



P3 CITY

SNOW THROWS LIFE OUT OF GEAR IN CITY

The continuous snowfall caused water-logging in several areas of the summer capital even if the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) said they have pressed men and machinery to dewater the city roads.

P5 BINGE IN SNOW

HOLIDAY MOVIES TO WATCH

THINK

In Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, St Luke's Church was reopened after thirty years in December. Christmas heard choirs but it is only now that snow has blessed Kashmir. Even as Christmas is over, you still have the chance



P8 SPORTS

DJOKOVIC SUPPORTERS CONTINUE VIGIL OUTSIDE MELBOURNE HOTEL

A small group of supporters of detained tennis star Novak Djokovic continued their vigil on Saturday at the Melbourne hotel where the Serbian world-



Quote!
And don't think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous.
- Rumi

NEWS DIGEST

KU Reschedules LLB Exams

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir on Saturday rescheduled the examinations of BA LLB (for various semesters) which were slated to be held on 09.01.2022, in view of inclement weather. The detailed notice of the rescheduled examinations is available on the Law Department website. Students are advised to visit the [More on P6](#)

PDD Worker Injured In Fall

SRINAGAR: A power development department (PDD) daily wagger on Saturday suffered injuries after falling off an electricity pole in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Javid Ahmad Sofi of Nowgam was repairing electricity supply in Khandaypora village of Awantipora on Saturday [More on P6](#)

4 Injured In Kangan As Cab Hits Tree

SRINAGAR: Four persons, including two women sustained injuries on Saturday after their cab met with an accident in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Tariq Ahmed of Thune, Ghulam Nabi Ganai and Saira Bano, both residents of Cherwan and Taja Begum of Wayil were injured on [More on P6](#)

43 New Coronavirus Cases In Ladakh

LEH: Ladakh's COVID-19 caseload increased to 22,413 on Saturday as 43 more people tested positive for the virus, officials said. Seventy one patients recovered from the disease bringing down the active cases in the union territory to 241, they said. Of the fresh cases, 36 were reported in Leh and [More on P6](#)

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Journalist Arrested For 'Anti-National' Activities

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A journalist was arrested from Bandipora district for allegedly engaging in activities "prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and unity of India", police here said on Saturday.

Sajad Ahmad Dar, who works for an online portal, was arrested two days ago, leading to criticism from several quarters.

"There is a different set of laws applicable to J&K vis a vis the rest of India. Radicalised groups openly calling for genocide of Muslims are roaming free while Kashmiri journalists shining a light on state-sponsored human rights violations are jailed. Laws too have been communalised," PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said in a tweet.

Dar is presently is on Police remand, a police spokesperson said.

He operated a Twitter account with the name Sajad Gull' and was always "propagating" against the government and uploading tweets not based on facts in order to provoke people against the government to spread animosity, the spokesperson said.

The journalist during an anti-encroachment drive carried out by the revenue department last year [More on P6](#)

Snowfall Grounds 40 Flights At Srinagar Airport

Significant Improvement In Weather From Today: MeT



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: All scheduled flights were cancelled on Saturday due to heavy snowfall that reduced visibility at the airport here, snapping air link between Kashmir and rest of the

country, officials said.

The snowfall, which started late in the afternoon on Friday, continued through the day at most places in the Kashmir valley, they said.

"All the 40 flights scheduled to operate at the

Srinagar airport had to be cancelled due to snowfall," an official of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) said.

He said that snowfall had reduced visibility to less than 600 metres at the airport.

Problems related to low visibility will [More on P6](#)

Banihal Highway Closed, 350 Vehicles Stranded

The strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed due to snowfall and landslides at several places, leaving hundreds of commuters stranded, officials said.

The train service between the 136-km Banihal-Baramulla Section was also suspended due to the inclement weather conditions, the officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, traffic, Shabir Ahmad Malik said the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar [More on P6](#)

Snow Damages 150 Transformers, 1130 Feeders

The heavy snowfall across the Valley has caused massive damage to the power infrastructure, including electricity transformers as well as 11 kilowatt feeders. According to an official document, a total of 1031 11KV feeders had suffered technical snag across

Kashmir with Baramulla district baring the maximum brunt where all 171 feeders got damaged. The north Kashmir district was followed by Budgam where 103 out of 104 feeders were damaged by [More on P6](#)

Trapped Inside Cars 22 Freeze To Death At Pak Resort

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: At least 22 people froze to death after heavy snow trapped them in their vehicles as tens of thousands of visitors thronged Pakistan's hill town of Murree.

Some reports said many of the victims died from asphyxiation after inhaling exhaust fumes in snow-bound vehicles.

Located 45.5 kilometres north of the capital of Islamabad, Murree is a popular tourist resort that attracts well over a million tourists annually. Streets leading into the city are often blocked by snow in winter.

Atiq Ahmed, an Islamabad police officer, said eight of the 22 fatalities were from the family of fellow police officer Naveed Iqbal, who also died. Most of the victims died of hypothermia, officials said.

Rescue services doctor Abdur Rehman said that after evacuating all of the stranded tourists from their cars, the death toll



stood at 22, including 10 men, 10 children and two women.

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said the military had mobilised to clear roads and rescue thousands still trapped near Murree.

Video shared on social media showed cars packed bumper-to-bumper, with one-metre-high piles of snow on their roofs.

"The heavy snowfall caused a traffic jam and the closure of

roads," Babar Khan, a tourist who was stranded for hours, told AFP by phone.

"Roads were also closed due to falling trees in many places."

The website of Pakistan's National Weather Forecasting Centre said heavy snowfall was expected in the area until Sunday afternoon, while Information Minister Fawad Chaudry said [More on P6](#)

2 LD Guards Held Over Newborn's Death

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday arrested two security guards of Lal Ded Hospital five days after they prevented a father to shift his new born to intensive care Unit (ICU) for the want of a tip.

The two lady security guards Dilshad Begum and Tasleema Jan were arrested by police after a case FIR no. 01/22 under section 304 IPC was registered against them at the Police Station Rajbagh, a police official said. The duo at the Valley's largest maternity hospital were deputed there by a private agency namely Valley security agency.

The shameful incident took place on Sunday when the two lady guards intercepted Mohammad Amin when he was carrying his newborn to the ICU on the doctor's instructions. A resident of Kupwara district, Amin was cornered by the security guards for a tip.

"I offered Rs 800 but the guards refused to take the money and did allow me to proceed to the children's ward for ten minutes," [More on P6](#)

Covid Cases Take Big Jump, 655 Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases continue to show an alarming trend as 655 more people tested positive for the virus while three more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, daily Covid-19 cases continued to show a spike for the third consecutive day Saturday with Jammu registering 392 fresh cases of infection and 263 in the Valley. The new cases have taken the total number of people infected by coronavirus in J&K to 343965.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 133 fresh cases of coronavirus, followed by Budgam with 46 new cases, Baramulla 41, Bandipora 11, Anantnag 9, Kupwara 8, Pulwama 7 and

four cases each in Ganderbal and Kulgam. Shopian was the only district in the Valley where no fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected Saturday.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 263 new cases of coronavirus, Poonch 31, Kathua 26, Udhampur 17, Reasi 15, Rajouri 14, Samba 12, Doda 10, Kishtwar 3 and Ramban 1. "Moreover, 162 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 59 from Jammu Division and 103 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, the officials said, three more people, two from the Valley and one from Jammu died of Covid-19 related complications during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4537 in J&K—2203 in [More on P6](#)

Patients, Attendants At Hospitals To Be Tested

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole on Saturday directed the tertiary health care hospitals in Srinagar to conduct coronavirus tests of all patients and attendants in view of

No Leave For Health Staff

Taking a note of rising coronavirus cases coupled with inclement weather conditions, the Director Health Services Kashmir on Friday asked all concerned not to sanction any kind of leave to the non-gazetted employees or forward leave application to his office in case of gazetted staff. "In order to meet out any emergency

Official Error Puts Class-IV Employee In Dock

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government has ordered an inquiry into incorporating name of a Class-IV appointee in the list of non-joined candidates furnished by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir following which the appointment of the

person was cancelled. The inquiry officer Shahid Mehmood (KAS), additional Secretary to Government Public works (R&B) Department, has been asked to submit the report within ten days, according to an order issued by Shailendra Kumar (IAS), [More on P6](#)

J&K Inks 100 Mn Investment Pact With UAE's Century Financial

Agencies

DUBAI: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday signed an agreement with Century Financial in Dubai for a \$100 million investment in the state under which hotels and commercial-cum-residential complexes would be built.

The MoU was signed in a special event presided by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. "Global business & industry are waking up to the vistas of opportunity in J&K.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the development of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir", said J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha while speaking on the occasion.



"We are happy to see the interest shown by UAE's big business houses and leaders in supporting this vision of our Prime Minister."

"I have always believed that Jammu & Kashmir has tremendous investment potential and there cannot be a better time than now. Making [More on P6](#)

...Mufti's Anniversary 10 PDP Leaders Booked For Breaching SOPs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday registered a case against 10 Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders, including a former minister in the last PDP-BJP government in the erstwhile state, for organising a rally to commemorate the death anniversary of the party patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Acting on the directions of Tehsildar Bijbehara, the police filed a case FIR number 4/2022 at the police station Bijbehara, against former Minister Abdul Rahman Veeri, Javid Ahmad Sheikh, Najmu Saqib, Majid Ahmad Khan, Abdul Majeed Rangraiz, Showkat Ahmad

Teeli, Mufti Sarwar, Arshid Ahmad Ganie and Nazir Ahmad Vaid. Former Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti's uncle Sartaj Madni has also been named in the FIR.

The case was filed after Tehsildar Bijbehara shot a letter to the police alleging that the PDP leaders violated Covid-19 protocol by organizing a rally in Bijbehara on Friday on the 6th death anniversary of PDP founder.

"Regarding the subject, it is to intimate that the following persons/organizers of Peoples Democratic Party organized a large gathering on 07.01.2022 at the tomb of Ex. CM Mufti Mohammad Syed at Padshah Bagh Zirpara [More on P6](#)



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Future Iphone May Feature Periscope Lens With Up To 10X Optical Zoom

Agencies

Apple is reportedly planning to launch at least one iPhone 15 model in 2023 with a periscope camera system, allowing for increased optical zoom. As per a recent MacRumors report, analyst Jeff Pu said the periscope lens on select iPhone 15 series models will feature 10x zooming capabilities, far better than the 3x zoom of the iPhone 13. There are already some Android

smartphones with periscope lenses, including Samsung's Galaxy S21 Ultra and Huawei's P40 Pro+. Both of those devices feature up to 10x optical zoom. Meanwhile, Apple is planning to add a 48MP camera lens to the iPhone next year. According to analyst Ming-Chi Kuo, these iPhone camera upgrades over the next two years will help to boost Taiwanese manufacturer Largan Precision's market share, revenue, and profit. Kuo previously claimed that the



48-megapixel camera will be limited to iPhone 14 Pro models and allow for 8K video recording, up from 4K currently. 8K videos would be suitable for viewing on Apple's AR/VR headset that may launch next year. The next flagship series, the iPhone 14 line-up, will come with up to 2 TB of storage. Apple will adopt QLC flash storage for next year's iPhone and that thanks to the newer storage technology, it will increase capacity to 2 TB.

از نیابت منن با اجلاس انکریٹو مجسٹریٹ دی جاول
مفتون درخواست نجانب: فیصل احمد مظفر احمد شاہ ساکر کرکٹو تحصیل منن شعلہ انت ناگ
بئز حصول :- RBA مرٹفلکٹ
اشھار برادرا گھائی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بئز حصول بیک وارڈ اربا مرٹفلکٹ دفتر بنائیں
چئیں کیا ہے جو کرڈیکاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیال سے کسرا لیں کا کتبہ
بئز افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	مظفر احمد شاہ ولد غلام قادر شاہ	سرکاری ملازم	45 سال	LPC
02	تویہ اختر زو مظفر احمد شاہ	گھریلو کام	42 سال	
03	فیصل احمد مظفر احمد شاہ	زیر تعلیم	17 سال	
04	آرزو مظفر مظفر احمد شاہ	زیر تعلیم	14 سال	

انکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کو نہ میں موجود ہیں۔ لہذا مرٹفلکٹ مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی
اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے دور اندر ہی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض چئیں کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد
کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
(تحریر الصدا ریگٹیکو مجسٹریٹ دی جاول)
RNA R

از نیابت منن با اجلاس انکریٹو مجسٹریٹ دی جاول
مفتون درخواست نجانب: عمر افضل پرمچرا افضل میر ساکر کرکٹو تحصیل منن شعلہ انت ناگ
بئز حصول :- RBA مرٹفلکٹ
اشھار برادرا گھائی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بئز حصول بیک وارڈ اربا مرٹفلکٹ دفتر بنائیں
چئیں کیا ہے جو کرڈیکاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیال سے کسرا لیں کا کتبہ
بئز افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	محمد افضل ولد محمد شعیان میر	سرکاری ملازم	50 سال	LPC
02	افروزہ زینب محمد افضل میر	گھریلو کام	45 سال	
03	عمر افضل پرمچرا افضل میر	زیر تعلیم	19 سال	
04	شادین افضل پرمچرا افضل میر	زیر تعلیم	17 سال	
05	سائل افضل پرمچرا افضل میر	زیر تعلیم	22 سال	

انکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کو نہ میں موجود ہیں۔ لہذا مرٹفلکٹ مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی
اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے دور اندر ہی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض چئیں کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد
کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
(تحریر الصدا ریگٹیکو مجسٹریٹ دی جاول)
RNA R

دارالفتویٰ مرکزی شرعی بورڈ اسلام آباد جموں و کشمیر
معاہدہ سالانہ ۲۰۲۱ دسمبر پیش ہوا ہے۔ با اجلاس مولانا مفتی طارق احمد صاحب صاحب
فریق اول..... رشادہ دختر بیب شاہ ساکر آئز و مشتاق اسلام آباد جموں و کشمیر
بنکلاف
فریق دوم... شہیر احمد خان بس لٹو محمد تقی خان ساکر صحت پورہ کھلیاں کپوارہ
فریق اول کا بیان ہے 2021 میں شہیر احمد کے ساتھ میرا نکاح ہوا ہے میں اس کے ساتھ خود بچا کر
نکاح کیا ہے۔
لیکن اس کی سزاوں سے مجھے چھوڑ دیا ہے نہ فریق چہ پوٹاک نہ نکاح نہ دوائی تک کہ بے بارہم و چھوڑ دیا ہے
محترم شہیر صاحب... لہذا آپ کو سزا دیا ہے۔ التماس ہے 15 جنوری 2022 تک مرکزی شرعی بورڈ میں
اصالت حاضر ہو کر اپنی نمائندگی چئیں کہ بے حاضری ہونے کی صورت میں آپ کا نکاح ختم کیا جائے گا۔
مرکزی شرعی بورڈ اسلام آباد
RNA R

Public Notice
I Mr Manzoor Ahamd Ahanger S/O Gh Mohi-ud-din Ahanger
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M/S Suraj Industries for the line of Activity of sheet Metal
Items under formal registration no 07/01/00029 Dated 02-
11-78. If anyone has any objection regarding this he may contact
DIC Office Anantnag within seven days.
RNA

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL HANFIA ISLAMIA SEC. SECHOOL MANZNOO MATTAN ANANTNAG MONTHLY FEE STRUCTURE

S.NO.	CLASS	MONTHLY FEE
1	Nursery	RS.600.00
2	LKG	RS.600.00
3	UKG	RS.600.00
4	IST	RS.630.00
5	2 nd	RS.650.00
6	3 rd	RS.650.00
7	4 th	RS.650.00
8	5 th	RS.680.00
9	6 th	RS.700.00
10	7 th	RS.750.00
11	8 th	RS.800.00
12	9 th	RS.900.00
13	10 th	RS.1000.00

Sd/
Principal Hanfia Islamic
sec. School Manznoo Ang.
RNA_R

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Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Urban Forestry Division Srinagar.

Short term e-NIT NO: - 11 OF 2021-22 DATED: - 05-01-2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S. NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/ Opening Committee
1	Repairs & Renovation of Training Institute by way of replacement of damaged wooden flooring at Cheshmahahie, S-Park Range, Urban Forestry Division Srinagar.	1.00	"D"	200/=	15 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: - www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA: Accorded Position of T/S: Accorded
Position of Funds: Budgeted

Publishing Date: -	05-01-2022
Download Start Date: -	06-01-2022 from 11:30 AM
Bid submission Start Date: -	06-01-2022 from 11:30 AM
Bid submission End Date: -	11-01-2022 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	12-01-2022 at 11:30 AM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Shiekh Bagh Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	13-01-2022 at 11:30AM the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Shiekh Bagh Srinagar.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
 - The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Declaration in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A". The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 60 days from the date of opening of bids.
 - As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
 - To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
 - The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2020-21, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan(cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Declaration in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".
 - The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
 - The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
 - The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
 - The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
 - All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.
- NO:- DFO/UF/L/Tender/5529-35
Dated:- 05.01.2022

Sd/
Divisional Forest Officer,
Urban Forestry Division,
Srinagar.
DIPK-16288/21

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL HANFIA ISLAMIA SEC. SCHOOL MANZNOO ANANTNAG

List of Managing committee of Hanfia Islamia Sec. School Manznoo Mattan Ang.

List of members	Residence	Occupation	Qualification	Designation
Razia Sultan	Chee	Business	B.COM	Chairperson
Sartaj Ahmad Bhat	Dirhama	Principal	PG, B.Ed.	Principal
Ejaz Ahmad Bhat	Mattan	Pvt. Teacher	PG M.Ed	Member
Sabzar Ahmad Dar	Chee	Pvt. Employee	Post Graduate	Member Sec.
Rais Ahmad Shah	Wanipora Nambal	Business	10+2	Member (Parent)
Nazir Ahmad Shah	Bonnambal	Business	10+2	Member (Parent)
Shagufta Shreen	Nambal	Pvt. Teacher	MA, B.Ed	Member
Imtiyaz Ahmad Trambo	Naibasti Khanabal	Business	B.COM	Member

Sd/
Principal Hanfia Islamia
Sec. School Manznoo Ang.
RNA_R

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship 2022-23
Description: The JN Tata Endowment invites loan scholarship applications from Indians who wish to pursue higher studies abroad. Candidates who are selected for the loan scholarship may be recommended for a partial "Travel Grant" and a "Gift Award" which is linked to their academic performance in their overseas studies for which they have received the JN Tata Endowment loan scholarship.
Eligibility: Candidates should be Indians, not older than 45 years as on 30th June, 2022 and have completed at least one undergraduate degree OR who are in the final year of any undergraduate programme at a recognised university/college/institution in India.
Candidates who are at the end of the 1st year and entering into the second year of their overseas studies (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023) are also eligible to apply. This is applicable only if the minimum duration of the course is 2 years and there is at least one full academic year remaining to complete at the time of award of the loan scholarship, normally by July of any calendar year. Candidates must have scored at least 60% marks on average in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies.
The course to which candidates are admitted must be recognised as a Graduate Program (post-graduate in Indian terminology).
Prizes & Rewards: Loan scholarship up to INR 10 lakh
Last Date to Apply: 21-03-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/JNTI

Scholarship Name 2: COVID Crisis (Jyoti Prakash) Support Scholarship Program 2021
Description: COVID Crisis (Jyoti Prakash) Support Scholarship program aims to support children who are left vulnerable and with very little or no financial support for their further education owing to a COVID-led crisis in their family.
Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian students from Class 1 to Graduation. Those who have been through any of the following crisis situation - loss of parent(s)/ earning family member since January 2020 or loss of job/employment of an earning family member, can apply.
Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 30,000 per year and mentorship benefits
Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CCSP1

Scholarship Name 3: Kriti Fellowship 2021
Description: Kriti Fellowship 2021 is an initiative of The Hyphen in association with WeCare and Discovery Village to provide opportunities to young artists to create art for bringing meaningful change in the society. Under this fellowship, 25 young artists under the age of 30 will be provided with mentorship, a grant of INR 1 lakh each and an opportunity to be a part of a museum-making.
Eligibility: Open for Indian individual artists under the age of 30.
Prizes & Rewards: Grant of INR 1 lakh and mentorship benefits
Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KRF1

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESTATES, KASHMIR
Tel/Fax: 0194-2470970, email:-ddestsgr@gmail.com

e-Auction Notice No.: 01 of 2022 dated. – 07/01/2022.
Sub:-e-auction notice for disposal of obsolete/ unserviceable wooden/ steel/ electronic/furniture and furnishing items etc.
e-Auction Notice.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-bidding in double cover system invited by Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir for disposal of obsolete/unserviceable wooden/steel/electronic/furniture and furnishing items etc. The tender documents alongwith list of items can be downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 8/1/2022 to 17/1/2022 till 4 p.m. for which the cost of tender documents in the shape of DD of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred Only) in favour of Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir or G.R. to be remitted in treasury under M.H. 0216-Housing is to be uploaded with tender documents. The earnest money amounting to Rs. 5000/- in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir is to be uploaded with tender documents. The bidders should submit the bid Forms in two parts i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid separately. The financial bid shall be opened only after the bid documents of intending bidders are found technically qualified.

Bid documents should be deposited in electronic format on the website: <http://jktenders.gov.in> The bids (technical/financial bid) shall be opened on 18/1/2022 online or any other date which may be convenient to the Committee in presence of bidders willing to be present in the office chamber of the Undersigned. The bid documents consisting of list of unserviceable items, set of terms and conditions of the Auction and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule of dates given below:

Date and time of inspection of unserviceable stock items for intending bidders	All working days between 08/01/2022 to 15/01/2022 from 10:30 a.m to 3:30 P.m
Date of issue of Tender notice:	07/01/2022
Period of downloading of tender documents	08/01/2022
Bid Submission start date:	09/01/2022
Bid Submission end date:	17/01/2022 at 4 p.m
Date and time of opening of bids (online).	18/01/2022 at 11 a.m

Further details can be had from the office of Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir at Pratap Park, Kashmir during office hours and on contact Nos. viz: 7006583794, 7889341058.
No: DDES/NIT/2021-22/70
Date: 07/01/2022.
Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir
DIPK-16377/21
Kashmir, Srinagar.

DC Tours City Areas To Oversee Snow Clearance, Power Restoration

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR, JANUARY 08: In wake of overnight snowfall in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday morning toured various areas of the Srinagar city to inspect snow-clearance operation and take first hand assessment of other arrangements put in place to deal with challenges from the prevailing weather situation in the district.

The DC visited various areas of the City including Dalgate, Rajbagh, Lal Ded, Magarmal Bagh, Jehangir Chowk, Batamalo, Bemina and other adjoining areas. He was informed that snow from most of the main roads have been cleared by the Mechanical Engineering Department and about 70 percent inner link roads have been cleared, while Srinagar Municipal Corporation is on job to clear the lanes and by-lanes for the convenience of the pedestrians.

The DC also visited 132 KV Grid Station Bemina to take stock of the power scenario.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that power is being supplied to most of the City parts as per notified schedule, besides men and machinery are on job to restore the faulty feeders catering parts of the City.

The DC directed the concerned department to carry out the restoration measures at a fast pace to restore supply in next two hours.

The DC also directed the officers of SMC, Fire & Emergency, UEED, to ensure dewatering at all water logged areas at an earliest. He also directed them to ensure snow clearance from all interior roads in the district. He stressed for close coordination between line Departments besides ensuring all Control Rooms established are functional round the clock for the convenience of the general public.

During the visit, the DC also instructed the officials to ensure their presence on the ground during night hours also in view of inclement weather so that public services remain uninterrupted/restored at earliest.

Senior officers from MED, PWD, PHE, SMC, PDD, UEED and other Departments accompanied the DC during the tour.



Snow Throws life out of gear in City

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR: The continuous snowfall caused water-logging in several areas of the summer capital even if the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) said they have pressed men and machinery to dewater the city roads.

Following snow and rains from early morning, several areas including Residency Road, MA Road, Dalgate, Jawahar Nagar, Rambagh, Hyderpora, Nowgam and its adjacent roads were water-logged. The problem was compounded by defunct drainage system in these localities.

In many areas garbage mounds which accumulated on roads, from past two days, hampered smooth vehicular movement.

Although, the SMC on Saturday cleared snow off the roads on all important stretches running through the city and connecting important destinations, with special focus on the roads leading to hospitals, religious places and the government offices.

Snow clearance drives were conducted in lanes, bylanes, pavements, Hospitals, Ration Ghats, Electric water supply stations,

Religious places, Government Departments and other vital places on priority.

Mayor Srinagar Mr Junaid Azim Mattu along with Corporators and SMC officers toured several areas in the uptown and the old city to take up on the spot inspection of the snow clearance drive.

He visited SMHS hospital, Super speciality karan nagar, CD hospital, Bone and joint hospital Airport road, Dal interiors, Kani Kach, Moti Mohalla, etc

Mr Mattu passed on directions to the concerned to clear the snow from religious places including Hazratbal, Khanyar, Naqshband Sahib, Makhdoom Sahib, Chati Padshai, other Gurudwara's, mosques, Imambaras and shrines.

He also reviewed snow clearance from vital roads, link roads, at hospitals, places of worship, city center and major markets.

Besides snow clearance Mr Mattu also took stock of dewatering stations and passed orders to address waterlogging issues in the city.

He also took stock of the city drainage preparation to deal with water-logging in low lying areas and trouble spots. Mr Mattu on

the occasion have instructed the City Drainage Wing to be on high alert to check water logging and ensure dewatering at each and every place said Mr Mattu.

The snow clearance drive began yesterday night only for the swift removal of snow from the main stretches from all the areas including Lal Chowk, Habba Kadal, MA Road, Hassanabad, Safa Kadal, Harisingh High Street, Zero, Bemina, Karan Nagar Kaawdara, Fateh Kadal, Jammallata, Tulsibagh Peerbagh, Humhama, Rajbagh, Eidgah, Jamia Masjid, Guzarbal, Lawaypora, Rajouri Kadal and other areas.

Snow was cleared from all the hospitals as well including LD hospital, SKIMS, Bone and Joints Hospital, Gousia Hospital, SMHS, Psychiatric hospital etc

Most of the lanes, by lanes are being cleared by the SMC staff and many machines are on the job including snow ploughs to ensure no resident faces any inconvenience due to accumulation of snow.

The important Lal Chowk-Airport Road was also attended to early in the morning.

DC meets stakeholders to chalk out roadmap for constitution of Standing Committees

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR, JANUARY 08: In order to chalk out a roadmap for constitution of Standing Committees in the District Development Council (DDC) Srinagar, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Saturday held an interactive session with DDC Chairman and mem-

bers of DDC, BDC and Panchayat Raj Institutions here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Balwal was also present on the occasion.

Chairman District Development Council, Srinagar, Malik Aftab, Vice Chairman, Bilal Ahmad, other members of DDC, Srinagar, mem-

bers of Block Development Council (BDC), Srinagar and other representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) participated in the session.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Assistant Commissioner Development, District Panchayat Officer and other officers were also present on the occasion.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NAAC Accredited Grade "A+" | HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Govt. of J&K/ other union territories and CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money In Rs.	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of comp	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Cont
1.	Renovation and Face-lifting of Department of MCA/English and IMBA at North Campus, Delina University of Kashmir.	19.18	38,360/-	800/-	04-Months	07-01-2022 to 17-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"
2.	Construction of Almira's in three rooms of Allama Iqbal Library.	5.48	10,960/-	300/-	02-Months	07-01-2022 to 17-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"CEE" & "DEE"
3.	Execution of Various Works In the Department of Commerce at Main Campus.	4.17	8,340/-	300/-	03-Months	07-01-2022 to 17-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
4.	Replacement of Old irrigation Pipes of Lawns at Main Campus.	2.00	4,000/-	200/-	20-Days	07-01-2022 to 17-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
5.	Miscellaneous works in the Department of MERC by way of Providing and Fixing of Vitrified tiles in the floor of Library at Main campus.	1.75	3,500/-	200/-	01 Month	07-01-2022 to 17-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.
NIT No: - F (UCD)(E.Tend)/KU/79/21
DATED:06/01/22 **DIPK-NB-6471/21** **Sd/ Executive Engineer**

CONDOLENCE

The condolence meeting was held under the the chairmanship of Mr Raja Nayeem Khan president Kashmir Electric Manufactures Association (KEMA) to condole the sad demise to the mother of Syed Fazal Illahi, president Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan unit may Allah grant her the highest place in jannah and courage to the bereaved family

Latif Ahmad Shah
General Secretary, KEMA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN) Fisheries Deptt Suleiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar (J&K)

Telephone No 0194-3513051 e-mail:- sraquaengineer@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Tenders
SHORT TERM E-NIT No 42 OF 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited by Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN), Fisheries Department J&K Srinagar by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and the eligible registered Contractors registered with J&K Government, CPWD, Railways & other Central/State Governments of the classes mentioned here under in strict accordance with conditions noted below.

S. No	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document	Time of opening of bid	Time of completion
01	Upgradation of Trout Fish Farm Nambal Anantnag	Rs 3.09 lacs	Rs 6200/-	D	Rs 200/-	15-01-2022 at 10:00 AM	One Month
02	Renovation/Upgradation of Trout Fish Farm Pahalgam Anantnag	Rs 3.25 lacs	Rs 6500/-	D	Rs 200/-	15-01-2022 at 10:00 AM	One Month
03	Construction of Farm Hut at Fish Farm Kherkoot Banihal by way of Tile Work & allied works	Rs 3.10 lacs	Rs 6200/-	D	Rs 200/-	15-01-2022 at 10:00 AM	One Month

Position of AA= Accorded Position of Funds = Available

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in under ASH/Director Fisheries /Engineering Wing as per the schedule of dates given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	07-01-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	07-01-2022 from 10:00 am to 14-01-2022 upto 4:00 pm
3	Bid submission Start Date	07-01-2022 from 2:00 pm
4	Bid submission End Date	14-01-2022 upto 4:00 pm
5	Date & Time of opening Bids (Online)	15-01-2022 at 10:00 am

Sd/
Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN)
Fisheries Department
Srinagar

DIPK-16387/21
 No: SAE/D/2021-22/1656-61 Dated: 07-01-2022

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
 05 Jumada al-Sani
 1443

FAJR	6: 08
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	4:00
Magrib	5:44
ISHA	7: 07

This Day In History

- 475 - Byzantine Emperor Zeno is forced to flee his capital at Constantinople.
- 1296 - Earl Floris V signs accord with French King
- 1317 - Phillips V, the Tall, crowned king of France
- 1431 - Judges' investigations for the trial of Joan of Arc begin in Rouen, France, the seat of the English occupation government
- 1493 - 1st sight of manatees by Christopher Columbus
- 1558 - Geneva becomes independent from Bernese canton, Switzerland
- 1718 - France declares war on Spain
- 1760 - Afghans defeat Marathas in battle of Barari Ghat
- 1792 - Russia & Turkey sign Peace of Jassy
- 1812 - Swedish Pomerania (Germany) seized by Napoleon
- 1862 - The first petroleum shipment (1,329 barrels) from the U.S. to Europe arrives at Victoria Docks, London, England aboard the Elizabeth Watts
- 1878 - Umberto I becomes King of Italy.
- 1879 - Kirtland Warbler discovered on Andros Island in Bahamas
- 1912 - US Marines send troops to Honduras
- 1916 - The Ottoman Empire prevails in the Battle of Çanakkale, as the last British troops evacuated
- 1917 - World War I: the Battle of Rafa occurs near the Egyptian border with Palestine.
- 1930 - Albert Kahn Associates architectural firm become consulting architects for all industrial construction in the Soviet Union
- 1936 - Semi-automatic rifles adopted by US army
- 1942 - US Joint Chiefs of Staff created
- 1943 - Japanese government in Jawa limits sale & use of motorcars
- 1952 Karel Sys wins European heavyweight boxing title
- 1957 Karachayev-Cherkess Autonomous Region reestablished in RSFSR
- 1960 - Building of Aswan dam in Egypt, begins
- 1968 - Surveyor 7 space probe soft lands on Moon
- 1969 - First trial flight of Concorde supersonic jetliner, Bristol, England
- 1969 - Prime Minister of Northern Ireland Terence O'Neill travels to London to meet Home Secretary James Callaghan and brief him on the growing violence in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - Luna 21 launched, to Moon
- 1975 - Australia beat England by 171 runs in 4th Test to regain Ashes
- 1986 - After losing a patent battle with Polaroid, Kodak must give up its instant camera business.
- 1987 - Chinese Vietnamese border fights, 1,500 killed
- 1990 - 64th US manned space mission STS 32 (Columbia 10) launches into orbit
- 1998 Anatoly Solovoyv & Pavel Vinogradov spacwalk record 3 hrs 8 mins
- 2001 - Shenzhou 2, an unmanned Chinese spacecraft, is launched.
- 2001 - Apple announced iTunes at the Macworld Expo in San Francisco, for organizing and playing digital music and videos
- 2005 - The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, commonly known as the Naivasha Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement rebel group in Naivasha, Kenya.
- 2005 - Elections are held to replace Yasser Arafat as head of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He is succeeded by Rawhi Fattouh.

From KO Archives

Probe Ordered 30 Injured In Prison Riots

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR- At least 30 people, including a deputy superintendent of jail, were injured in a clash between detainees and CRPF jawans in the high security Kotbalwal jail near here today. A high-level en-quiry has been ordered into the incident.

Trouble arose when jail-officials and CRPF personnel were inspecting one of the bar-racks housing foreign militants around 1100 hours. According to NAFA, CRPF and police had gone to the jail with sniffer dogs on receipt of some information. A Pakistani militant identified as Khawaja is reported to have entered into an argument with the police who subjected him to a summary thrashing. This attracted the attention of other detainees in the adjacent bar-racks. Around 50 of them, mostly foreigners came out and started shouting 'provocative' slogans.

Sensing trouble, the police and CRPF personnel resorted to lathicharge which was responded by the detainees with stone pelting. In the ensuing clash 36 detainees besides the deputy superintendent of police, Harish Kotwal, were injured. Several visitors who had come to meet their jailed relatives and some shopkeepers also started shouting slogans. They were chased away with some of them sustaining injuries in the process.

Later, a large number of visitors and shopkeepers sat on a dharna on the Akhnour road and caused disruption in vehicular traffic. It was only after the CRPF commandant arrived at the spot that the situation was brought under control. He pacified the agitated inmates and the protesters and later reported the matter to the higher ups.

Taking a serious note of the incident, the director general of prisons, S S Ali, ordered a high level enquiry into it and asked the jail superintendent to submit a report immediately.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



"Use masks routinely especially in places of interaction with strangers, shops, malls, mosques, etc. Avoid crowded settings. Keep away from COVID to protect yourself and your families. Omicron may be mild but severe illness and long COVID are possible. Better safe than sorry"

@ParvaizKoul

"Day closing: We were expecting flurry of O² related calls today. Alhamdulillah work load was way below our expectations. Only 23 O² related calls were received. This gives us hope. #COVID situation is not as bad as it looks. If we take precautions we would all be fine. Insha'Allah"

@SRO_Kashmir

"People always forget to give credits to the real heroes. So, Here are our ambulance drivers of ASYM Distt Hosp Budgam who have worked effortlessly during the pandemic and now in this snow. Where movement of patients is so difficult. I really salute their dedication"

@Mehzaad_Bilal

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Srinagar In Decay

The trouble with traveling the sanitized route from Gupkar Road to the secretariat via the Boulevard every day is that one begins to harbour notions about the rest of the city being built on the same grand scale. This comfortable, scenic journey blinds our rulers to the harsher civic realities of Srinagar, lulling them into a cozy frame of mind where everything is supposed to be ship-shape and Bristol fashion. And if you happen to be among the lucky few residing in the green zone girdling Cheshma Shahi – as many of our top bureaucrats are – nothing could be more heavenly than the state's summer capital.

An illuminating exercise, on the other hand, would be to take a detour up the handy Shankaracharya hillock and look down across the expanse of the city stretching from the now-squalid shores of the Dal Lake. The trip is particularly recommended in winter when trees have shed their foliage, laying the city bare in its stark ugliness. The view is quiet disconcerting, to say the least, as it encompasses the grotesque results of six decades of civic development. It is a wonder that no leader of the ruling class has ever been struck by the progressive decay gripping Srinagar for decades in the total absence of an overall blueprint and vision of how the city should develop and spread. There appears to be no code governing new construction in the already congested parts of the city – which is most of it – and unmindful residents merrily build whatever they want wherever they want regardless of its impact on the look of the city. The plethora of government departments, including the top heavy Srinagar Municipal Corporation, plays no role whatsoever in defining a philosophy of development, and guiding people in adhering to it. In the absence of a central authority that would have defined the form and content of construction in the city, and enforced the code, Srinagar has turned into an architectural nightmare, with neither rhyme nor reason in the monstrosities that go for its buildings. Even the rare tracts that began as planned projects have gone down the decrepit lane as even the purely residential areas have turned into a commercial mess.

Successive governments in the state have totally relinquished control over the use of land for construction, resulting in the mushrooming of unplanned colonies that at best resemble squalid slums with no planned layout, narrow, winding alleyways for roads, and residential buildings that have been put up without any architectural merit. This systematic defacing of the city landscape has taken place when every building in the municipal limits requires a permission, an exercise now exclusively serving as a money-minting machine for the officials concerned. For the years the city municipality has functioned as a corporation with a full complement of expensively elected and maintained corporators, it has not made a single mention of the awry growth of Srinagar, but only served to multiply its ills by a blind adherence to past practices, mostly harmful. It has not even made a pretense at arresting the growth of ugliness in city architecture by putting its droves of engineers to some constructive use. All it has done is to move from crisis to crisis, failing even in the basic task of disposing off garbage.

For a city that boasts of being the capital of the paradise on earth, Srinagar has turned into a veritable hell, a sprawling hovel that tourists from any part of the world would only want to enter to see a living, breathing disaster. Let us, for the moment, keep aside the horrors of the interior city and the squalor of the new residential colonies, but concentrate on the showpiece that Residency Road was meant to be. That should be sufficient to indicate the scale of the vandalism that had been wrought on the city everywhere. Despotic, autocratic rulers appear to have a far more enlightened idea of how a city centre should look like, and in laying out the Residency Road, with its – till then – broad avenues and parks, had created an idiom for the so called democratic governments to follow. But within a span of a few years, the deliberately low-rise buildings lining the mall have been crowded out by multi-storied monstrosities crammed against each other, robbing the once scenic area of its aura of space, serenity and openness. If planners give such a misshapen interpretation of development and progress, there is no hope whatsoever for Srinagar to recover from the decades of abuse.

The article is an editorial from KO archives and was originally published on Dec 18, 2010

A Season Of Merry Or Misery?

Sama Zehra

Jehangir's "Firdaus" and "Behisht" of all poets and philosophers, blanketed in a thick layer of snow, illuminating the brightest colors of nature is undoubted, a sight for sore eyes. Starting the day with the delicious Kashmiri delicacy "Harisa", warming yourself up using "Kangris" or the "Hammam", and listening to the melody of nature while spending time with your loved ones, is a sugarcoated glance of Winters in Kashmir.

The reality is, that the envelope of snow, other than beauty brings with it an unwelcomed state of misery, and struggle for Kashmiris, one short glimpse of which was recently shared with us via different social media platforms. Two pregnant women, in different cities of Kashmir, were carried on cot for several Km's to the neighboring hospitals, one of them delivered a baby midway. Locals asserted that the lax attitude of the administration towards de-icing of roads is the cause of the problem.

De-icing of roads has never been given the required importance. For almost half of the winter, the roads remain blocked, the Srinagar-Jammu highway remains closed for vehicular traffic, therefore, bringing the lives of people to a standstill. The poor and in-efficient drainage system has added fuel to the fire. A few inches of snow leads to waterlogging in all of the major roadways of Srinagar, water from drains overflows into the roads, therefore, turning them into a "cesspool". People have made Innumerable requests and protests to the administration, demanding a modern drainage system, however, the current administration as well as all the preceding governments turned a blind eye towards the issue. In 2019, a senior official at SMC stated that the carrying capacity of drains has decreased considerably due to the silt accumulation during the 2014 floods. He further stated that tenders were issued in this regard however, SMC received no proper response.

Draining out of clogged water from roadways comes with collateral damage i.e., "damaging of roads". A few inches of snow or rain drastically damages the roads and the government dubiously argues that the "macadam" used is incapable of withstanding elements of rain or snow. Thereby, contradicting their boastful statements about the "excellent quality" of material used in the construction of roads.

The subzero temperature of Kashmir accompanied by unprecedented power cuts, continuous blackouts,



THE UNPREPAREDNESS OF GOVERNMENT, their lackadaisical attitude towards miseries of people worsens the already harsh condition faced by people. Kashmiris still live in a time where developments are rare, connections are scarce and facilities uncommon.

shortage of essentials and traffic snarls is not a favorable combination. The issue of power cuts is one of the longest unsolved crises of the valley. Despite having the potential to produce 20,000 megawatts of hydropower, currently, the state only produces 3,263 MW, of which 2900 MW is generated by the NHPC (National Hydro Power Corporation). Merely 13% of the power generated by the NHPC is shared with Kashmir, and the power requirements of the state are met by purchasing electricity at sky-high rates from the northern grid of India. Nonetheless, Kashmiris are left with less than 9hrs of electricity per day.

Even though everyone in Kashmir is affected by the same difficulties, the upper class still manages to keep a safe distance from them. Poverty fuels the hardships faced by people, some struggles in winters are poor-centric and "Government initiatives", are not strong enough to prevent the harsh weather from reaching the poor families. Winters highlight the abyss of gulf between different classes, an exorbitant difference of perspectives between various social groups becomes evident. While an elite enjoys the chilly weather, the poor living on

boulevards of Dal Lake struggles due to waterlogging and freezing temperatures. When forecasts predict harsh weather, people begin stocking up essentials ahead of time. But, if resources are scarce, the option of hoarding is not available to people. Furthermore, the snowfall extensively damages the apple orchards, uproots and damages trees as a result, jeopardizing the livelihood of people living in the outskirts of Kashmir. Last year, untimely snowfall led to extensive damaging of apple orchards, the government decided to compensate however, many haven't still received any reimbursement. The government fixed a modest compensation rate of Rs. 2800 per Kanal, and surprisingly, failed to pay it.

In the olden times, winters were welcomed and celebrated by people. However, since the '90s, winters have marked the inception of a loop of miseries and struggle for the Kashmiri people. The arrival of winters is no more marked by the foliage of autumn leaves instead, it has been replaced by frequent power outages. Day in and out, the valley plunges into blackouts and residents are forced to endure long, harsh winter days without electric-

ity. The government usually flaunts about the developments in Kashmir or about the construction of roads, however, on the realistic ground, nothing really has changed. A drizzle of rain makes Kashmir vulnerable to floods, snowfall disrupts normal life, causes fatalities, accidents and whatnot. The unpreparedness of government, their lackadaisical attitude towards miseries of people worsens the already harsh condition faced by people. Kashmiris still live in a time where developments are rare, connections are scarce and facilities uncommon.

With time, it seems like the idea of Winters being a "season of merry and blessings" will only remain constricted to poets and philosophers. The onset of winters cannot be celebrated until and unless the grievances and concerns of people are heard. Truly, Winter is a season of blessings, a season that displays the true beauty of nature and has a magical effect of resurrecting our dead spirits. In the words of Agha Shahid Ali, "Snow gleams as if a lover's gaze has fallen to earth. How the season whitens! Even the evergreens are peppered with salt, and only love can take the place of the mountain".

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

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COVID-19: Why We Should Not Ignore The Omicron Threat

Shyam A. Krishna

Omicron spreads very fast but is not dangerous. Its infection is mild, and recovery is swift. You hear this frequently, and it could push us down a treacherous path. This is precisely why the World Health Organisation sent out a stark warning on Thursday. Simply put, there's no such thing as a mild coronavirus. Even a less infectious strain could be deadly to people with compromised immunity or underlying medical conditions.

The chatter about Omicron being a mild strain can lull people into a false sense of security. I too have been guilty of that. I have been treating Omicron with less dread. That's in comparison with Delta, perhaps the most virulent strain of all.

Having said that, not once have I let my guard down. When I was preparing for an India trip, Omicron showed up in South Africa and Botswana. True, I was worried about the record mutations that increased its transmissibility, but I took comfort in its decreased severity of infections reported from Gauteng province in South Africa. I was double vaccinated too. So I went ahead with my travel plan and returned unscathed.

"While Omicron does appear to be less severe compared to Delta, especially in those vaccinated, it does not mean it should be categorized as 'mild'.

Just like previous [#COVID19] variants; Omicron is hospitalizing people and it is killing people." says @DrTedros. pic.twitter.com/7QZxMSVZGq – World Health Organization (WHO) (@WHO) January 6, 2022

What I see around me is worrying. Lots of relatives and friends have been afflicted by COVID-19. Most of them

of the good and bad pic.twitter.com/pl8uid7hVf – Eric Topol (@EricTopol) December

THE THREAT IS MORE IN COUNTRIES WHERE a large proportion of the population remains unvaccinated. It could overwhelm the medical infrastructure in such countries, and deaths could happen. This is what Tedros was referring to when he sounded the warning

are fully vaccinated, so they have largely had milder symptoms and recovered quickly.

I'm not sure whether it was due to Omicron or any other variant. But what's certain is that more people are catching COVID now. So this is no time to dismiss the threat of Omicron or any other variant.

Omicron is highly transmissible and can kill; it's overwhelming hospitals, and there have been fatalities. That's what WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Thursday. It's also an appeal to people not to let their guard down – a reminder to people worldwide that the COVID threat is far from over.

When the WHO chief talks about the pandemic, you have to sit up and take notice. Tedros said record numbers of people are catching COVID from the new variant, and it is rapidly outpacing the previously-dominant Delta variant in many countries.

"While Omicron does appear to be less severe compared to Delta, especially in those vaccinated, it does not mean it should be categorised as 'mild,'" Tedros warned.

There's been a lot of new data for Omicron in the last day, much still preliminary, but here's my summary

10, 2021

I scoured the internet to see how rampant Omicron has been. Because all you hear is how mild is this variant apart from its propensity to spread very fast and kill the occasional patient. I couldn't get the latest figures, but here's what I found out.

The United States set a global daily record of 1 million cases on January 3, but they have not translated into skyrocketing hospitalisations and soaring deaths. On December 28, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky attributed the spike in cases largely to Omicron but added that hospitalisations and deaths remained low. That, she said, could be because hospitalisations tend to lag cases by two weeks and may also be due to milder disease among the vaccinated.

In Britain, there have been 12 Omicron deaths in December. The government's Life Sciences Adviser John Bell said hospitalisations have increased due to the spread of Omicron, but the disease "appears to be less severe and many people spend a relatively short time in hospital". Fewer patients required high-flow oxygen, and the average length of stay was to three days, the Guardian quoted the regius professor of medicine at Ox-

ford University as saying. South Africa was one of the first countries to identify the variant, but the infections there have been less severe. But medical experts warn that the country is an outlier since it has a young population.

The heavily mutated Omicron has spread to at least 130 countries since it was first discovered in November and has overtaken Delta as the dominant strain worldwide. Case numbers have soared to an all-time high, but the hospitalisation and death rates are often lower than at other phases in the pandemic. "What we are seeing now is ... the decoupling between the cases and the deaths," WHO Incident Manager Abdi Mahamud said in Geneva.

The threat is more in countries where a large proportion of the population remains unvaccinated. It could overwhelm the medical infrastructure in such countries, and deaths could happen. This is what Tedros was referring to when he sounded the warning.

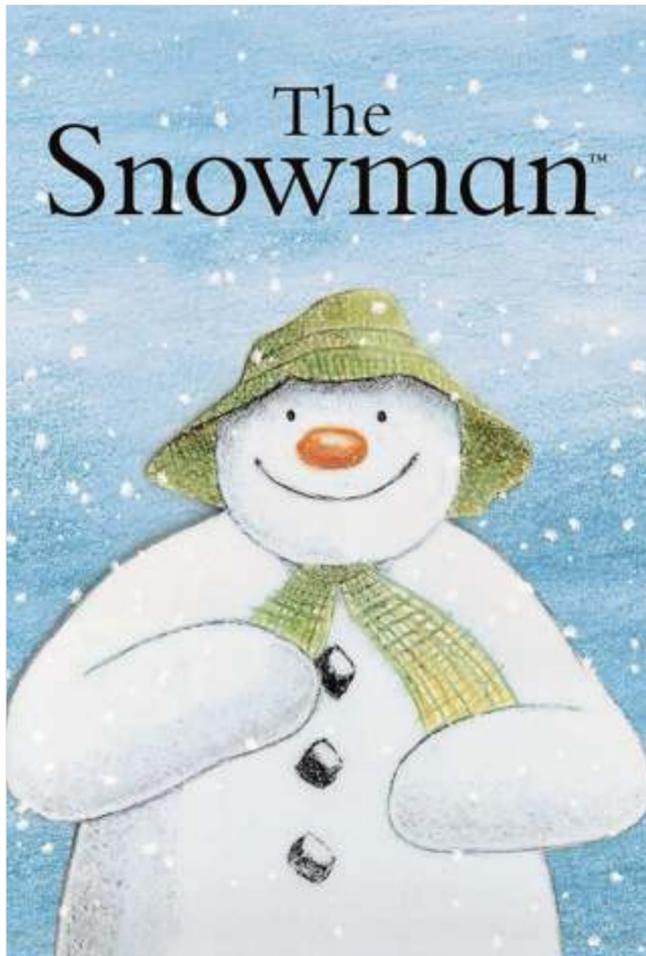
Any COVID virus strain has to be treated with abundant caution. And Omicron is reported to be around 30 per cent more transmissible. Therein lies the danger. The standard COVID safety protocol is our best recourse. Mask up, wash hands and keep a safe distance from others. That has worked well, and it will help ward off Omicron too. And don't forget the booster shot.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Gulf News

The author is Senior Associate Editor at Gulf News. He writes on health and sport

Binge In Snow

Holiday Movies To Watch



KO Web Desk

In Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, St Luke's Church was reopened after thirty years in December. Christmas heard choirs but it is only now that snow has blessed Kashmir. Even as Christmas is over, you still have the chance to make the most of the holiday spirit by watching some holiday movies with your loved ones. For those in our community who do not celebrate Christmas, you too can watch these movies centered around the season of winter and snow.

Here's the list for you:

The Snowman (1982)

This heartwarming adventure tale is based on a book by Raymond Briggs in which a boy who builds a snowman, which comes to life, after their family pet passes away. With simple animation and innocent cinematography, the movie runs for barely 26 minutes. This makes it ideal for kids and especially heartwarming to watch.

The Man Who Invented the Christmas (2017)



If Christmas Carol is an iconic story on Christmas, Dickens is the most iconic of the authors in the genre. This

movie gives us a chance to know the man who wrote this classic novel. The man who invented Christmas follows Charles Dickens as he forges the term the mood and idiom now integral to our Christmas experience.

Jingle All the Way (1996)



The movie is about a father (played by Arnold) to get his son a Turbo Man action figure on Christmas. However, under snowfall, every store is sold

IF CHRISTMAS CAROL IS AN ICONIC story on Christmas, Dickens is the most iconic of the authors in the genre. This movie gives us a chance to know the man who wrote this classic novel. The man who invented Christmas follows Charles Dickens as he forges the term the mood and idiom now integral to our Christmas experience.

out of them (we know this one), and he thus travels all over the town to find one. It's just a heartwarming tale punctuated by a lot of Arnold adventures. Also, a reminder to get our shopping done early.

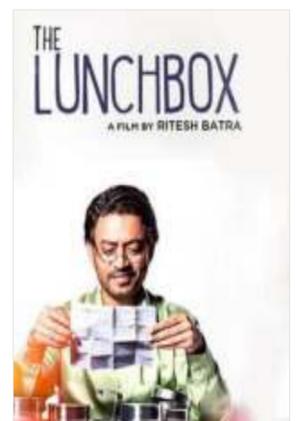
Let it Snow (2019)

Based on a book by John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle,



Let it Snow follows a bunch of high school seniors whose lives interact in new ways after a snowstorm hits their small town around winter holidays. Involving mysterious encounters, impromptu parties and bubbling romance it is a delight to watch.

The Lunch Box (2013)



Sometimes, one might feel bleak and gloomy in snow. What one needs to deal with this is just a movie about food and love. The Lunch Box involves a lot of delicious food, easy chemistry between the lead protagonists, and to lift up the silence: hustle and sights of Mumbai.

BASED ON A BOOK BY JOHN GREEN, MAUREEN Johnson and Lauren Myracle, Let it Snow follows a bunch of high school seniors whose lives interact in new ways after a snowstorm hits their small town around winter holidays. Involving mysterious encounters, impromptu parties and bubbling romance it is a delight to watch.

Polaroids In Memories

KO Web Desk

Sishar-Gaante/ Icicles

Kashmir and its snow stories that have their etymology in folklore bring in a tinge of Kashmiryat to the surface, especially when they get passed on to kids in a dreamy phase. You can not tell apart the snowflakes fluttering from high above in the sky from a classic fantasy of a Koshur child whose cheeks grow rosier even before the first snowfall. The Shishar-gaante (icicles) hanging on the rooftops of our houses are caught a glimpse of by children with excitement to use as swords to fight the Wai Woph (Kashmir's special witch). These long ice-bound swords are often eaten to make for a natural ice cream that completes your vision of Chilaikalan (40 days of harsh winter in Kashmir). Parents attempt at averting the children from getting their hands red by making their icy friend come to reality but to no avail. Snow and children are the estranged companions meeting each other every year with a growing zest of never wanting to be set apart. Children await their first meet-up with this white sheet to make snowballs out of and throw at each other, aiming to revive the beauty of togetherness in the wintry world of Kashmir

Sheen ha Logun!

One of the most captivating of memories of snow that we all share — irrespective of which condition life has thrown at us — is the first sign of season's first snowfall.

Even after years of being habitual of seeing snow, the excitement is always there. Everyone rushes to their windows and stops in awe of the sight. Then families make calculated prep-

IF THE TASK SEEMS TOO daunting, they decide to stay in if work allows. Kids start making architectural plans for their snow figurines while those in their adolescence stay put and wait for it to snow more before getting excited.

arations based on their own assessments about the amount of snow that's going to accumulate. In early morning, men of the house and children rush outside with shovels to clear the path to make way for cars.

If the task seems too daunting, they decide to stay in if work allows. Kids start making architectural plans for their snow figurines while those in their adolescence stay put and wait for it to snow more before getting excited.

A picture perfect moment — all greens and browns taken over by the absolutely gorgeous sheet of white spectacle!

Sheene Jung

Every alleyway of Kashmir has kids sneaking out of their houses with their concerned mothers trying to keep them inside. Often, kids in joint families make elaborate plans for the snow fight. Everyone decides a meeting point and split into teams. The there's the final show down.

Watching kids play, elders often give up their seriousness and come out to join the sheene jung.

Everyone returns to the comfort of their homes where they brush of snow from their pattu pherans and empty out their snow boots for drying.

KODAK MOMENT



A KASHMIRI MAN CARRYING HIS CHILD INSIDE a traditional pheran as he walks along a street during heavy snowfall in Charar-e- Shareef Budgam. KO Photo Faisal bashir

Journalist Arrested

in his village had instigated locals against the drive, the spokesperson said.

The officials were restrained in discharging their legitimate official duties as result of his actions, the spokesperson added.

A case under sections 147, 447, 336, and 353 of the Indian Penal Code was registered against Dar charging him for rioting, criminal trespass, preventing officers to carry out their duty, and endangering people's lives.

The case is sub judice in the court of JMJC Sumbal, the spokesperson said.

Dar, according to police, was also involved in spreading "disinformation campaign through fake tweets/narratives" regarding recent anti-militancy operation in Gundjahangeer in which an alleged local militant Imtiyaz Ahmad was killed.

"In this regard, a case FIR No. 79/2021 U/S 120B, 153B, 505/IPC stands registered against him which is under investigation," he said.

Dar also allegedly uploaded objectionable videos with anti-national slogans raised by some women on the day most-wanted militant Saleem Parray was killed in Shalimar, Srinagar, the spokesperson added.

Snowfall Grounds

be addressed soon as an upgraded instrument landing system (ILS) will be installed at the airport by November this year, the official said.

"The installation of the CAT-II ILS will begin in April 2022 and would be completed by November 2022. Hopefully, we will not face these difficulties next year," he added.

The official advised passengers to reschedule their flights, which, he said, will be done by airlines free of cost. "The passengers are entitled to full refund if they decide to cancel their journey," he said.

The air traffic to and from Kashmir has been badly affected over the past few days with a large number of flights getting cancelled due to poor visibility.

Srinagar recorded the minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius last night, the officials said.

They said Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded

a low of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amaranth yatra, recorded a low of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded the minimum of zero degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.9 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

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

The meteorological office has said significant improvement in weather is likely from Sunday morning, after which it is likely to stay mainly dry over the next few days.

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

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

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

Banihal Highway

National Highway remained closed since Friday afternoon due to heavy snowfall in Banihal sector and multiple landslides in Ramban district.

The traffic on the highway was restored early Friday after remaining suspended for the past two days due to the inclement weather. However, it was again suspended in the afternoon due to continuous snowfall and rains that triggered landslides at nearly half a dozen places including Karol, Maroog, Moum Passi and digdole.

"About 50 light motor vehicles (LMVs) were left stranded due to the closure of the highway. A number of trucks also remained stranded while some 300 trucks carrying essential supplies to Kashmir including fuel and fresh vegetables were cleared," Malik said.

The officials said the stranded passengers including a group of 26 tourists from Gujarat were shifted to

community halls in Ramban sector and were provided all necessary assistance including food and blankets during the night.

According to the officials, the highway shall remain closed for traffic on Sunday.

"Tomorrow Vehicular movement on Jammu-Srinagar highway will remain suspended as the heavy rains and snowfall has triggered large scale shooting stones activity, landslides and slipper road conditions on the (thoroughfare). The highway is blocked at many places," a traffic department official said.

He said that people are advised not to undertake any journey on the highway till the restoration work is completed and surface is traffic worthy. The traffic plied on Friday before fresh weather system to its closure again.

Due to the heavy snowfall in the valley, the officials said the train service between Banihal and Baramulla sector was suspended as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident.

Snowfall ranging between a few inches to over five feet was recorded in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, while Jammu city and other plains were lashed by heavy rains during the past 24 hours, the officials said.

The hilly areas of Jammu including Kishtwar, Bhaderwah, Doda, Reasi, Poonch and Rajouri experienced major snowfall, disrupting normal life, the officials said.

They said the traffic on the Jammu-Poonch highway was also suspended due to heavy snowfall in several areas in the twin border belts of Poonch and Rajouri.

Head constable Abdul Rashid was injured when an official vehicle of a police officer rolled down into a gorge at Patnitop in Udhampur district Friday evening, the officials said, adding the injured was hospitalised.

The Patnitop hill resort, a star attraction for tourists visiting Jammu region during winters, recorded nearly one feet of snow, the officials said.

The department has predicted heavy to very heavy snow and rains across Jammu and Kashmir till January 9. (PTI)

Snow Damages 150

09:00 AM today.

However, the document reads that 909 feeders of 11 KV have been repaired till 05:20 PM while only 122 are under fault across Kashmir.

In Srinagar, 49 feeders out of 266 were damaged till morning while only 10 were under fault in the evening, the document said, adding that in Budgam of total 103 damaged feeders, 84 were repaired till evening while only 19 were under fault.

According to the document, 7 feeders of 11KV had got damaged by Saturday morning while only one was under fault by evening. It added that 27 out of 46 feeders were damaged in Bandipora while only two were under fault in the evening.

It further revealed that 55 feeders out of 98 were under fault this morning and only three were under fault by the evening.

In Shopian, 30 out of 35 feeders were under fault in the morning and only five were under fault by 05:20 PM. 84 out of 119 feeders were damaged in Anantnag till 09 AM and all were repaired till evening.

Kulgam district in South Kashmir had also recorded 100 per cent damage in 11kv feeders with official documents revealing that all 55 feeders were under fault in the morning and by 05:20 PM only 13 were under fault.

In Baramulla district, 39 feeders are under fault where all-171 feeders were damaged.

Out of 75 damaged, only 30 feeders were under fault by 05:20 PM in Kupwara, it said.

Moreover, Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Aijaz Ahmad Dar said that 150 transformers at different places across the Valley were also damaged due to the fresh snowfall.

However, he said that 55 transformers have been replaced till evening while work on other damaged transformers was going on.

"The number of damaged transformers may increase once the weather condition improves as at present there is transpiration difficulty due to the continuous snowfall," he said.

He added that the men and machinery has already been kept on toes to ensure that the people will not face any hardships and the repairs are done at a shortest possible time—(KNO)

CBI Nabs 2

conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused including at Jammu, Bareilly and Prayagraj (UP).

Both the arrested accused are being produced before the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases, Jammu.

The CBI said that they have recovered the bribe amount.

Trapped Inside Cars

"decades" of weather records had been broken in the last 48 hours.

For days, Pakistan's social media has been full of pictures and videos of people playing in the snow around Murree, a picturesque resort town built by the British in the 19th century as a sanatorium for its colonial troops.

The Punjab province chief minister's office said the surroundings had been declared a "disaster area" and urged people to stay away.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said he was shocked and upset at the tragedy. "Unprecedented snowfall & rush of ppl proceeding without checking weather conditions caught district admin unprepared," he tweeted.

"Have ordered inquiry and putting in place strong regulation to ensure prevention of such tragedies."

TRAFFIC WARNING

Authorities warned last weekend that too many vehicles were trying to enter Murree, but that failed to discourage hordes of day-trippers from the capital.

"It's not only the tourists, but the local population is also facing severe problems," Usman Abbasi, another stranded visitor, told AFP.

"Gas cylinders have run out and drinking water is not available in most areas - it's either frozen or the water pipes have been damaged due to severe cold."

He said hotels were running out of food, and mobile phone services were patchy.

"People are facing a terrible situation."

The town of around 30,000, at an altitude of 2,300 metres, clings to the sides of steep hills and valleys and is serviced by narrow roads that are frequently clogged even in good weather.

Sheikh Rashid said residents had sheltered people trapped in the town and provided blankets and food to those they could reach on the outskirts.

Authorities said schools and government buildings had taken in those who could make it to the town from the clogged roads.

Helicopters were also on standby for when the weather cleared.

Rescue 1122, Pakistan's emergency service, released a list naming 21 people it said had been confirmed dead.

It included a policeman, his wife

and their six children.

Hasaan Khawar, a spokesperson for the Punjab government, said they had frozen to death inside their snow-covered car.

Rescue 1122 said another family, of five, was also among the dead.

2 LD Guards

Amin had told Kashmir Observer

His claim was also endorsed by Medical Superintendent Lal Ded Hospital Dr Syed Muzaffar, who terminated the services of both the security women immediately after the incident.

Pertinently, the incident sparked massive outrage across Kashmir following which the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Dr Syed Haneef Balkhi rushed to the hospital and inquired about the incident.

"We have taken note of this incident. Strict action will be taken against the two security guards as well as the outsourcing agency," Balkhi told Kashmir Observer.

Covid Cases

Jammu and 2334 in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, one new case of Mucormycosis has been reported Saturday, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 51 across J&K.

Patients, Attendants

the new Covid-19 variant Omicron. Pole passed these directions while inspecting SMHS Hospital, Lal Ded Maternity Hospital, Bone and Joint Hospital, Barzulla, and DRDO Hospital Khummo to inspect Covid containment measures in view of Omicron spread in the country, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

He said Pole, who was accompanied by Principal Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, Samia Rashid and officers of Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir, directed concerned Medical Superintendents to conduct coronavirus tests of all patients and attendants in view of Omicron.

As the Omicron virus is spreading at alarming rate, Pole, he said, enjoined on officers to increase the existing number of Covid tests to contain spread of new variant in the valley.

"He directed officers that to enforce the wearing of masks by medical and paramedical staff besides patients and attendants in the health institutions," he added

Meanwhile, the official spokesperson said that the Div Com was apprised by Dr Samia about functioning of top health institutions in Srinagar, and the number of patients received by those hospitals on daily basis.

Pole, he said, also reviewed facilities available for Covid patients including availability of ventilator beds in hospitals, testing kits besides heating and other facilities.

"He also inspected the functioning of DRDO Hospital and the control room establishment in the hospital," he added.

No Leave For

situation which may arise due to heavy snow fall and resurgence of Covid-19 Pandemic in Kashmir Division, all the Chief Medical Officers / Medical Superintendents/ Block Medical Officers are hereby impressed upon not to sanction any kind of leave to the non-gazetted employees and not to forward any kind of leave case to this office in respect of gazetted employees other than emergency leave cases, so that the health care facilities do not suffer in the hospitals," reads a circular issued by the DHSK.

Besides, the DHSK said, it shall be ensured that Block Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals shall not leave the station till snow-situation gets normalized.

Meanwhile, Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather on Saturday visited various hospitals across Kashmir in order to see functioning and the patient care management in view of the snowfall and inclement weather conditions in the valley.

An official spokesperson said that Rather visited many hospitals of north Kashmir including SDH Sopore and SDH Pattan in view of the snowfall.

During his visit, he oversaw the functioning of the patient care services and also enquired from patients about the patients care services being provided to them.

The director also took an online meet with all the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Block Medical Officers (BMOs) and Medical Superintendents and asked them to ensure that patient care services are not affected due to the snowfall.

He directed them to be present at their places of postings in order to provide uninterrupted patient care to the general public and ensure there is no laxity.

The director also to bring in to the notice of the directorate in any kind of difficulty they are facing while they are managing patient care services in hospitals due to the inclement weather.

On the directions of the director, various teams were constituted following the heavy snowfall which visited various hospitals of north, south and central Kashmir areas. The teams

were headed by Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of the directorate.

Meanwhile, in view of snow-fall and resurgence in Covid-19 cases, the directorate issued a circular asking CMOs, BMOs, Medical Superintendents not to sanction any kind of leave to the Non-Gazetted employees and not to forward any kind of leave case to the directorate in respect of gazetted employees except any case of emergency.

J&K Inks 100 Mn

a significant contribution to my home region has always been my dream and today as I see this dream getting realised, it's immensely gratifying," said Century Financial's owner, Bal Krishen.

"The investment will cover 3 hotels and one commercial-cum-residential complex in Jammu & Kashmir. The owner of Century Financial Bal Krishen, originally a native of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district has been a forerunner in supporting his home region", said an official statement.

The MoU was signed by Principal Secretary, Industries, J&K, Ranjan Prakash Thakur and Bal Krishen, Owner of Century Financial in the presence of Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai and several distinguished UAE-based business owners, investors, and entrepreneurs. "Despite challenges of a global pandemic, neither the pace of economic and policy reforms nor the implementation of key infrastructure projects has slowed in any way in UT and we as responsive administration will continue to respond to business's concerns", said the Lt Governor.

10 PDP Leaders

Bijbehara in complete violation of SOP's and COVID appropriate behavior (which may result in spreading of COVID-19 and other related epidemic," reads the letter.

"As such you are directed to book these persons under relevant section of law with an intimation to this office immediately," it adds.

According to the police, the PDP leaders have been booked under IPC Sections of 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and 269 (unlawfully or negligently act likely to spread the infection of any disease dangerous to life).

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said "Covid 19 restrictions apply only to PDP not to BJP."

"Covid 19 restrictions apply only to PDP. Not to BJP's protest in Kashmir yesterday, PPM's rally in Punjab or the mass pujas attended by hundreds of people to pray for his safety. Talks volumes about J&K admin's brazen bias against my party," Mehbooba said in a tweet.

Official Error

Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B) Department.

The inquiry officer has been asked to look into the "matter regarding incorporating the name of the joined candidate into the list of non-joined candidates furnished by the Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir referred (on 28 December 2021)."

The IO has also been asked to "fix responsibility for lapse to initiate strict disciplinary action under CCA Rules 1956."

When contacted, Shailendra Kumar (IAS), told a local news agency GNS that the inquiry was ordered after concerned informed that among others one class-IV appointee has not joined and his appointment cancelled.

"After cancellation, they said it was sent by mistake," Kumar added.

KU Reschedules

said website to know semester-wise and subject-wise dates of re-scheduled examinations.

PDD Worker

afternoon when he lost balance and fell off from the electricity pole, reports said. Sofi sustained injuries in the fall and was removed to a nearby hospital for treatment by his colleagues.

4 Injured In Kangan

Saturday morning when the cab (JK01T-6834) they were travelling in, went out of control of driver's control near Margund and skidded off the road before hitting a tree, reports said.

All the injured were taken to the hospital for treatment. They were discharged after first aid.

According to reports, the vehicle suffered damages in the road accident.

43 New Coronavirus

seven in Kargil district, they said. No fresh death was reported in the union territory.

According to the officials, the death toll stands at 221 — 163 fatalities in Leh and 58 in Kargil.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh has come down to 241 204 in Leh and 37 in Kargil from 269, a day earlier, the officials said.

Sixty-four patients were discharged from hospitals in Leh and seven in Kargil, taking the total number of recoveries to 21,951, they said.

The officials said the total positivity rate of Ladakh stands at 3.7 per cent.



Mother, Daughter Rescued After Being Hit By Avalance

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A 37-year-old woman and her minor daughter were rescued by villagers from an avalanche in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. Nasreen and her 11-year-old daughter Zaida Kousar had gone to fetch water from a natural source in their Tarwanja village of Behramgalla in Surankote area when they came under the avalanche, the officials said. They said the villagers acted swiftly and evacuated the two after pulling out the woman and her daughter from the snow. Both of them escaped unhurt in the incident, the officials said. A video, purportedly showing the girl being pulled out by villagers from under the snow, had gone viral on the social media, drawing appreciation from the netizens for saving the two previous lives.

Snowfall ranging from a few inches to over five feet was reported from the high-altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir, while Jammu plains were lashed by incessant rains over the past few days. Meanwhile, several short videos showing army and BSF personnel patrolling in the knee-deep snow along the Line of Control (LoC) and other forward areas had also gone viral on social media platforms, attracting praises for the brave-hearts for keeping a tight vigil on the borders despite inclement weather. A few more videos showing the security personnel, local police and CRPF personnel providing assistance to the public and power development department and Public Health Engineering department employees rectifying faults to restore snapped power and water supply amid snowfall are also doing the rounds on social media.

Locals, Police Shoulder Body After Ambulance Stuck In Snow

Agencies

POONCH: Body of man who had died at Saudi Arabia finally reached his home town for burial as police and locals carried the coffin on shoulders upto two kilometers and shifted the same in an ambulance thereafter. Following reports that the ambulance carrying dead body of the man who died in Saudi Arabia has got stuck on the road due to heavy snowfall near BDO office Balakote in this mountainous district, police and civil administration took the swift action.

First efforts were made to clear the road by employing men and machinery. However when efforts were did not fructify, police and locals took coffin on shoulders and carried it upto two kilometers where from the body was shifted in an ambulance, provided by BMO Mendhar Dr Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, to the man's hometown. SSP Poonch Rohit Baskotra told GNS that body has been shifted to the home town after hectic efforts by the police. The local of the area hailed the timely efforts by the police.

Family Escapes Unhurt After Walnut Tree Falls On House

Agencies

SRINAGAR : A family of five souls had a narrow escape after a walnut tree, uprooted of prevailing weather vagaries, fell over a residential house in Zogoo Kaharian in Arizal in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Reports said that the tree fell over the house of one Mohammad Akram this afternoon when the house owner was inside with

his four family members. The tree however damaged two cowsheds in proximity of the residential house. The house owner Mohammad Akram said that despite approaching the administration to fell the tree, they in return were met with indifferent approach. "It was a narrow escape for us today", he said adding had god forbidden anything untoward taken place who would have taken the responsibility. (GNS)

Authorities Unable To Handle Situation After Snowfall: CPI(M)

Pic: Abid Bhat/KO



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Castigating the administration for its alleged ill-preparedness to handle the expected snowfall, CPI (M) leader Mohamad Yusuf Tarigami has said the "tall claims made" by the authorities on their alertness have been exposed by the power breakdown, road blockades, sanctity of ration and other difficulties faced by the people. In a statement issued here today, the CPI (M) leader said that although a heavy snowfall is not something new for the region but tall claims being made prove a prank. Referring to the massive power breakdown that had plunged the entire valley into total darkness, he said that the administration failed to restore power supplies. "in most of the areas in valley especially South Kashmir, the restorations claims made by the Power Department are hoax. The CPI (M) leader wondered that with a few inches

of snow the entire administration comes to a grinding halt which is reflective of a dire need for strengthening of disaster preparedness in Jammu and Kashmir. "The snow is yet to be cleared on many roads and a major road network in rural areas across the Valley is yet to see the traffic plying resulting into tremendous inconvenience for the general public. "Though weather warning system is in place but in absence of the required resources mobilization, weather alerts do not serve any purpose," he remarked. He urged upon the administration to ensure that there is no scarcity of essential commodities including LPG, kerosene, sugar and ration. "The medical services, especially emergency services, should be monitored besides the damaged power distribution lines should be immediately repaired to ensure a better power supply in the valley" he demanded.

Covid-19 Norms Tightened At Jammu Airport

RT-PCR Tests Made Mandatory For Unvaccinated Travellers

Agencies

JAMMU: The Jammu Airport officials have intensified testing of the unvaccinated travellers including the Vaishno Devi pilgrims in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases in the state. "Travellers are allowed to leave the airport only if they're fully vaccinated, otherwise, everyone, including the Vaishno Devi pilgrims have to get tested," says Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Jammu Airport Director on Saturday. Besides this, all the international travellers are going

through RT-PCR, informed the Jammu Airport Director. Dr Sanjeev Kumar Garg said that the vaccination certificates of all travellers are being checked. Dr Mohit Kapoor Nodal Officer for COVID-19 testing at the Airport said that regular testing is done following the Government Guidelines. "In cases, passenger tests positive on arrival we are sending them to DRDO hospital", added Kapoor. He further informed that at present there is 50 per RT-PCR and 50 per cent Rapid Antigen

Test (RAT). "In case of a person without a vaccination certificate, we are doing RTPCR and RAT both. Approximately 200 to 250 tests are done every day", Dr Kapoor added. Stanzin, a passenger who lauded the effort taken by the airport authority, said, "This is a good step as testing is important to control the spread of COVID-19."

FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Jitendra Singh Reviews Preparedness, Says No Room For Complacency

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday reviewed the preparedness to deal with the third wave of COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir and cautioned that "there is no room to be complacent".

During the high-level online meeting connecting different districts ranging from Jammu to Srinagar as well as the two divisional headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir, respectively, the minister advised setting up of a designated dashboard for real-time updates related to the ongoing third wave.

"As of now, most of the positive cases in the third wave have remained asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic with flu-like symptoms which invariably wane away in 4-5 days. There is no room to be complacent because during the second wave also, there was a surge in the later weeks and, therefore, the next few weeks will determine the nature and course of this week's wave of pandemic we are going through," Singh said.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said during the first wave in early 2020, there was a regular mechanism for regular monitoring of different districts and a regular



coordination between the Centre and the Union Territory.

"The same mechanism will be evolved if required, but meanwhile the functionaries in the administration and elected representatives were free to be in touch with his office as and when required, whenever there was any coordination or intervention needed," he said.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner (Kashmir), Pandu Rang Pole, Mayor Jammu Chandra Mohan Gupta, Mayor Srinagar Junaid Mattoo, Director General Health Salim Rehman, District Development Council Chairpersons of different districts, Municipal Council heads and district development Commissioners, an official spokesman said. The minister was informed

that by and large there was no major concern in each of the two divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir faced a surge in COVID-19 infections with 655 fresh cases being reported on Saturday, taking the overall virus tally to 3,43,965. The region has lost 4,537 of its people to the virus since the beginning of the pandemic.

Among the cases tested for genome sequencing so far, there was no case of Omicron variant of coronavirus in Kashmir division, whereas three such cases were reported from Jammu division.

The Union minister advised setting up of at least one dashboard each in the office of Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir respectively for real-time information, which could be shared and could also offer regular inputs for follow up.

He also suggested setting up a public helpline in order to build up the confidence of the common masses.

There was a general demand for expediting the genome sequencing facility, in response to which the Director General Health informed that necessary steps had already been taken in this direction, the spokesman said.

UK-Based Kashmiri Man Booked For Carrying Out Anti-National Activities On Social Media

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A UK-based man of Kashmiri-origin has been booked under the UAPA for allegedly carrying out anti-national activities on social media, police said on Saturday.

A complaint was also lodged by an advocate here against Muzammil Ayyub Thakur for threatening him in public and on social media, a police spokesperson said.

"On Thursday, Police Station Kothibagh reliably learnt that Thakur, through his social media account and other platforms, is indulging in activities

which are prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and unity of India," the spokesperson said.

He said Thakur, who heads the World Kashmiri Freedom Movement (WKFM), was creating fear and alarm among the masses and inciting them to commit offences which are likely to disturb public order.

"This apart, a proper complaint was lodged by Advocate Syed Zeeshan before Srinagar Police against Muzammil Ayyub Thakur and others. In the complaint, it is alleged by him that Muzammil Ayyub at the behest

of ISI and ISPR is threatening, harassing, carrying out criminal intimidation, besides being involved in cyber-crimes against the complainant," the spokesperson said.

He said the complainant also alleged that Thakur has left no stone unturned to malign his image and also threatened him, not only in public, but also on social media platforms.

"Accordingly, cognizance into the matter was taken and a case FIR number 01/2022 U/S 13 UAPA, 153-A(b), 505 (1) (b) IPC has been registered and investigation has been initiated," he said.

PM'S SECURITY BREACH

Former Top J&K Officials, Army Veterans Call For Exemplary Action

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Former top J-K officials and Army veterans on Saturday called for an exemplary action on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security breach at a virtual conference hosted by senior BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana here.

Describing the security breach during Modi's visit to Punjab as "very serious and unprecedented" in the history of Independent India, the participants said such an incident can neither be trivialised nor ignored keeping in view its implications on the national security and ramifications over the unity of the nation.

In an alleged security lapse, the prime minister's convoy

was stranded on a flyover for around 15 minutes in Punjab's Ferozepur due to the blockade of the road by farmers on Wednesday.

Former chief secretary and serving Chairman of J-K Public Service Commission B R Sharma, former J-K DGP Kuldeep Khoda, Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, Lt General R K Sharma and Brig Anil Gupta were among those who participated in the over 90-minute virtual conference.

According to a press release, the participants were unanimous for the expeditious and fair probe into the incident.

They termed the alleged breach a manifestation of failure of the Punjab administration, especially police, saying

the SPG Act was blatantly ignored and bluebook violated as deliberate attempts were made to undermine the gravity of the situation, in which the country's top political executive was almost trapped on the flyover with no route to escape in an ambush-like scenario.

Some of the speakers feared an untoward incident having taken place in view of the site being just 20-odd km away from the international border with Pakistan.

An Army veteran observed that the security of the prime minister should be of paramount importance as Modi is "taking on the enemy nations in the neighbourhood firmly" and standing tall in the world community by taking a bold stand on global issues.

Massive Blaze Consumes Goods Worth Crores In Anantnag

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Two commercial buildings annexed together with nine shops in ground floor were gutted in massive fire overnight at Nai Basti area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said on Saturday.

Goods worth crores of rupees were destroyed in the fire which also caused substantial damage to a load carrier—Tata Mobile (JK03H-1628) as well as rooftop of an adjoining house.

Official sources said that the fire erupted around 12 a.m. in one of the electric godowns in the 4-storey commercial complexes, annexed together.

Soon after receiving the call, an official of the fire and emergency department said that soon after receiving the call

fire tenders were rushed to the spot. However intensity of the fire was severe and when the fire was brought under control, it had substantial damaged the goods housed in the commercial complexes, officials said.

The buildings had three godowns containing electric, crockery, aluminum and plastic items of a particular quality brand besides shops dealing with different items.

Regarding the Tata Mobile (JK03H-1628), they said, the load carrier was "substantially damaged." They said that police has registered a case and investigation regarding the cause of the fire was being investigated.

While property worth crores of rupees was destroyed, there was no report about injury to anyone in the incident, they added. (GNS)

6 Illegal Structures Demolished In Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Saturday demolished six shops that it alleged were illegally constructed at Channi Rama here, an official said.

The demolition drive was carried out with the assistance of police in the presence of an executive magistrate, a spokesperson of the JMC said.

JMC Commissioner Avny Lavasa said the drive against illegal constructions will continue.

The JMC shall not tolerate any kind of violation in Master Plan-2032 and violators shall be dealt with under relevant provisions of the law, she said.

The commissioner appealed

to the public to refrain from raising illegal constructions and to get building plans approved for commercial and residential purposes.

She urged them to build structures only as per the approved building plan, failing which, she said action as warranted under Jammu and Kashmir Control of Building Operations Act and Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act will be taken.

She said the JMC has introduced user-friendly Online Building Permission System (OBPS) through which residents can get their building plans approved within the "shortest possible time and at their door steps".

Man Held With Heroin In Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The police on Saturday arrested a man for carrying heroin and recovered 7.48 gm substance from him in Samba district here, officials said.

Aman Slathia, a resident of Mandi Garh in Samba, was found to be moving around suspiciously and hence stopped

for a check by a police party in Vijaypur on Jammu-Pathankot highway, leading to recovery of heroin.

A police spokesman alleged Aman was a drug peddler.

He was booked under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and further investigation is on, the spokesman said.

JPDCL Launches Campaign To Promote Bill Payment From Home

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant move, Jammu Power Development Corporation Ltd has launched a campaign to promote Electricity Bill Payment from Home-Bijli Bill Bharna Hua aasan, Ghar Baithe Karo Bukhtan- Campaign."

To increase revenue collection, the new campaign is being launched to facilitate from-home electricity bill payment for the convenience of consumers.

The JPDCL strives to save the time of the consumers so that they don't have to stand in queues at Banks to pay their electricity bills.

Also, to avoid crowds during Covid-19, JPDCL is making efforts to educate consumers and facilitate payment of electricity bills sitting at home.

Methodology: To achieve the above cited objectives, the meter readers of the concerned sub-divisions shall visit every registered consumer to sensitize and install Bill Sahuliyat App in the mobile phone of at least one member of every household and map their consumer id so that most of the consumer switch to online bill payment mode and do not visit banks every month to pay their electricity bills.

A GPRS enabled POS machine shall be handed over to the Sub-Divisions which shall subsequently operationalize existing revenue centre and hand over POS machine to meter readers so that consumers can instantly make payments using Debt and Credit cards.

The POS machine shall be

made available at Revenue Centre till late hours during the month of February and March since revenue collection increases drastically during these two months.

This shall ensure that consumers shall have alternative arrangement to make their electricity Bill Payment.

During the arrear recovery in the month of February and March, a large number of disconnections are made and consumers usually have no resort to make instant payment, the POS terminals shall ensure on spot payment of electricity bills.

Vehicles having posters and banners of the campaign shall be hired at Divisional Level and shall be sent to every nook and corner to make this campaign a huge success.

Advantages: This campaign will be of significant help for working and daily wage people who can't take out time to visit banks and pay their electricity bills.

This shall also help in boosting the revenue of the JPDCL as revenue collection will be made convenient and revenue collection can be done from consumer households.

Tentative Schedule: The campaign for downloading of Bill Sahuliyat App shall start on 10th of January after the bills for the month of December are issued by the sub-divisional offices.

The process of collecting bills through POS shall start from 20th of January after the terms and conditions are negotiated with the JK Bank and POS machines are received in the Sub-divisional offices.



Kohli Likely To Return For 3rd SA Test: Dravid



Agencies

JOHANNESBURG: India captain Virat Kohli should be "good to go" for the decisive third Test against South Africa, which starts in Cape Town on Tuesday, coach Rahul Dravid said.

Kohli missed his side's seven-wicket defeat in the second Test at the Wanderers after pulling up with a back spasm but has been back in the nets and resumed training, Dravid added.

"I think he should be fine. He's had the opportunity to run

around a little bit, he's had the opportunity to test it a little bit," said Dravid as India, who won the first Test in Pretoria by 113 runs, prepared to fly out of Johannesburg.

"Hopefully, with a couple of net sessions in Cape Town, he should be good to go. From everything that I'm hearing, he is really improving and should be OK to play."

India were captained by KL Rahul in Kohli's absence with Hanuma Vihari coming into his place in the batting line-up.

Tendulkar Not Part Of LLC: SRT Sports Management

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: SRT Sports Management Private Limited on Saturday clarified that batting great Sachin Tendulkar is not a part of the upcoming Legends League Cricket (LLC).

The LLC is a professional cricket league meant for retired players, and it has recently announced its Indian squad for the league.

A promotional video featuring actor Amitabh Bachchan shows that Tendulkar is also going to be a part of the league, which the official spokesperson of SRT Sports rejected.

"The news about @sachin_r's participation in 'Legends League Cricket' is not true. The organisers should refrain from misleading cricket fans and Mr. Amitabh Bachchan," said the official spokesperson of SRT Sports Management Pvt. Ltd.

Starting January 20, the LLC will feature three star-packed teams which will lock horns with each other.

The Indian team will be represented by the likes of Yuvraj Singh, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh, and the Pathan brothers -- Irfan and Yusuf.

The team will be called The India Maharajas which will see them compete against some other star players from other nations.

LLC had earlier announced the Asia team as 'Asia Lions' which comprises former Pakistani and Sri Lankan players including Shoaib Akhtar, Shahid Afridi, Sanath Jayasuriya, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Azhar Mahmood, Upul Tharanga, Misbah-ul-Haq, Mohammed Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Mohammed Yousuf, Umar Gul and Asghar Afghan.

Danushka Gunathilaka, 30, Retires From Test Cricket

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's aggressive opening batter, Danushka Gunathilaka, has decided to retire from Test cricket at the age of 30 to focus on the white-ball formats, the country's apex cricket body said on Saturday.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said the batter "will now be focusing on the shorter formats".

The development comes close on the heels of another 30-year-old batter, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, announcing his decision to retire altogether from international cricket and a day after the board lifted a one-year bio-security breach suspensions on Gunathilaka, Kusal Mendis and Niroshan Dickwella with immediate effect.

Gunathilaka, who stated that he has taken the decision after evaluating all aspects, hasn't played a Test since 2018, with



his eight appearances getting him 299 runs, two half-centuries and a career-best score of 61.

He has got a better record in limited overs cricket.

In 44 ODIs, he has scored 1520 runs at an average of 36.19, while in T20Is, he has 568 runs in 30 matches at a strike rate of 121.62.

The trio of Gunathilaka, Mendis and Dickwella was handed a one-year ban from international cricket for a bio-security breach during Sri Lanka's tour of England last year. The ban also included a six-month suspension from domestic cricket, and a fine of approximately USD 50,000.



Djokovic Supporters Continue Vigil Outside Melbourne Hotel

Agencies

MELBOURNE: A small group of supporters of detained tennis star Novak Djokovic continued their vigil on Saturday at the Melbourne hotel where the Serbian world-number-one is being held until his visa care can be heard.

A court hearing on his bid to stave off deportation was set

for Monday, a week before the season's first major tennis tournament is set to begin.

The defending Australian Open champion is waiting it out in Melbourne at a secure hotel used by immigration officials to house asylum seekers and refugees.

Some of those held in the facility watched with curiosity from their windows at the

smattering of demonstrators.

Djokovic, a vocal skeptic of vaccines, had traveled to Australia after Victoria state authorities granted him a medical exemption to the country's strict vaccination requirements.

But when he arrived late Wednesday, the Australian Border Force rejected his exemption as invalid and barred him from entering the country. (AP)

Agarwal Among 3 Nominated For ICC Men's Player Of Month

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India opener Mayank Agarwal was on Saturday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month award for December following his stellar performance in the Test series against New Zealand and South Africa.

Besides Agarwal, New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel and Australian pacer Mitchell Starc were also short-listed for the award.

With regular openers Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and KL Rahul all missing games at some point last month, Agarwal grabbed the opportunity with both hands against New Zealand and South Africa.

In two matches, he scored 276 runs at an average of 69.00, which included two fifties and a century.

Agarwal was the architect of the win in Mumbai against New Zealand with a Player of the Match-winning performance of 150 and 62 in the two innings.

He also played a crucial role in India breaking the Centurion hoodoo for the very first time.

Batting first in overcast conditions, KL Rahul and Agarwal set the platform with a brilliant opening partnership of 117. During the stand, he was tested by the fiery Proteas pace attack but came out shining with a brilliant 60.

India posted 327 in the first innings, which eventually proved to be the difference between the two sides.



India-born kiwi spinner Ajaz Patel's name was immortalised in cricketing history in December, when he picked up 10 wickets in an innings against India, becoming the third player in Tests to achieve the feat after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble.

The left-arm spinner played just one Test in the month, where he picked up 14 wickets at an average of 16.07. He picked up all 10 wickets in the first innings but was disappointed by the Kiwi batters who were bundled out for 62.

In the second innings, he picked up four wickets, including that of Agarwal and Cheteshwar Pujara. He finished with figures of 14/225, the best bowling figures in a Test match in 2021.

Starc also had standout performances both with the bat and ball in hand as Australia retained the Ashes with two games to spare.

In three games last month, he picked up 14 wickets at an average of 19.64 and was more than handy with the bat, scoring 117 runs at an average of 58.50.

He set the tone for the whole series by dismissing Rory Burns with the first ball of the first Test. While batting, he kept Travis Head company with an innings of 35 and added 85 crucial runs for the eighth wicket.

In the second Test in Adelaide, Starc snapped six wickets and scored 58. This included a brilliant four-wicket haul in the first innings that helped reduce England to 236, giving Australia a massive lead of 237 runs.

In the Boxing Day Test, Starc picked two crucial wickets in the first innings, including that of England's captain Joe Root.

His innings of 24 not out helped Australia gain an 82-run lead, which proved to be enough as England were bundled out for 68. He picked up three wickets in the second innings as Australia won by an innings to retain the urn.

Second Usman Khawaja Ton Leaves England Batting To Save Test

Agencies

SYDNEY: Usman Khawaja scored his second century of the match to help Australia to 265 for six declared on the fourth day of the fourth Ashes test on Saturday, handing England an unlikely victory target of 388. England, whose hopes of avoiding going 4-0 down in the series would seem to rest on obdurate batting and the weather, will resume on the final day on 30 without loss after Haseeb Hameed and Zak Crawley survived 11 overs before stumps.

The day again belonged to Khawaja, who returned to test cricket after 2-1/2 years as a makeshift replacement for Travis Head when the middle-order batsman tested positive for COVID-19.

The 35-year-old once again oozed class as he re-energised the Australian innings in a 179-run partnership with all-rounder Cameron Green after England had stalled their march towards a second declaration of the match. Unflappable and stylish, Khawaja added a 101 not out to the 137 he scored in the first innings, punching two runs down the ground to reach the milestone for the 10th time.

He was only the third batsman to score centuries in both innings in a test match at the ground, joining compatriots Doug Walters against West Indies in 1969 and Ricky Ponting against South Africa in 2006.

After being dismissed for 294 in the first 40 minutes of the day, England had made a decent fist of bowling at Australia and removed the top four at the cost of only 86 runs. That only brought Khawaja and Green together, however, and they were closing



on giving Australia a 400-run lead when the latter holed out to Jack Leach for 74 to finally break the partnership.

Leach (4-84) then had Alex Carey caught behind off the next ball but Australia Pat Cummins denied the spinner a hat-trick opportunity, declining to pad up and calling Khawaja back to the dressing room with the declaration. Four of the Australian wickets were taken behind by Ollie Pope, who was keeping wickets in place of the injured Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow.

Bairstow, who scored England's only century of the series in the first innings, Buttler and all-rounder Ben Stokes all had scans on injuries before play but are expected to bat on Sunday. The weather might yet have something to say about that with storms sweeping down the Pacific coast but if they miss Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, England's task looks imposing.

The highest successful fourth-innings run chase in 140 years of test cricket at the SCG came when Australia's overhauled a target of 287 against South Africa in 2006.

Shakib Lauds Bangladesh's Historic Win Over New Zealand



Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Bangladesh's historic victory in New Zealand proves that the youngsters in the team are capable of handling responsibility and the side doesn't always rely on the same 4-5 senior players to win matches, says premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan.

Bangladesh created history earlier this week by beating the Black Caps, the reigning World Test Champions, by eight wickets to capture their first-ever win in New Zealand.

"I don't think my presence was necessarily important (in New Zealand). I am actually happy that they did it without me. Not just me (but the others too)," Shakib, who withdrew from the series, was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"I think what really delighted

me was that the notion, particularly in the media, that not many players apart from the four or five senior ones can win games for the team — that will be changed. If they are handed the responsibility, these youngsters will play better."

The 34-year-old former skipper feels while the win at the Bay Oval will not change things drastically, it will open an opportunity for change.

"We made an unbelievable start to 2022. I am very happy. Credit goes to all the players and coaching staff for playing well under so much pressure and in these conditions. Everyone tried hard."

This was always going to be a challenging year after a difficult time in 2021 for us. I hope we can continue in this manner. Bangladesh do not play this well all the time.

ATK Mohun Bagan, Odisha FC's ISL Match Postponed



Press Trust of India

MARGAO: The Indian Super League (ISL) match between ATK Mohun Bagan and Odisha FC, scheduled for Saturday evening, has been postponed by the organisers after a player from the Kolkata-based team tested positive for COVID-19.

The match was to be held at the P.J.N Stadium in Fatorda. "Hero Indian Super League

(ISL) has decided to postpone Match No. 53 between ATK Mohun Bagan and Odisha FC scheduled to be played today, Saturday, January 8, 2022, at P.J.N Stadium in Fatorda.

"The decision has been taken in consultation with the League's medical team after an ATK Mohun Bagan player tested positive for COVID-19," the ISL said in a statement.

The league will look to re-schedule the fixture to a later date, it said.

The ISL will work closely with the medical experts to monitor and ensure the safety of all the players and support staff in the squad and others involved.

The ISL is being held behind closed doors, across three stadiums in Goa owing to the pandemic.

Bopanna-Ramanathan Pair Cruise To Final In Adelaide

Press Trust of India

ADELAIDE: India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan upstaged fourth seeds Tomislav Brkic and Santiago Gonzalez in straight sets to reach the final of the Adelaide International, on Saturday.

The unseeded Indian duo ousted the Bosnian-Mexican duo 6-2 6-4 in the doubles semifinals. The Indians will now lock horns with top seeds Ivan Dodig of Croatia and Brazilian Marcelo Melo in the summit clash of the of the ATP 250 event.

It will be an interesting match as the 41-year-old Bopanna and Dodig have often paired up together, the most recent being in the US Open in September when the duo was knocked out in the third round. Bopanna and Ramkumar, who have paired up for the first time on the ATP tour, have enjoyed a good week so far.

The two have notched straight-set wins in the tournament barring the second round match against the American duo of Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow when they were stretched to a super tie-breaker.

The Adelaide event is a tune up tournament for the Australian Open, starting January 17 in Melbourne.

No Ronaldo As Salah Joins Messi, Lewandowski For FIFA Award

Agencies

ZURICH: Cristiano Ronaldo was left off the three-man shortlist Friday for FIFA's best player award for 2021, with Mohamed Salah on it instead.

Six-time FIFA award winner Lionel Messi and Robert Lewandowski are also candidates to win the award on Jan. 17. Lewandowski won last year ahead of Ronaldo and Messi.

No player from Italy's European Championship-winning team or Chelsea's Champions League title squad was on the shortlist.

Ronaldo, a five-time winner, failed to make the cut for only the second time since he was first nominated at the 2007 FIFA awards. He missed out at the 2010 awards when Messi won ahead of Andrés Iniesta and Xavi.

Juventus, with Ronaldo on the team, lost its long-time hold on the Serie A title, placing fourth, and defending champion Portugal was eliminated in the round



of 16 at Euro 2020.

Salah was rewarded for another standout year with Liverpool by joining the shortlist for the second time. He placed third in 2018 behind winner Luka Modric and Ronaldo.

In a year when Messi moved from Barcelona to Paris Saint-

Germain, he peaked by helping Argentina win the Copa América for his first senior title with the national team. He won his seventh career Ballon d'Or trophy last month.

Lewandowski broke two Bundesliga records by scoring 41 goals for Bayern Munich in the 2020-21 season and 43 in the calendar year of 2021. Both marks were held since 1972 by another Bayern great, Gerd Müller.

Voting was done by national team coaches and captains, specialist media and fans making their choices on FIFA's website. They selected from a longer list of players proposed by FIFA-appointed panels.

Barcelona teammates Alexia Putellas and Jennifer Hermoso, and Chelsea player Sam Kerr were put on the women's shortlist.

Putellas won the Women's Ballon d'Or last month, with Hermoso second and Kerr third.

FIFA will announce winners in an online ceremony from its headquarters in Zurich.