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P5 STATE

J&K PARTIES GRIEVED OVER VAISHNO DEVI STAMPEDE

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.



BOLLYWOOD'S BIASED KASHMIR LENS

Fresh from his yet another successful cop flick, the tinsel town's "Mr. 100 Croro" filmmaker lately showed up in Kashmir, Rohit Shetty's sudden arrival in the valley came days before his Singham movie sequel was announced....



BEATING INDIA BEST MOMENT OF 2021: BABAR AZAM

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has termed the jinx-breaking win over India in the T20 World Cup as the "best moment" for his team in the year gone by...



GQuote!

The best thing to hold onto in life is each other

Audrey Hepburn

NEWS DIGEST

Mehbooba Seeks

SRIMAGAR: PDP president
Mehbooba Mufti Friday appealed
to the Centre to release Kashmiri
businessman Zahoor Watall,
jalled in a terror funding case, on
humanitarian grounds, claiming
he is "critically ill", Watali faces
probe by the National Inspectional

DC Kupwara Issues Weather Advisory

SRINAGAR: in the wake of heavy snowfall prediction, the district administration in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Saturday Issued an advisory asking the residents of higher reaches to refrain from venturing in avalanche prone areas till improvement of weather. In view of prediction by Meteorologica Department More on P10

5 Held For Illegal Extraction Of Minerals

SKINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested five people on charges of lilegal extraction and transportation of minerals in the central Kashmir's Budgam district. Bashir Ahmad Mallik, Firdous Ahmad Gabor, Danish Ahmad Baba, Ashiq Hussain Yatoo and Mohammad Vousuff Mir, all recitients of Burdgam More on P10 residents of Budgarn More on PTO

Ladakh Adds 11 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh's COVID-19 caseload LEHt. Ladakh's COVID-19 caseload increased to 22,184 on Saturday as 11 more people fested positive for the viral disease, officials said. While seven cases were detected in Leh, four were ported from Kangl district, they said. No fresh death was reported in the union territory.
According to the More on P10



If Not

Contact Circulation Incharge: Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

5.1 Magnitude **Ouake Jolts** Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale joilted Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday but there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said.

The epicentre of the quake was on the Afghanista said. The earthquake of magnitude 5.1, which occurred at 645.24 pm, was also felt in J&K. the officials said. It his at the coordinates of 36.55 degrees north and 7.120 degrees east at a depth of 216 km, they added. There are no reports of loss of life or any damage to property, the officials said.

Pertinently, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale hit the Valley on October 1.6, 2005 leaving behind a trail of destruction besides claiming thousands of lives in both this part of Kashmir. Most parts of Kashmir come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. Experts give varied reasons for earthquakes in J&K including various faults run through Kashmir and exploding of gases. Kashmir valley is vulnerable to disasters. At least 13 districts out of 100 districts in India have been identified as 'multi hazard districts'. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, most parts of Kashmir covering the districts of Srinagar in Avantuae and harts of Sammir Avantuae and harts of Sammir.

Ananting and parts of Jammu region, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar come More on P10

Minor Altercation Triggers Stampede At Vaishno Devi Shrine, 12 Killed

ammu At least 12 people died and over a dozen were injured in estampede at the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu triggered by a heavy rush of devotees in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

Director General of

officials said.
Director General of Police Dilbag Singh told PTI that preliminary information from the scene suggests there was a minor altercation among some young boys, and within seconds, there was a stammede situation.

seconds, there was a stam-pede situation.

"Police and officials of the civil administration were quick to respond, and the order within the crowd was immediately restored, but by that time, the damage



had been done," he said.

The stampede occurred around 2,30 am near gate number three outside the sanctum sanctorum of the shirte located atop the Trikuta hilis, about 50 km from Jammu. Condolences poured in from all quarters, and Prime Minister Narendra

Survivors Blame 'Mismanagement', Shrine Board Refutes Charge

Modi spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj and Kashmir Geutenant Governor (L-C) Manoj Sinha and Union minis-ters Jitendra Singh and Nityanand Rai to take stock of the situation. Sinha has ordered a high-level inquiry. "Extremely saddened by the loss of More on P10

however, deriled the chage, saying all necessary arrangements were made in view of the expected risk, while Jamma and Kashmid Discretor General of Police (DGP) Dibbag Singh blamed a minor alteration for the infortunate Incident.

"Nothing but mismanagement was the cause for this Largia cacident. They were awere about the possible rish but allowed the people in More on P10

Panel To Submit Report In 7 Days

PM Assures Relief To Injured

"xpressing deep grief over the loss of lives in a stampede at Vaishno Dou'll blawan in Katsu, Pittine Minister Naeradia Mod on Saturday said all efforts are being made to provide relief to those injured in the unfortunate incident. Speaking at an event for release of funds to farmers under PM-KISAN scheme, Modi said he screek in lemma and Mode and India.

spoke to Jammu and More on P10

the three-member panel set up to probe the stampede at the famous Vaishno Devi shrine has been asked to submit its report to the Jammu and Kashmil government within a veek, according to an official order issued on Seturday. The official order issued on Sectoral, Committee headed by the principal secretary (home) was constituted by the Lt Governor Manor More on P10

Only 35K Pilgrims Were Allowed Due To Covid: Shrine Board

The Saturday stampede that killed 12 people occurred due to plagins, the Wark Maishon Dev Shrine Board said in a statement, emphasising only 55,000 plagins were allowed to proceed for the year against the normal capacity of 50,000 in view of the pandemic. More on PIO

2 Die of Covid, 169 New Cases In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed

SRINACAR: Coronavirus claimed lives of two more people in Jamma and Kashmir on Saturday while 169 fresh cases of virus were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, 101 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in the Valley and the remaining 68 from different districts of Jammu division, taking the number of people infected by the virus in Jak to 344459. In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 48 new cases of coronavirus, Baramula and Kupwara 10 each. Ganderbal 15, Pulwama and Kupwara 10 each Ganderbal 19, Budgam 5, Anantnag and Bandipora 3 each. The twin districts of Kulgam and Shopian registered no new cases of virus. In the whiter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 34 new cases of infection, Reasi 13, Dodd 10, Kathua 5, Udhampur and Poonch 2 each and one new case each in Rajouri and Samba one wases of Covid-19 were

13, Dota 10, Kallida S., Colfalingui and Poonch 2 each and one new case each in Rajouri and Samba . No new cases of Covid-19 were detected in the two districts of Kishtwar and Ramban. "Moreover, 107 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from vanous hospi-ratis including 20from Jamma Division and 87 from Kashmir Division," the Officials said. Also, they said that two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Kashmir Valley during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 4530 in ISK-2199 in Jamma and 2331 in Kashmir.

Mercury Rises At Most Places In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature rose at most SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature rose at most places in Kashmir on Saturday even as the Meteorological Department forecast light snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley, officials said.

Srinagar recorded the minimum temperature of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius on Friday inght. slightly up from the previous night's minus 3 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Gulmarg, the famous sking resort in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6 degrees Celsius, up three degrees from the previous night.

The officials said Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 6.1 degrees Celsius, Moreon PIO

DELIMITATION EXERCISE

A sudden rush of devotees at the Vaishno Devi shrine here to mark the beginning of the New Ashrine here to mark the beginning of the New Hear triggered the stampede that resulted in the death of 12 people, some of the sur

3 Ex- CMs Placed Under House Arrest To Foil PAGD Protest

SRINAGAR: PACD leaders including three former chie ministers were put under house arrest Saturday before a protest against the proposals of Jak Delimitation Commission, prompting angry reactions from political parties which said such steps will only "incentivise and facilitate" violent aglations.

The day began by police that the parking trucks outside the residences of top National Conference leaders and former CMs Farroq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Methooba Mutth and CPM leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami. They were conveyed that they SRINAGAR- PAGD leaders



were under house arrest.

The protest call was given by the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) — an amalgam of various mainstream

political parties in J&K includ-ing the NC, the PDP, CPI (M), Peoples Movement and Awami National Conference. "Good morning More on P10

Lose FCRA Licence NEW DELHI: FCRA licences - needed to receive fund-ing from abroad - of over 12,000 NGOs and other or-

Over 12000 NGOs

Including Jamia, Oxfam

ing from antoda - on over 12,000 NCOs and other organisations have expired, the Home Ministry said Saturday morning, days after it cited "adverse inputs" to refuse renewal of a licence for Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

Of the 18,776 organisations whose Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act licences were due to expire between September 29, 2002, and December 31, 2021, 12989 had applied for renewal of their S.7,789 - whose licenses expired yesterday - had not and their FCR4 registrations lapsed overnight.

Ministry sources claimed none of the 5,789 had applied for the renewal of their licenses, Ministry officials told

licenses.
Ministry officials told
New Delhi based NDTV that
reminders had been sent to



make the application before the deadline - Friday - but many had not done so. "How can permission be given..." an official asked.

can permission be given...
an official assled.
The applications of 179
others, including Mother
Fereal's charity, have been
rejected, and sorutiny of the
other applications is ongoing, the Home Ministry said.
The list of NGOs now without a FCRA licence includes
Oxfam India and the Oxfam
India Trust, Jamia Milia
Islamia, the Indian Medical
Association, the Leprosy
Mission, the Tuberculosis
Association Of More on PIO

Pulwama Attack: Police To Test Slain Militant's DNA To Prove Link

Pulwama suicide attack in which 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said on Saturday.

He said the picture of the slain militant matched with that of Jaish-e-Mohammad More on P10



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A DNA test will be conducted of one of the three militants killed in the Anantnag encounter as his picture resem-bles that of the last surviving militant involved in the 2019

Militant Killed In Kupwara **Encounter: Police**

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have killed an unidentified militant along the Line of Control (LeC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. According to a police spokesperson, an unknown militant was killed in a firefight with helps the spoke of militant was killed in a frietight with a joint team of police and army in Jumagund area of the border district on Saturday. "One unidentified militant killed in a mencounter at Jumagund area of Kupwara. Army & Police are on the job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Police Zone wrote on More on Plo

Srinagar Gets 5 New Police Stations, Two Police Posts

SRINAGAR: In a bid to widen its reach, Jammu and Kashmir government Saturday announced setting up of five new police stations and two new police stations in Srinagar district while one police post has been set up in Budgam district of Central Rashmir as well.

A senior police official said that five new police stations have been set up in Srinagar cityr that include police station Ahmednagar, police station Ahmednagar, police station Chanapora, police station Chanapora, police station Chanapora, police station Emiliand Police station Shalteng.

"Two new police posts in city are police post tengora under police station Batamaloo SRINAGAR: In a bid to widen its

Police Posts
and police post Khimber under
Police post Zakoora," the official
said, adding that a police post
has been also set up at Mouchwa
area Budgam that will work under
police station Chadoora.
The major aim of setting up
new police stations and police
posts is to reach the public at
heir door steps and to curb
various crimes in these localiries, sources in the police said.
"People of these areas had to
travel long distances to file
complaints, and for various
intravel long distance to file
complaints, and for various
intravel long intravel representations of these areas to have police
stations at a short distance that
stands fulfilled." police sources
said, adding the setting up of
new police stations More on PIO

Bonhomie At LoC, Armies Exchange Sweets

JAMMU: As the renewed cease-JAMMU: As the renewed ceases-fire between India and Pakistan along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir completes one year next month, troops of the two countries on Saturday ex-changed sweets to mark the New Year along the Line of Control (LOC) in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said.

Considering the ongoing ceasefire along the border, this gesture is aimed at further enhancing peace and harmony in the union territory, he said. At the beginning of 2022, to promote mutual trust and tranquility, the Indian Army exchanged sweets and greetings with the Palsistan Army at Peonch and Mendhar crossing points, the spokesman said. More on P10

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

از نیارت وند بولگام بااجلاس سعید فیاش اجردایب تحصیلداروند بولگام درخواست مخاب: - فاروق احدولد محده بداند گرجرمروان ساکند و بولگام بغرض صول: - ST سرفظیت -یں ۔ اشتہار بمراوآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام. عامله مندرد بيعنوان العدوي سأكل في أيك ورفواست بغرض صول ST سرفكم فتر بدایس ویش کیا ہے جو کرز برکاروائی ہے۔ پنواری صلت سے ریورٹ طلب کی گئی جس عميان بكرسائل كاكنيد بذيل افرادي قاروق احمدولد معروالله كوجرسردان مردوري تازيية تيمهز وجه فاروق احمه 165kg هدوختر فاروق احمد نكرهم ولدفاروق احمر بھ اس الور پرسائل کا کہند 20 افراد پر مشتل ہے۔ لہذا امر تقلیف اجراء کرنے میں اگر کئی حض کو کوئی احتراض ہوگا و دانیتا مشراض آیک ہفتہ کے اندروران وفتر کی اوقات میں ا گفتی کوکی آعتر اش موقا و دانشاعتر اش ایک بهشد سه اعداد در در در سر ب سر سه ... میتر اش بیش کرے معماد گزرئے بعد کوئی محق احتر اض قابل آبول تیس اوگا BNA تا اس تقسیلدار

رخواست مخانب: نمر بوسف ؤارد لدفتر بوسف ؤارساکنز د بولگام فرض حصول: - PSP مرفقیف _ مسل زه مر ام منده به موان العدر شهراس. با باشه و فاق کا سه به کار زیاده و فاق به سه عیمان به کدمال کا کند به لمراه او و پی سه و میمان در اعداد مدادید و فیدز دجه می به شده اور منتخط است و از استان منتخط از استان از فیدز دجه می به شده و از استان منتخط از استان از فیدز دجه می به شده و از استان از فیدز در استان از میدز در است شتبار بمرادآ محايي برغاص وعام ملەمندرىيە عنوان الصدر بين سائل ئے أيك درخواست يغرض حسول PSP -خِرَ فِدَ اصْ فَيْنَ كِيابِ جَوْكَ رُكِوَا ووائى ب- يَوَارى صَلَق فَ رَيُور فَطَلب كَي كَلْ بَسَ عال الله كالمارك كاكتب فيرك أواوين -

زنيابت وتدبولكام بااجلاس سعيدفياض احدنايب تخصيلداروندبولكام

کی عمر بیسٹ دادیجی بیٹ ذائر از کی کام 6 عمر بیسٹ کا کا مید 100 آراد بیشتر کا بسب از آرائید اجراء کرنے میں اگر کئی محمل کادکی احتراض مردکا و ایجا احتراض ایک بیشتہ سے اعدودوان وفتر کی اوقات میں ا افترى اوقات بيساينا نسی کونونی اعتراس موقا وه اینا احتراس ایپ بست مساس می اخراص عتراش بیش کرے۔معیاد کر رئے بعد کوئی مجمی احتراض کا نائی کول میں موگا۔ عالم عیشند

> ز نیارت ساگام بااجلاس انگرنیکیو مجسلایت درجهادل ساگام دخواست مخانب اریس احد ولده مدافعی بخشت ساکنه مهری بوره فرض صول RBA سرقطيك -

اشتنبار بمرادآ محايي برخاص وعام. عامله مندرية عنوان الصدر مي سائل في أيك ورخواست بغرض مصول RBA رقفيك مغزيدًا بش ويش كياب جوكد ريكا روائي ب بيغواري حالة ب ريورث خلب كي كل بش عمال بكرسائل كاكنيد بذيل افراديل-

نام دولدیت عبدافخی بخشت ولدمها پر بخشت ار الدين عبد المواقع ا مهادة المواقع بنكت سيرت اعازوفر اعازاحر بقلت 01 سال ممن 9 بریت بادر او الازار الوالاند بعث 10 سال مرس 6 دیسی الده دار میرانی بخت 28 سال مورددی =4000 7 سیمان دفتر به برای فاتش بخت که از مراقعیت الارام کرنے میں اگر می فاتش میراندر برسال کا کبید 77 فراد برخشل بے بدا راح الدین الارام کے میں اگر می فاتش کوکی امترانی موجادہ بانیا موز الی ایک بدند سک اندودوان وقتری ادافات شاریا متراش پیش کرے۔معیادگز رئے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل تول کیں ہوگا۔

از نیابت ساگام بااجلاس انگیزیکیو محسفریت درجدادل ساگام

ورخواست منجانب .. ابر ديم ولدقاسم كالس ساكمة جولكام شالنارز بغرش حصول ST سرفظيك. اشتهار بمرادآ گابی مرخاص وعام ـ عامله مندرج عنوان الصدر بين ساكل في أيك ورخواست بغرض حصول ST سراهيك وفتر بذا میں ویش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری طلقے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عمال ہے له سائل كاكنيه بذيل افراد جير _ 2

عام والديت مر ويت احدى (6000 = 6000 = 6000 = 6000 = وودوي = وودوي والدين والدي 5 الفاف وادارات کا کا اس ۱۹۵۸ رقیلیم اس طور برسال کا کو د 10 فراد بر مختل بدار مواد اس اور امرائ می اگری فنی کو کو کی احد افزار با مواد این امراز امراز امراز کا دو داران دختری ادادات می اینا احد اش يَنْ كَرَبُ معياد كرر في بعد كونى بعنى اعتراض فالل قول فيس بوكا-RNA

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از نیارت وند یونگام با اجلاس معید فیاض احمدنایپ تخصیلداروند یواگام ورخواست مخانب: یرچوعیدانند ولدهنیم گوجرسر دان ساکند دیونگام بغرض حصول: - ST مرفقگیت -اهتهار برادآگای برخاص وعام.

عاملہ مندر دیوعموان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک ورخواست بغرض حصول ST والم مندر دیوعموان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک ورخواست بغرض حصول ST رفقایف و فتر پذا میں چیزش کیا ہے جو کہذر برکار وائی ہے۔ پیغراری حالقہ ہے راپورٹ خ ك كى جس ما سامان ب كرسائل كاكتب بديل افرادي-را سیدولدیت نام سودلدیت محدم بالله دادگلیم کویزمردان مزدوری محدم بالله محدم بلخام محدم بالله محدم بلخام فبرعار محدر بنتی ولد محرعبدانله رضانه زویه محدر نیتی له يلوكام عاسمه وخز فحد فق

5 ما مسدور موری شیر و در این می برد و است. و برد و بر

از نیابت ساگام بااجلاس ایجز بکشوم سرید درجداول ساگام ر خواست منجانب: _رقیب ولد مهداه در برکانس ساکته بودگام شالدارد هرش حصول BT سرفلیف _

حامله مندرجة عنوان الصدرين سأكل في ايك درخواست بغرض حصول ST ر تھید وفتر بذا میں قبل کیا ہے ہو کہ زیر کا روائی ہے۔ پٹواری حاقہ ہے رپورٹ کی تنی جس سے میاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کئیہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

JAT 4 عبدالرقب ولدعيما الويزكاس 45 سال مزودي =6000 غزيرو ويعيما لرقب 40 سال كريل كام اهفاق المورد ويوالرقب 11 سال زيعتم ميرو وترجم بدالرقب 10 سال زيعتم ميرو وترجم بدالرقب نذر وزوج عبدالرقيب اشفاق احدولد ميدالرقيب 99سال زرتعليم طيبه وخترعبدالرقيب

زنيابت ما گام بااجلاس تيزيمشومجسنريث ورجياول ساگام ست منجانب: مفات المصطفى والى ولد يغرض حصول RBA سر تكليف -صفات المصطفى واتى ولدغلام مصطفى وافى ساكت مبرى يوره

اشتبار بمرادآ كابى برخاص وه عالمد مندرج عنوان الصدر ش سائل في أيك درخواست بغرض حسول RBA سرفكليد ت میں موجود ہوئی کہا ہے جو کرنے رہے کا روانی ہے۔ پنواری ملقہ سے روانی ملک ہوئی جس دفتر نبرا ایس چاک کہا ہے جو کرنے رہے کا روانی ہے۔ پنواری ملقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے میاں ہے کہ سرائل کا کئیے بنر کی افراد ہیں۔

مر مسطق ارقى ولد عمدانتى افتى 6000 التندارى 20000 و 2000 التندارى 20000 و 2000 التندارى 2000 و 2000 التندار من بينا م من التندارى 2000 و 2000 التندار من من التندار والتندار والتندا

از نیابت وند یونگام باا جلاس معید فیاض احمد نایب تخصیلدار وند یونگام ررخواست منجاب بدر احراسيل احرتوراحد وشبينا ولاون محصار عجام ساكنه د يولكام بغرض حصول SC سرفقليك -اشتبار بمرادآ گای برخاص وعام۔

عامله مندرج عنوان الصدر ميس ساكل ف ايك درخواست بغرض حصول SC رفظید دفتر بدایش ویش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حاقدے رپورٹ للب كى كى جس سے عيال ہے كہ سائلان كاكنيد بذيل افراد جيں۔

نبر^شار نام معدولديت سی رثیارسرکاری ملازم گھریلوکام محدصا برولد محدرسول حجام حبينه بانوز وجهرصابر حجام سيل احمرتهام ولد محرصا برجهام سليف ايمياوني مكر يلوكام شافيهاختر زوجه كبيل احرعام ر تعلیم زرتعلیم زرتعلیم زرتعلیم تنويرا حمرتهام ولدمحمه صابرتهام شبينافتر دفتر فحدصابرتهام مدثر احمد ولدمحمه صابرتجام عينه اختر وختر محدصا برعام اس طور پرسائلان کا کہند 80افراد پر مشتاری ہا اس طور پرسائلان کا کہند 80افراد پر مشتل ہے۔ کہذا سر فکلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کشی فضوی کو کی احتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا احتراض ایک ہفتہ سے اندر دوران دفتری وقات میں اپناا عنزائش پیش کرے۔معیادگز رقے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول

Public Notice

have applied for fertilizer license If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She May contact office of the Chief Agriculture officer Anantnag within the period of 7 days .After that mobilection will be entertained.

NAME:Nisar Ahmad Rather S/o; Gh Rasool Rather R/o: Nowshara Srigufwara

Public Notice

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license.In this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lall Amald Srinagar within sever days from the date of publication of this notice.No objection shall be entertained after that. Name: Nisar Ahmad Rather S/O: 6h Rasoot Rather R/O: Nowshard Srigurhwara RNA

Microsoft Working On Tri-Fold Surface Phone: Report

US-based tech giant Micro-soft is reportedly planning to launch a "multi-panel de-vice" which boasts a tri-fold design.

up to reveal one massive screen made up of three distinct sections, reports GSMArena. Once folded back up the device can serve as a tradi-tional smartphone.



Microsoft recently revealed a new Surface device that will feature four under-dis-play camera sensors, with

the company's logo being displayed when these cam-

tion will be positioned similar to the logo design with each camera having its colour filter. These four sensors will be placed under the display of the device and are intended for mobile computing devices, such as a Microsoft Surface device. Furthermore, the cameras can display a colour icon when the sensor is not in use to display the company's logo on the front. So, the device will display the device will display the logo by default and switch to the camera when the shutter is activated.

Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/ observer/ABCCI

Description: DYSL-Al Beng-aluru Junior Research Fellow-ship 2021 is an opportunity offered to graduate or post-graduate degree holders.

Eligibility: The fellow-ship is open for the candidates who are below 28 years of age

ازنابت نائب تخصيلدادكرى مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب بشيراحمرشاه واوحبيب اللهشاه ساكنه صحقال بخصيل كريرى بمراد حصول RBA سر لفيكيف تجق بسر طاربر الحدثاء تحتة SRO 144,294,775 اشتهار بمرادآ گابی ہرخاص وعام

فالمستعجد التوالنا العدد عن ورخواست ماكل وفتر فراجي زيركار وفي بياس يليط عن يتواري علقه ن را دورت الله والدرية الوطلب كما كما ب جس على بيك مأل دوجًا بش يجيل بدروسال ب كونت يذيرب سائل كاسالات الد 14400 ب اور حمد بذيل افرويط على ب Jus بشراحمة شاو

زمینداری 52سال بليدة كمهزوب سیراحدثاه پهر زرتنیم نصت دنتر درتنیم JL 22 العد الر **الد20**

ر کے ملاوہ کو ڈی افراد کیے فیل ہے ۔ رفع کے سازا کرتے ہیں اگر کی فیفر کو کا باط مادہ اخری وق يناعذر ياامتراش سالد يهماعد وفتر فياش وأل كريدمياوكرف بعدك في محى عذر ياامتراش قائل قول

از نیابت نائب تحصیلداد کریری

نمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب ستعبدل حميدمير ولدعبدل جبارمير ساكنه الوقفال خصيل كريرى بمراد حصول RBA سر تفيكيف بحق وخز

> برينة تحتة SRO 144,294,775 اشتهار بمرادآ گابی هرخاص وعام

در ش در فواست ماکل وقر فهاش در کارولی ساس السط مین بنداری ملق عبدل مباریر مربده وسیداری 75سال مریف تیموده کریلوکام 70سال

وميداري 46 سال بابده تکم بهر بسوار جید کالی مكريخام 43مال ريسيم 20 مال دريسيم 17 دريسيم 14 معيد عل مادىيىتىدى ئېتى مىلامىيە يېزا 10

اطرابيدية وريكان كالخارات كوري مراحي المتحارات المراجع الأكوال كالأوريان المتحارية يناعذر ياامتراض ساتهد يهم عدد فترته أعلى وفي كرب معادكرت بعدكوني محى عذر يااعتراض قالى أول

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Fayaz Ahmed Shangloo S/O Husam ud Din Shangloo R/O MiR Mohala, Near WELCOME Hotol Dalgate Sinagar Keshmir Intends to apply in the DEPARTMENT OF Tourism for the Registration for Travel until in the Name and style "TREKLAND AD-VENTURE TOURS" situated at TELBAL Sinagar, Kashmir, under the tourist trade Act 19/28/82/2011-12 Whereas will Submit State Subject/Domiciale certificate, Qualification, Pan Card, Experience certificate (Minimum 15 Vears), Character Certificate (Policia Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000) Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed Duly Attested by Sub-neistan: Printin Material (Leter/Victine Card).

(Minimum Balance 10000). Site Plan, Amidavir, Pert Diedo UA Attested by Sub-registrar. Printing Material (Letter/Visiting Card) Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and outdoor) and two passport size photographs to the Department of tourism as per the pre-scribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion

Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act. 1978/82/201112. Before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority, The matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial institutions/Bank/Organisations, etc. for erai vibili/rinanciai institutions/Bank/Organisations, etc for any objection if any and the same shall reach to the office of Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Sinnagar Kashmir (EMail-ddrieg123@amail.com) within period of 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice in leading news paper/News papers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days; shall be enter-tained and the case shall be processed underrules.

Public NOTICE

My DOB in school records has been wrongly wirtten as 25-07-2010 while my correct DOB is 25-07-2013 which needs immedite correction. It enylody having any objection in this regand he, she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Primary School Banapora Palapora Khag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objec-School Banapora Palapori from the date of publicati

ion shall be entertained.
Sarhaan Showkat
S/O Showkat Ahamd Ganaie
Tehsil Khag

Scholarships This Week

Description: Reliance Foundation Scholarships 2021-22 aims to enable and propel india's brightest youth, who are uniquely positioned to be the future leaders of tomorrow and to sit at the forefront of India's technologically driven

Eligibility: Undergraduate and postgraduate students from all universities who are currently enrolled in the first year are eligible. They must be enrolled in degree programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Computing, and Electrical and/or Electronics Engineering.

For Undergraduate Schol-

Description: Aditya Birla Capital Limited invites appli-cations from Class 1 to 12 and undergraduate students to support them in continuing their education. The schol-

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 4,00,000 (for UG) & Up to INR 6,00,000 (for PG) over the duration of the degree and development programme for selected students aimed at helping them innovate and create technology for social good.

Last Date to Apply: 14-02-2022 Application mode: Online

parent(s) due to COVID-19 pandemic Applicants must be studying inclass to 12 and undergraduate (general and professional) courses. Appli-cants should be enrolled and continuing their education. Prizes & Rewards: Fixed one-time scholarship up to INR 60,900.

Scholarship Name 1: Reli-ance Foundation Scholarships 2021-22

For Undergraduate S arships: Applicants who secured a rank of 1-35,000 in the JEE Main (Paper 1) Examination can apply. For Postgraduate Schol-arships: Applicants

arships: Applicants who secured a score of 550-1,000 in the GATE examination, OR applicants who have not attempted GATE and have scored 7.5 or above in their undergraduate CGPA (or % normalised to CGPA) can apply.

ship is open for the candidates who are below 28 years of age as of the date of the interview and hold a B.C.B. Tech. degree in Computer Science/Computer Science Engineering/Information Technology etc. in first division from AICTE accredited with CSR-USC (NET)/ GATE qualification OR a Postgraduate degree in professional course (ME.Z.M. Tech.) in Computer Science/Computer Science Engineering etc. in the first division both at the Graduate and Postgraduate level and Dott from AICTE accredited institute/University.

applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/ observer/RFS5

Scholarship Name 2: Ad-itya Birla Capital COVID Scholarship Program 2021

Last Date to Apply:16-01-2022 Last Date to Apply: 10-12-022 Application mode: Online and Offline application by post to - The Director, DRDO Young Scientist Lab-Artifidal Intell Agence Dr. Raja Ra-manna Complex, Raj Bhawan Circle, High Grounds, Benga-luru-560001

Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/ABJ6

PRESS RELEASE



Nehru YUVA Kendra Anantnag organized two days Block level 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 par ticipated in the various events. Prizes were awarded to the Winners and Runners up teams and Third Places.

NHM ECRP employees protest against termination

Srinagar: The National Health Mission (NHM) contrac-tual employees on Saturday staged a protest against their termination at Press Enclave Srinagar, demanding contin-ued services of the terminated

Talking to reporters, Presi-dent of NHM ECRP Shahid on the control of the

He further said, "Govern-ment used us like a tissue paper and termed this as a use and throw policy by the administration."
"If coronding to the

"If according to the government Covid is no more then why are night curfews being imposed and why covid protocols to be followed?" Bashir said.

"We "We "

mashir said.

"We request and appeal from the government for the renewal of our contracts and we demand continued services for the terminated employees," they said

Woman fraudulently withdraw pension of her deceased mother: CBK chargesheet

Srinagar. – The Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) has produced the charge sheet before the Hon'ble Court of Mobile Mag-istrate, 18th Finance Commis-sion Srinagar against a lady from Srinagar for fraudulently drawling spaces of the control of the court of the court of the drawling spaces of the court of the c

sion Srinagar against a lady from Srinagar for fraudulently drawing pension money after her mother's death.

According to a statement, the brief facts of the case are that CBK received a complaint from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), alleging therein that Mukhta from Srinagar's Habakadal was receiving Freedom Fighter Pension of her husband Mohammad Magbool Wani through in JK Bank Branch, Zaldagar Srinagar.

The CBK, in its press release, said that Mukhta being aged and weak authorized her daughter Firdousa through a Power of Attorney to receive her pension from the JK Bank. "Mukhta passed away on 18 December 2012, but her daughter continued to draw pension on behalf of her deceased mother till December 2014," read the press release.

Durint the course of rend the press release. During the course of

During the course of the investigation, it was established that the accused Firdousa continued to draw pension after the death of her mother "dishonestly and fraudulently". "The accused, despite having the knowledge has drawn on behalf of her deceased mother and has thereby deceived the suthorities to confer a wrongful gain of an amount of RS. 3.82 lacs upon herself against corupon herself against cor-responding loss to the state Exchequer," it read



Family Of Srinagar Youth Arrested By NIA Stage Protest, Seek His Release

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

OBSEMENTENS SEMULE

Srinagar: Family members and relatives of an 18-year-old Srinagar resident on Saturday staged a protest demonstration in the Press Enclave seeking his release.

The teenager. Arsalan Ferco, was arrosted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) offer sleuths conducted a roid at Arsalan's residential house in Srinagar on Friday.

One of the protesting family members told reporters that a team of NIA raided their residential house in Zaldagar when Arsalan when not present at home.

not present at home.

Talking to reporters at Press Enclave Srinagar, Arsalam's sister appealed to DIG and IGP Kashmir to release his brother and do justice with his family.

While pleading for her

brother's innocence, she said that they will die without him. "He is studying in 12th standard but he was arrested by police during his board exams in the name of mobile phone checking. After that he is in jail for about one and half months and is not being allowed to appear in his board exams," she added.

She also said that when the NIA raided their home, Arsalan was not present at home and his father called him back and asked him to cooperate with the agency.

Arsalan came home and

him back and asked him to co-operate with the agency. Arsalan came home and went to the police station for

questioning along with his father. "So why is the police saying that he was arrested from his home when he was not present at his home at the time of the raid," she ques-tioned.

She said that Arsalan's fa-

cannot live without his son.
"It is our appeal to the authorities to release him as he has not done anything wrong," she said.

Another male relative seconding the woman protestor
said that he was in 'Cargo' the headquarters of Jammu
and Kashmir's elite Special
Operations Group - from
where he was released after
40 days. "Five days before CID
sleuths asked about his whereabouts and we informed them
that he was home", he said
adding on Thursday morning, a raid was carried out
by NIA and we asked to call
him up from maternal house
and he was taken along. "We
came to kinow from (inter)net
that he has been arrested on
charges of being a stone pelter
of Downtown and that he runs
the gang of stone pelting and sauu. Another male relative sec

subsequently came to know that NIA has said of him to associated with TRF, recruiting and providing weapons to youth", he said adding he is not involved in anything not even in stone pelting.

"Our family and mohalla residents have come here to demand his rolease", he said. Pertinently, the NIA on Friday issued a press statement claiming to have arrested 'as TRF operative' during raids in Srinagar in connection with a case of radicalising, motivating and recruiting youth of J&K by L&T.

"Yesterday (30.12.2021), conducted a search in Srinagar and arrested one TRF operative, Arsalan Feroz & Ahnad Ahanger resident of Zaldagar, M. R. Gunj, Srinagar in Case No. RC 32/2021/NIA/DLI", readS the statement.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311





HIGHWAY STATUS



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

PRAYERS FAJR 6:08 HIJRI ZUHR 12:34 CALENDAR ASR 3:53 28 Jumada al-awwal Magrib 5:35 1443 ISHA 7:00

This Day In History

- 69 Roman Lower Rhine army proclaims its commandes, Vit
- Emperor Joseph III orders Javas of Galicia Austria to adopt 1235 Emperor Joseph II orders Javas of Galicia Austria to adopt
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- 1863 : Battine of resourcing were prime of the Mapoch War Mapoch War 1903 : Earn, a statellite of Jupiter, discovered by Chorles Dillon Pierrine for San Jose, Colifornia or San Jose, Colifornia continuous and continuous and continuous and proper properties of the Mapoch 1905 American annothor-syndrollist union known as the Industrial Workers of the World forms
- Invention 1913 Mahatma Gandhi leaves the Tolstoy Form in Tr
- Africa 1993 Lithuania gains independence 1993 Lithuania gains independence 1994 Woold Wer E German bombing severely domages the Llandaff Cathedrain Castiff Wales 1994 World War It the 28 nations at war with Auls powers pledge to maken osepande peared deels 1996 John Reynolds sets age of solar system at 4,950,000,000 vesas.

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 1860 John Reynolds sets ago of solar system at 4,950,000,000 years

 1870 Sonsphang gets twin house for Initia for the third time (v Wi)

 1864 Stored September of the Set of Se

From KO Archives

Law variation holds up Qureshi's transfer

Press Trust Of India

EW DELHI - Non applicability of Indian laws in Jammu and Kashmir today proved to be a najor handicap for Delhi High Court in deciding the Issue of Randing over SKLF settivist Hashim Qureshi, an accused in the hijacking of Indian Airlines plane in 1971, to Srinagar police as neither his nor government counsel could place the exact legal position before it.

naon oesore it.

The court, while adjourning the matter to January 2, her extended the stay of a city courts order yesterday mitting the Jammu and Kashmir police to take his cus

permitting the Jammu and Kashmir police to take his custody till Tuesday. A special division bench constituted to hear the petition of Qureshi, challenging his desention by Delhi police after his arrival here from Copenhagen and remanding him to the custody of Jamma and Kashmir police adjourned hearing to Jammary two with the instruction that all relevant laws and supremeous in the control of the control from both sides should be placed before it by tomocrow evening. While Qureshi's counsel Kr. S. Tulsi challenged his client's desention and custody to Jammat and Kashmir police on the grounds that he had alwayd been convicted for the offence by a Pakistanti court and served nine years of imprisonment there, the Delhi police and Jammat and Kashmir government counset aside was only treaf for the offence of wronghit confinement of passengers in Pakistan not for higheling, kidnapping and robbery, mentioned in the FIR by the state police.

(KASIMIR OBSERVER, & January, 2001)

Govt Mulls To convert Poloview Street Into a Walkway

SRINAGAR — In a bid to beautify the Srinagar city the administration is con-verting the historic Poloview street into a walkway under "Srinagar Smart City Propiets"

werting the historic Poloview street into a walkway under "Srimagar Smart City Project".

An official said that the road will be redesigned and will be filled with marble stones and "creative designs" that will make it aesthetic. The existing shops will stay intact and according to the official, it will attract more people to visit the market. Situated in the heart of the city, the Poloview street and market is historic, famous and eye-catching and shares its boundary with the famed Polo ground.

The Sumo stand located at the south end of the street, on 2.87 Kanals of land, and the existing SDA parking, behind the market, on the Polo ground side, will be converted into a motorable road for the convenience of the commuters, the official said.

Although the shopkeepers at Poloview market have welcomed the conversion of the street into a walkway, they have raised apprehensions about the parking.

Altaf Ahmad, a shopkeeper said the concern for the shopkeepers is parking. For now, the customers who visit the shops park their vehicles in SDA parking. But since the government is planning to convert it into a road, it leaves no parking space for vehicles. "This is the



concern which needs to be addressed and the shopkeepers' association visited the Divisional Commissioner and we hope the matter is resolved soon."

Asked about the concerns of the shopkeepers, the official said that the government is planning to construct a mechanized ramp which will be thrown open in "specific time".

The Poloview market came into existence in 1954 after a fire fully damaged shops situated at The Bund near Residency Road and the then Prime Minister

Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad allotted Polo View space to the shopkeepers. Since then, the markstplace remains intact with several shops showcasing Art and Craft. The market has many other buildings which include the Kashmir Press Club.

Press Club.

As of now, there are about 35 shops on the pole ground side and 20 on the opposite side, the upper floors have been converted into office spaces, restaurants, travel agencies, laytop sellers and many other workspaces (Mountain Ink)

CCIK Seeks Resumption Of Friday Prayers At Jamia Masjid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kash-mir (CCIK) has urged the govern-ment to allow Friday prayers at Historic Jamia Masjid in down-town Srinagar. In a statement, CCIK said con-tinuous closure of Jamia Masjid for Friday prayers has hurt reli-

us sentiments of the Muslims. President CCIK Tariq Rashid

President CCIX Tariq Rashid Ghani said government should immediately allow people to re-sume Friday prayers at the Jamia Masjid as it has not only hurt re-ligious sentiments of the Muslim community but has also hit the economic activities in the area. Ghani said Jamia Masjid at-tracts devotees in large numbers

on Fridays which would also provide business to the traders and small vendors.

"Closure of the Masjid caused immense grief among the locals and also hit the traders. Jamis market is the oldest and one of the main market in Srinagar which would fetch good business to the traders, shop-keepers and evendors who have been left to fend for themselves."

PRESS RELEASE



Nehru YUVA Kendra Anantnag organized two days Block level sports meet of block Hiller /Shahabad at HSS Hakuraon on w.f. 27U/2701 to 261-27020. La large number of stu-dents from various sports Club and Mehia Mendals of the Block participated in the various events. Pitzes were award-ed to the Winness and Runners up teams and Third Places.

Omicron Hospitalization Risk Around One Third Of Delta, UK Analysis Shows



Reuters

The risk of hospitalization with the Omicron variant of coronavirus is about one-third that of the Delta variant, according to British analysis of more than a million cases of both types in recent weeks. Britain is experiencing a sume of Covid-19 cases driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant, with record daily infections of 189,346 reported on Finday

While hospital admissions have started to rise, the government has said it believes the new variant is milder than the Delta variant. The number of patients needing mechanical ventilation beds has also remained steady through December, unlike previous peaks in the pandemic. The analysis was publisher, unlike previous peaks in the pandemic. The analysis was publisher, unlike previous peaks in the pandemic. The number of patients needing mechanical ventilation beds has also remained steady through December, unlike previous peaks in the pandemic. The analysis was publisher, unlike previous peaks in the pandemic. The analysis was publisher with the patient of the In this analysis, the risk of hosp

Look To The Future, Stay Focused: Xi Jinping Tells China In New Year Address



Reuters

BEJINC: Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of
maintaining a Strategic focus' in his
2022 New Year address and of being
indiful of 'potential irsis' in the
Communist Party's long-term vision
to turn China into a global power.
Xi in 2021 declared that China
do achieved its aim of building a
so-called "moderately prosperous'
society, a milestone on its road to becoming a global leader in 2049, the
100th anniversary of the founding of
the People's Republic of China.
"We must always keep a longterm perspective, remain mindful
of potential risks, maintain strategic focus and determination, and
"attain the broad and great while
addressing the delicate and mindrattain the broad and great while
addressing the delicate and minwe'. Xi said in a televised speech.
China, where the coronavirus
was first identified in late 2019, has
placed a focus on its achievements
sust and presert, includine quickly BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jin-

China, where the coronavirus cluding freedom of speech, would use first identified in late 2019, has be protected.

But activists complain that those stat and present, including quickly freedoms have been eroded since China passed a new national security law in 2000 cushing dissent in the wake of at times violent pro-democracy, anti-China attest plumbed new lows.

Xi said the complete umification placed a focus on its achievements past and present, including quickly bringing COVID-19 under control as its economy lost steam after re-

of "the motherland" was an aspira tion shared by people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, referring to the self-ruled island of Taiwan which it

self-rued island or laiwan which is considers "sacred" territory. In sincerely hope that all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation will join forces to create a brighter future for our nation," he said. Earlier this week, a Beijing official warned that China would take "drastic measures" if fiercely demo-cratic Taiwan makes moves towards.

"drastic measures" if fiercely demo-cratic Taiwan makes moves towards formal independence.

Xi also stressed the importance of stability in the former British colony of Hong Kong and the for-mer Portuguese-run enclave of Macau, which returned to China in 1997 and 1999 respectively. Under the handover deal, Hong Kong was promised that its wide-ranging individual freedoms, in-cluding freedom of speech, would be protected.



STUDY: 1,500 Languages Acutely Threatened With Extinction

There are about 7,000 recognized languages worldwide, but many of them could soon be lost forever. According to a study from Australia, about half of all languages are endangered, and 1,500 could be extinct by the end of the century.

guages are endangered, and 1,500 could be extinct by the end of the century. "Without intervention, language loss could triple within 40 years, with at least one language lost per month, the authors write. They advise creating curricula that support bilingual education and encourage both indigenous language mastery and the use of regionally dominant languages. Fifty-one independent variables were analysed, including education policy, socioecomoric indicators and environmental characteristics. The study, led by the Australian National University (ANU), was published in the online journal Nature Ecology and Evolution. The research also uncoversited and exercise

and Evolution.

The research also uncovered unexpected and surprising causes of language threat, said co-author Lindell Brom-

WHEN A

lost, or is 'sleeping' as we say for languages that are no longer spoken, we lose so much of our human

are no longer spoken, we lose so much of our human cultural diversity,"

ham. These include a well-developed road network, for example, he said.

"We found that the more roads there are, connecting country to city, and villages to towns, the higher the risk of languages being endangered, it's as if roads are helping dominant languages Seamorll' over other smaller languages, Brombam said.

Contact with other local languages, on the other hand, is not the problem: in fact, and supporting communities to revitalize indigenous languages are less at risk.

The study also contains lessons for the preservation of endangered Indigenous. With the initiative, the vigits of people from language minorities. DPA

distinction of having one of the highest rates of language loss worldwide," said co-author Fe-licity Meakins. Of the 250 lan-guages once spoken by Indig-enous people, she said, only 40 remain – and children learn only a dozen of them in the first place. "When a language is lost or is

Omicron's New Year's Cocktail: Sorrow, Fear, Hope For 2022

Associated Press

Associated Press

PARIS: Sorrow for the dead and dying, fear of more infections to come
and hopes for an end to the coronavirus pandemic were again the bittersweet cocktail with which the
world said good riddance to 2021
and ushered in 2022.

New Year's Eve, which used
to be celebrated globally with a
free-spirited wildness, felt instead like a case of dely av, with
the fast-spreading omicron variant again filling hospitals.

"We just need enjoymen!", said
karen Page, 53, who was among the
de-up reveilers venturing out in Londe-up reveilers venturing out in Londe-up reveilers venturing out in Lon-

Ked-up revellers venturing out in Lor-don. "We have just been in so long." The mostly muted New Years Eve celebrations around the world ushered in the fourth calendar year framed by the global pan-demic. More than 285 million peo-ple have been infected by the cornavirus worldwide since late 2019 and more than 5 million have died.



In Paris, officials cancelled the fireworks amid surging infections and reintroduced mandatory mask-wearing outdoors, an obligation followed by the majority of people who milled about on the Champs-Elysées as the final hours of 2021 ticked away. In Berlin, police ureed people not

hours of 2021 ticked away.

In Berlin, police urged people not
to gather near the Brandenburg Gate,
where a concert was staged without
a live audience. In Madrid, authorities allowed only 7000 people into
the city's Puert adel Sol downtown
square, a venue traditionally hosting
come 20 000 reswellers. square, a venue traditionally hosting some 20,000 revellers. In the United States, officials

took a mixed approach to the year-end revelry; nixing the audience at a countdown concert in Los An-geles, scaling it back in New York yet going full speed ahead in Las Vegas, where thousands turned up for performances and to

Vegas, where thousands turned up for performances and a fireworks show on the Strip that got off to a late start because of gusty winds. President Joe Biden noted the losses and uncertainty caused by the pandemic but said: "We're persevering. We're recovering." "Back to work: Back to school. Back to joy," Biden said in a video posted on Twitter. "That's how we made it through this year. And how we'll embrace the next. Together."

made it through this year. And how we'll embrace the next. Toggether."

In New York, officials allowed just 15,000 people, vaccinated and masked inside the perimeter around Times Square, a siver of the 1 million that typically squeeze in to watch the famed ball drop, Outgoing Mayor Bill de Blasio, defending the event; said people need to see that New York is open for business.

Pakistan, India **Exchange List Of Nuclear Installations And Prisoners**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SLAMABAD: Pakistan and India on
Saturday exchanged a list of their
nuclear installations that cannot
be attacked in case of an escalation
in hostilities, as part of an annual
ritual that has been in practice between the two neighbours for more
than three decades, a Foreign Office
statement said here.

The two countries also exchanged lists of prisoners held in
each other's prisons, which include
civilians, defence personnel and
fishermen, it said.

The lists of nuclear installation
and facilities were exchanged as per
the provisions of the Artica-I of the
Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks.

tive of the Indian High Commission at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1030 hours PSI on Saturday. Similarly, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi handied their list of nuclear installations and facilities to a representative of the Pakistan High Commission at 1100 hours IST, the Pakistan Foreign Office statement said.

In a similar exchange, Pakistan shared with the Indian High Commission in Islamabad a list of 628 Indian prisoners in Pakistan, including 51 civilians and 577 fishermen.

The Indian Covernment abo simultaneously shared the list of 358 Pidistan prisoners in India including 282 civilians and 373 fishermen with the High Commission for Pakistan in New Delhi, it said.

into facilities were examined as per library in the provisions of the Artice-I of the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and artified on 27 January 1991.

According to this agreement, both countries have to inform each not of the nuclear facilities. This practice of exchanging lists has continued since January 1, 1992.

The exchange of the lists came and strain in ties between the two countries over the Kashmir issue as well as consistent with a secondary terrorism. The list of nuclear installations and facilities in Pakistan was officially handed over to a representa-

"To Hurt A Woman Is To **Insult God": Pope Francis** In New Year's Speech



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis used

Francis wove his New Year's homily around the themes of motherhood and women - saying it was they who kept together the threads of life - and used it to make one of his strongest calls yet for an end to violence against them.

"And since mothers bestow life, and women keen the world (transport of the control of the cont

WAITCAN CITY: Pope Francis used his New Year's message on Saturday to sissue a clarion call for a net of violence against women, saying it was insulting to God.
Francis, 85. celebrated a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on the day the Roman Catholic Church marks both the solemnity of Holy Mary Mother of God as well as its annual World Day of Peace.
Francis appeared to be in good form on Saturday following an unexplained incident on New Year Septimed Francis appeared to the solemnity of the Mass on Saturday following an unexplained incident on New Year Septimed Francis and the last minute did not pressed woman is to insuit God, who from a woman is to insuit God, who from a the last minute did not pressed woman who had been beaten by her certaral asile of basilica, as opposed to Friday night, when he emerged from a side entrance close to the allar and watched from the sidelines.
Francis suffers from a scitatic combination of the Mass on Saturday has been reached by the certain strong the side of basilica, as opposed to Friday night, when he emerged from a side entrance close to the allar and watched from the sidelines.
Francis suffers from a scitatic combination of the Mass on Saturday the walked the entire length of the certain strong the side of basilica, as opposed to Friday night, when he emerged from a side entrance close to the allar and watched from the sidelines.
Francis suffers from a scitatic combination and the sidelines and sometimes and seed to the service of the service of the Mass on Saturday the service of the servi

NEWS MAKERS

Watchdog: 45 Journalists Killed In 2021

Atotal of 45 journalists were killed worldwide in 2021 the International Federation

The international Federation of journalists (IFI) said on Friday—fone of the lowest death tolks it has recorded for any year.

The figure tracked closely with a toll of 46 killings of journalists given two weeks ago by another media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders (known by its initials RSF), which also noted it as its lowest-ever since starting its tallies in 1995.

"While this decrease is welcome news, it is small comfort in the face of continued violence," the Brusselshead IFI said in statement.

The toll included nine in Afghanisan, the highest number suffered by a single country.

Elsewhere, eight died in Mexico, four in India and three in Pakistan.



which also noted it as its Jowest-ever since starting its tallies in 1995. "While this decrease is welcome news, it is small comfort in the face of continued violence," the Brusselfs based IFJ said in statement. The full included nine in Alganistan, the highest number suffered by a single country. The full included nine in Alganistan — was the deadliest, with sangle country. The roll included nine in Alganistan. The IFJ said in the media work.

The IFJ said is the media work.

Agencies

Jeonic American comedian and acress Betty White, whose groundbreaking carer spanned decades, has died at age 99. Us media outlets have reported.

Jeff Wijas, White's agent and close friend, told People magazine in a statement on Friday that "even though Betty was about to be 100. 1thought she would live forever."

" will miss her terribly and so will the animal world that she loved so much. I don't think Betty ever feared passing because shalways wanted to be with her most beloved browned to be with him again," Wijtas said.

Citing law enforcement sources, TMZ first pepored that White light has the property of the control of the world.



loved so much. I don't think letty ever feared passing because she always wanted to be with hor most beloved husband Allen Ludden. She believed she would be with him again, "Witjas said.

Citing law enforcement sources, "MC first reported that White sees thomon for her and accresses in the United States. In the newspaper said.

Citing law enforcement sources, "MC first reported that White sees thrown for her made on Friday mornior the sees that was a pouth-driven in the was to make was honoured for her long career. "Its: incredible that by an at ayin a career this long and at a stay in a career this long and at a stay in a career this long and a stress in the United States. In the was a pouth-driven distance and a stay in a career this long and a stress in the United States. In the was a pouth-driven distance and a stay in a career this long and a stress in the United States. In the was a pouth-driven distance and a stress in the United States. In the seek was honoured for her long career. "Its: incredible that by an at ayin a career this long and a stress in the United States. In the was a pouth-driven distance and "The Many Tyler Moore Show," and "The Wany Tyler Moore

came a pop culture phenomenon in her 80s and 90s. Playing on her imminent likability, White was still starring in the TV sittom "Hot in Cleveland" at age 92. Until it was cancelled in late 2014. White said her longevity was a result of good health, good fortune and loving her work. "It's incredible that I'm still in this business and that you are still putting up with me." White said in an appearance at the 2018 Emmy Awards ceremony, where she was honoured for her long career. "It's incredible that you ant stay in a career this long and still have people put up with you, lwish they did that at home." In her last Twitter post on Deembor 28. White shared a recent interview she gave to People magnetics.

Govt To Hold 12 Festivals In 3 Months Across Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration will

Kashmir administration will hold 12 festivals across all the 10 districts of the Valley in next three months to showcase religious, traditional and cultural richness of the Valley. The details about the proposed festivals was shared by Academy of Art Culture and Languages (AAK&L) during a meeting convened by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday on implementations.

missioner Kashmir, Pandurang K
Pole on Saturday on implemen-tation of the scheme for promo-tion of Traditional and Cultural festivals in Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.
He said that the meeting was attended by Secretary, Academy of Art Culture and Languages (AAC&L), Rahul Pandey (Through VC) Entector Tourism (Through VC) Chief Tourism (Through VC) Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Department Kashmir, Rafiq Ahmad basides representatives of other members.
Among nominated experts

of other members.

Among nominated experts
CCO, J8K Muslim Waqf Board,
M M Farid-Ud-Din; representative of Director Doordarshan
Kashmir and Chairman, Kashmir Society International (SI),
Farooq Ahmad Renzu attended
the meeting.

At the outset, the official
spokesperson said that Secretary AAC&L informed the chair
that a list of 12 restivals have
been proposed to be celebrated
in 10 districts of Valley during

the current financial year culmi-nating March-2022, with focus on the quality instead of num-bers.

"Rahul Pandey said that the

"Rahul Pandey said that the festivals have been divided on the basis of two broad dimensions viz. religious, traditional and cultural." he said.
Pandey, as per the official spokesperson also said that on religious point of view Birth-day of Guru Gobind ji, Maha Shivvatri, Mehraj Ul Aalam and Nauroz and the second set of events include Tribal festivals. Pahari and Band Pather besides Composite Cultural festivals and Sufi festivals.
"The participants on the oc-

"The participants on the oc-casion gave their suggestions regarding organizing various drafted festivals at different locrations as against the identified places on the basis of faith, popularity and other reasons which was welcomed by the Div Com," he said.

Pole, he said, directed the Sec-

retary AAC&L to frame a draft plan of festivals to be organised in the next financial year start-

in the next tinancial year start-ing from April.

"He laid stress on the asset creation during these festivals citing that the same can be used in future also besides directing the concerned to ensure site res-torations," the official spokes-nerson said:

"The Chairman, KSI welcomed the patronization of the govern ment vis-à-vis celebrating vari-ous festivals," he added.

Skill Hub Initiative Launched In J&K; 40 Schools Identified

Press Trust Of India

tive' programme was formally launched in Jammu and Kash-mir under the Samagra Shiksha project here on Saturday, an of-ficial said.

Incal said.

Project
Director-Samagra
Shiksha, Deep Raj kanethia said
do schools have been identified
and designated as 'skill hubs'
in the Union Territory but initially the programme is being
launched in nine government
schools as a pilot project.
The 'Skill Hubb' initiative' is
part of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal
Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) 3.0 and
was launched across the country
on January 1. It will be executed
through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
The scheme, envisioned by
the Union ministries of educa-Director-Samagra

tion, and skill development and entrepreneurship, aims to pro-vide NSDC certified skill courses for out of school children and youth, and dropouts. It also aims at preparing them for placements as well as self-entrepreneurships. The scheme shall also be supported by the State Skill Development Mis-sions.

sions.

Kanethia said the nine schools
selected under the pilot project would be imparting training in NSDC recognised courses
and eventually the programme
will be extended to cover other
schools.

The government schools that have been designated as 'skill hubs' are located in different districts including Reasi, Bud-

J&K Parties Grieved Over Vaishno Devi Stampede

SRINAGAR: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir expressed grief over the loss of lives in the stampede at the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Jammu on Saturday and urged the admin-istration to take adequate steps to ensure such an incident does not recur.

statulous to take adequate steps to ensure such an incident does not recur.

Deeply saddened by the news from fimatavaishnodevi. My condolences to the families of all those who lost their lives in the stampede & prayers for the quick & complete recovery of all those injured, National Conference (NC) vice president and former chief minister Omat Abdullah vortoe on Twitter.

NC chief Farooq Abdullah said twas an extremely tragic incident at the holy place and expressed the hope that authorities will swiftly identify the causes and address them.

The BJP's JR unit chief Ravinarder Raina and senior party leaders Devender Singh Rana and Surject Singh Stathia separately visited the hospital where the injured were admitted and the Katra base camp nearby.

visited the nospital where the injured were admitted and the Katra base camp nearby. Expressing sadness over the incident, Raina said that party workers were assisting the affected people. The PDP faulted the police and administration and said such mismanagement has been unheard of in recent times. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families who lost their loved ones 8 pray for speedy recovery of the injured, the party said in a tweet. I am also saddened by the tragic accident at Vaishno be with the party said in a tweet. I am also saddened by the tragic accident at Vaishno be with the party said in a tweet.

MoS Jitendra Singh **Visits Injured Devotees**

JAMMU: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday
visited devotees injured in
a stampede at the famous
Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said.
At least 12 people, including two women, died and over
a dozen were injured in the
stampede at the shrine atop

The minister interacted.

ritic, officials said.

At least 12 people, including two women, died and over a dozen were injured in the stampede at the shrine atop the Trikuta hills triggered by a heavy rush of devotees in the early hours of the day, the said. Singh, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, was accompanied by Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh during his visit to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana

discharged.

The minister interacted with the injured pilgrims and was also briefed by the doctors, the officials said.

JBK BJP president Ravinder Rainn and senior party leaders Devender Singh Rana and Surject Singh Statia separately visited the hospital and the Katra base camp nearby, they added.

their duties. Instead, they are engrossed in threatening peo-ple into silence. My condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti tweeted. Congress' J-K unit chief Ch-ulam Ahmad Mir, Peoples Con-ference chief Sajad Lone and Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said the incident was unfortu-nate and expressed their condo-lences to the bereaved families. Lam deeply pained to learn

lences to the bereaved families.
I am deeply pained to learn about the tragic incident of loss of precious lives due to stampede in #MataVaishnoDevi Bhawan, #Katra. A very unfortunate incident, my heartlet condolences to bereaved families and prayers for speed recovery of injured, Bukhari said.

In Samba As Firing Range

Deeply saddened by the trag ic loss of lives at Mata Vaishno icos of lives at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan at Katra due to a stampede. My heartfelt condo-lences with the families of the deceased and my prayers for those who are injured, Mattu-wrote on Twitter. At least 12 people were killed and 20 others injured in the stam-pede at the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine during a heavy rush of devotres on New Year. The stampede occurred in the early hours of Saturday near gate number three outside he sanctum sanctorum of the shrine atop Trikuta hills, about 50 km from Jammu.

Govt Set To Re-Notify Nandini

SRINAGAR: The administration of SRINAGAR: The administration of Jamma and Kashniri has set the process in motion to declare an area spreading over 3247 Kanals and 17 Marlas of land in Samba district of Jammu province as field fring range (FRF) for forces. The Union Territory's Home department has issued two no-tifications, to set the ball rolling for re-notification of Nandini in

threations, to set the ball rolling for re-notification of Nandini in Samba district of Jammu prov-ince as field firing range for Army. Before 2014, the land was also used for artillery practice by the Army.

According to a notification, the area defined under the no-ne Home department while tification.

The Home department while exercising powers under The Manoeuvres Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act-1938, has defined an area spread over suitanted at Badheri, tehsil and district Samba, for the purpose for carrying out field firing and practice, as per the agreed standard operating procedure, for a period of 10 years.

The Home department has also issued a separate notice of intention for authorizing the carrying out of field firing and artillery practice throughout a not rea, the state government. The Home department has also issued a separate notice of intention for authorizing the carrying out of field firing and artillery practice throughout of the hotice in the official gazette—(KNO)

tification.

As per The Manoeuvres Field Fring and Artillery Practice Act-1938, before any notification is issued authorizing the carrying out of field firing and artillery practice throughout a notified area, the state government shall publish notice of its intention to issue such notification as early as possible in advance of the issue of the notification and on sue of the notification, and no such notification shall be issued until the expiry of two months from the date of the first publi-cation of the notice in the local sue of the notification, and no

IUST's Journalism Dept Pays Tribute To Marshall Mcluhan

AWANTIPORA: To revisit the AWANTIPORA: To revisit the legacy of the iconic communica-tion theorist Marshall McLuhan on his death anniversary, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC) Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Friday held a virtual special lecture by Award-winning communication scien-tist Prof. Shadey Kidwai. Prof. Kidwai, a bilingual critic, reviewer, translator and histori-reviewer, translator and histori-

reviewer, translator and histori-an of Urdu Journalism, has been to the journalism, has been teaching communication studies, cultural theories, and print media for more than three decades at Aligarh Muslim University. He is professor and chairman of the department of Mass communication, AMU.

The special lecture was a trib-ute to Marshall McLuhan, com-munication theorist who revoluitionized communication studies and how the way we perceive the advancement of communication technology around us. His apho-rism "the medium is the mes-sage" summarized his theoretical conceptualization of the deter-minant influence of media. Durminant influence of media. During the event, the guest speaker, Prof. Shafey Kidwai discussed the key philosophical ideas of Mariaham and highlighted his major contributions to the field of communication theory, Speaking about the contemporary relevance of Marshall McLuhan's ideas. Prof. Kidwai, stated that the even increasing influence that the even increasing influence.

e ever-increasing influence and reliability on communication technologies have confirmed the relevance of McLuhan's prophetic



arguments about communication and society. "Marshal McLuhan's concepts

and society.

"Marshall McLuhan's concepts
and ideas provided philosophical basis to then existing media
theory and in the contemporary
times when we have plethora
of media available, his theory
about technological determinism becomes more relevant and
worth studying for communication scholars', he added.
Prof. Kidwai elaborated on
McLuhan's work "Understanding Media" (1964) and stated
that McLuhan's unprecedent
approach towards theorizing
the nature of medium itself has
been a pathbreaking contribution to communication studies
which opened up a new whole which opened up a new whole area about researching the de-terminism of medium in the ad-

terminism of medium in the advancing electronic age.

"McLuhan fundamentally focused on the medium not the content and argued that its actually the characteristics of the medium itself which affect the recipients of the content and the society at large. McLuhan stated that the medium is like that lightbulb which enables an environment? Prof. Kidwai said.

Earlier Head of the Depart-

ment, DJMC Dr. Mujeeb Liyakat, during his welcome address expressed his view on the contribu-tions of Marshall McLuhan and said, "McLulian Tetrad of media effects like rest of his ideas are quite relevant in contemporary times and we try to demonstrate media's determinism in enhance-ment, obsolescence, retrieval and reversal as their effects on audi-

49

reversal as their effects on audi-ence perception."

Sr. Assistant Professor DJMC

And Session Moderator Dr. Monisa Qadiri, also underlined the scholarly significance of McLuhan's theoretical ideas and key concepts in contemporary media research.

key concepts in comemporary media research.

"The underlying conceptualizations of McLuhan's theory ushered into a new era of communication studies which opened up scholarly debates on the determinism of the medium in characterizing cultures and the world around us', she added.

Earlier, the department had also produced a short video in the remembrance of Marshall McLuhan which highlights vari-

the remembrance of Marshall McLuhan which highlights vari-ous aspects of his theory and graphically demonstrates its relevance in the contemporary digital age.

Unauthorised Movement Of Commercial Vehicles

Govt To Put 19000 Contract **Carriage Permits Online Soon**



Observer News Service

Observer News Service

SRINACAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration will soon put online 19000 contract carriage permits to check the movement of commercial vehicles plying unauthorizedly in Kashmir which is the major source of frequent traffic jams in Srinagar city and towns This information was given to the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole at an officers meeting here on Saturday convened to review the traffic plan formulated for improvement of traffic system in Kashmir, an official system in Kashmir, and official system in Kashmir,

Traffic, RTO, ERA, SDA, IC&MA, CEP had a threadbare discus-

Pahalgam, Gulmarg **Abuzz With Activities** On New Year Eve



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The week long Pahalgam Winter Carnival organised by the Tourism Department concluded on Saturday with the celebration of New Year.

The carnival saw 7 day long performances from the field of music, dance, dramas and exhibition of winter games, street foods among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez said that more than 4.5 lakh tourists have visited Pahalgam. He said that Pahalgam is fast emerging as a major winter tourist destination. He said the epartment is committed to put Pahalgam and Sonamarg on the tourist map for winter tourism.

Director Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. ON ltoo said on the occasion that the department has organized a Winter Carnival to showcase the scenic beauty of Pahalgam. He

Anantnag MY Gorsi, DC Anant-nag Dr Piyush Goyal and other officers of Tourism Department and district administration at-tended the New Year celebra-

The highlight of the event was The highlight of the event was the performance by Bollywood singer Rohanprit Singh who brought the crowd to its feet with his numbers. The event also saw participation by local cultural groups among others. On the occasion, Secretary Tourism also released Digital Calendar of Jourism Department.

endar of Tourism Departr

endar of Tourism Department. Prior to this, the department had organised weeklong musi-cal evenings which saw par-ticipation of locals and tourists. Locals and tourists alike lauded the department and district ad-ministration for their promotion and publicity of Pahalgam as a winter destination.

with department has organized a winter Carnival to showcase the scenic beauty of Pahlagam. He said such events are not only important to boost tourism but diajor film shooting destination and he hoped that film industry exists Pahlagam and Gulmarg for shootings.

The New Year day celebrations took place at Pahlagam they are to the sold place at Pahlagam and Gulmarg for shootings.

Among others, DDC Chairman

The New Year day celebrations took place at Pahlagam they had come to celebrate the club and saw a massive participation by tourists and locals:

Among others, DDC Chairman

SKUAST Felicitates Outstanding Students, Teachers



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir on Saturday held an event on New Year's Day to felicitate the outstanding students, scientisty for their contribution in various fields of scientific innovations, teaching, research, agricultural education and extension. The students and others were presented with mementoes and certificates for their outstanding individual and team efforts at a felicitation ceremony held at the university main campus Shalimar, a varsity spokesperson said.

Statinial, d varsity sporespec-son said.

He said Prof Nazir Ahamd Ga-nai, who was recently appoint-ed as the new Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K presided over the felicitation ceremony. Ganai, he said, personally went to greet all the students, scientists and other administrative staff inother administrative staff in-dividually and presented them

dividually and particularly flowers.

According to the spokesperson, student innovators, IRF qualifiers and achievers were particularly felicitated with citations. He said that the highest condents, more than

various faculties, directorates and other supporting wings of the university were felicitated,*
he added.
While addressing the students and staff, the spokesperson said that Prof Ganai, stated SKUAST-K would work towards becoming the first innovation-led farm university of the country. He said

stated SKUASI-K would work towards becoming the first innovation-led farm university of the country. He said the university is working on a mechanism for outcome-based implementation of NEP 2020 at the earliest.

"SKUASI-K being an agriculture university has a tremendous role in the economy and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, given majority of people in the UI depend on farming for their livelihood," he said, adding, "What we do here has a direct bearing on the quality of life of the people of J&K," he said

Praising the efforts of the university, the Vice Chancellor

university, the Vice Chancellor said the university has made said the university has made tremendous progress in the past few years as reflected by getting the rank of 6th best agricultural at the all-India level and being categorised as "band-Excellent" in the Atal In-Tations, He said that the highest number of students, more than under of students, more than ovation ranking. However, he 2021.

Similarly, SKUAST-K qualified JRF said there is the need to work on the grey areas for achievers of BiAC grants from Call the country level, besides keep-bepartment of Biotechnology, who were also felicitated at competitions going. Earlier, SKUAST-K's Director son said

Similarly, scientists who have developed the best technologies and released new crop varieties, per some overview of the pro- and released new crop varieties, per similarly scientists who have best teachers, NAHEP team, bearing from bearing the per sides administrative staff from presented the vote of thanks.

Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd. Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.

RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

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Twitter Talks



"Last year I wrote about how muslim women's pictures were auctioned online where women felt haunted and humiliated.
Today, after a year seeing my own picture in another trend
#bullideals, besides other muslim womens', makes me feel
utmost disgusting, I feel bad not weak. I amnot someone
who'd be silenced by such cheap tactics and I'll keep raising such issues again and again. In complete solidarity with all those women who are targetted yet again. You are strong!

"Let's be real. COVID can't read a calendar. Nothing magical will happen in 2022 unless we get our act together" @FaheemYounis

"This happened on the convent road today and people often complain of rash driving on this road. You will mostly see people taking a walk on this road and this could have resulted in a tragedy also. This stretch des-perately needs a speed breaker.

@SSPTFCSGR" @rinasirkashmir

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

3D Of Schools

ammu Kashmir Teachers Forum has urged the state government to rationalize the fee structure of private schools. Alleging a reputed private school had charged a donation of Rs 80,000 for admission of a student while issuing a receipt for Rs 25,000 perhaps to evade income tax as well as public criticism it voiced concern or other. The RITC hairman, who also heads a faction of the Employees Joint Action Committee, described these schools as "money mints." Pleading for making such institutions answerable to parents, and on a broader level, the entire society, he alleged their salary structure to did not match the qualification of their staff it is an open secret many such schools have, over the years, become arrogant in their disposition towards the sensibilities of local people who have got their wards enrolled with them. One is reminded of the historical contribution they have made to promote literacy in Kashmir and the local communities do acknowledge that with a sense of gratitude, But, there can be no denying that their missionary spirit has been overtaken by an un-satiated urge for profit-making. By chaging "donations for admissions, such schools have converted an otherwise noble mission into a highly lucrative commercial activity, Worse, the modits operand of such transaction betrays

that their missionary spirit has been overtalen by an un-statated urge for profit-making. By charging "donations" for admissions, such school wave converted an otherwise noble mission into a highly lucrative commercial activity. Worse, the modus operandi of such transaction betrays a bigger fraud which would call for cognizance at the legal level as well. Curiously, it is a hard reality that in spite of their alleged drawbacks, many of the neo-rich families have become crazy about these schools and have them as the first preference for their wards. The parents would not mind waiting outside such "prestigious" schools whole night to procure an admission form. In spite of their "popularity" the need or making them accountable before the parents and the government cannot be over-stated. They have to realize that they cannot operate in a vacuum and, sooner or later, have to turn their functioning to the expectation of parents. They need to respond positively to the growing clamor for rationalizing their fee structure. Orbivously, a wast majority of the parents can ill alford coughing up a helty donation of 8x 80,000 to secure admission for their children. After all, the tuition fee charged by the reputed schools is no mean even while they levy additional charges on other counts like poor fund, building fund and the like. On the other hand, Srinagar city and all the major towns across the valley have, over other charges of the parents can be a substituted in the major towns across the valley have, over their infrastructure in terms of staff and equipment, continue to be the last choice with most parents. But they fall under a totally different fresh interested a mushroom growth of private schools, because government-run schools, in spite of heavy investment for improvement of their infrastructure in terms of staff and equipment, continue to be the last choice with most parents. But they fall under a totally different cheers, most cases, their existence is determined by the needs of a particular area or locality. Alt

over the falling standards of education in its schools. Taking "a serious view" of poor results of its schools, the department had decided to "punish" non-performing teachers. In certain cases, even premature retirement of "dealures" had been ordered while some of the "delingsent" teachers were shifted out or their annual increments withheld, Housever, these stringent measures have failed to bring about any perceptible improvement in the performance of government schools, particularly single relevable. Who can deepy that the enrollment in government schools has seldom improved? In several schools, particularly in the city, the number of students is far less than that of teachers posted there.

Rampant trade unionism and truancy, lack of supervision and importantly, the falling standards of teaching, are some of the factory that have contributed to inhibit improvement is enrollment in government-run schools. And, it is this 'pandox' that provides the factory that have contributed to inhibit improvement in enrollment in government-run schools. And, it is this 'pandox' that provides they face some inherent handicags in terms of resources and mangower. Despite shortage of resources, they have to survive a competition among themselves which, more often than not, compels them to keep the fee structure low, that on, without compromise on the quality of education they impart. In numerous cases, they have to raise bank lossus to run their institutions more so because they can ill-afford to hike fee. These schools contribute a great deal in maintaining high and the schools are unable to offer salaries to the teachers commensurate with their qualification. In view of the significant contribution these schools are unable to offer salaries to the teachers commensurate with their qualification. In view of the significant contribution these schools are unable to offer salaries to the teachers commensurate with their qualification. In view of the significant contribution these schools make in the overall education sector, ther

This article is an editorial from KO Archives and was originally published on 16th October 2011

Delimitation And The Politics Of Proposals

The Factor That Makes A Protest For Reversal Of The Commission's Proposals Very Unlikely Is The Long-Standing Separatist Versus Pro-India Binary In The Valley



s was expected all along, the Delimitation Com-mission has given six out of seven new seats to the Jammu division and only of seven new seats to the jammu division and only one to Kashmir Valley. It was intended to create an electoral parity between the two divisions, ignoring that the Kashmir Valley has sixteen lakh more residents than Jammu. The commission will now redraw the boundaries of the newly formed constituencies by March next year. The Assembly seats in J&K now amount to 90, up from 83. Jammu's number increased from 37 to 43, and the Valley's from 46 to 47.

The BJP has thus sought to redraw the political map of J&K by trying to empower Hindu majority Jammu relative to Muslim majority Kashmir. A narrowed difference of just four seats would dilute the hitherto political centrality of the Valley and transfer power both politically and psychologically to Jammu division. In the new scheme of things, the minorities in J&K would have disproportionately more political hert than the majority. But this analysis is too obvious to require any elaboration. So, there have already been some political reprecussions. The major political parties in J&K like National Conference, the PDP, the People's Conference or for that matter even the Apni Party have termed the delimitation proposal as "unacceptable". Feople in manufacceptable".

IF AT ALL, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF A STIR IN

Kashmir, it could only be an 'integrated protest,' where separatism will meld with demands for restoration of Article 370 and reversal of the Commission's recommendations, something that no establishment party would be willing to hazard and the separatists are in no position to spearhead

in no position to spearhead

the Valley, as has been the case over
the last two years, are either passively monitoring the state of affairs
or have resigned to their fate. It is
difficult to predict what shape their
response will take in the near to medium future. But given the prevalining zero tolerance for any expression of dissent in Kashmir, no matter
how peaceful, it is unlikely that the
people would hit the streets - that
is, unless some incidental extraordinary provocation triggers a spontaneous outpouring.

That said, it would be really interesting to see how the response of the
establishment parties to the situation would evolve. Rejecting the new
delimitation proposal is little more
than a rehearsed, ritual response.
And from the looks of it, they seen
inclined to sit on their hands from
hereon. And which seems an understandable response considering
the centre has disproportionately
raised the cost for any bid on their
part to mobilize people against the
definitation proposals. In no time,
they could be packed off to jail and
the cases instituted against them for
their real or imagined crimes or the

alleged cases of corruption.
So, some leaders have once again sought refuge in litigating the case in the Supreme Court despite the fact that the Delimitation Commission's orders can't be challenged in the court. Former union minister Saif-u-Din Soz has in a statement Saif-u-Din Soz has in a statement said that "the recommendation of the Delimitation Commission could be enough to convince the judiciary to accept" them. "The Court's advice to the people of Kashmir, he added, could be to rest content with the recommendations of the Commission. But Soz has said this in his individual capacity as he is no longer actively involved in politics.

But the leaders in arrive notifics.

dividual capacity as he is no longer actively involved in politics. But the leaders in active politics have steered clear of threatening or calling for a political course of action for modification of the Commissions recommendations in flavor of Kashmir. Other than putting the ball in an imaginary court, the leaders seem to have nothing on their sleeve other than the "rejection" of the proposa si fit hat would change anything. But then is there anything the could do realistically to force New Delhi to terms? The answer to this is

more complex than it appears. One, of course, is the readiness on the part of the leaders to pay the inevitable cost for mobilizing a public resistance to the recommendations of the Commission. This seems apparently absent. There are reasons for this: More a political party tries to play to the sentiment in Kashmir, the more it is read as an unwelcome drift towards separatism in New Delhis. And as a corollary, the more a party plays to New Delhis sepectations, the more is it inferred as a political compromise in Kashmir, So, it should be no surprise if some Kashmir mainstream politicians talk about autonomy and self rule in Kashmir, governance in Jammu division and rail against Pakistan in New Delhis. But now the regime in New Delhis devoid of its nuance, complexity and complications. And some Kashmir leaders have grudgingly knotwowed to the expectation and the others have been more or less restrained in what they say, while struggling to stay true to their oid politics.

Another thing that makes a pretest for reversal of the Commissions proposals very unlikely is the long-stranding separatism versus pro-India binary in the Valley. The ongoing struggle in Kashmir that has so far claimed over 70,000 lives its fundamentally separatism versus pro-India binary in the Valley. The ongoing struggle in Kashmir hat has so far claimed over 70,000 lives its fundamentally separatism versus pro-India binary in the Valley. The ongoing struggle in Kashmir hat has so far claimed over 70,000 lives its fundamentally separatism versus pro-India binary in the Valley. The ongoing struggle in Kashmir hat has so far claimed over 70,000 lives its fundamentally species over a scivic an issue as power outages have often culminated into anti-New Delhi in nature. even the protests over as civic an issue as power outages have often culminated into anti-New Delhi sto-gamenting, so, a stir on the pattern of anti-CAA protests that only seeks revealed of the vervocation of Article 370.

versal of the revocation of Article 370 and that of the Delimitation Commission's recommendations is just anot possible in the Valley, Kashmir is still far from coming to a point where the protesters are willing to awar a tricolor as part of their protest, ISo, if at all, there is a possibility of a stir, it could only be an 'integrated protest,' where separatism will med with demands for restoration of Article 370, and reviews all of the Commission's resand reversal of the Commission's rec-ommendations, something that no establishment party would be willing to hazard and the separatists are not in a position to spearhead.

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

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer

Old Neighbors, New Year

his year had begun with an unex-pected positive turn in India's re-lations with Falistam — a ceasefire agreement in February. But it did not take long for those hopes to be dashed. Could 2022 be any different? Optimists cheer the fact that the ceasefire to gentlered despite the sheers of a formal

Optimists cheer the fact that the ceasefire has endured despire the absence of a formal dialogue and hope that the new year will turn out to be more propitious for dialogue than 2021. Pessimists insist Pakstan's India policy is immune to any positive change, Idealists would want India and Patistan to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence and Partition by making a fresh bid for durable peace in the subcontinent. Cynics will pour cold water on such visions by saving and Partition by making a fresh bid for durable peace in the subcontinent. Cynics will pour cold water on such visions by saying India and Pakistan are condemned to at least a "hundred-year war" in the subcontinent. Realists, however, say change is the eternal law of the world — for India, and Pakistan, too, the question is not "whether" they will change their approach towards each other, but "when". Significant changes are occurring in both countries and in the larger regional and international environment. These are bound to bave some impact on India-Pakistan relations that have been frozen stiff for long.

Six years ago this week, when Narendra Modi landed on short notice in Lahore, he visited Nawaz Sharif at his residence at Raivind. It was Christmas Day and Nawaz Sharif was celebrating a family wedding as well as his birthday. The PM's bold move raised expectations for a new chapter in India-Pakistan relations. It followed a meeting between the two leaders in Ufa,

A SERIES OF DEVELOPMENTS IN EARLY 2019 — the

Pulwama terror attack, the Indian air force raid on Balakot in ${\sf Pakistan} \ {\sf and} \ {\sf Delhi's} \ {\sf constitutional} \ {\sf changes} \ {\sf on} \ {\sf Kashmir-produced}$ a new dynamic for India-Pakistan relations

Russia, on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in July 2015. Modi
and Sharif agreed on a few concrete steps
to initiate a new dialogue.

Earlier, Sharif had come to Delhi to attend
Modis's wearing-in as India's prime minister in May 2014. Sharif's decision did not
please Rawalpindi. Delhi saw the invitation as a political gesture of goodwill to its
South Asian neighbour and a commitment
to put the neighbourhood first in India's
foreign policy. But the millitary establishment saw it as Modis' s'imperial call' to
the Delhi Durat. Modi and Sharif, elected
with strong popular mandates, seemed to
get along well and appeared eager to advance the bilateral relationship. That Modi
and Sharif might short-circuit the military
establishment inevitably produced a backlash within the deep state.

Whether it was a reaction to Modis' Lahorte visit or not, a majot terror attack took
place against an Indian Air Force station in
Pathankot on New Year's day of 2016. In
an unprecedented step, Modi invited the
Paldistant ineelingence agencies to join their
Indian counterparts in investigating the incident and finding the source, but there was
not much enthussam in pursuing the terorists by Pakistan's security establishment.
Within a few months, there was a second
terror attack on the Indian Army brigade
headquarters at Uri in September 2016. This

terror attack on the Indian Army brigade headquarters at Uri in September 2016. This

time, Modi followed through with the Indian army's surgical strike on terror camps in Pakistan. As a fresh chill enveloped relations with India, the deep state became even more hostile to Sharif, who called for a rethink of Pakistan's support for terror groups and recasting relations with the neighbours. He was villified as "Modi ka yaar" and the campaign against Sharif continued until he was ousted by mid-2017. Imran Rhan, who became the prime minister in 2018, presided over a rapid downturn in bilateral relations. Hugely popular across the subcontinent during his cricker-across the subcontinent during his crickertime. Modi followed through with the Indi-

ister in 2018, presided over a rapid downturnin in bilaterial relations. Hugely popular
across the subcontinent during his cricketing days, Imran boasted that he knew India better than anyone in Pakistan. He was
confident about making a deal with Modi if
the Indian Pol was re-elected in 2019. But
he seemed to have little understanding of
either the Indian position or the negotiating history between the two nations.
A series of developments in early 2019 —
the Pulwama terror attack, the Indian air
force raid on Balakot in Pakistan and Delhi's
constitutional changes on Rashmir – produced a new dynamic for India-Pakistan
relations. An outraged Pakistan went on
an international campaign to compel India
to reverse the changes in Kashmir, but got
nowhere. Inman Khan himself went berserk
with his personal viluperation against Modi.
But India and Pakistan surprised the
world in February this year by announcing

an agreement to nenew the 2003 ceasefire that was observed more in breach in recent years. Although the agreement was formalised by the Directors General of Military Operations in the two army headquarters, it was negotiated in the backchannel between the Indian security establishment and the Pakistan army leadership, Besides the ceasefire, the two sides also agreed 'to address each other's core issues and concerns which have the propensity to disturb peace'. India's escalating military confrontation with China provided enough reason to try and stabilise the Pakistan frontier, But India's engagement with Pakistan would, of course, be subject to Islamabad addressing Delhis core concerns on cross-border terrorism. Islamabad's own case for a reset was articulated by Pakistans Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. He underlined the importance of Pakistan moving away from geopolitics to geoeconomics that will revitalise the nation's economic development. He argued that it is time for India and Pakistan in the subject of India and Pakistan in the India and Pakistan in Ind

author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kash-mir Observer. The article was originally published by The Indian Express

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Plot Thickens: Inside Bollywood's **Biased Kashmir Lens**

Year 2022 Iskicking Off A Spell Of Fresh Bollywood Flicks On Kashmir Living Up To Their 'Scripted'hype. But In A Bid To Be In The Limelight, Many Say, The Filmmakers Are Only Making Clown Of Themselves By Showing The Distorted Picture.

resh from his yet another successful cop flick, the tinsel town's "Mr. 100 Crore" filmmaker lately showed up in Kashmir. RohitShetty's sudden arrival in the val-ley came days before his Singham movie sequel was announced. This time, Ajay Devgn-star movie would reportedly revolve around the strin-gent policing in Kashmir during the Article 370 abrogation.

sequel was announced. This time, Ajay Devgn-star movie would reportedly revolve around the stringent policing in Kashmir during the Article 370 abrogation.

Even as the director-on-recce turned down such moviemaking motive, but the valley's cinematic history makes it an obvious potboiler.

Before Shetty, a "blue-eyed" director who proposed "Veg Wazwam" was in the valley for his own "Mission Kashmir". He's shooting the nightmarish episode of nineties with a certain script.

Come next summer, many say, and his film will be presenting an extreme version of ViduVinod Chopa's Shikara.

Interestingly, the reel script has dramatically changed in the "Naya Kashmir", lust like the real unfolding plot, there seems no check and balance on the Kashmir content being fed to masses in the name of entertainment. Even Raj Bhavan has been tirelessly inviting indian filminakers to recreate the bygone Bollywood romance in the restive region.

However, in the times of OTT platforms and annience peics, the valley is only witnessing a biased lens projection.

The contemporary cinematic treatment of Kashmir is a huge departure from the rosy picture of the UPA days. The ruling MDA, it seems, is even trying to outdo its predecessors and political rivals in the cinematic works as well.

What was rosy, many reckon, has now become agory. And not-surprising—anymore, it has its cheericading audience tool

But amid the fascination for the fringe content, the good-old "paradise on earth" fixation is still there. Ask any newbie in the cine-world on a work-tour in Vale, and they'll tell you!! I there's any place on earth which will intoxicate you, alure your soul and entice the artist inside of you, then it has to be Kashmir.

As a culogy as well as an elegy, Kashmir recities its verses through pain and joy, blood and beauty, fall and autumn. The valley is devotion, so they say, a pious enchanted piety which will suffice your hungry soul with the shimmering waterfalls, beautiful shikaras in the lakes, the deodar and Chinar trees and the great Hi



Eventually, the table took a turn and during the late 1990s and early 2000s, Bollywood got stormed by various artistic directors and writers who wanted to portray Kashmir's landscape, culture, fribes, hospitality and warmth to contribute to this gorgeous, beguilling and divine place. One such director and writer waslmita: Ali, who while shooting Highway in Kashmir managed to interact with students in Kashmir University. "Kashmir is regarded as special in the country. It is like the jewel of the country. But it is represented very little and I do share your sentiment that it has not been completely and accurately described. There have been films on Kashmir, but there is much more than what has been shown," Ali said during an interactive session organized by Media Department of Kashmir University. Through his movies like Highway and Rockstar—where the protagonist moves to Kashmir and parts near to the Himalayas to find peace, Ali successfully established the connection of viewers with the region's inner beauty. He also broke the stigma of beauty by saying, "But you have to understand when they say that Kashmir is beaven on earth, they probably don't say it because of its scenery, they probably mean the people. Because it's always the people that make the place. During that media interaction, Allencouraged the Kashmiri youngsters to become storytellers and enlighten the world with the essence of the real Kashmir.

None of them tried to show the reality of the land. Bollywood filmmakers could not see anything beyond the snow-capped mountains and verdant walkers of Kashmir. vallevs of Kashmir

valleys of Kashmir. Period of Dystopia

The post-1989 films changed the image of Kashmir for Bollywood, media houses, potential sight-seers and the dwellers of Kashmir.

There was an abrupt change when the insurgency started. A new type of storytelling took place which was going to change the entire perspective of Kashmir. The region was now either brewing for militancy and militants, or getting sympathies for same in the cinemas. The art of cinema became more of political turmoil.

for same in the cinemas. The art of cinema became more of political turmoil.

Mani Ratnam's 1992 movie, Roja, came in this backdrop and changed the game of filmmakers. Originally a Tamil movie, Rojawas a political drama which showcased violence in Kashmir for the very first time after the armed conflict. This movie opened the gate to many more directors and writers to fester the wound of Kashmir.

Loosely based on the real-life kidnapping-drama of Indian Oil executive director, K Doraiswamy,the movie depicted a story of a Hindu female protago-

of Indian Oil executive director, K Doraiswamy,the movie depicted a story of a Hindu female protago-nist from small-town Tamil Nadufighting against all odds to rescue her husband. Roja paved way tothe movies like Mission Kash-mir, Yahaan, Fanna, etc. But these political dramas were denounced by the natives caught in the throes of political ten-



mountains of Kashmir caught the eye of the Bom-bay showmen. A large number of films shot in the valleyduring that period hardly spoke about the

-Jab

sions as the cinematic propaganda.

The overwhelming review remains that most of these films were quite dishonest in their portrayal of the political events in the valley.

An Indian adaptation of William Shakespeare's Hamlet, Haiderwith the star-studded cast unsethed many propagandists in the film industry with its chutzpah clout. It could show some realistic drama because of the native scribe-script writer, Basharat Peer. One can even find shades of Peer's Curfewed Nights in the backdop or star movie.

Successfully adapted Hamlets vists and turns in the backdop of the armed insurgency in the Kashmir of the 1998s. Vishal Bhardwaj showed the true essence of Kashmiris and Kashmir.

The movie didn't fail to showcase the agony of Kashmirts too beyond the political hotspot. The movie also raises the point which was majorly not known to many Indians—Disappearance and Halfwidows.

But now, with the summer shift of 2019, the

woows.

But now, with the summer shift of 2019, the filmmakers are apparently arriving to shootthe scripted plot. No wonder many of these filmmakers are openly—and quite brazenly—questioning



the ethnic practices while coming for the cin-

the ethnic plactices white coming or materials replects. So, how do natives feel about it?

Well, ask any Kashmiris made subject of this reel enterprise and most of themwillreply, quoting a line from the 1939 film. Gone with the Wind: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

BEFORE SHETTY, A "BLUE-EYED" DIRECTOR WHO

proposed "Veg Wazwan" was in the valley for his own "Mission Kashmir". He's shooting the nightmarish episode of nineties with a certain script.

a creative boom with new-age Kashmiris telling stories of their strife-ridden homeland in a very objective and dispassionate manner. But despite being vocal about it, very little of

Kashmir as a war-zone. From the flowing wind of romance, Bollywood directors successfully estab-lished Kashmir as ground zero in the public per-

ception.

From a place which attracted tourists, it had become a place people feared. Kashmir grabbed attention like never before. The place which was paradise had now become a bane.

Kashmir's culture and tradition has been shown in Kashmir's culture and tradition has been shown in the movies. It's either a paradise or political bat-tefield in the lens of Bollywood. There're hardly any humans with dreams and life.

Period of Utopia

Before the explosive political tensions made it a dystopia for Indian moviemakers, Kashmir was utopia for the film fraternity.

culture, tradition, heritage or even music of Kashmir. The sole purpose of shooting in the mountains was the beauty which went parallel and hands in hand with all the romantic movies of that time.

The prominent films shot during that time wasArzoo (1965), Jab JabPhoolkhir. (1965), Roil (1974), among others.

These movies did show Shikara, Houseboats, traditional dress. Pheran and a headscarf, but what

These movies did show Shikara, Houseboats, tra-ditional dress, Pheran and a headscarf, but what took the backseat was the essence of the authen-ticity of Kashmir.

The sole purpose was to portray romance in an utmost beautiful way. Kashmir or Kashmiri cul-ture was more or less shrunk to a scenic set. Later, prominent director Yash Chopra continued the tradition of erhancing the beauty of Kashmir on camera through his movies, like Kabhikabhie (1976), Noorie (1979) and Silsia (1981). These movies made Kashmir a fantasyland forthe people across India.

across India.
But these movies weren't about Kashmir.Film-makers were just borrowing the bewitching beauty of the valley to make their films appealing.



The COVID 19 pandemic has put people's values un-der a microscope, shining a light on who and what our systems and communities value most. Around the world, as social safety nets were strained, govern-ments struggled to serve their clitzens and existing inequalities become exacerbated, communities also came together in any way they could – whether it be through drive-by birthday parties and graduations or mass crowdfunding efforts – and communal care came to the forefront of our collective values, even in the midst of chaos.

A newly published study from Pew Research

the midst of chaos.

A newly published study from Pew Research
Center, a nonpartisan American think tank, reflects
this commitment to one another. The study, which
surveyed nearly 19,000 adults in 17 countries where
they find meaning in their lives and what keeps then
going, found that family remains the top source of mo-

tivation for most people around the world.

Australia had the highest percentage of respondents who cite family as their No. 1 motivator, with 55% of Australian respondents mentioning their faily or children when describing what infuses means the state of the contract o

into their life.
"I think family is very important in my life," one "I think family is very important in my the," one Styearold Australian woman said in response to what gives her life meaning, "You practice what you preach. And contributing to society and instilling strong values and a sense of respect in my children to treat others as they want to be treated." Said another Australian; "My life is good, family is good. I have a cat, everything is good." New Zealand and Greece also had more than belf of their respondents remort family as being.

New Jesuand and Greece also had more than half of their respondents report family as being their No. 1 motivator, with the U.S. and U.K. follow-ing closely behind.

However, while family ranked in the top for most

of the countries surveyed, disparities still exist in the data – showing how cultural differences impact what people value.

of the commiss surveyed, uspan has said each and data—showing how cultural differences impact what people value.

In Taiwan, family ranked as the third most important facet to a meaningful life behind society and material well-being. Taiwan is the only country to have a plurality of respondents report society as their top reason for having motivation in life, with responses citing everything from their specific neighborhood to the island as a whole and reflecting ideals of communal support and care.

"Taiwanese people are kind, they are willing to make donations when serious incidents occur," one respondent, a 57 year-old woman, said when reflecting on Taiwanese society. "Taiwanese people are lovely." Occupation and material well-being consistently socred in the top five sources of meaning in the lives

occupation and material well-being consistently scored in the top five sources of meaning in the lives of respondents from the majority of the countries sur-veyed. Friends were also consistently high-scoring

especially in the U.K. and U.S., where friendships came in as the No. 2 reason for having a meaningful life, after family.

life, after family.

Despite the disparities, the clear trend throughout the data is that a resounding care for others keeps people around the world going throughout the pandenic, despite the fact that this past summer, another Pew study found that the pandemic has increased so-eightful control of the pandemic has increased so-eightful control.

Pew study found that the pandemic has increased social division.

"Community and purpose. Being able to contribute to community building helps form an identity that isn't limited by familial or ancestral identity and promotes diversity," one 28 year old respondent from the U.S. said. "Events like a global pandemic should foster unity as such a virus is largely nondiscriminatory. I think particularly with the change in narrative associated with change in leadership, we will see less divisive ideals and start to take community and unity seriously as priorities."

Air Pollutants, Meteorological Variables **Influence Pollen Concentration: Study**

ir pollutants influ ence pollen concen-tration and different types of pollens

lave a unique response to wenther conditions, shows a study by Indian scientists.

Foliens remain suspended in the air and form part of the air we breathe. When inhaled, they put a strain on our upper respiratory system, and cause widespread upper respiratory tract and naso-bronchial allergy with manifestations like astima, seasonal rhimitis, and bronchial irritation.

Airborne pollen varies in character from place to place due to diverse meteorological or environmental conditions. There is growing evidence that airborne pollen plays a crucial role in increasing allergic diseases in the urban environment. As pollen, climatic variables, and air pollutants coexist in nature, they have the potential to interact with one another and exacerbate their adverse effects on human health. In light of this, Prof Ravindra Khaiwai from Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, along with Chairperson, Department of Environment Studies, Dr Suman Mor and PhD scholar Akshi Goyal, studied the influence of nucleorological of air pollutants on the air-



A complex and obscure relationship of A complex and obscure relationship of airborne pollen was indicated with air pollutants. The scientists plan to examine long-term data sets to establish the trends in the relationship.

borne pollen of Chandigarh.

In the study, financially supported by the Department of Science and Technology, and one of the first in India trying to understand the impact of air pollutants and meteorological variables on airborne pollen, they explored the relationships of temperature, rainfall, relative humidity, wind speed, direction, and ambient air pollutants mainly, particulate borne pollen of Chandigarh pollutants mainly, particula matter and nitrogen oxide to

the airborne pollen, a release

the airborne pollen, a release said.

The study, recently published in Science of the Total Environment, suggests that each pollen type studied had unique response to weather conditions and air pollutants. The majority of pollen types were reported in the spring and autuum flowering period. Distinct peaks of airborne pollen were observed during favourable weather conditions, like moderate

temperature, low humidity, and low precipitation. It was observed that moderate temperature plays a significant role in flowering, inflorescence, maturation, pollen release, and dispersal. In contrast, pollen grains were eliminated from the atmosphere during precipitation and high relative humidity. A complex and obscure relationship of airborne pollen was indicated with air pollutants. The scientists pollen was indicated with air pollutants. The scientists plan to examine long-term data sets to establish the trends in the relationship. Khniwal highlighted that in terms of the climatic future, it is expected that the urban environment will significantly impact plant biological and phenological

uneters. "Therefore, the study's

parameters.
"Therefore, the study's findings generate useful hypotheses that air pollutants influence pollen concentration and can be further explored as the data set expands in the future." the release added.

The current study's findings could help to improve the understanding of complex interactions between airborne pollen, air pollutants, and climatic variables to aid in formulating suitable mitigation policies and minimising the burden of pollinosis in the Indo-Gangetic Plain region identified as a hotspot of air pollutions, specifically during October and November.

Poor Sleep Takes A Toll On Health Care Workers' Mental Condition, Finds Study

In a recent study, researchers have studied the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on health care workers' sleep patterns and the potentially damaging consequences of sleep disturbance on their mental health.

The study has been published in the 'International Journal of Environmental Research and Publis Health'.

The new study found that health care workers with poor sleep were twice more likely to report suprimous of depression than their better rested colleagues and were 50 per cent more likely to report suxiety.

That constellation of tronbearch of the could worsen the overlapping crises already enveloping health care.

"Right now, a large percentage of health care workers mitonally," said the studies' lead author Marwah Abdalla, MD, assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

"With fewer workers on the job, the remaining staff must work more and longer shifts, exacerbating their sleep problems and stress," Abdalla added,

Abdaila added.

It's hardly news that health care workers have been under immense stress during the COVID pandemic,



something Abdalla, a cardi-ologist at Columbia Univer-sity Irving Medical Center, has witnessed firsthand since early 2020. As a physician-scientist, she formed a team to study health care workers' reactions to stress, with a re-

scientist, she formed a team to study health care workers' reactions to stress, with a special emphasis on the pandemic's effects on sleep.

During the pandemic's first peak in New York City, she and her colleagues conducted a series of surveys of health care workers' sleep habits and psychological symptoms. The group's first paper, published in August, summarized the sleep data, showing that over 70 per cent of health care workers had at least moderate insomnia symptoms during the pandemic's first peak. Though that number declined along-side COVID case counts, nearly four in 10 still suffered

from insomnia symptoms 10 weeks later when the first CO-VID wave was over and work schedules had returned to more normal levels.

more normal levels.

Poor sleep not only affects patient care—"We know that lack of sleep degrades the quality of care for our patients and can increase medical errors," said Abdalla—but also may also trigger symptoms of depression and anxiety.

It the ground study the

anxiety.

In the second study, the researchers found that health care workers who reported poor sleep also reported higher levels of stress, anxiety, and depression than health care workers who sleep better.

Although stress, anxiety, and depression car arise among well-rested individuals, "sleep is essential to mental health and there is a bidirectional relationship," Abdalla said.

Srinagar Craft Safari Continues To Impress In Its Fourth Edition



SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley in gen richest place in terms of cultural nchest place in terms of cultural heritage as it has an everlasting collection of arts and crafts. The handcrafted artifacts hold the pride of being personal artistic expressions, symbols of heritage identity and sources of livelihood for the artisans. On the other hand, these artifacts form a significant part to facilitate household chores, souvenirs, a source of beauty and a mark of refined taste.

Taking it to the next level the department of Handicrafts and Handicom Kashmir Saturday continued the Craft Safari post recognition of Srinagar in the UNESCO creative city network in the field of Craft and folk Art in its fourth edition. This safari was uniquely blended with the visits to artisans' workplaces and the aide institutions of the craft.

The team of the officers from the handicrafts and Handicom he. heritage as it has an everlasting

paces and the after institutions of the craft.

The team of the officers from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Intellectuals, Academic Scholars, Journalists, Tour Operators, Students and other fields, snuggled in their warm wither apparels gathered and started the new year and the craft safari from the Pashmina Testing and Quality Control Lab (PTQCC) at Baght—Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar.

The PTQCC has been instrumental in certifying and labeling the genuine handmade Pashmina via via Hand Spon and Hand Woven

a viz Hand Spun and Hand Wover Pashmina. To derive economic benefit from GI registration, the Fash-mina products are certified and labeled with alpha numeric code for the genuineness and authentic-ty of the handicraft product. The testing and labeling activities be-ing carried out at the centre have shown an increase in growth dur-ing the last year due to the rigorous advertisement for pure pashmina campaign not only on the social media handles of the department blasted on all corners of the city as well as on the sign boards estab-lished on all corners of the city as well as on the high cathonal Airport Srinagar Braving the chill, the team pre-ceded to the Indian Institute of Carefit from GI registration, the Pash-

ceded in the Indian Institute of Car-pet Technology (IRT.), Smagar. The IICT has been mandated to provide technical support to regional Carpet Industry through Human Resource Development: Design Oreation & Development Development, Research & Devel-opment and Technical Services & Edicilities to the Industry. The Insti-tute has developed a unique Carpet Design Software wherein the car-pet designs are created, developed and automatically converted into and automatically converted into Taleem Scripts and the design thus

rateem scripes and one design times created is preserved forever. This innovation has eased the design work enormously as it used to take months together for a group of persons, comprising of Nogash (Designer), Taleem Writer and a Taleem Copylist, to make a carpet design of standard size and transfer the design drafted on grant name? the design drafted on graph paper into the coded pattern known as taleem in the local language. The

Institute has created a Design Bank in the digital form for the carpet craft. The digitization of handwrit-

in the digital form for the carpet craft. The digitazion of handwrit-ten Takeem papers of more than 350 traditional carpet designs have been preserved in the soft form which can be recreated as per the provalent market requirements for further development. The team continued its 4th edi-tion of the safari to the workplaces of Shabir Ahmad Naqash, Sadiq Ca-nia, Mohd Ances and Mustafa Ah-mad which run the units of Tracing, Willow Wicker, Washing and Dye-ing, respectively in the adjoining areas of Nowshera belt of Srinagar In the tracing thit of Shabir Ah-mad Naqash, Near Nalbal Bridge, the team visualized how the dif-ferent patterns are embossed on the base fabric by specialized trac-ers known as Naqash, with carved blocks of walnut wood dipped in a watery solution of charcoal power.

ers known as Nagash, with carved blocks of walnut wood dipped in a watery solution of charcoal powder mixed with a binder. The tracing is regarded as the initial process of embroidery works of Sozni, Ari and likes of same.

The team in the willow wicker unit run by Sadig Gania beheld that the artisans use the delicate inter-weaving of willow stems for malding aesthetic products which not only look beautiful but also have a real utility. Gania is one of the rare artisans engaged in the craft of Willow wicker in Stringart Downtown area. The unit of Washing run by Mohd Anees speaks voluminous about the hard work they are playing in the washing of handicrafts products as they need delicacy and cent percent concentration in terms of maintaining the texture of the products without damaging the same.

terms of maintaining the texture of the products without damaging the same.

The safari was concluded by the visiting team to the Dyeing unit of Mustafa Ahmad. The management of dyeing and its colour combination plays an important role in the carls: sector and are regarded as the turning point in letching the market and its game play.

The artisans are versatile and varied. There is diversity found in the skills that an artisan has been carrying old traditions to various arts and crafts. Retaining the indigenousness of the skills, the artists have successfully refined them at the same time. Thus, the artisans are praised for presenting the fusing of trend and radiation, with the artisans are praised for presenting the fusing of trend and radiation, with transapamation of legacy and developing art forms.

The craft safari has been appreciated not only by the local inhabitants but also the people associated with the glamour world. The tour operators halting outside the UT and have well established business are showing interest to be part of these events and explore the crafts of Kashmir in order to take them to newer heights at global level.

The department is going to programme such tours routinely in coming days to focus each craft of the city under the hashtag banner #UNESCO-CRATCity Srinagar. The updates are available on the departmental social media handles @dohhkmr.

ATM Service Charges Increase, To Cost Rs 21 Per Transaction

NEW DELHI: Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) across banks increased service charges per transaction from Saturday, following an order from the Reserve Bank of India (RB1) and customers will have to Rs 1 more beyond the permissible free transactions for cash as well as non-cash purposes. As per the RB1 notification dated June 10, 2021, from January 1, 2022, banks have been permitted to charge Rs 21, instead of Rs 20 with applicable taxes, if any, shall be additionally payable. However, the customers are eligible for five free transactions (inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions) every month from their own bank ATMs. They are also eligible for free transactions (inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions (inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions from other bank ATMs.



ATM deployment and expenses towards ATM maintenance in-curred by banks or white-label ATM operators.
Ashwani Rana, Founder of, Voice of Banking said, "The in-rease of service charges per ATM transaction will be charged from the customers beyond a number of transactions permitted by the respective banks." cial and non-financial transactions) from other bank AIMs it. three transactions in metro centers and five transactions in mon-metro centers.

The last change in internange fee structure for ATM transactions was in August 2012, while the charges payable by customers were last revised in August 2014.

The RBI has notified the changes from January 1, 2022, citing the increasing cost of

with the recent RBI guideline to increase ATM transactions charges (applicable after the customers exhaust the free monthly limit;)."

"We believe this will boost the already growing demand for cash withdrawal through AEPs and Micro ATMs at our direct business outlets and help us in exhibiting our result of growing activities. business outlets and help us in achieving our goal of growing financial inclusion in deeper geographies and far-flung area like North East, Kashmir, La-dakh, and Utrakhand. We sold over one lakh Micro ATMs since we began operations since we began operations since we began operations of since we began operations of the since we have a since we have a since we have a since we have been operated for the since we have a since we

3 Milk Processing Units To **Produce Toned Milk Fortified** With Vitamin A&D

SRINAGAR: As part of initiative of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to address the issue of malnutrition and other health relations are other health relations are only in the india of the processing units including Mis Zum Zum Milk Products, Mis Alaebe Milk Products and Mis Insha Dairy Limited, operating from ICC, Lassipora Pulwama have initiated the process for fortification of milk with victumin A and D, with the assistance of FSSAI and Food & Drugs Administration, J&K. SRINAGAR: As part of initiative

besides Food Business Operators engaged in manufacturing/processing of milk and milk products, rice and wheat flour. An onsite training programme was also organized at Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producer's Co-operative Limburgh (JKMPLC) located at Chashme-Shahi, Sringgar, in collaboration with PATH, an NGO associated with PSSA for awareness and training of Food Business Operators on food fortification. During the training pro-

from ICC, Lassipora Pulwama have initiated the process for erators on food fortification. To fortification of milk with visuania A and D, with the assistance of FSSAl and Food & Drugs Administration, IsK.

In this regard, FDA in collaboration with FSSAl had concluded a 3day awareness countraining programme for Food Business Operators engaged in processing and manufacturing of milk and milk products in Srinagar with regard to food fortification of fixed processing units very fixed to the processing units were successing and manufacturing of milk and milk products in Srinagar with regard to food fortification initiative of FSSAl and Food fortification in milk with virus wire fortification with various stake holders including or ground sold fortification with various stake holders including or ground and didne to address various health related issues like anemia and malnutrition. He said Civil Supplies & Consumer A. Fairs, Social Welfare, School Education and Health Departments

to the age of 5 years in India, as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) and situation is no different in J&K *TSSAI, apart from fortification of rice oil and salt, has already rolled out recommendations for fortification of skimmed milk double toned milk toned milk and standardized milk with 770 IU of Vitamin A and 550 IU of Vitamin D per litre of milk; he added.

Vitamin A and 550 to of Vitamin D per litre of millc', he added.

He said the fortification will help provide 15-30 per cent of the daily requirement for the set Vitamins adding that milk fortification is a safe and cost effective method for adding nutrients to milk which is consumption by children is reasonably high. Vitamin A and D that are added to milk, help to improve body's immunity against infections, improve vision and help to make the bones strong, he added.

added.

He said that Food & Drugs Administration, J&K as well as FS SAI, will provide all kind of necessary assistance for successful implementation of fortification of milk, rice, wheat flour, oil with micro-nutrients as it is an

J&K Bank's Digital Calendar - 2022 Unveiled



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Managing Director & CEO Baldev Prakash Saturday unweiled the Bank's scalendar - a mobile application for the year 2022 here at Corpo-rate Headquarters in presence of Executive President Sumi Gupta, Desidancy Lica Bendidancy and Executive President Sumi Gupta, Presidents, Vice Presidents and other senior officials of the bank. Zonal Heads and the staff from across the country also joined the unwelling ceremony through video-conferencing mode along with the officials from respec-tive zones.

tive zones.

Wishing the Bank's customers a happy new year, MD & CED
Baldev Prakash said "As you all
know, J&K Bank's traditional
wall Calendar had forged a very
strong emotional connect with
the people of J&K. However, I
believe people will like our eCalendar also and find it useful
for its wide range of additional
utilities. And I am glad that the
app has been made available to
public on both the android and
IOS platforms, he added.
Urging the staff to make
acomplishment of unfinished
organisational goals as part of
their New Year resolutions, he
said. "On the very first day of the
year, let us resolve to redouble
our focus on improving our customer services while making efforts toaugment Bank's income we zones. Wishing the Bank's custom-

streams and recoveries."

"Being just a quarter away from the financial year results, it is also about time to move out of our offices and find new avenues of growth for the Bank of the shallowing task

besides collective organisation-al effort", adding, "Hence, it will also be part of my own new year

resolution."

Speaking on the occasion, the Executive President Sunil Gupta said, "Bank had to switch over from wall-calendars to digital

said. "Banic had to switch over from wall-calendars to digital calendars last year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the advisories from central government that followed in its wake." Earlier, in his welcome address, President Business Support Division Ashutosh Sarin captured the significance of app-based calendar. He said. "While devising the digital calendar for the year 2022, utility of our traditional wall calendar are very useful for our customers besides other users, Our customers are very useful for our customers besides other users, Our customers can use the app as a comprehensive planner." Meanawhile, the uniqueness of the app lies in its curation and design which has fashioned it an effective marketing tool with twelve auto-scrollable banners displaying Banick various products clicking on which will redirect the customers to the respective products of the bank. A power-point presentation was also made on the occasion that captured the features and functions of the app-based e-calendar - 2022.

our focus on improving our cus-tomer services while making et in incline of the app-based e-forts toangment Bank's income streams and effect maximum recoveries."

Being just a quarter away from the financial year results, it is also about time to move out of our offices and find new are unessed growth for the Bank's business. It is a challenging task tween any of these wariants a-cording to their requirement.

Screen Protection Solution for **Coronavirus Launched in Kashmir**

from all kinds of risks including prevention of Coronavirus

"With the launch of this product in Kashmir last week, customers have an option to use electronic gadgets safely." Khalid Nazir, Zonal Distributor Kashmir, said.

"With the Jaunch of this product in Kashmir last week, toon of all gadgets. Apart from customers have an option to use electronic gadgets safely," thalid Nazir, Zonal Distributor transfer and the response has been amazing. 'Klalid added, 'Display protection for each side of the smartphone costs 150' rupees, a customer can opt for one or both sides. We offer a wide range of designs in this regard.' The company claims to offer a diverse range of anti-microbial films which help in the prevent control of coronavirus and other bacteria. The product range also

Observer News Service includes canvas for back-panels and anti-bacterial sprays.



Nearly 5.89 Cr ITRs For FY21 Filed Till Dec 31 Deadline

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Nearly 5.89 crore income tax returns for the 2020-21 fiscal (ended March 2021) have been filed on the new e-filing portal till December 31 deadline, the I-T department said on Saturday.

the I-T department said on Saturday.
Of this, more than 46.11 stakin IRs were filed on the last date or December 31 alone.
"Nearly 5.89 crore income Tax Returns (ITRs) have been filed on the new e-leining portal of the Income Tax Department as on 31st December, 2021, the extended due date, "the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement. In comparison, as on January 10, 2021, (the extended due date for ITRs for AV 2020-21), the total number of ITRs filed was 5.95 crore. As many as 31.05 lakin ITRs filed was 5.95 crore As many as 31.05 lakin ITRs filed was 5.95 crore for the last day or January 10, on the last day or January 10.

on the last day or January 10, 2021.

2022: Economy Sets Sail With Growth Hopes; **Pandemic, Inflationary Headwinds Remain**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: After navigating the turbulent pandemic waves, the recovering Indian economy is now sailing through unchar-tered waters of rising coronavi-rus cases, spiralling commod-ity prices and spiking inflation though the lighthouse of sus-zainable envent premains visible

hough the lighthouse of sus-tainable growth remains visible.

As 2022 begins, a raft of de-velopments, ranging from Bud-geary, amouncements to con-tinuation of stimulus measures to monetary policy, will set the tone for the domestic economy, which is projected to grow more than 9 per cent in the cur-rent fiscal ending March 2022.

The country's continuing massive vaccination drive and precaution' doses starting for select categories of people this month will provide a firewall against any steep spike in cora-navirus cases a mid the eme-gence of the Omicron variant.

Experts opined that the econ-omy is expected to see a strong recovery in the coming months

and even going past the pre-CO-VID levels unless the pandemic plays spoilsport. In the 2021 April-June quar-ter, the economy recorded a whopping 20.1 per cent growth but then it came mainly on the back of the base effect as CDP contracted 24.4 per cent in the war-aren period year-ago period.

year-ago period.
Nevertheless, an 8.4 per cent growth in the second quarter (July-September) was more meaningful as it indicated sus-tained recovery.
The country's exports have picked up in recent months, which is also an indicator of substantial recovery in the economy.

substantial recovery in the reconomy.
Industry body Ficci President Snijiv Mehta said that a likely growth of over nine per cent in the current fiscal ending March 2022 was good but more important would be to "achieve a sustained growth of eight per cent over a long period of time". A sustained growth is needed for accelerating in the creation.

for accelerating job creation, removing poverty and bringing

semi-urban areas.

Fitch said if expects the services sector to show a strong reading amid the lifting of most restrictions, "We have cut our FY22 (finan-

"We have cut our FY2 (finan-cial year ending March 2022) GDP growth forecast, to 8.4 per cent (~0.3 pp), GDP growth momentum should peak in FY23, at 10.3 per cent (~0.2 pp), boosted by a consumer-led re-covery and the easing of supply disruptions," the global rating asoncy vaid.

A dovish monetary policy by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



prosperity in the rural and mi-urban areas.

has also played a key part in stimulating the overall economic activities. With global inflation-ary trends slightly on the upward trajectory, how long the RBI will continue with its relatively loose monetary policy will be closely watched by the markets.

The Reserve Bank has kept the benchmark lending rates or repor actes unchanged since May 2020. Among others, the low-interest rates have provided a much-needed boost to the real estate and other sectors of the state and other sectors of the

hitting a growth of 8.4 per cent over a favourable base and ex-ceeding the Reserve Bank's esti-mates of 7.9 per cent. The OPD level surpassed that of Q2:2019-20 by 0.3 per cent," according to an assessment by the RBI. The recovery in aggregate demand remained broad-based in the Government Final Con-sumption Exenditure (GFCE).

in the Government Final Con-sumption Expenditure (GFCE), Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) and exports, it said. The central bank noted that Private Final Consumption Ex-penditure (FFCE) too posted an uptick on a year-on-year basis due to a faster resumption of contact-intensive services and restoration of consumer confi-dence. India's exports contin-ued to register an impressive re-covery, emerging as a key driver of the higher growth trajectory, the RBI said. With uncertainties galore, the Union Budget in February as

the Union Budget in Febr the Union Budget in February as well as the government's fiscal approach and ambitious asset monetisation plans will chart the future course of reforms path.

Atul Kumar Goel To Be MD And CEO Of PNB





and CEO of Punjah National Bank (PNB) replacing S. Mallikarjuna Rao effective from February 1, 2022, PNB said on Saturday, a Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and will take over the role of MD and CEO effective February 1, 8024, 8047, 804 by S. M. Cod Lye. MD ary 1. Before joining PNB, Goel was MD and CEO of UCO Bank.

ary is before joining PNB. Goel was MD and CEO of UCO Bank.

"As approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Coel, who was till now the MD and CEO of UCO Bank, will serve as PNB chief up to the date of his attaining the age of superamusation (i.e., 3.112.2024), or until further orders, whichever is earlier." PNB said in a statement.

Goel has around three decades of professional banking experience in three banks viz. Allahabad Bank (now India Bank), Union Bank of India and UCO Bank.

Contd. From Page 1

Minor Altercation

lives due to a stampede at
Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan.
Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon,"
Modi tweeted.
Senior officials present at the
scene said 12 people died in the
scene said 12 people died in the
stampede and their bodies have
been taken to a hospital in the Katra
base camp for identification.
Fifteen injured were undergoing
treatment at the Mata Vaishno Devi
Narayana Superspeciality Hospital,
and the condition of two of them
was stated to be critical. Som
were discharged after first-aid, they
added.
Adilya Sharma, a pilgrim, said

added.

Aditya Sharma, a pilgrim, said there was a heavy rush of devotees and some people who were sleeping on the floor got crushed.

Eight of the deceased were iden-

and sonthe people with where steeping on the floor got crusible.

Eight of the decased were identified as Arun Pratab Singh (30), Dharam Veer Singh (35), Vines Kumar (38) and Shamta Singh (35) of Uttar Pradesh, Vinay Kumar (24) and Sonu Panday (24) of Delhi, Mamta (38) of Hayana and Desraj and Sonu Panday (24) of Delhi, Mamta (38) of Hayana and Desraj Sind, adding the identities of the rest are yet to be ascertained.

They Said the shrine was open, and as per last reports, devotees were paying obeisance.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) announced an ext gratia grant for the victims.

"An ext gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from PMNRF would be given to the stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan. The injured would be given to the victims. So, oop the stamped of the prime to the control of the prime to the control of the prime to the stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhaman. The shaffit Leutenant Governor said, "Deeply pained at the loss of lives due to stampede at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrim Mata Vaishno Devi Shrim Mata Vaishno Devi Shrim Mata Vaishno Devi Shrim Mata Waishno Devi Shrim Mata Vaishno Devi Shrim Mata Vaishno Devi Shrim Mata Waishno Bevages with the injured."

"Spoke to Horble Home Minister Shri Amit Shali Ji. Briefed

prayers with the injured."
"Spoke to Hon'ble Home
Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji. Briefed

Spike to not the monte from the finister Shri Amit Shah Ji. Birded him about the incident. A high level inquiry has been ordered into today's stampede. The Inquiry Committee will be headed by Pinicipal Secretary (Home) with ADCR, Jammu and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu as mempers, Sinha sid. Horbide Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Briefed him about the incident. Horbide Prime Minister has assured all the help. Ex-gratta of Rs. To lake each would be given to the next of kin of those who lobe their lives due to stampede and Rs. 2 lakh to injured. Shrine board bear the cost of treatment of injured, "he added. President Ram Nath Kovind said.

reo, 'ne added. President Ram Nath Kovind said

jured," he added.
President Ram Nath Kovind said
he was very distressed to know
about the stampede and offered
condolences to the bereaved families, "I wish speedy recovery to
those injured," he said.
Union Home Minister Amit Shah
said he was deeply pained by the
tragic accident.
"Deeply pained by the tragic actident at Mata Vaishno Devi temple. In this regard, I have spoken
to lieutenant Governor of JBK Shri
Manoj Sinha. The administration is
working continuously to provide
treatment to the injured, I express
my condolences to the families of
those who lost their lives in this
accident, "Shah tweeted in Hindi.
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi
said, "The stampede at Mata
Vaishno Devi temple is tragic. I extend my condolences to the families of the deceased."
Union Minister Jitendra Singh
said he was headed to Katra to
take stock of the situation.
Political parties in Kashmir, induding the National Conference

Political parties in Kashmir, in-cluding the National Conference and the People's Conference, ex-pressed grief over the incident. The PDP said such mismanage-ment has been when

pressed grief over the incident. The PDP said such mismanagement has been unheard of in recent times. Our hearfelf condelences go out to the families who lost their loved ones & pray for speedy recovery of the injured, it said in a tweet. Officials at the spot said the incident was triggered by a heavy rush of devotees who came to pay their obeisance to mark the beginning of the New Year. Devotees usually trek to the hilltop shrine from the Katra base camp, a distance of nearly 13 km, while some reach there by helicopters.

Kashmir (J8K) It Covernor Manoj Sinha in this regard.
"I express my deep condolences to the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones in the stampede at Vaishno Devi Bhawan complex," he said.
Modi further said the central government is in constant touch with the J8K administration and full care is being taken for relief work.

work. At least 12 people died and over a dozen were injured in a stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine trig-gered by a heavy rush of devotees

in the early hours of Saturday, Earlier in the day, Modi ap-proved an ex-gratia from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the victims of

Fund (PMNRF) for the victims of the stampeda.

"An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives due to the stampede at Mata Vaishino Devi Bhawan. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister's office tweeted. The stampede occurred around 2.30 am near gate number three outside the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine located atop the Trikuta hills, about 50 km from Jammu. [PTI]

Panel To Submit

Sinha following the stampede at the shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district in the early hours of Saturday that left 12 pilgrims dead

Reasi district in the early hours of Saturday that left 12 pilgrims dead and over a dozen others injured. In an order issued this evening on behalf of the J&K government, General Administration Department Principal Secretary Manoj Kumar Dwivedi said the high-level panel has been constituted to ascertain the reasons behind the tragic incident. The other two members of the committee are Jammu Divisional Commissioner Raghav Langer and Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh. "The Committee shall examine in detail the causes/reasons behind the incident (stampede) and point out the lapses and fix the responsibility thereof," the order said.

it said the committee would sucn incidents in future, (PTI) Only 35K Pilgrims

The board said Lt Covernor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of the Board, was informed about the stampede at 3 an and he has been continuously an authoring the situation since the contraction of the

National Green Tribunal has capped the normal capacity of Yatra per day to 5000.0 Pertinently, keeping in view the COVID-19 Pandemic, 35000 pilgrins were allowed to proceed for yatra on 31st December 2021 and for 1st Jan. 2022, SMVDSB said in a detailed statement on the tragic

a detailed statement on the tragic incident. It said around 2:15 am on January 1, the stampede happen near Cate No three at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan. The unfortunate incident, due to a scuffle between two groups of pigrims, resulted in the stampede. In this ill-fated incident, a total of 2 pigrims lost their lives and 16 others were injured; it said. The statement said the Board as well as the Reasi District Administration promptly shifted the injured pilgrims immediately to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital. Activgal, after providing first aid at Medical Unit Bhawa.

The bodies of the deceased,

medical Unit Bhawa.

The bodies of the deceased, which include 10 men and two women pilgrims, were shifted to the Community Health Centre Katra for identification and further legal formalities, the statement said.

said.

Of the 12 deceased pilgrims, two have been shifted by Air and nine by Road to their native destinations by the Shrine Board Administration with the assistance of UT Administration. The lone left-out dead body will be shifted tomportum proving by Air shifted tomorrow morning by Air from GMC, Jammu, the SMVDSE said,

Amongst the injured, who were hospitalised at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Hospital, Kakryal, nine have been discharged, whereas seven pilgrims are still under treatment there, it said. The board said the Lt Governor has extended his condolences to the aggreeved families and also constituted an inquiry committee headed by Principal Secretary (Home) to probe the incident. The LG said he briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the incident.

incident. "The Hon'ble Prime Minister has

incident.

"The Hon'ble Prime Minister has assured all the help. Ex-gratia of Rs.10 lakh each would be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives due to stampede and Rs. 2 lakh to injured. Shrine Board to bear the cost of treatment of injured, he was quoted as saying in the statement.

Later, he also visited the Narayana Superspecialty Hospital to meet the injured.
"According to doctors, they are stable & being monitored by senior health staff. Directed Doctors & senior admin officials to provide the best possible care to the patients, Out of 16 injured brought to Narayana Hospital, 9 have bedischarged and 7 are being treated by the doctors. Praying for their

speedy recovery." the Lieutenant
Governor said in a tweet.
The Shri Mata Valshno Devi
Shrine Board has established a
dedicated helpline, which can be
approached at Phone No. 01991234804 and 01991-234053.
The helplines established
by the district administration
are: DC Reasi Control Room;
01991245763/9418839557.
PCR Katra: 01991-

PCR Katra: 01991-232010/9419145182, and PCR Reasi: 01991245076/9622856295,

Survivors Blame

unhindered," a pilgrim from Chaziabad in Uttar Pradesh said while waiting outside a mortuary to identify a dead body.

The man, who did not wish to be named, said this situation could have been avoided if the authorities concerned had managed the pilgrimage better.

"A similar situation had happened minutes earlier but luckly none was hurt and the situation was controlled. We were part of a group of 10 devotees all neighbours. A heavy rush triggered the stampede as people were going in and out, and every one was in a hurry," he said.

Many people were resting on the floor, instead of heading back, and it caused more rush at the bhawan, he added.

Another man, who lost his friend, Arun Pratab Singl (30), said they had come from Gorakhpur in Uttar Prades from Gorakhpur in Uttar Prades from Gorakhpur in Visited the shrine about 10 years ago but was surprised by the heavy rush this time. After the

10 years ago but was surprised by the heavy rush this time. After the tragedy, we found ourselves help-less and got no help till 6 am," he

alleged.
Rani Devi of Bihar's Muzaffarpur
said they were fortunate to have
escaped death.
"I saw many people dead on the
floor and was heartbroken," she
said, blaming it on the "uncontrolled rush" of pilgrims at the

bhawan.
Aditya Sharma, another devotee, said some people who were sleeping on the floor got crushed in the stampede.
Following the incident, many

pilgrims were seen leaving Katra the base camp for the shrine, with

Following the incident, many pilgrims were seen leaving Katra, the base camp for the shrine, without paying obeisance.

"We are from Pathankot, Wereturned from the bhawan without 'darshan' due to the stampede," said Rekha, who was accompanied by five other family members, including three children.

Prem Singh, from Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, said there was a complete mess as neither was the number of pilgrims restricted nor were COVID-19 guidelines in force. "It was a free-for-all-like situation. Many people were without mandatory face masks," he said, claiming that police personnel on duty at the X-ray checking point surrendered to the heavy rush and were warning people about the possibility of such an accident. However, many people were seen waiting in long queues to visit the shrine as the pilgrimage continued unaffected.
"We have been waiting for five hours but nothing is moving," said Navdeep of Karnal in Haryana.

Chief executive officer of the stimulation of the store to take stock of the situation and visit the injured at the haryana hospital, could not be contacted for comment.

Another official of the board, who wished not to be named, said adequate arrangements, including security, were in place due to the expected rush of pilgrims.

The DGP said preliminary information from the scene suggests there was an altercation among some young boys, and within seconds, there was a stampede situation.

"Police and officials from the crivil administration were quick to

seconds, there was a stampede situation.
"Police and officials from the civil administration were quick to respond, and the order within the crowd was immediately restored, but by that time, the damage had been done; he told PTI.
Senior BIP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana, who interacted with the pignims here to take stock of the situation, said the incident was the first of fits kind to take place at the shrine.
"It is at tragic incident and a said

sense incuent was the first of its kind to take place at the shrine.

"It is a tragic incident and a sad moment for all of us. The whole administration is working to ensure the bodies of the deceased are returned to their families and those injured are given adequate treatment," he said.

Rana said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also taken note of the incident and the Lieutenant Covernor-led administration is doing its best.

"This is no time for allegations or counter-allegations. It is a tragedy that has happened and nobody should play politics over it; he added.

At least 12 people died and over

ody should play politics over it, e added. At least 12 people died and over

a dozen were injured in the stam-pede that occurred around 2.30

am near gate number three outside the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine atop the Trikuta hills, about 50 km from Jammu.

5.1 Magnitude

under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. While the rest part of the state comes under Seismic Zone IV. (With PTI inputs) Mercury Rises

up from minus 6.6 degrees Celsius the previous night. They said Qazigund recorded the minimum of minus 4 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag re-corded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius

Cortical a low of minus 3 degrees.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office has forecast light snowfall over the higher reaches of Kashmir from Saturday evening which may continue till Sunday morning.

morning. Also, a widespread spell of snow or rain of moderate to heavy inten-Also, a widespread spell of snow or rain of moderate to heavy intensity is most likely during January 4 to 6 with the main activityon January 5 to 6. Heavy snow is expected at some places during the period as well, it said.

The weather may affect surface and air transport, the MET Office said.

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

valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, re-

3 Ex-CMs Placed

and welcome to 2022," tweeted Omar Abdullah, who stays with his father. "A new year with the same Ik police illegally locking people in their homes and an administration so terrified of normal democratic activity. Trucks parked outside our gates to scuttle the peaceful @ IKPACD sti-in protest. Some things never change."
He said the police had even locked the internal gates of their residence.

locked the Internal gates of their residence.

Talk about a lawless police state, the police have even locked the internal gate connecting my father's home to my sister's. Yet our leaders have the cheek to tell the world that India is the largest democracy, balt! Omar who is the vice president.

ers have the cheek to tell the world hat India is the largest democracy, half I Omar, who is the vice president of the NC said.

He posted pictures of a posice vehicle parked on the gate of their residence as well as that of a locked fixer and as the said the Centre was "deeply paranoid and intolerant when people of]—K want to protest against its disempowerment." GOI trumpets scrapping Article 370 and dismembering JK throughout the country but is deeply paranoid and intolerant when people of JK want to protest against its disempowerment. For the umpteenth time, we've been placed under house arrest for trying to organise a peaceful protest. Methooba wrote on Twitter. Tarigami said it was sad that the J-K administration was scared even to allow a peaceful protest. In Kashmir, New Year began on another disappointing note where Police resumed their work of scutching the legitimate voices and squeezing democratic space by cracking down on protests against the Delimitation Commission. Entire PACD leadership including me have been put under house arrest, Tarigami wrote on Twitter later.

In a scathing attack over the

later.
In a scathing attack over the government's move, Peoples In a scattning attack over under government's move. Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone said democracy is a precious relic for which thousands have laid down their lives in the last three decades. By stopping political and non-violent protests, the administration was incentivising and facilitating the conditions for a violent form of protest, he said.

tating the conditions for a violent form of protest, he said. Please do not unwittingly or erroneously damage it beyond recognition. Non-violent mode of protest in the context of violent strife needs to be facilitated not stifled. If you stop political, non-violent protests what are you incentivising by default. You are incentivising and facilitating and setting the conditions for a violent form of protest, Lone wrote on Twitter.

Twitter.

The PC chief said the right to protest is intrinsic to the concept of a vibrant democracy.

"I can't see any valid reason y the state administration should stop political parties from protesting, isn't right to protest intrinsic to the concept of a vibrant democracy.

Not being critical, But state administration really needs to reassess and reevaluate," he wrote. Notwithstanding the detentions of its leaders, scores of the NC and the PDP activists took out separate protest marches here near their party offices against the detention of their leadership and the draft proposals of the Delimitation. The NC activists, including the party's spokesperson Imran Nabi

Commission.

The NC activists, including the party's spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar and party's youth wing president Salman Sagar, took out a protest march from NC headquarters Nawa-i-Subah here.

They party activists tried to move towards Cupkar Road—which houses Abdullah's residence—but were stopped by the police outside the party office. "We wanted to take out a peaceful protest march against the Delimitation Commissions' draft proposals, but were stopped by the police. They did not even allow us to hold a sit-in, Dar said, adding the police dragged" them back to the party office.

Similarly, PDP activists also took out a protest march, and demanded the restoration of Articles 370 and 35-A which were revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019. They were stopped by the police near CPO and later dispersed peacefully.

Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba

lice near CPO and later dispersed peacefully.

Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba praised their party colleagues for taking out the protests.

"Well done to my @KNC_ and @YNCIK colleagues for managing to come out and register our protest about all that is being done to disempower the people. Omar

to the control of the

were removed in the evening. Pulwama Attack

(JeM)'s top commander Samir Dar,

(JeM')s top commander Samir Dar.

The picture of one of the killed #terrorists in #AnantmagEncounter on Dec-30th matches with JeM top commander Samir Dar, who was the last surviving terrorist involved in Lethpora Perluyama #TerrorAttack. We are going for DNA sample matching. If GP Kashmir said in a tweet. Police had said that three JeM militants were killed and their bodies retrieved from the site of the encounter that took place at Nowgam Dooru area of the South Kashmir district on Thursday.

Police had then identified hose killed as Sultan alias Rayees alias Mavia (a foreign militant). Nisar Ahmad Shah, a resident of Dudwangan Kapran, and Altaf Ahmad Shah, a resident of Nathipora Dooru.

Altaf Ahmad Shah, a resident of Nathipora Dooru.
The IGP had said that Shah and Sultan along with another militant Suhail Rather were involved in an attack at Zewan Srinagar in which three policemen were killed and 11 others injured.
Rather was killed in a separate encounter at Pantha Chowk on Saturday.

Saturday. Militant Killed their official Twitter handle. Srinagar Gets

will help in better policing.

Meanwhile, Home Department of J&K issued formal order about setting up of new police stations and police posts in Srinagar and Budgam stating that new police stations have been created in terms of clause (s) of section 2 of the code of criminal procedure, 1973 while the territorial jurisdiction of these police units shall be notified separately—(KNO).

notified separately—(I Bonhomie At LoC

India and Pakistan agreed for a renewed ceasefire along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir in February last year and barring a few violations, the agreement is holding much to the relief of border residents and farmers, who have started resuming farming activities even along the LoC and International Border, [PTI].

Over 12000 NGOs

India, the Indira Gandhi National
Centre For Arts, and the India
Islamic Cultural Centre.
Oxfam India and Oxfam India
Trust are in the list of NCGs whose
certificates have expired and not
in those whose registrations have
been cancelled.
Refusing FCRA clearance has
been listed by critics of the government as its way of suppressing
organisations whose work or officials are not considered supportive

enough of the centre.

All of this comes after the Home
Ministry cited "adverse inputs" to
not renew the FCRA licence of the
Missionaries of Charity, leaving
the group - which operate orphanages and shelters for the poor, sick,
and destitute across India - without access to foreign funds in over
250 accounts.

This was weeks after a police complaint was registered
in Gujarat against the Director
of a children's home run by the
Missionaries of Charity for allegedly attempting to convert young
girls.

The Home Ministry also said it

edly attempting to convert young girls.

The Home Ministry also said it had not received a request to review its decision.

Mother Tereas's charity confirmed their renewal had been rejected, and that "we have asked our centres not to operate any of the FC (foreign contributions) accounts until the matter is resolved".

Controversy erupted after it merged that accounts belonging to the Kolkata-headquartered charitable group, including those with the State Bank of India, had been frozen.

with the State Bank of India, had been frozen.

Opposition leaders, including Opposition leaders, including Opposition leaders, including Banerjee, ripped into the government, particularly for Treezille He accounts on Christmas Day, the Accounts on Christmas Day, the Accounts on Christmas Day, the Vicar General of the Archadocese of Calcutta, also hit out at what he said was a "dastardly attack on the Christian community."

Refusing FGRA clearance has been listed by critics of the government as its way of suppressing organisations whose work or officials are not considered supportive enough of the centre, (With PTI inputs)

Mehbooba Seeks

imprisoned in Tihar Jail is suf-fering from malignant cancer & is critically III. He is in urgent need of medical attention & needs to be with his family. Request GOI to release him for the can get the necessary care, @BhallaAJay26 @ HMOIndia, Mehbooba wrote on Twelter. (PT)

DC Kupwara Issues

Twitter.(PTI)

DC Kupwara Issues
for widespread snowfall/ rainfall
spell of moderate intensity during 4th to 8th of this month, the
peputy Commissioner Kupwara.
Imam Din today issued an advisory for the people or the district
in general and the people residing
in the areas like Keran, Karnah,
Machil, Budnamal, Jumgund,
Mowgam, Kumkadi and on the periphery of different Nallahs/rivers
prone to floods, sloppy areas of
the district in particular, an officiaspokesperson said Satunday.
Din, he said, advised the residents of these areas for refain
from venturing in avalanche prone
areas till improvement of weather.
Turther, the general public have
been advised to avoid traveling to
these areas without proper information on the weather system and
in case of accumulation of snow
on roads; he said.
According to the official spokesperson, the advisory further
reads that in case of any urgencyt, the general public can contact the District Administration
Control Room on phone number
01955-253522 and Police Control
01955-252521 and PCR Handwara on
01955-252521 and PCR
Meanwhile, all District and
Sectoral Officers especially the
officers and officials of Irrigation
& FC, PHE, PD, R&B, Mechanical
and Revenue have been directed not to leave their respective
Headquarters without permission
from DC office and keep their men
and machinery ready to meet any
exigency, he said.

5 Held For Illegal

were arrested after they were found involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals from government land, a police spokesperson said Saturday. All the accused, he said, were arrested from a checkpoint established at Mulshulla crossing and their tippers were seized.

"They have been shifted to the Police Sation where they remain in custody."

"They have been shifted to true rouse Station where they remain in custody" the police spokesperson said, Accordingly, he said, a Case vide FIR No. 01,2022 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Beerwah and further investigation has been initiated.

officials, the death toll stands at 219 -- 161 fatalities from Leh and 58 from Kargil.
The number of active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh came down to 184 -- 137 in Leh and 47 in Kargil -- from 204 the previous day, the officials said.
Twenty-two more patients were discharged from hospitals in Leh and drine in Kargil, taking the total number of recoveries in the union territory to 21,781, they said.