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P4 THINK

## TWO MIDDLE EASTS

When Yemeni Houthi rebels struck Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, killing three people on Jan. 17, the Biden administration strongly condemned what it called "terrorist attacks." It was the 14th time the State

P5 THINK

## BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

Do any of the following statements define how you think, emote and behave? "I frequently feel empty." "My emotions are volatile, and I frequently

P7 STATE

## BSF ON HIGH ALERT IN J&K DESPITE INCLEMENT WEATHER

Amid intelligence inputs that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is not leaving any stone unturned to send militants into the Kashmir Valley and poll-



Widom Quote!

You are what you believe yourself to be  
— Paulo Coelho

## NEWS DIGEST

### CRPF Man Dies Of Heart Attack

**JAMMU:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) constable died on Thursday inside his camp in Dhriti Dhorre area of Katra in Jammu division. 38-year-old Harbhajan Singh suffered a heart attack when he was taking a morning walk inside his camp in Dhriti Dhorre. [More On P6](#)

### Tourist Guide Goes Missing In Gulmarg

**SRINAGAR:** A tourist guide has reportedly gone missing in famous tourist destination Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday. Reports said a tourist guide named Firdous Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Mohammad. [More On P6](#)

### Devender Rana Calls On LG

**JAMMU:** Former Legislator and senior BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here and raised various issues of public importance. Rana had a detailed interaction with the Lt Governor. [More On P6](#)

### 179 More Test Positive In Ladakh

**LEH:** Ladakh has reported 179 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 25,215 while the active cases in the union territory climbed to 1,308, officials said on Thursday. The union territory has recorded 223 Covid-related deaths -- 164 in Leh and 59 in Kargil --. [More On P6](#)

### Corrigendum

Due to typography error, the month mentioned on Thursday's issue of KO was written as September 27 instead of January 27. Inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.

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Regularly?



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## Govt Shifts 33 Officers In Minor Reshuffle

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered transfer of 33 officers, 32 of them JKAS, in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to an order issued here, Syed Yasir Farooq, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Home Department.

Shavi, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Handlooms, Jammu, against an available vacancy.

Mohammad Idrees, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Doda, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Doda, against an available vacancy.

Towfeeq Ahmad Gazi, JKAS, BDO, Lar, Ganderbal, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Beerwah, against an available vacancy. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Beerwah, till further orders.

Sanjeev Sharma, JKAS, Field Officer in the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, [More On P6](#)

## Reshuffle In Police, Several SHOs Transferred

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered transfer and posting of 18 police inspectors, sub-inspectors and PSIs with immediate effect.

In an order issued here on Thursday, the District Police Headquarters ordered transfer of Sajad Assad Ganie from Police Station to PS Parimpora as SHO, Raies Hassan Wani from PS Parimpora to PS Nishat as SHO, Tanveer Ahmad Dar from PS Soura to PS Nowgam as SHO, Syed Iqbal Rashid from PS Nowgam to PS Soura as SHO, Tariq Ahmad Wani from PP Ahmed Nagar to PS Maisuma as SHO, Manzoor Ahmad Ganie from PP Nehrupark to newly upgraded police station Ahmad Nagar as SHO, Gurpurab Singh from PS Karan Nagar to DPL Srinagar, Mohammad Abass Chak from PP Bonmohalla to PS Karan Nagar as SHO, Showkat Ali Darzi from PS Maisuma to PP Nehrupark as Incharge, Ghulam Mohammad Rather from DPL Srinagar [More On P6](#)



An elderly man carries his grandchild on his shoulders during fresh snowfall in Hirpora area of Shopian district. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Centre Extends Covid-19 Curbs Till February 28



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Home Ministry on Thursday extended the existing COVID-19 containment measures till February 28 in view of the wave of infections, driven by the Omicron variant, still raging and 407 districts reporting a positivity rate of over 10 per cent.

In a communication to all states and Union territories, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said active cases have increased to over 22 lakh even though a majority of the patients are recovering fast and a low percentage of

cases are in hospitals.

"It is still a matter of concern that 407 districts in 34 states and Union Territories are reporting a positivity rate of more than 10 per cent.

"Therefore, looking at the current trends of Covid, there is a need to exercise caution and vigilance," Bhalla said in the letter to the chief secretaries, while extending the existing restrictions till February 28.

He reiterated that given the current situation all the states and Union Territories must observe all precautions [More On P6](#)

## J&K Logs 4959 New Corona Cases, 7 Deaths

Coronavirus cases witnessed a slight decline in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday as 4959 more people tested positive for the virus while seven more succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 3565 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while 1394 were registered in various districts of Jammu division on Thursday, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across J&K to 419731. In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 841 new cases of Coronavirus, Baramulla 784, Kupwara 529, Budgam 440, Anantnag 299, Kulgam 295, Pulwama 135, Bandipora 130, Ganderbal 87 and Shopian 25. In the winter capital, they said, Jammu reported a maximum of 703 new cases of virus, Kishtwar 165, Doda 162, Samba 110, Ramban 99, Rajouri 68, Udhampur 31, Poonch 25, Kathua 23 and Reasi 8. "Moreover, 6264 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 3371 [More On P6](#)

## Militants Give Slip To Forces In Shopian

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Unidentified militants managed to give slip to the government forces after engaging them in a brief gunfight on Wednesday in south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said Thursday.

A joint team of Police, Army and CRPF launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) on specific information about the presence of militants in the Check Nowgam area of the district on Wednesday evening, said an official.

He said that as the joint team of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them, which retaliated, triggering a gunfight.

He added that during the initial exchange of fire, three soldiers were injured, however, militants managed to escape from the spot, according to news reports from the area.

He added that cordon layers were tightened after initial exchange of fire, however, nothing has been found so far.

Identifying three injured soldiers as Somveer Kumar, Mayank Singh and [More On P6](#)

## Cold Wave Intensifies Across Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The minimum temperature across Kashmir plunged below the freezing point with the tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam reeling under extreme cold, officials said here on Thursday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius down from 1.3 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 10 degrees Celsius slightly up from minus 10.4 degrees Celsius the previous night. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 10.9 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius. The minimum [More On P6](#)

## Traffic Restored On Banihal Highway

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was reopened on Thursday for vehicular traffic after remaining closed for a day due to landslides in Ramban district, sources said. The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was blocked by a landslide at Panthiyal area in Ramban district Thursday morning, they said. As a result, hundreds of vehicles were stranded at different points of the highway, they said. On Wednesday, the highway was closed at Duggi area due to the landslide, which [More On P6](#)

## PM's Development Package For Migrants

## CAG Red Flags Rs 3.52 Cr Financial Help To 64 'Ineligible Cases'

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** The latest audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for the financial year ending March, 2019 has noted that neither survey for identification of genuine displaced persons of "Pakistan controlled Jammu and Kashmir (PcJK)" was carried out nor the database was maintained for establishing the identities of displaced persons including families residing outside Jammu and Kashmir.

As per CAG, the failure in maintaining a proper database for the displaced persons of PcJK has also led to failure in



verification of payments to beneficiaries in the audit creating strong apprehensions that the payment could've been made to "ineligible" persons.

Pertinently, under the Prime

Minister's Development Package (PMDP), a package assistance of 2,000 crore from the GoI for a one-time settlement was to be provided to 36,384 families displaced from Pakistan controlled Jammu and Kashmir (PcJK) in 1947 and from Chhamb during the years 1965 and 1971.

The audit has raised serious doubts on the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department for its failure of assistance for the betterment of the PcJK and Chhamb displaced families. "The requisite infrastructure had not been provided by the Department as envisaged in the scheme guidelines," reads the CAG report. [More On P6](#)

## Govt Sacks Two More Teachers, Tally Reaches 30

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The government on Monday terminated two more teachers of School Education Department from the services for remaining absent un-authorizedly.

In an order issued by the Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), said that these teachers have been remaining absent un-authorized from their legitimate duties.

In one of the orders issued by the DSEK, it states that one among the terminated teachers continues to remain absent un-authorizedly for more than a decade while another has been absent since 2018.

"One of the teachers posted at GHS Batmaloo, Srinagar

remained un-authorizedly absent from her legitimate duties from March-01-2011 and despite providing of enough opportunities to resume her duties by the Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) concerned neither she responded the notices nor resumed her duties," DSEK said.

The order reads, "The absconding teacher was provided more opportunities by this office on April-19-2021 followed by a joint show cause notice on July-07-2021 wherein she was asked to present herself before DSEK along with statement of defense within seven days failing which action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against [More On P6](#)

## J&K Brings Regn Of Immovable Properties Documents Under PSGA

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir has now made it mandatory for authorities to complete registration of documents relating to sale of immovable properties, within two days.

In a notification, the Jammu & Kashmir government has brought registration of documents under the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA). The PSGA guarantees time-bound delivery of public services to the people.

According to the notification, the timeline for registration of documents is two days.

The notification also states that timeline for delivery of

registration of documents by the authorities is also two days.

While sub-registrar and registrar have been notified as designated officers for these services, the registrar and additional inspector general of registrar have been designated as first appellate authorities for the same.

As per notification, additional inspector general of registration and inspector general of registration have been notified as second appellate authorities for these services.

It is worthwhile to mention that before reorganization of erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, the powers of registration of documents were lying with judiciary. [More On P6](#)





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## 'Better Gender Balance In The Boardroom Associated With More Responsive Recall Decisions'

Agencies

According to a recent research, adding women to a company's board can help speed up necessary product recalls and increase customer safety and societal benefits. The study has been published in the 'Manufacturing & Service Operations Management Journal'. "As boards add female directors, recall decisions change. Companies initi-

ate more medical product recalls that are low in severity, which indicates a reduced tendency to hide quality problems that are discretionary. They also make faster recall decisions for the most serious defects that are high in severity and dangerous for customers," said Kaitlin Wowak of the University of Notre Dame. The study conducted by Wowak alongside George Ball of Indiana University, Corinne Post of Villanova



University and David Ketchen, Jr. of Auburn University,

analyzed more than 4,000 medical product recalls

from 2002 to 2013 across 92 publicly traded firms regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The study's results highlighted prior research findings suggesting that women in general are more likely to follow rules than their male counterparts and supported the authors' theory that boards with more female directors will set a stricter rule-following tone than boards with few or no female directors.

"Our findings detail that one female director appears to significantly influence low severity recall decisions. This indicates that companies hide fewer discretionary recalls when women are added to the board. Interestingly, when it comes to severe recalls, at least two female directors are required to influence how quickly companies respond and recall," said Ball, an associate professor in the Kelley School of Business.

## Human Brain Automatically Smoothes Our Visual Input Over Time

Everything we see is a mash-up of the brain's last 15 seconds of visual information

Agencies

Our eyes are continuously bombarded by an enormous amount of visual information millions of shapes, colours and ever-changing motion all around us. For the brain, this is no easy feat. On the one hand, the visual world alters continuously because of changes in light, viewpoint and other factors. On the other, our visual input constantly changes due to blinking and the fact that our eyes, head and body are frequently in motion. To get an idea of the noisiness of this visual input, place a phone in front of your eyes and record a live video while you are walking around and looking at different things. The jittery, messy result is exactly what your brain deals with in every moment of your visual experience. This can be seen also in the video below. The white circle on the right shows potential eye movements, and the blurry blob on the left reveals the jumpy visual input in every moment. Yet, seeing never feels like work for us. Rather than perceiving the fluctuations and visual noise that a video might record, we perceive a consistently stable environment. So how does our brain create this illusion of stability? This process has fascinated scientists for centuries and it is one of the fundamental questions in vision science.



tle changes that occur over time. In other words, the brain is like a time machine which keeps sending us back in time. It's like an app that consolidates our visual input every 15 seconds into one impression so that we can handle everyday life. If our brains were always updating in real time, the world would feel like a chaotic place with constant fluctuations in light, shadow and movement. We would feel like we were hallucinating all the time. We created an illusion to illustrate how this stabilisation mechanism works. Looking at the video below, the face on the left side slowly ages for 30 seconds, and yet, it is very difficult to notice the full extent of the change in age. In fact, observers perceive the face as ageing more slowly than it actually is. To test this illusion we recruited hundreds of participants and asked them to view close-ups of faces morphing chronologically in age in 30-second time-lapse videos. When asked to tell the age of the face at the very end of the video, the participants almost consistently reported the age of the face that was presented 15 seconds before. As we watch the video, we are continuously biased towards the past and so the brain constantly sends us back to the previous ten to 15 seconds (where the face was younger). Instead of seeing the latest image in real time, humans actually see earlier versions because our brain's refresh time is about 15 seconds. So this illusion demonstrates

that visual smoothing over time can help stabilise perception. What the brain is essentially doing is procrastinating. It's too much work to constantly deal with every single snapshot it receives, so the brain sticks to the past because the past is a good predictor of the present. Basically we recycle information from the past because it's more efficient, faster and less work. This idea which is also supported by other results of mechanisms within the brain that continuously bias our visual perception towards our past visual experience is known as continuity fields. Our visual system sometimes sacrifices accuracy for the sake of a smooth visual experience of the world around us. This can explain why, for example, when watching a film we don't notice subtle changes that occur over time, such as the difference between actors and their stunt doubles.

Repercussions There are positive and negative implications to our brain operating with this slight lag when processing our visual world. The delay is great for preventing us from feeling bombarded by visual input every day, but it can also risk life-or-death consequences when absolute precision is needed. For example, radiologists examine hundreds of images in batches, seeing several related images one after the other. When looking at an X-ray, clinicians are typically asked to identify any abnormalities and then classify them.

The Conversation

The time machine brain In our latest research, we discovered a new mechanism that, among others, can explain this illusory stability. The brain automatically smoothes our visual input over time. Instead of analysing every single visual snapshot, we perceive in a given moment an average of what we saw in the past 15 seconds. So, by pulling together objects to appear more similar to each other, our brain tricks us into perceiving a stable environment. Living in the past can explain why we do not notice sub-

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL 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.com

Subject: - Filling up of MD/MS Management Seats of Hindu Minority (HM) and Non-Resident Indians (NRI) Quota of ASCOMS, Jammu through Joint Counselling by J&K BOPEE.

### Notification No: 007 - BOPEE of 2022 Dated: 25-01-2022

All those NEET - PG 2021 eligible candidates, whose names figured in Provisional Merit List (PML) of MD/MS/PG Diploma and are interested in the MD/MS seats of ASCOMS under Hindu Minority and NRI management quota seats are advised to submit their documents on the prescribed proforma along with all relevant/required documents in BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu w.e.f. from 27th January 2022 to 3rd February, 2022 (only on working days), the details of which is given below:

#### Total Management Seats of ASCOMS = 23

(i) Open Merit (OM)\* = 06 (01= Anatomy, 01= Pathology, 01= Pharmacology, 01= Physiology, 01= Radio Diagnosis/Radiology, 01= Biochemistry)  
(ii) Hindu Minority (HM)\*\* = 12 ( 01=Anaesthesiology; 02= ENT ; 01= Medicine; 01= Microbiology, 01= Obs. & Gyne., 01= Ophthalmology, 01= Pathology, 01= Pharmacology, 01= Psychiatry, 01= Surgery, 01= Biochemistry)  
(iii) Non-Resident Indians (NRI)\*\*\* = 05 (01 = Anaesthesiology; 01 = Medicine, 01= Obs. & Gyne. 01= Psychiatry, 01= Surgery)

(\* 06 OM seats under management quota shall be filled up on the basis of merit cum preference irrespective of religion/ category, etc.).  
(\*\* 12 Hindu Minority (HM) seats under management quota shall be filled up from the candidates belonging to Hindu Religion only with the condition that they shall produce a latest relevant document/certificate issued by the concerned competent authority).  
(\*\*\* 05 NRI seats shall be filled up on the basis of merit cum preferences provided the necessary NRI documents are complete in all respects).

Only such candidates shall be considered under management/NRI/Hindu minority quota who are:

(i) Domicile of J&K;  
(ii) have applied under NEET-PG 2021 and have qualified; and  
(iii) have been found eligible to participate/compete against the J&K seats;  
The eligibility criteria for competing under NRI quota seats shall be as under:-  
(Category 1): Where applicant himself/herself is NRI and family originally belongs to J&K  
(Category 2): Children/Ward of NRI who originally belong to UT of Jammu and Kashmir  
Any other condition as notified by the Government of India Government of J&K or any direction given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard to compete for such seats.

#### Documents Required for NRI Category 1 and Category 2 candidates:

##### Category No. 1:

(i) NEETPG Score Card-2021;  
(ii) NRI certificate issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India or Indian Embassy Overseas under Ministry of External Affairs with holding of Indian Passport;  
(iii) NRI Bank Account preferably in the country where the candidate is residing or of NRI Account in India;  
(iv) Copy of Indian Passport;  
(v) Copy of Income Tax Return filed in India, if any;  
(vi) PAN Card No., if any; and  
(vii) Domicile Certificate of the candidate belonging to J&K.  
(viii) Any other document as may be required by the Board to its satisfaction.  
**Category No. 2:**  
(i) NEET PG Score Card-2021;  
(ii) NRI Sponsorship Letter;  
(iii) Undertaking of NRI duly attested by the legal authority of that country where sponsor is residing or Indian Embassy Overseas;  
(iv) Bank Statement of the Sponsor;  
(v) Resident/National Certificate or NRI certificate of the sponsor;  
(vi) Pedigree Table/Family Tree establishing relationship of the candidate with the sponsor along with documentary Proof;  
(vii) Employment certificate of the sponsor;  
(viii) PAN Card No., if any of the sponsor;  
(ix) PAN Card No., if any of the candidate/parents;  
(x) Copy of Income Tax Return filed, if any;  
(xi) Domicile Certificate of the candidate belonging to J&K.  
The prescribed Proforma as Annexure "A" and "B" to this Notification shall be available only on BOPEE website www. ikbopee.gov.in

Note:- 1. The above documents are required in addition to all other documents that the candidates were required to submit as notified in earlier notifications through online mode and in conformity with the e- Brochure.  
2. The above category is not priority but for determination of eligibility only and the seats shall be filled up on the basis of NEET Merit/PML Rank.  
3. The fee shall be as notified in Information Brochure or as may be notified by the Government from time to time.  
E&OE  
No. BOPEE/Exam-23/2021

Dated: 25-01-2022

DIK-NB-6761/21

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations J&K BOPEE

از نیابت رہنبر پورہ با اجلاس غلام محمد الدین بٹ صاحب				
درخواست نمائند: شیخ ارم و عدال خورشید اولاد محمد اقبال شیخ محمد اقبال شیخ ولد غلام محمد شیخ ساکنان رہنبر پورہ تحصیل مٹن				
بغرض حصول:- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ				
استثمار برآوا گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔				
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر مذہب پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پورٹ جوکڑ برکاردائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے یہاں ہے ہے کہ ساکنان بچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے وہاں سکونت پذیر ہے۔				
نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	خورشید احمد شیخ ولد غلام قادر شیخ	62 سال	تجارت	10,000/=
2	طاہرہ بانو زید خورشید احمد شیخ	54 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	عادل خورشید ولد خورشید احمد شیخ	27 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	عامر خورشید ولد خورشید احمد شیخ	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	شیخ ارم و عدال خورشید احمد شیخ	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
اسطر ساکنان کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ساکن کے کنبہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔ ساکنان کے کنبہ کے پاس دھڑ میں 09 کنال آراضی موجود ہے۔ جبکہ ساکنان کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی تقریباً 2,40,000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ ساکنان RBA سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتے ہیں۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد رسالت دن کے اندر اندر آپنا اعتراض دفتر مذہب پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی مداخلت یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔				
نائب تحصیلدار۔ rna				

از نیابت رہنبر پورہ با اجلاس غلام محمد الدین بٹ صاحب				
درخواست نمائند: حاکم اقبال و حاکم اقبال اولاد محمد اقبال شیخ محمد اقبال شیخ ولد غلام محمد شیخ ساکنان رہنبر پورہ تحصیل مٹن				
بغرض حصول:- RBA سرٹیفیکٹ				
استثمار برآوا گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔				
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر مذہب پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پورٹ جوکڑ برکاردائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے یہاں ہے ہے کہ ساکنان بچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے وہاں سکونت پذیر ہے۔				
نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد اقبال شیخ ولد غلام محمد شیخ	50 سال	ملازمت	LPC
2	مادہ زید اختر زید محمد اقبال شیخ	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	حازک اقبال ولد محمد اقبال شیخ	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	حاجو اقبال ولد محمد اقبال شیخ	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	
اسطر ساکنان کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ساکن کے کنبہ میں ایک سرکاری ملازم موجود ہے۔ ساکنان کے کنبہ کے پاس دھڑ میں 03 کنال باغ ٹنگ موجود ہے۔ جبکہ ساکنان کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 30,000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ اسطر ساکنان کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی مقررہ حد سے زیادہ رہتی ہے۔ مگر ساکنان local schooling پر توجہ دیتے ہیں۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد رسالت دن کے اندر اندر آپنا اعتراض دفتر مذہب پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی مداخلت یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔				
نائب تحصیلدار۔ rna				

**حاجی غلام احمد ڈار انتقال کر گئے**

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی غلام احمد ڈار ولد غلام رسول ڈار ساکنہ کرسو راجیہ سربینگر مورخہ 24 جنوری 2022 بروز سوموار کو اچانک اس دنیا فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحوم انتہائی شریف انٹنس، ملندہ اور انسان دوست شخص ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ صوم و صلوات کے پابند تھے۔ مرحوم کی فاتح خوانی آج جمعہ المبارک 28 جنوری 2022 بوقت صبح 10:30 بجے آبائی انکس مقبرہ پر انجام دی جائیگی۔

**نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔**

inf

**سگو اورال**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Ghulam Mohamd Sofi S/O Nisar Ahmad Sofi R/O Grand-dash Aishmuqam Tehsil Pahalgam, District Anantnag, Kashmir-192126, have Changed my Name from Ghulam Mohamd Sofi To Shehzad Mohamd Sofi for all future purpose..

**OLD Name: GHULAM MOHAMMAD SOFI**  
**S/O NISAR AHMAD SOFI**  
**R/O GRANDAISH AISHMUQAM**  
**New Name:- SHEHZAD MOHAMMAD SOFI**  
**Contact:- 9858753786**

**MKS(P)**

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Tufail Ahmad Ganai S/o: Ghulam Ahmad Ganai R/o: Adina Magam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 3875 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Cholamandlam Investment and Finance B/U Srinagar

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5566  
Dated 27/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

**NOTICE**

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Bashir Ahmad Khan S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Khan R/o: Sheikhpura Budgam (Transferor) of LMV alto 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D-6679 Chasis number 95755 Engine no.56550 Model 2017. in favour of Shri. Shabir Ahmad Najar S/o Abdul Rahman Najar R/O Methan Chanapora Srinagar (Transferee) as well as HP Cancellation with Mahindra & Mahindra Fin. B/U Bemina Srinagar.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5583  
Dated 25/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

**NOTICE**

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Nasir Ali Wani S/o: Mohammad Qazim Wani R/o: Zaber Mohalla Budgam (Transferor) of LMV alto 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C-9621 Chasis number 714257 Engine no.89629 Model 2015. in favour of Shri. Zafrul Haq S/o. Mohammad Syed Malik R/O Soibugh Budgam (Transferee) as well as HP Cancellation with J&K Bank Ltd B/U Parnewa

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5595  
Dated 25/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

**NOTICE**

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Showkat Ahamad Mir S/o: G. M. Mir R/o: Nand Mohalla Beerwah Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Niyaz Ahamad Mir S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Mir R/o Kremshora Near Main Road Budgam.as Transferee) for transfer of Sumo Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.153/CC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04 -9958.

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/ vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 5588  
Dated 25/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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## Police arrest ‘abductor’, hands over girl to family

Observer News Service

**S**rinagar: Police here in Srinagar on Thursday claimed to have traced an abducted girl and arrested the accused involved in the act.

A police spokesman in a statement said that on the 14th of January this month, Police Station Zakura received a written complaint from a person (name withheld) resident of Danihama that his 20-year-old sister (name withheld) went shopping for purchasing some domestic items but did not return back.

“In this regard, a missing report was diarized, and subsequently upon the collection of shreds of evidence, it was learnt that the missing girl was abducted by a person namely Muhammad Sahil Kumar, son of Abdul Majeed of Rawalpura Srinagar.”

The spokesperson said that a case under FIR number 09/22 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Zakoorra and an investigation started.

“During the course of the investigation, after the strenuous efforts of police and with the help of technical and physical evidence, the abducted girl has been recovered from the possession of the accused and after the formalities handed over to her legal heirs,” police said.

## Newspaper office gutted in Rajbagh blaze

Observer News Service

**S**rinagar: A residential building was damaged in a fire incident in the Rajbagh area of Srinagar city.

Locals said that flames started emanating from the top floor of the building housing many offices this afternoon.

They said that the owner had given the building on rent and many people including a newspaper editor were operating their offices from the said building.

Locals added that the office of ‘Daily Srinagar Mail’ newspaper was completely destroyed in the fire incident.

“Whatever was present in the office turned into ashes. “All the electronic equipment plus important documents were destroyed,” said a local.

The said building located near Abdullah Bridge was damaged in the incident while a man sustained burn injuries and was shifted to hospital.

Firefighters finally were managed to douse the fire. Locals said that property worth lakhs were destroyed in the conflagration.

The cause of the fire is being ascertained.

# Don't Allow Passengers Without Masks: SSP Traffic To Transporters



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:**-- In order to ensure smooth passage of vehicles and hassle free movement of people across Srinagar city during COVID-19 pandemic, an interaction programme was held with different transport unions of Kashmir Valley at the Auditorium of Directorate of Information and Public Relations, here.

The interaction was organised by SSP Traffic City, Srinagar in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and RTO, Kashmir.

On the occasion a detailed interaction was held between representatives of transport unions, drivers and others concerned with the organisers for smooth and safe travel of commuters in view of COVID-19.

Addressing the gathering, Director Health Services Kashmir said that it is the need of the hour that we should

follow COVID SOPs religiously as we are battling the deadly virus from a long time. He asked the transporters that the safety of passengers should be maintained in vehicles and that nobody without a mask should be allowed to board the bus or cab.

While highlighting the need of maintaining Covid Appropriate Behaviour, the Director asked the transporters that overloading of vehicles should be avoided at any cost in view of COVID-19 as it puts all the passengers at risk.

Speaking on the occasion, RTO Kashmir appreciated the transporters for their constant support during the pandemic COVID-19. He called upon the transporters not to let the guard down and follow the CAB while ferrying commuters.

The RTO asked the transporters and their representatives not to let anyone into the vehicles without

masks. He added that for non compliance of COVID, the department is going to levy heavy fines on the transporters.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Traffic city said that the transporters are main stakeholders for the commuting of public. He requested the transporters to follow SOPs in letter and spirit and avoid overloading of vehicles at any cost so that the public is not put at risk. He added that regulation of public transport is possible only with due cooperation of transporters.

The SSP also asked them to maintain proper reservation for Ladies and physically challenged in vehicles. He also asked them to regulate the fares for passengers coming from South and North Kashmir.

On the occasion representatives of transport unions also spoke and raised various issues facing the sector before the organizers.

## 4-Week National Training Workshop Commenced at SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Jan 27: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Kashmir commenced a four-week national online training on ‘Computer Vision in Agriculture using Machine Learning’.

More than 50 agriculture students, scholars and teachers from various parts of the country are participating in the online training organised by the team IDP under the World Bank-ICAR funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the institutional development of SKUAST-K.

The training is being conducted in collaboration with Noida-based Emerging India Analytics, one of India’s fastest growing Analytics/ IT consulting and training companies offering services in both consulting and training domains

including NASSCOM certified professional programs.

The training programme aims to bridge the gap between academics and Industry and produce human resources with qualities for creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship skills. In order to compete and be at par with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, SKUAST-K under ambit of IDP-NAHEP is in the continuous process of imparting education and training about disruptive technologies and their application and impact on the agri-economy and how to improve the quality of life.

The training will provide insights into the use and application of Computer Vision, and how Machine Learning and computer is helping in solving real-world problems in general and agriculture in particular.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof

Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the occasion, said such programs will pave way for the implementation of the 4th industrial revolution in the university, which is presently unfolding and is largely driven by disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics and drones. He also said that SKUAST-Kashmir is the torchbearer by being bold and disruptive in venturing first in AI&ML in the state to permeate higher-order skills of AI & ML in students, researchers and faculty members. While addressing the audience, he stressed the output-based training and workshops that are being conducted in the university. He further added that such programs will create awareness and interest among students and help them to develop critical thinking to innovate and be self-reliant.

## Street Vendors Occupy Roadsides At Pantha Chowk, Authorities Unmoved

Observer News Service

**Srinagar** The encroachment of road by street vendors on bypass road at Pantha Chowk is causing huge inconvenience to pedestrians and is hampering the vehicular movement.

Locals said it has become routine for street vendors to encroach the road along Flyover on Bypass Pantha chowk.

Commuters said the illegal parking in the roadside and occupation of these vendors are the main reasons of traffic jam on the route.

They said they have several times appealed the authorities to free the road from occupation but they (Authorities) never paid any heed to their requests.

“It is a herculean task for the government to remove the different vendors from the pavements to ensure smooth movement pedestrians and traffic as well. The problem is not only this route, but street vendors have occupied space in every



district of Kashmir division, said one of the commuter.

Another commuter accused authorities of leaving blue-eyed vendors from any action.

He said that the removal of street vendors is mere an eye wash as authorities are not serious about the plan. “Despite people facing hardships and congestion on the streets of the city, authorities are not sticking to their plan of removing the vendors. On one day, the vendors

are removed but next day they again occupy their spaces. It seems there is something fishy about the issue and authorities are hand in glove in this,” he said.

The vendors said that they are aware about the problems that pedestrians face but, “we have no other option. We know we are doing business on public place illegally, but this is the only way for income through which we are feeding our families.”

## Jamia Auqaf launches yearly calendar

Observer News Service

Srinagar Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar in collaboration with Mirwaiz Foundation, launched the yearly Calendar at the Anjuman headquarters today.

The calendar for the year 2022-23 , includes Meqat-us-Salaat , Wa Saum timings.(Daily Prayer and Fasting timings).

The calendar is adorned with beautiful pictures of the historic mosque highlighting it’s aesthetic beauty and minimalistic grandeur.

Anjuman presidential and Mirwaiz-i-Kashmir Molvi Umar Farooq who unveils the yearly Calendar at the Friday congregation in the mosque , could not do so as the mosque is closed for prayers each Friday by

the authorities and he himself continues to be under strict house arrest since August 2019.

As always The Anjuman is distributing the calendars free of charge . However those who want to contribute towards the upkeep of their great religious and cultural heritage are welcome , and can make their payment on the QR code of Jama Masjid account available on the calendar.

Due to unintentional omission in proofreading , in this year’s calendar, some important events and dates including the date of the martyrdom of Caliph Hazrat Ali (RA) have been missed for which the Anjuman apologises. However, a revised PDF of the calendar has been brought out.

**DIAL-EMMA**

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**


SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
24 Jumada al-Sani  
1443

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	6: 05
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4:19
Magrib	6:00
ISHA	7: 23

## This Day In History

- 1077 - German King Henry IV is absolved by Holy Roman Emperor Pope Gregory VII and invited back to the Church after his penitent Walk to Canossa
- 1099 - 1st Crusaders begins siege of Hoshn-el-Akrad Syria
- 1495 - Pope Alexander VI (Roderic Llançol i de Borgia) gives his son Cesare as hostage to Charles VIII of France
- 1521 - Emperor Charles V opens the Diet of Worms in Worms, Germany which lasts until May 25th. Produced the "Edict of Worms" which denounced Martin Luther
- 1573 - Articles of Warsaw Confederation are signed, sanctioning freedom of religion in Poland.
- 1671 - British pirate Henry Morgan captures Panama City from its Spanish defenders.
- 1689 - English parliament resolves that the throne is vacant
- 1724 - The Russian Academy of Sciences founded in St. Petersburg by Peter the Great, and implemented in a Senate decree. Called St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences until 1917.
- 1846 - Battle of Allwal, British beat Sikhs in Punjab
- 1855 - The first locomotive runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean on the Panama Railway
- 1860 - Britain formally returns Mosquito Coast to Nicaragua
- 1864 - Battle of New Bern, North Carolina
- 1887 - Work begins on the Eiffel Tower in Paris
- 1909 - US military forces leave Cuba for 2nd time
- 1915 - 1st US ship lost in WW I, William P Frye (carrying wheat to UK)
- 1915 - The United States Coast Guard is created by merging the US Life Saving Service & the US Revenue Cutter Service
- 1915 - US President Woodrow Wilson refuses to prohibit immigration of illiterates
- 1916 - Louis Brandeis is appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States after being nominated by President Woodrow Wilson
- 1916 - German colony of Cameroon surrenders to Britain & France
- 1932 - Japanese forces attack Shanghai.
- 1933 - French government of Paul Boncour falls
- 1933 - German government of Von Schleicher falls
- 1933 - The name "Pakistan" is coined by Choudhry Rahmat Ali and gradually accepted by Muslims in the Indian sub-continent who use it to push for a separate Muslim homeland in South Asia
- 1935 - Iceland becomes 1st western country to legalize abortion
- 1941 - French-Thai War: Final air battle of the conflict. Japanese-mediated armistice goes into effect later in the day.
- 1942 - Soviet troops under General Timoshenko's troops move into Ukraine
- 1942 - German troops occupy Benghazi Libya
- 1942 - WW II Navy flier Don Mason sends message "Sighted sub sank same"
- 1944 - 683 British bombers attack Berlin
- 1944 - U-271 & U-571 sunk off Ireland
- 1948 - President Manuel Roxas granted full amnesty to all so-called Philippine collaborators
- 1949 - UN Security council convicts Dutch aggression in Indonesia
- 1958 - Construction began on 1st private thorium-uranium nuclear reactor
- 1959 - Soviet Union wins 62-37 for 1st international basketball loss by US
- 1960 0 1st photograph bounced off Moon, Washington, D.C.
- 1961 - Republic of Rwanda proclaimed
- 1980 - USCGC Blackthorn (WLB-391) collides with the tanker Capricorn while leaving Tampa Florida and capsizes killing 23 Coast Guard crewmembers.
- 1986 - Space Shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, with all 7 crew members killed, including Christa McAuliffe who was to be the first teacher in space.
- 1988 - Canada's Supreme court declares anti-abortion law unconstitutional

*From KO Archives*

## Shoes will greet APHC team in Pak: Omar

**N**EW DELHI- Minister of state for commerce and industry Omar Farooq has said that people of Jammu and Kashmir have not given man-date to the Hurriyat Conference to represent them but Hurriyat leaders should be allowed to visit Pakistan and get exposed. By all means give passports, but who has given, them the mandate to represent the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir in Pakistan, he asked participating in Star TVs 'Janata Ki Adalat' programme. Asked whether the Hurriyat leaders would be welcomed in Pakistan, Omar said ask the Hurriyat people. I suspect they will not only be unwelcome, they will be greeted with shoes.

If Hurriyat Conference represents some segment of Kashmir, we also represent some segment. And what about the representation of Jammu and Ladakh, a press release from the television channel quoted Omar as saying.

Sounding a note of caution on the extension of cease-fire, he said, that National Conference was only saying extend the cease-fire by all means, but plug the loopholes that the militants are taking advantage of as they move from rural areas to urban areas. (Kashmir Observer, 28 January, 2001)



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Lockdown  
Is No Solution

Unlike Jammu and Kashmir, the weekend curfew in New Delhi has been lifted, along with restrictions at markets and malls. The government has permitted cinema halls and restaurants to reopen with 50 percent capacity. The guests at weddings have been capped at 200. Government offices will function at half the capacity. But educational institutions will remain closed, and the night curfew will continue.

This may also be because deaths and hospitalizations have been less in India even while caseload has skyrocketed. In Kashmir too, the third wave has been overwhelming, infecting possibly a majority of people but deaths and hospitalizations have been fewer in comparison. According to a top US doctor Dr Faheem Younus the reason for low fatalities and hospitalizations remaining low in India and Pakistan could be “low median age, baseline immunity due to vaccinations and previous COVID waves.” Dr Younus, in a sense, confirms that the Covid virus has become endemic in India and the people have largely developed some herd immunity against the disease. This is why surging caseload hasn't clogged hospitals and created demand for oxygen. On Wednesday, 2,86,384 people tested positive for coronavirus infection taking India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,03,71,500.

But encouraged by the low virulence, the governments across India have been lifting the lockdown. In J&K, however, the government is doing the opposite, almost imposing a lockdown for three days a week. That too, there has been little impact of the ongoing wave on the healthcare infrastructure.

The needless lockdown has once again hit the businesses hard. The economy that has been battered over the last over two years can't afford one more season of disruption. Over this period, the businesses could only reopen for a brief duration before being shut again, either because of political turmoil or due to Covid-19. According to the Valley's business bodies, the lockdowns led to the loss of over Rs 50,000 crore in 2020 As a result, the economy has grievously suffered. In Kashmir, the impact has been most severe. Lakhs of people were rendered jobless or had their incomes slashed.

There's, therefore, no other option but to live with the pandemic now. More so, when it has apparently moderated now in its severity. That is the only answer to the unprecedented health crisis facing us and the world as a whole.

That said, people will need to be more responsible about their conduct outside the home. The use of face masks and sanitizers should be made mandatory till the time the world gets a grip on the disease. Primarily, the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic has to be fought by the people. They can choose to exercise caution in their public behaviour, wear masks and wash hands.

O T H E R   O P I N O N

Keeping Faith: On People-To-People Initiatives And India-Pakistan Ties

At a time when most other India-Pakistan exchanges are suspended, even a simple proposal by the Pakistan Hindu Council, forwarded by Pakistan to India, to allow pilgrims of both countries to travel by air to avoid cumbersome journeys seems a leap. Islamabad-Delhi ties now are possibly at their worst ever in peace times, with no political dialogue at a bilateral or multilateral level for over five years. After many terror attacks, India has stopped normal communications and cultural exchanges, and after the Government's moves on Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan stopped all trade ties. Both sides have downsized their diplomatic missions. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has ensured that the borders have been virtually sealed for two years, with few direct routes operating between them. Even the movement of pilgrims may have been cancelled but for the conscious attempt by the two governments to make an exception for faith-based travel — as was done for the Kartarpur corridor that came up in 2019, the same year the two countries nearly went to war over the Pulwama attack. Religious exchanges, of mainly Muslim pilgrims from Pakistan, and Hindus and Sikhs from India, are governed by a protocol signed in 1974, and allowed to continue.

While the routes for Sikh pilgrims, from Indian Punjab to the Pakistani Punjab province, are relatively easy, hundreds of Indian and Pakistani pilgrims crossing over at the Wagah/Atari border to travel further to the Hinglaj Mata Mandir in Balochistan, the Paramhans Mandir in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Ajmer Sharif dargah in Rajasthan, the Nizamuddin Aulia in Delhi and other such shrines, face more circuitous routes. To avoid the extra time in travel, the Pakistan Hindu Council, which has now signed a MoU with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to facilitate faith-based tour groups, has asked that PIA charters from Karachi and Lahore be allowed to fly direct to Indian cities this week, with a view to also allowing reciprocal air charters from India. This would be the first time such air travel has taken place in years, and the first time ever that pilgrimages would be accorded this facility. As pilgrim groups on both sides are vetted before being allowed to travel, the precedent is unlikely to pose any additional security threat. In an atmosphere fraught with tensions, such people-to-people initiatives can only help build some modicum of goodwill. No evident harm to national interests has come from other such recent moves embarked on by the two governments, such as the LoC ceasefire announcement in February, or the decision to reopen the Kartarpur corridor in November, or the Government's nod for cricket under the T20 World Cup as well as other sporting events. While the Government's reflex position may be to deny the request, it may prove wiser to give the proposal some deliberate consideration.

The Hindu

Two Middle Easts



Trita Parsi

When Yemeni Houthi rebels struck Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, killing three people on Jan. 17, the Biden administration strongly condemned what it called “terrorist attacks.” It was the 14th time the State Department had condemned the Houthis since President Joe Biden entered the White House.

Yet, days later, when Saudi Arabian airstrikes killed at least 70 civilians in Yemen, including three children, the Biden team only mustered a meek call for all parties to de-escalate. Despite the carnage, Biden sustained his perfect record of never condemning Saudi Arabia for its devastation of Yemen, let alone calling it terrorism. It's time for Biden to make a real break with past U.S. policy by ceasing to take sides in other countries' conflicts.

In many ways, this unquestioning support for the Saudi dictatorship is unremarkable. Former President Donald Trump coddled the notorious Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and even refused to slap him on the wrist after his intelligence operatives kidnapped and beheaded Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi. As president, Barack Obama had a contentious relationship with then-Saudi King Abdullah, yet it was Obama who greenlighted Saudi Arabia's war against Yemen in the first place. And the Bush family was so close to the Saudi royal family that Riyadh's longtime ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, was nicknamed “Bandar Bush.”

Biden himself created the expectation that his presidency would see an end to business as usual with the Saudi dictatorship. In his first major foreign policy speech, in February, he declared that “the war in Yemen must end.” During the presidential debates in 2020, he pledged to make the Saudis “pay the price and make them in fact the pariah that they are.”

Saudi Arabia has yet to pay a price for its destabilizing activities — the U.S. just sold the crown prince \$650 million worth of advanced American weaponry — nor has Biden treated the Saudi government as “the pariah that they are.”

Biden's Middle East point person at the White House, Brett McGurk, may have provided a hint as to why we're witnessing this disheartening return to business as usual when he toured the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf in November and told the Emirati paper The National that Biden has adopted a strategy of “going back to basics.” This was in reaction to the overly ambitious policies of the three past administrations. There would be no more attempts to transform the Middle East or overthrow nonpliant governments. Based on “hard lessons learnt,” McGurk said Biden would instead focus on “the basics of building, maintaining and strengthening our partnerships and alliances,” which he hailed as a “unique comparative advantage.”

On the face of it, it's hard not to rejoice over the discarding of regime-change policies and fanciful imperial fantasies about transforming the Middle East. But a closer look reveals that these destabilizing objectives are nothing more than logical outgrowths of the very same “basic” Middle East

policies Biden seeks to “return” to.

At its core, U.S. foreign policy toward the Middle East since the end of the Cold War has been hegemonic. The United States has sought to dominate the region militarily while citing an expansive list of interests to justify the obsession with this region: from protecting the safe extraction of the region's energy resources to preventing adversaries from establishing hegemony there, disrupting the terrorist threats to Americans and U.S. partners, preventing the regional proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, encouraging bilateral trade and economic prosperity, and, perhaps most expansively, protecting and standing by U.S. “allies.”

ON THE FACE OF IT, IT'S hard not to rejoice over the discarding of regime-change policies and fanciful imperial fantasies about transforming the Middle East. But a closer look reveals that these destabilizing objectives are nothing more than logical outgrowths of the very same “basic” Middle East policies Biden seeks to “return” to

Of these interests, supporting U.S. allies is a leading reason why the Middle East has become the epicenter of American overreach and the unwarranted taking of sides in local conflicts. We have essentially treated the often ill-defined and aggressive objectives of U.S. partners in the region (none of whom are treaty allies of the United States even though they are often referred to as such) as our own, essentially letting these mostly autocratic dictatorships determine U.S. policy in the Middle East.

If U.S. foreign policy is centered on “strengthening our partnerships and alliances,” as McGurk suggested, rather than U.S. interest rigorously defined, then not only will it manifest itself in regime change in states that pose a threat to those partners, but it will also continue to entangle America in a variety of regional conflicts that are at most marginal to U.S. security. Instead of the U.S. contributing to regional stability and helping resolve conflicts, this expansive definition of U.S. interest makes America take sides in and become a party to Middle East wars — of which the vast majority do not matter to the United States.

Yemen is a case in point. Few in America know who the Houthis are, let alone understand why they purportedly pose a threat to the United States. Yet fewer can articulate how the outcome of the conflict between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed government matters to the United States, let alone warrants American involvement in that war. In fact, before the war, the United States viewed the Houthis as an ally against a group that did pose a threat to the American heartland: the Al Qaeda terror network. But the logic of standing by America's “ally” Saudi Arabia prompted the United States to set aside its own interest and follow the lead — and take the side of — the luminaries in the House of Saud.

Hence, McGurk assured The National that “the Houthis are the aggressors in Yemen, there is no question about it; we are working with the Saudis on new initiatives to de-escalate the violence.” But contrary to McGurk's hope that hugging the Saudis closer would beget de-escalation, the crown prince pocketed America's goodwill and ramped up attacks on Yemen.

Between August and December last year — while Biden was working with Riyadh to de-escalate — Saudi Arabia more than doubled its air raids on Yemen, from 119 to 250, according to the Yemen Data Project. A Center for Strategic and International Studies report in December showed that Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia also increased in 2021 but were incomparable in numbers, totaling only 33 for the first nine months of that year.

The Houthis' attack on Abu Dhabi appears rooted in the Saudi-UAE escalation of these past months: from the massive offensive against Houthi-controlled areas to the bombardment of the capital and Sana'a International Airport. The message to Abu Dhabi appeared to have been: If the UAE bombs Yemen, the Houthis will bomb the UAE.

A real shift in U.S. policy would be to not take any side in this conflict. The Saudis, the Houthis and the Emiratis have all been accused of committing war crimes. None of them pose a threat to the United States. The only justified American involvement would be to help negotiate an end to the conflict.

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

The author is an MNSB Opinion Columnist. The article was originally published by MNSB

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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Curb Domestic Violence

THE National Crime Record Bureau data have pointed out that the number of cases registered under section 498A of IPC for ‘cruelty by husband or his relatives’ recorded an increase of 21.3 per cent in 2019 compared with 2018. Moreover,

the number of cases registered under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act reflected a decline of 4.5 per cent in 2019 over 2018. The reasons for the under-reporting of cases were personnel, societal, and institutional. The Parliamentary Committee on

Home Affairs has recommended that the Home Ministry advise states and union territories to conduct sensitization and briefings of ground-level officials dealing with the PWDV Act so that women facing domestic violence could be better equipped to access justice. The

awareness programs at the grass-root level, fast-track courts, and rehabilitation facilities can be helpful in curbing domestic violence.

Amit Singh Kushwaha  
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MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Borderline Personality Disorder

What Is It And How Does It Affect You?

Wasim Kakroo

Do any of the following statements define how you think, emote and behave?

"I frequently feel empty."

"My emotions are volatile, and I frequently experience deep sadness, overwhelming anger, and anxiety"

"I'm always afraid that the people I love will desert or abandon me"

"Most of my love relationships have been intense but unstable"

"I don't always understand why my feelings about the people in my life fluctuate radically from one instant to the next"

"I frequently engage in risky or harmful behaviours, such as driving dangerously, engaging in risky sex, binge drinking, taking drugs, or engaging in shopping sprees"

"I've tried to damage myself, engaged in self-harming activities like cutting, and even threatened suicide"

"When I'm in a relationship and I'm feeling insecure, I tend to lash out or make rash gestures to keep the other person close"

"I've tried to hurt myself, engaged in self-harming activities like cutting, and even threatened suicide"

You may have borderline personality disorder if you identify with several of the above statements. Of course, an official diagnosis must be made by a mental health expert, as BPD can be readily confused with other conditions.

Everything feels unstable when you have Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD): your relationships, feelings, thinking, conduct, and even your identity, literally everything. There is, however, hope, and today's article will talk about its symptoms and how it affects one's life so that at least one identifies in themselves or in their loved one's because accepting the diagnosis is a first step towards recovery.

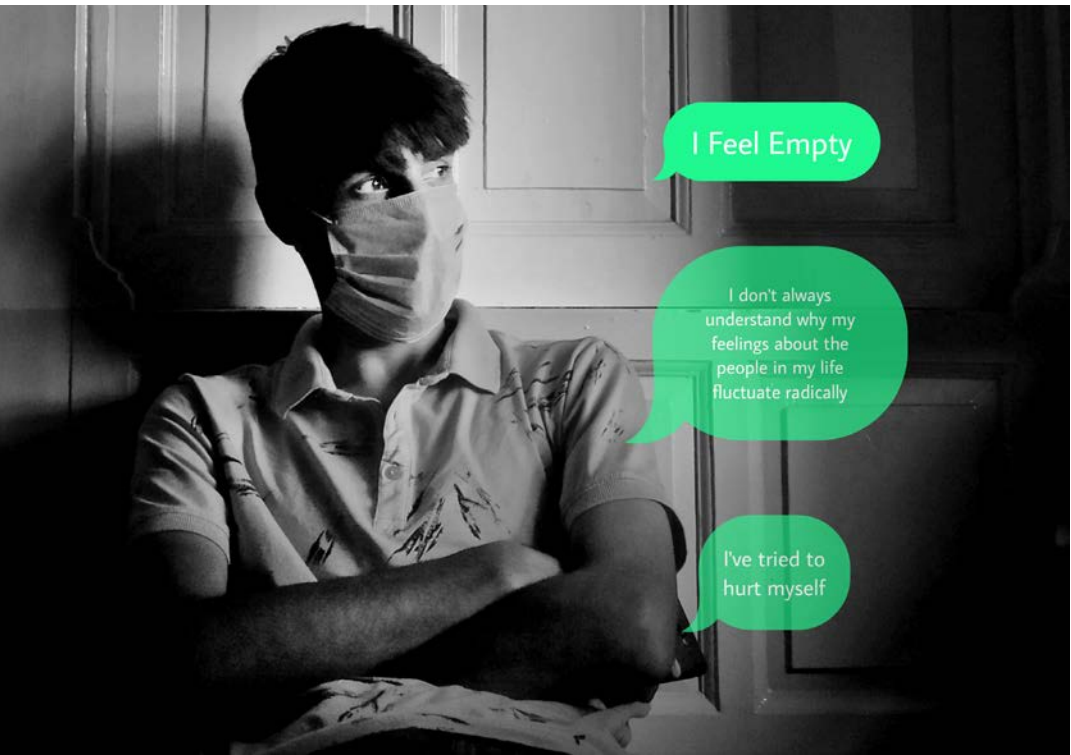
**What is borderline personality disorder (BPD)?**

You probably feel like you're on a rollercoaster if you have borderline personality disorder (BPD) and not just because of your unpredictable emotions or relationships but also because of your shaky sense of self. Your self-image, ambitions, and even your likes and dislikes may fluctuate on a regular basis, leaving you perplexed and uncertain.

People who suffer with BPD are often exceedingly sensitive. Some people compare it to having an exposed nerve ending. Small things can set off powerful emotional reactions. And once you're upset, it's difficult to settle down. It's simple to see how emotional turbulence and an inability to self-soothe can lead to relationship issues and impulsive—even reckless—behavior.

You can't think clearly or stay grounded when you're experiencing intense emotions. You may say nasty things or behave out in unsafe or inappropriate ways, leading to feelings of guilt or humiliation. It's a torturous cycle from which it sometimes seem hard to break free. However, this is not the case. Treatments and coping techniques for BPD might help you feel better and regain control over your thoughts, feelings, behaviours, and hence your life.

**Is BPD treatable?**



**PEOPLE WHO SUFFER WITH BPD ARE OFTEN EXCEEDINGLY sensitive.** Some people compare it to having an exposed nerve ending. Small things can set off powerful emotional reactions. And once you're upset, it's difficult to settle down.

Many mental health practitioners previously believed that treating borderline personality disorder (BPD) was difficult and that there was little that could be done. However, we now know that BPD can be treated. In fact, the prognosis for BPD is better than depression and bipolar disorder in the long run. It does, however, necessitate a different approach. The truth is that most persons with BPD can and do improve, and with the correct treatments and support, they can recover quickly.

Breaking the dysfunctional patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving that are causing you emotional distress is the first step toward healing. It's difficult to break longtime habits. At first, pausing to contemplate and then acting in new ways will feel strange and uncomfortable. But, with time, you'll develop new behaviours that will help you retain emotional balance and control.

**What are the various signs and symptoms of BPD?**

Although the symptoms of borderline personality disorder (BPD) can show in a variety of ways, mental health practitioners categorize them into nine key categories for diagnosis. At least five of these symptoms must be present in order to be diagnosed with BPD. Furthermore, the symptoms must have been present for a long time (typically since puberty) and affect many aspects of your life.

- Signs of BPD:**
1. **Fear of being abandoned.** People who suffer

- from BPD are frequently afraid of being abandoned or left alone. Even seemingly trivial events such as a loved one returning home late from work or leaving for the weekend can cause significant anxiety. This can result in desperate attempts to keep the other person close. You could beg, cling, instigate conflicts, track your loved one's whereabouts, or even physically prevent them from leaving. Unfortunately, this action has the unintended consequence of driving others away.
2. **Relationships that are unstable.** People with BPD have a tendency to have intense but short-lived relationships. You may fall in love quickly, believing that each new person will complete you, only to be disappointed soon after. Your relationships appear to be either wonderful or terrible, with no in-between. Because of your fast swings from idealization to devaluation, wrath, and hate, your lovers, friends, and family members may experience emotional whiplash.
3. **Self-image is hazy or changing.** Your sense of self is usually unstable when you have BPD. You may feel good about yourself at times, but you may despise yourself at other times or even consider yourself as evil. You most likely have no notion who you are or what you want out of life. As a result, you may change employment, friends, lovers, religion, values, objectives, and even sexual identity on a regular basis.
4. **Self-destructive and impulsive behaviour.** You may engage in dangerous, sensation-seeking behaviours if you have BPD, especially when

- you're unhappy. You may spend money you don't have, binge eat, drive recklessly, shoplift, indulge in unsafe sex, or use drugs or alcohol excessively. These dangerous practises may make you feel better in the short term, but they are harmful to you and those around you in the long run.
5. **Self-harm.** People with BPD are more likely to engage in suicidal behaviour and self-harm. Suicidal behavior can range from contemplating suicide to making suicidal gestures or threats to actually attempting suicide. All other attempts to harm yourself without suicidal intent are classified as non-suicidal self-harm. Cutting and burning are two common types of non-suicidal self-harm.
  6. **Extreme mood swings.** BPD is associated with erratic emotions and moods. You could be happy one minute and depressed the next. Little things that other people dismiss can throw you into a whirl of emotions. These mood swings are severe, but unlike the emotional swings associated with depression or bipolar disease, they normally dissipate rapidly, lasting only a few minutes or hours.
  7. **Feelings of emptiness on a regular basis.** People with BPD frequently describe themselves as feeling empty, as if they have a hole or empty space within them. You may feel as though you're "nothing" or "nobody" at times. Because this sensation is unpleasant, you may try to fill it with substances such as drugs, food, or sex. Nothing, though, feels completely satisfactory.
  8. **Anger that explodes.** You may struggle with extreme anger and a short temper if you have BPD. Once the fuse is ignited, you may have difficulties restraining yourself, yelling, throwing objects, or becoming fully overtaken by extreme level of anger. It's worth noting that this rage isn't always focused towards others. You can spend a lot of time hating yourself.
  9. **Suspicion or a sense of being out of touch with reality.** Paranoia or suspicious beliefs about others' motives are common in people with BPD. When you're stressed, you could even lose touch with reality, which is referred to as dissociation. It's possible that you'll feel fuzzy, disoriented, or as if you're not in your own body.

**What are the various mental health issues that co-occur with BPD?**

BPD usually does not appear alone in a person's life. The following are examples of common co-occurring disorders:

1. Depression or bipolar disorder
2. Substance abuse disorder
3. Eating disorders
4. Anxiety problems

When BPD is treated properly, the symptoms of other disorders often improve as well. However, this isn't always the case. For example, you may be able to successfully address depression symptoms while still struggling with BPD.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He works at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com*



Dangers Of Eating Mutton In Kashmir

FRIDAY 28 JANUARY 2022  
TIME: 8:00 PM IST





# Missing Arunachal teen handed over to Indian Army by PLA, says Rijiju; shares pictures

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has handed over the missing teenager from Arunachal Pradesh to the Indian Army, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday.

He said the youth was handed over at Wacha-Damai interaction point in Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday. Nineteen-year-old Miram Taron of Jido Village in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh was found missing on January 18.

In a tweet, the minister said due procedures are being followed including the boy's medical examination.

"The Chinese PLA has handed over the young boy from Arunachal Pradesh Miram Taron to Indian Army. Due procedures are being followed including the medical examination," he wrote.

The Chinese military meanwhile said that the missing youth was found by a PLA border patrol.

"Recently Chinese border troops in China's Motuo county on patrol found an illegal entry into the territory of the Chinese side by an Indian personnel and carried out according to the relevant provisions of border control, routine interrogation, epidemic



prevention and isolation, and provision of humanitarian relief," PLA Western Theatre Command Spokesman Senior Colonel Long Shaohua said.

The Indian Army had requested the Chinese side to assist in the search through the border hotline, and the two sides maintained communication through the border meeting channel, he said in a statement on the social media account of the PLA's Western Theatre Command.

The boy now has been handed over to the Indian side, he said.

"We urge the Indian side to strictly implement the bilateral agreements, strengthen personnel control and effectively maintain normal order in the border areas," he said.

In another tweet later, Rijiju thanked the Army for pursuing the case meticulously with PLA and safely securing the youth.

He also shared pictures of armymen and the teenager dressed

in personal protective equipment to prevent Covid infection.

"The Chinese PLA handed over the young boy from Arunachal Pradesh Shri Miram Taron to Indian Army at WACHA-DAMAI interaction point in Arunachal Pradesh today.

"I thank our proud Indian Army for pursuing the case meticulously with PLA and safely securing our young boy back home," he said.

On Tuesday, the Union

minister, who represents the state in Lok Sabha, had said the Chinese side had conveyed to the Indian Army on January 20 that they had found a boy on their side and requested for further details to establish the identity.

"To assist Chinese side in corroborating the identity, personal details and photo of the individual has been shared with the Chinese side by the Indian Army. Response from the Chinese side is awaited," Rijiju had said in a statement put out on social media.

"Some people reported that Chinese PLA had taken him into their custody, it said.

Rijiju said that since the individual was missing from an area close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Army immediately approached the Chinese side on January 19, asking for assistance in tracing and return of the individual, in case he had strayed into the Chinese territory or PLA has taken him in their custody.

The Chinese side had given an assurance that they would search for the individual and return him as per established protocol, the minister had said. On January 19, BJP MP from Arunachal Pradesh, Tapir Gao, brought to light the abduction of Taron.

## Despite Sunshine, 'Cold Day' Conditions Prevail In Delhi

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Parts of the national capital witnessed cold day conditions on Thursday despite the city getting more hours of sunshine than the last few days.

The city's maximum temperature plummeted three notches to settle at 19.1 degrees Celsius, the weather office said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted shallow fog in the morning on Friday.

It said cold day conditions prevailed at Lodhi Road, Mayur Vihar and Narela observatories.

However, at Safdarjung observatory, which is considered the official marker of Delhi, there were no cold day conditions for the day.

Thursday's minimum temperature was recorded at 6.3 degrees Celsius, three notches below the normal, the weather office said.

According to IMD, a "cold day" is when the minimum temperature is less than 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

A "severe cold day" is when the maximum temperature is at least 6.5 notches below normal.

Lodhi Road observatory witnessed cold day conditions as the maximum temperature here settled at 16.4 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal while the minimum was 5.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal.

At Narela observatory, the maximum temperature settled at 17.7 degrees Celsius, five degrees below the normal temperature while the minimum was 4.7 degrees Celsius, a dip of four degrees from normal.

Similarly, at Mayur Vihar observatory, the drop in maximum temperature was five degrees Celsius as it settled at 17.3 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature here was 6.8 degrees Celsius, two notches below



normal.

For the last few days, Delhi had been reeling under cold day conditions due to rains, fog and had little exposure to the sun.

Tuesday was Delhi's coldest January day in nine years, with the maximum temperature plunging to 10 degrees below normal and settling at 12.1 degrees Celsius.

On January 3, 2013, the city had recorded a maximum temperature of 9.8 degrees Celsius, according to IMD data.

On Thursday, Delhi saw bright sunshine and people were seen enjoying the weather on their terraces and other open spaces.

The maximum and minimum temperatures will hover around 19 and 6 degrees Celsius, respectively, on Friday, the weather office said.

The relative humidity at 5.30 pm on Thursday was 55 per cent, it said.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's Air Quality Index (AQI) bulletin at 4 pm on Thursday, Delhi's air quality was marked poor as its AQI was 262.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 and 500 severe.

## Early signs of Covid cases plateauing reported but situation needs to be observed, says govt

**New Delhi:** Early indications of Covid cases plateauing have been reported in some places but the trend needs to be observed, the Union government said on Thursday whilst noting that 400 districts have logged over 10 per cent positivity rate in the week ending January 26.

Stressing the need to continue with precautions to curb the surge in infections, it noted that Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan were recording a high number of Covid cases and positivity.

Simultaneously, a decline

in Covid cases and positivity rate have been observed in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Odisha, Haryana and West Bengal, the government stated.

Addressing a press conference here, Lav Agarwal, the joint secretary in the Health Ministry, said, "Early indication of a plateau in cases are being reported in certain geographies. The trend needs to be observed and required precautions need to be continued."

"Top 10 states in terms of active cases contribute to more than 77 per cent of the total

active cases in the country. Over 90 per cent of these active cases are under home isolation, indicating mild to moderate clinical severity," Agarwal said.

At the press conference, a comparison of the key indices during the second and third surge of Covid infections in India was presented.

It showed that on May 7 last year, at the peak of the second wave, 4,14,188 new cases and 3,679 deaths were reported. As many as 17,40,446 tests were carried out on that day and the proportion of fully vaccinated people was approximately 3 per cent.

On January 21 this year, 3,47,254 new cases and 435 deaths were reported. A total of 19,35,912 tests were reportedly carried out on the day and the proportion of fully vaccinated people was approximately 75 per cent.

A clear trend in terms of fewer cases needing oxygen-supported beds or ICU beds is observed, Agarwal said.

"The number of active cases and corresponding deaths are much lower during the present surge vis-a-vis the earlier surges," he said highlighting vaccination is providing support in terms of fewer cases, fewer

hospitalizations and less severity of the cases being reported in the country.

Warning against any lax in observing Covid-appropriate behaviour, Agarwal said 400 districts reported over 10 per cent weekly Covid positivity while in 141 districts it was between five to 10 per cent in the week ending January 26.

About the prevalence of the Omicron variant of coronavirus in India, he said, 1,292 cases of the latest variant of concern were found on genome sequencing in December which rose to 9,672 in January.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Govt Shifts 33 Officers

Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department.

Sunaina Saini, JKAS, DPO, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Hospitality and Protocol (Stores), relieving Ms. Ashmina Sher, JKAS of the additional charge of the post.

Peerzada Farhat Ahmad, JKAS, DSWO, Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Pulwama, against an available vacancy.

Arun Kumar Badyal, JKAS, BDO, Mughal Maidan, Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gandoh, relieving Mr. Mohd. Ashfaq, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Doda of the additional charge of the post. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Gandoh, till further orders.

Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi, JKAS, BDO, Dadsara, Pulwama, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Akhil Sadotra, JKAS, BDO, Marh, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Akhnoor, against an available vacancy. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Akhnoor, till further orders.

Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, JKAS, BDO, Tuijar Sharief, Baramulla, has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Baramulla. He shall take over the charge of the post on the retirement of Rafiq Ahmad Lone, JKAS on 31.1.2022.

Reyaz Ahmad Shah, JKAS, BDO, Pulwama, has been transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Anantnag, vice Mr. Nissar Ahmad Malik, JKAS who shall report to the General Administration Department for further posting.

Piyush Dhotra, JKAS, DPO, Kathua, has been transferred and posted as General Manager, JKRTC, Jammu, against an available vacancy.

Tariq Ahmad Reshi, JKAS, BDO, Chrar-i-Sharif, Budgam, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Sopore, relieving Mr. Parvez Sajad Ganai, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore of the additional charge of the post.

Suheel Ahmad Lone, JKAS, BDO, Pampore, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Pulwama.

Shoaib Noor, JKAS, BDO, Nowgam, Bandipore, has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Anantnag.

Shakoor Ahmad Dar, JKAS, BDO Keller (Shopian), has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department.

Anshumali Sharma, JKAS, DPO, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as General Manager, Medical Supplies Corporation, Jammu, against an available vacancy.

Shabir Ahmad Hakak, JKAS, State Taxes Officer, Circle F, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Budgam.

Syed Farooq Ahmad, JKAS, BDO, Awantipore, has been transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Srinagar,

against an available vacancy.

Bashir Ahmad Padder, JKAS, State Taxes Officer, Budgam, has been transferred and posted as General Manager, JKTCDC, Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Vishal Singh Parihar, JKAS, Tehsildar, Khour, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Vijaypur, relieving Mr. Vinay Kumar, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Vijaypur of the additional charge of the post.

Bashir Ahmad Bhat, JKAS, BDO, Aloosa, Bandipore, has been transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Ganderbal, against an available vacancy.

Afroza Bano, JKAS, BDO, Budgam, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Ganderbal.

Maxiumn Gorkie, JKAS, Assistant Director, Employment, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Jammu.

Umesh Shan, JKAS, AD Tourism, NH Batote, has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Reasi, against an available vacancy.

Bashir ul Hassan, JKAS, BDO, Qazigund, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Kulgam.

Phulail Singh, JKAS, BDO, Bhalla, Doda, has been transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Doda.

Arshad Ahmad Khan, JKAS, BDO Noorkhah, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Handwara, relieving Mr. Nazir Ahmad Mir, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Handwara of the additional charge of the post.

Vishav Partap Singh, JKAS, BDO, Bhomag, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department.

Tanveer Ahmed Tanveer, JKAS, State Taxes Officer, Kupwara, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Anantnag, according to the order.

### Reshuffle In Police

to newly created PS Shalteng as SHO, Aijaz Ahmad Parray from DPL Srinagar to newly created PS Sangam as SHO, Masroor Ali from PP Norrbagh to PC Srinagar, Kawsar Rehman Wanie from PS Parimpora to PP Noorbhagh as Incharge, Sheikh Wakeel Ahmad from PP Chanpora to PP Bonmohalla as incharge, Shabir Ahmad PC Srinagar to newly created police post Khimber as incharge, Mohammad Iqbal from DPL Srinagar to newly created police post Tengpora as incharge and Shahid-ul-Islam from PS Batamaloo to PS Parimpora.

### Militants Give

Sunil Kumar, he said that trio was shifted to 92 base hospital Srinagar where they are undergoing treatment.

### Centre Extends

and not let their guard down.

He said based on the normative framework, mentioned in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in a letter on December 12, 2021, and assessment of the situation, local and district administrations should continue to take prompt

and appropriate containment measures.

"Imposition and lifting of local curbs and restrictions should be dynamic, based on the case positivity and hospitalisation status at the local level," Bhalla said.

The home secretary emphasised that there should be continued focus on the five-fold strategy of test, track, treat and vaccination, and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Bhalla said the state enforcement machinery should strictly enforce the Covid norms, such as wearing of face masks and maintaining social distancing in all public areas and gatherings.

Further, states and Union Territories should continue to hold regular media briefings to disseminate the right information and to discourage any misinformation on new variants of concern, he said.

"I would, therefore, urge you to issue necessary directions to the districts and all other local authorities concerned, to take necessary measures for prompt and effective management of COVID-19, strict compliance with various advisories issued by the MoHFW on the new variant of concern (Omicron) and strict enforcement of Covid-appropriate behaviour," the Union home secretary added.

### J&K Logs 4959

from Jammu Division and 2893 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, the officials said that seven more people, one from Jammu division and 6 from Kashmir Valley succumbed to the deadly infection on Thursday, taking the death toll in the pandemic to 4642 in J&K- 2265 in Jammu and 2377 in the Valley.

The officials further added that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.

### Cold Wave

temperature in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius.

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

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

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

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

### Traffic Restored

was also cleared, the officials said.

### CAG Red Flags

Dwelling further details on the issue, CAG has said that sixty four ineligible or doubtful

cases were paid financial assistance of 3.52 crore and in 40 cases involving 80 applicants, copies of same documents were used twice and assistance had been claimed twice separately by individuals by splitting families or by misrepresentation of facts, "which led to undue/wrong payment of 2.31 crore".

Revealing more details, CAG's audit report has said that analysis of data collected in respect of 460 cases, out of 2730 test checked cases revealed that legal heir certificates from Assistant Commissioners (Revenue)/ Tehsildars in support of claims had been sought in 75 cases (16 per cent) only.

"However, in respect of the remaining 385 cases (84 per cent) either documents like Court decree (34 per cent), Power of Attorney (30 per cent) and affidavits (11 per cent) had been sought or no documentary proof (9 per cent) had been obtained. The Department had not put in place a robust mechanism for identification of legal heirs of displaced persons and no proper procedure was adopted."

This non formulation of uniform procedure, as per CAG, has resulted in gaps in implementation of the project.

The audit report has further said that the irregularities had resulted in recommendation of ten ineligible/ doubtful cases, who had claimed themselves as Displaced Persons of Chhamb (1965/ 1971), involving a financial assistance of 54.96 lakh by the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

The Audit has further noticed that in 201 cases (out of 256 cases) power of attorney from legal heirs (in reference to Chhamb displaced persons) was found attached only in 29 cases (14 per cent), in 154 cases (77 per cent) involving payment of 7.47 crore, only affidavits of legal heirs were on record and in 18 cases (nine per cent) involving payment of 0.80 crore, no document was attached to establish the genuineness of claimants.

### Govt Sacks

her without serving any further notice."

The director said that neither the teacher presented herself before DSEK nor responded to these notices, indicating thereby that she is not interested to work in the department.

"Now, therefore, pursuant to the decision of the committee, the teacher is hereby removed from the Government service in terms of Article 113 of J&K Civil Services Rules (Volume 1) of 1956 and Rule 30(VU) of J&KCCA rules 1956," it reads.

Similarly, in another order issued by the DSEK said that a teacher posted at Ashpeer Baramulla has remained absent unauthorisedly since March-2018 and the designated committee has decided to remove the teacher from services.

Pertinently, with the termination of two more teachers of School Education Department, the government in past more than two months has sacked at least 30 teachers from the services for remaining absent unauthorizedly—(KNO)

### J&K Brings

But after August 5, 2019 changes, these powers are vested with executive.



## LG To JUTA: Create Conducive Environment For Learning, Innovation'



**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday asked Jammu University Teachers' Association to make continuous efforts to create a conducive environment for learning and innovation in the University.

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with the office bearers of Jammu University Teachers' Association on Thursday at Raj Bhawan here, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the delegation led by the President of the Association, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, submitted a memorandum of demands to the Lt Governor pertaining to various welfare issues of the teachers of the Uni-

versity including promotion under CAS; grant of earned leave and enhancement of the age of superannuation to 65 years in favour of teachers, and various other benefits as per UGC regulations, besides establishment of housing society exclusively for University teachers.

"The Lt Governor, while interacting with the members of the delegation advised them to make continuous efforts to create a conducive environment for learning and innovation in the University," he said.

"The Lt Governor assured them that the issues projected would be looked into meticulously for their early redressal," he added.

## BDC Chairman, Panchayat Members Join Congress

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A chairman of a block development council (BDC) and five panchayat members joined the Congress here on Thursday, the party said.

Sudesh Kumar Sharma, BDC chairman Block Dinga Amb in Kathua district along with two sarpanches, one naib-sarpanch and two panches joined the party in the presence of J-K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief G A Mir at the party headquarters here, it said.

Besides, many youths of Hiranagar Tehsil in Kathua joined the party, it added.

The party said the new entrants expressed faith in the policies and programmes of the Congress and its leadership including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir said the Congress is fast emerg-

ing as the only choice of the people because of its progressive policies and democratic and secular credentials.

Secularism is the strength of India and only the Congress can lead the nation to the path of peace, progress and prosperity by strengthening the secular fabric of this country, he said.

Mir said that both the central government and the LG administration in J-K have failed to fulfill even a single commitment made with the people and instead brought misery for the common man due to their wrong policies.

The achievement of the government is that the divisive forces have succeeded in vitiating the atmosphere of peace and harmony in the country, he said.

"There is hue and cry everywhere and nobody feels secure under the present regime, Mir said.

## COVID-19 Rise: 90% Cases Due To Omicron Variant, Say Experts

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Third wave of Covid-19 in Jammu and Kashmir is driven by contagious variant Omicron and it is likely that over 90 percent cases in the UT are because of this variant, experts said on Thursday.

The experts said that as per the data of the first week of January around 40 percent cases in J&K were because of Omicron but since then three weeks have passed and it is likely that presently over 90 percent cases in J&K are because of the new variant.

They further added that slowly Delta variant will disappear as

it will be displaced by Omicron because it is four times more contagious than Delta.

They further added that we are about to reach the peak of the third wave in J&K and by the end of February this wave will be over.

Dr Salim Khan HOD Community Medicine at GMC Srinagar said that ending January or first week of February is expected to be the peak of this wave.

Experts said that ICMR has found that the antibodies developed after recovery from Omicron provide protection from other variants is very good news as people who recover from Omicron won't get Delta infection—(KNO)

## BSF On High Alert In J&K Despite Inclement Weather

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Amid intelligence inputs that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is not leaving any stone unturned to send militants into the Kashmir Valley and poll-bound Punjab, the W3 on Thursday said that it has already escalated the patrolling on the stretch of Line of Control it is deployed on and ready to meet any misadventure from across it.

"The BSF is on high alert despite inclement weather due to heavy snowfall and the troopers are keeping strict vigil on the 96km LoC stretch and ready to meet any challenge posed by the hostile forces," BSF officials said.

They said the highest vigil has been kept at all 164 Forward Defence Locations which are located in the extreme snow-bound areas or dense forest wherein its highest FDL is located at the height of 9,300 feet.

A senior BSF official, deployed in the operational area said that troopers are patrolling on the border and adjoining forest areas to search for intruders but the heavy snowfall makes the search operation quite a difficult task.

"The footprints of the terrorists, if they are able to cross the border, are quickly covered due to continuous snowfall and it becomes difficult to ascertain



their presence," he said, adding that the drones are also pressed into for aerial surveillance if the weather permits.

Officials in the security grid in J&K have said that ISI has been providing winter clothing and dry rations to these militants so that they could hide from the security forces before escaping to the valley.

The BSF has launched "Operation Sard Hawa" on the Jammu and Rajasthan borders to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog cover in the region and this is likely to continue in the Jammu sector for a few more days.

"The ISI is trying its best to push terrorists via Jammu border to get them into Punjab

where it wants to derail the poll process at any cost," an official in the security set up said.

In press conference in Srinagar on January 24, BSF's Inspector General, Kashmir Frontier, Raja Babu Singh said that about 104 to 135 militants are ready to sneak into the Indian side across the LoC.

He also said that a few guides have crossed over to the other side of LoC to facilitate the infiltration of the waiting militants. "Their movement is being tracked and their families are under constant watch of security agencies," he said.

The BSF is guarding either jointly with the Army or independently as much as 430km of the total 772-km-long LoC.

## Karan Singh Backs Padma Award For Azad

Says If Colleague Honoured, Greet Him With Appreciation

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Amid internal rumblings within the Congress over Ghulam Nabi Azad being awarded Padma Bhushan, senior Congress leader Karan Singh on Thursday said national awards should not become subject of intra-party controversy and if "one of our colleagues" is honoured, he should be greeted with warm appreciation rather than "snide remarks".

Singh's comments come amid a controversy triggered soon after the announcement of the Padma awards on Tuesday evening when Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, while commenting on CPI (M) leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's refusal to accept the award, said, "He wants to be Azad not Ghulam".

Several members of the group of 23 leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi demanding an organisational overhaul in the Congress congratulated Azad for being awarded Padma Bhushan, saying it was "well-deserved".

Reacting to the row, Singh said he was distressed at the "unseemly controversy" over the well deserved Padma Award to Azad.

"These National Awards should not become subject of inter-party controversy, far less of intra-party ones," Singh, a



former Union minister and party stalwart, said in a statement. "I have known Ghulam Nabi for half a century since he first started his political career as an active participant in my second election campaign for the Lok Sabha in 1971 from the Udhampur constituency, to which he belongs," he said.

Since then, Singh said, he has seen Azad rise through sheer dint of hard work, dedication and administrative ability to becoming a Cabinet Minister, both with P V Narasimha Rao and Dr Manmohan Singh.

As Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha for seven years, he played a positive and constructive role in our Parliamentary system, Singh said.

Azad also served as the first Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir from the Jammu region, and his short stint is still remembered positively in both

regions, he said.

"If one of our colleagues is honoured he should be greeted with warm appreciation rather than snide remarks," Singh said.

Congress veteran and former law minister Ashwani Kumar has also come out in support of Azad and hit out at Ramesh, saying his criticism of Azad is nothing less than a "shameful innuendo" and does not do justice to the ethos of the Congress party.

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal, who is also in the G23, has said that it was ironic that the Congress does not need Azad's services when the nation recognises his contributions to public life.

"Ghulam Nabi Azad conferred Padam Bhushan. Congratulations bhajiyan. Ironic that the Congress doesn't need his services when the nation recognises his contributions to public life," Sibal said on Twitter on Wednesday.

Other members of the G-23 Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor and Raj Babbar congratulated Azad for the Padma award, saying it was "well-deserved".

Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi also criticised Ramesh, saying it shows one's shallowness.

## Conscious Efforts Made To Provide Equitable Development To J-K's Every Region: Jitendra Singh

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that in the last nearly eight years, a conscious effort has been made to provide equitable development and attention to every region of Jammu & Kashmir.

It has ignited confidence and self-esteem in every section of society and the region, he said.

The Minister of State for Personnel said this in an interaction during a lunch hosted for the Jammu & Kashmir tableau team members who had performed in the Republic Day celebrations at Rajpath here on Wednesday.

The team of artists, along with choreographers and musicians, have also been given appointment to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

The members of the team expressed their overwhelming joy at the support and encouragement offered by the minister and also the hospitality given by him, it said.

Unlike on several earlier occasions, this was a rare Republic Day function at Rajpath in which the Jammu & Kashmir tableau was primarily dominated by culture and art of the Jammu region and the face of the tableau displayed Mata Vaishno Devi

Bhawan along with other monumental projects like world's highest rail bridge in Reasi and institutions like AIIMS, IIT and IIM, which have come up in the region during the recent years under the Modi government, the statement said.

The background music and lyrics were also based on Jammu's popular folk songs, Sadha-e-Jammu, Sadhi Bakhri Pehchan, it said.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the last nearly eight years, a conscious effort has been made to provide equitable development and equitable attention to every region of Jammu & Kashmir, said Singh, a Lok Sabha member from J-K's Udhampur constituency.

He said, a very few people are aware that entry of any state or UT tableau in a Republic Day programme at national level has to go through different stages of competition and trial, and many states and UTs get excluded in the process and lose the opportunity to be included in the Republic Day programme.

Singh had a detailed interaction with each member of the team individually and said they were the cultural ambassadors of the region.

He assured each one of them every possible support for upgradation of their skill and performance.

## Youth Crushed To Death In Baramulla PDD Worker Injured, Shifted To Hospital

Agencies

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A 30-year-old man was killed in a road accident at Mirgund highway in Baramulla district on Thursday.

Official sources said that a man identified as Muhammad Yaseen Sofi, son of Gafanar Sofi of Pattan Schanabal was hit by an unknown vehicle today.

The man was brought to SMHS hospital here by Police party from Police Post Mirgund for treatment.

However, the doctors at SMHS declared him as brought dead—(KNO)

**Srinagar:** An employee of Power Development Department (PDD) was admitted to hospital after he suffered injuries while working on shifting Lower Jhelum Hydrel Project bay in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Reports said that a PDD employee was injured while working on restoration of 132 KV Transmission Line of Delina Grid, due to which the restoration work was affected for sometime.

Meanwhile, the employee has been admitted to hospital where his condition is stated to be stable. (GNS)

## People Alienated With Present Form Of Govt: Bukhari

**JAMMU:** Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Thursday people of J&K were feeling alienated with the present form of government.

Altaf Bukhari was speaking at a joining programme in which prominent social activist, and Congress Leader, Adv Akhlaq Hussain Khakhi along with his supporters joined the Party.

The joining programme was organized by Party leader Arun Chibber and Youth Wing Provincial President Jammu, Vipul Bali.

While welcoming the new entrants into the Party, Altaf Bukhari said that their joining will strengthen the roots of the Party in Mendhar and asked them to take forward the policy and agenda of the party among the masses.

"We founded this Party when there was hopelessness among the people in J&K. The people were left helpless nor did anyone represent their concerns and this

was the time we decided to come out in support of the common masses," he said.

He said that "We have tried to bring out people from the situation of hopelessness to the good future with a policy to end the divisive politics and unite the people of two regions."

"Initially, our opponents raised several objections but the time has proved that the voice which was raised by us was right and it is due to this reason, the people from remote places across J&K are joining the Party because of its developmental centric policies and agenda," he said.

He advocated unity among the two regions and its people while criticizing the politics of division.

"We believe in the equitable development of all the regions and districts with no scope of discrimination with any one especially marginalized section of society," he said.

## J&K Passing Through Challenging Times: Sagar

**JAMMU:** Stating that Jammu and Kashmir is passing through challenging times, National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar on Thursday exhorted party functionaries to work in tandem towards making party stronger at grassroots.

Interacting with a number of delegations comprising of Party functionaries, delegates and workers, who had called on him here at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, Sagar said that NC is a formidable entity with deep-rooted and credible footprints across J&K and Ladakh. Among others Provincial President (Jammu) Ratan Lal Gupta, Provincial Secretary Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Brij Mohan Sharma, PP ST Cell Vijay Lochan were also present on the occasion.

Exhorting the functionaries and workers to take party mission to every doorstep, Sagar said, "National Conference has done a lot in empowering people politically since

its inception by providing a vibrant platform to people from different religious and regional backgrounds and ensured their participation in the decision making at all levels."

He said JKNC has always stood for the high principles of secularism, brotherhood and democracy and shall continue to do so in future as well. He said equitable development of all sections of the society has remained the benchmark of the National Conference since its inception.

"Jammu and Kashmir is passing through challenging times. The need of the hour calls for strengthening our rows and taking the party vision to every doorstep. Our functionaries, delegates, and workers in Jammu, Pirpanjal and Chenab are committed and working tirelessly. We have an added responsibility of safeguarding the plural ethos of J&K. We have to work harder to protect our social fabric," he said.

## KPDCL Restores 100% Electricity Within 6 Hrs After Snowfall

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Unlike previous years, the efforts made by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has brought relief among the consumers across the Valley post snowfall as the electricity was restored within just 6 hours after the recent snowfall covered most parts of Kashmir last week.

According to the reports, the consumers from different parts of the Valley said that the power scenario has improved to a large extent this year.

They added that the work done by the KPDCL on the ground post snowfall is quite appreciable as the electricity remained affected for just 5-7 hours following which the grid stations and further damages witnessed during the snowfall were repaired.

Officials within the KPDCL informed that the men and machinery was already kept in a ready mode to ensure that the people don't suffer after the fresh snowfall. "The administration had directed the department to keep men and



machinery ready to tackle any situation," they said.

Following the directions, the KPDCL established control rooms and took other measures as well in wake of the weather advisory to ensure that the people don't face any hardships post snowfall.

The consumers said that it was for the first time that the electricity didn't remain affected for a longer period and the ground staff was seen repairing the damaged lines and reviving

stations soon after the snowfall occurred.

An official document available with KNO said that Kashmir valley witnessed its first snowfall of this winter season on the night of 3rd January, which resulted in a number of 11kv & 33kv feeder outages, particularly in north Kashmir.

"After snowfall on 3rd January, Kashmir Valley received heavy snowfall on Friday afternoon, the 7th January 2022 which continued more or less steadily

till 9th January. Swift Restoration Teams/ Squads, which were stationed at the Control Rooms set up at Divisional and Sub Divisional level, swung in action after occurrence of snowfall and fault rectification was initiated in the extreme weather conditions."

"It was ensured that the restoration process was swift and due to the resolute efforts of field staff, 95% restoration was achieved within 8 hours of fresh snowfall event while the

remaining 5%, pertaining to far flung areas, was restored within 24 hours," it said.

"Due to overnight snowfall of 3rd Jan 2022, the load was reduced to 1394 MW (at 9:00 AM) against normal of 1550-1600 MW, which was restored back by the evening. Similarly, load which had reduced to 1321 MW on 6th Jan (9:00 AM) was restored back to normal (1590 MW at 7:00 PM)," it added.

"The major impact of snowfall was encountered by heavy snowfall during the intervening night of 7th & 8th Jan, due to which load plummeted to 635 MW (at 6:30 AM). The load was however restored to 90% of normal by evening (1306 MW at 7:00 PM). However overnight steady snowfall resulted in recurrence of faults which were cleared swiftly. By 9th of January evening, normal load was served (Above 1500 MW)."

"Even during all the snowfall days, except 8th of January, KPDCL through its efforts and swift restoration was able to supply more daily energy (more than 350 MUs per day) than the previous year," it said—(KNO)



## Roach Returns To West Indies Squad For ODIs In India



Press Trust of India

**ST JOHN'S (Antigua):** Seasoned pacer Kemar Roach and young all-rounder Nkrumah Bonner have been recalled to the West Indies ODI squad for the three-match series in India beginning February 6.

Roach, who has not played any List A cricket since his last ODI in 2019, has made the return with West Indies great Desmond Haynes picking him in his first squad selection since taking over as lead selector.

Six additions have been made to the squad, to be led by Kieron Pollard, that lost to Ireland at home.

The ODIs against India will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 6, 9 and 11.

The T20Is will be played at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on February 16, 18 and 20 and the Ca-

ribbean squad for that is expected to be announced on Friday.

Besides the experienced Roach, the 22-year-old Bonner, a middle-order batter whose last ODI appearance was exactly a year ago, and Brandon King, an opener, have been recalled to the squad.

The 27-year-old King's last one-day outing in national colours was back in 2020.

Roach has so far played 92 ODIs with 124 wickets.

Bonner made his ODI debut in Bangladesh a year ago and has so far played three matches, while King has appeared in four matches in this format.

The series will be part of the ICC ODI Super League and the West Indies will have the opportunity to win points to be one of the top seven teams, excluding hosts India, to gain automatic qualification for the 2023 World Cup.

## Powell's 107 Leads West Indies Over England By 20 Runs

Agencies

**BRIDGETOWN (Barbados):** Rovman Powell hit 10 sixes among his 107 runs from 53 balls to lead West Indies to a 20-run victory Wednesday over England and a 2-1 lead in the five-match Twenty20 series.

Powell, brought in for Odean Smith, formed the backbone of the home side's 224 for five, with Nicholas Pooran clubbing 70 off 43 deliveries. England finished at 202-9.

Tom Banton gave England hope of pulling off its third-

highest chase ever with a 39-ball 73 but his dismissal left the tourists needing 96 from 45 deliveries before Phil Salt kept its flickering hopes alive.

Salt, one of three T20 debutants alongside George Garton and Harry Brook, brought the equation down to 36 in an over, playing the first two deliveries for six en route to a 22-ball 50 before being bowled.

England was captained by Moeen Ali because of a slight quad injury to Eoin Morgan. The final two matches are on Saturday and Sunday, also in Bridgetown.

## ICC Unveils NFT In Partnership With 'FanCraze'



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** The International Cricket Council on Thursday released 'ICC Cricotos', the official range of digital (NFT) collectibles, in partnership with FanCraze.

Cricotos enables fans to collect and trade their own slice of cricket history from a range of ICC events.

Featuring 75 unforgettable moments from the 2015 and 2019 editions of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, fans can start their Cricotos collection with one of three packs: a Base Pack, a Booster Pack and a Hot-shots Pack.

Fans that have reserved a pack will be the first to have the chance to own NFTs of some of the most talked-about shots, catches and wickets in international cricket.

The roster of collectibles will continue to grow and will include classic plays from past ICC Men's and Women's events as well as iconic moments created at future events.

## Will Hold Ranji Trophy In Two Phases: BCCI

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal on Thursday said that the board intends to hold the Ranji Trophy in "two phases" after they were forced to postpone the premier first-class competition due to rising cases of COVID-19 in the country.

The Ranji Trophy comprising 38-first-class teams was scheduled to start on January 13 but was postponed indefinitely due to the third wave of COVID-19.

With the BCCI planning to

start the IPL from March 27, it is practically impossible to hold the tournament in one go but after requests from many state units, the brass held a meeting to discuss the way forward.

"We are exploring the possibility of staging Ranji Trophy, cases were going up when it was postponed, now they seem to be coming down. The operations team is working on whether we can do the league stage next month and complete the rest of the tournament later (post IPL)," Dhumal told PTI after the meeting.

## China Demands US Halt Olympics 'Interference'



Agencies

**BEIJING:** China is demanding the US end interference in the Beijing Winter Olympics, which begin next week, in an apparent reference to a diplomatic boycott imposed by Washington and some of its allies.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi made the demand in a phone call with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday Beijing time, according to a news release posted on the Foreign Ministry's website.

The U.S. has said it will not send dignitaries to the Games, which open Feb. 4, in a protest over China's detention of an estimated 1 million or more Uyghur and other Muslims in the

northwestern region of Xinjiang, along with crackdowns on human rights elsewhere in the country.

The boycott does not prevent U.S. athletes from taking part in the Games, which are being held under strict anti-pandemic restrictions. China has also protested what it says are calls within the State Department to withdraw staff and their dependents from the embassy and consulates around China over the tightening rules.

The news release said Wang also called for an end to U.S. support for self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

Wang also complained that the U.S. hasn't altered tough political

and economic policies toward China under the administration of President Joe Biden, despite its expressed wishes for a less confrontational relationship.

A brief statement from the State Department said that Blinken and Wang exchanged views on how to manage strategic risk, health security and climate change. It did not mention the Olympics or Taiwan. Blinken underscored the economic and security risks posed by Russian aggression against Ukraine, the statement said.

The phone call follows the appointment of veteran diplomat Nicholas Burns as the new U.S. ambassador to China, a position that has remained empty for more than a year. (AP)

## Norwegian Skiers, Other Olympic Hopefuls Positive For Virus

Agencies

**OSLO:** Two members of Norway's women's cross-country ski team have tested positive for the coronavirus ahead of next month's Beijing Olympics, the team said, as other countries also face tense waits to see whether their own infected athletes can recover in time.

Swiss hockey players, Russian bobsledders and German skeleton sliders are among other would-be Olympians facing a nervous wait. Also on that list: U.S. bobsledder Josh Williamson, who revealed a positive test Wednesday and will not accompany his teammates on their Thursday flight to China — though he remains hopeful of getting to the Games in plenty of time to compete.

Heidi Weng, a two-time overall World Cup champion, and Anne Kjersti Kalva contracted COVID-19 at a training camp in the Italian Alpine resort of Seiser Alm and are now isolating.

Norwegian cross-country manager Espen Bjervig said in a video call their participation in the Olympics was uncertain.

Team doctor Øystein Andersen said Italian rules mean that Weng and Kalva will be in isolation for 10 days, until Feb. 3. The open-

ing ceremony is on Feb. 4 and the Olympic cross-country skiing program starts the next day.

"This is a shocking situation," Andersen said.

Weng is the top-ranked Norwegian and a five-time world champion.

"We have a reserve in the squad, and we also have other athletes who are accredited and can be ready," Bjervig said of possible replacements.

"But basically now the focus is on looking at the opportunities for those who have been taken out." Norway is the leading nation in cross-country skiing, with its women's team winning three of the six events on the program at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games.

The team had planned to leave for Beijing on Thursday but will now be delayed.

The entire men's team is also in isolation in Seiser Alm after head coach Arild Monsen tested positive for COVID-19 after returning to Norway on Monday.

All eight team members were defined as a close contact of Monsen and were awaiting the results of PCR tests. They are now scheduled to depart for Beijing on Monday.

Some U.S. athletes leave on Thursday and Williamson was

planning to be on that charter. He will have to wait at least a few days before reaching what would be his first Olympics.

"This has not been an easy pill to swallow," Williamson said.

China imposes strict restrictions on all arrivals, but especially on people who recently had the virus. They are required to supply proof of five recent negative test results since the infection. All athletes will be tested each day they are in China, too.

Switzerland said two of its women's hockey players won't fly out with their teammates to Beijing on their scheduled flight Wednesday following virus tests.

The Swiss Olympic team said some results for Alina Müller and Sinja Leemann in recent days were over the threshold for entry into China, but said it hoped they could take a later flight and join the team in time for its opening game against Canada on Feb. 3.

Two Russian bobsledders from the same sled crew reported positive tests. Alexei Pushkarev and Vasily Kondratenko are in isolation after a training camp in the southern city of Sochi, coach Denis Alimov told broadcaster Match TV. (AP)

## 15-Year-Old Endrick Becomes Brazil's Latest Football Sensation

Agencies

**MADRID:** Playing in the final of an under-21 tournament for Brazilian club Palmeiras, 15-year-old Endrick collected the ball behind the midfield line and started to make a run toward goal.

He sped past a couple of defenders with ease. A third brought him down a few meters later, but Endrick quickly got up after a roll on the ground and continued with the ball.

A fourth defender had to come in to help, finally stopping him with a hard foul.

Endrick laid on the ground for a few moments with his arms outstretched as the crowd continued to cheer from the stands.

Endrick Felipe Moreira de Sousa is the latest Brazilian teen sensation, the next promising star attracting attention from European football.

The talented forward had already scored a goal in Tuesday's 4-0 victory over Santos in the final of the Copa São Paulo, Brazil's most traditional youth competition, and won the awards for best player and best goal — a beautiful bicycle



kick from outside the area in the quarterfinals.

This week, Endrick was the main story on the front page of Spanish sports daily Marca, receiving more prominence than tennis great Rafael Nadal after one of his victories in the Australian Open. The newspaper said Real Madrid was the front-runner to try to sign him, though there were also talks about Barcelona and other top clubs wanting to join the race as well.

Endrick — who impresses with his strong runs, smart finishes and nifty ability to get

around opponents — doesn't even have a professional contract yet. He'll only be able to sign one in Brazil when he turns 16 in July. A move to Europe will only be allowed by FIFA when he turns 18.

His path could be similar to the ones taken by other recent Brazilian promising stars such as Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo, who secured early deals with Madrid as teenagers and then made the trip across the Atlantic after turning 18. The Spanish powerhouse paid nearly 45 million euros (\$50.3 million) for each player.

## PSL 2022: Shahid Afridi Tests Positive For COVID-19

Agencies

**KARACHI:** Quetta Gladiators all-rounder Shahid Afridi will miss the start of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2022 after testing positive for coronavirus, his franchise announced in a statement on Thursday.

The star all-rounder had also contracted Covid-19 in June 2020.

In what will be his farewell PSL, the all-rounder is set to miss the first few games.

"I have unfortunately tested positive but have no symptoms at all. InshaALLAH hope to recover soon, test negative and rejoin QG as soon as possible. Good luck to all teams in #HBLPSL7 I'm committed to giving it my all in my last PSL edition," Afridi tweeted.

The seventh edition of PSL

kicked off in Karachi on Thursday with an impressive opening ceremony at Karachi's National Stadium.



Singers Atif Aslam and Aima Baig turned up the heat on a cold Karachi evening by performing this year's anthem 'Agay Dekh'.

The opening match was played between defending champions Multan Sultans and Karachi Kings.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam will lead the Kings while wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan is the captain for Sultans.

## Justin Langer Inducted Into Australian Cricket Hall Of Fame



Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Former opener and head coach of the senior men's side, Justin Langer has been inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame alongside Raelee Thompson, one of the pioneers of the women's game in the country.

During his successful career as a player, Langer had formed a formidable pairing with Matthew Hayden in Test cricket, playing a key role in Australia's dominance in the early and mid-2000s.

Former fast bowler Thompson, 76, captained the Australian team on four occasions.

Thompson and Langer become the 58th and 59th inductees respectively, since the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame was established in 1996.

Langer took up coaching after his retirement from international crick-

et and following successful stints at Western Australian and Perth Scorchers, Langer was appointed coach of the Australian men's cricket team in May 2018, and led them to the ICC T20 2021 World Cup title and helped the team retain the Ashes in 2019 and 2021-2022.

"Justin's contribution to Australian cricket spans across four separate decades," Australian Cricket Hall of Fame Chairman Peter King said.

"First as a player, as part of one of the most successful teams that world cricket has ever seen. As a coach, he entered the role at a time of great need and leads the Australian Men's Cricket Team with great distinction, a team which the Australian public is very proud of."

The duo of Langer and Hayden amassed 6,081 runs together from 122 Test innings at an average of 51.53, including 14 century partnerships.

## England First Team To Reach U-19 World Cup Semifinals



Agencies

Jacob Bethell's blistering batting display helped England advance to the semifinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup with a six-wicket win over South Africa. Bethell was one of the bowlers to restrict South Africa to 209 all out before hitting 88 to see England set up a clash with either Sri Lanka or Afghanistan.

South Africa endured a slow start having won the toss and chosen to bat, their first boundary came off the final ball of the fourth over before Joshua Boyden dismissed Valentine Kityame off the next delivery. Boyden would claim his 12th wicket of the tournament to send the other opener Ethan-John Cunningham back to the hutch and reduce South Africa to 21 for two.

Dewald Brevis and Gerhardus Maree combined to steady the South African ship, adding 55 runs to the total before Bethell dismissed Maree. Brevis remained a familiar stronghold for South Africa as he brought up his fourth fifty-plus score in a row eventually falling just short of a century on 97.

The final-wicket partnership of Matthew Boast and Asakhe Tsaka frustrated England adding 40 runs as South Africa ended on 209 all out. Bethell came out all guns blazing in England's chase, hitting the fourth fastest half-century of U19 World Cup history, reaching fifty off just 20 balls, as the Young Lions went at over 10 an over.

## Australian Open: Men's Singles Semis On Friday

Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** The men's semifinals bring up a lot of questions which should be answered by the time both high-profile matches end. Will Rafael Nadal extend his quest for a record 21st Grand Slam singles major in the absence of the two men he is tied with on 20 — Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer? Or will Wimbledon finalist Matteo Berrettini upset Nadal and continue his search for a first major title in Sunday's final?

Will second-seeded Daniil Medvedev overcome his tiredness from a late-night, 4 hour,

42-minute, five-set win over Felix Auger-Aliassime and continue his pursuit of a second consecutive Grand Slam title? Or will French Open runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas finally get past the semifinals in his third attempt at Melbourne Park and advance to his second major final? Medvedev beat Tsitsipas in the semifinals here last year. Nadal and Berrettini play first in an afternoon match at Rod Laver Arena.

In Women's Singles Semifinals on Thursday, No. 1 Ash Barty beat Madison Keys 6-1, 6-3; while No. 27 Danielle Collins beat No. 7 Iga Swiatek 6-4, 6-1.