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P5 STATE

COVID-19 SURGE: PAGD POSTPONES JAN

15 MEETING IN JAMMU The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has postponed its January 15 meeting here in view of a surge in Covid cases, its spokesman said on Friday.

....Coronavirus III Wave Engulfs J&K

LIKE THIS AUSTEN CLASSIC? It's safe to say that women have always made up the majority of Jane Austen's fanbase, yet

her work has also found particular appeal amongst Muslim women. From a dedicated

PRIDE, PREJUDICE AND PRINCIPLES

WHY DO SO MANY MUSLIM WOMEN



P11 SPORTS

SOUTH AFRICA BEAT INDIA BY 7 WICKETS, WIN SERIES 2-1





G Quote

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop

> - Confucius . 77 -

NEWS DIGST

IED Found At Delhi's Flower Market

NEW DELHI: An improvised explosive device (IED) stuffed with RDX and ammonium nitrate was found inside an unattended bag at the Ghazipur flower market here Friday morning but it was later defused, officials said. The explosive was kept in an iron box and concealed in the black coloured backpack. The incident comes ahead of Republic Day More on P10

Earthquake Of 5.3 Magnitude Hits J&K

SRINAGAR: An earthquake of magnitude 5.3 on the Richter scale hit Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. but there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said. The epicentre of the quake was in Hindukush in Afghanistan, they said. The quake of magnitude 5.3, which occurred at 9.43 pm, was also felt in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said. More on P10

Arms Cache Recovered In Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Friday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from an orchard in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Police and army's 24 RR carried out a joint search operation in the Watlar area of the district on Friday morning and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from an More on P10

PDD Worker Succumbs To Injuries

SRINAGAR: A daily wager in the Power Development Department (PDD) succumbed to injuries on ich he had susta after falling from an electric pole in Kulgam district early this week. Reports said that the lineman, Shabir Ahmad Dar son of Mohammad Ismail Dar was repairing an electric line when he fell from More on P10

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The third wave of Coronavirus continues to tighten its grip over Jammu and Kashmir as 2456 more people on Friday tested positive for the virus, the highest spike in daily cases in the recent months, while five more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 1522 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were registered in Kashmir Valley and 934 from different districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 352623.



J&K Logs Highest Spike With 2456 New Cases, 5 Deaths

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar detected the highest 464 new cases of virus, followed by Baramulla with 457. Budgam 139, Kulgam 120,

Kupwara 104, Anantnag 101, Bandipora 95, Pulwama 22, Ganderbal 12 and Shopian 8. In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu More on P10

Over 200 Doctors, Paramedics Catch Virus

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: In what could hamper the administration's efforts to curb the spread of Coronavirus, over 200 doctors and paramedics of the Government

Kashmir To Receive More Snow Next Week

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The meteorological department on Friday predicted more snowfall and rains across Jammu and Kashmir as two back to back western disturbances are expected to hit the region on January 16 and 18.

"A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to af-

weather is likely to cause light to moderate snowfall and in the lower reaches, the weather is predicted to cause scattered rainfall. For the city. the three days will mainly remain cloudy." Director Meteorological

Department, Sonum Lotus told Kashmir Observer. "In these two western disurbances, the minimum

10 Fold Increase In Last Ten Days: Govt

he Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Friday that the Coronavirus cases have witnessed 10-fold increase in the last ten days necessitating strict observance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), COVID SOPs and protocols and curtailment of unnecessary movement by the general public. These details were shared in a meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday to review the rising COVID More on P10

Hospitals To Be Designated For Covid Care

he administration has announced the start of 3rd wave of Covid-19 in Kashmir Valley and among others ordered establishment of Triage Centres besides designating all those hospitals as "dedicated Covid Hospitals which were earmarked for As per minutes of meeting regarding

CAG Report Picks Holes In CM's Business **Interest Relief Scheme**

Major Beneficiaries Not Affected By 2014 Floods

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Chief Minister's Business Interest Relief Scheme (CMBIRS)announced by the previous PDP-BJP government has come under scanner, with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India pointing out that the scheme was not as per the guidelines of the interest subvention scheme of the Prime Development Minister's

Package(PMDP) for J&K. In its report, the CAG has revealed the scheme was not as per the guidelines of the interest subvention scheme of the PMDP. "An amount of Rs 180 crore received from the Government of India and payment made to beneficiaries under CMBIRS towards commitment of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir made during budget session of 2018-19, was not as per the guidelines of the interest subvention scheme of the PMDP," reads the report.



The report also reveals ten out of 19 major beneficiaries were not at all affected during the flood of September 2014 and they had been restructured only after the unrest of 2016 under a special rehabilitation package.

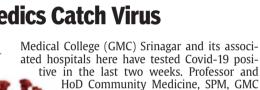
"Further scrutiny of records (revealed that out of release of Rs 190.20 crore to Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited, Rs 41.32 crore was provided to only 19 borrowers .Further, out of these 19 borrowers, accounts of ten borrowers to whom benefit of interest subvention of More on P10



Technology Development Board Department of Science & Technology Government of India

"Women empowerment is vital to our development. Indian women continue to lead in different walks of life. Our space programmes, including the Mars



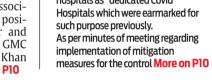


Srinagar, Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan told Kashmir Observer More on P10

HoD Community Medicine, SPM, GMC







fect Jammu & Kashmir region from 16th and another Western Disturbance from 18th January. During the period of these three days, no major snowfall is predicted in the region. For higher reaches the

temperature will rise by a few degrees and the maximum temperature will decrease a bit." Meanwhile, the minimum temperature dropped at most places in Kashmir on Friday as the More on P10

'Surya Namaskar' Order Stokes Controversy In J&K Mainstream Parties, Religious Groups Criticise Govt Move

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday said that people performed 'Surya Namaskar' exercise in some areas of the union territory under a government initiative, which drew criticism from several political and religious groups who termed it an interference in religious matters An official spokesman

virtual and physical performance of 'Surya Namaskar' by students and staff members on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. The exercise was performed at the district headquarters and some

other areas of the district following COVID-19 guidelines, the spokesman said. participants The showed a lot of interest

said the Youth Services and in the exercise as they all believe that such events Sports Office in Anantnag organised a large-scale improve physical fitness, particularly when they are in home isolation due to Covid restrictions, he claimed and added that the initiative was taken as part of the 'Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'. Various political and

religious groups criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration's order directing college heads in the union More on P10

9 Teachers Sacked **For Absence**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Director School Education Kashmir has ordered termination of services of nine teachers unauthorized for absence.

The teachers include Aijaz Ahmad Bhat (GPS Shuloora Kupwara), Saima Gani (teacher BHSS Zadibal Srinagar). Suhail Anees (Teacher BHS Nawagabra Mohammad Kupwara), Rafiq Khan, (RReT MS Fraw GAnderbal),Sheetal Bhat (Teacher PM's package, posted in BHSS Kupwara), Nazia Mushtaq (BHS Laderwan Kupwara), Arumeall Koul, More on P10

-Narendra Modi



LAST DATE

TO APPLY

15TH FEB,

2022

National Tech Excellence Award for Women

Under 2 Categories

National Women Scientist Award for Excellence in Translational Research Senior (45 Yrs and above)- Prize of ₹3Lakh

Young (Below 45 Yrs)- Prize of ₹1Lakh

National Women Entreprenuer Award

Senior (45 Yrs and above)- Prize of ₹3Lakh Young (Below 45 Yrs)- Prize of ₹1Lakh

Awards to be presented on

(Total 8 Awards)

Women's Day **08th March**, 2022

For more information, visit www.tdb.gov.in or Scan QR Code #aatmanirbharnarishakti



davp 36106/15/0007/2122

Why Is Water Becoming Murkier For Displaced Dal Dwellers?

Syed Burhan

SRINAGAR: Even as his redshot eves make him look livid. Mushtaq Bala comes across as a feisty man in his forties.

But his fiery yet fruitless campaign for his community welfare has aged him beyond his years.

Days before snow would fall as "sorrow" over his community confined to Srinagar's erstwhile flood channel, he took his tribe to city's press enclave to campaign for basic rights.

The year-ending protest hardly helped his case.

"We were cleaning



agents of the world's of his colony, says. most picturesque lake, "But see," he points his index finger at the shabby Mushtaq, taking a watchful walk on the slippery roads state of his community,

"how we've been reduced to mere slum dwellers now." His tribe was driven out of the Dal Lake decades back and housed in the wetland. The shift proved proverbial for them – out of the frying pan into the fire.

In that zone they gradually lost their identity and grappled with the inadequate facilities for years. And while they await the official intervention, their colony allegedly became a "piece of cake'

Fear of losing land after losing waters made them struggle-hardened campaigners. But when More on P10



O To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

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



'Youngsters Who Self-Identify As Multilingual Perform Better At School'

Agencies

A new research has found that young adults who consider themselves multilingual tend to perform better across a wide range of subjects at school, regardless of whether they are actually fluent in another language

The study has been published in the 'Journal of Language, Identity & Education'. The study, of more than 800 pupils in Eng-

land, found a positive relationship between GCSE scores and 'multilingual identity': a reference to whether pupils felt a personal connection with other languages through knowledge and use.

Those who self-identified as multilingual typically outperformed their peers not just in subjects such as French and Spanish, but in non-language subjects including maths, geography, and science. This ap-plied whether or not they actually spoke a second language fluently.

Perhaps surprisingly, however, not all pupils who were officially described by their schools as having 'English as a Second Language' (EAL) thought of themselves as multilingual, even though the term is used by schools and Government as a proxy for multilingualism.

Correspondingly, these pupils did not necessarily perform better (or worse) as a group at GCSE than their non-EAL peers. The results indicated that encouraging pupils to identify with languages and to value different styles of communication could help them to develop a mindset that supported academic progress overall.

Other recent research has argued for broadening the scope of language lessons so that, as well as studying vocabulary and grammar, pupils explore the importance of languages and their significance for their own lives.



This new study was the first, however, to examine the relationship between multilingual identity and attainment.

Dr Dee Rutgers, a Research Associate at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, said, "The evidence suggests that the more multilingual you consider yourself to be, the higher your GCSE scores. While we need to understand more about why that relationship exists, it may be that children who see themselves as multilingual have a sort of 'growth mindset' which impacts on wider attainment."

Dr Linda Fisher, Reader in Languages Education at the University of Cambridge, said, There could be a strong case for helping children who think that they can't 'do' languages to recognise that we all use a range

of communication tools and that learning a language is simply adding to that range. This may influence attitude and self-belief, which is directly relevant to learning at school. In other words, what you think you are maybe more important than what others say you are.

The study's authors argued that being multilingual meant far more than the official EAL definition of being 'exposed to a language at home that is known or believed to be other than English'. They suggested that even young people who see themselves as monolingual possessed a 'repertoire' of communication.

For example, they may use different dialects, pick up words and phrases on holiday, know sign language, or understand other types of 'language' such as computer code.

The study involved 818 Year-11 pupils at five secondary schools in South East England. As well as establishing whether pupils were officially registered as EAL or non-EAL, the researchers asked each pupil if they personally identified as such.

Separately, each pupil was asked to plot where they saw themselves on a 0-100 scale, where 0 represented 'monolingual' and 100 'multilingual'. This data was compared with their GCSE results in nine subjects.

Students who spoke a second language at home did not always personally identify either as EAL or multilingual. Conversely, pupils who saw themselves as multilingual were not always those earmarked by the school as having English as an additional language.

"The fact that these terms didn't correlate more closely is surprising considering that they are all supposedly measuring the same thing," Rutgers said.

"Just having experience of other languages clearly doesn't necessarily translate into a multilingual identity because the experience may not be valued by the student," Rutgers added.

School-reported EAL status had no impact on GCSE results, although pupils who selfidentified as EAL generally did better than their peers in modern languages. Those who considered themselves 'multilingual' on the 0-100 scale, however, performed better academically across the board.

The strength of this relationship varied between subjects and was, again, particularly pronounced in modern languages. In all nine GCSE subjects assessed, however, each point increase on the monolingualto-multilingual scale was associated with a fractional rise in pupils' exam scores.





Public Notice

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: JK1319990011190 Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Pulwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Rather R/o Shopian Bongam

AST

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow this is to inform the sad demise of Haji Ghulam Mohammad Pandit R/o 84 Balgarden, Srinagar today i.e. Friday, 14th January, 2022. Fatiha Khawni will be observed on Sunday, the 16th January, 2022, 11.00 a.m. at their ancestral Graveyard near Jhelum Market, Balgarden, and Srinagar



Due to ongoing COVID19 scenario, no congregational prayer meetings will be held at residence.

Bereaved: ushtaq Ahmad Pandit (9419093837)

Public	Notice

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Rgd No; jk03G-2774 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publicaton of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mukhtar Ahamd Lone S/o Mohd Akbar

R/o Kanelwan Bijbahara Anantang



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE A+ Printing & Stationery Section)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two bid system from reputed printers / suppliers for printing and supply of UG Answer Books. The bid/tender document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), terms & conditions and other details can be/ downloaded from website www.iktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below

Particulars	Date & Time
-------------	-------------

suance of "D Class" Contractor Card . If anybody having any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office Superintending Engineer R&B Office Anantnag Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Syed Shahid Farooq

S/O Syed Farooq Ahamd R/O Aho-piason RNA

ازدفتر نائب بخصيلدار كريري/ كلنتره بااجلاس نائب بخصيلدركريري /كلنتره **Public Notice** درخواست منجانب مریم رشید و عصمت رشید دختر ان عبدالر شیدا منگر وسلیمه بیگم زوجه عبدالرشیدا منگر ساکنه کریری بمراد حصول OBC سر گفیکید I have applied for the is-اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندرجة عنوان الصدر ميں درخوست سائل دفتر مذامين زير كاروائي ب_اس نسبت پيواري حلقہ ہےر پورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل " سائله موضع كريرى مين ربائش پذير ب- محمد بذيل افراد پرشتمل ب ىبدل الرشيدا بهنكر اہنگر 50 سليمه بيكم زوه عبدل الرشيد 42 شائسته رشددختر عبدل الرشيد 21 رفعت رشيد دختر عبدل الرشيد 21 مريم رشيد دختر عبدل الرشيد 18 فصمت رشيد دختر عبدل الرشيد 16 اسطيطاوه كونى بهمى افراد كميه نبين بتلايا كميا ہے " مرتفيكيك زير بحث اجرء رنے میں اگرکسی خض یاا شخاص کوکوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہں ہوگا ہ۔

S.No	Date of Issuance of Tender Notice	11-01-2022
2	Date of downloading bid documents	12-01-2022
3	Bid submission Start Date	12-01-2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	27-01-2022
5	Last date for submission of Hard copies	27-01-2022
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid	28-01-2022
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bid	28-01-2022

The bidders have to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents as mentioned in the bid/tender document. The Hard Copy of Technical bid of required documents in a sealed envelope super-scribed "tender for UG Answer Books" must reach to the office of the Registrar, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar, J&K-190006 by or before 27-01-2022 upto 4PM. Tender incomplete in any respect shall be liable for rejection. **Deputy Registrar**

(Printing & Stationery)

No.F(UG Answer Books.-P&S)KU/2022 Dated: 12-01-2022

DIPK-NB-6538/21



Expression of Interest (Eol) for ToT of DRDO developed "Granules for Bio-Pegradable Bags"

Polythene bags/ bottles have become persistent threats to environment. The pollution caused by all pervasive polythene based packing material is having inadvertent impact on nature. Plastics and polyethylene takes about 200-300 years to decompose on its own. The efforts to recycle plastic by collection and segregation are tedious and costly. Keeping in view of ill effects of pervasive usage of plastics and polyethylene bags, various options are being researched to replace these hazardous materials.

In such efforts, DRDO scientists have developed Granules for bio-degradable bags to replace single use polyethylene bags. The single use bags is based on a formulation developed using PBAT starch and food graded additives. The salient features of the Technology/ product are:-

- A alternate to conventional single use plastic.
- Eco friendly, Bio-degradable and Home compostable.
- No harm to animals/ aquatic life by disposal/ consumption.
- Bio-degradable within 60 days.
- Home compostable in 90 days.
- Fully tested and certified.
- Printable in multiple colors based on user requirement.
- Cost effective.

DAVP/10301/11/0140/2122

DRDO is willing to transfer the technology to industries for mass production to the benefit of society and mankind. 'Nil' ToT Fee to be paid by industry to DRDO for entering into Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LAToT).

Interested Industries may apply for ToT by submitting Eol by email only before 30th June 2022. The detailed information to apply for ToT can be downloaded from DRDO website (https://www.drdo. gov.in/transfer-technologies) under Category B Technologies (Dual Use / Commercial Technologies).

-Sd-Director, DIITM **DRDO Hqrs**

نائب تحصيلداد fko_r

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Srinagar (Divisional Control Room, COVID-19 Mitigation Operations (Old Assembly Complex Srinagar) Phone No. 0194-2455385; Email: osdkmrcovidl9@gmail.com

Covid-19 Preventive Measures

چونکہ صوبہ کشمیر میں اومیکر ان کا خطرہ لاحق ہواہے اور گزشتہ دوہفتوں کے دوران کرونادائر س کے معاملات میں بذید اضافہ اندراج کیاجار ہاہے، لہٰذاعوام الناس ہے گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ کورونادائر س کی اس نتی لہرے نمٹنے کے لیے مخصوص طرز عمل اور شیکہ کاری کو فور آعملائیں۔ مزید بر آل آپ ، گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ اجتماعات پر مندر جد ذیل نكات ، عوام الناس كو آگاه كرين:

1۔ کورونادائر سابھی ختم نہیں، لہذاگھرے نگلنے پر ہر وقت فیس ماسک کا استعال کریں۔ 2۔ پاتھوں کو لگا تار صابون اور سینسٹا نزرے دھوئی جب کہ آپ د فاتر پاکسی چھوٹے اجتماع میں بھی ہوں۔ 3۔ چھ فٹ کی سابی دوری بنائے رکھیں جب آپ اپنے ساتھوں کے در میان پاکی اور جگہ پر ہوں۔ 4۔15 سے 18 سال کے در میان عمر کے بچوں کے لئے کرونا مخالف شیکے دستیاب میں، فوراً اس عمر کے بچوں کو شیکہ لكواعس-

5۔60 یا60 سال سے زائد عمر کے افراد اپنی قوت مدافعت مذید بڑھانے کے لئے احتساطی ٹیکہ ضرور لگوائس۔ 6۔ اپنے ساتھوں کے ساتھ ہاتھ ملانے اور گل ملنے سے دور رہیں اور پر ہیز کریں کیو نکہ سے کورونا انگلشن (متعدی بیاری) کے پھلنے کابڑاذریعہ ہے۔

7۔ اگر آب میں کورونا انگشن کی علامات جیسے سی ، کھانسی ، زکام یابدن میں در دہو تو فوراً اپنے آپ کو گھر میں الگ کریں اوراینے نز دیکی صحت مرکزے جانچ کرائیں۔

بار سوخ ایمۂ مساجد ادر مفتیان کرام ہے گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ کر دنادائر س کے تدارک اور بچاد کے لیے مخصوص طرز عمل ادر نیکد کاری کو تختی سے عملانے کے تعلق سے اپنے صوتی پیغامات ریکار ٹر کرائی جو کہ ایام جعد کے مذہبی اجتماعات کے مواقع پر چلائیں جائیں گے۔ DIPK-16690/21

Tahir Ahmad Magray KAS In-Charge Divisional COVID-19 Control Room, Kashmir

Mohammad Ashraf Pandit (9796368286) Hilal Ahmad Shah Muzaffar Ahmad Pandit

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name : Aayatullah Rubani Parentage: Molvi Bashir Ahamd Residence: Ramnagri Shopian Registration No: 13549- BC 2002 Certificate lost PG (History) -2nd Semister Roll No 10222005 Session/Year 2005 dec



Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

Assistant Controller No: F(Duplicate/) KU) of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof ast

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Contact:-9149965005/9682370979

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Kashmir Observer[™] Saturday | 15-01-2022

Several business establishments sealed for violating Covid-19 SOPs

Observer News service

SRINAGAR: In wake of rapid spike in Covid-19 positive cases in the district, the Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Balwal Friday visited various markets of Srinagar City to inspect the enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behavior (CAB) in public places.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various markets of Srinagar City including Mahraja Bazar, Saraibala, Jehangir Chowk, Lal Chowk, Ghanta Ghar, Residency Road, Regal Chowk, Polo View, Batamaloo and other adjoining business hubs to have first-hand appraisal of the situation arisen due to 3rd wave of Covid-19 Pandemic.

The inspection was carried out to take stock of implementation of various Government Advisories and Guidelines and Covid-19 SOPs such as wearing of Masks, maintaining social distance, and other practices to protect the public health and prevent spread of infection of the deadly Coronavirus.

Grenade Recovered From Suspicious Bag In City, Defused

Observer News Service

Srinagar A grenade was found inside a bag in which a pressure cooker was fitted by wires that was sucessfully destdestroyed oyed by the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) at Khawjabazar area of Nowhatta, Srinagar, police said Friday.

A police official that the BDS found a grenade inside the pressure cooker placed in a bag at Khawaja Bazar aea of the city. "The grenade was found and successfully destroyed. The lever of the grenade was also recovered from the spot," the official said.

He said situation is normal in the area now and traffic has been restored



Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) at Khawjabazar area of Nowhatta, Srinagar, defusing a grenade that was foundinside the pressure cooker.

24th Friday **Prayers Disallowed At Historic Jamia Masjid**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar said that today again the authorities. demonstrating while their dictatorship and arbitrariness, hurt the people's sentiments by preventing them from fulfilling their religious obligation of praying at the J&K's largest spiritual centre and place of worship - the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar.

In a statement, the Anjuman said it is the 24th consecutive Friday when the pulpit and mi-

Re-registration of Kashmir Press Club put in abeyance

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Jan 14 (KNS): Re-registration of Kash

hrabs of the Jama Masjid were kept silent and also the religious obligation like Jummah prayers could not be performed.

The Anjuman termed it highly unfortunate that while Friday prayers are allowed in all mosques, Khanqahs and imambarahs Jama Masjid continues to be selectively targeted while barring Juma Pearys' which

is a tragedy. This double standard of the rulers is beyond the comprehension of the people, it added.

Expressing strong resentment over the con-

tinuous incarceration of its head and the topmost leader of the people, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq who is under house arrest since 5 August 2019, the Anjuman said such an act is not only a gross violation of human rights but also an extreme lawlessness

The Anjuman has appealed to all civilized nations to use their influence to pressurize the Government of India to open the Jama Masjid of Kashmir for Friday prayers and to ensure the release of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir.

chavat Covid Care Cen

tres (PCCCs) established

during the 1st and 2nd

training pro

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR **JAMMU & KASHMIR** SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar. www.jkssb.nic.in

NOTICE

Subject: Submission of Offline application forms for(564) Applications in pursuance of various orders passed by Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in O.A.Nos. OA.1878/2021, OA.1910/21, OA.1919/21, OA.1908/21, OA.1922/21, OA.1923/21, OA.1894/21 ,OA.1904/21,OA.1900/21,OA.1917/21,OA.1896/21,OA.1817/21,OA.1816/21,OA.1837/21 ,OA.1834/21,OA.1832/21,OA Diary No.12369/21 & OA.1830/21

Whereas, the Home Department vide indent No. Home /PB-III/ 34 /2021 dated 02.07.2021 requisitioned/ referred, 800 posts of Sub-Inspector;

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) vide Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021 dated 21.10.2021, invited online applications from eligible candidates for participating in the selection process for aforesaid 800 Posts of Sub-Inspectors: and

Whereas, the requirement of age for Open Merit & various Reserved Categories candidates as notified in the aforesaid Advertisement Notification in terms of rule 176(1) (c) of S.O 214, dated 01-07-2021 and S.O 361 dated 20-10 -2021 is as under:

"A candidate must have attained age of 18 years but not crossed the age of 28 years on 1st January of the year in which notification inviting applications is issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board", and;

Whereas, the Home Department vide letter dated 23.11.2021 conveyed to increase the number of posts of Sub-Inspectors by 400, viz, from 800 to 1200, and subsequently, vide Notification No. SSB/ Secy/2021/7926-42 dated 24.11.2021 JKSSB increased the number of posts from 800 to 1200, and;

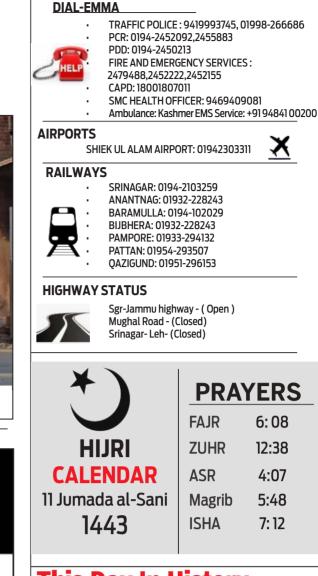
Whereas, the date of commencement for submission of online applications was 10-11-2021 and the last Date for submission of online applications was fixed as 10-12-2021; and

Whereas, the last date for submission of online applications for aforesaid posts advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021 dated 21.10.2021 was extended up to 18-12-2021 vide Notice No. SSB/Secy/2021/8547-64 dated 08.12.2021 and further upto 26-12-2021 vide Notifice No. SSB/ Secy/2021/9008-24 Dated 23-12-2021; and,

Whereas, the Home Department vide S.O notification No.420 dated 10-12-2021 has prescribed upper age limit for Open Merit & various Reserved Categories candidates as 30 years and 32 years in respect of the in-service Police Personnel, as on 1st January, 2021.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board vide No. SSB/Secy/2021/8628-44 dated:-10-12-2021 issued corrigendum to the Advertisement Notification wherein Maximum Age Limit for Open Merit & various Reserved Categories candidates has been prescribed as 30 years and 32 years in respect of the in-service Police Personnel, as on 1st January, 2021.

Whereas, 37 candidates approached the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal through the



This Day In History

- 1943 World's largest office building, the Pentagon is completed
- 1943 1,000 workers complete air conditioning system for Pentagon
- 1943 World War II: The Soviets begin a counteroffensive at Voronezh
- 1944 European Advisory Commission decides to divide Germany
- 1955 USSR ends state of war with German Federal Republic
- 1962 Dutch & Indonesian navy encounter in Etna Bay New Guinea
- 1965 Soviet underground nuclear test creates the atomic lake Chagan, Kazakhstan
- 1969 Nuclear test at Pacific Ocean
- 1969 Soyuz 5 launched by Soviet Union
- 1970 Nigerian civil war officially ends after 2 1/2 years of fighting when the Republic of Biafra disbands and joins Nigeria
- 1970 Muammar Gaddafi is proclaimed premier of Libya
- 1973 US President Richard Nixon suspends all US offensive action in N Vietnam
- 1974 Expert panel reports 181/2 minute gap in Watergate tape, 5 separate erasures
- 1975 Portugal signs accord for Angola's independence
- 1975 Space Mountain opens at Disneyland 1976 - US-German Helios B solar probe launched
- into solar orbit
- 1976 USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Ka

JANU-

ARY 14: To strengthen

SRINAGAR,

Observer News Service

2-Days training

and management of Covid patients who have a mild disease at Pan-

programme for MOs

commences at Rajbagh

mir Press Club was again put in abeyance on Friday by Registrar of Societies, Director Industries and Commerce Kashmir on the basis after noninvolvement and verification of character and antecedents of its members was put on hold.

According to an order, stated that as per an order received by additional district magistrate Srinagar, the non-involvement and verification of character and antecedents of members of managing body of KPC has been put on hold.

As per the order, noninvolvement and verification of character and antecedents of member has been put on hold on the basis of report received from SSP CID, J&K.

"This office has received an order issued by the Additional District Magistrate Srinagar wherein inter-alia, it has been informed that the non-involvement and verification of Character and Antecedents issued dated December 24, 2021 in respect of members of Managing Body of Kashmir Press Club Polo View Srinagar has been kept on hold, on the basis of report received from SSP CID, J&K," reads the order.

Covid-19 containment measures at primary level in villages and to mitigate the pressure on secondary and tertiary care health institutions amid spike in fresh Covid-19 positive cases, the two days training programme for Medical Officers (MOs) of all the districts commenced to-

jbagh, here.

The gramme was presided over by Dr Talat Jabeen Epidemiologist, SSO Kashmir while the resource persons on the occasion were Community Medicine Special ists at DCCRK, Dr Rouf Hussain Rather and Dr day at Institute of Hotel Umar Nazir. Management (IHM) Ra-

inaugural In her speech, Dr Talat reca The Divisional Copitulated the role played by Panchayat Covid vid-19 Control Room Kashmir (DCCRK) has Care Centers during the organised the training first two waves where programme with an aim patients with mild sympto sensitize Medical Oftoms were admitted and ficers of all districts retreated by the designated garding the treatment medical teams.

waves.

Locals Spot Bear In Sonwar, **Ask Authorities To Capture It**

Srinagar: Locals from Sonwar area of Srinagar city claimed that they spotted a wild bear on Friday morning. They said the presence of the bear created panic in the area.

The bear according to locals was spotted in Iqbal Colony and Indra Nagar area.

"I was scared and had a narrow escape. The bear moved towards upper reaches after dogs

ran after it," said a local Irshad Ahmed to news agency Kashmir News Trust.

"People particularly children and women are reluctant to come out from their homes after the word about the presence of black bear spread in the area," he added.

Locals appealed to Wild Life Department to capture the bear at an earliest

Lost of RC

We have lost my Registration Certificate of Vehicle Scorpio bearing Registration No JK 18-3192. Now we have applied for a duplicate Registration certificate at ARTO Kulgam for the same. Objections if any may please be filed at the Office of ARTO Kulgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter no objections shall be entertained. M/S Nanayuga Engineering company Ltd, RNA Banihal

medium of OA No. 1855/2021 with M.A. 1973/2021 titled Vikram Kumar & others v/s Union Territory of J&K & others and the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal vide order dated 17/12/2021 directed that the application forms of the applicants be accepted provided the last date is sustaining. The Board, in compliance with the same directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal, issued notice vide No.SSB/Secy/2021/8863-78 dated:-18-12-2021 for allowing the said applicants to submit their offline applications forms by or before 31 December 2021.

Whereas, 325 candidates approached the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal Bench Jammu by way of 11 different OA's cases before Jammu Bench and 239 applicants approached Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal Bench Srinagar by way of 07 different OA's before Srinagar Bench claiming therein same relief as provided in OA No. 1855/2021 titled Vikram Kumar and Others Vs UT of J&K and the Hon'ble Tribunal vide various orders passed in aforementioned OAs, directed the respondents to accept the application forms of the applicants arranged therin.

Now, therefore, in the light of above, the Applicants as referred to in the above O.A.s and tabulated in Annexure "A" to this notification, are allowed to submit the application forms on the prescribed Application Form annexed herewith as Annexure"B" along with requisite fees (Fee payable: Rs.550/- except for candidates belonging to SC/ST Category for which fee payable is Rs.400/-) in the form of Bank Draft favouring Secretary J&K Services Selection Board, payable at J&K Bank, Poloview Srinagar, for the posts advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2021 dated 21.10.2021 by or before 21-01-2022 in the Central Office of JKSSB, Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ JKSSB, Camp office, Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar, at their own risk and responsibility. Their candidature is purely provisional and subject to further directions from the Hon'ble Tribunal, and fulfilment of eligibility norms & other terms and conditions laid down in relevant rules. This shall not confer any right upon them for being considered for selection which shall be governed strictly in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules and terms & conditions laid down in the Advertisement Notification.

Other terms and conditions as laid down in the afore said notification shall remain unchanged. By Order

Sd/-(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS, Secretary J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu

S.No.	Case Titled	No. of Applicants	Order Dated.
1	OA.1878/2021 titled Suneet Kumar & Ors Vs Home Department	(131 Applicants)	24.12.21
2	OA.1910/21 titled Ravinder Singh Vs Home Department	(01 Applicant)	30.12.21
3	OA.1919/21 titled Manjeet Singh & Ors Vs Home Department	(04 Applicants)	31.12.21
4	OA.1908/21 titled Balram Singh & Ors Vs Home Department	(153 Applicants)	30.12.21
5	OA.1922/21 titled Sarbjeet Singh & Ors Vs Home Department	(06 Applicants)	31.12.21
6	OA.1923/21 titled Vipan Khajuria & Ors Vs Home Department	(08 Applicants)	31.12.21
7	OA.1894/21 titled Rustam Choudhary & Ors	(07 Applicants)	28.12.21
8	OA.1904/21 titled Ankush Rattan Vs Home Department	(01 Applicant)	30.12.21
9	OA.1900/21 titled Jai Kumar Sharma & Ors Vs Home Department	(06 Applicants)	29.12.21
10	OA.1917/21 titled Mohd Igbal & Ors Vs. Home Department	(03 Applicants)	31.12.21
11	OA.1896/21 titled Gagandeep Singh & Ors Vs Home Department	(05 Applicants)	28.12.21

Annexure A

(b) CAT Bench Kashmir..... Total 239 Applicants

(a)CAT Bench Jammu---- Total 325 Applicants

DIPK-16614/21

Dated: 12.01.2022

No. SSB/Secy/2022/307-323

S.No.	Case Titled	No. of Applicants	Order Dated.
1	OA.1817/21 titled Mohd Imran Naik & Ors Vs Home Department	(09) Applicants	23.12.2021
2	OA.1816/21 titled Anayat Ali Khan & Ors Vs Home Department	(60) Applicants	23.12.2021
2 3 4 5 6	OA.1837/21 titled Rayees Ahmad Kumar & Ors Vs Home Department	(30) Applicants	29.12.2021
4	OA.1834/21 titled Javid Ahmad Wani & Ors Vs Home Department	(15) Applicants	29.12.2021
5	OA.1832/21 titled Bilal Ahmad Mir & Ors Vs Home Department	(08) Applicants	29.12.2021
6	OA Diary No.12369/21 titled Qaiser Ahmad Malik & Ors Vs Home Depart- ment	(39) Applicants	29.12.2021
7	OA.1830/21 titled Favaz Ahmad Sheikh & Ors Vs Home Department	(78) Applicants	29.12.2021

- zakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1983 Javed Miandad & Mudassar Nazar make 451 stand v India
- 1991 Australia beat NZ 2-0 to win cricket's World Series Cup
- 1991 UN's deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait (they don't)



I Don't Want To Fill Jails: Farooq 'My orders to the police; wherever you find a militant, kill him

NAFA

RINAGAR- The chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdul¬lah, today said thai his gov¬ernment would give mili¬tants no quarter and hinted 'extra-ordinary security measures' to be undertaken in the state very soon.

Speaking today at a gather¬ing at the residence of former minister and National Confer-ence MLA, Muhammad Dilawar Mir, whose brother was gunned down by unidentified gunmen at Rohama in Rafiabad vesterday, he said, "I don't want to fill jails. My orders to the police are; wherever you find a militant, dispatch him."

According to Dr. Abdullah, militants were killing innocent people and therefore deserved to be paid in the same coin.

Referring to a meeting he had had with prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he said that he had told him that militants had not stopped killing innocents despite the prime minister's talk of peace. "Make one final push and fin¬ish the matter off, I told the prime minis¬ter.'

He said that he had presented his formula long ago: Kashmir is an integral part of India; Pakistan should be given the territory under its control and the LoC converted into an international border; the Rawalpindi road should be opened; Kashmiris should be given internal autonomy -and the Kashmir issue will dissolve automatically.

"India will never give up Kashmir even if all Kashmiris per¬ish." Desisting from his customary tirade against the Hurriyet, he said the APHC leader's visit to Paki¬stan would not alter the LoC. "I want to see how the Pakista¬nis react." Later. talking to NAFA, Dr. Abdullah said that he would be talking to the PM and the HM soon, and extraordinary secu-rity measures would be put in place after that. "We will not al-low our campaign against mili¬tants to be slackened," he said.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 15 January, 2001)

NEWS

Two Flights To India Were On Runway Together. How Hundreds Were Saved



An

the Bengaluru-bound Emirates

flight took off and the Hyder-

abad-bound Emirates flight

went back to the taxi bay and

launched by the UAE's aviation

investigations body The Air

Accident Investigation Sector,

(AAIS). A serious safety lapse

Emirates Air has confirmed

"On 9 January, flight EK524

the incident and told ANI about

was instructed by air traffic con-

completed successfully. There

was no aircraft damage," Emir-

An internal inquiry has also

"Safety is always our top pri-

been set up against the air-

ority, and as with any incident

we are conducting our own

internal review. The incident is

also under investigation by the

UAE AAIS," Emirates spokesper-

As per the preliminary report,

Hyderabad-bound EK-524 was

rolling for take-off without ATC

craft's crew.

son told ANI.

ates Air spokesperson told ANI.

was reported to the airlines.

the serious breach of safety.

was

took off a few minutes later. investigation

Asian News International

NEW DELHI: Hundreds of lives were saved on Sunday after a major collision between two Emirates planes was averted during take-off at Dubai airport.

EK-524 Dubai to Hyderabad was scheduled for take-off at 9:45 PM and EK-568 Dubai to Bengaluru Emirates flight was also scheduled to take off for its destination. Unfortunately, the two aircraft that were scheduled for take-off came on one runway.

According to the Emirates flight schedule, there was a trol to reject take-off on deparfive-minute gap between the ture from Dubai and this was departure times of both flights.

"EK-524 from Dubai-Hyderabad was accelerating for takeoff from runway 30R when the crew saw an aircraft coming in the same direction at high speed. Take-off was immediately instructed by ATC to be rejected. The aircraft slowed down safely and cleared the runway via taxiway N4. which crossed the runway. Another emirates flight EK-568, from Dubai to Bangalore, was rolling for departure was to take-off from same runway 30R," a person aware of the incident told ANI.

After the ATC intervention, clearance.

Drones Spray Ganga Water To Reduce Crowding, Lakhs Gather In Bengal



Agence France-Presse

SAGAR ISLAND: Drones sprayed holy water from the Ganga on holy dip in the river. thousands of Hindu pilgrims on Friday to reduce crowding during a

pilgrims from making the journey. But there were still huge crowds, mostly without masks, taking a A police official on duty at the event said that it was "impossible

FORMER UP Cabinet Minister Swami Prasad Maurya joins the Samajwadi Party in presence of party president Akhilesh Yadav at SP office in Lucknow on January 14, 2022. - PTI

UP Assembly Poll: Swami Prasad Maurya, Dharam Singh Saini, **Others Join Samajwadi Party**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW: Former Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister and prominent OBC leader Swa- Amar Singh Chaudhary also mi Prasad Maurya on Friday joined the Samajwadi Party along with another rebel Minister Dharam Singh Saini.

Five BJP MLAs and Apna Dal (Sonelal) legislator Amar Singh Chaudhary also joined the SP in the presence of Akhilesh Yadav. The five BJP MLAs who

joined the SP are Bhagwati Sagar (Bilhaur in Kanpur), Shohratgarh.

They were given the SP IVE BJP MLAS membership at its office here. and Apna Dal The resignation of state La-(Sonelal) legislator bour Minister Maurya had

come as a jolt to the ruling BJP in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. joined the SP in the presence The developments appear to of Akhilesh Yadav. strengthen the SP's influence

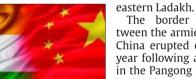
Roshanlal Verma (Tilhar in in the state, less than a month Shahjahanpur), Vinay Shakya before the crucial elections (Bidhuna in Auraiya), Brijesh that will also have an impact

India-China Trade Grows To Record USD 125 Billion In 2021 Despite **Tensions In Eastern Ladakh**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the relations hit a new low

BEIJING: The India-China bilateral trade touched a record high of over USD 125 billion in 2021, crossing the USD 100 billion-mark in a year when



The border standoff between the armies of India and China erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides have gradually en-

among the non-Yadav OBCs

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®] Saturday | 15-01-2022

Bishop Accused Of Rape Acquitted, Women's Panel "Shocked"



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: With a court in Kerala on Friday acquitting a a news report of his acquittal bishop in the rape case of a nun, along with her tweet. NCW chairperson Rekha Sharthe judgement.

An additional district and raping the nun in a convent in court. The victim nun must go concluded on January 10.

to high court. NCW is with her in this fight for justice".

Rekha Sharma also tagged

The rape case against the ma has said the woman should Bishop was registered by police approach the high court against in Kottayam district in June, 2018.

In her complaint to the police, sessions court acquitted Ro- the nun had alleged that she was man Catholic Bishop Franco subjected to sexual abuse by Mulakkal of the charges of Franco between 2014 and 2016. The Special Investigation Team, the southern state. Extending which probed the case, arrested support to the nun, National the Bishop in September 2018 Commission for Women chair- and charged him with wrongful person Rekha Sharma tweeted, confinement, rape and criminal Shocked at the judgment of intimidation. Trial in the case, Kerala Addl. dist and session started in November 2019, had

SHOCKED AT THE JUDGMENT OF Kerala Addl. dist and session court. The victim nun must go to

high court. NCW is with her in this fight for justice".

Over 75% Delhi Covid Deaths In This Wave Were Of Unvaccinated: Minister



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: More than 75 per cent of those who succumbed to the novel coronavirus inhanced their deployment by in Delhi were unvaccinated, a matter of great relief," rushing in tens of thousands Health Minister Satyendra Jain said on Friday.

HOSPITALISATION

rate has become stagnant and the daily

on the 2024 parliamentary Prajapati (Tindwari in Bahraich) and Mukesh Verma polls. (Shikohabad in Firozabad). Uttar Pradesh is scheduled Chaudhary is MLA from to have a seven-phase poll beginning from February 10.

massive festival being held despite to enforce Covid restrictions. soaring Covid cases in the country.

The Gangasagar Mela in the east of the country has drawn comparisons with another "superspreader" gathering last year that the government refused to ban. It was blamed in part for a devastating Covid surge.

Officials had said they expected around three million people -- including ash-smeared, dreadlocked ascetics -- to attend the festival's surge in April and May last year, climax on Sagar Island, where the Ganga meets the Bay of Bengal.

"At the crack of dawn, there was per day at the peak. a sea of people," local official Bankim Hazra told AFP by telephone.

"Holy water from the river Ganga was spraved from drones on pilgrims... to prevent crowding," he said.

"But the saints and a large number of people were bent on taking nine months ago. the dip... Pilgrims, most of them without masks, outnumbered the security personnel."

there were fewer people than in re- parts of the country have sought to cent years and that rain put off some

"Most pilgrims are bent on defy-

ing the rules," he said. They believe that God will save them and bathing at the confluence will cleanse all their sins and even the virus if they are infected.

- No lockdown -

Fatalities from India's current wave of infections remain a fraction of what they were during the with 315 deaths recorded Thursday compared with as many as 4,000

Infections are rising fast, however, with almost 265,000 new cases on Thursday. Some models predict India could experience as many as 800,000 cases per day in a few weeks, twice the rate seen

Keen to avoid another painful lockdown for millions of workers reliant on a few dollars in daily An AFP photographer said that wages, authorities in different restrict gatherings.

by the militaries in eastern Ladakh, while India's trade deficit too mounted to over USD 69 billion, according to official data released on Friday. The total trade between China and India in 2021 stood at USD 125.66 billion, up 43.3 per cent from 2020, state-run

Global Times reported, quoting data from the General Administration of Customs. China's exports to India from January to December rose 46.2 per cent to USD 97.52 billion, while India's exports to China

grew by 34.2 per cent to USD 28.14 billion. The trade deficit for India grew to USD 69.38 billion in 2021.





due to the prolonged standoff its concerns over the growing trade deficit with China for of soldiers as well as heavy over a decade and calling on weaponry. Beijing to open its markets for As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, India's IT and pharmaceutical the two sides completed the products.

Observers say much of Chi- disengagement process in the Gogra area in August and in na's exports increase this year to India was attributed to the the north and south banks of import of medical products the Pangong lake in February. and raw materials for India's The two sides held the 14 burgeoning pharmaceutical round of Corps Commanderlevel talks on January 12 to industry due to the massive second wave of COVID-19 and resolve the standoff in the recurring bouts of the virus in remaining areas and agreed the country. to hold a new round of talks

The landmark increase of soon. the bilateral trade crossing Each side currently has USD 100 billion went without around 50,000 to 60,000 much fanfare as the relations troops along the Line of Actual

remained frosty over the lin- Control (LAC) in the moun-India has been highlighting gering military standoff in tainous sector.

OBSERVERS SAY MUCH OF CHINA'S EXPORTS INCREASE this year to India was attributed to the import of medical products and raw materials for India's burgeoning pharmaceutical industry due to the massive second wave of COVID-19 and recurring bouts of the virus in the country.

He also said that the city is ex- virus had not even taken a single coronavirus cases on Friday.

Delhi had on Thursday reported 28,867 COVID-19 cases, the sharpest single-day spike since the pandemic began, and 31 deaths, while the positivity rate surged to 29.21 per cent, according to the health department data.

Delhi's previous biggest daily jump of 28,395 cases was recorded on April 20 last year.

According to official data, of the 97 people who died here due to Covid, between January 9 to January 12, 70 people were unvaccinated, while 19 had taken the first jab and eight were matter of great relief," he said. fully vaccinated. Besides seven were minors.

people who died due to corona- cial data.

fection in the current wave admissions have reduced. It is

pected to record less than 25,000 dose of the vaccine. Ninety per cent of the people had severe comorbidities like cancer and kidney ailments. Even the seven patients below 18 years had chronic issues," Mr Jain noted.

> He said one of the persons who died had allegedly attempted suicide and was hospitalised for it.

> "He tested positive and died three days later," said the minister. The minister added that more than 13.000 hospital beds are

> lying vacant in the city. The hospitalisation rate has become stagnant and the daily admissions have reduced. It is a Out of 15,433 Covid beds in

hospitals, 2,424 were occupied "More than 75 per cent of the on Thursday, according to offi-

NEWS MAKERS

Veteran Journalist Kamal Khan Passes Away At 61 **NE NOW NEWS**

Teteran journalist and Executive Editor of NDTV, Kamal Khan passed away at his home in Lucknow this morning after suffering a heart attack.

The award-winning journalist was known for his deep insights into Uttar Pradesh politics.

He had worked with NDTV for more than 30 years.

He was a recipient of the Ramnath Goenka Award, and the Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Award from the President of India.

NDTV following his demise in a day for NDTV. We have lost Kamal Khan; he was 61 and the heart and NDTV veteran who had boundless with poetic dexterity.



time and kind words for anyone who encountered him.'

"Shocked to hear about the passing away of senior journalist Kamal Khanii. I met him just a few days ago and we discussed many thing. He kept alive the values of truth and public interest in journalism. My deepest condolences to his family members" - Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

NDTV added that he will be remail said, "It is a terrible, terrible membered as a legendary reporter whose work stood out for its perceptiveness and integrity, and the way soul of our Lucknow bureau, an in which he delivered hard truths

Minimum 6 Airbags To Be Made Mandatory In Vehicles That Can Carry Up To 8 Passengers: Gadkari

NEW DELHI: The Centre will make it mandatory for carmakers to provide a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers for enhanced safety of occupants, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

In a series of tweets, the Road Transport and Highways Minister said his ministry had already mandated the implementation of fitment of the driver airbag with effect from July 1, 2019 and front co-passenger airbag with effect from January 1, 2022.

"In order to enhance the safety of the occupants in motor vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers, I have now approved a Draft GSR Notification to make a minimum of 6 Airbags compulsory." Gadkari said. GSR here stands for General Statutory Rules.

He further said that to minimise the impact of frontal and lateral collisions



on the occupants seated in both front and rear compartments, it has been decided that 4 additional airbags be mandated in the M1 vehicle category.

That is, two side/side torso airbags and two side curtain/tube airbags covering all outboard passengers. This is a crucial step to make motor vehicles in India safer than ever," he said.

According to Gadkari, this will ultimately ensure the safety of passengers across all segments, irrespective of the cost/variant of the vehicle. – PTI

Custody Of Bride's Jewellery For Safety Is Not Cruelty: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: Taking custody of daughter-in-law's jewellery for safety cannot constitute cruelty under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and J K Maheshwari said that failure to control an adult brother, living independently, or giving advice to adjust to sister-in-law to avoid retaliation cannot constitute cruelty to the bride within the

Section 498 A refers to husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty. The case was lodged by a woman against her husband and in-laws for subjecting her to cruelty.

The top court's observations came while hearing an appeal against an order passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana dismissing a plea by a man seeking permission to return to the US,



where he is employed.

The high court had rejected the man's prayer to leave the country as he was arrayed as an accused along with his elder brother and parents under sections Sections 323 (voluntary causing hurt), 34 (common intention), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) 498A and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

"Taking custody of jewellery for safety cannot constitute cruelty within the meaning of Section 498A of the IPC.- PTI

meaning of Section 498A of the IPC.

STATE

Covid Cases In Kashmir Higher Than Reported: DAK reported," he said.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With Omicron driven third Covid wave raging in Kashmir," Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said the actual number of Covid positive cases in the valley is higher than what is being reported.

"The official count is an underestimate as many Covid cases go unreported," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said use of home test kits and rapid antigen test kits has seen a massive jump since the said. Omicron surge began.

"While many people test positive by these kits, they do not report to the authorities," he said

"Many people also do not get tested worrying that they will be taken to the Covid camps," he added.

The DAK President said even though RT-PCR test is the gold standard for detecting Covid-19 and its variants, a negative test does not exclude the possibility of infection as the test can miss more than 30 percent of positive cases.

"We see many patients who test negative on RT-PCR test, but show CT features consistent with Covid-19, and they are not feat the outbreak," he said.

"Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in its new guidelines has waived off testing requirement for many categories including contacts of confirmed Covid positive cases, unless they are in the high risk categories," said Dr Nisar.

"Besides, it has also exempted asymptomatic patients undergoing surgical or noninvasive surgical procedures including pregnant women hospitalized for delivery unless warranted or symptoms develop," he

"When testing is curtailed, we won't know the exact burden of the disease in the community," he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said accurate data is critically important for appropriate response which holds key to mitigate further disaster.

"To deal with the problem, we must understand how bad it is," he said

Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Dagga said poor quality data equals poor decision which in turn leads to lost opportunity to improve population health in a crisis.

"Without accurate tallies, response won't be enough to de-

SKUAST-K Holds Workshop On Innovation Education

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir held a one-day workshop on innovation and education at Benihama Campus, Ganderbal in resonance with the newly adopted National Educational Policy (NEP)) for the promotion of skill and entrepreneurship in the students.

The workshop was organised under the strict COVID-19 protocol by the university's Faculty of Forestry under the World Bank-ICAR funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the institutional development of SKUAST-K.

Prominent speakers, who spoke at the occasion, included researchers, journalists, administrative and business personalities.

Prof Tariq Hussain Masoodi, Dean Faculty of Forestry, who struggles and achievements as was the convener of the pro- a female journalist. She spoke gramme, in his remarks sum- about social values and interthe significance and marised

of innovations that contributed to the economic and social development of the world.

Suhail -ul-Islam, Deputy Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment (J&K Govt.) discussed innovation vis a vis Govt. policies. He further deliberated upon academia-policy linkages and creating entrepreneurship in the forestry sector.

Abdul Hamid Bhat (Founder, RAHIM GREENS) a motivational speaker, environmental activist and renowned businessman described his real-life journey of innovative success without having any formal education. He further stressed up on social responsibility of a common man and development of skill and encouraging entrepreneurship in students

Mehta Reviews Preparations For R-Day Celebrations



ary, 2022.

buildings.

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday chaired a meeting to take stock of preparations to be put in place for the celebration of Republic Day-2022. Director General of Police, Ad-

ministrative Secretaries of Departments of Health & Medical Education, Home, PWD(R&B). General Administration, Youth Services & Sports, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Rural Development, Jal Shakti, besides Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, Additional Director General of Police, staff and equipment, cultural along with HODs of concerned

departments participated in the meeting. Detailed deliberations were held regarding the venues, security arrangements, parade/ band cultural items, seating arrangements, transport/parking ar-

only 50% seating at the venues. ing water, electricity, medical The Health Department was aid, and emergency facilities. It was informed that the main asked to put in a mechanism for R-Day functions will be organized at MA Stadium Jammu and Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Srinagar. Further,

testing the participants prior to their participation in the event along with thermal screening of audience on the day of the Beating the Retreat ceremony function at both the venues. will be organized on 29th Janu-The Home Department, School

Education Department and the The Chief Secretary directed Youth Services and Sports Dethe concerned to ensure arpartment were asked to observe rangements regarding various CAB and laid down protocols during the rehearsals. It was infacilities including transport, parking, seating, availability of formed that in view of the predrinking water, uninterrupted vailing COVID situation, particielectricity supply, deployment pation of only vaccinated people of health, fire and emergency is being ensured, with a special focus on school children in the programmes and illuminaage group of 15-17 years who are tion of important government being vaccinated on priority.

pressed upon the Culture De-

Jammu To Srinagar Traffic **On Highway Today**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with Saturday, officials said here. "Tomorrow, subject to fair

weather and better road condition, LMVS passengers/private cars shall be allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar (strictly one way) on Jammu-Srinagar highway and shall be allowed from Nagrota (Jammu) at 0900 hours to 1300 hours and from Jakheni Udhampur at 1000 hours to 1400 hours," a traffic department official said here in a statement.

"Subject to change depending on the road position then) TCU Jammu liaise with TCU Ramban

before releasing the traffic. No Ve-hicle shall be allowed before and after the cut off timings."

The thoroughfare remained shut on Thursday and on Wednesthe outside world, shall remain day it was closed shortly after trafopen for only one-way traffic on fic was restored for movement of stranded passenger light-medium vehicles (LMVs) this afternoon.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali. Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also remained closed in view of snow

accumulation, the traffic department official said. (GNS)

findings of polycystic ovaries in

As per ICMR, 34.3 percent

criteria of PCOS is prevalent in

Kashmiri women. AE-PCOS cri-

dysfunction (oligo-anovulation

and/or polycystic ovaries), and

the exclusion of related disor-

fines all the three criteria of

PCOS present in Kashmiri wom-

en, probably the highest per-

Pertinently, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a long-term,

highly prevalent, complex en-

docrine disorder characterised

by a multitude of metabolic and

reproductive disorders. It affects

age women globally, though the

centage globally.

ICMR national task force de-

ders in the women with PCOS.

PCOS Among Kashmiri Women Above 30%; Highest Across Globe: ICMR

women.

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As per the Indian Council of Medical Research by Androgen Excess (AE)-PCOS (ICMR) national task force, the prevalence of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) among Kash- teria of PCOS is the presence miri women is above 30 percent of hyperandrogenism (clinical by Rotterdam Criteria, which and/or biochemical), ovarian probably is the highest percentage globally.

As per the official figures, Kashmiri women have 33.3 percent by Rotterdam Criteria of PCOS, which means out of these three, anovulation, hyperandrogenism or polycystic ovaries, two must be present on ultrasound of the woman with PCOS.

The data further reveals that prevalence of PCOS among Kashmiri women is 28.9 percent by National Institute of Health (NIH) criteria, which is the criteria earlier used to diagnose 6-23 percent of reproductive PCOS in women.

The NIH criteria are based on estimated frequency can rise up hyperandrogenism and chronic to 33 percent depending on the anovulation or on Sonographic diagnostic criteria used-(KNO)

Kupwara Starts Vaccination Drive For Teens

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commis- their studies. He appealed to the sioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din students who got vaccinated to on Friday kick-started vaccination become ambassadors and inform drive for 15-17 year age group of other children to vaccinate themchildren at a function organized selves for their safety and the at Government Higher Secondary safety of others. School (GHSS) Khumriyal.

present at the occasion

The DC appealed the people to follow Covid Appropriate behav-DDC Member Kalaroos, Gh- follow Covid Appropriate behav-ulam Mustafa, Principal GHSS, iour (CAB) religiously and those Tehsildar Kupwara, BDO Kala- who are yet to get a second dose roos, Nodal Officer Covid Vacci- of vaccine to inoculate themselves nation and other concerned were at the nearest vaccination centre. He impressed that CAB and Addressing the function, the vaccines are the only tools to get DC said that the vaccination for safety against the deadly Covid-19 On the occasion, numbers of guard them from any Covid re- students were given the Covaxin

Wajeeha Ali, news anchor ANN News Network in her motivational speech described her acted with students to improve

Covid-19 Surge: PAGD Postpones Jan 15 Meeting In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has postponed its January 15 meeting here in view of a surge in Covid cases, its spokesman said on Friday. The meeting of the alliance

of Jammu and Kashmir-based mainstream political parties, including the National Conference (NC) and the PDP, was to be held to discuss its "future plans". CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami said.

meeting of the PAGD to be held and PDP chief Mehbooba Muf- meeting is aimed to test the in Jammu tomorrow in wake ti and Tarigami were among response of political groups in



here" the spokesman. Tarigami said whenever the Covid situation improves, the alliance will hold the meeting here. It was scheduled to be held

at the residence of NC chief in Ladakh as well as in Jammu "We have postponed the Farooq Abdullah at Bhatindi, last year, however, the fresh of the spike in Covid cases others schedule to take part. the Jammu region.

The Chief Secretary im-

rangements, sanitation, drink- distance by the gathering with years of Independence.

Tarigami said that the meet-

ing is part of a programme to

discuss the expansion of the

alliance in the Jammu region.

The PAGD had held meetings

Dr. Mehta underscored the importance of observing of partment to lay special emphathe COVID SOPs and CAB by sis on befitting celebrations of contingents of Army, the participating contingents the 73rd Republic Day under CRPF, Police, School children, and audience. The concerned the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav departments were directed to which is being observed across ensure maintenance of social the country to celebrate 75

outcomes of the event. He their communication skills. briefed about the opportunities available for innovation and startups in the forestry sector and stressed exploring entre- and presented an overview preneurship through critical of the program. Dr Peerzaada thinking. He also mentioned the Ishtiyak after the presentations need to explore perpetual, re- conducted an interactive sesnewable and non-renewable energy sources for sustainability.

Dr Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, an innovation researcher at Zhejiang vote of thanks. The workshop University, China talked about was attended by all heads of the innovations and the related fac- divisions, Scientists, non-teachtors. He spoke about the region- ing staff and students from the al and international scenarios in faculty following all COVID19 innovation and gave a glimpse related protocols.

Earlier during the program, Dr Akhlaq Amin Wani (Organizer) gave a formal welcome address sion of speakers with the students. Dr Syed Naseem Geelani (Co-Organizer) presented the

Rights Activist Untoo Held For 'Inciting Violence'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday arrested human rights activist Mohammad Ahsan Untoo for allegedly inciting violence through social media platforms.

Untoo, a resident of Kupwara district, is chairman of the International Forum for Justice and Human Rights Jammu and Kashmir.

was reliably learnt that Mohd Ahsan Untoo...a proactive secessionist, is an active participant and speaker at Twitter spaces, titled 'Radio Resistance Kashmir', led by two known secessionists Muzammil Ayyub Thakur and Dr. Asif Dar."

He said Thakur and Dar who activities. are accused in several cases along with Untoo were actively spreading hatred against the Union of India on social media platforms.

By spreading false propaganda, disinformation campaign and hate speech through these social media spaces, Untoo is not only threatening to disturb the prevailing peaceful atmo- has been arrested and is on posphere of the union territory, lice remand.

A police spokesman said, "It but also spreading disaffection, ill-will and disharmony against the Union of India, the spokesman said.

He said Untoo is also actively spreading the militant, secessionist agenda and is thus inciting the youth to resort to violence and indulge in unlawful

"As the aforementioned activities by Untoo amounts to commission of cognizable offence by him, accordingly Srinagar Police...registered a case against him under relevant sections of

the law, he said. The spokesman said the investigation into the matter has been initiated and the accused

Omar Accuses Admin Of Targeting Gujjar, Bakarwals

SRINAGAR: National Confer-Gujjar and Bakarwal tribals at the behest of its political masters.

The former chief minister's es belonging to the commu-Jammu Development Authority (IDA) as part of its antiencroachment drive recently. selective in its demolition drive, targeting only Gujjar Bakarwal families in Jammu. The presence of these families has always irked the BJP & clearly the administration is targeting the Gujjars & Bakarwals at the behest of their political masters," Omar tweeted.

Kashmir'a Anantnag, Hasnain Masoodi, decried "selective" demolition by the JDA and administration of houses of Scheduled Tribe community in Roop Nagar and other areas of Jammu leaving scores of families including women and children shelterless in harsh winter.

"The demolition operation and in gross violation of law," Masoodi said in a statement.

The NC MP said it was in power at the Centre boasts 1,731 illegal colonies in Delhi demolition when it comes to ST population of J-K".

In Delhi, the DDA and other JDA takes pride in retrieving any delay. land worth a few crore rupees from deprived segments of so-

Masoodi said on one hand. ence (NC) vice president Omar has been apparently carried Prime Minister Narendra Modi Abdullah on Friday accused out unmindful of the posses- calls housing for all by 2024 the Jammu and Kashmir ad- sory and other rights of the and affordable housing his ministration of targeting the victims in possession of the dream projects, but on the residential sites for decades other the JDA is busy making the poorest of the poor with a roof on their head shelterless. "The I-K administration in remarks came after the hous- shocking that while the party general and JDA officials in particular seem to be under a nity were demolished by the of having in 2020 regularised mistaken belief that our system of governance is autocunder PM-UDAY and claimed racy run at whim and caprice to have set up an efficient of one or few individuals with "The government has been and hassle-free mechanism of no role for rule of law and that providing ownership papers they are free from constituto thousands of beneficiaries, tional obligation to secure the Jammu and Kashmir ad- economic and social justice ministration "orders selective to disempowered and unattended segments of society," he said.

He sought immediate interauthorities show no zeal to vention of Lieutenant Goverretrieve land worth billions of nor Manoj Sinha in the matter Meanwhile, NC's Mem- rupees from the encroachers and demanded that the affectber of Parliament from south and take steps to regularise ed families be rehabilitated, their possession and confer the residential sites restored ownership rights on them, to them and compensation but when it comes to J-K, the paid to the victims without He has also demanded regu-

larisation of all such colonies ciety at the cost of lives of the in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh people who because of various on the pattern such colonies reasons stand at the end of the have been regularised in Delhi and other parts of country. (PTI)

15-17 year age group of children and its new variant Omicron. has been kick-started to safelated infection and to continue dose by the Health workers.

Omicron Symptoms Mild But Spike In Cases Can Create Trouble: Dr Favaz

Observer News Service

JAMMU: While it took 25 days for daily cases to rise from 100 to 1000, during the second wave that the Covid hospitalisation of Covid-19, the numbers have rate is only around 5 to 10 permore than doubled in just 15 weeks in the third wave.

Roughly double the number half the time in the present Omicron wave'.

Professor Department of Medicine, Government Medical College Jammu, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Wani has warned that the high during the present wave should not be taken lightly. Although the symptoms are mostly mild in appearance, the sheer number of infected is a major concern nonetheless, he highlighted.

keep observing Covid appropriate behaviour, maintain social distancing and avoid unnecessary and those with severe health conditions need to take extra precau-

tion and take a healthy diet. The Professor also assured cent, which is less as compared

to 20-23 percent recorded during the second coronavirus of cases are being recorded in wave. He warned that the rate might even increase owing to the sudden rise in positive cases as hospitalisation is usually re-

quired a week post infection. For asymptomatic patients and people in isolation, Dr Wani infectivity rate of the coronavirus said that such persons must contact the doctor if they feel breathlessness, chest pain, have their breath rate exceeding 24 or if they feel a sense of confusion. Any such unusual development must be intimated to the doctor

Dr Wani advised everybody to and medical help be sought, he advised.

The doctor has also urged all eligible persons to get vaccinatpublic gatherings. He suggests that ed and practise hand hygiene senior citizens, comorbid patients and frequent hand sanitisation.

Minor Fire At Kulgam Temple, Police Deny Foul Play

KULGAM: A minor fire broke out at a temple in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, police said.

They, however, said preliminary investigation ruled out any foul play. The incident at the Mata Tri-

pura Sundari temple in Devsar area is being investigated, but the preliminary inquiry suggests that the fire broke out accidentally due to the diyas that were lit up in the temple, a po-



lice official said. 'The minor fire incident in

#Fire happend accidentally by the DIYAs/ARTI being kept in Temple for daily routine.... No signs of Miscreant act. Public are requested not to pay heed to rumors (sic), Kulgam district police tweeted.

Kulgam Senior Superinten-dent of Police (SSP) G V Sundeep Chakravarthy and Deputy Commissioner Bilal Mohi-ud-Mata Tripur Sundari (Devsar) din Bhat rushed to the temple temple is being investigated to investigate.

by Police. Pre Enquiry reveals

SKIMS Bemina Suspends OPD Services, Elective Surgeries

SRINAGAR: Amid upsurge in dated 13-01-2022), the SKIMS covid-19 cases, SKIMS Medical Medical College Hospital Be-College Hospital Bemina here on mina has been designated as Friday put on hold OPD services dedicated covid-19 hospital in and elective surgeries in the this hospital," Principal SKIMS larger public interest till further Medical College said in an order. orders.

sued by the government (Ref Di- hospital are hereby being temvisional Commissioner Kashmir porarily put on hold in the larger under endorsement no. DDRK/ public interest till further or-Covid/2021-22/8854-8600 ders", the order further added.

"Accordingly, all the OPD ser-

"Pursuant to the directions is- vices/ elective surgeries in the



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Twitter Talks

"Every sensible person should respond to arbitrary eviction of Gujar Bakerwal families from Jammu. Lest we remain indifferent & there is repetition of 1947 like displacement in Jammu"

@DrSheikhShowkat

" As the cases of covid have increased in an exponential trajectory, a humble request to one and all not to visit hospitals for non emergent ailments"

@DrlqbalSaleemM1

"They aren't saying: Spread is inevitable, so we need to protect the vulnerable, make healthcare and testing free, and make long term plans to address waves of long COVID. They're saying: Spread is inevitable, so get back to work and be glad that it's mostly disabled people dying" @MsKellyMHayes

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Doctors' Orders

ashmir has not escaped being a typical third world ghetto of frustrated aspirations and stifling systems that compel individuals to flee to more conducive shores for profes-sional fulfillment and material satisfaction. The blame, as always, falls at the doors of successive leaderships for their abysmal failure to outline a vision to harness the latent intellectual and creative energies of the people for the overall benefit of the society. The state's health sector stands as a symbol of the paradox of talent in plenty rotting for want of opportunity. Coupled with a Kafkaesque officialdom that neither recognizes nor rewards ability and service, is it a wonder that Kashmiri doctors head in droves to more lucrative lands? Those that stay back in the state-run sector are too overwhelmed by the day-to-day battle with adverse working conditions like chronic shortages and immense patient overloads even to begin thinking about ushering in change.

Presiding over this demoralized, overworked and discontented pool of talent is a bureaucracy rife with nepotism, favoritism and downright incompetence that has been unable to streamline the system by, for example, a sustainable, fair and transparent policy on assigning duties in rural and far-flung areas. The peripheral health care system is in a state of collapse, for successive governments have failed to allocate sufficient resources and manpower to make it function up to a reasonable standard. Needless to say, government medical facilities in urban areas, particularly Srinagar, are stretched far beyond their capacity in dealing with the heavy influx that should have been screened at the place of origin. It is a tribute to the high competence and sheer doggedness of doctors serving government hospitals in Srinagar that major medical disasters, otherwise inevitable in the circumstances, are avoided. In contrast, the private sector, ironically manned by experts trained and taught at great public expense, is thriving on the government's failure to put its house in order. And there is no credible regulation in this sector to prevent exploitation of the poor masses who are driven to seek expensive alternatives because of a decrepit public service. Amid this chaos come exhortations from the chief minister, Omar Abdullah, for non-resident Kashmiri doctors to return. Having had a cosmopolitan upbringing, Mr. Abdullah is bound to have a fair idea of what Kashmiri doctors working abroad have become accustomed to by way of technical facilities and remuneration. A top notch New York surgeon used to state-of the-art equipment is being asked return to perform in theaters known to run out of as basic an item as material for stitches in mid-surgery. The government has been sending disturbing signals about effecting a paradigm shift in the health care philosophy in the state by encouraging the private sector on a large scale, which is unwarranted in Jammu and Kashmir where the per capita income is among the lowest in the country. Inspirations from the US system are totally out of place, and in any case the mercenary American model is under severe criticism from quarters more sensitive to the need of medi-care being easily and cheaply available to the needy. Transplanting ideas that are already being questioned and doubted in advanced societies does not serve any purpose except repeating mistakes that are being repented elsewhere. One of the surest ways to arrest brain drain from Kashmir is to fashion a system that rewards merit and service, and has minimal deleterious interference from unscrupulous politicians and bureaucrats. The health care system in the state had been devised on the pattern of a welfare exercise and it must continue, and progress, in that vein. The government will have to come out with satisfactory remuneration packages and ensure a modicum of facilities to motivate young doctors to serve in the rural and far-flung areas. True, doctors' salaries have to reflect the economic realities of the state, but a lot more talent could feel persuaded to be content with that if the unjust hiccups of a malfeasant officialdom were ironed out. It certainly does not help matters when an influential doctor manages plum postings perpetually solely because of his connections, and his better qualified counterpart is denied an opportunity to upgrade his skills at a higher institute for want of political push. Mr. Abdullah needs to cure the system of its ills - Kashmiri doctors working abroad will find that enough of an incentive to serve their own people. For, how can specialists in greener climes be motivated to come back when the heroic efforts of those who already work in Kashmir go unappreciated?

Not A Whisper

Need For Feminine Hygiene Renaissance In Kashmir



Anam Mukhtar

Periods," a familiar name to describe the biological cycle that sustains lives, is often villainised in Kashmiri society. It is a "taboo" to openly discuss this monthly natural process that women undergo. On the face of it, people often brush aside calls for a more "open-minded" approach towards women's issues as an unnecessary western import or just some women ganging up to promote "liberal" values in society.

What such discussions often overlook is that such taboos are not trivial matters. Silence around matters of feminine hygiene and reproductive health have grave effects. This silence systemically sidelines concerns of women and discourages health initiatives in the direction. Talking about women's reproductive health facilitates their access to better health avenues.

It is no surprise that data points from recent times have painted an alarming picture around women's reproductive health in Kashmir. Dropping fertility rates, alarmingly high C-sections and the presence of reproductive disorders are obvious indicators of the volcano of issues that's brewing.

Feminine hygiene products are essential in the direction towards allowing women to have access to better health. A rough estimate of the percentage of women who use sanitary pads in India is 42%. The stats go even lower for a place like Kashmir, where the rationale behind why sanitary products are out of reach is rooted in many factors. It goes without saying that for most downtrodden families, sanitary napkins don't comprise essentials. This is prob-

lematic primarily because of its pronounced repercussions of increased urogenital infections, fungal infections, rashes, and cervical cancers. According to the National family and health survey, 62% of women use cloth instead of a sanitary pad during their period cycle in Jammu and Kashmir. This is a minuscule perceptible part of a problem that lingers

of strategic planning on the part of the government. The government of India hasn't pulled out all the stops to achieve equitable access to hygiene products; however, a myriad of women are doing their utmost to resolve the issue. Kashmiris need to rise above the dangerous cult of the appropriation of preposterous and toxic corporate businesses that

promote needless taxation on sani-

tary napkins. The study conducted in

2018 revealed that while the reduc-

tion in the 12% tax on pads set under

the goods and services act brought

some reassurance to women, this is

It is disheartening to learn that

the organic pads aren't promoted

and industrialised by the corporate

giants like the other toxic pads that

sanitary pads should be the least

preferable because they include di-

oxin that can pose a considerable

just a drop in the bucket.

THERE'S A STRUCTURED WAY TO HAMPER such problems in our society, starting from education, prioritising, formulating and giving meaning to such inspiring visions. The only way out of this devastation is to know that it's not a woman's problem only. Inclusive efforts will make a difference

in Kashmir. 51% of females in Kash-mir go through insufferable cramps, of which 10% have erratic periods. PMS (Premenstrual syndrome) is a disorder that people corner as being almost non-existent. Downplaying these health issues causes distrust as well as distress amongst women which only strengthens the toxicity bred in the bone.

influences Kashmiri society find their way in every advertise-ment. These high-end brands for women to button their lips around menstrual hygiene, further glorifying the quiet around it. The society robs women of their voice to raise a concern about their health, espedanger by causing pelvic inflammacially when it's female-centric into the bargain. We must defy such cultural obligations that threaten to jeopardise our health to preserve a supposedly civilised society. What is ironic is that the very act of depriving women of the right to know the ways to safeguard their bodies is uncivilised. About 23 million girls drop out of school every year in India after their first period. This figure defines a lack

enter the bloodstream and cause unsettling reactions.

With the soaring medical information on the alternatives, reusable cloth pads without any harmful agents see a rising demand among the knowledgeable. A more costeffective choice is a menstrual cup that doesn't need to be bought every month and is more convenient to use. The question is whether women cause a threat to the economy. Well, yes, but not how you might think it is. The women employees and the young girls are a powerful plinth upon which the future of our country is based. The decrease in the women's workforce will only further the economic disruption, so safe access to feminine hygiene that depicts the presence of females in the industry is essential.

There's no quick fix to this socially ingrained taboo that makes women insecure for a natural process like periods. However, public toilets can be fitted in with pad dispensers that should be free of cost to help women suffice the much needed sanitary requirements. It isn't as much an issue of lack of awareness as it is about the unavailability of sanitary resources that we need to deal with. The improper disposal of sanitary pads is one reason why women keep them for longer than is advised. This isn't the only issue regarding feminine hygiene because unhygienic public toilets are key triggers for urinary tract infections that put women at risk of contracting diseases. In addition to raising a petition for building and maintaining clean toilets, the pads must be provided free of cost to the impoverished, which make up the majority of the valley.

Irfana Zargar is a pioneer in this direction as she hands out free sanitary pads to young girls in the city. Peerzada Aquib Nazar has broken the record by supplying organic sanitary pads across the valley at nominal prices. These initiatives reflect a change that's coming from within. This inventiveness by young Kashmiris sticks out in a place like Kashmir.

Samba district is one of the first places from Jammu and Kashmir to have made their local low-cost pads. The NGOs and social activists across Kashmir are blowing the lid off the silence on feminine hygiene to bring about a holistic change in the minds. There's a structured way to hamper such problems in our society, starting from education, prioritising, formulating and giving meaning to such inspiring visions. The only way out of this devastation is to know that it's not a woman's problem only. Inclusive efforts will make a

The state's health sector stands as a symbol of the paradox of talent in plenty rotting for want of opportunity. Coupled with a Kafkaesque officialdom that neither recognizes nor rewards ability and service, is it a wonder that Kashmiri doctors head in droves to more lucrative lands?

> The article is an editorial from KO archives and originally appeared on 12th June 2010

endometriosis tory diseases and Most of these pads have rayon instead of cotton that contain dioxin. Pads used by the majority of women in Kashmir are manufactured with the usage of plastics that breed yeast and bacteria due to restricted airflow to the vaginal area. Scented sanitary pads that neutralise the odours might seem favourable, except they harbour chemicals that

difference.

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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Has The Pandemic Fundamentally Changed Our Ethics?

Hugh Breakey

ver the past two years, our lives have changed in unprecedented ways. In the face of the pandemic, we have been required to obey demanding new rules and accept new risks, making enormous changes to our daily lives.

These disruptions can challenge us to think differently about ethics - about what we owe each other.

As we head into the third year of the pandemic, debates continue to rage over the ethics of vaccine mandates, restrictions on civil liberties, the limits of government power and the inequitable distribution of vaccines globally.

With so much disagreement over questions like these, has the pandemic fundamentally changed the way we think about ethics?

Ethics became more visible

In daily life, ethical decision-making often isn't front of mind. We can often just coast along.

But the pandemic changed all that. It highlighted our human inter-connectedness and the effects of our actions on others. It made us re-litigate the basic rules of life: whether we could work or study, where we could go, who we could visit. Because the rules were being rewritten, we had to work out where we stood on all manner of questions:

is it OK - or even obligatory - to "dob" on rule-breakers?

is it morally wrong to ignore social distancing rules or refuse a newly developed vaccine?

IT HIGHLIGHTED OUR HUMAN INTER-

connectedness and the effects of our actions on others. It made us re-litigate the basic rules of life: whether we could work or study, where we could go, who we could visit. Because the rules were being rewritten, we had to work out where we stood on all manner of questions

how far can our freedoms be rightly restricted in the name of the public interest and the greater good?

At times, politicians tried to downplay these ethically-loaded questions by insisting they were "just following the science". But there is no such thing. Even where the science is incontrovertible, political decision-making is unavoidably informed by value judgements about fairness, life, rights, safety and freedom.

Ultimately, the pandemic made ethical thinking and discussion more common than ever - a change that might well outlast the virus itself. This might itself be a benefit, encouraging us to think more critically about our moral assumptions. Who to trust?

Trust has always been morally important. However, the pandemic moved guestions of trust to the very centre of everyday decision-making.

We all had to make judgments about government, scientists, news and journalists, "big pharma", and social media. The stance we take on the trustworthiness of people we've never met turns out to be pivotal to the rules we will accept.

One good thing about trustworthiness is that it's testable. Over time, evidence

may confirm or refute the hypothesis that, say, the government is trustworthy about vaccine health advice but untrustworthy about cyber privacy protections in contract tracing apps.

Perhaps more importantly, one common concern throughout the pandemic was the unprecedented speed with which the vaccines were developed and approved. As the evidence for their safety and effectiveness continues to mount, quickly developed vaccines may be more readily trusted when the next health emergency strikes.

Legitimacy, time and executive power

When we're thinking about the ethics of a law or rule, there are lots of questions we can ask.

Is it fair? Does it work? Were we consulted about it? Can we understand it? Does it treat us like adults? Is it enforced appropriately?

In the context of a pandemic, it turns out that delivering good answers to these questions requires a crucial resource: time.

The development of inclusive, informed. nuanced and fair rules is hard when swift responses are needed. It's even more challenging when our understanding of the situation - and the situation itself -

changes rapidly.

This doesn't excuse shoddy political decision-making. But it does mean leaders can be forced to make hard decisions where there are no ethically sound alternatives on offer. When they do, the rest of us must cope with living in a deeply imperfect moral world.

All of this raises important questions for the future. Will we have become so inured to executive rule that governments feel confident in restricting our liberties and resist relinquishing their power?

On a different front, given the enormous costs and disruptions governments have imposed on the public to combat the pandemic, is there now a clearer moral obligation to marshal similar resources to combat slow-motion catastrophes like climate change?

Ethics and expectations

Expectations, in the form of predictions about the future, are rarely at the forefront of our ethical thinking.

Yet as the 18th century philosopher Jeremy Bentham argued, disruption is inherently ethically challenging because people build their lives around their expectations. We make decisions, investments and plans based on our expectations, and adapt our preferences around them.

The author is Deputy Director, Institute for Ethics, Governance & Law. President. Australian Association for Professional & Applied Ethics, Griffith University. The article was originally published by The Conversation





VERSEXUALISATION IS A MAJOR ISSUE IN SOCIETY today, with social media, the fashion industry, and pornography pressuring our individualistic egos to display our bodies and build identities based on our sexuality. This goes hand in hand with the acceptance of diminished gender boundaries, an increasing sense of individualism, and disregard for our elders' opinions

Pride, Prejudice And Principles

Why Do So Many Muslim Women Like This Austen Classic?

Ayah Aboelela

t's safe to say that women have always made up the majority of Jane Austen's fanbase, yet her work has also found particular appeal amongst Muslim women. From a dedicated book club in Pakistan (where women dress up to attend Austen themed tea parties) to the Muslim retellings of the story, there are some particular factors that endear her books specifically to a Muslim audience.

As Muslims, it can be difficult to find fiction that is both relatable and aligns with our moral standards, especially as wider society sees increasingly loose social norms. Jane Austen by contrast, uses her values as a Christian woman to write unique, dynamic, and moral characters, and manages to create a world where Muslim women can draw parallels to our own values and circumstances.

Yet when reading Pride and Prejudice in particular, not only do we not fear any immodesty, but we can also appreciate its social commentary. As a study of character and personality, there are many messages on morals and values that Muslims can appreciate through an Islamic framework.

True Qiwaamah

It should be a truth universally acknowledged that women and men are dependent upon each other. However, contemporary dialogue - be it gender discourse or fictional portrayals - undermines the responsibilities that women and men have towards one another. For example, literary studies on the "strong female character" trope suggest that contemporary literature often equates "masculine" traits with heroism, and thus fewer female characters with "feminine" traits are portrayed as heroes. This re-emphasises harmful gender stereotypes and does little to truly 'empower' women; it only (falsely) argues that each gender is capable of doing anything the opposite gender can, and does so by setting masculinity as the benchmark. In contrast, Austen tends to balance the individuality of her male and female characters while still emphasising their reliance upon each other. In an Islamic framework, we know that Allah has tasked each gender with responsibilities towards the other, hence we have the concept of qiwaamah, a defining feature of masculinity that relates to men's treatment of women:

"Men should be constant caretakers of women with what Allah has favored one over the other and with what they spend (for support) from their wealth."

Al-Qur'an 4:34

This ayah clarifies that true qiwaamah requires men to use the blessings Allah has given them — such as wealth, physical strength or social status — to uphold the rights of their daughters, mothers, sisters, wives, aunts, and nieces. The concept of qiwaamah is foundational to how we as Muslims understand masculinity and men's roles, regardless of how modern concepts like alpha-beta binaries try to distort them.



Austen mocks religious hypocrisy in the oftenhilarious, yet ever-unbearable character of Mr. Collins. As a clergy member, Mr. Collins had received an extensive religious education, but it is obvious from the start that his ultimate goal is to flatter his rich patroness. His insincere religious practice causes extreme self-righteousness, and his scornful comments on pastimes like reading novels are a source of humour in the novel.

Perhaps the epitome of all this is when Mr. Collins advises Lizzie and her father that though they should forgive Lydia and her husband for eloping, "Allah does not like the public mention of evil except by one who has been wronged. And ever is Allah Hearing and Knowing."

Al-Qur'an, 4:148

This is why Mr. Darcy regretted covering up for Mr. Wickham: he realised that hiding Mr. Wickham's faults, after it was clear that he manipulated one woman, only allowed him to continue harming more women. This also connects to the concept of being a qawwam. In the novel, Lizzie falls for Mr. Darcy be-

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT AUSTEN'S NOVELS align with all "Islamic" boundaries, despite some overlapping values. It's amusing to consider how dramatically Austen's plots would have changed if the characters had followed Islamic inheritance laws! But regardless, thinking about the fiction we consume in terms of how it agrees or differs with our sus Lizzie and Mr. Darcy, is echoed in the Quran:

"Corrupt women are for corrupt men, and corrupt men are for corrupt women; good women are for good men and good men are for good women. The good are innocent of what has been said against them; they will have forgiveness and a generous provision."

Al-Qur'an 24:26

Gossip and Riyaa

Materialistic competition, gossip, and riyaa' are all things that the Qur'an advises us to avoid. Lizzie, like many of Austen's heroines, often finds herself in the company of people whose primary entertainment is to engage in these things. These traits are not exclusive to women, but they are often portrayed as stereotypical female qualities — across time, culture and even fictional depictions.

The Qur'an addresses the believers:

"Believers, no one group of men should jeer at another, who may after all be better than them; no one group of women should jeer at another, who may after all be better than them; do not speak ill of one another; do not use offensive nicknames for one another. How bad it is to be called a mischief-maker after accepting faith! Those who do not repent of this behaviour are evildoers."

Al-Qur'an 49:11

Austen's heroines are so timelessly lovable because they often defy their contemporary social norms and expectations while still adhering to their morals. While Lizzie's social circles are often filled with gossip, she learns not to trust every rumour she hears about others-something we are also advised to do in Surat al-Hujurat-and she craves more meaningful conversations that do not centre around judgmental gossip. On the other hand, Mrs. Bennet, though respected by Lizzie as her mother, is not regarded very highly in the novel overall, because she is very ostentatious and competitive with her social circle, often gossiping and displaying her jealousy. Lizzie feels the pressure of a society filled with negative judgement and constant comparison and scrutiny by certain family members, neighbours, friends, and acquaintances-things that are not unfamiliar to our social circles today.

Today, social media has proliferated both riyaa and negative judgement: it has become a medium to flaunt wealth and beauty, and comments sections are rife with harshness and hostility. Female Muslim characters (even those written by Muslims, unfortunately) are often celebrated as strong and empowered when they subvert norms by engaging in activity that is deemed Islamically immoral, such as removing their hijabs or having a boyfriend. While Austen's characters also subvert norms, they are also empowered through their strong sense of morality, whether it is respecting and caring for a family member or avoiding mindless gossip.

Enter Mr. Darcy.

Austen interrogates notions of masculinity through her depiction of both Mr. Darcy and Mr. Wickham. Although she does not use the concept of qiwaamah per se, we can use it as a gauge since its tenets often align with Austen's depictions. We see Mr. Wickham as a clear antagonist because of his dishonesty, selfishness, and desire for fortune; this prevents him from committing to a profession, keeping his promises, and fuels his gambling addiction. His chief fault lies in how he deceives multiple women, eventually harming Lizzie and her family. In short: he is not a good qawwam.

On the contrary, Mr. Darcy highlights the seriousness of a qawwam's role in society. As we move beyond our first impressions of him, we learn that unlike the self-centered Mr. Wickham, Mr. Darcy is very considerate of the people around him. Mr. Darcy certainly does not fit the confident charming protagonist stereotype; he is awkward, blunt, and introverted. But that does not diminish his good qualities: a man's good character, especially in terms of how he treats the women in his life, depends on fulfilling the characteristics of a qawwam. Mr. Darcy does this by becoming a holistic caretaker to his sister financially, emotionally, and scholastically — and by fulfilling his role as a protector when he prevents Mr. Wickham from harming other women.

The concept of qiwaamah matters because of its impact on society: both men and women benefit when we have a positive understanding of masculinity, and when we are able to fulfil our duties and treat each other with respect and care.

Religious Hypocrisy

Religious hypocrisy is a phenomenon that is unfortunately not uncommon in our communities, and it was not uncommon in Austenian Regency Era England. It can manifest in someone who appears to be publicly pious, but is privately oppressive and deceptive. It can also be quite overt, including some scholars who publicly support oppression and use religion as a justification, or those who work in the counterterrorism industry, betraying both their people and principles for worldly gain.

Islamic values can enhance our understanding of our own identity in relation to the culture and literature that shapes our world

they should also "[never] admit them in your sight, or allow their names to be mentioned in your hearing" – to essentially completely cut ties with them. The response to this hypocritical self-righteousness in the novel is an important lesson for us as Muslims, especially at a time many are disillusioned by corrupt community leaders. It is summed up in Mr. Bennet's scoffing response to Mr. Collins's advice: "That is his notion of Christian forgiveness!"

Mr. Bennet understands that, although Mr. Collins has a high socio-religious standing, he does not represent Christianity. The novel scorns Mr. Collins's fake religiosity but does not blame religion itself for it. Religious hypocrisy appears across faith groups and time periods. So as Muslims, we are reminded that no one is infallible and immune from criticism, and that people's faults-even if they appear to be religiously high-standing — are not representative of Islam.

Monsters as Saints

Expanding on the issue of religious hypocrisy, we sometimes (knowingly or not) hide the faults of people who seem outwardly righteous, but are privately oppressive. As Muslims, we value hiding each other's faults, as per the narration of the Prophet that if we conceal the faults of our brothers and sisters in this world, Allah will conceal our faults in the next life.We should not seek to deliberately embarrass our brothers and sisters. Yet Austen shows us how being over cautious of this can result in failing to warn others about problematic individuals.

Mr. Wickham — certainly a greater threat than silly Mr. Collins — is presented as a dashing, personable young man. This is perhaps what led many people, including Lizzie, to give him the benefit of the doubt and assume he was as good as he appeared. Even Mr. Darcy, who knew of Mr. Wickham's evil past, did not want to expose him or ruin his reputation. However, though we may try to hide the faults of others so as not to expose them, this can sometimes only serve to put vulnerable community members in danger. We sometimes forget that oppressive actions and threats to the community should not be kept hidden. As the Qur'an reminds us: cause he redeems himself for not having exposed Mr. Wickham earlier, by preventing Mr. Wickham from entering an abusive relationship with Lydia. Part of being a qawwam is speaking outwardly against other men who are abusive towards women, and not being complicit with their actions by remaining silent.

Good Men for Good Women

Oversexualisation is a major issue in society today, with social media, the fashion industry, and pornography pressuring our individualistic egos to display our bodies and build identities based on our sexuality. This goes hand in hand with the acceptance of diminished gender boundaries, an increasing sense of individualism, and disregard for our elders' opinions. However, as Muslims, we value the concept of hayaa', a form of modesty that requires both a respect for gender boundaries and are wary of riyaa', showing off. As hayaa' becomes harder to embody in a world that places self-promotion on a pedestal, stories that condemn the lack of modesty become more appreciated by a Muslim audience.

In Pride and Prejudice, Lydia's riyaa' and lack of hayaa' make her a cautionary character, obsessed with adorning herself for the male gaze, consistently ignoring any advice from her family. After going as far as eloping with Mr. Wikcham, Lydia faces moral justice in the novel when she suffers in the long term and realises that the match was not well made. Through Lydia, Austen shines a light on the sanctity of relationships, be it between husband and wife, or parent and child — bonds that are revered highly within our faith.

In contrast, Lizzie and Mr. Darcy did not enter their relationship on a whim, but looked beyond the exterior and recognised how much they valued one another's character. They did not marry in pursuit of riyaa', as Lydia clearly sought herself when she haughtily commented that by marrying young she would achieve a superior status to her elder sisters. Lizzie and Mr. Darcy abided by socially respectable customs and asked for the approval of Lizzie's father. In today's world, where the norm is to serve one's ego, this classic novel refreshingly emphasises hayaa' and the respect owed to parents.

The contrast between Lydia and Mr. Wickham ver-

Beyond Austen

Thankfully, we are starting to see works of fiction written by Muslims that embrace Islamic values. S.K. Ali's novels are great examples; she incorporates authentic, flawed yet striving Muslim characters with important social commentary on some of the topics mentioned here, such as religious hypocrisy and monsters-as-saints.

But there is still much to be done. As we wait for the world of Muslim fiction to develop, we can recognise that there are many existing works of fiction with values that align with our own. In Pride and Prejudice, the compatibility is heightened for multiple reasons: the absence of immodesty, a focus on morality and social commentary that fits into Muslim societal experiences today. All in all, the protagonists can arguably be seen as role models in some respects for us as Muslims – women and men, young and old! Both consumers and creators of fiction should use a semi-critical lense to consider how its messages and values align with our Muslim identities. As Austen's classic excellently shows, novels can be well-written and much-loved even while adhering to certain values and guidelines. This should be an inspiration for Muslim writers to write while considering Islamic guidelines of modesty and morality, without worrying about whether this would limit the story's potential.

Of course, this is not to say that Austen's novels align with all "Islamic" boundaries, despite some overlapping values. It's amusing to consider how dramatically Austen's plots would have changed if the characters had followed Islamic inheritance laws! But regardless, thinking about the fiction we consume in terms of how it agrees or differs with our Islamic values can enhance our understanding of our own identity in relation to the culture and literature that shapes our world.

Ayah is a graduate student in World History and Digital Humanities at Northeastern University. She hopes to combine her background in software and love for history and storytelling to make historical stories more accessible to diverse audiences. You can follow her on Instagram @caveofkutub. The article was originally published by The Qarawiyyin Project

LIFE & TIMES

Study finds nature helps people cope with body image issues

Agencies

ccording to a new study, being in nature helps people deal with negative body image by removing some of the triggers of body image anxiety, such as the focus on social media, and strengthening coping mechanisms to keep negative feelings in perspective.

The research has been published in the 'Ecopsychology Journal'.

The research involved 401 participants from the UK, who were asked to complete a survey about their exposure to nature, "rational acceptance", and body appreciation. Rational acceptance is a coping mechanism, broadly defined as the way people rationalise and keep in perspective any feelings of negative body image that come and go.

The study found positive associations between all three measures in both men and women.

The paper, the first to look at how exposure to nature can help the mind cope with temporary feelings of negative body image, concluded that spending time in natural environments provided opportunities for healthy body image coping strategies.

This may be due to the physical and mental distancing from the sources of body image threats such as unrealistic appearance standards, mirrors, or social media.

Being in nature may also help individuals develop healthier thought processes that allow for more realistic appraisals of bodyimage threats and their future consequences.

Lead author Viren Swami, Professor of Social Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), said, "There is already evidence that being in nature in itself promotes positive body image, but this is the first study to look at how exposure to nature can help the mind cope with temporary feelings of negative body image that we all experience from time to time, and keep a sense of perspective".

"Being in nature takes us away from some of the triggers for negative body image - Instagram posts, models on bill-



boards, mirrors - that we find in urban environments and gives us opportunities to put things into perspective. The restorative qualities of these natural environments may also promote healthier cognitive processes, including greater selfcontrol and a feeling of time passing more slowly, giving us the chance to rationalise these threats." he added.

Kashmir Observer Saturday | 15-01-2022

"We know that positive body image boosts mental health, and this study adds weight to the growing body of evidence about the importance of exposure to nature, and how we need to ensure as a society that everyone has as much access to natural environments as possible," he concluded.

Study Finds Self-Perceptions Of Stress, Ageing Has Significant Influence On Physical Health

Agencies

ccording to a recent study, dwelling on negative aspects of ageing can have a measurable negative impact on your physical health and ability to respond to stress.

The research has been published in the 'Journals of Gerontology'

Using daily survey data from older adults over a period of 100 days. OSU researchers found that people who reported more positive self-perceptions of ageing were more insulated from the physical effects of stress compared with people who felt more negatively about their own ageing.

"Better self-perceptions of ageing are good for your health, regardless of how much stress you have, or how much stress you perceive you have," said Dakota Witzel, lead author on the paper and a doctoral candidate in OSU's College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

Research on stress has long found that daily and chronic stress is linked to physical health symptoms, including higher blood pressure, heart disease, and loss of cognitive function. These effects are linked not just to objective stress, but to perceived stress: people's



fewer health symptoms.

ageing reported more

stress than normal, they

reported almost three

times more physical

health symptoms than

individuals with more

tions of stress.

This

On days when indi-

subjective appraisal of an experience as stressful.

Using responses from 105 Oregon adults aged 52 to 88 who took part in daily online surveys in 2010 via OSU's Personal Understanding of Life and Social Experiences (PULSE) study, researchers measured participants' perceived stress and physical health over a period of 100 days, along with an initial set of questions to gauge their self-perceptions of

ageing. The questions asked participants to agree or disagree with statements like "Today, I felt difficulties were piling up so high I could not overcome them," and "As you get older, you are less useful.'

On average, higher thought patterns or conperceived stress was reversations that reinforce lated to worse self-peror exaggerate various steceptions of ageing and reotypes of ageing physiworse physical health cally impact people's lives, Witzel said. symptoms, while more

positive self-perceptions "These things are truly important for our of ageing were related to health and well-being, not only long-term, but in our viduals with more negaday-to-day life," she said. tive self-perceptions of

"The likelihood of reporting these physical health symptoms is significantly decreased, on average, when you have better self-perceptions of ageing," she added.

positive self-perceptions Self-perception of ageing. In other words, ageing is an area where simple interventions can positive self-perceptions of ageing had a protecmake a difference, Witzel tive effect against the said. An easy step is to acknowledge that putphysical health implicating a positive spin on meant that the ageing process will have a real impact on your physical health.

That doesn't mean adults should dismiss real health concerns or plaster on a fake smile, she said, but they will see benefits if they consciously work to be more positive about ageing. "It's kind of a self-fulfill-

ing prophecy," Witzel said. Evervone should

create positive images of themselves in the future as older adults, said Karen Hooker, a coauthor of the study and a professor in OSU's Col-lege of Public Health and Human Sciences. This will help counterbalance the "feared selves" that are so often perpetuated in negative stereotypes of aging with more positive "hoped-for" possible

selves, she said. "Our self-perceptions of ageing could be a modifiable resilience factor shaping our physical and mental health in later life," she said.

The researchers noted that the study was limited in its sample population; the respondents to the PULSE survey were predominantly white, female, and well-educated. Public health doctor-

al student Shelbie Turnof er was also a co-author on the study. The PULSE project from which survey data was drawn was funded by OSU's Centre for Healthy Ageing Research.

HEADQUARTERS IRP-16th BATTALION RAMBAN

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

HC Ab Salam Mir.NO.109/lRP16th

PID NOARP-891288.

S/O Sonaullah Mir R/O Khandhama.

Tehsil Beerwah P/S Magam Distt. Budgam.

01 Whereas, you have been enrolled as Constable in Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police in the year-1989.

02 Whereas you were absented yourself from duties w.e.f. 09,11.2021

03 Whereas, during your service career you have earned 17 Major, 10 Minor, besides 1339 days Diesnon which clearly indicates that you are habitual of absenteeism and have never mend yourself to become a good police officer.

04 Whereas, you were informed by chain of wireless communications form this Hors. as well as Coy Commander D Coy of this unit through your concerned Police Station i.e P/S Magam to report back for duty :-

- Estt/IRP-16th/21/15428 Dated 18.11.2021
- Estt/IRP-16th /21/16082 Dated 07.12.2021
- III. Estt/IRP-16th/ 21/16605 Dated 13.12.2021
- CCD Coy /ABS/IR 16th/2021/339 Dated 17.11.2021
- CCD COY/ABS/IRP-16th/2021/353 Dated 29.11.2021

But you turned deaf ear towards the efforts made by this office as well as Coy Commander D Coy of this unit and did not bother to resume your duties neither you bothered to inform the department about your whereabouts.

05. Whereas an attendance notice was also served to you vide this office No .Estt/IR 16th/PF-

109/2021/16654-59 dated.16.12.2021 which was got noted by you through representative of this unit namely Sgct. Waheed Ahmad No.274/IRP 16th Bn in presence of Two reasonable Persons of your locality as well through your concerned Police Station, but you again turned a deaf ear towards all the efforts made by this office and did not bothered to report back for your duties which clearly indicates that you are not willing to serve the department anymore.

Whereas in addition to your absence, numerous complaints against you have been received by this Headquarters from various corners pertaining to your gross misconduct

07. Whereas a Final attendance notice was also served to you vide this office No .Estt/IR 16th/PF-109/2021/17111-16 dated.27.12.2021 which was got noted by you through representative of this unit namely Sgct. Mudasir Ahmad No. 570/IRP 16th Bn in presence of Two reasonable Persons of your locality as well as the copy of the same was served to you through your concerned police Station Magam, but you again turned a deaf ear towards all the efforts made by this office and did not bothered to report back for your duties and preferred to remain absent still at large at you own will which clearly indicates that you are not interested to serve the department anymore. 08. Whereas remaining absent from duties for such a long-time at your own interest is totally against the rules and regulations of the disciplined Police Organization and is liable for severe punishment up to the loss of appointment in terms of Article 128 of J&K CSR read with rule 208 (g) of J&K Police Manual. Therefore in view of the above facts and circumstances, I Amit Gupta-JKPS- SSP Commandant IRP-I6,h Battalion Serve a Show cause notice upon you, HC Ab Salam Mir.NO.109/IRP16th PID NO ARP-891288 that as to why you should not be removed from services for such kind of act. You are hereby directed to submit your reply to this show cause notice within a week's time positively without any delay, After receipt of this notice or publication of this notice in new paper, failing which it shall be deemed that you are not interested to serve the department anymore and proceedings for your removpl Govt. Services shall be initiated as envisaged under rules.

(Amit Gupta)JKPS (SSP) Commandant IRP 16th Bn. Ramban

No. Estt/IR-16th./ PF-109/2022 / 670-75 DIPK-16574/21 Dated 11/01/2022

'New Findings May Contribute To **Better Treatment Of** Liver Cancer'

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL

Agencies

n a new study, researchers have identified the presence of a specific connection between a protein and an lncRNA molecule in liver cancer.

By increasing the presence of the lncRNA molecule, the fat depots of the tumour cell decrease, which causes the division of tumour cells to cease, and they eventually die. The study contributes to increased knowledge that can add to a better diagnosis and future cancer treatments.

The findings of the studies were published in the journal 'Gut'.

Our genome gives our cells instructions that determine each cell type's highly specialised function. The information is sent out using two different types of RNA molecules: coding RNA that converts DNA into proteins and non-coding RNA that do not produce proteins.

Because non-coding RNA molecules do not produce proteins, they have not been the main focus of research in the past, even though they amount to approximately 97 per cent of the RNA in our body. However, certain proteins, called RNA-binding proteins, have been shown to play a crucial role in cancer because of their ability to affect several different properties of RNA molecules.

"With the help of tissue material donated by patients with liver cancer, we have been able to map both the coding and non-coding part of our genome to identify which RNA-binding proteins have a high presence in liver cancer cells," said the study's senior author Claudia Kutter, a researcher at the Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet.

"We found that many of these proteins interacted with a long type of non-coding RNA molecules, socalled lncRNA," added Kutter.

The research team conducted a more detailed study of a specific pairing of an RNA-binding protein (CCT3) and an lncRNA molecule (LINC00326). Using advanced CRISPR technology, they were able to both reduce and increase the amount of the protein and the lncRNA to see how it affected the cancer cells. When the lncRNA was increased, the fat depots of the tumour cell decreased, the cell division ceased and many of the cancer cells died. Following the laboratory studies, the results were also verified in vivo.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

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Jammu: 0191-2566533

Subject Time Table lor Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive (Main) Examination -2022. Notification No. PSC/Exam/2022/01

Dated:11.01.2022

in pursuance of J&K Combined Competitive Examination Rules, 2018 read with J&K Public Service Commission [Conduct ol Examiantion] Rules-2005 as amended upto date and In continuation of Notification No.PSC/ Exam/2021/61 dated:26.11.2021, it is hereby notified for Information of all the concerned eligible candidates who have applied for the J&K Combined Competitive (Main) Hxamination, 2022, that the Main Examination shall be conducted w.e.f.8th of March. 2022 as per following schedule:-

Date/Day	Forenoon Session 09.00 A.m. to 12.00 Noon	Afternoon Session 02.00 P.m. to 05.00 P.m.
1)	(2)	(3)
)8.03.2022 (Tuesday)	(Paper-I) Essay	(Qualifying Paper) English
9.03.2022 (Wednesday)	(Paper-II) General Studies	(Paper-III) General Studies [11)
0.03.2022 (Thursday)	(Paper-IV) General Studies -III	(Paper V) General Studies IV
6.03.2022 (Wednesday)	(Paper -VI) Optional Paper-I) Agriculture/Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science/Anthropology/Botany/Chemistry/ Civil Engineering/Commerce and Accountancy/ Economics/Electrical Engineering/Geography/ Geology/History/Law/Management/Mathematics/ Mechanical Engineering/ Medical science/Philosophy/Physics/Political Science & International Relations/ Psychology/Public Administration/ Sociology /Statistics/Zoology/ Arabic/Dogri/English /Hindi/Kashmiri/Persian/ Punjabi/ Sanskrit/Urdu	
7.03.2022 (Thursday)	Paper-VII (Optional Paper-II) Agriculture/Anima] Husbandry und Veterinary Science/ Am hropulogy/Botany /Chemistry / Civil Engineering/Commerce and Accountancy/ Economics/Electrical Engineering/Geography/ Geology/History/Law/Management/ Mathematics/Mechanical Engineering/ Medical science/Philosophy/Physics/Political i Science & International Relations/ ! Psychology/ Public Administration/Sociology /Statistics/ Zoology/Arabic/Dogri/English /Hindi/Kashmiri/ Persian/ Punjabi/ Sanskrit/Urdu	
No: - PSC/Exam/KAS/2022		(Anil Sharma) JKAS
DIPK-16582/21	Con	troller of Examinations
Dated:11.01.2022		biic Service Commission

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

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

Subject: Provisional Select List of eligible candidates for admission to 12th based Paramedical courses-2021 after conduct of second round of Physical Courselling. Reference:- i) Notification No.109-BOPEE of 2021 dated 17-10-2021.

ii) Notification No.158-BOPEE of 2021 dated 29-12-2021.

Notification No. 004-BOPEE of 2022 DATED: 12-01-2022

In pursuance of Notification No. 158-BOPEE of 2021 dated 29-12-2021, the Board conducted Second round of physical counselling for admission to 12th Based Paramedical courses 2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu simultaneously with effect from 04-01-2022 to 11-01-2022. The eligible candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been upgraded / allotted seats / Institutions as per their merit- cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to said courses in various Government / Private Colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the list annexed as Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board viz www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The selected candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions from 13-01-2022 to 20-01-2022 (04:00 PM) along with following documents/ certificates:-

1. Marks Card of 10+2 class.

2. Date of birth Certificate of 10th Class.

3. Domicile Certificate

4. Category Certificate, if any

5. Medical fitness certificate,

6. Any other certificates/ documents required by the College Authorities. The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions up to 20thof January-2022 positively.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per guidelines issued by J&K Paramedical Council before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (20-01-2022) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holidays / off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Heads of the Colleges/Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com/ iakbopee@gmail.com/ coelakbopee@gmail.com on 20th of January, 2022 (upto 05:00 PM).

Note:

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).

2. The Concerned Colleges/Institutions shall ensure that, any person with disability, if selected in open merit or some reserved category, constitute a special Medical Board to assess such candidates and make recommendations based on which colleges shall take further necessary action. In case any such candidate does not fulfill the bench marks of eligibility, he/she shall not be admitted to the course/ college and the matter shall be reported to the BOPEE.

3. For fee / documents required for admission in the College/ Institute, the provisionally selected candidates are advised to contact concerned College/ Institute before the last date of admission as fixed by Board

4. The Heads of Institutions are advised to release the documents and fee deposited by the candidates who have been upgraded from one stream to other stream or one College to other College as per circular issued by J&K Paramedical Council, without loss of time.

5. The Principals of Colleges/ Institutions are advised to download the copy of Annexure "A" from the official website of the BOPEE viz www.ikbopee.gov.in for reference and record.

6. The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in e- Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time. F&0

E&OE	Sd/-
DIPK-NB-6546/21	(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
	Controller of Examinations J&K BOPEE
No: BOPEE/Exam-10/2021	Dated: 12-01-2022

WPI Inflation Eases To 13.56% In Dec; RBI May Hold Rates Next Month



items was lower at 10.62 per

cent in December, against 11.92

In fuel and power basket the

Data released earlier this

week showed, retail inflation

based on Consumer Price Index

(Combined) rose to 5.59 per

cent in December, from 4.91 per

inched up. ICRA Chief Economist Aditi

Nayar, said the food inflation

has spiked from the marginal

9.6 per cent in December 2021,

reflecting the unfavourable base

"Notwithstanding the contin-

ued double-digit WPI inflation

in December 2021, we expect

of restrictions will determine

whether policy normalisation

particularly for vegetables.

per cent in the previous month.

rate of price rise was 32.30 per

cent in December, against 39.81

per cent in November.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The wholesale price-based inflation bucked the 4-month rising trend in December 2021, and eased to 13.56 per cent, even though food prices hardened, and experts believe the RBI is expected to hold rates steady in its monetary policy next month.

WPI inflation has remained in double digits for the ninth con- cent a month ago as food prices secutive month beginning April. Inflation in November was 14.23 per cent, while in December 2020 it was 1.95 per cent.

Inflation in food articles, how- 0.1 per cent in October 2021, to ever, spiked to a 23-month high an unpleasant 23-month high of at 9.56 per cent in December, against 4.88 per cent in November. Vegetable price rise rate jumped to 31.56 per cent, against 3.91 per cent in the previous month.

In the food articles category, the MPC to pause in Februpulses, wheat, cereals and pad- ary 2022. The duration of the dy all witnessed a month-on- current wave and the severity month price rise, while potato, onion, fruits and egg, meat and

fish saw some softening. (change in stance to neutral "The high rate of inflation in along with hike in reverse repo December 2021 is primarily due rate) can commence in April to rise in prices of mineral oils, 2022, or be delayed further to basic metals, crude petroleum June 2022. & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products, food prod- mences, we subsequently exucts, textile and paper and paper products etc as compared to the corresponding month of the to reassess the durability of previous year," the Commerce growth," Nayar said. and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in manufactured monetary policy on February 9.

Press Trust Of India New Delhi: GST officers have ar-

rested one person for operating a syndicate and issuing fake invoices of ₹4,521 crore for avail-ing input tax credit (ITC) benefit

under goods and services tax, an

official statement said on Friday.

CS Hands Over Trilingual Land Pass Books To Farmers

Every landholder to be provided passbooks online by 15th of August

JAMMU: As a major initiative towards good governance and ease of convenience to the citi-Kumar Mehta, Friday launched trilingual Land Pass Books in Hindi, Urdu and English making it an easy and simple document for reference and record.

Dr Mehta termed the initiative a historical step towards transparency and good governance. He complimented the Revenue, IT and Law departments for making this facility a possibility in a very short time. He asked them to dedicate the facility to all the landowners of the UT by the In-

He maintained that this doc- enue Department is true to the ument will decipher the revenue information to land owners in a very lucid form besides acting as a valid paper to present before financial and other institutions. He felicitated the farmers who received this vital

document on the occasion. The CS handed over Land Pass Books to landowners of village Chak Lal Din of Tehsil Jammu West of district Jammu and village Bagh-e-Mehtab of Tehsil Chanpora of district Srinagar respectively.

It was revealed that the Land Pass Books issued to landholders contains entry from the Jamabandi in revenue estate, so as to enable the landholder to make its use for credit facilities and for other matters connected therewith. It was therefore called a tool for redressal of different grievances, litigations, disputes at various forums and for reference. It was also stated that the Land

Pass Book prescribed by the Rev-

encouraged to provide their record and can be generated on-Aadhar and Mobile numbers for line by landholder without visitgenerating this document oning a Patwari or Tehsildar or any line by 15th of August this year. Revenue office thereby saving It was also stated that the Pass his time and energy. Books are being rolled out grad-

With scanning and digitizaually in the areas where land tion of land records already records stand digitized. Seeding under implementation for the convenience of citizens and under good governance initiative the department has also framed the Jammu and Kashmir Land Passbook Rules-2022 for online informed in the gathering. issuance of Land Passbook.

As far as its legality is con-cerned the Pass Book is an evidently valid entity carrying same evidentiary value as if being certified copies of Record-of-Rights (Misli Haqiat) for all intents and purposes before courts and financial institutions. It is an authoritative document for grant of financial assistance by a financial institution thereby saving the farmer from visiting revenue offices for securing fards and extracts.

Moreover the farmers were through video conferencing.

Exports Rise 38.91% To USD 37.81 Bn In Dec; Trade Deficit Widens To USD 21.68 Bn: Govt



lion).

12.87 billion.

billion).

Press Trust Of India statement

NEW DELHI: The country's exports in December 2021 surged engineering goods grew 38.41 per cent to USD 9.8 billion, fol-38.91 per cent on an annual lowed by petroleum products basis to USD 37.81 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure, due to healthy performance by sectors such as engineering, textiles and chemicals, even as the trade deficit widened to USD 21.68 billion during the month, government data showed on Friday.

1.1

Imports in December 2021 also increased 38.55 per cent to USD 59.48 billion, on account of an increase in petroleum and crude oil imports, which soared month of 2020. The imports also 67.89 per cent to USD 16.16 billion. Gold imports expanded by

5.43 per cent to USD 4.72 billion. During April-December 2021-22, exports rose 49.66 per cent to USD 301.38 billion.

Imports during the period of Aadhar and Mobile numbers surged 68.91 per cent to USD of landholders in the database 443.82 billion, leaving a trade deficit of USD 142.44 billion, will enhance transparency and help citizens in generation of Land Pass Books online, as was the data showed. The trade deficit in December 2020 was USD

Besides the DDC Chairper-15.72 billion. "Merchandise exports in Desons from Reasi and Kishtwar the ceremony was attended by cember 2021 were USD 37.81 Financial Commissioner, Revbillion, as compared to USD enue; Principal Secretary, GAD; 27.22 billion in December 2020, Commissioner Secretary, RDD; exhibiting a positive growth of Commissioner Secretary, Revenue; Secretary Law; Commissioner, Survey & Land Records; and many other officers and ofthe commerce ministry said in a the fiscal.

ficials of the department. Meanwhile DC Srinagar handed over the pass books to landowners at Srinagar and all other DCs participated in the event



ganisations (FIEO) President 38.91 per cent. As compared to A Sakthivel said that looking December 2019, exports in De- at the current trend, India will cember 2021 exhibited a posi-tive growth of 39.47 per cent," achieve the USD 400-billion merchandise exports target for

In December 2021, exports of

(151 per cent to USD 5.88 bil-

lion), gems and jewellery (16.4

per cent to about USD 3 billion),

chemicals (26.86 per cent to

USD 2.66 billion) and readymade garments of all textiles

(22.63 per cent to USD 1.46 bil-

estimated value of services ex-

port for December 2021 was

USD 20.07 billion, an increase

of 5.26 per cent over the same

rose by 15.76 per cent to USD

vices export for April-December

2021 is USD 177.68 billion, ex-

hibiting a positive growth of

18.39 per cent vis-a-vis April-

December 2020 (USD 150.09

"The estimated value of ser-

"The estimated value of ser-

The data also stated that the

Passenger Vehicle Sales In India Dip 13% In Dec: SIAM



Press Trust Of India a year ago. NEW DELHI: Passenger vehicle wholesales in the country de- 24 per cent to 246,080 units clined 13 per cent to the lowest in December 2021. During the level in five years in December same time last year, it was at last year as the industry continued to face production issues due to semiconductor shortage, current fiscal, passenger vehicle auto industry body SIAM said on Friday.

744,237 units in the same period Scooter sales were also down

Fake GST Invoices Worth ₹4,521 Cr

It said scrutiny of tally data has shown that there are 636 firms being operated by this was found that the proprietor is engaged in providing services of 'Cloud Storage' on his servers to various customers for maintaining their financial accounts. On scrutiny of one of the suspicious servers, details of certain firms were found in tally data. It was informed by the proprietor that this tally data is being maintained by one syndicate based in Kolkata, following which searches were conducted vestigation, GST amounting to at various premises in Kolkata "During the search, a huge in the ITC ledger of these firms. amount of incriminating docuincluding mobiles lying in various bank accounts phones, various cheque books, stamps of various firms and SIM cards have been recovered. "On analysis of electronic devices, documents, mobiles and e-mail of these persons, it To catch the mastermind be- has been found that these perhind these fake firms, the of- sons are remotely maintaining ficials of the Directorate Gen- data on the server found at the eral of GST Intelligence (DGGI) premises in Delhi," the state-

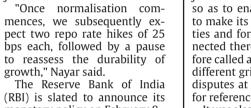
SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Jobal Friday stressed

Observer News Service



Dir Agri Advocates For More

Delhi Man Arrested For Issuing





dependence Day this year.

syndicate and the mastermind of the syndicate has accepted that they have issued only invoices in these firms and not supplied any goods against them.

"They have issued invoices involving taxable value of about ₹4,521 crore having ITC implication of about ₹741 crore," the statement said.

During the course of the in-₹4.52 crore has been deposited on January 10. by the reversal of ITC available Further, till now, about ₹7 crore ments of these firms has been frozen, it added.

The mastermind behind the whole racket was arrested on January 13.

conducted searches on January ment added.

for pushing the boundaries in terms of awareness and innovations when it comes to round the year availability of vegetables to add new dimensions to the economic transformation of the farming community.

The Director said this during his visit to the vegetable clusters of Qamarwari Zone of the district.

He acknowledged the collaborative efforts of the farmbig role to play. ers and department in making the export of vegetables (from Kashmir to international destinations like Sharjah, Dubai)

ing strategy. He asked for redesigning/reshaping of different marketing models to increase the export of Vegetables from Kashmir. He said for the pro-

motion of trade at international merated the steps taken by the level, implementation of an efdepartment to attract more people towards the vegetable sector. fective marketing policy has a Earlier, the Director visited On this occasion, Joint Direcvarious progressive farmer tor Agriculture Marketing Mofields and hi-tech Poly houses hammad Qasim Gani presented and inspected different agria detailed blueprint for provid- culture activities and asked the ing marketing facilities to the concerned officers to ensure farmers at their door steps. He every technical support to the informed the Director of various farmers and work in a coordi-

steps taken by the Department nated manner. During the visit, Director was accompanied by Joint Director Marketing M. Qasim Ghani, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Srinagar, and Agriculture Extension Officer Qamarwari besides other senior officers of modern scientific lines. He enuthe district.

Passenger vehicle dispatches last month stood at 219,421 units compared to 252,998 units in December 2020.

While acknowledging that the chip shortage situation is not expected to dramatically change in the short term, the industry body expressed hope that things will improve soon.

As per the latest data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), twowheeler wholesales also fell 11 per cent to 10,06,062 units in December 2021. In the year-ago pe- units. The same was at 59,46,283 riod, the same stood at 11,27,917 units in the year-ago period. units.

cember last year compared to of the industry players

3,23,757 units.

In the December quarter of the sales dropped 15 per cent to 761,124 units from 897,908 units in the year-ago period.

During the same time, twowheeler sales fell 25 per cent to 35,98,299 units compared to 47,82,110 units in the same period a year earlier.

However, commercial vehicle sales saw a marginal increase to 194,712 units in the quarter under review as against 1,93,034 units in

December guarter of 2020. During the 2021 December quarter, vehicle sales across categories declined 22 per cent on a vear-on-vear basis to 46.36.549

'The sales numbers in the Motorcycle sales declined 2 October-December quarter were per cent to 726,587 units in De- not as per expectations for most

SHORT TAKES

PM Modi To Interact With More Than 150 **Startups Today**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with more than 150 startups from various sectors, including agriculture and health, on Saturday via video conferencing.

Startups from various sectors such as enterprise systems, space, industry 4.0, security, fintech, environment besides agriculture and health will be part of this interaction, the PMO said on Friday.

More than 150 startups have been divided into six working groups based on themes including growing from roots, nudging the DNA, from local to global, technology of future, building champions in manufacturing, and sustainable development, it said in a release.

Each group will make a presentation before Modi on the allotted theme in the interaction. The aim of the interaction is to understand how startups can contribute to national needs by driving innovation in the country, the release said. (PTI)

Benchmarks Snap 5-Session Rally As **Bulls Take A Breather**

Mumbai- The Sensex and Nifty broke their five-day rising streak to close with slim losses on Friday, weighed by negative global cues and foreign fund outflows.

In a largely subdued session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 12.27 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 61,223.03. Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 2.05 points or 0.01 per cent to 18,255.75. Asian Paints was the top loser on the Sensex chart, shedding 2.66 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, HUL, M&M, Wipro, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

On the other hand, TCS, Infosys, L&T, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement were among the prominent gainers, climbing up to 1.84 per cent. The market breadth was negative, with 18 declines and 12 advances. "The Indian market opened on a weak note following nervousness in global markets, however, it managed to erase most of its losses to close flat, supported by positive trends in IT, realty and healthcare sectors. (PTI)

Animal Husbandry B'pora Approves 66 **KCC Diary Cases**

BANDIPORA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the Department of Animal Husbandry today organized tenth District Level KCC Camp at Office Complex of Block Development Officer, Nowgam.

KCC Cases belonging to the areas of Nowgam, Ganastan, Gaadkhud, Ankhul, Shahgund, Gund Jahangir, Naidkhai, Sumbal, Shilvat, Trigam, Gunde Nowgam, Payeen Nowgam, Zalpora, Rakh Sultan pora and Nasbal were discussed with the bankers. beneficiaries and were approved on spot

The Camp was presided over by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Dr G A Lone and marked the participation of Lead Bank Manager Bandipora, Concerned Bank Managers, Nodal officer, Concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and the beneficiaries.

66 Dairy KCC Cases were settled on spot to generate part time employment and livelihood support to the beneficiaries.

Gold Gains Rs 93; Silver Jumps Rs 59 On **Global Trends**

NEW DELHI: Gold price in the national capital on Friday gained Rs 93 to Rs 47,005 per 10 grams, in line with a jump in prices of international precious metal along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 46,912 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped Rs 59 to Rs 61,005 per kg from Rs 60,946 per kg in the previous trade.

The Indian rupee declined by 26 paise to close at 74.16 against the US dollar on Friday.

In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,826 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.19 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.21 per cent up at USD 1,826 per ounce on Friday," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. (PTI)

Rupee Slumps 25 Paise To Close At 74.15 **Against US Dollar**

MUMBAI: Snapping its five-day winning run, the rupee on Friday slumped 25 paise to close at 74.15 against the US dollar, in line with other emerging market currencies as hawkish comments by Federal Reserve officials weighed on sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency witnessed an intra-day high of 74.05 and a low of 74.21 against the US dollar. It finally settled at 74.15, down 25 paise over its previous close of 73.90.

US Fed policymakers signalled they will start to raise interest rates in March to combat sky-high inflation.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent down at 94.78. Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.01 per cent to USD 85.32 per barrel. (PTI)

for the promotion of trade, financial security of the farmers. Earlier Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar apprised the Director of various interventions by the department for the promotion of vegetable cultivation on

dream come true. He added that it was an unprecedented move and has opened a new global window for the Agriculture products from Kashmir. Igbal reiterated the importance of a more vibrant market-

News

Lakhs Of Pilgrims Take Holy Dip At Gangasagar On Makar Sankranti

AGENCEIS

SAGAR: Lakhs of pilgrims took their holy dip at Gangasagar here on the occasion of Makar Sankranti on Friday with a section of them giving the go by to the COVID-19 safety protocol.

A number of them were seen roaming without masks and government officers had a

harrowing time enforcing the COVID-19 norms.

RT-PCR tests were carried out as part of the measures to check the spread of the disease. There was, however, no untoward incident like drowning

at the Gangasagar Mela, considered the biggest religious congregation after the Kumbh Mela. "This year the number of

pilgrims is significantly less than last year. It is around 20-25 per cent of last year's congregation," West Bengal Power minister Aroop Biswas told a press meet

here.
Biswas, however, refused to
divulge the number of the devotees who had arrived in the
Island and taken the holy dip
this year.

Around 15.5 lakh pilgrims had arrived at Sagar Island during

Makar Sankranti in January 2021. Senior government officer of South 24 Parganas district said only those who were fully vaccinated and tested negative for COVID-19 were allowed to enter Sagar Island, situated at the confluence of the Ganga and Bay of Bengal, to attend the

Mela. An official statement said only one pilgrim was confirmed as COVID positive in the random testing before entering the Mela ground and was sent to isolation. At Babughat and nearby areas in Kolkata, where pilgrims gather for their onward journey to Sagar Island, another 43 tested The holy bath began at midnight and devotees from different parts of the country gathered at the confluence braving the cold and steady drizzle. They also offered prayers at the Kapil Muni temple here.

The holy bath will continue till 12:30 pm on Saturday. According to locals, physical distancing norms went for a toss during the dip even though disaster management and civil defence personnel, the police and volunteers maintained the COVID protocol.

Several pilgrims were seen without masks even though officers and volunteers kept cajoling them to abide by social distancing norms and to wear masks.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Logs Highest

reported a maximum 588 cases, Reasi 90, Udhampur 55, Kathua 52, Poonch 49, Kishtwar 33, Rajouri 29, Doda 18, Samba 16 and Ramban 4.

"Moreover, 380more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 211 from Jammu Division and 169 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that five more Coronavirus infected people, three from Jammu and two from Kashmir, succumbed to the deadly infection during the last 24 hours. With these deaths, the fatality count in pandemic has reached 4557 in J&K–2216 in Jammu and 2341 in Kashmir–have died due to the virus, they said.

The officials said that no new cases of Mucormycosis have been reported on Friday, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.

Moreover, the officials said that against the availability of 4794 dedicated level 1 & level 2 COVID beds, only 260

(5.4%) are occupied.' Over 200 Doctors

on Thursday that more 200 doctors and paramedics have tested Covid-19 positive since last two weeks.

"No one has been admitted. However, they have been in isolation," he said.

Khan said that he fears that more health workers might contract infection in the coming days.

"If more people test Covid-19 positive, this will hit the health care," he said, adding "If care providers are infected, it's an issue,"

Doctors from SMHS told Kashmir Observer that Omicron spreads at much faster rate and has a tendency to infect more and more people.

While sharing the data, the senior doctor said, at least 109 doctors and 98 paramedics of GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals have contracted the virus since January 1 this year.

The data further reveals that 39 doctors have tested positive from SMHS Hospital, 15 from LD Hospital and 11 from Super Specialty Hospital Shireen Bagh, 9 from Bone and joint hospital creating a challenging situation for the health sector to deal with Covid-19.

He also urged the people to follow SoPs, wear face masks and take all other precautions. A Covid-19 positive doctor from SMHS told Kashmir Observer that over 50 of his colleagues are not well and might have contracted the virus. directed to enhance their testing figures including RtPCR testing and expedite identification, isolation and micro- containment of the infection, besides speeding up vaccination drive in the 15-17 age category which is currently at 40%. They were asked to complete the vaccination in this age category within one week by raising the number of vaccination sites and decentralising the process," the official spokesperson said.

He said that Mehta asked the Health & Medical Education Department to prioritize administering booster doses in vulnerable populations through the continuing 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign.

"Moreover, the Revenue, Police and Health Departments were directed to vaccinate the frontline workers, healthcare workers and volunteers with the third precautionary dose," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary directed the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Director SKIMS, Director General, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, and Principal GMC Srinagar to regularly give media briefings on the mitigation measures, current trajectory of the disease and suitably address the public concerns on the matter.

Administrative Secretaries of the departments of Finance, Health & Medical Education, Home, MD, National Health Mission, Director General, Family Health, Divisional Commissioners Kashmir/ Jammu, Inspectors General of Police Kashmir/ Jammu, and Deputy Commissioners and District SPs were present in the meeting.

Hospitals To Be

of "3rd wave," the divisional commissioner Kashmir P K Pole stressed upon the application of fundamental Principles of Patient Care Management of asymptomatic Covid Positive patients in Home Isolation and in hospitals.

"(Divisional Commissioner) informed that so far the nature of the 3rd Wave of Covid-19 has been very mild and the cases require symptom based treatment which can be given to them at primary Health Centres," reads the minutes of meeting "As such it is imperative that such

"As such it is imperative that such primary health centres including Panchayat Covid Care Centres be strengthened with men and machinery," the divisional commissioner said and ordered action in this regard by Chief Medical Officers. and infection control measures.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir also directed all the Deputy Commissioners to activate the District Control/war Rooms for covid-19 in their respective districts.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir directed constituting District Monitoring/ Supervisory teams who shall monitor and supervise the Home Isolation Surveillance and delivery of Covid-19 kits. "They shall submit report to this office on weekly basis as per the format to be shared By DCCRK."

The Divisional Commissioner also stressed for testing of all symptomatic cases for Covid-19.

The divisional commissioner also instructed the Director SKIMS, Principal GMC Srinagar and Principal MCH- Bemina Srinagar to depute final year MBBS students and final year Nursing/Paramedic students to Deputy Commissioner Srinagar for further deployment as per requirement.

CAG Report Picks

Rs 21.02 crore had been provided (between March 2018 and March 2019), were not at all affected during flood of September 2014 and they had been restructured only after the unrest of 2016 under special rehabilitation package," the report states.

These 19 beneficiaries, as per the CAG report, include

- Peak Auto Private Limited (Rs 5.73 crore)
- HK Cement Industries Limited(Rs
 4.48 crore)
- Khyber Industries Pvt Limited (Rs 2.60 cr)
- Tramboo Industries Pvt Ltd (Rs 2.89 cr)
- Peak Auto Jammu Pvt Ltd (Rs 2.80
- Saifco Cements Pvt Ltd (Rs 2.00 cr)
- Jamkash Vehicleades (Rs 2.14 cr)
- Shuhul Automobiles (Rs 1.52 cr)
 Himalayan Rolling Steel Industries
- Pvt Ltď (Rs 4.02 cr) • Peaks Agro Warehousing Pvt Ltd (Rs 2.00 cr)
- J&K Cements Limited (Rs 1.84 cr)
- Fruit Preservers Partners (Rs 0.89
- Kashmir Premium Apples Pvt Ltd (Rs 1.32 Cr)
- Iqbal Motor Transport Services (Rs 1.10 Cr)
- Kashmir Fruit Preservers Partners
 (Rs 0.89 Cr)
- Kashmir Premium Apples Pvt Ltd

Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 7.5 degrees Celsius.

positive.

The minimum temperature in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office said the weather is likely to stay mainly dry over the next few days and the minimum temperature is likely to drop further. 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.

'Surya Namaskar'

territory to organise the exercise on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, saying it was interference in religious affairs. The widespread criticism prompt-

ed Farooq Khan, the advisor to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, to say that the participation in the event was not compulsory.

"Those who want to do it can do it and those who don't want to do, are free not to do. Nowhere in the order it is mentioned that there will be repercussions if anybody refuses to do it. It is just a part of yoga, it is named namaskar which might have given rise to religious connotation to it. So there is no need to give a twist," Khan said.

In a related development, a militant group, The Resistance Front, has issued a threat to the officer who had signed the order.

The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of several religious organisations, took strong exception to the order and said the authorities were well aware that Jammu and Kashmir is Muslim-majority and like people from other religions, Muslims will not participate in religious practices of other religions.

"To deliberately force them to do so by issuing directives is mischievous," it said.

"The Muslims of J-K are respectful of all religions and believe in harmonious coexistence, but will never yield to any pressure if and when there is

liberal traditions of Kashmir alive. They fought the violence. They fought the bullets. The liberals rendered sac-

rifices," he said. Lone said with the 'surya namaskar' directive, the government was "emulating the radicals".

"We have seen the brute power of the radicals all through nineties. U will not succeed. The will of the people will eventually prevail," he said. Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari also took strong exception to the or-

der and said educational institutions must be kept aloof from "political maneuvering" and emphasis should be laid on providing quality education to students.

"Celebrating festivals is an individual choice and the state has no right to interfere in it. However, this recent edict for observing Surya Namaskar in colleges across J-K is undoubtedly a dangerous enterprise that carries serious implications.

"The administration must stop communalising the academic atmosphere and should rather focus on upgrading these educational facilities," he said.

9 Teachers Sacked

Ranjeet Kour (Teacher HS Kralweth Baramulla) and Sunil Kumar Raina who was appointed in the department as teacher under PM package and subsequently posted in MS Moti Mohalla Nishat Srinagar but "remained unauthorizedly absent from duties from 1 November 2017."

Apparently speaking orders have been issued against all. One of the orders for example, regarding Kour reads that she applied for 06 months extra ordinary leave w.e.f. 28/04/2014 with station permission to proceed to United States of America (outside the country).

"In-anticipation of station leave permission/sanction of leave from the competent authority, the teacher proceeded outside the country United States of America and as such remained un-authorisedly absent from her legitimate duties w.e.f. 28/04/2014," reads the order.

"The teacher was provided opportunities by the DDO concerned to resume her duties which she failed," the order reads, adding, "the issue was brought into the notice of this Directorate by CEO Baramulla on 19/10/2020."

Accordingly, the order reads, the teacher was served a notice by this office on 18 May 2021 followed by a joint show cause notice on 06 July 2021, wherein she was provided opportunity to present herself before this Directorate along with a statement of defence within 07 days from the date of issuance of notice. "Neither the teacher presented herself before this Directorate nor responded to these repeated notices," the order reads, adding, "(this indicates) that she is not interested to work in this Department." (GNS)

as Hanjis in Dal. At least, we weren't dying every day in this pathetic colony lacking life support."

As he speaks, some residents struggle their way in and out of the place due to water-logged paths. The winter has escalated the already existing drainage problem of the colony.

"We've been held hostage here," Mushtaq continued to give voice to his community's collective anguish."There's nothing here in the name of living."

Besides drainage problem, the bad road is making mobility difficult for the inmates.

"We find it difficult to ferry patients to the hospitals during this ongoing Covid health emergency," Mushtaq said.

"Recently, a man breathed his last in our locality. Joining his funeral was the most difficult thing. All this makes us pity ourselves. They took us from pristine waters to leave us die in these murky waters here." **IED Found**

celebrations on January 26 for which the security apparatus in the national capital is already on high alert.

"The explosive prima facie looks to be a mix of RDX and ammonium nitrate. It was about 3 kgs in weight and there were some sharpnel embedded," NSG director general M A Ganapathy told PTI. Another National Security Guard

(NSG) officer said they were alerted

by the Delhi Police about the suspi-

cious object around 11 am and soon

after a team of its bomb detection and

disposal experts and a heavy metal

container called total containment

vessel tugged to a truck reached the

market, located close to Delhi's border

Fire officials said they received the

Officials from the special cell of

"The IED was destroyed around

"The samples of the IED have been

information of the suspicious unat-

Delhi Police and fire department also

1:30 pm by using a controlled explo-

sion technique after it was lowered

collected and a detail report will be

sent to the Delhi Police," the NSG of-

A bomb suit wearing NSG person-

nel was also seen at the site apart

into a deep pit located in the area.

with Uttar Pradesh.

reached the spot.

ficer said.

tended bag at 10.19 am.

"The transmission rate of Omicron is very high. It spreads like anything," Dr. Atif Sanae who is posted in SMHS told Kashmir Observer.

Meanwhile, authoritative sources said that the hospitals are running short of doctors and around 500 from the fresh batches are waiting to join and can be a huge boost to hospitals.

"Unfortunately their counselling is yet to be done by BOPEE. They can do it within a week and over 500 doctors can join us," said a doctor.

10 Fold Increase

cases in Jammu and Kashmir and directed observance of strict containment protocols to effectively reduce the rate of transmission, an official spokesperson said.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that the COVID cases in Jammu and Kashmir have risen by 10 times over the past 10 days, which has necessitated strict observance of CAB, COVID SOPs and protocols and curtailment of unnecessary movement by the general public.

The Chief Secretary, he said, appealed to the general public to act responsibly during the third wave of the pandemic and avoid unnecessary and non-essential movement, especially during the weekend, and prevent further surge in cases.

Emphasizing that Omicron has a growth advantage over the delta variant, Mehta, as per the official spokesperson impressed upon the divisional and district administrations to ensure fool-proof enforcement of all COVID protocols and SOPs.

The Chief Secretary, he said, directed mass scale awareness campaign for promoting the district COVID helpline numbers for seeking medical assistance through tele-consultations and re-activation of block-level COVID medical grid to provide isolation facilities at Panchayat level, primary medical assistance at primary health care centres, and referral to district ad tertiary healthcare facilities in cases of emergencies.

"The district administrations were

The Divisional Commissioner, also directed for establishment of Triage Centres-two in each district- one at district Hospital and other at Sub-District Hospital. "All the necessary staff/logistics shall be put in place in these Triage Centres," he said, adding, "All positive cases in the district shall attend the Triage Centre on getting a positive Covid- 19 test report and their further destination shall be decided by the Medical Team at the Triage Centre." In this regard, action has been ordered to be taken by all Deputy Commissioners and Chief Medical Officers.

He also directed designating all those Hospitals as "Dedicated Covid Hospitals" which were earmarked for such purpose during 2nd wave. "Director SKIMS, Principal GMC Sgr/ Ant/Bmr/SKIMS- MCH Bernina have been asked to issue orders," the minutes of the meeting reads further.

He also directed the designation of Special Beds and Wards for Covid-19 positive pregnant ladies.

"In order to prevent overwhelming of health care facilities due to upsurge in Covid-19 cases, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir directed that OPD and Elective Surgeries be put on hold."

He said that in view of huge surge in cases, more manpower may be required to deal with any eventuality. "In this connection the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir instructed for roping in manpower from other departments," it reads, adding, "The Health Teams constituted for monitoring of home isolation cases be also supplemented with additional manpower roped in from other departments, the chair stressed."

In order to review the status of Covid-19, the minutes of meeting state that the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir shall hold weekly review meetings on every Tuesday with Districts and the Deputy Commissioners shall hold review meetings of their districts on every Monday.

"Besides, every hospital shall conduct a 10 to 15 minutes meeting on every alternate day to access the implementation of CAB in their Hospitals (1.32 Cr)

- Gravity Concrete Solutions Pvt Ltd (Rs 1.01 Cr)
- Shaheen Agro Fresh Pvt Ltd (Rs
 1.36 Cr)
- Hassan Road Construction Co. Pvt. Limited (Rs 0.69 cr)
- Pinnacle Resorts Pvt Limited (Rs 2.09 cr)

• HN Agriserve Pvt limited (Rs 0.84 cr). The CAG report further states that the Joint Director (Resources), Finance department stated in August 2020 that sanction was accorded (March 2018) for roll out of CMBIRS as per announcement made by the then Finance Minister in his budget speech 2018-19 and that the verification of genuine beneficiaries vested with JKBL.

"The reply confirmed that funds released by the GoI were diverted by the Government of J&K for its own commitment and not for payment under the scheme of interest subvention," reads the report.

Kashmir To Receive

intense cold wave conditions continued in the valley, officials said here.

The night temperature settled several degrees below normal for this part of the season.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, was the only place in the valley where the night temperature improved on Thursday night, the officials said.

The resort recorded a low of minus 10.5 degrees Celsius, slightly up from minus 11.0 degrees Celsius.

It was for the sixth straight night that the minimum temperature has settled at minus 10 degrees Celsius or below, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir Anantnag district recorded a low of minus 10.3 degrees Celsius, a degree down from the previous night, they said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, settled at minus 3.4 degrees Celsius half-a-degree down from the previous night, the officials said.

They said Qazigund recorded the minimum of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south any interference in matters related to their faith," it said in a statement.

"The recent open call to genocide of Muslims of India at a religious conference in Haridwar and the silence of the state in this regard is a shocking case of bigotedness and discrimination against Muslims, which has become the order of the day," it alleged. The amalgam asked the administra-

tion to desist from issuing such orders in the future. Former chief ministers -- Omar

Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti -- and various political parties also criticised the order.

"Why should Muslim students be forced to do anything, including yoga, to celebrate Makar Sankranti? Makar Sankranti is a festival & to celebrate it or not must be a personal choice. Would the BJP be happy if a similar order was issued to order non-Muslim students to celebrate Eid?" Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, wrote on Twitter.

Mehbooba, who is also the PDP president, said the Centre's "misadventures" aim to collectively "humiliate" Kashmiris.

"GOIs PR misadventures aim to demean and collectively humiliate Kashmiris. Forcing students and staff to perform surya namaskars by issuing orders despite their obvious discomfort with imposition of something laden with religious connotations gives an insight into their communal mindset," Mehbooba said in a tweet.

Peoples Conference (PC) president Sajad Gani Lone also criticised the directive, saying the administration was undoing what liberal Muslims had earned.

In a series of tweets, Lone said the government will not succeed and the will of the people will eventually prevail.

"Why is the govt so insensitive. Now comes the surya namaskar episode. I wish the govt of the day understands that along many bloody battles fought in Kashmir -- of immense importance was the war between liberal and radicals," Lone wrote on Twitter.

"And these were not verbose battles. The blood of the Kashmir liberal Muslim was spilled on the streets. The liberals fought to keep the secular

Why Is Water

the recent dissent demonstration ended on a disappointed note, the subsequent snow drenched their dwellings.

"This snowfall has turned our residential colony into a flood land making it unfit and dangerous for living," Mushtaq, head of the Coordination Committee Rakh-e-Arth Bemina, lamented."Sorrows often come in battalions for us."

This urban sob-story started in 2007, when the Ghulam Nabi Azad government announced to relocate Dal dwellers and rehabilitate them at Rakh-e-Arth. The step was supposedly taken to preserve the water body battling pollution and pathos.

The colony was believed to be developed on modern lines with all facilities like hospitals, schools and other amenities.

But lack of these essential services is causing immense hardships to over 1100 households. Mushtaq being their headman says his community is slowly fading in an atmosphere of apathy.

"Hospital and school buildings are under construction for past 4 years here," he said."We don't even have transport facilities available to attend any emergency situation here."

The colony even lacks ration stores forcing families to ferry their monthly-stock of staple food on load-carriers. It adds to their survival costs.

"At the end of the day it's about respecting human lives," Mushtaq said.

"Why should our children be denied normal upbringing? We were promised a better life for our kids. We happily left behind our traditional homes for the assured life here. But see our condition today! We were better off from officials from the special cell and regular Delhi Police units.

According to preliminary investigation, the bomb was placed at the main gate of the flower market.

"It is suspected that the alleged person did the recee before planting the bomb and we suspect there was a timer placed inside the bomb. The investigation is still underway to ascertain who and how was the bomber placed," a senior police official said.

Case will be registered under explosive act as of now, he said.

All the CCTV cameras installed in and around the vicinity of scene of crime is being scanned to identify the accused and ascertain the sequence of events that unfolded.

Two teams including senior experts of Rohini's Forensic Science Laboratory at currently at the spot for inspection and collection of exhibits, officials said. (PTI)

Arms Cache

orchard.

The recovered arms included six AK rounds, two grenades, three UBGL, seven detonators, three fuses, one bag and a pouch.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and taken up further investigations.

PDD Worker

the electric pole at his native village Bogund on January 9. He was shifted to district hospital Kulgam from where he was referred to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries this morning, said an official here.

Stray Dog Injures

evacuated to NTPHC Qalamabad after bitten by the dog. Malik and Owais were later shifted to SDH Langate for further treatment. A medical official at NTPHC Qalamabad told a local news agency GNS that three persons with dog bite injuries were received at the health facility and they are all stable. **Earthquake Of 5.3**

The quake hit at the coordinates of 36.37 degrees north and 71.5 degrees east at a depth of 81 km, they said. There are no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, they said.

SPORTS

Kohli Blames Batsmen For Series Loss Against S Africa



Agencies

CAPE TOWN: India captain Vi- point any other aspect of our rat Kohli says the team's batting line-up "must be looked into" for tests away from home as he pinned the blame for the team's 2-1 series defeat in South Africa on their inability to cope in the unfamiliar conditions.

South Africa completed a seven wicket victory in the third and final test at Newlands on Friday to take the series win, having come into the contest against number one ranked India as underdogs given their relative level of inexperience.

Only Kohli himself averaged above 40 with the bat among the India players who featured in more than one test, and while the seaming, bouncy wickets he said. were challenging, the captain believes his side could have showed better application.

"One of the challenges we have faced touring abroad is to make sure we capitalise on the momentum when it is on our side. When we do that we have won tests, but when we haven't it has cost us the match," Kohli told reporters.

"It (the reason for the series defeat) is batting, we can't pingame as a team. The batting has to be looked into, there is no

running away from that. "Having collapses every now and then is not a good thing and we need to analyse and correct that moving forward." Kohli said the fact that his side were expected to win speaks volumes for their recent improvement on the road, but that will make this loss all the more disappointing as they still seek a first series victory in South Africa.

"We know how far we have come as a team. The fact that we came to South Africa and people expect us to win is testimony to what we have done in the past,"

"But that does not guarantee you results, you still have to come out and play hard cricket, which

we failed to do this time round. "I am not going to stand here and say, 'oh, but we won in Australia and we won in England', we have to turn up to every series and try and win that one and we still haven't done that in South Africa."

DYSS Holds 'Surya Namaskar Aasan' At Anantnag



Observer News Service

tion of YS&SO Anantnag. The they all believe that such events **ANANTNAG:** The Youth Services different Zonal Physical Educaand Sports office (YS&SO) Anantnag on Friday organised a "large-scale" virtual/physical performing of 'Surya Namaskar aasan' under 'Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' campaign at different venues of the district at Zonal level.

The programme was inaugurated at District Headquarter Anantnag by following the di-

tion Offices of the district also when they are in home isolation organized the said programme due to Covid-19 restrictions," an at different locations by adherofficial statement said. ing to CAB. "On the occasion, District Youth Services and Sports Of-In strict adherence to CAB and other SOPs, the least num- ficer Anantnag interacted with ber of staff and students as per all participants virtually and

the Government Guidelines encouraged them for participarticipated in the "Surya Napation despite harsh winter maskar" events. climatic conditions," the state-"The participants showed a ment added.

South Africa Beat India By 7 Wickets, Win Series 2-1

CAPE TOWN: South Africa beat series 2-1.

Resuming the day 101 for two, South Africa go the job done in 63.3 overs with major contributions coming from Keegan Petersen (82), Rassie van der Dussen (41 not out) and Temba Bavuma (32 not out). The target of 212 wasn't a

ting the final touches.

played one on to his stumps off dia's best chance to win their 1/41, Jasprit Bumrah 1/54).



India had won the opening **Brief Scores:** Test in Centurion by 113 runs before the hosts bounced back in Johannesburg with a seven dismissed on the day as he The contest was seen as In- Dussen 41 not out; M Shami

maiden series in South Africa

Head's Century Lifts Australia From 12-3 To 241-6 Against England



Agencies

HOBART: Travis Head spoiled a promising start for England in the Ashes on Friday with his second century of the series as Australia recovered from 12-3 to reach 241-6 at stumps on a rainhit first day of the fifth test.

Head, who scored 152 in the opening test at Brisbane, counterpunched England's early success with an aggressive 101 off 113 balls in the day-night test as Australia came back strongly after losing the toss. Cameron Green contributed an authoritative 74 and Marnus Labuschagne scored a rapid 44 before rain arrived around half an hour after

tea and prevented further play. Head entered with Australia in serious trouble after a brilliant spell of swing and seam bowling from Ollie Robinson (2-24), one of the five changes England made, and Stuart Broad (2-48) on a lively green wicket.

Head, who missed the Sydney test due to the coronavirus, first put the innings back on track with a 71-run stand with Labuschagne, but not before Zak Crawley had dropped Labuschagne at second slip before the batter had scored.

That drop proved costly for England which has already lost the Ashes after losing the first three test matches at Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne before the draw in Sydney.

Labuschagne counterpunched the pace of Chris Woakes (1-50) and Mark Wood (1-79) by clobbering nine boundaries before getting dismissed in a bizarre fashion just before the first session.

Labuschagne was clean bowled in an unusual style when he appeared to slip in the crease and Broad had the middle stump knocked back with the batsman falling over on his knees while going way across his stumps.

But Head and Green continued to prosper against Wood and Woakes in a dominant middle session which yielded 130 runs. Head played some exquisite drives on both sides of the wicket, particularly in front of square as he hammered 12 boundaries before raising his century by cutting Woakes to backward point for two runs.

Broad troubled openers David Warner and Usman Khawaja as he bowled three successive maiden overs before Warner edged Robinson to Crawley and fell for a 22-ball duck.

Bayern Defender Davies Has Heart Muscle Issue After Virus



Agencies

mann said. Myocarditis is a mild, temporary condition in the vast majority of cases, according to experts. Bayern said last week that Dacle inflammation after being in- vies had tested positive and he fected with the coronavirus, coach was back in training on Wednesday. Nagelsmann said Davies

'Can't Be A Role Model': **Gambhir Slams Kohli**



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli's outburst against a controversial DRS **Don't Know':** decision during the third Tes

'People Outside

Press Trust of India

India by seven wickets to win the third Test and secure the

tough ask, young pretender Petersen along with van der Dussen added 54 runs for the third wicket to seal the match before Bavuma helped in put-

Petersen was the only one wicket victory.



improve physical fitness, mostly

MUNICH: Bayern Munich left back Alphonso Davies has been sidelined with evidence of heart mus-

against South Africa was "immature" and with such "exaggerated" reaction, the India skipper will never be a role model to youngsters, feels former opener Gautam Gambhir.

Kohli, his deputy KL Rahul and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin made some unsavoury comments about umpiring and technology in stump mic after rival skipper Dean Elgar got a massive reprieve due to a contentious DRS decision in the last hour on day 3.

"This is really bad. What Kohli did, going near the stump mic and reacting in that manner, that is really immature. This is not what you expect from an international captain, from an Indian captain," Gambhir told Star Sports.

Gambhir pointed out that Mayank Agarwal too had got a reprieve during the first Test in Centurion but it didn't invite similar response from the South African skipper.

'Then technology isn't in your hand. Then you have reacted in the same manner when there was a caught-behind appeal on the leg-side, neither did Dean Elgar react in that manner. During that Mayank Agarwal appeal, it looked OUT from the naked eye, but Elgar did not react in that manner," he said.

In the 21st over, Elgar was adjudged LBW by the on-field umpire Marais Erasmus when he was hit on the pads by an Ashwin delivery. However, the decision was overturned on review. Livid with the decision, a fumnot just the opposition. Trying to catch people all the time."

Rahul and Ashwin also exthe whole country against 11 guys, said KL Rahul, while Ash-"You should find better ways to win, SuperSport."

"No matter what you say, stuff this manner."

Kohli Rejects Criticism

Agencies

CAPE TOWN: India captain Virat Kohli on Friday defended his team's verbal attack on the broadcasters after Dean Elgar's contentious DRS reprieve, saying that people on the outside don't understand the trigger for such an outburst.

"I have no comment to make on either. We understood what happened on the field and people on the outside don't know exact details of what goes on on the field," he said in the post-match press conference here on Friday.

"For me to try and justify what we did on the field and say we got carried away is all...," he didn't finish the sentence. "If we had gotten charged up and picked up three wickets there, that would have been probably the moment that changed the game," he added

"That one moment seems very nice and very exciting to make a controversy out of, which honestly, I am not interested in making...It was just (a) moment that passed and we moved on from it. And we just kept focussing on the game and tried to pick up wickets," Kohli asserted. (PTI)

like he plays with his heart on his sleeve, this reaction was an exaggerated one and you can't be a role model in this manner. ing Kohli went up to the stumps No budding cricketers would and said: "Focus on your team as want to see this kind of a reacwell when they shine the ball eh, tion, especially from the Indian captain," Gambhir said.

"No matter the result in this Test match, this is not what pressed similar reactions. It's you expect from a Test captain who has led the team for so long. I hope Rahul Dravid has win slammed the broadcaster: a word with him, because the type of captain Dravid was, he would have never reacted in

Djokovic Faces Deportation As Australia Revokes Visa Again

Agencies MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic cancelled when he landed at a faces deportation again after Melbourne airport. the Australian government revoked his visa for a second time, the latest twist in the on- on returning to the country. That going saga over whether the No. 1-ranked tennis player will be allowed to compete in the be allowed to com-Australian Open despite being pete at the Australian unvaccinated for COVID-19.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said Friday he used his comed ministerial discretion to cancel the 34-year-old Serb's visa on public interest grounds – just achieved one of the three days before play begins lowest at the Australian Open, where death rates, stron-Djokovic has won a record nine of his 20 Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic's lawyers were ex- rates in the world. pected to appeal at the Fed-"This eral Circuit and Family Court, demic has been which they already successfully incredibly

did last week on procedural ficult for every Australian but grounds after his visa was first we have stuck together and saved lives and livelihoods. ... Australians have made many

Deportation from Australia usually leads to a three-year ban would make Djokovic 37

the next time he would Open.

Morrison wel-Djokovic's pending deportation, saying Australia had pandemic gest economies and highest vaccination

protected," Morrison said in a statement. "This is what the Minister is doing in taking this action today. Everyone at the Australian Open — includ-ing players, their support

teams and spectators — is required to be vaccinated for the illness caused by the coronavirus. Djokovic is not inoculated and had sought a medical exemption on the grounds that he had COVID-19 in December

sacrifices during this pandem-

ic, and they rightly expect the

result of those sacrifices to be

Spanish FA Draws Flak For Super Cup In Saudi Arabia

pan-

dif

Agencies

BARCELONA: Facing criticism from human rights groups, the president of Spain's soccer federation defended the return of the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia as Real Madrid prepared to play Athletic Bilbao in Sunday's final.

Amnesty International had asked the four teams that traveled to the mini-tournament to to take the new-look version of wear armbands to protest the the Super Cup to the kingdom and attacks on the LGBTQ com- brought to Spanish soccer - remunity in the country. No team did so in this week's semifinals, when Madrid beat Barcelona 3-2 in extra time and Bilbao ral- the small steps it fostered for lied past Atlético Madrid 2-1.



Federation president Luis Rubiales insisted that the decision portedly some 30 million euros (\$34 million) a year through

2029 – and for what he called Saudi women.

sign a contract that made it obligatory, if they wanted us to bring the Super Cup here, to let women into the stadiums, and they are there, and we have helped build a women's soccer league in Saudi Arabia," Rubiales told Cadena SER radio on Thursday night. "On an ethical plane, we are

doing a lot here to help the development of women in soccer, which is our commitsuppression of women's rights was both good for the money it ment. The rest of the political questions are outside the scope of soccer."

> While women were in the King Fahd stadium for the semifinals, the crowd was overwhelmingly male.

Iulian Nagelsmann said Friday. be out of action for at least "the coming weeks" after the inflam- time to recover.

mation, known as myocarditis, was detected in a follow-up inflammation as "mild" and "not so dramatic," citing the results of an ultrasound examination.

"Despite that, it needs to heal and that will definitely take a certain amount of time," Nagels-

The Canada international will would now stop training until further notice to give his body

That could keep Davies out of Canada's next three World Cup examination after his return to qualifying games in late January training this week, Nagelsmann and early February, including a said. The coach described the game against the United States on Jan. 30. Canada leads qualifying in the CONCACAF region as it tries to reach its first World Cup since 1986.

Bayern leads the Bundesliga and plays Cologne on Saturday.

Messi To Miss Another PSG Game, Says COVID Recovery Slow

Agencies

PARIS: Lionel Messi will miss another game for Paris Saint-Germain after acknowledging that his recovery from COVID-19 has been slower than expected.

The Argentina forward won't be available for Saturday's game against Brest at Parc des Princes, PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino said Friday.

The 34-year-old Messi missed

PSG's 1-1 draw at Lyon last Sunday when the French league returned 🦻 👟 its winter from break. Messi had become infected home in while Argentina. He later tested negative and

Paris Messi said in a social media post on Thursday that "it has OR LIVE LIMITLE taken me 2 time more than I had expected to get better"

returned to

but that he's "almost recovered" and eager to get back on the field

"I have been training these days to get back to 100%," he wrote on Instagram. "There are some very exciting challenges ahead this year and I hope that we can all see one another again very soon."

Pochettino said Messi remains under the supervision of the team's medical staff. The club said Friday that Messi "will gradually rejoin the squad next week." After this weekend, league-leader PSG hosts Reims on Jan. 23 before the international break.

Neymar remains out because an ankle injury he picked up in late November and wasn't included in the Brazil squad announced Thursday for World Cup qualifying Argentina and Brazil have already qualified for the World Cup.



OUTPOST

Russia Threatens Latin America Troop Deployments Amid US Tensions

Agenceis

top Russian official has re-A fused to rule out minute y exployments to Cuba and Venezuela if tensions with the West over Ukraine continue to escalate.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Thursday that he could "neither confirm nor exclude" the possibility of Russia sending military assets to Latin America if the United States and its allies do not curtail their military activities on Russia's doorstep.

"It all depends on the action by our US counterparts," Ryabkov said in an interview with Russian television network RTVI, citing Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning that Moscow could take unspecified "military-technical measures" if Western powers fail to heed its demands.

Thursday's spat came as a week of Western-led diplomacy aimed at easing Russia-Ukraine tensions headed to a close without a breakthrough.

US-Russia talks in Geneva on Monday and a related NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels on Wednesday took place in response to a significant Russian troop buildup near Ukraine that the West fears might be a prelude to an invasion.

which Russia. annexed Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in 2014, has denied having plans to make another incursion into its neighbour.

Instead, the Kremlin has accused NATO of threatening its territory and demanded that the military alliance never embrace Ukraine or any other ex-Soviet nations as new members.

firmly rejected the demand this

week as a point they would not

back down on, but NATO and

Russian negotiators agreed to

leave the door open to further

talks on arms control and other

issues intended to reduce the

Ryabkov last month com-

pared the current tensions over

Ukraine with the 1962 Cuban

Missile Crisis - when the So-

viet Union deployed missiles to

Cuba and the US imposed a naval

That crisis ended after then-

US President John F Kennedy and

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev

agreed that Moscow would with-

draw its missiles in exchange for

Washington's pledge not to in-

vade Cuba and the removal of US

missiles from Turkey.

blockade around the island.

potential for hostilities.

Washington and its allies

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan dismissed the statements about a possible Russian deployment to Cuba and Venezuela as "bluster in the public commentary."

He told reporters in Washington that "if Russia were to move in that direction, we would deal with it decisively"

Soon after his first election in 2000, Putin closed a Soviet-built military surveillance facility in Cuba as he sought to improve ties with Washington.

But Moscow has intensified contacts with Cuba in recent years and in December 2018, Russia briefly dispatched a pair of its nuclear-capable Tu-160 bombers to Venezuela in a show of support for President Nicolas Maduro.

Cuban Missile Crisis comparison

Meet The Avatar Robot That

Goes To School For Sick

7-Year-Old German Boy

Pandemic To Endemic? Moderna Chair Says It Could Happen This Year

Saturday | 15.01.2022



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The pandemic could start moving into an endemic phase in 2022, though countries will need to stay vigilant as the omicron variant spreads, according to Moderna

Inc. co-founder Noubar Afeyan. While some countries slowly begin to consider treating Covid as an endemic disease, like the flu, World Health Organization officials have said it's too early to make that call as cases surge. "2022 may be the year that

the pandemic enters an endemic phase, but it really depends on what happens and the decisions that are made across the world,"

Afeyan said in a Bloomberg Television interview Friday with Francine Lacqua. Although omicron is highly transmissible,"on the other hand it's having a lesser effect in terms of seriousness of disease," he said.

Moderna's omicron-specific booster shot could enter into human trials within weeks, he said, reiterating comments Chief Executive Officer Stephane Bancel made earlier this week. The CEO said he expected another booster would be needed in the fall, and it is likely to contain a component tailored to omicron.

"We will be ready with our testing starting in weeks," Af-

eyan said Friday. "Whether we need a booster rather in the spring than the fall is something that we're going to have to work with officials all around the world to sort out."

Shares of Moderna declined 3.3% in pre-market trading in New York.

Moderna, along with Pfizer Inc. and its partner BioNTech SE, developed highly effective Covid-19 vaccines based on messenger RNA technology. Moderna said earlier this week that it has signed vaccine purchase agreements worth \$18.5 billion for this year, along with options for another \$3.5 billion, including booster shots.

zen assets are a lethal combination for the people of Afghanistan," and "rules and conditions that prevent money from being used to save lives and the economy must be suspended in this emergency situation."

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social collapse.

The United Nations chief

warned Thursday that mil-

lions of Afghans are on the

"verge of death," urging the inter-

national community to fund the

UN's USD 5 billion humanitarian

appeals, release Afghanistan's fro-

zen assets and jump-start its bank-

ing system to avert economic and

Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres told reporters that

"freezing temperatures and fro-

Afghanistan's aid-dependent economy was already stumbling when the Taliban seized power in mid-August amid the chaotic departure of US and NATO troops after 20 years. The international community

froze Afghanistan's assets abroad and halted economic support, unwilling to work with the Taliban, given their reputation for brutality during their 1996-2001 rule and refusal to educate girls and allow women to work.

The UN says 8.7 million Afghans are on the brink of starvation and Guterres said it's critical to rapidly inject liquidity into the Afghan economy "and avoid a meltdown that would lead to poverty, hunger and destitution for millions."

It's "absolutely essential" to avoid a breakdown, he stressed, "because with the present situation you have Afghans on the verge of death."

The secretary-general said the United States has "a very important role to play because most of the financial system in the world

in the city's Green Zone that is

also home to the country's na-

At least four rockets launched

from the Dora neighborhood of the

city targeted the embassy, with three

crashing down near the building and

a third hitting a nearby school, ABC News reported, citing two unnamed

Three of the missiles struck

within the perimeter of the

American Embassy, the officials

said. Another hit a school located

in a nearby residential complex.

The officials spoke on condition of

anonymity because they were not

An Iragi military statement

authorized to talk to the media.

tional government.

Iraqi security officials.

operates in dollars" and the United States has frozen \$7 billion in Afghan foreign reserves, mainly held in the US.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, are scheduled to hold a virtual meeting Friday with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Guterres said one reason for the meeting is to try and create "mechanisms that allow for an effective injection of funds into the Afghan economy and, at the same time, create the conditions for the financial system in Afghanistan to be able to operate in the local currency.'

The UN chief said international funding should be allowed to pay the salaries of doctors, sanitation workers, electrical engineers and other civil servants, as well as help Afghan institutions deliver health care, education and other key services.

Last month, the World Bank transferred USD 280 million from a reconstruction trust fund it administers for Afghanistan to the UN children's agency, UNI-CEF, and the World Food Program for their operations in the country, Guterres said.

"I hope the remaining resources – more than \$ 1.2 billion will become available to help Afghanistan's people survive the winter," he said.

While appealing to the international community to support the Afghan people, Guterres said he was making an equally urgent appeal to Taliban leaders "to recognise and protect the fundamental human rights, and in particular the rights of women and girls," and to build government institutions in which all Afghans feel represented.

PM Imran Khan Launches Pakistan's First-Ever National Security Policy

stand up for the country. And

this can be achieved through

inclusive growth. We need to de-

velop as a nation, not in sections,

policy will remain classified.

The original version of the

The main themes of the Na-

tional Security Policy are nation-

al cohesion, securing an econom-

ic future, defence and territorial

integrity, internal security, for-

akistan Prime Minister

icy, which articulates a citizencentric framework, placing economic security at its core unlike the previous one-dimensional

Unveiling the public version of the policy, which was separately endorsed by the National Security Committee and the Cabinet

said that the previous governments had failed to strengthen Pakistan's economy.

eign policy in a changing world

Khan said.

2022-26, is being propped up by the Khan government as the country's first-ever strategy Kashmir issue as the core of the bilateral relationship.

When asked about the message it sends to India, Yusuf said: and jump on the bandwagon to benefit from regional connectivity to uplift our peoples. It also tells India, if you don't want to do the right thing, it will be a loss to the entire region, but most of all India.

said that Pakistan is willing to make peace with immediate neighbours, including India, under the new security policy which leaves doors open for trade with New Delhi even without the settlement of the Kashmir issue provided there is headway in bilateral talks.

Peace with immediate neigh-

Embassy In Baghdad: Report of the year, following the second anniversary of the U.S. strike that number of rockets were killed Iranian Gen. Qassim Soleilaunched at the US embasmani and Iraqi militia command-Asy in Baghdad on Thursday

er Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. Last Thursday, a series of attacks targeted American troops in Iraq and Syria. Rockets struck an Iraqi military base hosting U.S. troops in western Anbar province and the capital.

Pro-Iran Shiite factions in Iraq have vowed revenge for Soleimani's killing and have conditioned the end of the attacks on the full exit of American troops from the country.

The U.S.-led coalition formally ended its combat mission supporting Iraqi forces in the ongoing fight against the Islamic State group last month. Some 2,500 troops will remain as the coalition shifts to an advisory mission to

"We are the only district in Berlin that has bought four avatars for its schools. The impetus was COVID-19, but I think this will be the future well beyond

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Imran Khan on Friday launched the country's first-ever National Security Pol-

security policy where the focus was on the military.

clearly explained in the new orig-

inal 100-page document, he said, adding that the policy articulates a citizen-centric framework, placing economic security at its core and seeking a secure and economically resilient Pakistan. Khan said that Pakistan, since its evolution, has had a one-dimensional security policy where the focus was on the military. "For the first time, the National Security Division has developed a consensus document which defines national security in a proper way," he added. The powerful army, which has

paper of its kind that spells out the national security vision and guidelines for the attainment of those goals. "We need to realise that our biggest security is when the people become stakeholders and

last month, Prime Minister Khan

The national security has been

and human security. Earlier National visor Moeed Yusuf said that Pakistan, under the new policy, will be shifting to a Comprehensive National Security Framework with the aim of ensuring the safety, security, and dignity of the citizens of Pakistan. "The policy puts economic security at the core. A stronger economy would create additional resources which would then be distributed to further bolster military and human security, he said. On the foreign front, the new policy highlights disinformation, Hindutva, and the use of aggression for domestic political gains as key threats from India, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. The report, quoting Yusuf, said

Multiple Rockets Target US the policy places the Jammu and Agenceis

it tells India to do the right thing

Earlier this week, an official

bours and economic diplomacy will be the central theme o Pakistan's foreign policy in the new National Security Policy, the newspaper reported on Tuesday. "We are not seeking hostility with India for the next 100 years. The new policy seeks peace with immediate neighbours, the official said on condition of anonymity. If there is a dialogue and progress, there would be a possibility of normalising trade and commercial ties with India as it had happened in the past, the official added. India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

UN Chief Warns Millions Of Afghans Are On "Verge Of Death"

act with his teacher and classmates through an avatar robot that sits in class in his place and sends a blinking signal when he has something to say.

Berlin: Joshua Martinangeli, 7,

is too ill to go to school. But the

German student can still inter-

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"The children talk to him, laugh with him and sometimes even chitchat with him during the lesson. Joshi can do that quite well, too," Ute Winterberg, headmistress at the Pusteblume-Grundschule in Berlin, told Reuters in an interview.

Joshua cannot attend classes because he wears a tube in his neck due to a severe lung disease, said his mother, Simone Martinangeli.

The project is a private initiative paid for by the local council in the Berlin district Marzahn-Hellersdorf.

the pandemic." said district education councillor Torsten Kuehne

"It does happen from time to time, for various reasons, that a child cannot go to class in person. Then, the avatar can give that child a chance to remain part of the school community, Kuehne said.

He added that he had already brought up the project in political discussions at a state level.

"I like it either way because I like the avatar," said student Noah Kuessner when asked if he is looking forward to seeing Joshua again.

"And I would like it better if Joshi could really come to school," said another classmate, Beritan Aslanglu

ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

The five-year-policy document covering a period between

said a girl and a woman were injured in the attack, without providing more details. The statement said the rockets had been launched from the Dora neighborhood of Baghdad.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad said in a statement that its compound had been attacked by "terrorists groups attempting to undermine Iraq's security, sovereignty, and international relations." The embassy's C-RAM defense system - supposed to detect and destroy incoming rockets, artillery and mortar shells – was heard during the attack.

The attack is the latest in a series of rocket and drone attacks that have targeted the American presence in Iraq since the start continue supporting Iraqi forces. The top U.S. commander for the Middle East, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, warned in an interview with The Associated Press last month that he expects increasing attacks on U.S. and Iraqi personnel by Iranian-backed militias deter-

mined to get American forces out. A spokesperson for the embassy told the news outlet that it had been targeted by "terrorists groups attempting to undermine Iraq's security, sovereignty, and international relations."

Thursday's attack is the latest in a string of military strikes against US forces in the region.

Last Thursday, a military base in Iraq that houses US troops was also hit by rocket fire.

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