vulnerability. Women buy the nice guy-girl act after the abuse is done with and get lured to get back into the loop. The challenge is to come out of that and let the realisation seep in for taking the proper measures. Get- ting any kind of abuse on record can come a long way in the court of law to enforce its due punishment on the abusers. Glorification and normali- sation of abuse through mediated sexism gives coverage to the abusers making them look justified in their actions. The fiery discrimination against women should be monitored by programs that ensure that it isn't regularised in the society. Penalising domestic violence is one of the ways to pull out all the stops to make peo- ple vigilant for their actions. Charac- ter assassination is yet another form of abuse where a woman is made to feel as less than an individual for her choices. The severity of posing a threat to a woman's character is such that it can take away the certain societal respect that a woman feels the need to be lined up with and make her appear downgraded in her own eyes. The issue starts at home, and people must understand that it doesn't need to end at home. The implications of domestic violence ac- count for a story where a woman is held responsible for having made it come this far. Irrespective of a wom- an's choice that may be pinned down to have erupted the abuse, a person doesn't deserve an abuse to reaffirm the wrong in their actions. While there's no denying the fact that men need to change, women have to vali- date the facts for what they are and not sweeten the bitter reality.

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

The author can be reached at anam- mukhtar212@gmail.com

Economic War On Afghanistan

Tahir Mahmoud

In October 2021, Crescent International explained that after the end of NATO's military occupation, the next phase of struggle for Afghanistan will center around economics. This evaluation was recently confirmed by the groundbreaking series of reports from inside Afghanistan by Roshan Mohammed Salih, editor-in-chief of the British Muslim news website 5pillarsuk. Salih's reports were not only interesting because they concurred with Crescent's earlier evaluation, but because they chal- lenged and eliminated the informational monopoly of the Western corporate me- dia. Salih's reports also exposed the agenda driven coverage of the corporate media on post-occupation Afghanistan. While the media war is a separate and important issue, the most crucial piece of information is the confirmation that Af- ghanistan is being subjected to full-scale economic war. This reality is also con- firmed by other media outlets. Thus, the question arises, what are Af- ghanistan's tactical and strategic economic options? Economic evaluation should not include over-arching analysis. Analogies and data in economic analysis are frequently idiosyn- cratic. When analysts try to apply data set for a particular economic situation, often the relevance of the data is reduced with time. By the time data reaches policymakers and they institute economic policies, on-the-ground situation has changed

ECONOMIC EVALUATION SHOULD NOT include over-arching analysis. Analogies and data in economic analysis are frequently idiosyncratic. When analysts try to apply data set for a particular economic situation, often the relevance of the data is reduced with time

and a lot of the compiled data becomes less relevant. This is a reality many ad- vanced economies deal with as well including those with strong statisti- cal departments and regular economic monitoring processes. Nevertheless, possessing accurate and up-to-date information about economic transactions within the borders of a coun- try reduces the risk of instituting outdated or irrelevant policies. It enables economic policies to be within calculated risk frame- work rather than a reactive mode. Over the next several years, Western NGOs, Western-educated economists and foreign government experts will be giving Afghani- stan a lot of advice. Many of these recom- mendations will be rooted in situations and con- ditions of other locales and most likely will not apply per se to Afghanistan's situation. Thus, Afghanistan's economic rebuild- ing should be driven by local policymakers which have regular on the ground access to economic activities within the Afghan so- ciety. This is essential in order not to model Afghanistan's economic policies on textbook economic narratives. Afghanistan's situation is very different and unique in many respects. In practical terms, the Taliban-led Afghan government, therefore, needs to establish

a ministry which would provide the new governing system with accurate and lo- cally relevant data. This would be a sort of ministry of statistics. Such statistical data should be regularly monitored, coordinated with other gov- ernment agencies, and acted upon in ac- cordance with locally relevant economic activities. 'Local' is the key here. As a prominent statistician and economic ex- pert Nassim Nicholas Taleb stated, statis- tics without context are meaningless. The so-called international economic experts, who are essentially West-centric economic consultants have a track record of proposing policies with minimal to no local relevance. The most prominent ex- ample of this is the Structural Adjustment Policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank which failed dismally in Africa and South America. While under NATO occupation for the last 20 years, Afghanistan's economy was kept in a comma. It only functioned because of foreign aid. Any such aid that trickled to Afghanistan was looted by pro-NATO local warlords. The bulk of the money (\$2.26 trillion) spent by the US on prosecuting the war was stolen by the me- ga-thieves in the Pentagon, the weapons

contractors as well as private mercenary contractors to kill innocent Afghans. This was a deliberate policy to keep the occupied dependent on the occupier. Essentially, Afghanistan lacks basic char- acteristics of a modern economy. Thus, ap- plying conventional economic policies will not lead to economic recovery or rebuild- ing the country's shattered infrastructure, poor as it was to begin with. What makes the Afghan experience more complicated and different is that there is a political and civilizational objective by NATO regimes to make Afghanistan fail. Thus, even sound economic policies by the new gov- ernment in Kabul will face political sabotage in some form. Afghanistan's success will always be seen as NATO's humiliation. Nevertheless, Afghanistan can learn much from a locally relevant regional ex- perience, that of Islamic Iran. Immediately after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran faced a devastating invasion and a Western proxy war initiated by Sad- dam Husain, along with sanctions. However, the Islamic system has not only survived for 42 years, but Iran has become a regional power, a fact admitted even by its detractors. While under severe restrictions, Iran has managed to outmaneuver the economic war imposed on it due to its non-textbook approach to policies and emphasis on de- veloping internal manufacturing industries. Afghanistan can learn much from Iran's ex- perience. It is going through a similar historic economic process as Iran did in the 1980s. In fact, Afghanistan has a slight advantage. Views expressed in the article are the au- thor's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Crescent International

To Enjoy While Home Alone

KO WEB DESK

1. Noon Chai



picture credits: The Culinary Kashmir

A traditional Kashmiri tea beverage that is not sweet, this pink coloured tea is going to keep you warm and cozy on the snowy day. Have it with Kashmiri Kandur Chhout (bread) with butter.

2. Harissa



While it may not be easy to drive yourself to Ael Kadal for Harissa. You can definitely buy it in advance and enjoy it on breakfast or brunch. Have it with Kandur bread and you will feel heavenly bliss.

3. Hot Chocolate



Also known as hot cocoa, this drink is preferred by one and all – especially the younger generation. It has shaved chocolate, melted chocolate or cocoa powder, heated milk or water, and usually a sweetener. Hot chocolate may be topped with whipped cream or marshmallows, although marshmallows aren't preferred here in Kashmir. Kashmir has more options in whipped cream especially at restaurants.

How To Understand Your Grief Through Writing

Catherine Cole

“Bereavement is a universal and integral part of our experience of love”, CS Lewis wrote in A Grief Observed (1966) and no time of year offers a greater sense of this than Christmas, with its traditions and jollity and its focus on family and friends. Losing a family member at such a time can bring with it an added level of grief. From then on, Christmas is coloured with their loss.

This makes subsequent Christmases particularly fraught. Walking into a brightly lit and decorated shop, with Christmas carols on a loop, can be an emotional minefield; a cruel reminder of a joy from which you now feel excluded.

When my father was dying in hospital at Christmas a few decades ago, I was struck by how kindly the staff had decorated his ward. There was a tree and most of the beds were decked with tinsel. Staff wore Santa hats and offered visitors mince pies and Christmas cake. Despite their efforts, it was very bleak. Never had Christmas jollity seemed so hollow.

As a writer I also found myself gathering these contradictory moments of joy and sorrow for future reference. It seemed a logical approach. Managing the awful realisation that my father had only days left, meant also observing everything closely – the way the tinsel moved with the ward’s heating, the presents we opened with my father even though he was unconscious and unable to enjoy them.

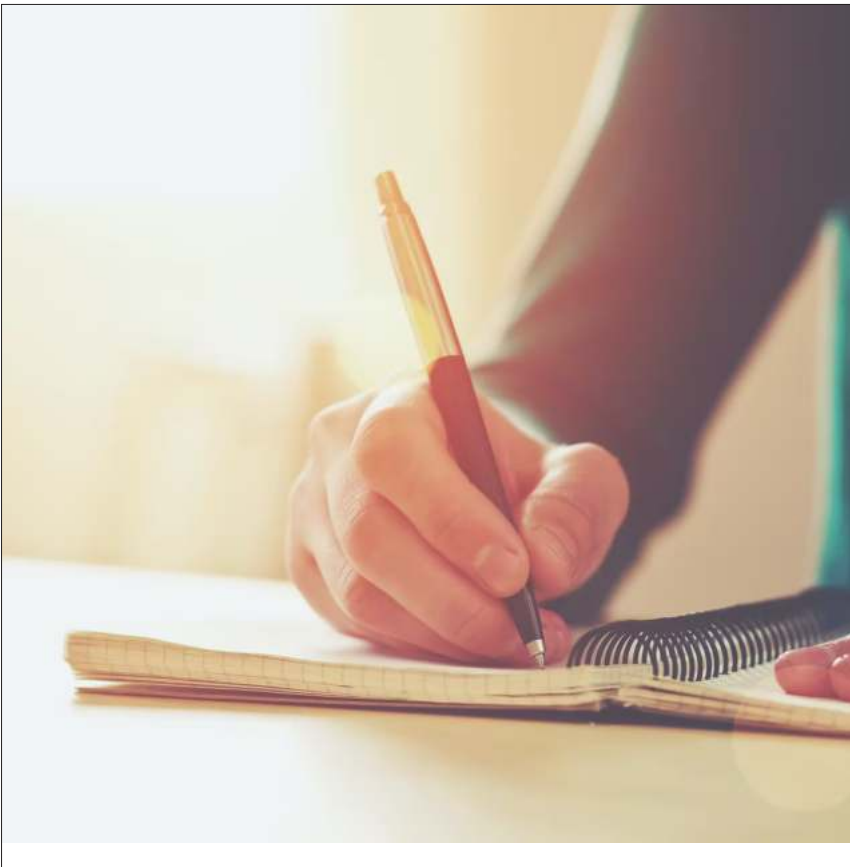
This sense of letting someone go while the rest of the world was partying was both horrible and, yet, creative. I decided that this scene would at some point find its way into a future novel or story. Managing grief in this creative way is not unusual and is healthy, according to the Harvard Medical School who suggest that “disclosing deep emotions through writing can boost immune function as well as mood and wellbeing”.

I also think that we write to understand and to convey that understanding to our readers. “It is when faced with death that we turn most bookish”, French author Jules Renard wrote in 1925, and not much has changed since then – well, certainly not for me anyway. But people, like me, who love reading search for meaning in books and we also seek to understand our own emotional journey through grief by writing about it.

Writing grief

But writing your grief requires a specific kind of skill.

When writing from raw emotion it’s best not to self-censor or over fret about the work’s quality; not initially anyway. Getting your emotions down on the page is a good way to assuage your grief be-



WHEN WRITING FROM RAW EMOTION IT’S BEST NOT to self-censor or over fret about the work’s quality; not initially anyway. Getting your emotions down on the page is a good way to assuage your grief because it requires courage and honesty to pay homage to a lost loved one and also to your personal loss

cause it requires courage and honesty to pay homage to a lost loved one and also to your personal loss.

The writer Joan Didion fearlessly chronicled her grief at the loss of her family in books like The Year of Magical Thinking and Blue Nights, though not everyone is comfortable reading them. The Australian reviewer, Andrew Reimer, wrote of how he felt like “an intruder into a very private sorrow” after reading Didion’s Blue Night.

Reading or writing about grief is not for the faint-hearted. Like all writing, it’s best not to edit too early. Let the work rest and come back to it when ready. Save that first raw draft and create a new version when you feel you’ve moved on to another, more objective stage.

Edit it slowly, allowing the meaning to rise while removing anything that no longer feels right. Use photo prompts to inspire reflection and memorialising. Think too of those small details – a swathe of tinsel moving in time with a respirator or a carol on an audio loop.

The right time

A decade after my father’s death, each Christmas afterwards transformed into something joyous but melancholy, rich with family and friends but also the absence of him. At that point, I wrote the poem below. The time seemed right:

A birth, a death

The creative writing academic, Brooke Davis, wrote: “Grief is not neat like a narrative arc. It does not end; it is not ‘resolved’. It does not follow a checklist of emotions from beginning to end. It is not one thing, or the other thing; it is lots of things.”

That seems the way to approach both the emotion and the art that comes from it. It’s a season of storytelling and memories. Whatever we do at Christmas, we share it with the living and the dead. Grief and happiness are perfect creative partners in bringing us back together.

The author is a Professor in Creative Writing, Associate Dean, Research and University Governor, Liverpool John Moores University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

Snow Essentials Check List

KO Web Desk

The weather department on Friday predicted light to moderate snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir for over two days under the influence of a western disturbance of greater intensity that is likely to hit the region on Sunday evening. According to the meteorological department, the spell of greater intensity than Thursday’s is most likely during December 26-28. Incase you haven’t stacked up your snow essentials, here’s your checklist:

1. Snow Boots:



I feel snowboots are equalisers. They’re usually oddly black and they usually lack variety. Nonetheless, the symmetry of the same snowboots which everyone wears in winters is a

memorable sight. These rubber boots are an improvement on the gumboots meant for rains. They’re made out of a form of rubber that protects your feet from getting wet. They also have a layer of fur on the inside which keeps you warm and also does not let snow enter your shoes towards your feet.

2. Pheran:



A traditional winter garment, you are doing winters in Kashmir wrong if you don’t wear a pheran. Pherans now come in many designs but we would suggest you stay put on the traditional one made out of “pout” which “poousch”. This type of pheran is made of tweed material which is warm and rough for winters. If you need your fashion game to be on point, you can actually choose many colours in this design – though many stick to black, brown and greys.

3. Water Proof Jacket:



It is a must for you to have waterproof jackets if you’re out and about while it snows. They keep you warm and also keep from getting spoilt due to snow. They don’t get wet and let you enjoy snow to the fullest. They usually come with a hood that goes over your head and protects you from snow and keeps you warm.

4. Gloves:

If you don’t have the liberty to stay home then you’ve got to get your gloves on. Gloves keep your hands warm which in turn keeps your body warm. You can opt for waterproof ones with



fur or fleece on the inside to keep your hands from getting wet or cold.

5. Beanies/Warm Scull Cap/Berets/ Monkey Caps:



A good winter hack is to keep your head and forehead warm. This will essentially be a game changer for you as far as the harsh winters are concerned. Woollen beanies, caps, berets, scull caps are ideal for winters as well as snow. They can also elevate your style by leaps and bounds if you know how to pair your clothes with the right one. Berets especially bring

so much of Parisian grace to your outfits. They can also easily go over hijabs or hijab caps for those who cover their heads. The sky is the limit in styling.

6. Mufflers:



Woollen mufflers keep you cozy and warm. They can go over your head as well or can be wrapped around your neck to keep it from feeling cold. If you wear it over a high/turtle neck, it is going to make a huge difference to your needs. Mufflers also come in different styles now. We know have ones which are large in width, length and can go over your shoulders if it gets too cold.

Kashmiri shawls may not be your go-to when it is snowing because those are exquisite pieces and you wouldn’t want to spoil them.

With Omicron, Experts Warn Against Cloth Masks

Irina Anghel, Bloomberg

Omicron is once again making people think twice before reaching out for their colorful, reusable cloth face masks.

"They can be really good or really terrible," depending on what fabric is used, said Trish Greenhalgh, professor of primary health care services at the University of Oxford.

Double or triple-layer masks made of a mix of materials can be more effective, but most cloth coverings are just "fashion accessories," according to Greenhalgh.

As the highly infectious omicron causes Covid infections to surge worldwide, governments around the world are tightening restrictions to try and stop its spread. Earlier this month Britain reintroduced compulsory mask wearing on public transport, shops and in some indoor venues, having previously relaxed the rules in the summer. Throughout the pandemic, authorities in different places have said different things about when and where healthy people should wear face masks and what type of coverings they



should choose.

The main issue with a cloth covering is they don't have to meet any kind of health standard, says Greenhalgh. In contrast, those manufacturing N95 respirator masks, for example, have to make sure they filter out 95% of particles.

Still, good filtration is useless if the mask doesn't cover your

nose and mouth properly. You also need to be able to breathe easily through the mask, Greenhalgh said. Environmentally or money-worried consumers used to reach out for cloth masks because they could be washed but there are reusable coverings that meet filtration standards available now.

Canadians are already being

advised to ditch single-layer-cloth masks in favor of tighter fitted ones.

"The issue here is if you have a single-layer, the ability to filtrate is absolutely minimal and doesn't make a difference whatsoever," said Peter Juni, head of Ontario's Science Advisory Table in an interview with CTV news last week.

Study Suggests Voice Assistants Could Be Used For Life Coaching



Agencies

Life coaching is a process in which a life coach helps a person to identify and achieve the most important goals for them personally and professionally.

The idea is to provide the person with tools and show them attitudes that allow them to take control of their decision and make it a reality. Support also exists for groups and coaching directed at companies is currently experiencing its sweetest moment.

Normally this process is led by a professional. But the idea that Dr Laura Aymerich-Franch, a Ramon y Cajal researcher at the UPF Department of Communication had in 2018 was to program a virtual life coach that would help people achieve their goals.

"Using coaching models, we programmed a conversational agent based only on voice, which would guide people to achieve their goals in the same way that a human coach guides you in your session through questions", Aymerich explains. "In this study, we found that using the application we created, the psychological well-being of the participants improved".

Aymerich is referring to a study published online in the International Journal of Human-Computer Studies, carried out together with the researcher Iliana Ferrer, now at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

The main study involved 30 people who, due to the covid-19 pandemic, had to conduct the sessions in their own homes. Each one had a total of three sessions with NORIKA, the virtual coach, which was installed on an iPhone and was operated using a very simple visual interface.

Guided by the conversational agent, the participants decided the aspect of their life they wanted to work on, found the core values for the specific area, identified a goal based on SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely) criteria, and put it into practice. Visualization techniques were also used, which are very common to support the

achievement of goals in coaching, in which participants were asked to imagine a future where their goals were achieved.

For the English version, used in the pilot test, a male and a female voice were used. The final version in Spanish used a female voice.

The results were observed by measuring variables such as personal growth (Personal Growth Initiative Scale -PGI), life satisfaction (Life Satisfaction Scale -SLS), and implementing the Positive and Negative Affect Scale (PANAS).

"The results revealed a significant increase in personal growth and life satisfaction, and in turn an also significant decrease in negative emotions"

"The results revealed a significant increase in PGI and SLS values, and in turn, an also significant decrease in negative emotions (PANAS) compared to the status prior to the start of the sessions", explains Dr Aymerich. "This suggests that the coaching program contributed positively to psychological well-being, life satisfaction and personal growth". Regarding usability, the intention to adopt this technology and general satisfaction with the program, the participants said they felt very satisfied.

Certain types of conversational agents are currently very widespread throughout the world, such as Amazon's Alexa, Apple's Siri or Google Assistant. According to an estimate by the Pew Research Center in 2017, almost 46 per cent of adults in the United States use these devices. In addition, it is increasingly common to find smartphone applications dedicated to improving mental health, "but these applications are not always supported by empirical evidence that demonstrates their effectiveness", Aymerich points out.

She added, "Everything seems to indicate that they will be increasingly present in the home. Although for the moment the conversational agent cannot offer the same abilities and services as a session with a coach or a therapist, it can serve to help eliminate attitudinal barriers that still exist when seeking therapeutic support to improve psychological well-being", the researcher concludes.

One Health: A Crucial Approach To Preparing For Future Pandemics

Agencies

One Health is a concept that emerged in the early 2000s that recognises the interconnections and health interdependencies among humans, other animals and the shared environments in which we live and interact.

In some cases, these shared environments make it possible for infectious agents such as viruses to adapt and move between species. Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that are transmitted to humans from animals or vice versa.

They include COVID-19, Ebola and HIV, as well as much older diseases like tuberculosis.

Significant changes in our global ecosystem, such as loss of natural habitats, are altering the way humans interact with other animals and the environment, leading to the emergence of new zoonotic diseases. It is currently estimated that approximately three-quarters of emerging infectious diseases in humans have an animal origin.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores that human health is fundamentally interconnected with the health of other animals (domestic and wild) throughout our shared environment. There is only one health, the health of all living organisms in a global ecosystem that, when rapidly altered and imbalanced, puts us all at risk for future pandemics.

Global collaboration
There is growing recognition that

gaps in local, national and global governance contribute to the emergence and re-emergence of zoonotic diseases. A broad collaboration has been underway to address this for several years. The tripartite One Health collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) has, since 2010, been one of the most significant high-level initiatives to strengthen the adoption of the One Health approach to human-animal-environmental health.

First developed to address the threat of antimicrobial resistance, the tripartite also published a guide for the control of zoonotic diseases before the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United Nations Environment Programme collaborated with the FAO-OIE-WHO tripartite to establish the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) on Dec. 1. OHHLEP defines the One Health approach as:

One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to achieve optimal and sustainable health outcomes for people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (our ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent.

"The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at all levels of society to work together to tackle threats to health

and ecosystems, while addressing our collective needs for healthy food, water, energy and air, taking action on climate change, and promoting sustainable development. An essential part of the pandemic treaty

The World Health Assembly the decision-making body of the WHO proposed establishing a pandemic treaty at a special session held from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

Under international law, a treaty is a legally binding instrument. An international treaty on pandemics would mandate and support WHO member states to build national, regional and global pandemic capacity and resilience through improved prevention, prediction, preparedness and response.

I am a university professor and the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Epidemiology and One Health. As the co-senior author, I am writing on behalf of the authors of a guidance note submitted with the Pandemic Treaty proposal.

In it, we explain the central role that an equity-oriented One Health approach could play in pandemic prevention and preparedness.

Addressing risk factors at the human-animal-environment interface like encroachment of natural habitats by humans is key to prevention.

Enabling better preparedness by, for example, establishing and maintaining highly integrated multi-species surveillance systems, will also require co-ordinating the actions of countries while integrating the

medical, public health, veterinary, agronomy, engineering, computer sciences, social sciences and environmental sectors and many more.

There is little integration of One Health principles in existing international treaties and regulations. In our guidance note, we recommend their integration into a future treaty on pandemics.

We also explain how this would complement and strengthen the connectivity (the ability to link, communicate and co-ordinate) between existing international agreements.

We propose developing universal metrics for evaluating how the One Health approach is being implemented in different countries.

We recommend fully integrating the One Health approach into all key elements of a pandemic treaty: prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response and including commitments to financial support.

This integration must be done with equity and solidarity in mind to ensure that all will benefit from pandemic prevention. Access to human, animal and ecosystem health diagnostics, treatments and services must be guaranteed and universal.

The inclusion of One Health in a pandemic treaty will help ensure collaboration between and across disciplines and sectors. It will require a strong commitment to increase our One Health knowledge through research and translating its results for a wider audience, with support from the international community.

NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I Sakib Saleem S/o Mohammad Saleem Gilkar R/o Batapora Zukura Srinagar have lost Wallet somewhere between Batpora to Dargah, containing Adhar Card, ATM Card, Pan Card, Driving License. Now I intend to apply for the duplicate of all the documents. In this regard if anybody have any objection he/she may file the same with concerned authority within 7 days. No objection will be enterated afterwards.

Sakib Saleem S/o Mohammad Saleem Gilkar R/o Batapora Zukura Srinagar
Ph. No # 9149881654

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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

E -NIT NO GWD/179 OF 2021-22 DATED 24.12.2021

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with PHE/I&FC Deptt. J&K Govt. who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method of drilling.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Quantity	Estimated cost (value of work) (in lacs)	Validity of Rates
Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Submersible Pump Motor Pump set including allied electro-mechanical works at various locations of District Kathua under District Capex Budget 2021-22 (DDC and PRI Grants).	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	(Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	13 Nos	12.35	31 st March 2022

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 25.12.2021 (1300hrs).
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24.12.2021 to 30.12.2021.
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 25.12.2021 (1400 hrs) to 30.12.2021 (1800hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
(i) Copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 1000.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. It may be noted that the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender. (ii) All bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form on a Judicial Stamp Paper of Rs.10 as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration form is as per Annexure "A" attached). (iii) Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 31.12.2021 at 1400 hours. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working or as to be decided by tender opening committee.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.
- Major Head: District Capex Budget 2021-22
- Status of Funds: Available
- AAA No. 124-Dev of 2021 Dated 12.11.2021
- Technical Sanction: Accorded (Annexure B attached)

GWD/7670-73
Dated:- 24.12.2021
DIPK-15698/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. G.W.D. Division, Jammu

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD, HEMA COMPLEX, ADJACENT TO GAURI SHANKER MANDIR, CHANNI HIMMAT, SECT 03, JAMMU.

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

NOTIFICATION

(Shorthand-Test Junior Scale Stenographer, Personal Assistant and Steno Typist, – 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 and 03 of 2021)

- SHORTHAND-TEST (Dictation and Transcription) of the candidates who have qualified the "TYPE-TEST for the posts of Junior Scale Stenographer, Personal Assistant and Steno Typist, UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various Districts," Advertisement Notification Nos 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 and 03 of 2021 shall be conducted at NIELIT (formerly DOEACC), Old Airport Road, Rangreth, Budgam for Kashmir based candidates shall be conducted w.e.f 28-12-2021 onwards as per the candidates / items schedule annexed at Annexure "A" of this notice.
- The Shorthand-test schedule and particulars of the candidates are annexed as Annexure "A" for Kashmir based candidates is also available in the offices of the Administrative Officer, J&K Services Selection Board, Division Office, Jammu / Srinagar. The schedule and particulars of the qualified candidates is also available in the official web site of SSB i.e www.jkssb.nic.in.
- Candidates who are scheduled in the SHORTHAND-TEST (Dictation and Transcription) are advised to download their Admit Cards from our official website of the Board i.e (www.jkssb.nic.in) from 23-12-2021 onwards.
- The candidates will not be permitted entry into Type test venue without the Admit Card and a valid photo identity which shows the photo clearly. Please again note that apart from Admit Card, the candidates shall be required to produce a photo identity card (Aadhar/Voter Identity Card / Driving License / Passport / Pan Card / Ration Card / Student Identity Card / Identity Card Issued by Competent Authority) as proof of your identity at the time of the exam. The candidates must note their admit Card will be checked at a registration counter at the Venue.
- Any candidate found guilty of impersonating or submitting fabricated / tampered documents / testimonials or making false, incorrect or suppressing material information shall render him / her liable for criminal prosecution under law and may be debarred permanently or for a specific period for consideration of any or all recruitments made by the Board. Also canvassing / lobbying in any form will entail disqualification of the candidate(s).
- The candidature of candidates appearing in the Shorthand Test (Dictation & Transcription) shall be provisional and subject to fulfilment of eligibility and other conditions prescribed for the post. Mere participate in in the aforesaid test will not confer any right upon the candidate for consideration against the post and the Board reserving the right to cancel candidature of any candidate at any stage if found ineligible.
- A candidate, who fails to appear in the SHORTHAND-TEST (Dictation and Transcription) on the scheduled date & time, shall not be allowed to appear in the test for the mentioned notification on any subsequent date and shall be disqualified for any further consideration on this account.
- No supplementary Shorthand-test (of the candidates who happen to miss their Shorthand-test scheduled herein) shall be conducted by the Board, in whatsoever circumstances.
- The candidates who qualify the SHORTHAND-TEST (Dictation and Transcription) shall be considered for Computer Based Written Test.

- NOTE:-
- The candidates are advised to bring two recent photographs and Photostat copy of each certificate self-attested by the candidate for depositing with the Board on the scheduled date and time in addition to original documents, failing which no claim / objection in this regard shall be entertained.
 - The candidate(s) who fail to appear in the SHORTHAND-TEST (Dictation and Transcription) on the given date shall forfeit his right of consideration.
 - The candidates are hereby directed that Wearing of masks is mandatory during type test and also advised to carry hand sanitizer for their personal use.
 - Mobile phone is not allowed in the office premises.
 - The Jammu based candidates schedule for SHORTHAND-TEST (Dictation and Transcription) shall be issued separately.

No. SSB/COE/2021/9044-54
Dated: 23-12-2021
DIPK-15638/21

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu

JKI To Focus On Export Market: Chief Secretary

Inaugurates Export Centre cum liaison Office, New Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: In a major boost towards increasing JKI sales especially exports, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, along with Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Saturday inaugurated Export Centre cum Liaison Office of JKI located at State Emporia Building, Baba Kharak Singh, New Delhi.

The facility, having a total floor area of 2700 square feet spread over two floors, will facilitate display cum sale of silk and wool



products being manufactured by JKI besides would also be used for institutional sales and as a liaison office for exports.

Principal Secretary informed

that modernization of government woollen mills Bemina is under progress and expected to be completed by the end of January 2022 which besides help-

ing in generation of revenue for JKI would also provide a market to the sheep rearers of the UT.

Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of management of JKI for becoming an economically viable entity and also for providing much needed market to the cocoon and sheep rearers of J&K. He directed the officers of JKI to undertake the branding of its Kashmir silk and wool products besides design support so that the products manufactured are according to market fashion and trends for optimum sale and export as well.

H&H Dept Conducts Third Edition Of Srinagar Craft Safari

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to have a holistic approach towards tapping the intangible knowledge using Craft Safari as a tool, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir conducted the third edition of Craft Safari post recognition of Srinagar as the UNESCO craft city in the field of Craft and Folk Art.

'Such Craft Safaris suggest how such models can be the forerunners to promote craft and cultural tourism in Srinagar', said an officer of the department.

He added, 'It discusses at length multiple activities like mapping craftspeople, developing connections, conducting contextual programmes (craft-design inno-



vation and community participation), knowledge dissemination and developing infrastructure, with a core vision of sustaining

the intangible knowledge for the tourists visiting Srinagar.'

The third edition of the safari commenced from the Tracing Unit of Bashir Ahmad at Alamgiri Bazar Chowk. Tracing is an initial process of Sozni, Zari, Crewel and Ari Staple craft wherein the pattern is embossed on the base fabric by specialized tracers known as Naqash, with carved blocks of walnut wood dipped in a watery solution of charcoal powder mixed with a binder.

The team which included the officers from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Intellectuals, Academic Scholars, Journalists, Tour operators and other fields proceeded to the unit of Ghulam Mohi ud din who is a master artisan in the Sozni craft and has been honored as Shilp Guru Award.

Industry Leaders Say Kashmir's Manufacturing Sector Is Sinking Fast

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The industrial fraternity in Kashmir has decided to launch a united fight against anti industry policies and orders with all the force and might at its disposal to save the existing enterprises from imminent extinction. In this regard, they have asked FCIK to prepare a roadmap within shortest possible time to take up and discuss their issues at every available forum.

According to a statement, the decision was taken at a day long workshop on "Industrial distress and gloomy response from authorities" organised by Kashmir Small Scale Industries Association (KSSIA) at Industrial Estate Baghi Ali Mardan Khan which besides President FCIK Shahid Kamili was participated by representatives of industry from across the valley.

While deliberating upon the unprecedented conditions created and being created on a daily basis for the existing industrial enterprises for the past over two years, the participants blamed the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir for



putting the existing industrial sector on terminal sedation instead of looking for required cure and treatment for its disease.

The speakers conveyed their regret that there existed a lot of confusion in current industrial policy which has caused anxiety among entrepreneurs whether it was in continuation or supersession of the previous policy. Instead of removing these confusions, the authorities came out with fresh confusions by issuing newer orders, they said, adding that one such order was regarding a change of Constitution that was full of complexities.

The speakers expressed concern over the falling industrial output and production owing to lower demand, change in procurement policy and liquidity crunch. They informed that over 50% of the industrial units were established in J&K to cater to the demands

of the government and all of these have been rendered workless after the government has engaged in procuring its requirements from outside enterprises through the GeM portal. "This is contrary to the provisions of price and purchase preference made in the industrial policy besides many more exemptions afforded as cost equalisers in lieu of operating under difficult conditions", explained the speakers. With abolishing of toll tax and entry tax, the outside manufacturers have been facilitated to move their products freely into Kashmir making it difficult for the local manufacturers to compete with them. The liquidity crunch has also impacted the industrial production as hundreds of crores of payments due to the entrepreneurs against supplies made and work done years back have been withheld by the government departments.

Banks' Better NPA Recovery, Declined Provisioning To Continue In 2022: ICRA

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The recent improvement in recovery of the non-performing assets and decline in provisioning of loans in the banking sector is expected to improve further in the coming year, rating agency ICRA said.

Accordingly, the improvement in such parameters has helped realise better profitability for the banks, the rating agency said.

However, subdued credit growth and surplus liquidity continue to be a drag on the profit margins for the sector. "The banking sector navigated well during 2022, despite the challenges posed by the second wave of Covid-19... Even in the absence of relief measures such as the moratorium on loan repayments or standstill on NPA classification, which were allowed during the first wave, banks were able to reduce their NPAs," said Anil Gupta, Vice-President and Sector Head at ICRA.

For small finance banks,



the Covid-19 pandemic significantly impacted the performance during FY21 and H1FY22 in terms of growth, asset quality and profitability.

"The asset quality was impacted adversely as the product segment for SFBs is largely unsecured with a focus on the self-employed segment, which is more vulnerable to income shocks," said Sachin Sachdeva, Vice-President and Sector Head at ICRA. Notably, microfinance constitutes the largest product segment for such institutions.

The rating agency expects the SFB sector to witness improvement in asset under management growth in FY22 as compared with FY21, but the asset quality metrics are expected to remain weak, which would thereby keep credit costs elevated and

hence profitability subdued.

For non-banking financial companies, including the housing finance companies, the rating agency is of the view that their asset under management growth in FY22 would be four-to-six per cent lower taking into consideration the impact of the second wave of the pandemic and all other regulatory changes. But, this estimate didn't take into account the possible impact of the new variant - Omicron.

"The reported asset quality numbers would be impacted in the near term in view of the tightened regulations, which could lead to earnings-related headwinds for some (NBFC) players," said A.M. Karthik, Vice-President and Sector Head at the rating agency.

How Rs 6,000 Crore Was Sent Illegally To Hong Kong: CBI's New Charge Sheet

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation has filed two supplementary charge sheets in connection with the alleged illegal remittance of ₹6,000 crore from Delhi's Bank of Baroda branch to Hong Kong, camouflaged as payment for imports, sources said.

In the charge sheets filed before a special CBI court, the central agency has alleged that a group of people opened accounts and deposited funds through various accounts.

The CBI has named nine

accused in the supplementary charge sheets: Tanuj Gulati, Ish Kumar, Ujjwal Suri, Hunney Goel, Sahil Wadhwa, Rakesh Kumar, Sagar Gulati, Bhanu Gulati, and VPC Management Consultants Pvt Ltd.

The agency had in 2015 charged several officials of the bank and others for allegedly making remittances of over ₹6,000 crore to southeast Asian countries by 59 current account holders from the Ashok Vihar branch of Bank of Baroda in the garb of purported payments for "non-existent" imports, the sources said.

The agency has found that the Ashok Vihar branch of the bank is a relatively new one and got the permission to entertain forex transactions only in 2013, they said, adding, ₹6,000 crore was transferred through nearly 8,000 transactions done between July 2014 and July 2015.

The amount remitted in each transaction was kept at less than \$100,000.

"All the remittances were made to Hong Kong. The amount was remitted as an advance for import and in most of the cases, the beneficiary was the same," an official had said after filing an FIR.

MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, J&K

JAMMU OFFICE: REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, NAGROTA, JAMMU.

FAX: 0191-2674114; TELEPHONE: 2674244. PIN: 181221

Kashmir Office: Block A, Ground Floor, Old Secretariat, Srinagar. Pin: 190001

Telephone: 0194-247737, 2477309, 2470486; e-mail: mdnshmjk@gmail.com

NHM Help Line for Jammu Division: 18001800104; Kashmir Division: 18001800102

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for contractual hiring of services under National Health Mission, J&K in Kashmir Division for following vacant posts as per details given as under:

S.No.	Post	No. Vacancies	Essential Qualification	Selection Criteria	Location
1	District Monitoring & Evaluation Officer Remuneration Rs. 21645.00 per month	1	MCA/ B.E Computers/ Graduation with PGDCA from recognized University Exp. 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: Upto 45 years	(i) MCA/ B.E Computers - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis OR (i) Graduation- 60 Points (ii) PGDCA - 20 Points (iii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) and (ii) on prorata basis	District HQ Kupwara,
2	Block Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	3	BCA/BSC IT / BSC Computer / PGDCA from recognized University. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) BCA / BSC IT / BSC - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Kupwara (Block Kupwara, Block Kalroos & Block Trehgam)
3	Block Accounts Manager Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	1	B.COM from recognized University having Computer Proficiency in MS Office Package & Experience in working Software Tally. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) B.com - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Kupwara Block Trehgam
4	Block Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	2	BCA/BSC IT / BSC Computer / PGDCA from recognized University. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) BCA / BSC IT / BSC - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Budgam Block Khag & Block Beerwah
5	Block Accounts Manager Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	1	B.COM from recognized University having Computer Proficiency in MS Office Package & Experience in working Software Tally. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) B.com - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Budgam Block Char-i- Sharief
	Block Accounts Manager Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	2	B.COM from recognized University having Computer Proficiency in MS Office Package & Experience in working Software Tally. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) B.com - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Shopian Block Zainpora & Keller.
	Block Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	1	BCA/BSC IT / BSC Computer / PGDCA from recognized University. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) BCA / BSC IT / BSC - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Shopian (Block Zainpora,
	Accounts Manager at DH Remuneration Rs. 23400.00 per month	1	B.COM from recognized University having Computer Proficiency in MS Office Package & Experience in working Software Tally. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) B.com - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Shopian District Hospital.
	Block Accounts Manager Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	2	B.COM from recognized University having Computer Proficiency in MS Office Package & Experience in working Software Tally. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) B.com - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Pulwama Block Rajpora & District Kulgam Block Kulgam
	Block Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	3	BCA/BSC IT / BSC Computer / PGDCA from recognized University. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) BCA / BSC IT / BSC - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	District Pulwama Block Rajpora, District Ganderbal Block Kangan & District Kulgam Block DH Pora,
	Block Accounts Manager Remuneration Rs. 18720.00 per month	2	B.COM from recognized University having Computer Proficiency in MS Office Package & Experience in working Software Tally. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) B.com - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	Anantnag (Block Achabal & Bijbehara)
	DEIC Manager Remuneration Rs. 29250.00 per month	1	MBA Or Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in Hospital & Health Management or Master in Disability Rehabilitation Administration. (MDRA approved by RCI or BOT/BPT Bachelor in Prosthetic & Orthotics (BPO) or B.S.C. Nursing from recognized Institute. Experience: Minimum of 2 years in Hospital & Health Programme Age: upto 45 years	i) MBA/ PGDHR/ MDRA= 70 Points (across the board) ii) BPT/BOT/BPO/B.S.C Nursing=60 Points (across the board) iii) 2 Years Experience=10 Points iv) Viva voce= 20 Points. Note: item (i) to (iii) on prorata basis.	Bandipora District Hospital
	Accounts Manager at DH Remuneration Rs. 23400.00 per month	1	B.COM from recognized University having Computer Proficiency in MS Office Package & Experience in working Software Tally. Experience: Minimum of 2 years post Qualification Experience in relevant field. Age: upto 45 years	(i) B.com - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis	LD Hospital Srinagar
	RMNCH+A Consultant Remuneration Rs. 35100.00 per month	3	MBBS from recognized University with Public Health Back Ground and Computer Proficiency. Age: upto 45 years	i) MBBS - 80 Points (ii) Viva- voce - 20 points Note: item (i) on prorata basis.	District Budgam, Anantnag & District Shopian.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Candidate should have excellent communication and presentation skills in English and local language, and must be conversant with computers especially in MS Office, etc.
- Candidate should have familiarity with socio-cultural and socio-economic conditions of the UT.
- Candidate should be dedicated, hardworking and willing for extensive touring across the UT.
- Selection of candidate will be as per the District-wise merit out of eligible candidates.
- Hiring will be purely on contractual basis. Initial contract for hiring shall be upto 31st March 2022, and further yearly extension will be subject to satisfactory performance of the candidate/ approval of the post by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
- Applications as per prescribed format should be submitted to the office of National Health Mission, Srinagar personally or through representative on or before 6th January 2021 (Kashmir Office: Block A, Ground Floor, Old Secretariat, Srinagar. Pin: 190001).
- Application form is available on the official website www.jknhm.com which is the only and authentic source of information with respect to National Health Mission, J&K. This office shall not be responsible for inconvenience caused to anybody due to misleading/ false information made available by any other website(s) and purportedly claimed to be associated with NHM, J&K, in any manner whatsoever.
- Candidates who have obtained degrees through Distance Education Mode from the Universities recognized by the UGC as mentioned in Govt. Order No. 252-HE of 2012 dated: 30-05-2012 issued by the Higher Education Deptt., Civil Secretariat, J&K after 2005 shall have to submit a certificate from the concerned university along with application form stating that the candidate had undergone the degree from their University head-quarters and not from the off-campus which have been established by these Universities beyond their territorial jurisdiction.
- Number of vacancies is only indicative and may increase or decrease.
- List of documents, self-attested, to be attached with the application form:
 - Date of Birth Certificate
 - Domicile Certificate/Address Proof.
 - Degree duly issued by the concerned University
 - Marks sheet, duly issued by the concerned University, of all semesters/years and one consolidated marks sheet indicating marks of all the semesters/ years of the required qualification for the post applied for.
 - Experience certificate, as per advertisement notice.
- Applications not falling in the prescribed criteria or without aforesaid documents shall be rejected out rightly.
- Any further information including list of short-listed candidates, date of interview, etc. shall be uploaded on the website www.jknhm.com. Candidates are advised to keep themselves updated through the website. No individual communication to the candidates shall be made in this regard.
- Those Candidates who had applied earlier for these aforementioned posts need not to apply afresh but are advised to confirm their status from the office of Mission Director, NHM, J&K. Ground Floor, Block-A, Old Secretariat, Srinagar. The interested eligible candidates are advised to submit the application forms complete in all respects by or before 6th January 2021 in the office of State Health Society, NHM, J&K Ground Floor, Block-A, Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

Sd/-

(Errors & Omissions accepted)
No: SHS/NHM/J&K/HR/

Mission Director NHM, J&K

SPACE DONATED BY KASHMIR OBSERVER

Principal Secy PDD Reviews CSSs, CAPEX works; Sets Deadlines For Completion Of Major Power Projects

Agenceis

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Nitishwar Kumar, today convened a review meeting regarding Centrally Sponsored Schemes and CAPEX works undertaken by Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (JKPTCL) Kashmir.

Chief Engineer JKPTCL along with Executive Engineers and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Principal Secretary reviewed progress on transmission projects being executed in the Valley and emphasized timely completion of all ongoing projects.

Chief Engineer highlighted the achievements recorded by the Corporation, so far, besides presenting status of progress on various ongoing works of JKPTCL. He also apprised the meeting of upcoming projects in the transmission sector in J&K.

It was informed that presently there are 7 Grid Sub Stations at

220/132 and 220/33 KV levels and 30 Sub Stations at 132/33 KV level in the valley with an installed capacity of 2340 MVA and 2843.5 MVA respectively. It is expected to enhance the capacity at 220/132 KV and 220/33 KV and 132/33 KV levels to 2810 MVA and 3827 MVA by the end of the financial year.

The notable achievements of current financial year which were highlighted during the meeting included up gradation of installed capacity at 220/132 KV and 220/33 KV levels from 1920 MVA to 2340 MVA, augmentation of GSS Delina from 160 MVA to 320 MVA at 220/132 KV level, under progress works on 2nd augmentation from 320 MVA to 480 MVA which is expected to be commissioned by February 2022. It is for the first time that two augmentations of any Grid Sub Station have been undertaken in one year.

The meeting was informed that, for the first time in the valley, a GIS has been commissioned at 220/33 KV and

conventional ACSR on any 132 KV Transmission Line has been replaced by the state of art HTLS conductor to enhance the current carrying capacity of the conductor by about 1.75 times. Besides, ACSR of 132 KV Delina-Amargarh Transmission Line has recently been replaced by HTLS conductor and 132/33 KV GSS Amargarh has recently been augmented from 97.5 MVA to 135 MVA. Also, 220/132 KV GSS Mirbazar is being augmented from 320 MVA to 475 MVA which is expected to be completed by January 2022.

Principal Secretary also reviewed progress on modernization and up gradation of various Grid Sub Stations under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme PSDF. He was informed that 27 projects in 22 Grid Sub Stations of the Valley have been taken up under the scheme at a cost of Rs146.11 crore while 24 projects have already been completed.

He was further informed that 24 out of the 30 projects have already been completed under the Centrally sponsored PMRP-2004

scheme amounting Rs. 835.94 crore and works on rest of the projects are under progress. Under the Centrally Sponsored PMDP-15 scheme worth Rs 414.44 crore, a total of 17 projects have been taken up for execution, out of which, 07 have been completed and rest of the projects are in the final stage of completion.

Similarly, the meeting was informed that a total of 41 works amounting Rs 186 crore have been taken up in hand and 39 works are targeted for completion during the current financial year under the CAPEX budget 2021-22.

Principal Secretary directed the officers of JKPTCL Kashmir to complete augmentation of GSS Mirbazar from 320 MVA to 475 MVA by 15th of January 2022 and augmentation of GSS Mattan from 70 MVA to 100 MVA and GSS Lissar by 10th of January 2022 to provide immediate respite to consumers of South Kashmir facing shortage of power.

He also asked the concerned officers for ensuring completion of all CAPEX works by March 2022.

Judiciary faces perennial problems, if unsolved will haunt my successors too, says CJI Ramana

Amaravati: Stressing the need for stepping up judicial Infrastructure in the country, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Saturday said the Judiciary is also facing certain fundamental problems and they continue to haunt his successors also if not solved.

Speaking at a Civic Reception in Vijayawada, he further said there are 4.60 crore pending cases in courts and the number is not big for a country like India which has a population of about 150 crore.

Maintaining that courts would interfere when there is violation of rights, Justice Ramana said the Executive is also responsible for providing justice and that if it functions within the parameters of law, there is no necessity for anyone to come to courts.

Like all systems, the Judiciary is also facing certain fundamental problems. My predecessors, Chief Justices, also mentioned them. I am also raising those issues. This

will be a perennial problem to my successors too, because slowly we are forgetting the importance of Judiciary and legal education, he said.

He said there is a need to develop judicial infrastructure and it would result in more respect towards courts.

Justice Ramana was given LifeTime Achievement award by Rotary Club in a felicitation programme.

You all know how important the Rule of Law is. If there is no rule of law in any country, anarchy prevails. It poses a threat to the existence of democracy. There is a necessity to enlighten the public on rule of law, he said.

Indianisation of the country's legal system is the need of the hour and it is crucial to make the justice delivery system more accessible and effective, the CJI said adding simplification of legal procedures is necessary for the common people to understand court proceedings.

He said though the nation

got independence about 75 years ago, the country is still facing problems such as illiteracy, health issues, poverty, unemployment and superstitions which need to be alleviated.

Stating that people should be enlightened about their constitutional rights and responsibilities, Justice Ramana said organisations such as Rotary Club should take up awareness programmes for the public.

The Chief Justice is on a three-day tour of Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier in the evening, the State government hosted a High Tea for the CJI. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, along with his wife Bharathi, welcomed the CJI and participated in the programme.

Supreme Court Judge Justice JK Maheshwari, and Chief Justices and several judges of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Courts also participated.

Five BJP MLAs in Bengal quit WhatsApp group over omission from newly formed committee

Agenceis

KOLKATA: Irked over omission from the newly formed committee of West Bengal BJP, five MLAs of the saffron camp some of them members of the Matua community have on Saturday quit a WhatsApp group created for the organisation's legislators, sources in the party said.

BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar, when approached, told reporters that differences, if any, would be sorted out through discussions in due course of time.

"Minor things happen when a new committee is formed. We will sort it out," he stated.

Union minister of state and BJP MP Santanu Thakur, also a prominent leader of the Matua community, met party president J P Nadda in Delhi during the day after the five MLAs -- Mukutmoni Adhikari (Ranaghat South), Subrata Thakur (Gaighata), Ambica Roy (Kalyani), Asok Kirtania (Bongaon North), and Asim Sarkar (Haringhata) -- expressed their displeasure over their omission from the state

committee.

Thakur told PTI, "Yes, they (five MLAs) are upset on being overlooked...they told me about their grievances. I met Naddaji and conveyed to him their sentiments. We had a discussion."

He, however, refused to say anything about Nadda's response to the matter.

Adhikari, one of the aggrieved MLAs, confirmed that he has quit the social media group, stating that the aspirations of the people of his constituency may not get fulfilled under the newly formed committee.

The saffron party's Gaighata MLA and Bongaon North legislator, too, said that they have quit the group, but refused to cite any reason when asked.

The Matua community constitutes a large chunk of the state's Scheduled Caste population.

It has considerable clout in at least four Lok Sabha seats and 30-40 assembly seats in Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas districts.

Earlier, former BJP state general secretary Sayantan Basu had exited a WhatsApp group of

the party, after being axed from the state committee.

He recently met former TMC MLA Samir Chakraborty at his Salt Lake residence, fuelling speculation over his next move.

Reacting to the development, TMC MP Sougata Roy said it signalled the "beginning of the end of BJP."

Kunal Ghosh, the spokesperson of the state's ruling party, said, "Bharatiya Janata Party should be renamed as circus party as it is giving a lot of entertainment to the people of the state this winter."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

South Kashmir

Chowgam area of Shopian district.

He said that the militants rejected the surrender offer and fired upon the search team of police, army's 44RR and 14Bn CRPF.

The police spokesperson identified the killed militants as Sajad Ahmad Chak of Braripora, Shopian and Raja Basit Yaqoob of Achan Litter, Pulwama.

As per police records, he said, both the killed militants were categorized and linked with LeT and were part of groups involved in several "terror crime cases," Sajad, he said, was also instrumental in motivating & recruiting the youth to join terror folds.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 02 AK series rifles, 4 AK Magazines and 32 rounds were recovered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

"Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at the encounter site is completely sanitised and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

The police spokesperson quoted JGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar congratulating the joint teams of Police and security forces for killing five militants within 48 hours in three successful operations without any collateral damage.

Meanwhile, another gunfight broke out between militants and government forces in Anantnag district of south Kashmir on Saturday night.

"#Encounter has started at K. Kalan, Srignufwara area of #Anantnag. Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow. @JmuKmrPolice," Kashmir police posted on its official Twitter handle.

Bail To Convict

Haryana High Court suspended the remaining sentence and jail term of dismissed police sub-inspector Anand Dutta and ordered that he be released upon furnishing surety bonds.

"Perturbed that the policeman convicted for destroying evidence in Kathua rape case was granted bail and his jail term suspended. When a child raped and bludgeoned to death is deprived of justice, it becomes obvious that the wheels of justice have completely collapsed," Mufti tweeted.

The eight-year-old girl was raped and murdered in the Kathua district in January 2018 and the verdict in the case was pronounced on June 10, 2019, by a court in Pathankot, Punjab, where the case was shifted on the directions of the Supreme Court.

The court convicted six people, including the main accused Sanji Ram, dismissed Special Police Officers Deepak Khajuria and Parvesh Kumar who were sentenced to life imprisonment. Three dismissed policemen Anand Dutta, Tilak Raj, and Surender Verma were

sentenced to five years in jail for hampering material evidence.

Dutta has already undergone more than half of the sentence awarded to him, while the sentence of co-accused Tilak Raj was also suspended on December 16 by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Chill Returns

of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius compared to 2.2 degrees Celsius on Thursday night.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 5.1 degrees Celsius down from minus 1.3 degrees Celsius on Thursday night.

The mercury in Gulmarg settled at a low of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius as compared to Thursday night's minus 5.1 degrees Celsius. The resort was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

While many areas in the valley received snowfall on Thursday, the MeT Office has said a spell of greater intensity than that is most likely to occur over two days from Sunday.

"Another snow spell is likely during 26 (evening) to 28 (forenoon). Due to this, light snowfall up to one inch in plains of Kashmir, moderate five to six inches -- over higher reaches of J-K, Zojila-Minamarg axis, and light snowfall at scattered places of Ladakh, especially Kargil-Zaskar area and light rain is likely at scattered places of JMU region during above period, especially on 27, is likely to occur," the weatherman said.

While the MeT office ruled out any major snowfall as of now, it said there is a possibility of heavy snowfall up to one foot at isolated places over the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir during this period.

Kashmir valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on Tuesday.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31, but the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurid' and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha'.

J&K Logs 164

by the virus in J&K to 340598.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 51 new cases of coronavirus, Baramulla 29, Ganderbal 16, Budgam 9, Pulwama 8, Bandipora 6, Kupwara 3 and one new case each in Kulgam and Shopian.

Anantnag was the only district in the Valley where no fresh cases of virus were detected.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 19 new cases of virus, Doda and Kishtwar 5 each, four each in Poonch and Udhampur and one case each in Rajouri, Kathua and Samba. The twin districts of Ramban and Reasi registered no new cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 124 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 29 from Jammu Division and 95 from Kashmir," the official said.

They also added that no new confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) were reported on Saturday. So far 50 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K.

2 Years On

government had also claimed that it had set the ball rolling for appointment of the body's President and four members.

But, for the erstwhile state, the vital provisions of the CPA including establishment of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions remains unimplemented due to poor response for the posts of Presidents, the notification for which was issued on March 1, 2021.

As per section 28 of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) "every State and Union Territory shall, by notification, establish a District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, to be known as the District Commission, in each district and each District Commission shall consist of a President and not less than two members".

Established at the State level, SCDRC was presided by a retired judge of the High Court, while two divisional consumer forums were set up in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, headed by in-service district and session Judges. After SCDRC commission had ceased to exist in the erstwhile state, the case files were handed to FCSCA.

"On Friday, the National Consumer Day was celebrated across India but in J&K, people can't even file complaints in the Consumer Redressal Commission as it was shut post abrogation of article 370," RTI activist, Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat told Kashmir Observer.

"People are aggrieved and frustrated as even after being duped for their money by the traders or companies, they can't file a complaint in the commission as it has ceased to exist."

Vaccination For Children

to combat the pandemic.

This is the time to be careful, while engaging in festivities, he said.

"I would urge all of you not to panic, be careful and alert. Remember to mask up and keep washing hands," Modi said.

Administration of nasal vaccine and world's first DNA vaccine against Covid will soon start in India as well, he said.

19% People Above

commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, had earlier revealed that people

in J&K have become more obese and prone to diabetes when compared to the data from NFHS 2015-16 (NFHS-4).

Due to the Covid-19, the survey fieldwork for NFHS-5 was conducted in two phases in J&K. Phase one was from June 2019-January 2020 and phase two was from January 2020 to April 2021 and the Information was gathered from 18,086 households, 23,037 women, and 3,087 men.

Since the second and the longer phase of the NFHS-5 was conducted amid the pandemic, the survey findings also capture the impact of the pandemic and the lockdowns on the key health parameters of the population in J&K.

On December 12, the government released the fifth part of National Family Health Survey fact-sheets for India including J&K. Among the indicators, several included indicators are of great importance to J&K in terms of female health. This also included those indicators that are relevant to the Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality (SDG-5) in J&K.

Among the indicators released for the erstwhile state of J&K, several were based on education, educational freedom, economic contribution, economic freedom, household management and decision-making, perceived status within the household, and health that have always maintained an influence on the status of women in J&K.

Biker Knocked

Kulgam where he succumbed to his injuries. He was identified as Tajamul Islam, son of Sheraz Ahmad Dar from Chanehpora.

Meanwhile, a case in this regard has been registered and further investigation taken up.

Six Drug Peddlers

police spokesman said.

He said both are notorious narcotic smugglers and face four criminal cases each.

A fresh case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered against them, the spokesman said.

He said another drug peddler, Mohd Younis, was arrested and six grams of heroin was seized from his possession during random checking in Vijayapur.

In Jammu district, the spokesman said, Adil Hameed, a resident of Banihal, was arrested along with 14 grams of heroin from the Lower Gujjar Nagar area of the city.

Two notorious drug peddlers Guddu and Rohan Kumar were arrested and 4.5 kilograms of ganga was seized from their possession during checking near Katra town in Reasi district, he said.

Ladakh Reports

And as of December 2021 is the newest variant.

A senior Health Official said that a man with a travel history of Nepal has tested positive for the variant Omicron who belongs to the Kargil district of the Ladakh union territory.

Ludhiana blast accused had Khalistani links, role of Pak-based entities suspected: DGP

Chandigarh: Punjab DGP Siddharth Chattopadhyaya on Saturday said the dismissed head constable killed in the Ludhiana court blast had links with Khalistani elements and terror outfits, and some Pakistan-based entities could be behind the incident.

The DGP told reporters Gagandeep Singh (31), who was dismissed from service in 2019, had gone to the washroom of the courts complex to assemble the bomb and plant it somewhere.

He was alone in the washroom when the bomb went off.

Gagandeep was posted as a "munshi" at a police station in Khanna, his native place, and was sacked in connection with a drug case, Chattopadhyaya said.

He was arrested by the anti-drug special task force for carrying 385 gm of heroin and booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 2019.

He spent two years in jail and was currently out on bail. The next hearing in the case was scheduled for December 24, a day after the blast, the officer said.

JKSC Organise T20 Match To Mark Christmas Day Celebration

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Saturday organised a friendly T20 cricket match between teams of Secretary XI and Administration XI at M A Stadium Jammu.

The Administration team, which was led by Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu, was comprised of Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Hasseb-U-Rehman, Senior Superintendent of Police SDRF, Chandan Kohli, Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu besides other officers and officials while as the Secretary XI was led by Mohamad Yaqoob Itoo, Director General Budget with other players including Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary, Disaster Management Relief and Rehabilitation, Shafat Yahya, Joint Director Budget, Dr. Zaffar Ahmad and Naseer Ahmad, Chief Accounts Officers J&K Sports Council and Power Corporation respectively besides other officials from various departments including Sports Council.

The venue was abuzz with the activities as children along with their coaches from many sports disciplines thronged the stadium early morning to support both the teams.

Among others present includ-

ed medallists who had recently returned after competing in various national tournaments.

On the occasion, Santa Clause also arrived and distributed sweets and other gifts.

Secretary Sports Council along with Divisional Sports Officer Ashok Singh and other officials of J&K Sports Council supervised all the arrangements for the match.

While congratulating both the teams for their outstanding performance during the match, she said that such events are an ideal platform for building team spirit and camaraderie among the officers and officials from varied government departments. It also provides a healthy ecosystem for sports culture to flourish at all levels for a healthy mind and body to serve the people in a better way. She assured that more such matches in not only cricket but other sports disciplines for people from all walks of life would be organized under 'Sports for All' programme.

Earlier, after winning the toss Secretary XI scored 120 in their quota of twenty overs losing all the wickets.

The Administration XI team won the match by 5 wickets in 19th over losing just five wickets.

Rajesh Gill was declared as man of the match for his all-round performance.

Director Sports Flags-off 125 Student Trekkers



Observer News Service

JAMMU: "Department of Youth Services & Sports is committed to provide opportunities to students and non-students of J&K to participate in games and sports for their physical and mental well-being and every possible step is being taken to channelise the sports talent of J&K Youth." This was stated by Director Youth Services & Sports J&K Gazanfar Ali while speaking to a group of 125 student trekkers and field staff of the Department. Director Sports stressed upon the young trekkers that they should try to get maximum from this unique opportunity while remaining close to nature. He also passed on some important directions to the escorting staff and hoped that safety and hygiene of the participants would be taken care off.

Pertinently 125 girls and boys

of U-17 and U-19 age groups selected from different Government Schools of Satwari Zone are participating in the 5 day residential trekking camp.

Muskan Karlupia an 8th Standard student of Govt. GHS Satwari looked very enthusiastic about such initiatives of the Department, she said it inculcates discipline and helps a person in so many ways. She hoped that Government would organize more and more sports events for the overall development of young generation.

Director Sports Gazanfar Ali flagged-off the contingent for Dera Baba Bandha Bhadur Sahib Reasi from Government Middle School Satwari. He was accompanied by Deputy Director of the Department Jatinder Mishra, DYSSO Jammu, ZPEO of Satwari Sports Zone and other senior officers and officials of the Department of Youth Services & Sports.



Sudeva Delhi FC head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo says his team is all set for the upcoming I-League season.

"The beauty of Sudeva Delhi FC is to give chances to young Indian players and coaches. We want to finish as high as possible on the table, and we will be taking one game at a time," said Wadoo.

"I'm an Indian coach, and I know Indian football very well. I am very excited to coach this young squad, and we will see what awaits us."

Being one of the best players to come out of Jammu and Kashmir, Wadoo spoke about the growth of players from the region. "A lot of clubs have nurtured young players in Kashmir. Real Kashmir is the face of the region at the moment. Lots of fans come to watch their matches in Srinagar. People are very passionate about football there."

Photo by AIFF

Pakistan Beat India In U-19 World Cup Thriller

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Pakistan edged out a mediocre Indian side by two wickets in a last-ball thriller in the U-19 Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Pakistan rode on a stroke-filled 81 by one-down Muhammad Shehzad and a late cameo by Ahmad Khan (29 not out) to chase down a target of 238.

Ahmad hit Ravi Kumar for a boundary in the game's final delivery to seal the game for his side.

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan U-19 bowlers, led by right-arm medium pacer Zeeshan Zameer (5/60), wreaked havoc as they bundled out the opposition for a sub-par 237.

India lost opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi (0), Shaik Rasheed (6) and skipper Yash Dhull (0) cheaply, with Zameer accounting for all the wickets to leave the batting side reeling at 14/3.

Nishant Sindhu (8) became Awaish Ali's first victim as India slipped to 41/4.

Harnoor made a patient 59-ball 46, striking six boundaries. When it looked like he would score big, Ali dismissed him in the 19th over to leave India at 96/5.

However, wicket-keeper Aaradhya Yadav's 83-ball 50, in which he hit three fours, coupled with Kaushal Tambe's 32 and Rajvardhan Hangargekar's brisk 33 off 20 balls, took India past the 230-run mark.

Chasing 238, Pakistan lost opener Abdul Wahid (0) early as Hangargekar castled him. Then, Maaz Sadaqat (29) and Shehzad (81) rallied the innings with a 64-run stand for the second wicket.

Shehzad, who hammered four boundaries and five towering sixes,



was in belligerent mood as Sadaqat played second fiddle. Left-arm medium pacer Raj Bawa (4/56) broke the stand by removing Sadaqat.

Bawa struck again by dismissing Haseebullah (3) as Pakistan slipped to 69/3. Skipper Qasim Akram (22) also fell cheaply as Pakistan found themselves in a spot of bother at 115/4, even as Shehzad continued to tore apart the opposition attack.

Hangargekar ran out Shehzad in the 37th over to bring India back into the contention as Pakistan lost half its side for 159.

However, Irfan Khan (32) and Rizwan Mehmood (29) took the game deep by adding 47 runs for the sixth wicket.

Then, Bawa pegged back Pakistan by removing Mehmood and Irfan Khan, but a composed Ahmad Khan, who hammered three boundaries and a six, completed the job for his team.

Brief scores: India U-19 237 all out (Aaradhya Yadav 50, Harnoor Singh 46; Zeeshan Zamir 5/60, Awaish Ali 2/43) lost to Pakistan U-19 240/8 (Muhammad Shehzad 81, Irfan Khan 32; Raj Bawa 4/56) by two wickets.

Team Combination On Kohli's Mind As India Take On South Africa

Press Trust of India

CENTURION: Skipper Virat Kohli will be battling on multiple fronts with an aim to get the tricky team combination right as India have a real shot at winning their first-ever away series against South Africa, which is short on experience going into the contest, starting with the Boxing Day Test.

The choice between an untested rookie like Shreyas Iyer and a proven but out-of-form Ajinkya Rahane for the number five slot is not an enviable one. It's more like choosing between rock and hard place with fear of the unknown being a persistent factor.

Not to mention the hard call on whether Shardul Thakur with far superior skills should be the fifth bowler in place of an 'over the hill' Ishant Sharma. In the last Test, they were "unofficially dropped" and in this one, they will be officially dumped.

Since their historic first visit in 1992, the tour to Rainbow Nation has been an 'Achilles' Heel' for the touring Indian teams and skipper Kohli, who is certainly veering towards the business end of his leadership tenure, will like to achieve a first.

South Africa is no longer the force to reckon with in international cricket as they have been going through a rough transition phase over the past few years.

Kohli's men would like to pounce on the jittery Proteas like hungry African lions as the visitors have way more quality in its ranks than the home team which is full of rookies.

This particular series, where even if he emphatically denies in public sphere, will be fighting

multiple battles -- some tangible ones and a few intangibles.

First and foremost, Kohli, the captain, who would like to reassert his supremacy with a victory against a side which has only two players with 50 plus games -- skipper Dean Elgar (69 Tests) and senior keeper-batter Temba Bavuma (53 Tests).

It only helps that Kagiso Rabada will not have the dangerous and world's fastest Anrich Nortje for company in the bowling attack and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj is least of a worry as far as Indian batters are concerned.

Secondly, Kohli, the best batter in the team, has not scored a Test hundred since 2019 and has an average of less than 30. It does not match the lofty standards that is associated with the Indian skipper.

He must be backing himself up to fire in this series.

But he would need his new deputy KL Rahul to replicate his performance in England and also need Cheteshwar Pujara to score a few runs after having blunted the new Kookaburra if need be.

Iyer, who looks ahead of Rahane in battle for No. 5 slot, would be tested by Duanne Oliver's back of the length deliveries that can rear up on a Centurion track which promises to quicken up as match progresses.

But like any other away tour, the difference between the two sides could be Jasprit Bumrah, fresh from a break and raring to dismantle a batting line-up that depends on Elgar, his deputy Temba Bavuma and De Kock.

If Bumrah and Shami can blow up the top-order, the rest of the South African batters might not do well against Ravichandran Ashwin. Skipper Kohli will need all of that.

Internal Conversation About Captaincy Is Not For Media: Dravid

Press Trust of India

CENTURION: India head coach Rahul Dravid on Saturday refused to divulge details of any internal conversation he might have had with the selectors on Virat Kohli's white-ball captaincy, saying it is not for public consumption.

It has been a convention that Indian captain addresses the media ahead of the opening Test match of a series but it was Dravid, who took the questions ahead of the 'Boxing Day' Test against South Africa.

Kohli had decided to give up the leadership role in Twenty20 format and later he was replaced by Rohit Sharma in the One-day format too.

"To be honest that's the role of the selectors and I am not going to get into conversations that I might or might not have had," when asked if he had given his opinion on change of white ball captaincy.

"It's not the place and the time to be doing that and discussing that. And what internal conversations I have had is certainly not going to come out in the media and I am not going to start telling

people what conversations I have had," Dravid said in a polite-yet-firm manner.

When Kohli spoke to the media 10 days back about change in captaincy, it snowballed into a huge storm as he had openly contradicted claims of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly that he was asked to continue as T20 captain as there can't be two white ball captains.

Kohli had said no one in BCCI told him not to quit T20 captaincy and it created an ugly controversy.

Dravid, himself a former India captain, however praised Kohli for his passion for Test cricket and hoped that he would do well in this series.

"Virat has played a huge role in that obviously as a player and a leader. He has been fantastic. He is one of those players who loves Test cricket and really wants to compete.

"Hopefully, he has great series that benefits the team as well," Dravid said when asked how does he see Kohli taking the Test team forward.

3rd Ashes Test: Boland To Debut, England Makes 4 Changes

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Australia will give fast bowler Scott Boland a test debut in the third Ashes match beginning Sunday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground while England has made four changes to its side.

Boland was brought in as cover earlier this week and received the starting nod when fellow fast bowlers Jhye Richardson and Michael Neser were ruled out because of muscle soreness.

Josh Hazlewood was already out as he continues to recover from side strain, meaning captain Pat Cummins and Boland are the two new inclusions to the Australian XI. "Jhye and Nes were a little bit sore after Adelaide so we've decided to go with Scotty," said Cummins, who missed the Adelaide test after being a close contact of a COVID-19 case. "It's a luxury to have someone like him, fresh and ready to go."

Boland will become the second Australian male indigenous test player after fellow pace bowler Jason Gillespie.

Australia, which leads the five-match series 2-0, can wrap up the series and clinch the Ashes with a victory at the MCG.



England, meanwhile, dropped opener Rory Burns and paceman Stuart Broad, along with Ollie Pope and Chris Woakes.

Bowlers Mark Wood and Jack Leach will return to the starting side, while Zak Crawley and Jonathan Bairstow will play their first tests in this series.

England also confirmed Jos Buttler will continue as wicketkeeper, rather than Bairstow taking over the gloves.

Buttler was in a confident mood

Saturday at a Christmas morning media conference.

"We're certainly not here to just take part and let 70,000 people enjoy another Australian victory," Buttler said. "We have to fight back, we want to win the series and we want to win this test match."

"I'm sure it will be a hostile environment here but that's to be embraced and enjoyed, everyone is excited to be here. This is why you play the game because you want to be part of big occasions." (AP)

MATCHDAY: Arsenal, Chelsea, City, Spurs Play On Boxing Day

Agencies

A look at what's happening in European football on Sunday with the Premier League the only major competition in action with its Boxing Day program:

ASTON VILLA vs CHELSEA

Aston Villa manager Steven Gerrard is hoping to have enough players available after the last match against Burnley was postponed due to a coronavirus outbreak. Keinan Davis, Marvelous Nakamba, Morgan Sanson, Anwar El Ghazi, Bertrand Traore and Leon Bailey were all unavailable with a variety of problems, but Gerrard confirmed "a couple" of players were back in contention. Romelu Lukaku and Callum Hudson-Odoi can return for Chelsea. The forwards were two of the eight Chelsea players out with COVID-19 but they are back in training. Defender Andreas Christensen is also in contention after a back injury. The Blues were angry their match at Wolverhampton last weekend, which they drew 0-0, was not postponed like six other Premier League games were. Thomas Tuchel's team has slipped to six points behind leader Manchester City in third place after drawing its last two games.

MAN CITY vs LEICESTER

Jack Grealish and Phil Foden

could return for leader Manchester City after being left on the bench at Newcastle last week for disciplinary breaches. Defender Kyle Walker will hope to return after a fitness issue while forward Ferran Torres, currently sidelined with a broken foot, looks to have played his final game for the club as he hears a move to Barcelona. Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers is hoping his players will bounce back quickly from losing on penalties to Liverpool in the quarterfinals of the League Cup. More injuries were sustained in the process -- striker Jamie Vardy played the last 20 minutes with a tight hamstring while defenders Caglar Soyuncu and Ricardo Pereira were forced off -- which does not make the task any easier against the champions. Leicester has a decent recent record against City, with two wins in the last four meetings. But after two successive fifth-placed finishes, Rodgers' FA Cup winners have lacked their usual spark this season, winning just six of their 16 Premier League matches to sit in ninth approaching the midway point.

NORWICH vs ARSENAL

Norwich manager Dean Smith is again dealing with coronavirus concerns, with the last-place club waiting on PCR results to determine who will be available having seen the previous game at West Ham called off. Milot Rashica

(groin) is not yet back in contention, while Mathias Normann (pelvis) is set for an extended spell on the sidelines. Arsenal is expected to be without forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang for a fifth consecutive match following recent internal disciplinary action. Sead Kolasinac (ankle) is also absent while Pablo Mari, Calum Chambers and Albert Sambi Lokonga have all tested positive for COVID-19 in recent days. Arsenal strikers Alexandre Lacazette and Eddie Nketiah, who have scored nine goals between them this season, are out of contract next summer and free to talk to overseas clubs in January. Arsenal travels to Norwich in fourth place with Emile Smith Rowe its leading scorer this season with eight goals in all competitions.

TOTTENHAM vs CRYSTAL PALACE

Tottenham manager Antonio Conte has no new injury concerns, although Ryan Sessegnon misses out again with a muscular problem. Crystal Palace will be without James McArthur due to a hamstring injury. The south London club has not played for 10 days after last weekend's match at Watford was postponed due to the opposition dealing with a coronavirus outbreak and now Palace has infections in the squad. Tottenham is in seventh place, six points behind fourth-place Arsenal but with three

games in hand, while Palace is 11th.

WEST HAM vs SOUTHAMPTON

West Ham is set to be without Michail Antonio after he tested positive for coronavirus. Aaron Cresswell (ribs) remains doubtful while Vladimir Coufal serves a one-game ban for his recent dismissal at Arsenal. Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl has a decision to make over his goalkeeper after Fraser Forster returned to training, with Willy Caballero deputizing in the last two games. Stuart Armstrong, Che Adams and Adam Armstrong have recovered from recent injuries so are back in contention.

BRIGHTON vs BRENTFORD

Striker Danny Welbeck is poised to end a three-month injury absence for Brighton. Midfielder Pascal Gross and forward Neal Maupay are also expected to be available after missing Brighton's loss to Wolverhampton but defender Lewis Dunk is out. Adam Webster has returned to training after injury and could be in contention and another defender, Shane Duffy, returns after serving a one-match ban but midfielder Yves Bissouma is suspended. Brentford striker Ivan Toney is pushing for a starting spot having returned to action against Chelsea in the midweek League Cup loss after a spell out with COVID-19.

"All We Want For Christmas Is...": Congress Tweets Christmas-Themed Digs At PM Modi

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday took digs at the government over fuel prices and inflation through a series of Christmas-themed tweets.

"All we want for Christmas is a government that listens," the party tweeted with a Santa Claus image and message that read, "Thank God Santa is listening to everyone's wishes because Modi ji is only listening to his Mann ki Baat."

In another tweet, Congress said, "Imagine dashing through the snow at Rs.95/litre." This tweet was accompanied by an image of Santa riding a sleigh and a message that read, "Thank god

Santa rides a sleigh, he doesn't need to pay hefty prices for fuel."

"Jingle bells... Jingle bells... jingle all the way. Oh what fun it would be to buy things...without burning all your savings away," the Congress said in another Christmas-themed tweet.

In another dig, the Congress tweeted, "Jingle bells, jingle bells, ports, airports, roads, railways, are just a few things Modi ji sells." The Congress said, "He's not making a list, The govt's not checking anything twice; They have no data on - who's naughty or nice." "Thank God Santa has a naughty and nice list, because our government has no data," a message with a Santa image on the party's Twitter handle read.

Five Tihar Inmates Dead In 8 Days, Probe Ordered

Agenceis

Five prisoners at the high-security Tihar Jail in the national capital have died in the past eight days, a Delhi Police official said on Saturday.

He informed that all the deaths appear to be from natural causes, however, a "Magisterial inquiry under Sec 176 of the CrPC has been initiated in all the fatalities".

On Friday also, an inmate's death was reported in Tihar Jail no 3.

The official said that the prisoner was found unconscious in his cell and was immediately taken to a hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

He also allegedly died because of health issues.

The deceased prisoner was identified as Vikram alias Vicky.

'I Want To Give Back To Society': Harbhajan Coy On Joining Politics



Agenceis

After bringing the curtains down on his cricket career, veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh on Friday said he is not averse to joining politics but would like to put in a lot of thought before taking a final decision on such a move.

Recently, chief of Congress's Punjab unit and Harbhajan's former India teammate Navjot Singh Sidhu posted a picture with him on Twitter and captioned it "picture loaded with possibilities". This led to speculation of him joining the party.

The cricketer said that he hasn't yet taken a call on the matter.

"Frankly speaking, I don't know what's in store for me. I just want couple of days to figure out in which direction I would like to move. Yes, I want to give back to society," Harbhajan told PTI in an interview when asked about his future plans. "If I join politics, how and in what form, I need to figure those things out as main aim is to help people if I at all take the plunge," he added.

While he didn't want to speak about it openly, people in the know said that there is very little chance that he will fight the Punjab state assembly elections because of some cricketing and media commitments that would keep him busy.

The feisty former player said he would not want his association with the game to end completely with retirement.

"As far as cricket is concerned, I will remain associated with the game. I am open to coaching, mentoring IPL sides, may be play a bit of veterans' cricket," he said.

There is a high possibility that Harbhajan might work as a mentor with Kolkata Knight Riders or Mumbai Indians, where he had 10 eventful years as a cricketer.

He is also working on his autobiography, which will be hitting the stands in the next six months.

"Oh yes, I have nearly completed my autobiography. It would be out in next six months and it's my tell-all story as to how I have seen Indian cricket as an insider. Hope people love that book as much as they loved me," Harbhajan said.

Growing Concerns Over No Boosters For India



Agenceis

The government faces a growing clamor from business leaders and public health experts to launch a Covid-19 booster drive and begin vaccinating children as the nation braces for a surge of omicron-fueled infections.

With ample vaccine supplies, India could begin inoculating those under 18 as well as administer third doses to front-line health care workers, the elderly and those at high risk since they got their first shots in early 2021, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, the founder and chair of Biocon Ltd. -- one of India's largest drugmakers -- told Bloomberg on Thursday.

"We need a booster policy for sure," she said. "I really don't know what's holding it up -- it's got nothing to do with vaccine availability."

The heavily mutated and highly transmissible variant, which was discovered within India's borders earlier this month, has already led to 358 infections.

Now many, including Ms Shaw, are asking that the country follow others' lead by offering third doses to its population of almost 1.4 billion, as well as include children in the immunization program as schools reopen.

Elsewhere, Japan has announced plans to accelerate the rollout of boosters and the U.K. has set a year-end deadline to

offer all adults a third dose. Israel is even experimenting with a fourth Covid shot.

Recent studies show a third dose of AstraZeneca Plc's vaccine -- which accounts for nearly 90% of doses administered in India -- significantly boosted neutralizing antibodies against omicron while immunity from two shots started waning after three months. The Indian Medical Association, which represents physicians, has urged the government to provide additional doses to front-line workers and individuals with compromised immune systems.

While India has deployed more than 1.4 billion shots, only 41% of its population has been fully inoculated, according to Bloomberg's Vaccine Tracker. That shortfall has been partly pinned on some remaining hesitancy, along with the fact that India has yet to start vaccinating people under 18.

As some cities, including New Delhi and Mumbai, begin to register a rising number of infections, many Indian states are also moving to reimpose restrictions on Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations and gatherings.

Anil Rajput, the head of corporate affairs at Kolkata-based conglomerate ITC Ltd., said on a panel in early December that there were "growing concerns on the need for a booster dose especially in the light of the new variant." It

was also crucial to limit vaccine wastage with many doses close to expiry, Rajput said.

India's network of government-funded Covid genome sequencing labs said in late November that boosters should be considered for over-40s and those at high risk, as the danger of severe disease will likely be reduced.

The drug regulator has so far been reluctant to authorize third doses or childhood vaccinations until local trial data has been produced. Government officials have been reiterating targets to fully inoculating the country's adult population first. The health ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

While the head of the Serum Institute of India Ltd. -- which is locally producing the AstraZeneca shots -- warned of a production drop two weeks ago due to lack of orders, Ms Shaw expects demand to remain robust into 2022, especially if booster shots are deployed "every six months or whatever."

Biocon inked a deal earlier this year with Serum for access to 100 million vaccine doses annually.

Ms Shaw knows from personal experience that protection offered by vaccines averts worst outcomes. Three weeks ago, 12 people in her household -- including her husband and domestic staff -- tested positive for Covid. But, being fully inoculated, they all had only mild symptoms and no one needed to go to a hospital.

India Will See Omicron Surge But Cases Will Be Mild, Vaccines Will Help: Angelique Coetzee

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India will see a surge in Omicron-driven Covid cases and a high positivity rate but the infection will hopefully be mild in most people as is being seen in South Africa, says Dr Angelique Coetzee who first identified the variant.

The chairperson of the South African Medical Association also said existing vaccines will definitely control the contagion but those unvaccinated are at 100 per cent "risk".

"Existing vaccines will greatly help reduce the spread of the Omicron variant," Coetzee told PTI in a phone interview from Pretoria.

In the case of a vaccinated person or one who has had a history of being infected by COVID-19, it will spread to fewer people, she said, adding that unvaccinated people will potentially spread the virus 100 per cent.

"Existing vaccines would greatly help to reduce the spreading, as

we know that you would spread only about 1/3 if vaccinated or had previous history of being infected by Covid, while unvaccinated people will potentially spread the virus 100 per cent," she said.

According to the South African expert, who first brought the Omicron variant to the world's notice, the Covid pandemic is yet to be over and will become endemic in the days to come.

She disagreed with the opinion of some experts that Covid is heading towards an end with the advent of Omicron, which as of now is comparatively a weaker variant of the coronavirus.

"I do not think so. I believe it will be difficult (for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to end soon). I presume it will become endemic," she predicted.

"India will see a surge in Omicron-driven COVID-19 cases and simultaneously there will be a high-positivity rate. But hopefully the majority of the cases will be as

mild as what we are seeing here in South Africa," she added as India on Saturday reported 415 cases of the Omicron variant.

Of these, 115 have recovered or migrated, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

In Coetzee's view, any virus which grows out of control will potentially be a threat to humans.

Discussing the character of the Omicron strain of Covid that is spreading fast across the world and has dampened year-end festivities in many parts of the country, Coetzee said it attacks warm bodies and is also infecting children.

"... for now Omicron is not threatening but it is fast spreading with a high infectivity rate, but less severe cases in hospitals. The virus' sole purpose is to infect a warm body and to survive. And yes, children are also being infected by it, but they are recovering in an average of five-six days," she said.

22 Farmer Unions Form Political Front For Punjab Polls

Twenty-two unions of farmers, which were part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) to protest three contentious farm laws, on Saturday announced to form a political front 'Samyukta Samaj Morcha' to contest the 2022 assembly elections in Punjab on all 117 seats.

Chief Minister's face Balbir Singh Rajewal, however, clarified there was no alliance as of now with any political party.

the BKU Sidhupur (Jagjit Dallewal).

Responding to the announcement of the political front, farmer leader Darshan Pal said, "Most of the demands of the farmers like the MSP (minimum support price) are yet to be accepted. By launching the political front, the movement of farmers might be weakened."

He said the SKM was formed for bigger purpose and he has suggested that the farm leaders



But at the same time he didn't rule out any future possibility.

Rajewal told the media that they were doing it on public demand. "Some of the unions are against it but won't oppose," he said.

Ten other unions belonging to the state and were part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha have refused to be part of the political front.

They comprised the Krantikari Kisan Union (Darshan Pal), the BKU Krantikari (Surjit Phool) and

should not do injustice to farmers by entering politics.

"Every union has the right to make its own decisions. We have earned the trust of farmers across the country and will not enter politics," Pal added.

Earlier this month, BKU (Haryana) President Gurnam Singh Chaduni announced his political outfit Samyukta Sangharsh Party, saying the party will fight the upcoming Punjab elections.

South Africa Moves To Stop Auction Of Nelson Mandela's Robben Island Cell Key

South Africa has initiated urgent steps to halt the auction of the key to the jail cell on Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years as a political prisoner before becoming the country's first democratically-elected president.

The online auction on January 28 announced by US-based Guernsey's Auctions is expected to fetch more than a million pounds.

Sports arts and culture minister Nathi Mthethwa has ordered an investigation into reports that the key had been provided to Guernsey by Christo Brand, who was Mandela's jailer and later became a tour guide on Robben Island as part of reconciliation attempts after the anti-apartheid icon ascended to power.

Mthethwa said it was a serious matter, which is receiving attention at the highest levels.

He said the master key to the Robben Island cells was still there, so the investigation would determine whether Mandela's cell key was duplicated.

It is unfathomable for Guernsey's which is clearly aware of the painful history of our country and the symbolism of the key to consider auctioning the key without any consultation with the South African government the heritage authorities in South Africa and Robben Island Museum.

This key belongs to the people of South Africa...It is not anyone's personal belonging. Mthethwa told the news channel EWN.

No individual has the right to possess this important object of cultural and heritage significance. Robben Island is a national monument and national museum,

and is also a World Heritage Site, declared by UNESCO in 1999, and therefore is governed by so many heritage declarations, he said.

Anything that has to do with Robben Island is under the care of Robben Island Museum Council. Anybody who wants anything has to go through that, the minister said.

Mthethwa said his department had held a number of meetings on Friday, where it emerged that it might not only be the key that was being auctioned.

It is not only the key that has been taken out fraudulently unless proven otherwise, and we are following that up, the minister said.

The auction house earlier said that the items on auction included Mandela's eyeglasses a bronze cast of his fist, ceremonial pens he received from former US President George W Bush and the United Nations.

Mthethwa said there has been discussion with the auction house, Guernsey, which seemed to understand the history behind the key.

It is ironic that they seem to understand the painful past and the history of Robben Island, but nevertheless, they decided to proceed (with the auction) without consulting the government of South Africa or any other heritage authorities and we find that very bizarre...We will fight to ensure that we bring it back and if there are other objects, which is part of our investigation, we will do the same, Mthethwa said.

In a separate statement, the Ex-Political Prisoners Association has called for the arrest of the person responsible for selling the key.



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