

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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P5 STATE

## BORDER RESIDENTS RETURN TO FIELDS AFTER TWO DECADES

Jammu and Kashmir UT administration has brought smiles and new hopes to border residents of Hiranagar sector by facilitating them to cultivate land beyond the border fence

P7 REWIND 2021

## MOST MEMORABLE MUSIC VIDEOS OF 2021

This year saw an incredible surge of music video production and viewership, maybe the most we have ever seen. The Kashmiri landscape for music has evolved



P6 OPINION

## 2021 KASHMIR IN REWIND

J&K's economy in 2021 refused to show any healthy signs of recovery. Instead, the year witnessed a series of business-sentiment destroying events in the form of pandemic related lockdowns, frequent



## J&K Logs 123 New Cases, 2 Corona Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 123 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while two more people succumbed after contracting deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 65 new cases of coronavirus while the remaining 58 were detected from various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected in J&K to 341290.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 35 new cases of virus, Baramulla 12, Budgam and Pulwama 5 each while four new cases each were reported from Kupwara and Ganderbal. The four districts of Anantnag, Bandipora, Kulgam and Shopian detected no new cases.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 29 new cases of virus, Doda 12, Reasi 7, Rajouri 6 and **More on P10**

**Quote!**  
You miss 100% of the shots you don't take  
Wayne Gretzky

## NEWS DIGEST

### LG Grooms People On New Year

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasion of New Year.

In a message, the LG said that as we welcome the dawn of a New Year, we should build upon the achievements of the past year in striving for the realization of our dreams.

"On the eve of the **More on P10**

### Electric Shock Kills PDD Worker

SRINAGAR: A daily-wager in the power development department (PDD) died on Friday after receiving an electric shock in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 30-year-old Suhail Ahmad Bhat got electrocuted to death when he was repairing an electric transformer in Lisser village of Kokernag on Friday, officials said. **More on P10**

### Pilgrims To Get Cover No From Hajj Office

SRINAGAR: The J&K Haj Committee on Friday asked the intending pilgrims of Hajj-2020 to collect cover numbers from the office, if they have not received the same through sms. In a handout issued here, an official spokesperson said that the intending Hajj Pilgrims of Hajj 1443 (H), 2022(AD) who **More on P10**

### 66 Acres Of Land Retrieved In Jammu

JAMMU: Sixty-six acres of prime land worth crores of rupees was retrieved from encroachers here, officials said on Friday. Teams of the revenue department launched an anti-encroachment drive at different locations in Maira Mandrian, Jammu North, Jammu South, Marh and Bhalwal and retrieved **More on P10**

## Heavy Snowfall Predicted Next Week

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The meteorological department on Friday predicted heavy snowfall at some places in Jammu and Kashmir during January 5-6 that could possibly lead to temporary disruption of air and surface traffic. "As per today's analysis, widespread snow/rain spell of moderate intensity are most likely during 4-6th January in both J&K and Ladakh with main activity on 5-6th," a meteorological department official said in a statement.

"Heavy Snow is expected at some places during 5-6th," he said, adding, "(It) may affect the surface and air transportation." He said light snow is expected over higher reaches of Kashmir during January 2-3rd. "Expect colder days and warmer nights from January 2nd onwards," he added.

Meanwhile, cold conditions prevailed across Jammu and Kashmir even there was slight rise in minimum temperature with Gulmarg **More on P10**



A tourist draws a New Year message on snow at Kangdoori peak in the ski resort of Gulmarg on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# 3 Jaish Militants Killed In Overnight Srinagar Encounter

## 4 Security Personnel, Including 3 Cops Also Injured In Firefight



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three militants were killed and four forces personnel injured during

an encounter in the Pantha Chowk area of the city here on Friday, police said.

Police said one of the slain militants was **More on P10**

## 184 Militants Killed In J&K In 2021: DGP

Year 2021 saw the killing of a total of 182 militants, including 44 of their top commanders and 20 foreigners, in 100 successful anti-terror operations by government forces in the Union Territory, police chief Dilbag Singh said on Friday.

The J&K director general of police revealed the number of total casualties of militants a day after the 100th successful anti-militancy operation by the J&K police.

He also said a total of nine Jaish-e-Mohammad militants **More on P10**

## NC Calls For Stay On Delimitation Exercise In J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) on Friday submitted its response to the draft proposals of the Delimitation Commission, calling for the exercise to be put on hold in view of the legal challenge to the Centre's August 5, 2019 decisions.

The response of the three NC MPs to the Commission's proposals was submitted on Friday, NC MP Hasmain Masoodi said.

Masoodi said the party's basic premise is that the exercise offends constitutional morality, constitutional propriety, and the constitutional values as much as the Reorganisation Act under which it is being brought.

The Act itself faces challenge before the Supreme Court. It is under judicial scrutiny. The Supreme Court is examining whether it is

constitutional. We call it constitutionally suspect law, he said.

In a democratic polity, every limb, out of deference, has to wait for the outcome of the judicial proceedings in such a case, he added.

The NC MP from south Kashmir's Anantnag said the population of constituency is universally accepted as the core criterion to effect any delimitation, and this criterion cannot be pushed to the backseat.

The population as a criterion is being ignored. The considerations that are peripheral in nature, of peripheral importance, though are to be considered, cannot downplay the population as a criterion.

In this case, the core criterion is not being followed in the proposals that have been put forth by the commission, Masoodi said.

He said while **More on P10**

## Dr Parvaiz Koul Is New Director SKIMS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Koul Ex-professor and Head of Department General Medicine has been appointed as the new director of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Srinagar.

"As approved by the Chairman, Governing Body, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar (Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K), Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad Koul, Ex-Professor and Head



of Department, General Medicine, SKIMS, is hereby appointed as Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), **More on P10**

## Hyderpora Encounter 'Transparent'; Political Comments Unlawful: DGP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Asserting that some people are engaged in "soft separatism" by cleverly supporting militancy, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh on Friday termed Hyderpora operation "neat and clean" and asked political leaders questioning the clean chit given to the forces to submit evidence to investigation panels.

He said he felt hurt over irresponsible utterances of a



section of political leaders in Kashmir, adding that counting votes on the dead bodies is their mission.

"We definitely felt hurt over this kind of utterances. It is irresponsible on the part of certain people, who are not part of the investigation and do not know anything about the probe on the ground to make such remarks, Singh said at a press conference here.

He was replying to questions on the statements made by political leaders against the probe by the local police in connection with the Hyderpora encounter. **More on P10**

## NIA Claims Arrest Of TRF 'Operative'

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday claimed to have arrested an "operative" of TRF during a raid in Srinagar.

In a statement issued here, NIA said that searches were conducted in Srinagar during which one TRF operative, Arsalan Feroz alias "Arsalan Soub" son of Feroz Ahmad Ahanger of Zaldagar, M. R. Gunj, Srinagar was arrested in Case No. RC 32/2021/NIA/DLI.

"The case relates to conspiracy hatched for radicalising, motivating and **More on P10**

# Doctors Say Sun Dried Veggies Behind Rising Stomach Cancers In Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

Sounding yet another health emergency amid the Omicron-protracted pandemic in the valley, doctors and data have held Kashmir's "peculiar food habits" responsible for surging stomach cancer.

The fresh findings were revealed by the study titled Kashmiri Diet and Gastric Carcinoma Epidemiology and Risk Factors.

Published in the India based International Journal of Health Sciences and Research (IJHSR), the study was researched by Dr. Sheikh Mohd Saleem, Senior Resident, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Srinagar and Maena Naman Shafiee, PhD. Research

Scholar, Dept. of Food Science and Technology, University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

The study states that there're certain risk factors which make some patients more prone to gastric cancer.

In fact, stomach cancer, as per another study done in 2016, was the most commonly reported cancer (25.2%), followed by colorectal cancer (16.4%) and lung cancer (13.2%) among males in Kashmir.

For females, colorectal cancer (16.8%), breast cancer (16.1%), and stomach cancer (10.4%) were the most frequently reported cancers in order of frequency, notes the study titled as Epidemiology of Cancers in Kashmir, India: An Analysis of Hospital Data.

It further revealed that



gastric tumor was the most commonly encountered cancer contributing 18.8 per cent to total cancers in Kashmir.

Peculiar Food Habits

Among the "peculiar dietary habits" listed by the study for posing increased gastric cancer risk include intake of Kashmiri salt tea, high intake of Brassica Oleracea (Haakh), dried fish and vegetables, and spice cakes commonly called as Ver.

"Sun-drying exposes vegetables to uncontrolled U.V radiations and thus makes them more prone to aflatoxins and fungi," the study asserts. "This treatment may be detrimental to human health."

The study further reveals that these "preserved and peculiar" foods like Haakh have a significant amount of N-Nitroso compounds (carcinogens that produce cancer) in them.

"There're enough literature and evidence to prove the carcinogenic effect of N-Nitroso compounds," the study says.

"Researches done on experimental animals by exposing them to doses of N-Nitroso compound prove their toxicity and carcinogenic effect in humans."

Meanwhile, explaining the study, Dr. Iqbal Saleem, Professor of Surgery, Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, told Kashmir Observer that people need to change their food habits and lifestyle, and should go easy with salt.

"Prolonged brewing makes salt tea [Nun Chai] carcinogenic in nature," Dr. Iqbal reiterated what medics have been warning Kashmiris since very long now. "People especially in rural areas of the valley take a lot of salt tea.

It even goes to 10 cups per day. People need to take less salt."

He, however, maintains that these food items are not the only reason for the cancer but they surely contribute to it.

Prevalence of stomach cancer, the study further reveals, is 40 per cent more in Kashmir than any other cancer — making its occurrence "three to six times" higher than in the metropolitan cities of India.

"Gastric cancer attains the position of top five cancers in the valley with a Male: Female ratio of 3.17:1," the study maintains. "Dietary habits of the population contribute to the high gastric cancer prevalence in the valley."

According to another study done in 2016, "Epidemiology of Cancers in Kashmir, India: An Analysis of **More on P10**









## Friday Prayers Again Disallowed In Jamia Masjid

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid said that as the year ends central Jama Masjid in Srinagar continues to remain closed for Friday prayers and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also continues to be under house arrest for the third year in a row since 2019.

Anjuman in a statement said that the mosque has been forcibly locked down for 45 Fridays in this year and consecutively for 21 Fridays so far.

It said that in the previous five years from 2016 to 2020 Jama Masjid has been locked down for 112 Fridays.

Anjuman said that people of Kashmir, ulemas and the Anjuman have repeatedly been urging the authorities to allow people to offer Friday prayers in Jama Masjid and release the Mirwaiz of Kashmir.

Anjuman also urged the authorities to stop this grave injustice against the Muslims of the valley and open up the mosque to the people and also release Mirwaiz.

## 1.55 Cr protected from being swindled through Cyber frauds:Police

Srinagar: Amid massive increase in cyber-crimes, the Cyber police station Srinagar has given a tough time to cyber criminals by protecting an amount of Rs 1,55,83,923 from being swindled through cyber frauds.

Cyber police annual record, an amount of Rs 1,55,83,923 was prevented from being swindled.

It reads that besides this Cyber Police Kashmir Zone redressed more than 600 social media and financial complaints and recovered 300 smart phones during the year 2021.

"The police have time and again requested people to use smart phones cautiously and not to fall into the trap of cyber criminal's," it reads.

Meanwhile Srinagar Police in a Tweet said that acting tough against Cyber Crimes & online frauds, Cyber Police Station has redressed more than 600 social media and financial complaints It said that it also recovered 300 smart phones during the year 2021.

# Much Hyped Parking Space Near Press Colony Fails To Decongest City

Syed Burhan

SRINAGAR: The much famed multi-level car parking in the city centre Lal chowk has failed to de-congest the roads as the space remains almost deserted.

According to shopkeepers, the people don't prefer to use the space for parking due to high rates.

Thrown open in October 2021, the car parking with capacity of over 467 vehicles and 130 two-wheelers took nearly four years to complete, as per officials.

The traders of the area are up in arms against authorities saying the charges for the parking are high and the parking operates for a limited time period during the day.

Javid Ahmad, a shopkeeper, told Kashmir Observer that parking charges are very high and authorities failed to resolve the issue.

"You have to pay Rs 20 for an



hour if you park your four wheeler and the rate increases by 10 rupees every hour. This is too much for an ordinary person. Authorities should consider decreasing the rates", he said.

Waseem Khan, another shopkeeper voiced his concern over the limited time the parking operates.

"The authorities should extend

the time and instead of charging on an hourly basis, they should charge for a day", he said.

The parking is regulated and managed by Srinagar Development Authority (SDA).Speaking to Kashmir Observer; Vice-Chairman SDA said the hundreds of vehicles are parked by people

throughout the day.

"At first we had fixed the charges for a four wheeler at 2000 rupees per month. Later we reduced the rates to 1650 rupees. We are not asking for too much. The parking is being managed by at least 13 employees; we have to manage the income of the employees as well". he told Kashmir Observer.

The SDA had constructed the first of its kind Multi-level in Srinagar to help People Park wisely and decongest the city centre. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had inaugurated the car parking at press enclave Srinagar in the month of October. The work on the said parking slot was taken up in November 2017 and was completed in June 2021.

The parking was constructed at a cost of 26.92 crores under the centrally sponsored Atal Mission for rejuvenation and urban transformation (AMRUT) scheme.

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR. ATTENTION PLEASE.

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he /she has lost his/ her qualification certificate/s having the following description:-

ROLL NO	1678406
CLASS	10TH
YEAR & SESSION	ANNUAL 2014
REGISTRATION NO	N13420240007
NAME	MOHAMAD IMRAN KUMAR
FATHERS NAME	ZAHOOR AHMAD KUMAR
MOTHERS NAME	HASEENA BANO
DATE OF BIRTH	05-03-1999
RESIDENCE	BRINALLAMMER



Now the candidate has, applied for issuance of DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.

(Besides, the losted "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE", bearing Serial No 15 14APKAM-4001973is /are be treated as "CANCELLED").

Dated:- 31-12-2021

Sd/= Assistant Secretary Certificates,KD

RNA

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DOORU PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 12th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- SAUQI JAN  
PARANTAGE:- MANZOOR AHMAD GANIE  
MOTHERS NAME :- MUBEENA AKHTER  
REGISTRATION NO:- 06NKF110003  
R/O:- KURIGAM QAZIGUND  
ROLL NO :- 110407  
SESSION A/R2013 YEAR 2013

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Officer Incharge Branch Office Dooru

RNA

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DOORU PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- SAUQI JAN  
PARANTAGE:- MANZOOR AHMAD GANIE  
MOTHERS NAME :- MUBEENA AKHTER  
REGISTRATION NO:- 06NKF110003  
R/O:- KURIGAM QAZIGUND  
ROLL NO :- 197428  
SESSION A/P2007 YEAR 2007

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Officer Incharge Branch Office Dooru

RNA

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DOORU PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10 th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- MOHAMAD IMRAN KUMAR  
PARANTAGE:- ZAHOOR AHMAD KUMAR  
MOTHERS NAME :- HASEENA BANO  
REGISTRATION No :- N13420240007  
R/O:- BRINALLAMMER  
ROLL NO:- 1678406  
SESSION A/R2014 YEAR 2014

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.



Sd/= Officer Incharge Branch Office Dooru

RNA

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE DOORU PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 12 th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- MOHAMAD IMRAN KUMAR  
PARANTAGE:- ZAHOOR AHMAD KUMAR  
MOTHERS NAME :- HASEENA BANO  
REGISTRATION No :- N13420240007  
R/O:- BRINALLAMMER  
ROLL NO :- 1181292  
SESSION A/R2016 YEAR 2016

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.



Sd/= Officer Incharge Branch Office Dooru

RNA

از نیابت شلکس با اجلاس انگریزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول شلکس چھترگل درخواست منجانب: شوکت احمد ولد قاسم گوجر چاڑ ساکنہ شیرگند تحصیل شلکس ضلع ہت ناگ بغرض حصول ST/سرقلیت۔

اشتہار برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST/سرقلیت دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد یونس ولد ملکہ گوجر چاڑ	45 سال	مزدوری	6000/=
2	عائشہ حسین ولد محمد یونس	25 سال	مزدوری	6000/=
4	عالیہ جان دختر محمد یونس	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ کنڈہ زیر بحث کو ہیڈ رقیہ تعدادی 6 کنال موجود ہے۔ جس سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی 30,000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ اس طور سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی و غیر زرعی ملنے=1,74000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ لہذا سرقلیت اجزاء 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 گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

از نیابت شلکس با اجلاس انگریزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول شلکس چھترگل درخواست منجانب: ریاض احمد پسر نظام دین گوجر چاڑ ساکنہ شیرگند تحصیل شلکس ضلع ہت ناگ بغرض حصول ST/سرقلیت۔

اشتہار برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST/سرقلیت دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	ریاض احمد ولد نظام دین گوجر چاڑ	40 سال	مزدوری	6000/=
2	رشیدہ بانو دختر ریاض احمد گوجر چاڑ	39 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	عاصف اختر دختر ریاض احمد گوجر چاڑ	23 سال	مزدوری	6000/=
4	عابدہ اختر دختر ریاض احمد گوجر چاڑ	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	خالدہ اختر دختر ریاض احمد گوجر چاڑ	19 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	سکینہ اختر دختر ریاض احمد گوجر چاڑ	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
7	یاسر احمد ولد ریاض احمد گوجر چاڑ	10 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ کنڈہ زیر بحث کو ہیڈ رقیہ تعدادی 6 کنال موجود ہے۔ جس سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی 30,000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ اس طور سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی و غیر زرعی ملنے=1,74000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ لہذا سرقلیت اجزاء 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 گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت شلکس با اجلاس انگریزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول شلکس چھترگل درخواست منجانب: شوکت احمد ولد قاسم گوجر چاڑ ساکنہ شیرگند تحصیل شلکس ضلع ہت ناگ بغرض حصول ST/سرقلیت۔

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نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	شوکت احمد ولد قاسم گوجر چاڑ	40 سال	مزدوری	2000/=
2	نذیرہ بانو دختر شوکت احمد	39 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	اشفاق احمد ولد شوکت احمد	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	نہرت جان دختر شوکت احمد	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	شیوہ ازرا احمد ولد شوکت احمد	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	عماد احمد ولد شوکت احمد	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	
7	اقرار احمد دختر شوکت احمد	8 سال	زیر تعلیم	
8	ستیل احمد ولد شوکت احمد	5 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈہ 08 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ کنڈہ زیر بحث کو ہیڈ رقیہ تعدادی 8 کنال موجود ہے۔ جس سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی 40,000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ اس طور سے کنڈہ زیر بحث کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی و غیر زرعی ملنے=1,24000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ لہذا سرقلیت اجزاء 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 گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار۔

## DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

## AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

## RAILWAYS

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

## HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

27 Jumada al-awwal

1443

## PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 08

ZUHR 12:34

ASR 3:53

Magrib 5:35

ISHA 7: 00

## This Day In History

- 1724 - Glassblower Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit proposes system for making thermometers and the Fahrenheit temperature scale in a paper to the Royal Society of London and is elected a fellow on its basis
- 1758 - The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature establish the "starting point" for standardized species names across the animal kingdom, based on the binomial nomenclature by Carolus Linnaeus 10th edition of Systema Naturae
- 1772 - First traveller's cheques go on sale in London, can be used in 90 European cities
- 1800 - Dutch East Indies Company dissolves
- 1801 - The Irish Parliament votes to join the Kingdom of Great Britain, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1804 - Haiti gains independence from France (National Day), making it the only state ever founded by former slaves and without slavery
- 1842 - 1st illustrated weekly magazine in US publishes 1st issue, NYC
- 1846 - Yucatan declares independence from Mexico
- 1860 - Slavery ends of in Neth Indies
- 1863 - Battle of Galveston, Texas-Confederates recapture the city
- 1869 - War of the Triple Alliance: Paraguay's capital Asunción falls to Brazilian forces led by General João de Souza da Fonseca Costa
- 1890 - Eritrea is consolidated into a colony by the Italian government.
- 1891 - French troops occupy Niara, West-Sudan, 3000 killed
- 1895 - Norway adopts Mid-European time
- 1896 - German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen announces his discovery of x-rays
- 1903 - In Delhi, a great durbar, or formal reception, marks the coronation of King Edward VII as Emperor of India; the British release some 16,000 prisoners in honor of the occasion
- 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt and Edith Roosevelt unveil new renovations to the The White House, including a new West Wing1927 - Turkey adopts the Gregorian calendar: December 18, 1926 (Julian), is immediately followed by January 1, 1927 (Gregorian).

From KO Archives

## Salahuddin Wants All 7 in Pak

Hizb cautions APHC of trap

MUZAFFARABAD -The Hizbul Mujahideen group has maintained that the proposed visit of the All Parties Hurriyet Conference leaders to Pakistan to prove an "exercise in futility" if all the seven member of alliance's executive council were not included in the delegation.

"If some (leaders) are allowed and some are barred from travelling to Pakistan), Nit will create doubts about the APHC. Rather, it can create an impression that the alliance is divided into moderate and extremist people", said group's supreme commander Syed Saia- huddin, in an interview to Dawn.

He said, it would be New Delhi's big trap to create misgivings and strengthen the impression about division in the ranks of the APHC. The APHC leaders must show farsightedness and diplomatic efficiency to shed the impression that New Delhi and not they themselves are constituting their delegation for Pakistan"

Salahuddin's remarks came in the wake of reports that the travelling documents to Syed Ali Shah Geelani, a hard-liner in the alliance, were not being issued by New Delhi.

Indian officials had claimed that they had not received the application of Mr Gilani for the same. A Hurriyet leader, Abdul Ghani Lone, rejected the claim as lie and told an Indian channel that he had himself submitted Gilani's papers. I will advise the (APHC) leaders to avoid visit to Pakistan unless all of them are allowed to travel. And if all of them get permission, then they should first sit together and evolve an agenda in consensus with each other for the tour."

Salahuddin said Pakistan was already on the back of the Kashmiris and had been extending all out political, moral and diplomatic support to them all along the past 53 years of their struggle. But the thing that needs to be settled with New Delhi is how sincere and serious she is in resolving the festering issue, he added. "If the APHC does not get any assurance from the Indian government before hand then their journey will prove an exercise in futility", the Hizb supremo said. Mr Salahuddin recalled that the Hizbul Mujahideen and all other freedom fighting organizations had unanimously termed the cease-fire a "trap" and said it was aimed at releasing pressure and giving a respite to the physically and mentally exhausted Indian troops besides winning the sympathies of the Muslims in India and elsewhere.

On the one hand it (Indian government) paints itself a champion of peace and on the other hand there is no letup in killings and atrocities at the hands of its' soldiers in Kashmir, he added.

"We believe the APHC cannot suggest the mujahideen to respect the so-called cease-fire because it does not have any mandate for that", he said, and added that the cease-fire was worthless unless India made a categorical declaration that "Kashmir is a disputed territory and she is ready to resolve it through meaningful tripartite talks. Till that happens, the operations of the mujahideen against the occupation forces would continue. Rather we would intensify and stretch them", he declared.

He said, the cease-fire was not a pre-requisite for the resolution of the issue through meaningful talks. In this connection, the Hizb chief cited the examples of Afghanistan Northern Ireland and Vietnam where, according to him, talks and militancy ran simultaneously. "Dialogue is a separate process and (freedom fighters') actions are a separate thing", he said.

He said the mujahideen were not interested in holding talks by themselves. But, he added, they (the mujahideen) wanted to ensure that the negotiators (from the Kashmiris' side) must enjoy their trust, "The negotiators stand should reflect the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. They would not be allowed to take any short cut," said the Hizb supremo, without elaborating.

He was of the view that the mujahideen who in fact were offering their blood in the battlefield had full rights to "monitor" the talks. "We have trust in the recognized leadership of Kashmir but the people who shed their blood have right to hold talks either by themselves or through any other person(s)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 01 January, 2001)



Iran: Biden White House Also ‘Responsible’ For Qassem Soleimani Killing



**TEHRAN:** Iran said Friday the current US administration is also “re-sponsible” for the assassination two years ago of its revered commander Qassem Soleimani, as the Islamic republic started commemorations to mark his death.

Former US president Donald Trump sent shock waves through the region on January 3, 2020 with the targeted killing of General Soleimani, who was commander of the Quds Force, the foreign operation's arm of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards.

He was killed in a US drone strike in Baghdad ordered by Trump, along with his Iraqi lieutenant Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, infuriating Iran and its allies.

“The US government bears definitive international responsibility for this crime,” Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement posted on Twitter to mark the second anniversary of Soleimani's killing.

“Undoubtedly, the criminal act of the United States in martyring general #Soleimani is a clear manifestation of a ‘terrorist attack’ that was orchestrated and carried out in an organized manner by the then US government for which the White House is now responsible,” it said, in reference to President Joe Biden's administration.

Five days after Soleimani's killing, Iran retaliated by firing missiles at a US air base in Ain Assad housing American troops in Iraq, and another near Irbil in the north.

No US troops were killed in those strikes but Washington said dozens suffered traumatic brain injuries from the explosions.

Trump said at the time that the drone strike came in response to a wave of attacks on US interests in Iraq, warning he would hold Iran responsible if such assaults continued.

The foreign ministry's statement came as Iran prepared Friday to launch week-long activities to commemorate Soleimani's killing.

Authorities said the main event of the remembrance will be held on Monday, without elaborating.

They added that on January 7 a display of “Iran's missile capabilities” will be held. Iranian officials have pledged repeatedly that Soleimani will be avenged.

On the first anniversary of his killing then judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi — who is now Iran's president — warned that even Trump was not “immune from justice” and that Soleimani's killers would “not be safe anywhere in the world.” During the former US president's term in office, tensions between Washington and Tehran were at an all-time high.

In 2018, Trump walked away from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

The two countries were also on the brink of direct military confrontations on at least two occasions. **AFP**



NEW YEAR 2022 CELEBRATIONS: People watch a laser show to celebrate New Year in Britain.

Happy Or Gloomy New Year? Covid Crashes The Party Again

Reuters

**SYDNEY/ SEOUL:** New Year celebrations around the world have been called off as the coronavirus casts gloom over festivities for a second year but Australia was determined to enjoy the night and there were even signs North Korea was preparing fireworks.

Global coronavirus infections hit a record high over the past seven-day period, with an average of just over one million cases detected a day worldwide between Dec. 24 and 30, some 100,000 up on the previous peak posted on Wednesday, according to Reuters data.

With numerous countries registering all-time highs, authorities in many places have called off celebrations to welcome in 2022, fearful that the all-conquering Omicron variant will take advantage of gatherings to spread even faster.

But Australia is determined to ring in the New Year with a bang despite surges in infections to record levels in some places.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison wished people to “enjoy the evening”, while Dominic Perrottet,

**NORTH KOREA SEALED IT borders after the pandemic began and has not reported a single case of COVID-19.**

premier of New South Wales state, urged everyone to “head out and enjoy New Year” even as daily infections in the state nearly doubled to a record 21,151.

Perrottet said he took heart from higher levels of vaccination and the fact that hospitals were coping with the Omicron wave.

“Our position remains incredibly strong,” he told reporters.

Social distancing rules are in place and masks are required indoors in Sydney but thousands of people are expected to flock to its harbourside to watch New Year fireworks, with queues forming at many vantage points from early in the morning.

Secretive North Korea also appeared to be preparing to buck the trend and celebrate the New Year with midnight fireworks at Kim Il

Sung Square in its capital, Pyongyang. Commercial satellite imagery showed preparations were under way with a stage being installed in the square, according to NK News, a Seoul-based website that monitors North Korea.

The Rodong Sinmun state-run newspaper ran photographs of flower shops in Pyongyang crowded with mask-wearing customers buying blooms for the celebrations.

North Korea sealed it borders after the pandemic began and has not reported a single case of COVID-19.

**China On Alert**

Over the border in South Korea, the mood was not so festive.

A traditional midnight bell-ringing ceremony has been cancelled for the second year and authorities announced an extension of stricter distancing rules for two weeks to tackle a persistent surge in infections.

China, where the coronavirus first emerged in late 2019, was on high alert against the virus, with the city of Xian under lockdown and New Year events in other cities cancelled and authorities urging restraint.

Parents Selling Children Shows Desperation Of Afghanistan

Associated Press

**SHEDAI CAMP (AFGHANISTAN):** In a sprawling settlement of mud brick huts in western Afghanistan housing people displaced by drought and war, a woman is fighting to save her daughter.

Aziz Gul's husband sold the 10-year-old girl into marriage without telling his wife, taking a down-payment so he could feed his family of five children. Without that money, he told her, they would all starve. He had to sacrifice one to save the rest.

Many of Afghanistan's growing number of destitute people are making desperate decisions such as these as their nation spirals into a vortex of poverty.

The aid-dependent country's economy was already teetering when the Taliban seized power in mid-August amid a chaotic withdrawal of US and NATO troops. The international community froze Afghanistan's assets abroad and halted all funding, unwilling to work with a Taliban government given its reputation for brutality during its previous rule 20 years ago.



The consequences have been devastating for a country battered by four decades of war, a punishment

ing drought and the coronavirus pandemic. Legions of state employees, including doctors, haven't been paid in months. Malnutrition and poverty stalk the most vulnerable, and aid groups say more than half the population faces acute food shortages.

“Day by day, the situation is deteriorating in this country, and especially children are suffering,” said Asuntha Charles, national director of the World Vision aid organization in Afghanistan, which runs a health clinic for displaced people just outside the western city of Herat.

“Today I have been heartbroken to see that the families are willing to sell their children to feed other family members,” Charles said. “So it's the right time for the humanitarian community to stand up and stay with the people of Afghanistan.”

Census Bureau: World Grew By 74 Million Over Past Year



Associated Press

The world's population is projected to be 7.8 billion people on New Year's Day 2022, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

That represents an increase of 74 million people, or a 0.9% growth rate from New Year's Day 2021. Starting in the new year, 4.3 births and two deaths are expected worldwide every second, the Census Bureau estimated.

Meanwhile, the U.S. grew by almost 707,000 people over the past year, and the nation's population is expected to be 332.4 million residents on New Year's Day 2022, according to the U.S.

Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau estimate represents a 0.2% growth rate from New Year's Day 2021 to New Year's Day 2022.

Starting in the new year, the U.S. is expected to grow by one person every 40 seconds from births, minus deaths, as well as net international migration. The U.S. is expected to experience a birth every nine seconds and a death every 11 seconds, as well as an additional person from international migration every 130 seconds.

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"Opt For Walking, Cycling": French Car Ads Must Back Less-Polluting Alternatives



Agence France-Presse

**PARIS:** Car advertisements in France will have to include messages encouraging people to consider less-polluting travel alternatives from 2022 as part of the government's drive to rein in CO2 emissions.

The requirement, set to come into force in March, was confirmed in the government's Official Journal this week after years of lobbying from environmental groups -- many of which seek an outright ban on automobile ads.

Similar to mandatory reminders to eat healthy on food and drink ads, the standardised messages will suggest that drivers adopt more environmentally responsible options when possible.

Carmakers will have three choices: “Consider carpooling,” “For day-to-day use, take public transportation,” or “For short trips, opt for walking or cycling.” They will be required for all media -- print, TV, radio or internet -- and must also include the hashtag “#SeDeplacerMoinsPolluer” (Move and Pollute Less).

The ads will also have to include a vehicle's CO2 emission class, a new ranking system to inform consumers about the environmental impact that is part of a widespread climate action law approved by lawmakers in July.

So far automakers appear ready to comply, if not enthusiastically.

“It means that overall, we have to find alternatives to the automobile. It's the first time we've had such a direct message from the government,” Lionel French Keogh, the head of Hyundai France, told AFP.

“We are going to adapt -- moving toward zero-emission vehicles is the course of history,” he added.

“But there is an irony: they make no distinction between the type of motorisation. It's a bit counterproductive to the government's aim of promoting electric vehicles,” he said.

Volkswagen, the third-biggest car seller in France, after Stellantis and Renault, said “We will comply with the legislation and analyse how best to comply with our advertising agency.”

As part of the new French law, advertising for the most polluting vehicles -- those that emit more than 123 grammes of carbon dioxide per kilometre, including many popular SUVs -- will be completely outlawed from 2028.

**IT MEANS THAT OVERALL, WE HAVE TO find alternatives to the automobile. It's the first time we've had such a direct message from the government,”**

NEWS MAKERS

Had Two Minutes To Decide Whether To Leave Kabul: Ashraf Ghani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Afghanistan's former president said he had no choice but to abruptly leave Kabul as the Taliban closed in and denied an agreement was in the works for a peaceful takeover, disputing the accounts of former Afghan and US officials.

Former President Ashraf Ghani said in a BBC interview that aired Thursday that an adviser gave him just minutes to decide to abandon the capital city. He also denied widespread accusations that he left Afghanistan with millions in stolen money.

Ghani's sudden and secret departure Aug 15 left the city rudderless as US and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years.

“On the morning of that day, I had no inkling that by late after-



noon I would be leaving,” Ghani told BBC radio.

His remarks conflicted with other accounts.

Former President Hamid Karzai told the Associated Press in an interview earlier this month that Ghani's departure scuttled the opportunity for government negotiators, includ-

ing himself and peace council chairman Abdullah Abdullah, to reach an 11th-hour agreement with the Taliban, who had committed to staying outside the capital.

After calling the government defense minister Bismillah Khan, the interior minister and police chief and discovering all had fled the capital, Karzai said he invited the Taliban into Kabul “to protect the population so that the country, the city doesn't fall into chaos and the unwanted elements who would probably loot the country, loot shops”.

But Ghani in his radio interview with British General Sir Nick Carter, former chief of defence staff, said he fled “to prevent the destruction of Kabul”, claiming two rival Taliban fac-

tions were bearing down on the city and were ready to enter and wage a bitter battle for control. There was no

evidence upon the Taliban entry of the rival factions Ghani referred to.

The insurgent force quickly took control of the palace and according to humanitarian aid workers, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they wanted to speak privately, and who were there at the time, the Taliban moved to protect their compounds.

Still, the Taliban's entry into the capital was met with widespread fear and a deep longing by many to flee their desperately poor homeland despite billions of international money over the 20 years the US-backed governments had been in power.

Ghani in his interview denied widespread accusations that he left Afghanistan with a cache of stolen money. The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko has been tasked with investigating those allegations.

US Woman Tests Positive For Covid Mid-Flight, Isolates For 5 Hours In Bathroom

**NEW YORK:** A US woman was quarantined in an aeroplane bathroom for three hours after testing positive for Covid halfway through a flight from Chicago to Iceland, according to media reports.

Marisa Fotieo, a teacher from Michigan, said her throat began to hurt halfway through the trip on December 19 so she went to the bathroom to perform a rapid Covid test which confirmed she was infected, WABC-TV reported.

Before the flight, Fotieo told CNN she took two PCR tests and about five rapid tests, all of which came back negative. But about an hour and a half into the flight, Fotieo started to feel a sore throat.

“The wheels started turning in my brain and I thought, ‘OK, I'm



going to just go take a test.’ It was going to make me feel better,” Fotieo said. “Immediately, it came back positive.”

Fotieo is fully vaccinated and has received the booster. She tests consistently since she works with an unvaccinated population. When she got her results in the aeroplane

bathroom, over the Atlantic Ocean, she said she started to panic.

“The first flight attendant I ran into was Rocky. I was hysterical, I was crying,” Fotieo said. “I was nervous for my family who I just had dinner with. I was nervous for the other people on the plane. I was nervous for myself.” **PTI**



## Hashmat Ali Khan Given Warm Farewell On Retirement



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director General, Hospitality and Protocol Department, Hashmat Ali Khan was on Friday given a warm send-off on attaining superannuation after serving the Jammu and Kashmir government for forty years.

Khan dedicated his services to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir on various fronts which include posting with Governor, Chief Ministers, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Secretary, an official spokesperson said.

Khan, he said, began his career in the year 1982 and held various important posts and assignments and as expected the officer delivered the best of his experience and worked hard to refine the existing setup particularly during his postings in Hospitality and Protocol Department.

"The entire Hospitality and Protocol Department benefited from the Hashmat Ali's dynamic leadership and passion for both Administrative and Practical

reforms for the betterment of the Departmental assets and employees also," the official spokesperson said.

"The smooth functioning of the Department which includes supervision of numerous VVIP parties, Visits, Conferences, National Functions etc during his tenure is evidence that Sh. Hashmat Ali Khan made it a priority to give generously of his time & experience simply to add the excellence to these occasions," he added.

Meanwhile, a farewell function was held in Banquet hall Srinagar in which all departmental officers and officials bid farewell to the retiring officer.

Reyaz Ahmed Malik, Joint Director, Hospitality and Protocol, Kashmir presided over the function and various officers which include Muneeb Umar, Assistant Director (central), Sadat Iqbal, Assistant Director (Kashmir), Thakur Anand Sen, Accounts Officer were present on this occasion.

## Mehta Directs RDD To Speed Up Execution Of Works

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday directed the Rural Development Department to gear up to meet annual capex targets for sustainable, people-centric development in the rural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehta made this observation while reviewing the Capex of the department in which Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development Department and other senior officers of the department were present, an official spokesperson said.

The Chief Secretary, he said, directed the department to ensure that tendering is followed in all works in the department and all administratively approved and technical sanctioned works are allotted expeditiously in a transparent manner.

"Dr. Mehta directed the department to meet the target of 30000 works under capex and saturate all the eligibility cases under PMAY-G with first installment by the end of the current fiscal year," he said.

"The Chief Secretary directed the department to cover all villages under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) during the current year besides targeting 4 lakh Mahila Kissan under Mahila Kissan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana Scheme (MKSPS) in the next year for creating sustainable livelihood options for women in the rural areas," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the Commissioner/Secretary, RDD in her presentation informed that the ongoing departmental works both in the category

of non convergence and convergence works will be completed during the current fiscal year.

He said it was further informed that Rs. 40 Cr have been sanctioned during the year 2021-22 for the construction of residential buildings of DDCs/BDCs and all efforts will be made to complete the 68 works taken up during the current year.

"Giving details of MGNREGA works, it was informed that 86 % of the released funds have been utilized and 215 lakh person days have been generated during the current year," he added.

Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, the official spokesperson said that the department informed that although 69161 houses out of 137986 houses have been constructed till now, all out efforts will be made to meet the annual target by March end next year.

He said under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), it was noted that 98% expenditure has been made under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) and 10636 IHHLs and 322 community sanitary complexes (CSCs) have been constructed so far during the current fiscal year.

"MD.SLRM Informed that under UMEED Scheme, 6810 Self Help Groups have been mobilized against the target of 11000 Self Help Groups (SLGs) and 91.48 % expenditure has been incurred during the current fiscal year," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary directed the department to prepare a compendium of fully functional 3000 Panchayat Ghars with geo-tagged photographs.



## Border Residents Return To Fields After Two Decades

Observer News Service

**KATHUA:** Jammu and Kashmir UT administration has brought smiles and new hopes to border residents of Hiranagar sector by facilitating them to cultivate land beyond the border fence abandoned two decades back.

The happy faces of farmers of the border belt of Hiranagar was a much anticipated outcome for the administration of Jammu & Kashmir as it has been putting in its concerted efforts to bring cultivation back on farmland along the International Border, an official spokesperson said Friday.

With the breakthrough efforts of the administration, he said, the farmers finally returned to their abandoned land together around 150 acres for the first time in 20 years, paving the way for a new era of prosperity for the border dwellers of Hiranagar of Kathua district.

"Pertinently, over 5000 acres of fertile land of farmers along the International Border spread across 22 border villages from Paharpur to Londi in Hiranagar sector remained fallow for two decades due to frequent firing/shelling from the Pakistan side hampering farmers financially. Besides, posing a serious disadvantage/threat to BSF (Border Security Forces) as the luxurious growth of weed in uncultivated land will obstruct the vigil on the intruders," he said.

As a Confidence Building Measure to restore the stalled farming activity, the official spokesperson said that UT administration made a restoration plan under which Agriculture Department with the help of BSF authorities roped in Bullet Proof Tractors and other logistics and undertook the herculean task of clearing weeds in area majorly wild weeds (Sarkanda) growth.

"After days of hard work to clear weeds, rounds of tilling in almost barren land, around 90 acres of land was successfully cultivated by sowing wheat crop. This attempt by the authorities yielded a produce of 185 quintals of Wheat as a reward of their efforts to make a congenial atmosphere for farming activity," he said.

"Soon after the ceasefire was announced by both the sides in February this year, the administration started mulling over the idea of putting the left out fallow land to productive use by encouraging farmers to cultivate their land themselves this time," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the UT administration made concerted efforts to bring farmers on board and held several round of meetings with stakeholders and all their issues were discussed, deliberated and addressed systematically as the farmers of the neighboring country are cultivating up to zero line on their side.

He said that the idea of bringing cultivation back in border farmland initially received a cold response from the farming community as they were reluctant owing to uncertainty and apprehension regarding ceasefire violation from the Pakistani side.

"The team from the Agriculture and Revenue department was detailed to provide all support to the farmers under the security of BSF authorities. A framework was also devised to ensure smooth access to the farmers on the Zero line who were reeling under the constant threat of shelling from across the border," he added.

Responding to the concerns raised by the farming community regarding the demarcation of the abandoned fields, the official spokesperson said that District Administration Kathua deputed teams of Revenue De-

partment to take up the task of demarcation putting their concerns to rest.

He said that the farmers plough their fertile fields and started sowing wheat crop up to Zero Line across the fencing on Indo-Pak International Border.

"Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Yadav and BSF Commandant, Atul Shah accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua Vijay Upadhyaya visited Border out Post (BoP) Chandwan on Forward Line on IB and began the sowing of wheat crops on Zero Line," he said.

He further said that the farmers in large numbers started cultivation of wheat crop after the district administration, Kathua and BSF extended them full support of free seed and fertilizers, removed the bushes and leveled the land. The BSF authorities gave them full security cover to start cultivation.

The official spokesperson quoted the Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Yadav as saying that under the direction of Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, the administration provided all logistic support to farmers to encourage them to cultivate their fields on Forward Line. All additional support of seed, fertilizer and tractors has been given to farmers, he added. He said "We have a target to cultivate nearly 247 acres (100 hectares) of land this season and the rest of the area would be covered later on.

"Although the proposals regarding cultivation of Lemon Grass, Aloe Vera etc were put forth by the administration as they require minimum efforts on part of the farmers but farming community was of the view that contemporary rabi and kharif crops shall be best suited as far as its management, marketing and selling is concerned," he said.

## DAK Warns Against Crowding On New Year Celebrations

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With the threat of Omicron variant looming large in Kashmir valley, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday warned against crowding on New Year celebrations.

"People are urged to avoid gatherings on New Year to prevent the spread of highly transmissible Omicron variant in the valley," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"Gatherings increase your

risk of contracting the virus and spreading it in the community," he said.

Dr Hassan said let us not take chances with our own health and health of others by creating easy opportunity for the virus to spread.

"People should avoid new year parties and gatherings to protect themselves and their loved ones," he said.

"We cannot be complacent. We are not out of woods yet. Covid is far from over and we must not lower our guard," said

Dr Nisar.

"If people are not careful and don't act responsibly, the situation will spin out of control," he said.

The DAK President said if we want to go back to normal in near future, we need to impose self-restrictions. And the most important is to avoid crowding.

"If we can limit our social gatherings, we can successfully create a deterrent against the spread of infection to a large extent," he said.

## Pole Reviews Progress On Semi Ring Road Project

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Friday convened a meeting here to review the progress on the Semi Ring road project, tree cutting and other issues.

The Meeting was attended in person by Joint Director Geology and Mining, representative of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, District Mineral Officer Srinagar, Chief Project Manager, NKC Projects Pvt. Ltd, Site Engineer NHAI and Collector PWD, while Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Pulwama, Baramulla and Budgam attended the meeting through Video Conferencing, an official spokesperson said Friday.

At the outset, he said, the DCs of Baramulla, Pulwama and Budgam gave details of the land

identified for the project in their respective districts.

He said that the Div Com directed the concerned to prefer private land or purely proprietary land for the project and identify possible sellers.

Enquiring about the status of tree cutting, the official spokesperson said that DCs informed that the most of the tree cutting stands completed, however document processing of the rest of the trees is going on.

"The Div Com directed the officers to conduct processing of the documents of tree cutting forthwith and ensure cutting of rest of the trees on war-footing basis," he said.

"He also instructed the concerned officers to sort out all the issues prior to the next meeting on the subject," he added.

NATIONAL LEVEL ATAL RANKING

## IUST Ranked 21st For Innovation



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora has been ranked at 21st number among the Govt. & Govt. aided universities (and deemed to-be universities) at national level in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA) 2021.

ARIIA is a Government of India initiative under the Ministry of Education (MOE) and is implemented through AICTE and MOE's Innovation Cell.

Calling it a major achievement for the IUST, Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo said, "IUST's focus on promoting scientific innovation, entre-

preneurship and research has helped the university to achieve this commendable feat among 1438 Indian institutions which participated in the ARIIA 2021 ranking."

He congratulated the entire faculty for the achievement and expressed his gratitude towards the UT administration for their continued support towards infrastructure development in the University.

Despite double the number of institutes participating in the ARIIA-2021 as compared to second edition of ARIIA (2020), IUST has significantly improved its ranking and has been listed at 8th rank in the band "PERFORMER".

## Man Shot At Over Land Dispute In Poonch

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A man was injured after being fired upon with a 12 bore rifle over a land dispute in Surankote area of Poonch district.

The accused is on the run even as the "weapon of offense" has been seized by the police, officials said.

They said that one person namely Mohsin Ali Shah allegedly fired on Mazamal Hussais Shah with his 12 bore rifle on some land dispute at village

sangla in Surankote. Mazamal suffered injuries in belly and his family shifted him at SDH Surankote, they said. After first aid, they said, he was referred to GMC Rajouri.

SHO Surankote Niaz Ahmed confirmed the firing by Mohsin on Mazamal and told GNS that weapon has been recovered. "A case has been registered and further investigations are underway," he said, adding, "Efforts are underway to arrest the accused who is on the run," the police officer added. (GNS)

## 2 Drivers Held For Illegal Extraction Of Minerals

**SRINAGAR:** Two tipper drivers were arrested in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district for allegedly extracting of sand and bajri.

Two arrested people include Mehraj ud din Guroo, Sajad Ahmad Rather of Gangerhuma village.

The duo were indulging in illegal extraction of minor minerals Sand/Bajri and further unauthorisedly transporting it within the district. A team headed by SHO police station Ganderbal seized two tippers.

The trippers were loaded with illegally extracted sand and Bajri from Nullah Sindh, Ganderbal near Waheedpura Gangerhuma.

In this connection case FIR No.232/2021 under sections 447, 379 IPC & 21 MMRD Act stands registered at police station Ganderbal and further investigation has been taken up.

ARIIA RANKINGS ON INNOVATIONS

## NIT Srinagar Gets 'Promising' Category

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) has been recognized band "Promising" under the category of Institute of National Importance & Central Universities/CFTIs (Technical) in Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA) 2021.

It is the flagship program of the Ministry of Education, Govt of India for which the final report was released on Thursday. This year ARIIA 2021 classified participating institutions into two major categories; Technical and Non-technical.

The technical categories were ranked under 5 sub-categories including

CFTIs, Central University, & Institute of National Importance in which NIT Srinagar has been recognized band "Promising".

The Atal Ranking of Institutions on ARIIA was launched in 2018 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, Government of India, announced the results of the Third Edition of ARIIA Rankings on 29th December 2021.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal congratulated the institute's faculty, students, and non-teaching staff for making the institute's administration proud by achieving a good rank in ARIIA rankings.

"Despite various challenges on the ground, NIT Srinagar has been featured in National Importance & Central Universities/CFTIs (Technical) category in-band "Promising. It is a proud movement for all of us," he said.

Director NIT said they have performed well in all parameters and will continue to provide quality education. He attributed the contribution of all faculty colleagues, especially the role of Dr. Saad Parvez, Head Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IIEDC) NIT Srinagar.

Despite various challenges, Dr Saad played a vital role in the overall process. We will continue to support young entre-

preneurs in the region, he said.

In his message, Register NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari also congratulated all faculty members, non-teaching staff and students for getting significant progress in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021.

"NIT Srinagar is committed to quality and skillful education. We will not compromise on it. In the future, Institute will further work hard so that it will be ranked among the top NITs in the entire country, he said.

Prof. Bukhari also appreciated the work of Prof. Saad and his entire team. It is a proud moment for all of us, he said.



**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tel: 01933-247954/247955 Website: www.iust.ac.in

### Math Festival at IUST

Department of Mathematical Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, is organizing a **MATH FESTIVAL** on **12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022** at 10:30 am for students of class 9<sup>th</sup> to class 12<sup>th</sup>. Desirous students and accompanying teachers can register to join the event. For registration and other details, kindly visit university website: [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in).

**Dated: 31-12-2021** **Head, Department of Mathematical Sciences**

**Request for Dasti Quotes , for supply of printed stationery item of "Account Opening Form for Resident Individuals"**

J&K Bank Central stationery Deptt; Nowgam, invites Dasti Quotes from local printers/vendors for printing & supply of 2.50 lac Bank "Account Opening Form for Resident Individuals". The interested printers/vendors can obtain Dasti Quote RFQ Document from central stationery Deptt; Nowgam during Business hours and can submit their Quotes(Bids) from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan,2022 to 8<sup>th</sup> Jan,2022 till 17.00 hours in a sealed envelope, addressed to In Charge Central Stationery Department, Nowgam Bye Pass Srinagar.  
Date: 30.12.2021

DIPK-NB-6283/21



# 2021 KASHMIR IN REWIND

## ECONOMY In Remind

Ejaz Ayoub

Economic Analyst,  
BFSI Industry Expert  
And Researcher

J&K's economy in 2021 refused to show any healthy signs of recovery. Instead, the year witnessed a series of business-sentiment destroying events in the form of pandemic related lockdowns, frequent encounters, civilian killings, migrant labour exodus, global recession, and unpopular Govt. policies. The high frequency consumer indicators like inflation, unemployment, credit offtake and consumer demand painted a very grim picture of the region's economy. The primary sector, which is largely dependent on income from apples, walnuts and saffron, witnessed around 30-50% annual price corrections, resulting in shrinking of the agrarian income by a substantial margin. Trade, hotels & restaurants, and transport which absorbs around one third of the region's workforce underwent a deep contraction in wake of frequent lockdowns and consumer demand slump. These sectors are still way below pre-August 2019 levels. The exodus of migrant workers in the second half of the year, although temporarily, did create a labour force shortage in the secondary sector (construction and manufacturing) which supports over a quarter of UT's GSDP. Global slowdown continued to create severe stress in the region's foreign remittances (from people working outside the country) and the export income. Pertinently, over 3 lakh artisans are directly linked to the incomes from the export sector.

Extreme and consistent inflationary pressures and very high unemployment continued to kill consumer demand, catalyse poverty, and harm the socio-economy of the region. In response, the Govt's policy has been primarily focussed on security and narrative management. Despite repeated SOS calls from various trade and industry bodies, the Govt. has preferred to look the other way and let the grim economic situation self-correct by some divine intervention.

## POLITICS In Remind

Riyaz Wani

Political Editor,  
Kashmir Observer

2021 has ended on a peaceful note, more or less like 2020 had. That is if can the call the deafening silence prevailing in Kashmir as peace. Both years followed a more or less similar trajectory, starting with dire predictions of public unrest but concluding normally. An undercurrent of unease, or a public perception of it, continued to linger. But as for the militancy, there was no change, despite the killings of around 400 militants in the last two years. The



THE EXODUS OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, although temporarily, did create a labour force shortage in the secondary sector (construction and manufacturing) which supports over a quarter of UT's GSDP. Global slowdown continued to create severe stress in the region's foreign remittances (from people working outside the country) and the export income. Pertinently, over 3 lakh artisans are directly linked to the incomes from the export sector



THE TWO SUCCESSIVE YEARS OF SOCIAL peace have hardly reduced the uncertainty of the situation in the new year. The predictions for 2022 can hardly be any different. Once again we stare at a year that holds the prospect of a potential turmoil. It seems unnatural not to expect it, even while the two years of so-called normalcy should have brought us around this expectation.

number of active militants in Kashmir hovers close to 200, the same it has been over the last six years.

The two successive years of social peace have hardly reduced the uncertainty of the situation in the new year. The predictions for 2022 can hardly be any different. Once again we stare at a year that holds the prospect of a potential turmoil. It seems unnatural not to expect it, even while the two years of so-called normalcy should have brought us around this expectation.

This brings up the question as to what is it about Kashmir that makes it compulsively abnormal, uncertain and unpredictable at the best of times. Or what is it that keeps the state precariously teetering on the edge? The answer to this is that the underpinnings of the political situation remain unchanged while narratives are tweaked here and there, sometimes invented and enforced.

This doesn't mean Kashmir hasn't changed. It has and very profoundly so after the August 2019 revocation of Article 370. The fallout of the far-reaching constitutional makeover of J&K is still playing itself out. It is difficult to see where it will end.

## COVID-19 AND HEALTH In Remind

Dr Parvaiz Koul

Director SKIMS

It was a year of highs and lows. Highs in the sense that we had the roll out of the vaccine. We had a credible health care team who actually went out and vaccinated people, claiming to have achieved the feat of giving the first dose to 100 % of high risk groups and subsequently giving the 2nd dose to more than 70% of the population. This is a clear high in our performance against covid.

However, there were lows as well, considering that we had a severe wave of delta variant during the initial part of the year. We faced a lot of hospitalizations and a lot of deaths happened across the country, and J&K was not spared either. Then there was a lull, one which continues till now, with the imminent fear of a new variant, i.e. omicron. My hope is that it doesn't turn out the same way as it is for countries like the USA and UK. The US has seen a record number of cases nearing 500 thousands per day- which is unimaginable in India. If we have that kind of numbers, it will be ten times more than that, and that we cannot afford. Even if there is a small percentage of the cases that require hospitalization, they will overwhelm the hospitals, even with a lesser number of deaths. They will not only drain the already drained out resources but also put pressure on non-covid diseases which will get side

lined and caught in the back burner.

So, that is how 2021 panned out for us.

If we look ahead, it is a very scary scenario in the west right now. In India as well, in some parts, omicron is raising its head menacingly. However, I hope it doesn't come to us in the same way. The silver lining is that a good number of our regular population seems to be immunized. They seem to have received a 'passive vaccination' because there is a high percentage of sero positivity even in children, who did not receive vaccination and were largely asymptomatic. So, this is a silver lining and this might hopefully help us in obviating getting mauled by omicron.

## MENTAL HEALTH In Remind

Dr Arshid Hussain

Prominent Psychiatrist

2021 saw Mental Health mainstreaming like never before, world over call for action for better mental health grew shriller and louder with every passing day. Covid Pandemic stretched the mental health needs of the whole population and vulnerable people succumbed. While mental Health needs kept on increasing, governments and organisations tried to make mental health more available, accessible and acceptable to people. How far they will succeed will depend on their long term commitment to make mental health for all a reality.

Kashmir has been traditionally a low drug addiction zone only instances of substance use have been socially approved charas takia (cannabis pubs) usually visited by people with comorbid serious mental health illnesses like schizophrenia and BPAD and licenced use of opioids by some people for severe pain and other illnesses. In 1980s, when whole of the subcontinent was in opioid boom and Kashmir was in transit for most of the opium coming from Afghanistan, drug addiction never became a public health issue .During that decade, our hospital saw around 1000 patients in 10 yrs; 90 percent of them cannabis, 10 patients of opioid use.

In the last 1 year, the institute saw more than 4000 patients with substance use disorders with opioids as the commonest substance of dependence. In this context, Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences-Kashmir, at the behest of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) framed the first-ever Drug De-addiction policy which is based on the core principles of Prevention, Integration and Community participation to combat the epidemic of substance use in a low-economy conflict zone. In this policy, Demand reduction is the soul of the policy in-

stead of harm reduction. The policy promotes the "Integrated Model" of de-addiction centres which encourages centres to be integrated with the main hospitals and utilises families in providing care. In addition, this concept ensures quick and efficient management of drug related emergencies as well as treatment of comorbid medical conditions, hence treating the patients in a holistic manner rather than in parts.

We are hopeful as we have set up 13 Addiction Treatment Facilities in UT of J&K, all of them in various district hospitals. There is also work going on with Directorate of Education and Social Welfare to spread awareness and help in primordial prevention of Drug abuse.

## GENDER In Remind

Tooba Towfiq

Opinion Editor,  
Kashmir Observer

Women in Kashmir have been at a curious intersection of different identities and issues. Living in a conflict zone is inadvertently one factor that dictates many experiences of women here. This year, like many decades of decay, saw instances of mourning and vulnerability – with women situated in the midst of the spectacle of violence. This has forever delayed the possibility of having a fair access to basic rights that women in other parts of the world enjoy easily. The government's ironfisted attitude towards criticism has silenced many young voices especially those of opinionated women.

At the level of other data points, Kashmir saw some concerning trends especially in the context of reproductive health. Fertility rates have been declining and there are alarming reports about some of the reproductive decisions that women here are having to take. J&K ranks second in C-section surgeries in India. In Jammu and Kashmir (82.1%) women undergo C-section with private hospitals hosting most of these. This irony of access and ignorance at private hospitals needs to be evaluated and addressed immediately. Women deserve to be guided towards better reproductive decisions in order for them to have a healthy and productive life.

The covid-19 pandemic has also strained the domestic roles of women like never before. Women, especially those married, have had their personal space curtailed due to them having to stay at home and ace domestic as well as professional roles.

However, with timeless grit, in 2021 we saw Kashmiri women braving through the crisis that the year threw at them. The year saw women being vintage resilient. Survival under extraordinary circumstances such as ours is in itself a huge feat. However, women here kept making power moves at home, in education, business and every role possible. 2022 may not be the year where the world pays attention to women in Kashmir but it will be yet another year when Kashmiri women will take care of themselves and rise to every occasion as an epitome of power. Here's to us!

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobservers.net

## REPLAY: BEST OF KO OPINIONS

J&K's Unfolding Economic Black Hole

Ejaz Ayoub | October 1, 2021

What the Geelani's Death Foretells

Riyaz Wani | September 2, 2021

Will the Taliban Spillover Reach Kashmir?

Muhammad Tahir | August 23 2021

Kashmiri Childhood – A Collateral?

Tooba Towfiq | November 19, 2021

Rahul Gandhi in Kashmir: Ignoring the Elephant In Room

Altaf Hussain | August 11, 2021

An Arithmetical Miracle!

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Imported Tricks on Vintage Peace

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Ind vs Pak: Dear Kashmiri Students, Hold Back Your Emotions

Nasir Khuehami and Younus Rashid

| October 23,2021

Fatal Ambition

R. Raj Rao | May 3, 2021

Gendered Vaccination: Less Women are Getting Vaccinated in Kashmir

Haris Rashid | May 6, 2021



REWIND  
2021

Most Memorable Music Videos Of 2021

Shoaib Mohammad

This year saw an incredible surge of music video production and viewership, maybe the most we have ever seen. The Kashmiri landscape for music has evolved to be the most diverse and inclusive, with the genres ranging from traditional, folk, soulful, alternative rock to hip-hop, rap, and contemporary pop. We saw productions in each one of these genres, equipped with impressive cinematography and direction.

Down Town  
By Musaib Bhat



Released in the middle of the year, this music video instantly went viral taking its place as one of the most viewed music videos of the year with a whopping 4.6 million view count. Musaib Bhat, who originally made comedy videos on social media platforms tried his talent of songwriting and singing this year, releasing three music videos: Gulalo, Khaak and Downtown. While the other two were fairly received by the viewers, it was 'Downtown' which captivated the public the most. Its idiomatic yet witty and charming use of lyrics rhymed in a catchy beat, choreographed in a tone of carefree jubilation is what sets it apart. In its carefree tone, centered on Shehr-e-khaas, it very subtly mixes its 'brotherly love' and 'maechar' with some of its issues. "Yeti haspatal dah, yeti ni ambulance kanh... yeti lakit makan dah, yetni marriage hall kanh", "yeti galyo manz gypsy nachan... yeti mashidan kulf lagan..." and so on. The catchphrases employed are very colloquial and reflective of the Downtown spirit, the stock Kashmiri names with the 'kak' suffix, the visible reverie on all the 'kedal' names reverb in the video and perhaps the most famous line of the song, "Mouji mouji suin kyah ronnuh suen mea ronmai sabiz haak, daak govai dushmanan myanen, ath ditai che zor'i paak", are all



THIS IS MUNEEM'S world where his ideas are hidden in the abstract eloquence of his artistic mastery

Picture credits: Words of Alif Website

RELEASED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR, THIS MUSIC VIDEO INSTANTLY WENT viral taking its place as one of the most viewed music videos of the year with a whopping 4.6 million view count. Its idiomatic yet witty and charming use of lyrics rhymed in a catchy beat, choreographed in a tone of carefree jubilation is what sets it apart. In its carefree tone, centered on Shehr-e-khaas, it very subtly mixes its 'brotherly love' and 'maechar' with some of its issues.

amusing, entertaining and etched to the tongues to the viewers. This music video is a package of genuine entertainment, laughter mixed with a tint of subtle and general reflection of downtown.

Dilgeer (Thok Mut Chum Shah) By Alif

Mohammad Muneem's initiative 'Alif', a music, poetry and performance band is known for its quality content and productions. Mohammad Muneem, who won the 8th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival back in 2018 started releasing his new album "Siyah" this year in four parts. The first part, "Haal" was released in June, to which the song "Dilgeer" belongs. The album is centered on Muneem's Idea of "Siyah", 'darkness' - "the darkness where everything occurs, emerging through and creating light. This is the source of all strength and light" as told in the album's description. "Dilgeer" is

a profound mix of poetry, visual analogies and contemporary music. The song starts with "Dilgeer chum na, che naad akh so-zakh na" - "My heart grieves, won't you call for me". The tone of helplessness and longing is carried throughout the song, except for two parts, first when the speaker directly quotes the answer from the authority he talks to and second when a totally different and objective voice speaks, in the traditional manner of 'wanwun'. While all this is being relayed, we see a more interesting thing unfolding in the visual side. The whole video has very specific and abstract details which give a potential of multiple interpretations. There are two characters, the older self and the younger self, both bare-footed on a broken plank in Dal Lake. The younger one comes in with a suitcase which contains a pair of scissors he uses to cut the hair of the older self, quite irregularly. The scene continues as the older self's hair is reduced to a bare minimum and the camera moves away from them as they stare coldly into it together. What exactly is the meaning of this? There are no easy answers. This is Muneem's world where his ideas are hidden in the abstract eloquence

of his artistic mastery. Unlike the most popular trends in music, Muneem isn't memorable for just the beats and beams but most notably for his profound artistic mastery at poetry, composition and script-writing, all of which are very evident from this music video. Muneem stands among the contemporary artists of the valley who carry the legacy of Urdu and Kashmiri poetry forward along with quality script-writing. Dilgeer's positive reception this year stands to testify to it.

Subhik Waav By Noor Mohammad And Ali Saffuddin

One of the iconic compositions blending the traditional with the contemporary produced by Teamwork Arts. Noor Mohammad, whose rise to fame

gave a fresh revival of sorts to the traditional music, sings a popular folk piece "Subhik Waav" which draws inspiration from a naat written by the 15th central Asian poet Maulana Jami. This is then coupled with Ali Saffudin's display of guitar proficiency while the saaran and Rabab accompany it in beautiful harmony. The video scored a hit of over 300k views in a matter of months and has appealed to young and old alike, just like Noor's duet with Muneem did back in 2018. This blending of styles, and along with it an attempt to bridge the generation gap, in a genuine, respectful manner which eloquently appeals to people is what makes it historic and memorable in the collective memory of the people.

Qurban By Red FM J&K

Released on the eve of Eid, this piece was dedicated to all the healthcare workers in view of the ongoing pandemic. Written by Asif Tarek Bhat, composed and produced by Ali Saffudin, this piece featured the prime talent of Kashmir. Faheem, Rather, Huzair, Tanzeeb, Ali, all sang the tributary lines in communion with Umar's Santoor. The video showcased the doctors and healthcare workers in action as the lines of their commemoration were sung in serious dedication: "hakeeman hind, tabeeban hind chi yim ehsaan asi peth, chi yim rozaan karaan qorbaan panun zu jaan asi peth". This music video was a great attempt at vivifying the collective consciousness of people towards the efforts and sacrifices made by the healthcare workers at a time when despair blighted our minds.

Ahmer - 'I.D.',  
By Ahmer

From one of the most prominent hip-hop artists of the valley, Ahmer, this short music video is an explosive and direct exploration of the psychological trauma suffered by Kashmiris on a daily basis. 'I.D.', a relentless attack on the blissful ignorance of the aggressions suffered by the local community, is produced by Delhi-based musician Lacuna and brought to life by the graphics of Anis Wani, one of Kashmir's most intriguing young visual artists. This music video, both visually and lyrically provides the most direct and explicit accounts of sufferings of an average Kashmiri.

CREATORS WITH PURPOSE



KO Web Desk

Kashmiri Dictionary

A collective learning endeavor to promote Kashmiri language for Kashmiris across the globe. With a following of more than 15k on Instagram, the initiative enlightens its followers with simple and succinct ways to learn the basics of Kashmiri language in writing as well as speech. It also educates its followers about nomenclature of common day things.

Zehen Kashmir

An awareness campaign for emotional and mental wellbeing for Kashmiri by Dr Najmun Riyaz. A US based psychiatrist and coach. Zehen is a fairly recent initia-

MYON KASHMIR IS A brand built on the thought of reviving the traditional art and craft of Kashmir by giving it a modern touch and making it accessible as well as relatable, globally.

tive but is being received with love for the enlightening videos that Dr Najmun shares about topics like domestic violence, anxiety, drug abuse, self esteem issues, relationship well being and stress management.

Myon Kashmir

The brand takes the traditional design history of the Valley for a spin, and fits it right into the global urban aesthetics. Myon Kashmir is a brand built on the thought of reviving the traditional art and craft of Kashmir by giving it a modern touch and making it accessible as well as relatable, globally.

Yaqeen Sikander

A psychotherapist and performance coach, Yaqeen Sikander is popular among Kashmiri youngsters for his videos about mental health.

Kashmir Food Fusion

A culinary channel which is widely popular for Kashmiri cuisine recipes. The channel promotes Kashmiri culinary specialities and is a go-to for anyone willing to try their hand at cooking Kashmiri beauties.

RESILIENCE IN ACTION



A KASHMIRI GIRL PEELS the bark off boiled wicker twigs which are used to make Kangris and baskets in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Photo by Faisal Bashir





# Children Confront Peers But Varies Across Cultures: Study

A new study has found that children globally will challenge peers if they break the 'rules', but how they challenge them varies between cultures.

The study has been published in the 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Journal'.

Led by the University of Plymouth, UK and Freie Universitat Berlin, Germany, the study analysed the behaviour of 376 children aged five to eight from eight societies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.

The children were each taught to play a block sorting game - with half taught to sort the blocks by colour, and half taught to sort them by shape. They were then put into pairs, with one playing the game and the other observing.

The research showed that observers intervened more often when the other child appeared to play by the wrong set of rules. The more a child intervened, the more likely their partner was to change their behaviour. The study also showed that the type of intervention varied - with children from rural areas using imperative verbal protest more than children from urban areas.

The study was the first to analyse children's behaviour in challenging norm violations across cultures worldwide, and added to our understanding of how norms allowed people to achieve coordination and cooperation.

Lead author Dr Patricia Kanngiesser from the University of Plymouth said, "What is new about this study is that we observed children's behaviours and travelled worldwide to do so - we didn't ask children what they intended to do, but measured what they actually did in real-life social interactions."

"It was also really interesting to see that how the children corrected each other varied by location. To our surprise, children from rural small-scale communities protested as much or even more than children from urban settings. We assumed that, because everyone knows everyone else in small scale communities, direct interventions would be less common, as people could rely on more indirect ways such as reputation to ensure compliance with rules. But we actually found the opposite to be true," she added.

"The next step is to explore further what motivates children to intervene and how they learn to intervene. For example, do they learn from adults or older children around them how to react to rule breaking?" she concluded.

# 5 Things Research From Twins Taught Us About Health, Behaviour

**Agencies**

Researchers often compare the differences between identical and fraternal twins to better understand health and behaviour.

The first major insight is that genes and environments almost always combine to influence our life trajectory. Sometimes the largest factor is genetics (think genetic disorders). Sometimes it's environment (think infections). Mostly, it's somewhere in between.

Such studies have accelerated the search for genes and environmental agents that cause or trigger diseases. This has helped us understand, treat and even prevent diseases. As twin research has matured, it has progressed to addressing important questions about when and how diseases originate.

So what has research from twins taught us about specific diseases and the human body?

**1. Smoking increases the risk of bone fracture**

Most studies linking environment and disease are complicated by genetic factors. To get around this, we can work with twins who differ in environmental factors.

One such Australian study from 1994 compared 20 pairs of female twins in which only one of each pair was a long-term, heavy smoker.

The researchers found smoking one pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years resulted in sufficient loss in bone density to cause osteoporosis. This doubled the risk of having a bone fracture.

This provided compelling evidence that smoking causes osteoporosis and an increased risk of bone fractures.

**2. Events around the time of birth are not a major cause of epilepsy**

Epilepsy is a group of disorders where brain activity is abnormal and seizures are the presenting feature. Traditionally, diagnosis was not possible until after a person's first seizure, which can occur at any stage of life, from babies to the elderly.

Twin studies since the 1960s have shown a mix of genes and environment cause epilepsy. However, until the early 1990s, it was assumed that problems during the birthing process were a major cause of epilepsy.

Obstetricians and midwives were often blamed for causing epilepsy. However, a twin study in 1993 did not support a link between minor problems during birth and the later development of epilepsy.

This information has helped doctors and their patients better understand the causes of epilepsy and not necessarily attribute blame to the birthing process.

**3. Identical twins are different under the skin from before birth**

Genetically identical twins nearly always look identical. Yet, at birth, they have already accumulated differences in the structure and function of their genes.

These differences are caused by a mix of chance events and individual experiences in the womb.

The location a fertilised egg implants in the womb is random, but some locations are more favourable to growth. For the subset of identical twins who split before they reach the womb, different locations could create different environments in which a baby develops.

As a result of this or other chance events, around one in six twins differ more than 20% in weight at birth, which may be associated with an increased risk of illness at birth, especially for the smaller twin.

Such individual experiences could also help explain Brazilian twin pairs in which only one child was born with Zika virus infection.

**4. Leukaemia originates before birth**

Changes in the genetic sequence of blood cells can predispose people to develop leukaemia (cancer of the blood).

Such changes are unique to each person but when these changes happened to people used to be a mystery. That was until identical twin children were discovered with leukaemias originating from the same cell.

Lymphocytes (white blood cells) of the immune system shuffle their immune genes at random, making each person genetically unique, even identical twins.

The researchers concluded the leukaemia started in one twin in the womb and spread to the other twin through blood vessels in a shared placenta.

But while the first step towards leukaemia happened before birth, the cancer progression differed among the twins, resulting in leukaemia being diagnosed at different ages.

This provided the first evidence that some leukaemias can lay dormant for years and en-



# Instagram To 'Double Down' On Video, Focus On Reels In 2022: Report

**Agencies**

In a video message, Meta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram's head Adam Mosseri said that the platform will "double down" on video and focus on Reels in the upcoming year.

Mosseri said Instagram will "consolidate all of our video products around Reels and continue to grow that product", Engadget reported on Wednesday.

"We are going to have to rethink what Instagram is because the world is changing quickly and we're going to have to change with it," Mosseri was quoted as saying.

Instagram has been making some changes to how it handles videos in recent months. In October, it killed off the IGTV brand to bring longer-form videos into the main feed. However, users need to tap through to Reels to watch the full video.

For creators, Mosseri said Instagram will introduce more monetisation tools to help them make a living. In addition, he said Instagram will focus on messaging and transparency in 2022.

He noted the platform will double down on its work on controls as well—earlier this month, Instagram announced it will add parental controls in March. A version of the chronological feed will return next year too, the report said.

Mosseri touched on some updates that Instagram made this year centered around giving users more control over their experience. He highlighted features like sensitive content controls, the ability to hide like counts and Hidden Words in direct messages.



PRESS RELEASE

Nehru YUVA Kendra Anantnag organized two days Block level sports meet of block Bijbehara/ Dachnipora at Jablipora on w.e.f 26/12/2021 to 27-12-2021. A large number of students from various sports Club and Mehla Mendals of the Block participated in the various events. Prizes were awarded to the Winners and Runners up teams and Third Places. RNA

PRESS RELEASE

Nehru YUVA Kendra Anantnag organized two days Block level sports meet of block Hiller /Shahabad at HSS Hakura on w.e.f 27/12/2021 to 28-12-2021. A large number of students from various sports Club and Mehla Mendals of the Block participated in the various events. Prizes were awarded to the Winners and Runners up teams and Third Places. RNA

Office Of The Authorized Officer  
(Divisional Forest Officer)  
Kamraj Forest Division, Zangli, Kupwara.  
Ph/Fax No. 01955-253206,  
Email Id forestdivisionkamraj@gmail.com

Extract copy of order passed in case No. 204/2020-21/AO/Kmj titled Forest Department through Range Officer, Kandi Range Sopore Vs Shafi chopan and others.

Thus, perused the record placed on the file, statement of prosecution witnesses & after going through the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, this Court is satisfied & of firm view that the seized vehicle has been used in commission of forest offence for ulterior motives. Therefore, I as Authorized Officer by virtue of powers conferred vide section-52 (3) of Indian Forest Act, 1927 hereby order the confiscation of the seized vehicle tata sumo bearing Reg. No. JK05/6970 loaded with illicit timber of Deodar/Kail sawn 07No\*s = 24.00 Cft's in favour of Forest department through Kamraj Forest Division Zangli Kupwara. The copy of this order be communicated to the Conservator of Forests (K) North Circle Sopore, to the accused or any other person having any interest with the said property & Range officer Kandi Range, Sopore for information & n/action. The copy of this order be also published in two daily news paper having circulation in the UT. Office is directed to consign the file to records after its due completion.

(Authorized Officer)  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Kamraj Forest Division,  
Zangli Kupwara.  
DIPK-16000/21

Office Of The Authorized Officer  
(Divisional Forest Officer)  
Kamraj Forest Division, Zangli, Kupwara.  
Ph/Fax No. 01955-253206,  
Email Id forestdivisionkamraj@gmail.com

Extract copy of order passed in case No. 207/2020-21/AO/Kmj titled Forest Department through Range Officer, Kandi Range Sopore Vs Parvaiz Ganie and others,

Thus, perused the record placed on the file, statement of prosecution witnesses & after going through the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, this Court is satisfied & of firm view that the seized vehicle has been used in commission of forest offence for ulterior motives.

Therefore, I as Authorized Officer by virtue of powers conferred vide section-52 (3) of Indian Forest Act, 1927 hereby order the confiscation of the seized vehicle Maruti Van bearing registration no. JK01C/8241 in favour of Forest department through Kamraj Forest Division Zangli Kupwara. The copy of this order be communicated to the Conservator of Forests (K) North Circle Sopore, to the accused or any other person having any interest with the said property & Range officer Kandi Range, Sopore for information & n/action. The copy of this order be also published in two daily news paper having circulation in the UT. Office is directed to consign The file to records after its due completion.

(Authorized Officer)  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Kamraj Forest Division,  
Zangli Kupwara.  
DIPK-15996/21



Explainer: Why Are So Many Flights Being Canceled?



Agencies

**PARIS:** The forces that have scrambled thousands of flights since Christmas Eve could ease in January, but that's cold comfort to the millions of flyers with New Year's plans.

And if 2021 has taught us anything, it's that 2022 will likely be just as unpredictable. Here's a look at what has mucked up flights for thousands of people this holiday season, and what could happen over the next few weeks.

What happened?

Airlines weren't spared from the spread of the omicron variant, which knocked out flight crews at airlines that had already reduced the size of their workforces following the collapse of air travel in 2020.

The wave of omicron infections arrived at the same time that crowds began to pack airports for holiday travel. Then the Pacific Northwest and other areas were slammed with cold and heavy snowstorms.

The convergence of all three forced airlines to cancel thousands of flights starting on Christmas Eve. As of Thursday afternoon, about 7,800 flights departing from, going to, or within the US have been scratched, according to flight-tracking firm FlightAware. More than 1,100 of those were on Thursday.

The US was not alone. There have been thousands of cancellations abroad. European and Australian airlines report the same logistical issues dealing with Covid-19 and flight crews. Chinese airlines have made up a large percentage of cancellations.

To put that in perspective, most flights were OK. There are nearly 70,000 flights a day, globally, said aviation data provider Cirium.

What might things improve?

The US health officials this week halved guidance to five days of quarantine for asymptomatic Americans who catch the coronavirus. Airline industry experts say that will alleviate the staffing issues that have forced airlines to scratch flights — but the flight attendants unions say they're wary of the change and its effect on worker health. Yet cases of omicron, the fast-spreading variant of the

Covid-19 virus, continue to rise. And that isn't the only problem. It could take up to a week for airlines to fully recover from lingering bad weather, said Jim Hetzel, an expert on airline operations at Cirium.

Getting past the holiday rush will also help. January and February are the year's slowest travel months after the New Year's rush, said Willis Orlando, senior flight expert at Scott's Cheap Flights. "There should be a lot more room for airline to cut routes, reassign pilots and have staff in reserve."

Some airlines have also recognised that the confluence of the holiday rush, omicron and bad weather make it impossible to continue with current schedules.

JetBlue said Wednesday that it was reducing its schedule through mid-January in hopes of giving customers more time to make alternate plans rather than suffer last-minute cancellations — although still more cancellations remain likely.

"We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience that these schedule changes bring," said spokesperson Derek Domrowski. He said crew members are volunteering to work extra hours and managers are pitching in where they're trained to do so.

Alaska Airlines urged flyers who could to reschedule for after Jan. 2, as it was reducing Seattle departures and more cancellations and delays were expected this week. Delta and United spokespeople said they could not predict when operations would normalize.

Was this space of cancellations unusual?

Inclement weather is a sporadic but constant threat to travel in winter. A 2021 rebound in travel, when airlines didn't have enough staff to keep up with demand, led to heavy cancellations and delays earlier this year.

Southwest Airlines struggled in summer and fall because of delays and cancellations, which it blamed on computer problems, staffing shortages and bad weather. American canceled over 1,000 flights over Halloween weekend because of staffing shortages. Delta canceled dozens of flights around Easter this year because of staffing problems. (AP)

No Extension Of ITR Filing Deadline; Over 5.62 Cr Returns For FY21 Filed So Far

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Friday ruled out extending the deadline for filing of ITRs, saying there were no problems faced by taxpayers in filing returns as the total number of returns filed so far is 14 per cent higher than last year's.

As the ITR filing deadline draws to a close, over 5.62 crore returns have been filed till 3 pm, 14 per cent higher than total 4.93 crore filed till December 31 last year.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said ITR filing is going on "very smoothly" and till 3 pm, 5.62 crore returns have already been filed in total.

"Today people have filed more than 20 lakh return which is the highest and in the last one hour, 3.44 lakh returns have been filed. So if returns are being filed in such numbers, I see no reason for anybody to claim (deadline extension)", Bajaj told reporters.



He said as on December 30 last year, 4.83 crore tax returns were filed, compared to 5.43 crore filed till December 30, 2021.

The government has already extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for 2020-21 fiscal year (ended March 2021) by five months till December 31.

"I expect another at least 20-25 lakh returns to come by 12 in

the night... The figures that we were anticipating would have come... There is absolutely no proposal to extend the dates," Bajaj said.

To a query on the glitches on the I-T portal impacting filing, he said "I'm okay (with extension) if the returns were less by 1 crore. But the returns filed is more than last year's... I'm watching the figures every hour... ITR filings are going up to 3 lakh (per hour)".

No Food Products Shall Carry Trans-Fatty Acids More Than 2% From Today: FSSAI

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, Sha-keel-Ur-Rehman, Friday held a meeting with manufacturers of oil, bakery, namkeen and sweets regarding use of Trans-Fatty Acid (TFA) in manufacturing/ processing of food products to the permissible limits.

Pertinently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has restricted the permissible amount of industrial Trans-Fatty Acid (TFA) content in food products to 2 per cent and Food Business Operators have to comply with the said regulation from January 01, 2022.

Trans-Fats are associated with increased risk of heart attacks as well as death from coronary heart

disease. In 2018, WHO called for elimination of industrially-produced trans-fat from the food supply chain by 2023. Trans-fats are largely present in partially hydrogenated vegetable fats/oils, vanaspati, margarine and bakery shortenings and can also be found in baked and fried foods.

Commissioner sensitized all the stakeholders regarding the subject and sought their cooperation towards ensuring that safe and wholesome food is provided to the general public as a shared responsibility.

He stressed on the food business operators to comply with Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure use of quality and safe edible oil besides upgrading their

in-house testing facilities to meet the quality parameters mandated under Food laws. The FBO were approached that 100% subsidy is forwarded for up gradation and setting up of food laboratories.

Deputy Commissioner, Food Safety Jammu, made a detailed presentation highlighting the findings of the survey report on trans-fat and edible oil conducted by the FSSAI in collaboration with Food and Drugs Administration, J&K.

The members of Food Business Associations assured full cooperation to the department in this regard. Deputy Commissioner, Food Safety, Jammu, Assistant Commissioners, Food Safety department Jammu, Samba and Kathua were also present in the meeting.

India's Current Account Slips Into Deficit In Q2

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** India's current account slipped into a deficit of USD 9.6 billion or 1.3 per cent of GDP in the September quarter, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

The current account, which records the value of exports and imports of both goods and services along with international transfers of capital, was in a surplus mode both in the quarter-ago and year-ago periods.

India's current account surplus had stood at USD 6.6 billion or 0.9 per cent of GDP in the April-June 2021 quarter, while in the year-ago period (Q2FY22), the surplus had stood at USD 15.3 billion or 2.4 per cent of the GDP, the data said.

For the reporting quarter, the deficit was mainly due to widening of trade deficit to

USD 44.4 billion from USD 30.7 billion in the preceding quarter, and an increase in net outgo of investment income, the RBI said.

Net services receipts decreased marginally over the preceding quarter but increased on a year-on-year basis, on the back of robust performance of the exports of computer and business services, it added.



GST Hike On Textiles From 5% To 12% Deferred; GoM To Recommend Rate By Feb



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Heeding to demands made by several states, the GST Council on Friday put on hold a decision to hike the tax rate on textiles to 12 per cent and referred to a panel of state ministers to recommend rate by February, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

The panel, the highest decision-making body for indirect taxes, met under emergency provisions after states made a request for deferring the tax rate hike on textiles, from the current 5 per cent, to be effective from January 1, 2022.

Currently, the tax rate on manmade fibre (MMF) is 18 per cent, MMF yarn 12 per cent, while fabrics are taxed at 5 per cent. In the Council meet in September, it was also decided that a 12 per cent uniform GST rate would apply on textile products, except cotton, including ready-made garments.

Briefing reporters after the Council meeting called under 'emergency provisions', Sitharaman said the Council had in

September decided to correct the duty inversion in textiles with effect from January 2022.

"From December onwards... representations started coming and on December 29, letter also came from the Gujarat FM and therefore the emergency meeting (was called). The decision of the emergency Council meeting today is that we retain the status quo and not go to 12 per cent, from 5 per cent, meaning don't do the correction now in case of textiles," she said.

Sitharaman said states also raised the issue of long-term ways by which the Council could look at correcting duty inversion and also have a plan for revenue generation.

"The decision of the Council was that the rate rationalisation committee would also look at textiles in their review, and submit the report by February which I agree to have it circulated to all ministers and post that to hold either at end February or sometime in March a Council meeting in which the committee's recommendation or report will be discussed," she said.

Centre's Fiscal Deficit Touches 46.2% Of Annual Target Till Nov-End

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The central government's fiscal deficit at the end of November worked out to be 46.2 per cent of the annual budget target for the financial year 2021-22 due to an improvement in the revenue collection, according to official data released on Friday.

The deficit figures in the current financial year till November appear much better than the previous financial year when it had soared to 135.1 per cent of the estimates mainly on account of a jump in expenditure to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In actual terms, the deficit stood at Rs 6,95,614 crore at the end of November 2021 against the annual estimate of Rs 15.06 lakh crore, according to data released by

the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). For the current financial year, the government expects the deficit at 6.8 per cent of GDP or Rs 15,06,812 crore.

According to the data, the total receipts of the government at the end of November stood at Rs 13.78 lakh crore or 69.8 per cent of the budget estimates (BE). The collection was just 37 per cent of the BE of 2020-21 in the corresponding period last fiscal.

The tax (net) revenue so far stood at 73.5 per cent of the BE of 2021-22. It was only 42.1 per cent of BE 2020-21 in the corresponding period of last fiscal.

The CGA data further said the central government's total expenditure at the end of November stood at Rs 20.74 lakh crore or 59.6 per cent of this year's BE.



Kupwara Has 42600 Hectare Under Agriculture Crops

Paddy on 17000 hectares with average production from 70-75 quintals per hectare, big source of fodder for the livestock

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** The Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has chalked out a comprehensive agricultural transformation plan in aspirational border and hilly district Kupwara. The plan is presently operational and is being implemented on priority basis, first time, creating history.

The district is spread on an area of 2379 square kilometers including 1651 square kilometer of forest area, situated on an average altitude of 5300 feet above sea level. About 70% population of the district depends on the agriculture and allied activities.

Nature has bestowed the district with scenic beauty and is resourceful in Agriculture and allied sectors.

In order to exploit its agricultural potential, the Government has undertaken a multipronged strategy by introducing various centrally sponsored schemes which has proved as a game changer in agrarian economy which is backbone of the sustenance of rural masses.

During the recent past, intervention of various flagship programmes/schemes like PM KISAN, PM KMY, Soil Health card scheme, Farm Mechanization, MadhuKranti PMKSY were directly implemented and

monitored by NITI Ayog, resulting in a viable and significant change in various developmental indicators of the district.

The department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare intends to bring the agriculture on sustainable Commercial lines with the objective to explore entrepreneurship opportunities in Agriculture for educated unemployed youth of the district.

According to Chief Agriculture officer (CAO) Kupwara, Nazir Ahmad Wani, the mechanization of the agriculture sector, provision of quality seed, efficient water management system and assistance in livestock farming were transforming the Agriculture sector into a high-yielding economic entity.

He also informed that Farm Mechanization has proved a game changer in the field of Agriculture under which introduction of Farm Machinery like tractors, tillers, farm machinery banks, Custom hiring centers, Weeders, Irrigation Pump sets, Brush Cutters, innovative farm tools to the farmers has reduced farm drudgery to a greater extent. The farming operations have speeded up and this has helped farmers to reduce the cost of cultivation viz a viz carrying timely farm operations thereby influencing crop production and productivity. He said, this has



resulted into increased yield and reduced farming costs, which had further boosted the income of the farmers; thus the slogan raised by the Prime Minister of India to double the income of the farmers is being translated into reality.

The CAO said, "Introduction of high yielding varieties of paddy like SR-3, SR-4 has increased crop yield from 50 quintal to 75 quintal per hectare".

"In vegetable crops, the introduction of HYV/ HYBRIDS/ EX-OTIC varieties has revolutionized vegetable sector. Farmers are now growing vegetables on commercial scale", informed the CAO adding that, theTomato farming in Hachmarg tribal village is an example of commercial Vegetable farming. He said that the introduction of Greenhouse technology has

benefited farmers by stretching the short growing season and production of early healthy crop nursery there by producing two crops in a year.

Regarding Apiculture, the CAO said that the industry is flourishing in the district due to the ever increasing demand of honey in Domestic, National and International market. Department of Agriculture is providing Bee hives on subsidy to the farmers along with training and extension services. At present the District possesses 6000 colonies with 400 large and small bee keepers affiliated to this industry with an annual turnover of Rs.400 crore in the district. More youth are coming towards this sector.

"The Department has taken a programme to expand coverage of crops during Rabi season for which oil seed cultivation

has been taken up on mission mode", informed the CAO, adding that this year, for the first time, 5000 hectare area has been covered under oil seeds, 3000 hectares under Fodder crops and 350 hectares under wheat. Besides, 1200 hectares has been brought under pea cultivation. The production of Rabi cropping will enhance the farming system production to a great extent in the district, said CAO.

Chief Agriculture Officer said that in order to conserve soil and water management for sustainable use in agriculture, the Water harvesting tanks, shallow/Deep wells, construction and renovation of irrigation channels, soil conservation measures are taken up for sustainable water and soil resource for better agriculture production.

farming to self-sufficiency and commercialization of agriculture. The youth are finding it lucrative to take up agriculture as a commercial venture. The department of Agriculture has succeeded to adopt and propagate successful Agri-entrepreneurs in Organic farming, Integrated farming, Mushroom farming, Bee keeping with a distinction to not only earn sufficient for themselves but creating jobs for other youth and showing a path for development to the less privileged unemployed youth.

Various farmers including Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh, Ayaz Ahmad Khan, Altaf Hussain Bhat, Showkat Ahmad Mir, Mohammad Iqbal Shah representing various villages of Kupwara district have taken much interest in agriculture sector and have come up with success stories in different fields of agriculture activities including vegetable farming, apiculture and paddy farming. They have shown their satisfaction with the implementation of new and innovative schemes introduced by the present Government headed by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and appealed the unemployed educated youth to come forward and adopt the new agricultural concepts to generate their livelihood.



# India Insisted On 'Complete Disengagement' In All Its Talks With China On Eastern Ladakh Row: Govt

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** India held several rounds of military talks with the Chinese side to deescalate the situation in eastern Ladakh without compromising on its stand of 'complete disengagement and immediate restoration of status quo ante', the defence ministry said on Friday.

In a year-end review, the ministry also said that "inimical" elements "re-energised" their attempts at disrupting peace in the Kashmir valley by selective targeting of minorities and non-locals.

It said, however, proactive measures in the "non-kinetic" domain and intelligence based "kinetic operations" by the security forces resulted in countering the "nefarious" designs of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist groups.

Referring to the ambitious initiative to bring in reforms in the Army, Navy and Air Force, the ministry said concerted efforts are being made to move forward from a single service approach to an integrated planning and execution.

Towards this, it said three joint doctrines have been formulated in the last one year, while four new joint doctrines namely "Capstone, Space, Cyber and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)" are at an

advantage stage.

The ministry said a 'tri services joint working group' has also been set up to study and work out the nuances of integrating communication networks between the services.

It said a review is being done to "right-size/reshape" the units of the Army.

"Numerous rounds of talks have taken place with the Chinese counterparts to deescalate the situation without compromising on India's stand of 'complete disengagement and immediate restoration of status quo ante'," the ministry said.

"To this effect, 13 rounds of senior military commanders' meetings have already been concluded," it said in the year-end review released for the media.

India and Chinese troops are locked in a standoff in several friction points in eastern Ladakh for over 18 months though they managed to complete the disengagement process in the Gogra and north and south banks of the Pangong lake in August and February respectively.

India has been insisting on returning to the status quo that existed before the face-off took place in early May last year.

The review listed major events, highlights of functioning of the armed

forces and the government's initiative to further bolster India's military prowess among others.

On Jammu and Kashmir, the ministry said the Army ensured that the internal situation in the Union Territory remained under control.

"In the year 2021, a total number of 165 terrorists were neutralised by the security forces in which 39 security forces personnel also laid down their lives. The normalcy so brought in by the security forces in the year 2021 was amply evident wherein the tourism as well as local employment showed a positive trend," it said.

Mentioning the developments in Afghanistan, the ministry said the situation that emerged following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan posed a unique challenge.

It said the IAF was called upon to evacuate Indians and some other nationals from Afghanistan, adding evacuation was undertaken from Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul.

"Chaotic situation existed in Kabul as a result of the withdrawal of troops belonging to the US and its allies. IAF deployed its C-17 and C-130J aircraft for the evacuation," the ministry said.

"A C-17 each was utilised for evacuation from Kandahar (July 10) and

Mazar-e-Sharif (August 10). In addition, five aircraft (four C-17s and one C-130J) were utilised between August 15 and 28 to rescue 132 government officials, 316 Indian citizens and 126 persons of other nationalities," it said.

India had evacuated its India-based staff from its consulates in Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif before the Taliban seized control of Kabul.

The work of establishing Theatre/Joint Commands is also progressing swiftly.

The study group reports have been analysed and the implementation Roadmap is under deliberation.

On the functioning of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the ministry said it is striving to promote the integration of the three services through joint planning, for the best use of military capabilities.

"Military procedures are being worked out to integrate defence planning, procurement and operations. Some other measures are also being progressed to rationalise the utilisation of existing resources," it said.

It said the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in 2020 and the creation of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) remained the most significant and transformative defence reform undertaken by any government

since Independence.

"Being seized of its import, the DMA has taken on the responsibility of spearheading several reforms within the military establishment towards ensuring optimum utilisation of scarce national resources, enhancing synergy and jointness between the services and steering the modernisation of the military to face the 'ever-changing challenges of modern warfare'," the ministry said.

It said the logistics structure is being fully revamped to make it more efficient.

In this regard, three joint services study groups (JSSG) are developing common logistic policies for services that will enhance all supply chain functions such as planning, procurement, inventory maintenance, distribution, disposal and documentation.

It said a pilot project based on the establishment of Joint Logistic Nodes (JLN) each at Mumbai, Guwahati and Port Blair has already been rolled out.

"In order to enhance combat capability and balance defence expenditure, more than 270 logistic installations of the Indian Army have been closed or scaled-down, resulting in substantial savings to the exchequer," the ministry said.

It also highlighted initiatives undertaken by the services towards empowering women including the permanent commission of women officers.

The ministry also cited the induction of 10 women officers into the fighter stream of the Air Force, deployment of women officers on board ships and appointment of women officers in missions abroad.

It said the first batch of women naval operations officers were inducted into rotary-wing and joined the helicopter squadron INAS 336 at INS Garuda in Kochi in February.

Lt Kumudini Tyagi and Lt Riti Singh have operated onboard warships as combat aircrew.

It also mentioned the Border Roads Organisation appointing women officers to command important road construction companies (RCC) along border areas.

In April, Vaishali S Hiwase, a GREF (General Reserve Engineer Force) officer took over the reins of 83 road construction company and was employed on an important Indo-China road connecting Munisairi-Bughdiar-Milam.

The ministry said the National Cadet Corps (NCC) inducted one lakh more cadets in 173 border and coastal districts.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Heavy Snowfall

recording a low of minus 9.0°C. Srinagar recorded the minimum temperature of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday a degree up from the previous night, the officials said.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 9.0 degrees Celsius — up from minus 9.6 degrees the previous night.

The officials said Pahalgalam recorded a low of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius up from minus 8.9 degrees Celsius the previous night.

They said Qazigund recorded the minimum of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius.

The mercury at Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius.

The MeT office has forecast colder days and warmer nights ahead owing to a cloud cover.

It said there could be light snow over the higher reaches of Kashmir on January 2 and 3.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on December 21.

It 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 by the end of January but the cold wave will continue with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold). (With PTI Inputs)

### J&K Logs 123

one new case each in Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar and Poonch. The twin districts of Udhampur and Ramban registered no new cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 78 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 17 from Jammu Division and 61 from Kashmir," the official said.

Also, they said two more people, one each from Jammu and Kashmir divisions succumbed to virus during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll in pandemic to 4528 in J&K—2199 in Jammu and 2329 in Kashmir.

### 3 Jaish Militants

involved in the December 13 attack on a police bus in the nearby Zewan area.

In the exchange of fire, three police personnel and a CRPF personnel were also injured, the official said, adding that they were rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar identified one of the slain militants as Suhail Ahmad Rather of proscribed militant outfit JeM.

### 184 Militants

involved in the attack on a police bus in Pantha Chowk were killed in the last 24 hours while a total of 20 foreign militants were killed during the year.

DGP Singh also said the year saw fewer infiltration of militants from across the border with the UT coming across no instance of any militant from Afghanistan infiltrating into the country.

"Last night, we completed 100th successful operation. In 100 successful operations, we have eliminated 182 militants of various outfits," Singh told in the annual press conference of the J&K police here.

He said owing to the consistently successful anti-militancy operations in the UT, a large area of J&K suffering from frequent militant attacks have been freed from the scourge.

"Out of the 44 top militants killed this year, 26 belonged to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), 10 to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), seven to Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and one to Al-Badr," the DGP said.

He said among the slain militants, 20 were foreigners, he said.

These top militants were instrumental in spreading terror among people by plotting and engineering militant acts at the behest of Pakistan, he said.

"After many years, a very low number of militants are active this time. The figure has come down after a long period, he said.

The DGP said the year was also successful in terms of anti-militancy operations and curbing infiltration from across the border.

"It was a successful year in terms of the guarding of borders. After a long time, the level of infiltration has come down. Only 34 militants were able to infiltrate the country from across the border this year. A lot among them have been killed and rest are being tracked," he said.

Replying to a question on the major threat from foreign mercenaries, he said there is a threat from militancy and weapons.

We are fighting both whether a foreign militant or a local. There is a threat from both who hold guns in their hands to terrorise people, the DGP said.

Referring to recruitments in militant ranks, Singh said 134 youngsters joined militant ranks in the Union Territory this year but 72 of them have been killed and 22 arrested.

The DGP said police have cracked down on the support system of the militants too in this hybrid militant era and arrested 570 over-ground workers and others.

He said a total of 497 people were booked under the UAPA for their involvement in support of militancy and other cases this year.

Replying to a question about the threat of militants coming from Afghanistan to revive militancy in Jammu and Kashmir at the behest of Pakistan, he said we are capable of dealing with any threat but there is no such apprehension.

"There is no such indication in future too," he said.

Referring to militant activities in the Jammu region, he said they are trying to revive militancy in the region as evident from the discovery of underground tunnels from across the border and usage of drones in the border areas to drop arms and ammunition.

He said the government forces have been chasing terrorists in Rajouri and one such is being tracked while another one has been killed recently. Rest have moved to Kashmir, he added.

### NC Calls For

the commission has not provided any background as to how they came to the conclusion, the figures from 2011 Census will lead to different conclusion as regards to distribution of the seats.

He said the parameters considered for the delimitation have been selectively applied and even they have not been shared with the shareholders.

He said J-K was being unjustifiably singled out while in the rest of the country, the exercise is to be undertaken only after the year 2026.

In Assam, elections were held and even though the delimitation commission was notified, no delimitation exercise was undertaken. So there is no reason to single out J-K.

Seats were increased in Andhra

Pradesh and Telangana without the delimitation and they went ahead with the elections, he said.

The draft proposals shared by the delimitation commission with MPs from Jammu and Kashmir on December 20 has triggered a controversy, as out of seven new seats, six have been allocated to Jammu and only one to Kashmir.

The commission has proposed to reserve seven seats for the SCs and nine seats for the STs in the 90-member Assembly.

The proposals have been opposed by the mainstream political parties in the valley.

### Dr Parvaiz Koul

Soura, Srinagar with effect from 01.01.2022," reads the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi Commissioner/Secretary to the government.

Koul will replace Dr A G Ahangar who retired on Friday.

Pertinently, Dr A G Ahangar whose term was extended for a period of six months in June had joined as Director in July 2016, however, he was removed in January 2018 but he got the top position again in September 2019 after court directions.

Ahangar was supposed to retire in June this year; however, he got an extension for a period of six months.

Dr Koul did his MBBS from GMC Srinagar (1982 batch) and Doctor of Medicine - MD Internal Medicine from SKIMS in 1988 and went on to have FRCP in Pulmonary Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians, London.

Besides Dr Koul has served as Internist/Pulmonologist and Vice Chairman, Middle East North Africa Influenza Stakeholders Network (MENA-ISON) and Editor in Chief, Lung India journal.

Besides Koul, the health and medical education department of Jammu and Kashmir had shortlisted 14 other candidates for the post of Director SKIMS. Dr. Yogesh Kumar Sarin and Dr. Mohammad Saleem Wani were also the frontrunners for the top position in the Valley's largest healthcare institute.

The H&ME department had issued a notification inviting online applications from Indian nationals for the post of Director, SKIMS, Soura, for which 36 applications were received. However, the Screening Committee constituted by the government submitted its report to the General Administration Department, wherein it has shortlisted fifteen candidates for the same.

### Hyderpora Encounter

A Pakistani terrorist and three other persons were killed in Hyderpora on November 15 and the police had claimed that all the slain men had links to militancy. The families of the three, alleging foul play, had said they were innocent, prompting the police to order the inquiry.

Separately, a magisterial probe was also ordered by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in the encounter which was one of the rare operations carried out jointly by the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police within the city limits.

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Deputy Inspector General of Police Central Kashmir Sujit Kumar had Wednesday threatened legal action against the political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir for making "speculative" statements about the investigation.

JK DGP made it clear that the operation was neat and clean and done in a professional manner.

"We have made it crystal clear that the operation was neat and clean. It was transparent," he said.

The top cop also said the utterances by the political leaders were in violation of law.

"We have made it clear that those

utterances are somehow violative of law. May be at some stage, if people do not mend their ways, law will take its own course, he said.

He also asked those raking up the issue to present the evidence before the investigation panels.

"If anybody has any evidence, he can present it before two panels of the magisterial inquiry and SIT, he said.

Asked if such people should be brought to book, Singh said if one looks at the cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), some of them have already been accounted for.

"We will definitely be looking for more evidence against the people, who in any way have supported militancy," he said.

These people are into soft separatism. We have taken action against some of them. We will be looking for more evidence. No one is above law, the DGP added.

### NIA Claims Arrest

recruiting youth of Jammu & Kashmir to effect violent activities in Jammu & Kashmir and rest of India by Sajjad Gul, Salim Rehmani @ Abu Saad and Saifullah Sajid Jutt, Commanders of LeT/TRF," the NIA said, adding, "in furtherance of the said criminal conspiracy they are recruiting individuals (OGWs) to carry out reconnaissance of predetermined targets, co-ordinating and transporting weapons to support LeT and its frontal affiliate TRF". Till now four accused have been arrested in the instant case, it said.

"Search conducted yesterday led to recovery of several incriminating documents and digital devices. Investigation in the case continues," reads the statement.

### Doctors Say Sun

Hospital Data", gastric tumor was the most commonly encountered cancer contributing 18.8 per cent to total cancers in Kashmir.

### The Symptoms

The doctors argue that if any person above 40 years of age doesn't feel well after taking food or his stomach is upset, s/he needs to see a doctor.

"If anyone is having blood loss without any symptoms, s/he needs medical help," Dr. Iqbal said. "Or if a person feels dizzy or has weakness and bloating after taking meals, s/he needs consultation."

The doctor warned that taking antacid tablets to get timely gastric relief is a big problem.

"Self-medication should be avoided," he said. "People should take more fruits and fiber rich vegetables and change the lifestyle that invites trouble."

### Late Diagnosis

But despite diagnosing the critical disease at an early stage with the help of the latest technology, the doctors say the patient often arrives late for checkup — thus making stomach cancer a high-mortality rate disease in the valley.

"This cancer is almost curable if we detect it at the early stage," Dr. Rajandeep Singh, Consultant General Surgery, SMHS, told Kashmir Observer.

"But unfortunately, we receive the patients at the last stage of cancer. The patient

generally ignores the symptoms."

The only way to deal with the disease, he said, is to take stomach related issues seriously and see a doctor.

More Cases from South Kashmir  
Notably, from 2018 to 2021, the SMHS hospital conducted over 40 Gastrectomy surgeries and most of them were performed on the patients from Kulgam and Pulwama.

The increased caseload from the twin south Kashmir districts has to do with the "land rich in nitrates and increased intake of salt rich food by natives there," Dr. Arshad Rashid, Consultant Surgeon, GMC, Srinagar, told Kashmir Observer.

### Treatment at Doorsteps

With the advent of latest technology, healthcare specialists in Kashmir say that patients don't need to travel outside for treatment.

"We're able to perform any kind of surgery related to stomach in the government hospitals especially in SMHS hospital," Dr. Iqbal, leading laparoscopic surgeon of the valley, said.

"We've a dedicated department for gastroenterology where all kinds of tests and surgeries, including Laparoscopic Gastrectomy, Laparoscopic Common Bile Duct Exploration and TransAnal Minimally Invasive Surgery for Rectal Lesions are being performed."

Back in early 2000, he said, a stomach cancer patient had to face a lot of difficulties because of the poor facilities. The doctors would mostly do the surgery in the initial stage just to diagnose the disease.

"With the result," Dr. Iqbal said, "the patients would die within two or three months. But now, the investigative facilities have changed the course of the disease."

Today, he continued, the doctors decide the growth of cancer within no time with the help of Laparoscopic surgery and put the patient on the treatment accordingly.

"It's such a simple and painless process that patients are able to get back to normalcy within a few days," the surgeon said.

"So, there's no point to waste lakhs of money for this treatment outside when you're getting it here in

Kashmir."

### LG Greets People

New Year, I want to assure all the citizens that Jammu and Kashmir administration will work with renewed resolve for the welfare of the people. We are entering 2022 with a sense of confidence and purpose to sustain the upward curve of inclusive socio-economic development in the UT. May the New Year bring peace, progress, prosperity, health and happiness to all," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

"On this occasion, we should also remember and pay homage to all the brave hearts who sacrificed their present for our future," the LG added.

### Electric Shock

A resident of Buchoo Kokernag, the daily wager, officials said, received a massive electric shock.

He was taken to the sub-district hospital, Kokernag for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead.

Meanwhile a police official said that cognisance of the incident has been taken and further investigations are in progress.

### Pilgrims To Get

have applied for Haj 2022 and have not (NOT) received their Cover Numbers through SMS till date have been requested to approach/ contact J&K Haj Committee, Bemina, Srinagar during office hours either personally or through following telephone numbers so that their Cover Numbers are generated well before the last date i.e. 31st January, 2022.

### 66 Acres Of Land

around 66 acres (526 kanals) of state land from encroachers, they said.

The anti-encroachment drive was launched on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Anshul Garg, the officials said.



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

Tel/Fax: 0194- 2433590, 2439063, 2437647 (Srg); 0194-2479371, 2470102 Jmu)  
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in, Email: helpdesk@jkbopee@gmail.com

**Subject:- Provisional Rank of Sports category candidates in NEET-UG 2021.**  
Reference:- (i) Notification No. 127-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15.11.2021  
(ii) Letter No. SC/491-NEET-UG/2316 dated 27.12.2021 from J&K Sports Council.

### Notification No.-159-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 30.12.2021

It is hereby notified for information of all the candidates, who have appeared in NEET-UG 2021 and whose result has been declared by the Board vide Notification No. 127-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15.11.2021 that the J&K Sports Council has provided the list of candidates to whom the sports points have been awarded by them vide Letter No. SC/491-NEET-UG/2316 dated 27.12.2021. The Board has accordingly prepared a provisional list of sports category eligible candidates on the basis of Sports Rank in accordance with the rules, which is annexed as Annexure "A" to this notification and the same is available on the BOPEE Website www.jkbopee.QQV.in only.

Further, any candidate desirous of making representation(s) against the rank assigned to him/her or to other candidates, may do so in the BOPEE Office at Jammu/Srinagar upto 04.01.2022(3.00 pm) physically along with documentary evidence in support of his/her claim. Note:-

- Sports ranking is only for determining the eligibility under the sports category and not for determination of merit of the candidate.
- As provided under Section 19 of J&K Reservation Act, 2004, the candidate(s) having two reserved categories shall have to apply under only one category.
- The candidate at serial No. 89 bearing NEET-UG 2021 rank 845137 of Annexure "A" to this Notification is not eligible for his participation in the registration/counselling process as he has less than the cut off score of 138 prescribed by the NTA.

E&OE

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

No. BOPEE/Exam-24/2021 Dated: 30-12-2021  
DIPK-NB-6284/21



## Ganguly Discharged After COVID Treatment

To remain in home isolation for 2 weeks



Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** BCCI president and former India skipper Sourav Ganguly was on Friday discharged from a hospital here after being treated for COVID-19 but will remain in home isolation for the next two weeks.

The former skipper will be in home isolation under doctors' supervision and has not been infected with the Omicron variant, hospital authorities said.

"We have discharged Ganguly this afternoon. He will have to be in home isolation for the next fortnight under doctors' observation. After that the next course of treatment will be decided," a hospital official told PTI.

The 49-year-old was rushed

to the Woodlands Multispeciality hospital on Monday night as a precautionary measure after his RT-PCR test came positive for COVID-19.

"He is clinically stable...Dr Saptarshi Basu and Dr Soutik Panda will keep a watch on his health status," hospital's MD and CEO Dr Rupali Basu said in a statement.

Ganguly received the "Monoclonal Antibody Cocktail therapy" after admission.

He was admitted to hospital twice earlier this year and underwent emergency angioplasty after having complained of cardiac issues.

His elder brother Snehasish Ganguly had also tested positive for COVID-19 early this year.

## COVID Surge: BCCI Postpones U-16 Tournament



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The BCCI has decided to postpone the National U-16 boys tournament for the Vijay Merchant Trophy for the second year in a row owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah has written to all the state bodies that since U-16 players are not vaccinated, the Board has decided not to take risk as there is a high possibility of a surge in the number of positive cases in the coming days.

"After consulting experts and seeking views of the medical team and operations team, it has been decided that keeping health and safety in mind, the U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy is postponed for the season," Shah wrote in the letter.

"The primary reason being participants are still not vaccinated and as such are vulnerable. We should exercise caution and not be adventurous and put lives of our talented cricketers at grave risk," Shah further wrote.

## Cricket Australia XI Of 2021: 4 Indians, 3 Pakistanis In The List



Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** India's white-ball skipper Rohit Sharma and premier off-spinner R Ashwin were among four players from the country to have featured in the Cricket Australia (CA) XI of the year.

Besides Rohit and Ashwin, the other two Indians in the team were swashbuckling keeper-batter Rishabh Pant and left-arm spinner Axar Patel.

Rohit has been picked as an opener alongside Sri Lankan Dimuth Karunaratne, followed by Australian batter Marnus Labuschagne at number three.

He is followed by England Test captain Joe Root, Pakistan's Fawad Alam and Pant in the batting order. Having dominated white-ball cricket and his home conditions for years, Rohit conquered his final frontier this year by showing he can score big Test runs outside of Asia.

And a strong 2021 that saw him finish behind only Root for most runs could have been even better if the classy right-hander had translated multiple strong starts into big hundreds.

Rohit reached 20 or more in 14 of his 19 completed innings but posted two centuries 161 in

a total of 329 to set up a win in Chennai and a patient 127 at The Oval, his maiden Test hundred away from home.

Pant was named as the wicket-keeper. His numbers would look considerably better if he'd been able to turn scores of 97 (in Sydney), 89 not out (in Brisbane) and 91 (in Chennai) into hundreds.

The way he dismantled Australia and England at the start of the year earned him comparisons with the great Adam Gilchrist, CA wrote.

The spin department features the Indian duo of Ashwin and Axar. While Ashwin was also the highest wicket-taker in Tests this year, Axar has cemented his spot in the team at home with a spectacular show against England. While Ashwin claimed 54 wickets in 9 matches this year, Axar ended up with 27 in 5.

Labuschagne was the lone player from the Australian national side who was included in the list.

Cricket Australia Test XI of 2021: Rohit Sharma, Dimuth Karunaratne (captain), Marnus Labuschagne, Joe Root, Fawad Alam, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravi Ashwin, Kyle Jamieson, Axar Patel, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi.



**A TOURIST PRACTISING** skiing while being helped up the slope at Kanduri, Gulmarg on Friday.

Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

## India Beat Sri Lanka To Win U-19 Asia Cup Title

Clinch the rain-marred final by 9 wickets

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India on Friday clinched a record-extending eighth Under-19 Asia Cup title beating Sri Lanka by nine wickets via DLS method in the rain-hit summit clash here.

Opting to bat, Sri Lanka could only manage 106 for 9 in the revised quota of 38 overs.

India then required just 21.3 overs to chase down the target that had been reduced to 102 off 38 overs under the DLS method.

Opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi (56 not out) scored a brilliant half-century, while Shaik Rasheed also remained unbeaten on 31.

For India, left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal was the pick of the bowlers, registering figures of 3/11, while off-spinner Kaushal Tambe snared two wickets.

**Brief Scores:**

Sri Lanka U19: 106 for 9 in 38



overs (Raveen de Silva 15; Vicky Ostwal 3/11)

India U19: 104 for 1 in 21.3

overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 56 not out, Shaik Rasheed 31 not out; Yasiru Rodrigo (1/12).

## ICC Men's Cricketer Of Year: Root, Williamson, Rizwan & Afridi Nominated

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** England captain Joe Root, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson and the Pakistan duo of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Mohammad Rizwan were on Friday short-listed for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year Award for their stellar performances across formats.

The award will be given to the best overall performer in men's international cricket (Tests, ODIs and T20Is) during 2021. The winner, who will lift the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, will be announced on January 24.

Root enjoyed a year that will go down in the pages of the history books, scoring 1855 runs in 18 international matches at an average of 58.37 with six centuries. He though endured disappointment as captain with England suffering Ashes humiliation.

His year began with a marathon knock of 228 against Sri Lanka in Galle and he has only gone from strength to strength.

He would follow up his exploits against Sri Lanka with a memorable knock in Chennai, a brilliant 218 against India in the sweltering heat against a spin attack of the highest calibre.

Root continued his sublime form against India in the return leg of the Test series at home, aggregating 564 runs in four matches with three centuries to his name.

His performance also helped him reach the summit of the ICC Test Player Rankings for batting, where he would be eventually displaced by Marnus Labuschagne.

As compared to Root, Williamson's 693 runs in 16 internationals at an average of 43.31 with one century was a modest total but the admirable Kiwi cannot only be judged on the



basis of the runs he scored.

Williamson played a crucial role in that game with the bat as well, scoring a vital 49 in the first innings against a quality bowling unit in conditions assisting the seamers. He followed it up with a crucial 52 not out in the run chase of 139, taking his side home before lifting the mace.

His leadership would again be vital during the T20 World Cup in UAE and Oman, with his tactical nous helping New Zealand reach the final.

Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Rizwan had a stunning year with 1915 runs in 44 internationals at an average of 56.32 with two centuries. He also had 56 dismissals behind the wickets.

Rizwan ruled the roost in 2021 when it came to the shortest format of the game. Aggregating a staggering 1326 runs in only 29 matches, Rizwan struck at an average of 73.66 and a strike-rate of 134.89.

Apart from his exploits with the bat, he was as solid as ever behind the stumps, playing a key role in Pakistan's run to the semifinals during the T20

World Cup.

Rizwan also upped his game in Test cricket, scoring 455 runs in nine matches at an average of 45.50.

Swing, seam, sheer pace and sizzling yorkers—Shaheen Afridi gave an exhibition of it all in 2021 with 78 wickets in 36 internationals at an average of 22.20. He had his best bowling figures of 6/51.

The tall Pakistani fast bowler was on fire throughout 2021, knocking some of the best batsmen over across all three formats of the game. He especially had a year to remember in Tests and T20Is, reaching his absolute peak during the T20 World Cup in UAE where he impressed one and all with his sheer speed and skills.

He would scalp seven wickets in six matches during the tournament in Pakistan's run to the semi-final. He ruled the shortest format throughout the calendar year, scalping 23 wickets in 21 matches with his death bowling improving by leaps and bounds.

He scalped 47 wickets in nine Tests at a staggering average of 17.06.

## At 29, Quinton de Kock Announces Retirement From Test Cricket

Press Trust of India

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa's star wicketkeeper-batter Quinton de Kock on Thursday announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect, said the country's apex body, CSA, hours after the team's defeat in the first Test against India.

A former Test captain, De Kock is only 29 and it is believed that he will continue playing in the white-ball formats for the Proteas, with a lot of focus on franchise-based T20 leagues.

"De Kock has cited his intentions to spend more time with his growing family for the timing and reason for his relatively early retirement from the format. He and his wife, Sasha, are anticipating the imminent birth of their first-born child in the coming days," Cricket South Africa (CSA) said in a statement.

On his part, the player said that it wasn't an easy decision.

"This is not a decision that I have come to very easily. I have taken a lot of time to think about what my future looks like and what needs to take priority in my life now that Sasha and I are about to welcome our first child into this world and look to grow our family beyond that," De Kock said.

"My family is everything to



me and I want to have the time and space to be able to be with them during this new and exciting chapter of our lives."

De Kock made his Proteas Test debut against Australia in Gqeberha in 2014. In 54 matches, he scored 3300 runs with a highest score of 141 not out, at an average of 38.82 and strike rate of 70.93.

He has six centuries and 22 half-centuries under his belt along with 232 dismissals, which includes 221 catches and 11 stumpings.

De Kock has also taken the third-most number of catches in the inaugural ICC World Test Championship -- 48 in 11 matches (47 catches and 1 stumping) and has a personal best of six dismissals in an innings, against England in Centurion in 2019.

South Africa lost the opening Test to India by 113 runs in Centurion.

## Gary Kirsten Interested In Coaching England Test Side

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** Former India and South Africa coach Gary Kirsten has expressed interest in coaching England's Test side, saying it would be a "lovely project" to revive the fortunes of Joe Root and his men.

Current head coach Chris Silverwood's job hangs in balance as England's Ashes hopes went up in smoke in 12 days after Australia retained the Urn with an innings and 14-run win in just two days and a session in the Boxing Day Test earlier this week.

Kirsten had guided India to No.1 in the Test rankings for the first time in December 2009, just over a year after taking over. He later achieved the same feat with South Africa.

"Listen, it (the England job) is always a consideration because it's a tremendous honour," Kirsten told the 'I News'.

This is not the first time the South African has expressed interest in the job, Kirsten was the frontrunner to become England's coach twice before.

"I've walked this journey twice now (when England recruited new coaches in 2015 and 2019) and I've always made it clear that I would never commit to doing all formats.

"And when international cricket boards get their head around the fact that they need to split coaching roles, then it becomes a consideration," he added.

The World Cup-winning coach



hailed England's 50-over set up as the best in the world but said the red-ball side, which has lost a record nine games in a calendar year in 2021, has lagged behind.

"Your Test side has battled for a while but it would be a really lovely project to get that going." The 54-year-old feels one format bears the brunt as teams juggle with multiple formats.

"Interestingly, when I finished with India and I joined South Africa, we just looked at it and said 'our priority has to be Test match cricket'. I actually said to the CEO of Cricket South Africa that I was happy to just do the Test side because I felt it should be the No 1 side in the world."

"Look at Australia, they're now using a lot of players across the different formats." Kirsten has refrained from coaching an international team since 2013. He worked with the Welsh Fire in the Hundred earlier this year.

"It (England) is an interesting one. I think it's a great project for someone to come in and take that Test side on. There's a lot that needs to be put in place to build this Test team out."

## Man City's Canelo Assaulted, Injured By 'Four Cowards'

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City player Joao Canelo was left with cuts and bruising around his right eye after being attacked by four people during a burglary at his home.

The Portugal defender said in a post on Instagram Stories that he fought back while protecting his family. He has a 2-year-old daughter, Alicia, with partner Daniela Machado.

"Unfortunately today I was assaulted by four cowards who hurt me and tried to hurt my family," Canelo wrote.

"When you show resistance this is what happens. They managed to take all my jewelry and leave me with my face with this state." The photo on Instagram showed a deep cut above his right eyebrow and cuts closer to his eye.

"I don't know how there are

people with such meanness," he wrote.

"The most important thing for me is my family and luckily they are all OK. And I after many obstacles in my life, this is just one

more that I will overcome. Firm and strong, like always." Premier League champion City gave more details of the incident.

"We are shocked and appalled that João Canelo and his family were subjected to a burglary at their home this evening during which Joao was also assaulted," City said in a statement.

"Joao and his family are being supported by the club and he is helping the police with their enquiries as they investigate this very serious matter".





## Omicron Has Started Replacing Delta Variant In India, Say Official Sources

Agenceis

Omicron has started replacing Delta variant in the country in terms of the number of COVID-19 cases, and 80 per cent of international travellers who tested positive have this new variant, official sources said on Friday.

However, a third of all the detected cases were mildly symptomatic, and the rest were asymptomatic, they said.

A total of 1,270 Omicron cases have been detected across 23 states and Union territories so far, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Friday.

The Centre had, on Thursday, urged 19 states/UTs to ramp up testing "in a big way" to identify the positive cases promptly and restrict the spread of transmission in view of the increased transmissibility of Omicron variant, and the larger preponderance of asymptomatic cases.

Since the first two cases of Omicron variant were announced in the country on December 2, the health ministry has been working in a mission mode and constantly guiding states on the measures to be undertaken to contain the spread of the infection.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also regularly holding meetings to review the status of COVID-19,

Omicron and preparedness of health systems across the country, while Union Health Minister Manuskh Mandaviya reviews the ongoing situation with expert teams and senior officials daily.

He also takes updates on the buffer stocks of drugs and ventilators and oxygen availability.

The health ministry's war room is working 24x7 and analysing all trends and surges, and monitoring the nationwide situation.

The ministry has advised states and UTs to enhance testing, strengthen hospital preparedness, increase the pace and coverage of vaccination drive and ensure strict enforcement of restrictions to counter the spread of infection wherever necessary.

It also advised setting up containment zones and buffer zones as per extant SOPs, strengthening hospital-level preparedness and ensuring optimal utilisation of financial resources under ECRP-2.

Ninety per cent of India's eligible adult population has been administered the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine and 64.40 per cent people are now fully vaccinated.

Highlighting the vaccination coverage in other countries with highest cases and deaths, sources said the data shows vaccination reduces hospitalisation and death.

## 5 Ex-Armed Forces Chiefs Write To President, PM On Haridwar Hate Speeches

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Five former chiefs of staff of the armed forces and over a hundred other people including veterans, bureaucrats, and prominent citizens have written to President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding "open call of the genocide of Indian Muslims" at various events, most recently in Uttarakhand's Haridwar and Delhi. The letter also mentions targeting of other minorities like Christians, Dalits, and Sikhs.

The letter made a reference to the current situation on our borders warning that such calls for violence can cause disharmony internally, and also embolden external forces.

"Any breach of peace and harmony within the nation will embolden inimical external forces. The unity and cohesiveness of our men and women in uniform, including the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Police Forces, will be seriously affected by allowing such blatant calls for violence against one or the other community in our diverse and

plural society," it said.

Making a direct reference to the "Dharma Sansad" in Haridwar where direct calls for violence against Muslims were made, it said, "We are seriously perturbed by the content of speeches made during a 3-day religious conclave called a Dharma Sansad, of Hindu Sadhus and other leaders, held at Haridwar between 17-19 December 2021. There were repeated calls for establishing a Hindu Rashtra and, if required, picking up weapons and killing of India's Muslims in the name of protecting Hinduism," the letter said.

The letter also mentions an event in Delhi when a large number of persons gathered in Delhi and publicly took an oath resolving to make India a Hindu nation, by fighting and killing if necessary. "More such seditious meetings are being organised in other places," it said.

"We cannot allow such incitement to violence together with public expressions of hate - which not only constitute serious breaches of internal security but which could also tear apart the social fabric of our nation.

## China Says Arunachal Pradesh 'Inherent Part' Of Its Territory

Agenceis

**BEIJING:** China on Friday defended the renaming of 15 more places in India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, claiming that the southern part of Tibet is an "inherent part" of its territory.

India on Thursday strongly rejected China renaming 15 places in Arunachal Pradesh and asserted that the state had "always been" and would "always be" an integral part of India and that assigning "invented" names did not alter this fact.

India's reaction came in response to China's Ministry of Civil Affairs announcing Chinese names for 15 more places in Arunachal Pradesh which Beijing claims as South Tibet.

"We have seen such. This is not the first time China has attempted such a renaming of places in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. China had also sought to assign such names in April 2017," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in New Delhi.

"Arunachal Pradesh has always been, and will always be an integral part of India. Assigning invented names to places in Arunachal Pradesh does not alter this fact," Bagchi said.

Asked for his reaction to India's assertion, Chinese Foreign Min-



istry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "the southern part of Tibet belongs to the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China and it has been China's inherent territories".

"People of different ethnic groups have been living in that area for many years and have given many names for that area," he said.

"For standardised management of the area, the competent authorities in China in accordance with relevant regulations have published the names for the relevant area. These are matters within China's sovereignty," Zhao said.

This is the second batch of standardised Chinese names of places in Arunachal Pradesh released by China.

The first batch of the standardised names of six places was released in 2017.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet which is firmly rejected by the External Affairs Ministry which has asserted that the state is an "inseparable part of India".

Beijing routinely protests against visits of top Indian leaders and officials to Arunachal Pradesh to reaffirm its claim.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488 km long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China's renaming of the places in Arunachal Pradesh came in the midst of the lingering eastern Ladakh border standoff that began in May last year. PTI

## 'Invented Names Don't Alter Status': India On China Renaming Places In Arunachal

Agenceis

India on Thursday strongly rejected China renaming some places in Arunachal Pradesh and asserted that the state has "always been" and will "always be" an integral part of India and that assigning "invented" names does not alter this fact.

India's reaction came in response to Beijing announcing Chinese names for 15 more places in Arunachal Pradesh, which the neighbouring country claims as South Tibet.

"We have seen such [reports]. This is not the first time China has attempted such a renaming of places in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. China had also sought to assign such names in April 2017," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"Arunachal Pradesh has always been, and will always be

an integral part of India. Assigning invented names to places in Arunachal Pradesh does not alter this fact," he said.

Bagchi was responding to a media query on reports that China has renamed some places in Arunachal Pradesh in its own language.

China's Ministry of Civil Affairs announced on Wednesday that it had standardised in Chinese characters, Tibetan and Roman alphabet the names of 15 places in Zangnan, the Chinese name for Arunachal Pradesh, according to state-run Global Times.

This is in accordance with regulations on geographical names issued by the State Council, China's cabinet, it said in a report.

Among the official names of the 15 places, which were given exact longitude and latitude, eight are residential places, four are mountains, two are rivers and

one is a mountain pass, the report said.

This is the second batch of standardised names of places in Arunachal Pradesh given by China.

The first batch of the standardised names of six places was released in 2017.

The eight residential places in the second batch are Sengke-zong and Daglungzong in Cona County of Shannan Prefecture, Mani'gang, Duding and Migpaim in Medog County of Nyingchi, Goling, Damba in Zayu County of Nyingchi, and Mejag in Lhunze County of Shannan Prefecture, the Global Times report said.

The four mountains are Wamo Ri, Du Ri, Lhzhub Ri and Kunmingxingz Feng, it said.

The two rivers are Xenyogmo He and Dulain He, the mountain pass is named Se La, in Cona County.

## Mumbai Cops Tell People To Stay Indoors Amid 'Terror Threat'

Agenceis

Mumbai Police, who are on toes in view of the intelligence inputs about a possible terror attack by Khalistani elements, on Friday appealed to citizens to remain indoors and avoid New Year parties.

The police have beefed up security at prominent railway stations and other key locations in Mumbai in view of the intelligence inputs about the terror threat. The weekly offs and leaves of the police personnel have also been cancelled so that the entire force remains available to maintain law and order on the New Year eve, officials have said.

Besides that, in the wake of emergence of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, the city police have prohibited New Year celebrations and gatherings in any closed or open space, including hotels and restaurants. The order to this effect was issued on Wednesday under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Taking to Twitter to urge people to avoid parties, the Mumbai Police said, "When your 'F.R.I.E.N.D.S' ask what your New Year's Eve plans are tonight. You being a responsible citizen: I don't even have a 'pla'." The tweet uses a snap that shows Lisa Kudrow, a female actor from this popular series, lying back relaxed and sipping some beverage with a straw.

"What's Not Up tonight? - Irresponsible party plans!," said Mumbai police in another tweet with a five-second GIF.

Another tweet shows a WhatsApp conversation between two friends, in which one asks the other, "Bro, Aaj ka kya scene, Where to celebrate New year?" Replying to it, his friend posts the news of prohibitory orders issued by Mumbai Police, which mentions a ban on New Year parties, to which the first person responds saying, "Oh, Okey" with an emoji of a face with rolling eyes.

In yet another tweet, the police used images of prominent places in the city, where people gather in large numbers to ring in the New Year, with hashtag #StayIndoors #CelebrateSafety #31stDecember.

The tweet shows pictures of Gateway of India, Marine Drive and Chowpatty with messages - 'Gateway' of safety', 'Home, Go home, back up the road 'Lokhandwala', 'Don't line up at 'Marines', "Chow-Party' with your family" and "Hope you 'sea' the 'link' between our request & your safety!"

Replying to a Mumbai Police's tweet, a user named Akash Bharadwaj said, "Celebrating with Mom and Dad after 12 years. It took a pandemic to make me realise that I was never home for NYE".

## Second Husband, Daughter 'Kill' Rich Bengaluru Woman In Order To Marry And Lead Luxurious Life

Agenceis

**BENGALURU:** The murder case of a woman by her own daughter and second husband in Karnataka took a shocking turn after police investigations revealed that the accused had fallen in love with each other and wanted to marry, police said on Friday.

Hence, they hatched a conspiracy and got the rich woman killed to lead a lavish life.

Thirty-eight-year-old Archana Reddy was murdered on the night of December 27. She was dragged out of her car by a few men and attacked with lethal weapons at 11 pm.

The police cracked the murder case on December 30 and arrested seven people, including the victim's second husband Naveen Kumar (33) and daughter Yuvika Reddy, in connection with the murder in Bengaluru.

DCP South East Srinath M Joshi had earlier said that the accused had conspired to kill Archana Reddy to get her property and lead a luxurious life. However, the investigations revealed that



Naveen and Yuvika fell in love and wanted to lead a lavish life after getting married, according to police sources.

Naveen, a gym trainer, had promised to make Yuvika, who was pursuing her B Com, a model and trained her in the gym.

After the gyms closed down during the pandemic, he continued to train her in the house, police said.

Archana had a daughter and a son from the first marriage. Her late father was a realtor and she owned properties worth Rs 40 crore in the Jigani area of Bengaluru.

The woman got a hint about her daughter and second husband's relationship and had objected to it. She had filed a dowry case against Naveen in November.



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