



P5 STATE

GOVT WORKING ON ALL FRONTS FOR DEVELOPMENT, WELFARE OF PEOPLE: LG

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that his government has adopted citizen-centric policies and is steadfastly working on all fronts for

THINK

SOME INSIGHTS INTO THE RISE AND FALL OF MUSLIM INTELLECTUALISM

Over The Years, one of the disturbing questions that has both intrigued and fascinated me—and resulting in the present book—is: Islam, as a civilization, has seen a 'classical' and 'golden age', but how, where, and "What Went Wrong"



P11 SPORTS

AFGHANISTAN DEFEAT SRI LANKA, SET UP SEMIFINAL CLASH WITH ENGLAND

Afghanistan sneaked into the Under-19 World Cup semifinals after edging out Sri Lanka by four runs, courtesy a sensational fightback, here.



Quote!

Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers.

— Voltaire

NEWS DIGEST

Clerk Caught While Accepting Bribe

SRINAGAR: A clerk posted at tehsil office in Singhpora, Baramulla was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday for accepting a bribe of Rs 2000 for settlement of a grievance. According to an ACB spokesperson, a complaint was received by the anti-graft body alleging that Hilal Ahmad, a clerk at tehsil office Singhpora was demanding [More On P10](#)

SPO Injured In Train Accident Succumbs

SRINAGAR: A special police officer (SPO), posted with Government Railway Police, succumbed to injuries he had suffered after being hit by a train while trying to save a person on railway track near Kakapora Pulwama railway station earlier this week. The civilian identified as one Showkat Ahmad Dar son of [More On P10](#)

Two-Way Traffic On Highway Today

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for two-way traffic on Saturday, officials said. "On 29-01-2022, subject to fair weather and better road conditions LMVs (passenger)/private cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar [More On P10](#)

Ladakh Sees 133 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh reported 133 fresh Covid cases, taking the tally to 25,348, while the active cases in the union territory came down to 1,250 with 191 more people recovering from the disease, officials said Friday. The union territory has recorded 223 Covid-related deaths — 164 in Leh and 59 in Kargil — since the outbreak of the pandemic nearly two years ago, they said. [More On P10](#)

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Contact Circulation Incharge:
Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

J&K Under 64-Hour Lockdown To Beat Covid-19



■ KO File Photo By Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir went on a 64-hour lockdown on Friday afternoon as part of the government's effort to combat the alarming spread of novel Coronavirus in the Union Territory.

According to reports, the lockdown was enforced by police soon after congregation Friday prayers concluded

in Srinagar and other major towns of the Valley. In Srinagar, the police vans fitted with a public address system made repeated announcements asking traders to shutdown their business establishments in wake of the weekend lockdown.

Within minutes, the commercial hub of Lal Chowk and its adjoining areas presented a deserted look as all shops, business establishments, offices

ceased operations. Public traffic also went off the roads as soon as the lockdown came into effect. The lockdown will continue till Monday morning.

The weekend lockdown to beat Covid-19 was announced by the State Executive Committee (SEC) headed by Chief Secretary around three weeks ago. Initially, the lockdown was announced on Saturday and Sundays. However, after an alarming [More On P10](#)

4354 Test Positive As Cases Dip

Observer News Service

Coronavirus cases continue to show a steady decline in Jammu and Kashmir as 4354 people on Friday tested positive for the virus while five more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 2914 fresh cases of Coronavirus on Friday while 1440 were registered from various districts of Jammu division, taking the number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 424085.

LG Calls For Ramping Up Healthcare Infra

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that testing, tracing, treatment, Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and vaccination will continue to be the government's strategy to effectively fight the Covid-19. Sinha made these remarks while reviewing the Covid-19 situation across the Union Territory in a series of meetings with the members of Covid Task Force, DCs & SPs, an official spokesperson said. During the meetings, he said, the LG reiterated the importance of Tele-consultation, expanding the services to far-flung areas and efficient monitoring of those [More On P10](#)

Cop Escapes Unhurt In Militant Attack



File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A policeman had a narrow escape on Friday after an unidentified militant fired upon him from close range in Batamaloo area of this capital city.

Around 3:50 pm Friday, Constable Munir Meraj was returning home from a market when an unknown militant fired at him from close range in SD Colony of Batamaloo, eyewitnesses said. Meraj, who was also carrying his child in his lap escaped unhurt in the militant attack.

"He was returning home from the market when an unidentified gunman fired a single shot towards him. He got a bruise in his ear and survived miraculously," an eyewitness said.

He said the unidentified gunman quickly escaped from the spot after firing at the police constable.

Meanwhile, soon after the shootout, police and paramilitary CRPF personnel cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to nab the attacker, an official said.

He said that a [More On P10](#)

4 Soldiers Injured In Rajouri Explosion

At least four army personnel, including a Havaladar were injured on Friday in an explosion during a training session in Kalsian area near Line of Control in Nowshera sub division of Rajouri district. Officials said that a routine training session of the Army was going on [More On P10](#)

Cyber Police Recovers Rs 30L From Online Scamsters

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Cyber Police in Kashmir have recovered Rs 30 lakh which were in the process of being converted into foreign currency by online scamsters.

"Cyber Police Station Kashmir received a complaint from a senior citizen of Srinagar city, stating therein that an amount of 711 lakhs has been fraudulently withdrawn from his bank account regarding which he has no knowledge. Accordingly, Cyber Police Kashmir started investigation promptly into the matter," a police spokesman said here on Friday.

He said preliminary investigation revealed that the said Rs11 lakhs were transferred into the bank account of complainant's nephew.

The complainant's nephew disclosed that he came in touch with scammers over social media sites and they motivated him to invest in online trading to receive hefty



returns and direct credit to his bank account.

He also disclosed that apart from the said amount of Rs11 lakhs, he has also withdrawn an amount of Rs19 lakhs from his father's bank account and invested the same in online trading/investment, resulting in huge financial loss of Rs 30 lakhs.

"The Cyber team coordinated with the bank authorities to ascertain [More On P10](#)

KU To Conduct Offline Exams, Date Sheets Soon

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir University on Friday announced that all pending exams of the varsity will be held in 'offline' mode and the date sheets will be issued soon.

Reacting to the demand of some students including Nursing Students who are seeking "online" exams, Controller of Examinations, KU, Prof Irshad A Nawchoo said that all pending and recently-postponed examinations shall be held in "offline" (pen-paper) mode. "No examination shall be held in online mode."

The University is already in the process of redrafting and issuing datesheets for various pending examinations, which shall commence soon after the pandemic situation eases, he said.

"The University is closely watching the situation and shall possibly issue all datesheets at the earliest to ensure timely [More On P10](#)

Delay In Constitution Of RERA Principal Secy H&UDD To Exercise Powers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid delay over constitution of real estate regulatory authority, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has designated Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development as regulatory under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act-2016.

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir has empowered Principal Secretary, H&UDD as regulatory under the real estate regulation law.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by third proviso of sub-section (1) of section 20 of the Real Estates (Regulation and Development) Act-2016,

the Lieutenant Governor is pleased to designate Principal Secretary to Government Housing and Urban

Development Department as the regulatory authority for the purposes of the said," reads a notification issued by H&UDD.

Under the law, until the establishment of a regulatory authority, the appropriate government shall, by order, designate any regulatory authority or any officer preferably the Secretary of the department dealing with Housing, as the regulatory authority for the purposes under this Act.

The J&K administration had last year initiated the process for constitution of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

In February 2021, the Housing and Urban Development Department has issued an advertisement inviting applications from eligible/desirous [More On P10](#)

BSF To Get Over 100 Steel Fabricated Habitats Along LoC

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Border Security Force will soon get over 100 steel fabricated composite habitats along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

According to the officials, the BSF is in the process of setting up over 100 steel fabricated containers in high altitude Forward Defence Localities (FDLs) along the LoC to protect its troopers from the inclement weather, with an attached kitchen and toilets. The total cost of these will come to around Rs 35 crore, they added.

"These steel fabricated living accommodations will be insulated from inside, have bunk bed facilities and will have both solar and generator power supply," a senior BSF official said, adding that the locations of these FDLs will range from 8,000 feet to 15,500 feet. [More On P10](#)

Late Arrivals, Desperate Lifts And The 'Nexus'—Bumpy Ride In Kashmir

Umer Ahmad

Daily commuting in Srinagar has become a slog and shame for Fayaz Ahmad being rebuked for reporting late in office these days.

He faces the regular humiliation from his superiors despite leaving home early.

After arriving on time at Pantha Chowk, this Anantnag resident struggles to keep pace with his daily movement.

"Since Sumo cabs have been barred from entering the city, I'm forced to board the slow available transport," he said. "And it proves a daily bumpy ride for me."

Frustrated over the existing traffic scenario, another commuter from north Kashmir said that he has to regularly wait at Parimpora Chowk to find



another transport to enter the summer capital.

"If the government wanted to streamline traffic in Srinagar, they should've provided alternate to public," Gowher Ahmad, a resident of Pattan, said. "Just banning entry of Sumos into Srinagar won't resolve the issue,

they've to think about people as well."

Many passengers told Kashmir Observer that they've been facing hassles from the last three months now when cabs from different routes were stopped at various entry points — Nowgam, Parimpora,

Hyderpora and PanthaChowk.

The stringent manning and drop-gates make the availability of public transport "scarce" and due to which the passengers including students and patients have to wait for hours to find a ride.

"Entering Srinagar in Sumo has become a penalised act," said Nazir Ahmad, a sumo driver from south Kashmir.

"I was lately fined Rs 2000 for my regular ride in the city. I now tread with caution. We know people face issues in finding transport to commute, but we too are helpless. While those blocking roads and sideways with their personal cars go scot-free, we poor souls are facing the music for the heck of it."

However, Muzaffer Shah, Senior Superintendent of Traffic Police, said his department is

only implementing the 2017 J&K High Court order barring Tata Sumos and taxis coming from the south and north Kashmir beyond the PanthaChowk and Parimpora bus stands.

"Srinagar has more vehicles than its carrying capacity and the illegal Sumo stands were creating a traffic mess," SSP Shah said.

"We're only streamlining the traffic in Srinagar. There was a nexus at play where Sumos from different districts were given patronage and allowed to create a traffic mess inside the city. I've talked to all the Sumo stands associations all over the valley and they assured full support to my decision."

Even as the SSP said that the traffic department has enough 407 Matador vehicles available to carry [More On P10](#)

Weather Improves As 'Chillai Kalan' Nears End

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Dry weather prevailed in most parts of Kashmir valley with sunny day Friday. However cold wave intensified as minimum temperatures across Kashmir plunged below the freezing point.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius down from minus 1.3 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius slightly down from minus 10.0 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 11.8 degrees Celsius down from the previous

night's minus 10.9 degrees Celsius, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded the minimum of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

Clear skies overnight resulted in a rare day of bright sunshine at the peak of winter in the valley.

Kashmir 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 [More On P10](#)



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Study Finds English Songs Are Effective For Learning Vocabulary

Agencies

A team of researchers conducted a quantitative meta-analysis to examine the effect that teaching with English songs has on L2 vocabulary learning in second and foreign language classrooms. The study has been published in the 'Language, Culture and Curriculum Journal'. For this study, Dr Dennis Murphy Odo, an Associate Professor at Pusan National University, extracted data from 27 well-designed research investigations--comprising 28 studies and 1,864 participants--published between 1990 and 2020. Upon defining the study characteristics and effect sizes, he analyzed the data using a random-effects model. The findings were highly encouraging, revealing that learners who received instruction through English songs outperformed other learners by learning more L2 English vocabulary. Interestingly, songs from the pop music genre were found to be more effective at promoting L2 vocabulary than textbook songs. The appeal of pop songs might be attributed to their quality of music and their relatability to the audience. Dr Murphy Odo also observed that students benefit most upon listening to English songs for neither too long nor too short of a duration of instruction (in the study, this is defined as



being between 199 and 600 minutes). "English teachers can now feel more confident about using songs as a complementary instructional strategy to improve their students' English L2 vocabulary learning," explained Dr Odo, while discussing how the findings can help students and teachers in the long run. Dr Murphy Odo's findings also showed that speakers of Sino-Tibetan languages (e.g., Mandarin Chinese) struggled the most to understand English songs, which may be due to the considerable linguistic difference between Sino-Tibetan languages and English. Moreover, songs were found to be more effective for adult learners than

for children, which can be attributed to adults' higher ability to comprehend songs and greater overall background knowledge. "These results will encourage teachers to use songs not just as a fun activity to fill time in their lessons, but also as a helpful way to reinforce learners' knowledge of new vocabulary in English. This work can give language teachers and learners confidence that using songs in the second or foreign language learning classroom will help them to learn English vocabulary more effectively," commented Dr Murphy Odo, summarizing the long-term implications of his work.

از ریاست دیپلگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیپلگام مشغول درخواست منجانب بنجما اسحاق سابق رشید فردوس احمد پسران عبدالرشید بٹ ساکنہ مذکورہ تحصیل و ضلع اینٹ ناگ بفرض حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ اشتہار برادر گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سا بیان سنے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول بیک وارڈاری سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری علاقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سا بیان کا کتبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر کار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	عبدالرشید بٹ داماد شیخان بیک	55 سال	مزدوری	8000/=
02	شریفہ بانو زوجہ عبدالرشید	49 سال	گھر بیٹ کام	
03	سکی جان دختر عبدالرشید	27 سال	گھر بیٹ کام	
04	نعمت اسحاق بٹ ولد عبدالرشید	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	ساقب رشید ولد عبدالرشید	22 سال	ملازمت	LPC
06	فردوس احمد بٹ ولد عبدالرشید	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کوئی نہیں ہے اور کوئی باہانہ دے کر 54894/- ہے۔ سب سرٹیفیکٹ مکروری اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر بذمہ پیش کریں۔ معاہدہ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ma تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار۔

Office Of The Principal Islamia Hanfia Institute Lal Chowk Anantnag Kmr.
A Unit of J&K Muslim Wakf Board Srinagar.

No:- /IHWSS/ANG Date:- 28/01/2022

Short Term Quotation for the purchase of Baby Desks.

For and on behalf of the Principal Islamia Hanfia Wafk Hr. Sec. Anantnag, Dasti quotations are hereby invited from the registered/authorized dealers for the supply of student benches for different class rooms.

S.No.	Model Name	Dimension	Quantity
1.	Baby Desks	Length 32" Width 30.3" Height 23"	50 Nos.

The quotations should reach this office by or before 4th Feb-2022. The quotations shall be opened on 5th Feb – 2022.

Terms And Conditions.

- The quotations must be submitted in sealed envelope.
- The rates should be quoted inclusive of all taxes.
- The rates quoted should be without any cutting and over writings.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject any quotations without assigning any reasons thereof.

Principal.

Role of Maulana Azad National Urdu University in promoting Urdu Language.

Urdu is considered as the most important language of communication in India and in some other countries as well. It has been called as one of the most beautiful and sophisticated languages spoken around the world. It is because of this that Urdu speakers are such a glee to listen to, just by listening to Urdu poetry or music, it makes you feel that you should also learn Urdu. It was also known as "Kohinoor of Urdu". One of the basic reasons of why Urdu seems so beautiful is because of the decency that the language presents. It may be the only language in the world in which it is just not possible to abuse someone. According to census of India, the number of Urdu speakers was 2.68 crore in 1971, it increases to over 3.5 crore in 1981 and a decade later it reached 4.4 crore. The 2001 census recorded 5.15 crore Urdu speakers. But in 2011, the figure dropped to 5.07 crore. Being the language of masses it is somehow losing its charm. As per poet Rashid:

"Maanglallah se bas itridnuahairashid Mai jovasihatlikhon, beta parh le.."

To promote Urdu through the medium of education, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is playing a tremendous role as it is the first and only central university established with the aim of promoting Urdu language. MANUU is a central university which was established by an act of Parliament in 1988, with the mandate to foster and develop the Urdu language and to impart vocational and technical education through the medium of Urdu. The regular programmes are offered through 8 schools of studies namely, School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Commerce and Business Management, School of Education and Training, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, School of Languages, Linguistics and Indology, School of Sciences, School of Technology, Computer Applications and IT and Engineering and Architecture. It is the kind of university which is diverse in its programmes and courses. It has different colleges of Teacher Education, Polytechnics, ITs, Urdu Model schools all over the India. The vision of the University is to provide quality higher education and research through Urdu. It has the network of nine regional and five sub regional centres spread across the different states of India. In spite of being in its dawn stage, the university is growing at a faster rate, surpassing the growth rate of big established universities. MANUU has been placed among the top 25 central universities of India by the Outlook-ICARE 2020 Ranking. As per UGC, there were other language universities as well but it is the only Urdu university which has received this prestige. MANUU is a member of Association of Indian Universities, Association of Common Wealth Universities, Asian Association of Open Universities, Association for the study of Personate Societies, India International Centre and Indian Academy of Social Sciences. The students and staff of the university are drawn from different parts of the country. Maulana Azad National Urdu University MANUU is known for its diversity. Students and research scholars from different parts of India like UP, Bihar, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir etc. are part of it. Through culturally diverse classrooms and social interactions students have the opportunity to learn from people with different backgrounds and upbringing leading to increased innovation and collaboration. There are many schools in UP, Bihar, Hyderabad etc. where education is imparted through Urdu medium. After leaving such schools and colleges, MANUU acts as their saviour, as it is the only central university where education is imparted through Urdu medium. It is the central university where Ph. D thesis are submitted bilingual- both in English and Urdu so that Urdu will not act as a hindrance in their progress when these research scholars will apply for jobs in other universities. There is a great relevance to research in education. Apart from ensuring an in-depth knowledge over a topic, research papers and articles also contribute to the world of knowledge. These research papers and articles become the helping hands for the students in future, guiding and helping them in research. "Adab-o- saqafat" a bi - annual research and referred journal of MANUU is working in this direction. It is dedicated to the promotion of Urdu language, literature and culture by providing opportunities to the faculty and scholars as well to publish their valuable content. The journal is included in UGCs refereed journal list. MANUU has a beautiful tarana (song) which is written by famous poet and Bollywood lyricist Gulzar and sung by Sukhwinder Singh. It clearly indicates that love for urdu was the thread which has bind Bollywood celebrities and MANUU Staff and students together. The tarana is beautifully written and it sought to spread the vinous fragrance of urdu not only in university but outside as well. The lyric, " Urdu ki dekhushuboo" justifies it vigorously. Media is considered as the most powerful tool of communication in emerging world. Thomas carlyle considered it as a fourth pillar of democracy. The university has full-fledged instructional media centre (IMC) which is engaged in production of curriculum based audio and video programmes to meet the needs of students pursuing various academic programmes of MANUU in its regular and distance education stream. It has also launched different e content programmes. The audio visual series titled as " Urdu-Nama, shaheeneurdu" is promoting and preserving Urdu's rich cultural heritage and will help in bringing its diverse flavours to the masses. I would like to conclude with the beautiful lines:

"Saleeqay se hawaon main jikhushboogholsaktehain Abhikuch log hainbaqijourdubolsaktehain".

ma

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلتنرہ درخواست منجانب غلام نبی پسرے ولد محمد سلطان پسرے ساکنہ کولہیم تحصیل کرپری برادر حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بکن بکن دختر گنجت نبی و پسر ساحل احمد پسرے تحت ہی آرا 144,294,375

اشتهار برادر گاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذمہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری علاقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالاات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ کولہیم میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کمندی کی سالانہ آمدنی 124800 ہے بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

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شاہد احمد پسرے	پسر	19	زیر تعلیم	
گنجت نبی	دختر	18	زیر تعلیم	
ساحل احمد پسرے	پسر	16	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کوئی نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ عیداً گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

اش k _r نائب تحصیلدار

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلتنرہ درخواست منجانب بشیر احمد چوپان ولد ثناء اللہ چوپان ساکنہ کلتنرہ تحصیل کرپری برادر حصول وارجان جائز سرٹیفیکٹ باپت Pony Wala License بکن خود

اشتهار برادر گاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذمہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری علاقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالاات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ کالہ والہ ثناء اللہ چوپان مورخہ 01-12-2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے سائل اپنے والد کی پونی والہ لاسن اپنے نام کرنا چاہتا ہوں متوائی کتبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

عبدل احمد چوپان	پسر متوائی	52	مزدوری
عبدل مجید پسر		47	مزدوری
بشیر احمد پسر پسر		42	مزدوری

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کوئی نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ عیداً گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ash k نائب تحصیلدار

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Hussaib Mohammad
S/o Noor Mohammad Bhat
Mother's Name; Saleema Begum

Secondary School Examination class 10th
Roll No: 3168272 Year 2016 Session Annual Regular

Higher Secondary School Examination class 12th
Roll No: 3150523 Year 2019 Session Bi-Annual

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore
FKO

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Tariq Ahamd Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat R/O Arampora Qamarwarl (Transferor) and Shri Riyaz Ahamd Bhat S/O Mohammad Sidiq Bhat R/O Khajapora Syed-pora Rainwari Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 4755 / MC Covering Vehicle No JK01L- 6180 Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S ___ STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain

JK/RTOK No: 467
Dated: 27-01-2022
FKO

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

Contact:- 0194-3550112
G-mail- yardimciquique92@gmail.com
I.G: yardimci_multi_venture
F.B: yardimci MultiVenture

ELECTRONICS

IOX MOBILE STORE

All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories

Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:- 7889657769

TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.

Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:- 9149965005/ 9682370979

E-mail:- techrbpl786@gmail.com Phone:- 01933-295302.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No :- 413/EEP/RNB/of 2021-22/14177-87

Dated: 27/01/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs.Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:
1.	Upgradation of IR at Awatipora, Iqbal colony, Nundresh colony, Sheikh colony bahu road, Hirpora filtration plant road incl. Gadikhal Chersoo (Const. Of damaged stone masonry R/Wall by way of RCC R/Wall) BW.	2.86	200/-	6000/-	10 working Days	DEE	S/S	21/SE/PS of 2021-22 Dated: 07.07.2021
2.	Upgradation of interior roads at Tral including Km 1st of Tral Kahill road BW.	6.69	300/-	13,400/-	10 working Days	CEE & DEE	S/S	20/SE/PS of 2021-22 Dated: 05.07.2021
3.	Widening of Tral Kahill road Km 2nd and 3rd including Pinglish Reshipora, Hayana, Nigeenpora and Laribal road including New Colony Chatergam near GDC Tral including with construction of road from Batnoor to Batnoor Bala and Widening of Tral Mandoor road including Karmulla Nard road and construction of Razakh Shah road by way of R/Wall (BW).	2.24	200/-	4,500/-	7 working Days	DEE	S/S	20/SE/PS of 2021-22 Dated: 05.07.2021
4.	Upgradation of Tral Shikargah Dankard road by way of CC-Drain. (BW).	0.72	200/-	1,500/-	5 working Days	DEE	S/S	20/SE/PS of 2021-22 Dated: 05.07.2021

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www .jktenders. gov .in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27/01/2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28/01/2022 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	28 /01/2022 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	05/02/2022 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05/02/2022 at 4:30 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman Technical Officer Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

DIPK-17214/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir,

Office of the Seed Pathologist, Agriculture Production Farmer's Welfare Department, Kashmir Division.

Advisory regarding crop health for February 2022.

Kashmir Valley has again recently experienced snow fall necessitating dissemination of information among farming community regarding the care and protection of Crops .The farmers of Kashmir Valley need to be informed about health advisory of agricultural crops on war footing basis through electronic and print media:

Crop	Phonological stage/ operations	Message
Wheat	Growth	I. Due to melting of snow there are utmost chances of water accumulation in the field for which drainage channels should be made to drain out the excess water.
Brown Sarson	Growth	I. Clean fields & channels to avoid water stagnation. II. Snow water should be removed through channels to prevent the crop from root & soil borne diseases in the spring.
Saffron	Maintenance of field	I. For saffron fields, farmers should follow field sanitation, proper drainage of rain/snow water.
Field Pea/Lentil	Growth	I. Clean fields and channels to avoid water stagnation. II. If bird damage observed, erect Scare crow and bird repellents.
Oat Fodder	Growth	I. Farmers are advised to provide drainage channels in the fields wherever there is possibility of water accumulation.
All Vegetable	Growth	I. Avoid water stagnation in fields by providing adequate drainage. II. Harvest the crop of leafy vegetables from protected structures.
(open or Hot bed)	Growth	III. Take care of potato tubers in store by frequent turning, regular inspections and removal of diseased tubers.
Flowers	Care and maintenance	I. Inspect gladiolus corms in storage and discard diseased and rotten ones if any. II. Protect house plants from cold. Trim hedge plants that have overgrown.

Sd/-
Seed Pathologist,
Agri. Prod.& Farmer's Welfare Deptt.,
Lalmandi Srinagar.

DIPK-17195/21

Issued through: Information & Publications, Agriculture production & Farmer's Welfare Department Lalmandi Srinagar



SMC Draws Flak From Netizens For 'Vandalizing' Carts Of Street Vendors

Syed Burhan

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has come under severe criticism from netizens after several of its teams on Friday allegedly vandalised many carts during an anti-encroachment drive here in summer capital.

The Drive was launched in Maharaja Bazar, Hari Singh High Street and its adjoining areas and was conducted under the supervision of Commissioner SMC Athar Amir.

In several videos that went viral on social networking sites, street vendors were seen screaming for help after their goods were vandalised and carts were bundled away by the officials of SMC's anti-encroachment squad in Jahan-geer Chowk and LD (hospital) areas of Srinagar city, hours before the commencement of weekend lockdown.

"Look how they (SMC officials) are snatching our livelihood, where will we go? I've a family to feed. What will we do?" one of the street vendors' can be seen screaming loudly in a video clip.

"I'm a father of four girls, what wrong I've done to you, please don't do this, where will I go," another street vendor says.

"It's was a Jumma today, we were preparing to offer



Salah, but they (SMC officials) didn't allowed us to offer Salah, they came suddenly and vandalised everything, they could have informed us an hour before, this is complete lawlessness", another vendor said.

The action of SMC is 'illegal and unlawful as per Supreme Court directions', remarked a Twitterati.

"All existing street vendors/hawkers operating across the country shall be allowed to

operate till the exercise of registration and creation of vending/ hawking zones is completed in terms of the 2009 policy", Sheikh Irfan Gulzar wrote on twitter.

"How insensitive and inhumane can one be to call for this? If you can't provide them a proper vending zone then you have no right to snatch their livelihood either. These anti-encroachment drives show the failure of @SMC_Srinagar in

providing them a proper vending zone," wrote another local Ateeb Imtiyaz.

Reacting over the incident, Political Analyst Ifthikar Misgar wrote, "We are in 3rd season of #Covid19. This time we are not facing something new and unexpected. But what Govt has kept for those who will have no choice but to breach lockdown coz they have to feed their families. Is anybody listening."

Backing the officials' ac-

tion, SMC's Chief Enforcement Officer said that the drive was carried out under the supervision of the Commissioner himself. "Due to encroachment of roads in the city, the commuters as well as pedestrians are facing a lot of inconvenience on a daily basis."

Upon being asked of the resentment over the 'way' to handle the situation, he said that vendors were warned on a daily basis in the past too but they haven't bothered.

He said the goods and other things seized by the squad will be released and handed over back to the vendors after payment of due fine and completion of other paperwork.

The official further informed that a separate space has been sanctioned for raddiwallas near Khalsa school in Sarraiballa. "Hopefully the modalities on it are worked out soon."

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the anti-encroachment drive SMC Commissioner Ather Aamir said that the anti-encroachment team conducts these drives on a daily basis.

"The anti-encroachment drive is being held at places where the roads and footpaths are being encroached upon" he said.

"The campaign is also against the unauthorized structures that are being built" he added.

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

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



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

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 661 - Rashidun Caliphate ends
- 1258 - Mongols defeated by Dai Viet at the battle of Dong Bo Dau
- 1523 - Sermon of Constanze: Zwingli defends 67 Schlussreden
- 1574 - Sea battle of Reimerswaal - Admiral Boisot beats Spanish fleet
- 1587 - Deventer and Zutphen surrender to Spain
- 1594 - Mathematician John Napier dedicates his "Plaine Discovery of the Whole Revelation of St. John" to King James VI, predicts end of the world in 1688 or 17001595 - William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet" is thought to have been first performed. Officially published early 1597.
- 1676 - Feodor III succeeds his father and becomes Tsar of Russia
- 1728 - John Gays' "Beggar's Opera" premieres in London [NS=Feb 9]
- 1732 - Paris churchyard of Saint-Medard closed after Jansenistic ritual
- Music release
- announcement, John Hancock resigns as Governor of Massachusetts, allegedly due to his failing health
- 1834 - President Jackson orders first use of US troops to suppress a labor dispute
- Treaty of InterestTreaty of Waitangi
- 1879 - Custer Battlefield National Monument established in Montana
- 1905 - Tsar Nicolas II of Russia, unsettled by the rising violence and protest, enacts reforms to improve the conditions of workers; these changes will do little to stop disorder throughout Russia in ensuing months.
- 1907 - Charles Curtis becomes U.S. Senator from Kansas, first Native American to become a Senator
- 1908 - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, at Cornell University, incorporates
- 1912 - Martial law declared in textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts
- 1913 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, at Howard University, incorporates
- 1916 - 1st bombing of Paris by German Zeppelins takes place
- 1916 - 1st bombing of Paris by German Zeppelins takes place
- 1917 - British submarine K13 sank in Gaire Loch, Scotland; 32 of her crew died
- 1918 - Ukrainian-Soviet War: Battle of Kruty
- 1920 - Walt Disney starts work as an artist with KC Slide Co for \$40 a week
- 1921 - Hurricane hits Washington & Oregon
- 1922 - Union of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador dissolved
- 1923 - 1st flight of autogiro (Juan de la Cierva, Madrid Spain)
- 1924 - Ice cream cone rolling machine patented by Carl Taylor, Cleveland
- 1924 - Swiss team of Denis Vaucher (C), Alfred Aufdenblatten, Antoine Julien & Alfons Julien win the military patrol gold medal at the Chamonix Winter Olympics; first version of the biathlon
- 1925 - British Liberal Party chooses David Lloyd George as leader
- 1941 - Alexandros Koryzsis becomes Prime Minister of Greece
- 1942 - German & Italian troops occupy Benghazi, Libya
- 1942 - Peru and Ecuador sign Protocol of Rio (boundary determination)
- 1944 - USS Missouri, the last battleship commissioned by the US Navy, is launched
- 1944 - World War II: The Battle of Cisterna takes place in central Italy.
- 1944 - World War II: About 38 men, women, and children die in the Konichy massacre in Poland
- 1948 - Pakistan Socialist Party is founded
- 1949 - Great Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland recognize Israel
- 1964 - Unmanned Apollo 1 Saturn launcher test attains Earth orbit
- 1970 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalatinsk USSR

From KO Archives

Missing Garages car keeps cops on toes

Srinagar - Hijacking of an Ambassador car belonging to State Motor Garages this afternoon has sent a wave of apprehension through police and various security agencies who fear that it might be used in a Fidayeen strike on or before Republic day.

According to a NAFIA report unidentified militants in a stolen Ambassador car (JK01 1199) gunned down one Tariq Ahmad, allegedly a police informer hailing from Handwara, in Nowpora locality of the city at noon today. The gunmen later abandoned the car at Fateh Kadal and hijacked a State Motor Garages Ambassador (JK02 M 3721) from the area, the report quoting police sources said. The incident prompted police and other security agencies to sound an alert for the vehicle. The police and intelligence agencies the report said remained clueless till late Wednesday despite widespread checking of vehicles.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 29 January, 2001)

Continuous closure of Jama Masjid painful: Anjuman Auqaf

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar has said that the authorities for the 26th consecutive Friday did not allow Muslims to perform mandatory Friday prayers at Jama Masjid Srinagar.

By doing so, the administration continues to hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar said in a statement.

The Anjuman also termed it extremely painful and distressing that



its head Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, continues to be under house arrest since August 5, 2019 incapacitating him from reaching out to people.

Anjuman once again asked the authorities to open Jama Masjid for Friday prayers and ensure the release of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir

Install 'High Security Number Plates' to avoid vehicle theft: Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar police on Friday asked the people to install High Security Number Plates (HSNP) on vehicles to avoid vehicle thefts and other crimes related to vehicles.

Srinagar police on its official Twitter handle said that a drive against non-compliance will start shortly along with Traffic Police.

Police said that legal action will be taken against those who fail to comply with the orders.

"It is requested to all citizens to install High Security Number Plates(HSNP) in all kinds of vehicles. This will lead to curb in vehicle thefts, other crimes related to vehicles. A drive against non-compliance will start shortly along with Traffic Police & legal action will follow," Srinagar police Tweeted.

Office Of The Principal Hanfia Islamic Middle School Syed Lal Bab Sahib, Pahalgam

Ref No: 328/hims/prm/22

Dated: 258-01-2022

Fee Structure For The Year 2021-22

Class	Fee Per Month
8th	900
7th	850
6th	800
5th	750
4th	700
3rd	650
2nd	600
1st	550
K.G Classes	500

Principal Hanfia Islamic Middle School Syed Lal Bab Sahib, Pahalgam

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.
Shri : Tasleem Arif S/o: Ghulam Rasool Dar R/o: Charari Sharief Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Wasim Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Hameed Dar R/o Athwajan

Lasjan Srinagar.as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.1126/GC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04B -2356. 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. 5583
Dated 28/01/2022

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

Office of the Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

Email: - tenders.ssccl@gmail.com

Tel. No: 0194-2455370

(CIN:

U70200JK2017SGC010107)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-N.I.T NO: 03-SSCL of 01/2022, DT:- 25-01-2022

Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from bidders who shall be an Agency/ Entity/ Company/ Firm incorporated in India under the (Indian) Companies Act 2013/ Firm registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008/Class AAY Contractors registered with J&K State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the work as detailed in table below:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Organization	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest-Money (in Rs.)	Head of Account	Class Of Contract	Time Allowed for completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Improvement and Upgradation of Batamaloo – Qamarwari Road in Srinagar City	Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Ltd	Rs. 14.61 Cr.	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 29.22 Lacs/-	SSCL	Agency/ Entity/ Company/ Firm/Class AAY as mentioned in Bid Document	06 Months

Critical Dates:

S. No.	Particulars	Schedule
1	Date of issue of IFB	Date: 25/01/2022
2	Availability of Bid Document on e-procurement portal	Date: 25/01/2022 & Time: 17:00 Hrs.
3	Date of receipt of pre-bid queries	Date: 31/01/2022
4	Date of pre-bid meeting	Date: 05/02/2022 & Time: 14:00 Hrs.
5	Date of Replies to pre-bid queries	Date: 10/02/2022
6	Deadline for Submission of bids	Date: 14/02/2022 & Time: 14:00 Hrs.
7	Last Date for receipt of physical instruments of Cost of Bid Document.	Date: 14:00 Hrs.
8	Opening of Technical Bids	Date: 15/02/2022 & Time: 14:00 Hrs.
9	Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed separately

1. The Cost of Bid Document is non-refundable and is to be paid through via DD/NEFT/RTGS in favour of Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as under:
Name of Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: SSI Lal Chowk, Srinagar.
Bank Account Number: 0216010100002252,
IFSC Code: JAKA0SSISGR
MICR Code: 190051059

2. The Bid document consisting of Information to Bidders (ITB), Bid Data Sheet (BDS), Information and Documents to be furnished along with the Bid, General & Special Conditions of Contract, Contract Data, Scope, Specifications and Drawings and set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be uploaded on the website: www.jktenders.gov.in from 25/01/2022.

3. The Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security) may be paid through CDR/FDR/DD/NEFT/RTGS in favour of Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as stated above or may be submitted through a Bank Guarantee, having a validity of 60 days beyond Bid Validity Period of 120 days. The Bank Guarantee shall be pledged to Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, Srinagar and shall be submitted in the format provided in the Bid Document

4. Bids shall be received "on line" on or before 14/02/2022. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID.

5. If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.

6. The Schedule indicated above is tentative and the Employer may change any or the entire schedule with prior intimation to all bidders.

7. Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Bid Document Cost.

8. The eligible bidders registered as Micro and Small Enterprises shall be provided bid document free of cost subject to furnishing of relevant valid certificate/documents for claiming such exemption.

9. The bidder is required to quote in the prescribed format provided on the e-procurement portal and the selection will be done on least cost basis.

10. Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.

11. The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.

12. The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason therefor and thereby assumes no responsibility of incurring any liability to the affected applicants.

13. Any information regarding the IFB and / or Bid Document can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.

No: SSCL/CEO/6724-26
Dated: 25/01/2022
DIPK-NB-6793/21

Sd/-

Chief Executive Officer
Srinagar Smart City Limited.

BJP Richest Party In 2019-20, Followed By...No, It's Not Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The BJP declared assets worth 4,847.78 crore in financial year 2019-20, the highest among all political parties, followed by the BSP at 698.33 crore and the Congress at 588.16 crore, according to poll reforms advocacy group ADR.

The Association for Democratic Reforms prepared its report based on its analysis of assets and liabilities of national and regional parties in 2019-20.

According to the analysis, the total assets declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties during the financial year amounted to 6,988.57 crore and 2,129.38 crore, respectively.

Among the seven national parties, the highest assets were declared by the BJP (Rs 4847.78 crore or 69.37 per cent), followed by the BSP (Rs 698.33 crore or 9.99 per cent) and the Congress (588.16 crore or 8.42 per cent), the ADR report said.

Among the 44 regional parties, the assets of the top 10 parties were worth 2028.715 crore or 95.27 per cent of the total declared by them all combined.

In the FY 2019-20, among the regional parties, the highest assets were declared by the Samajwadi Party at 563.47 crore (26.46 per cent), followed by the TRS at 301.47 crore and the AIADMK at 267.61 crore.

Fixed Deposits/FDR constituted the largest share of 1,639.51 crore (76.99 per cent) of the total assets declared by regional parties in the FY 2019-20.

Under the FDR/Fixed Deposits category for the financial year, the BJP and the BSP declared 3,253.00 crore and 618.86 crore, the top two among all national parties, while the Congress declared 240.90 crore.



Among regional parties, political parties such as the SP (Rs 434.219 crore), TRS (Rs 256.01 crore), AIADMK (Rs 246.90 crore), DMK (Rs 162.425 crore), Shiv Sena (Rs 148.46 crore), BJD (Rs 118.425 crore) among others declared highest assets under FDR/Fixed Deposits.

The total liabilities declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties for the FY 2019-20 amount to 134.93 crore.

"The National Political Parties declared the total liabilities of 74.27 crore in FY 2019-20. National Parties declared 4.26 crore under Borrowings and 70.01 cr under Other Liabilities and in the FY 2019-20, Congress declared the highest total liabilities of 49.55 crore (66.72 per cent) followed by AITC that declared 11.32 crore (15.24 per cent)," the ADR said.

Regional political parties declared total liabilities of 60.66 crore in FY 2019-20, it said.

"Regional Parties declared 30.29 crore under Borrowings and 30.37 cr under Other Liabilities and in the FY 2019-20, TDP declared the highest total liabilities of 30.342 crore (50.02 per cent) followed by DMK that declared 8.05 crore (13.27 per cent)," the analysis said.



Nasal Covid Booster Gets Nod For Trial In India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on January 28 granted permission to Bharat Biotech to start conducting booster dose trials for its intranasal coronavirus vaccine.

The approval has been granted to conduct phase-3 trials. The trials will evaluate the nasal vaccine for both the two-dose primary schedule and also to use as booster dose schedule, company sources told PTI.

The trials will be conducted at nine different sites by Bharat Biotech -- the makers of Covaxin.

Earlier this month, in a bid to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection driven by its Omicron variant, India has started administering the precautionary dose of COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare and frontline workers and comorbid people aged 60 years and above.

BHARAT BIOTECH had received regulatory approval for mid-to-late-stage trials for its intranasal vaccine BBV154 in August last year.

application to the Drugs Controller General of India in December 2021 stating that an intranasal vaccine as a booster dose will be easier to administer in mass vaccination campaigns.

The development came a day after the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) upgraded the permission for COVAXIN and Covishield from restricted use in emergency situations to normal new drug permission in the adult population with certain conditions.

Notably, Bharat Biotech chairman Krishna Ella and his co-founder Suchitra Ella will be honoured with the prestigious Padma Bhushan, President Ram Nath Kovind announced on January 25.

Jailed SP MP Azam Khan Rejected Bail



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW: A special court on Thursday rejected the bail plea of former minister and Samajwadi Party MP Mohammad Azam Khan in a 2014 case.

Special MP/MLA Court judge Ambrish Kumar Srivastava passed the order observing that Azam Khan had published such facts that might cause fear in the public, and a person or a community might be incited to breach the peace in the society.

An FIR was lodged against Khan in February 2019 following a complaint by one Allama Zameer Akhtar Naqvi with the Hazratganj Police.

It was said in the FIR that the incident for which the complaint was filed was of 2014 but

under the pressure of the then government, a case could not be registered.

The complainant had sent her complaint to the state minority commission alleging therein that Khan had misused his official letterhead and official seal in order to damage the reputation of the BJP, the RSS and Maulana Syed Kalbe Jawad Naqvi at the national and international level.

The bail application by Azam Khan pleaded that the allegations were baseless. It said he had already been in jail for two years and in such circumstances, he should be granted bail. The court, however, denied the bail.

Azam Khan is presently lodged in Sitapur jail in connection with a number of cases, including that of land grabbing, lodged against him in Rampur.

Hamid Ansari Raises Concern Over 'Cultural Nationalism' In India, Govt Hits Back

THE QUINT

Former Vice President Hamid Ansari on Wednesday, 26 January, expressed concern over India's emerging practice of 'cultural nationalism,' at a virtual event organised by the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC). The remarks have elicited opposition from the government.

"In recent years, we have experienced emergence of trends and practices that disprove the well-established principle of civic nationalism and interposes a new and imaginary practice of cultural nationalism... It wants to distinguish citizens on the basis of their faith, give vent to intolerance, insinuate otherness, and promote disquiet and insecurity," Ansari said at the event.

The remarks drew flak from Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, who said, "This Indo-American Muslim Council, who had a link with SIMI and ISI, who used to propagate anti-India bashing and Modi bashing, has done it again."

The Students' Islamic Move-



ment of India (SIMI) is a banned terrorist organisation that was formed in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh in 1977.

'Conspiracy To Tarnish India's Image': Naqvi

"Yesterday, when the country was celebrating Republic Day... at that time, a conspiracy to defame India was being spread all over the world from the platform of the institution involved in conspiracies to tarnish the image of our country by a person sitting on a constitutional post," Naqvi said at a press conference.

"This is the organisation whose link is with ISI, its link is with all such organizations which are engaged in conspiracy and conspiracy to disturb the peace and harmony of the whole world," he said, alluding to the IAMC.

A United States senator and three members of the US Congress, who had spoken at the IAMC event, had also condemned the escalating violations of human rights, civil and political liberties, and religious freedom under Prime Minister Modi's rule.

Hindu Yuva Vahini Gets Active Again To Campaign For Its Founder Yogi Adityanath



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Hindu Yuva Vahini, which was formed nearly two decades ago to spread the message of nationalism among youths but was almost dormant for the past few years, has become active again to canvass for its founder Yogi Adityanath in the Uttar Pradesh polls.

After the BJP declared Mr Adityanath's candidature from the Gorakhpur Urban constituency, members of the youth organisation got into action, and have been fanning out to booth level to garner support for him.

Working in coordination with local BJP leaders, Vahini members have been using social media too to highlight the development works of the government under "Maharaj ji" (as it refers to Yogi Adityanath).

The organisation that came into existence in 2002 had quickly gained prominence, particular in Gorakhpur, with a large number of youths becoming its part. Mr Adityanath had formed the Vahini after falling out with the BJP.

The outfit has served as a power machine for Adityanath to influence poll outcomes in the assembly constituencies in the district.

Mr Adityanath had ensured the victory of incumbent MLA Radha Mohan Das Agarwal in his maiden electoral battle as a candidate of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha in 2002 from the Gorakhpur Urban constituency against the BJP's Shiv Pratap Shukla, presently a minister of state in the union cabinet. It also played a vital role in Adityanath's victory in parliamentary elections from Gorakhpur five times since 1998.

khpur five times since 1998.

The HYV describes itself as "a fierce cultural and social organisation dedicated to Hindutva and nationalism". Alongside cow protection, its stated objectives are "complete abolishment of the differentiation between touchable-untouchable and high-low, promote the harmonious development of society".

Over the years, the group has found itself embroiled in multiple controversies. In June 2017, its three members were arrested on allegations of rape and thrashing a police officer in Bareilly.

In May the same year, its members were also allegedly involved in lynching of a Muslim man in Bulandshahr for helping a Hindu girl elope. Some of its members also allegedly thrashed a Muslim couple in a courtroom on the suspicion of 'love jihad' -- a term used by some to refer to interfaith marriage between a Muslim man and Hindu girl -- in Baghpat in 2018.

According to experts, the HYV's stance softened after Adityanath became the chief minister in 2017.

Since then the Vahini has focused more on social work and the elimination of untouchability and discrimination among Hindus. They had rendered services to the citizens during the Covid pandemic too.

"Hindu Yuva Vahini is a social organisation and is active for social cause as well as working for the election campaign of 'Pujya Maharaj Ji' (Yogi) in Gorakhpur, along with canvassing in favour of BJP candidates all over the state, its state general secretary Engineer PK Mall told PTI.

Mr Adityanath is contesting the assembly elections for the first time from the Gorakhpur Urban, where he spent a long time since assuming sainthood. The Gorakhnath temple of whom Adityanath continues to be the "mahant" (head) falls in this assembly segment.

He is serving as chief minister through the legislative council route presently.

Voting in the constituency number 322 (Gorakhpur Urban) is scheduled in the sixth phase on March 3.

When Will India Get The Land China Has Occupied? Rahul Gandhi Asks Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: After the Chinese People's Liberation Army handed over the 19-year old Miran Taron to the Indian Army at Wacha-Damai interaction point in Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that it is comforting to know that China has returned Taron, while questioning the Centre on the return of "the land which China has occupied".

"It was comforting to know that China has returned Miran Taron. When will India get the land which China has occupied, Prime Minister?" the Congress leader tweeted (roughly translated from Hindi) tagging his previous post dated January 23 urging the government to bring back the 19-year-old boy.

Earlier, Rahul Gandhi had commented on the incident and tweeted, "If there is a government, then do your duty. Bring back Miran Taron! Bring back #MiranTaron!"

The Chinese People's Liberation Army handed over the



19-year old Miran Taron to the Indian Army at Wacha-Damai interaction point in Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday, a week after the teenager went missing.

Taking to Twitter, Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijju said, "The Chinese PLA handed over the young boy from Arunachal Pradesh Shri Miran 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."

The Union Minister also said that due procedures are being followed including the medical

SHORT TAKES

No Hijab With Uniform: Kerala



Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala government on Thursday said that it cannot allow students to wear hijab and full sleeves as part of the uniform of Student Police Cadets. The government was considering a plea filed by Riza Nahan, an eight standard student of GHSS, Kuttiadi in Kozhikode. The plea was initially filed with the Kerala High Court which redirected it to the government. The government, after careful examination of the facts, was fully satisfied that the demand of the complainant is not considerable, the order copy said.

The government order also said that if such a waiver is considered in the Student Police Cadet project, similar demands will be made on other similar forces, which will significantly affect the secularism of the state.

"Therefore, it is not appropriate to give any indication such that the religious symbols are highlighted in the uniform under the Student Police Cadet project," the order copy stated. The Student Police Cadet (SPC) Project is a school-based initiative by Kerala Police, implemented jointly by the Departments of Home and Education, and supported by Departments of Transport, Forest, Excise and Local Self-Government.

The project trains high school students to evolve as future leaders of a democratic society by inculcating in them, respect for the law, discipline, civic sense, empathy for vulnerable sections of society and resistance to social evils...-ANI

Ban Sought On Film 'Why I Killed Gandhi'



Varun Gandhi said today. Varun Gandhi, who has been voicing views seen to be critical of the central government's handling of issues like economy and agriculture, shared a BBC video of a young man highlighting the problem of unemployment and criticising authorities for their handling of the recent students protests over railway recruitment. "Unemployment is emerging as the biggest problem in the country. Situation is becoming dire. Looking away from it is like covering fire with cotton," Mr Gandhi tweeted...-PTI

NEW DELHI: Unemployment is emerging as the biggest problem in the country, and ignoring it is like covering fire with cotton, BJP MP

Man Gives Away Daughter To 'Godman'



MUMBAI: A girl is not a property that can be given in donation, the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court observed, while taking strong objection to a case wherein a man had given his 17-year-old daughter in "daan" to a self-styled godman.

A single bench of Justice Vibha Kankanwadi made the observation earlier this month while hearing a bail application filed by the godman Shankeshwar Dhakne and his disciple Sopan Dhanke, arrested for allegedly raping the minor girl.

The two accused lived in a temple at Badnapur in Jalna district along with the girl and her father. The girl on August 2021 filed FIR against the duo for allegedly raping her, following which they were arrested.

Justice Kankanwadi in her order took note of the prosecution's case that in 2018, a document styled as "danpatra" on a stamp paper of 100 was executed between the girl's father and the Dhakne.

"It is stated that the father of the girl has given his daughter on donation (daan) to the baba and it is stated that the said 'kanyadan' has been made in the presence of god. When the girl as per her own statement is minor, then why the father, who is in all respect guardian, to the girl, give the girl as Daan?" the court said in its order.

"A girl is not a property, which can be given in donation," Justice Kankanwadi said, adding that this was a disturbing fact.

The court noted that it was concerned about the future of the minor girl and "cannot shut its eyes"...-PTI

Elderly Woman Dies At GMC Anantnag, Family Alleges Medical Negligence



Agencies

SRINAGAR: An 80-year-old lady from Yaripora hamlet of Kulgam district died at Government Medical College Anantnag on Friday, while the family alleges medical negligence for her death.

Deceased's family members and relatives protested outside the hospital and demanded an investigation in this regard.

Family members said that Hajra Banoo resident of Kathapora Yaripora was referred to GMC Anantnag on Friday morning from SDH Yaripora.

"Since 7 am we were in the emergency ward as the blood pressure of the patient was down and oxygen level was below 60. Doctors checked her when she was brought to hospital but then no attention was given towards her," they said.

"As condition of the patient was going from bad to worse, we requested doctors to shift her to the ICU ward where nine beds were lying vacant but we were told that they have received calls from some patients and beds are for them," they alleged. "Wasn't it their duty first to save the patient who was before them or is it just an ap-

proach which works. Where will poor people go?"

The family alleged that they were kept in the emergency ward like flock of sheep amid Covid-19 and despite repeated requests to the concerned authorities they were not allowed to take her to the ICU ward despite having beds vacant.

"We also requested them to refer our patient, to provide medicines on golden card but they didn't listen," they said, adding that the lady died of medical negligence and authorities must investigate the matter.

Meanwhile, GMC Anantnag Dr Tariq Qureshi while refuting the allegations said that the 80 year old lady was checked by doctors several times and was put on oxygen as well.

"The doctors tried to save the elderly patient who was having multiple underlying problems. The family members are lying. I personally went before them and showed them that the doctor has seen the patient four times and put on oxygen as well besides given medicine," he said.

"Family has even agreed to pay for the damage they did in the ward and requested us don't lodge an FIR against them," Qureshi said—(KNO)

POWERGRID Provides Support To Community Health Centre, Kartarpur Under CSR



Observer News Service

KARTARPUR: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has provided key medical equipments for care of patients in Community Health Centre (CHC), Kartarpur for strengthening the medical infrastructure of the centre.

Vibhay Kumar, Chief General Manager (AM) POWERGRID, Northern Region-II handed over the medical equipments to Dr. Kuldeep Singh, SMO CHC Kartarpur, in august presence of P.Biswas Sr. GM (Punjab), POWERGRID, Y.C.S Rao, General Manager (Jalandhar), POWERGRID, Sanjay Kumar Verma, Sr. DGM (HR), POWERGRID and other senior officials of POWERGRID, CHC Kartarpur and Health Department of Kartarpur on 28.01.2022.

The medical equipments costing ₹34.13 lakhs, includes one ultrasound scan machine, two mobile ECG Machines, two multi-purpose monitors, two Baby open care warmers, two phototherapy machines for baby, one semi auto analyzer incubator for lab, one Centrifusion machine, four crash card trolleys, two operation theater lights, four refrigerators, four window ACs, two folwer beds and ten chairs three seater.

This CSR effort of POWERGRID will augment the existing health infrastructure in Kartarpur area and will support the hospital located in Tehsil Kartarpur in Dis-

trict Jalandhar (Punjab) to provide medical services to nearby 136 Villages of District Jalandhar & Kapurthala. Since this hospital is on NH-1 it also provides support services to road emergencies. Handing over of these medical equipments will provide great relief to the locality which are dependent on private labs at Jalandhar for such requirements.

POWERGRID is continuously doing CSR activities in health sector especially in the government hospitals of rural and urban areas across the country with the belief that creation of medical facilities is important for ensuring that government Hospitals are able to cater to the medical requirements of the general masses.

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED is a Maharatna Enterprise under Ministry of Power having its regional headquarters of Northern Region-II at Jammu.

POWERGRID is engaged in inter-state bulk power transmission. POWERGRID has 172,104 ckm of transmission lines, 264 Sub-stations and more than 464,607 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has been able to maintain average transmission system availability >99%. POWERGRID performance has been consistently Excellent by achieving very difficult measurable parameters which are set in MoU signed with Ministry of Power, Government of India.

3 Labourers Trapped Under Snow Avalanche Rescued

Agencies

KARNAH: Three labourers were on Friday rescued after being buried under snow avalanche that struck near Kundi Dowana area on Karnah-Kupwara road.

An official said that a team of Army and Beacon rescued three labourers after they were buried under snow avalanche near Kundi Dowana area.

He said that the avalanched struck at around 2 pm today, bury-

ing three labourers including bulldozer driver working on the restoration of Karnah-Kupwara road.

The official said that soon after the incident a rescue operation was launched and all three labourers were rescued alive and were shifted to a safer place.

He said that one of the labourers complained of chest pain, following which he was shifted to military hospital for treatment, where his condition is stated to be stable. (KNS)

Govt Working On All Fronts For Development, Welfare Of People: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that his government has adopted citizen-centric policies and is steadfastly working on all fronts for the development and welfare of people belonging to every community.

He made these remarks while interacting with several delegations, including a former Minister; members of Pahari Tribe ST Forum and a youth leader from Bhaderwah at Raj Bhawan here on Friday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that Abdul Ghani Kohli, former Minister met the LG and projected various welfare issues of Gujar and Bakerwal communities pertaining to proper arrangements for Gujar & Bakwerwal population in view of winter season; tribal funds; Insurance for sheep; spreading awareness among Gujar and Bakerwal communities regarding welfare policies & schemes, besides other concerns of general public.

Also, he said, a three-member delegation of Pahari Tribe ST Forum led by Adv. Ahsan Mirza and accompanied by Adv. Gurdev Singh Thakur and Sh. Sajjad Mirza submitted a memorandum of demands to the Lt Governor pertaining to ST status for Pahari people, functioning of Pahari Advisory Board and other concerning issues of Pahari youth.

Later, Advocate Mohd Majid Malik, a youth leader from Bhaderwah also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him about various issues of Bhaderwah including the declaration of Jammu University campus into full-fledged University; construction of Chhattargalla tunnel; opening of Bhaderwah-Chamba and Bhaderwah-Bani-



road; Mini Secretariat and several youth-related issues.

The official spokesperson said that the LG, while interacting with the members of the delegations observed that J&K Government has adopted citizen-centric policies and is steadfastly working on all fronts for the development and welfare of people belonging to every community.

"We are committed to make every section of society as an equal stake holder in the development process of the UT," Sinha said.

Jammu Airport's Extended Runway Becomes Operational

Agencies

JAMMU: The extended runway at Jammu Airport became operational on Friday, officials said.

Officials said that Indigo Flight 6E-137 was the first flight that traversed through the newly constructed portion and a water cannon salute was given by the Indian Air Force.

The existing runway which was 6700 feet long is extended and the revised stretch of runway is now 8000 feet.

Jammu Airport's spokesman in a statement said: "The work was completed by Airports Authority of India in coordination with Indian Air Force and Military Engineering Services (MES).

"On this occasion, Air Commodore G S Bhullar AOC 23rd Wings IAF, Sanjeev Kumar Garg Airport Director AAI and other officials from Airports Authority of India, Indian Air Force,



Military Engineering Service, Airlines and Central Industrial Security Force were present," the statement said.

The spokesman said that in addition to the runway, 2800 meters of Boundary wall and rigid pavement perimeter road was also constructed.

"A Turn Pad designed for Airbus 321 was also constructed under this project," the statement said.

AOC, IAF hailed the coordination of AAI, MES and IAF for successful completion of this project.

Jammu Airport Director, Sanjeev Kumar Garg thanked all the agencies involved in this project especially the Engineering Team of AAI.

He said the expansion of Airport will be instrumental in the development of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Some Kashmiri Politicians Trying To Divide People, Destroy Jammu: Rana

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: There are some politicians of Kashmir who frequently visit Jammu to try to divide people, but they will not be allowed to succeed, senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana said on Friday.

Battling strongly for an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, he also said that bureaucratic governance cannot be a replacement to a political government.

Rana, who left the National Conference and joined the BJP last year, said, "Those politicians who come here (Jammu) from Kashmir and try to divide people in Jammu, will not succeed in destroying Jammu in the way they destroyed Kashmir."

The people of Jammu live in peace and will continue to live in communal harmony and brotherhood, the former legislator asserted at a function here.

"But we want the voice of Jammu to be strengthened and Jammu should get its rights. We will continue to fight for our rights. There will be no compromise," he said.

In 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised into a Union Territory and its administration is led by a lieutenant governor (L-G).

Bureaucratic governance is no replacement for a political government, Rana said.

"Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is a veteran politician. He has been MP six times and also been minister. He has a lot of

experience in governance. The administration is being run in a good way," he said.

"The bureaucracy in Jammu and Kashmir is efficient. They are hard working people. We are proud of the bureaucracy and police in Jammu and Kashmir," Rana said.

Speaking on the need of an elected government, he said people have easy reach to elected representatives and elected representatives also have a responsibility towards the people.

"They (elected representatives) are the bridge," the BJP leader said.

Rana said that leaders of different political parties should play their roles and become bridges between the people and the administration to resolve problems.

"They should listen to the voice of the people. They should take up issues raised by the people with the government and find their resolution," he said.

Rana said that unemployment is the biggest issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We want opportunities of jobs and employment," he said.

Replying to a question about the prospects of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh in forthcoming assembly elections there, Rana said that the BJP will win over 300 seats and be in majority.

"There is peace and normalcy in Uttar Pradesh as seen during the rule of the BJP. The era of development has started in the state", he said.

I-Week Workshop On 'Research Methodology In Social Sciences' Begins At IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: To guide the scholars through various stages of research and publication of research, one week online workshop on Research Methodology in Social Sciences being organized by the Centre for International Relations (CIR), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) began here Friday.

During this inaugural ceremony, Vice chancellor IUST Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo who was also the Chief Guest on the occasion stressed on strengthening social sciences and their relevance towards the society.

"A major focus is required for an innovative and research-intensive approach in social sciences and we need to build the capacities of our social scientists to overcome the challenges that are faced all over the world in current times" Romshoo said.

While congratulating the Centre for organizing this workshop, he called on researchers to imbibe new skills and latest technological interventions in today's multi-disciplinary world, to stay updated and relevant and added that research promotion has been IUST's academic strategy and faculty members are being encouraged

to promote research as a matter of this strategy, he said.

Prominent Political Scientist and Head Department of Political Science Kashmir University (KU) Prof. Gul Mohammad Wani who was the keynote speaker at the event focused upon decolonizing knowledge production from the Global North to Global South and consideration of relevance of societal needs while conducting social sciences research.

He also noted the significance accorded to social sciences disciplines in many countries, where need-based researches are conducted which serve society at large. "We live in interesting times and while we adopt a theoretical method which come from outside, there is a need to analyze it properly before owning, accepting or rejecting it taking our own societal needs into consideration" said Wani.

Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Prof. A.H Moon highlighted the technological aspects in successful and meaningful research since everyone is directly or indirectly connected to social sciences. "Studies concerning humans and societies are highly important for us and although we are moving towards artificial intelligence we cannot deny human intelligence," Prof. Moon said.

38000 Beneficiaries Registered For Digital Literacy In Budgam: DC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shabaz Ahmed Mirza on Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PM-DISHA), across the district.

At the outset, the DC said that out of 42000 target, 38000 beneficiaries have been registered for digital literacy and above 20000 have been certified so far.

The DC said that special focus is given on digital literacy and directed concerned to speed up the digital literacy campaign across all targeted households and complete the target by February 2022.

Instructions were given to CEO Budgam and NRLM authorities to assist the concerned on digital literacy and complete the process of certifying the identified target groups on fast track basis.

Chairing a separate meeting, the DC also took review of progress for registration of disabled and their prosthetic aid requirement in collaboration with ALIMCO.

The DC stressed on holding of Panchayat wise camps and instructed Social Welfare and School Education departments to work in coordination for identification of disabled, malnourished, anemic children, pregnant, lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

He stressed on establishment of poshan vaticas and providing of safe drinking water and toilet facilities at all Aganwadi centres besides instructed concered to ensure display of panchayat wise NSAP and ISSS pensioners.

Direction were given to the concerned to submit monthly report without any fail, and completion of survey of both physically and mentally specially-abled persons, providing of I-Cards to them besides the identification of trans-genders and distribution of I-Cards to them.

The DC called for completion of registration process for pre and post-matric scholarships awards to students. He emphasized on registration of intellectually challenged persons and payment of premium for their coverage in National Trust insurance Scheme.

Udhampur Women Scripts Success Story As Leader Of Agripreneur Self Help Group

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Green Himalaya Self Help Group has emerged as a brand in village Bashat of District Udhampur for sale of value added products prepared from fruits and vegetables.

Sushma Rani, the group leader of the Self Help Group, is the person who scripted the success story of this group of agripreneur farm women. Previously, besides sharing various farm responsibilities, she used to prepare processed products only for domestic consumption. Inspired by the vast market potential of value added products, she established herself as a successful Agripreneur. Her family owns marginal land where they cultivate seasonal vegetables, fruits and staple crops.

Her real journey as agripreneur started after attending a training programme for women Self Help Groups in the art of fruit and vegetable preservation conducted by the Department of Horticulture to inform them about technologies available to enhance the shelf life of locally available fruits and vegetables for better nutrition and health benefits.

With the launch of the Central Sponsored Scheme Mission-Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), the department identified a group of 6 interested women drawn from different SHGs in village Bashat and provided financial and technical support to establish a Low Cost Preservation Unit.



The unit was established with a total investment of Rs 3.0 lakh, with Rs 1.0 lakh provided to the group as subsidy on the machinery and equipment like Pulper, Fruit Mill, Dehydrator, Hydraulic Juice Press etc. The unit successfully started working in the year 2019. The department also provided an assistance of Rs 2.0 lakh to the group for establishing a pack-house for handling fruits and vegetables in the year 2021-22. The group members were also imparted an advanced training by CIPHET Ludhiana wherein they learned the new aspects and hands-on training skills especially in product development and packaging.

The unit successfully started working in year in 2019 with certification from FSSAI and is presently engaged in processing and marketing of various fruit and vegetable products like Apple and Apricot Jams, Pickle of knoll-kholl, Lime, Dhew, Jimikand, Aonla etc, Candies of Aonla and Ginger etc. The group also learned the art of dehydration and took up

preparation of dried fruit and vegetable products through solar dehydration under an ambitious project of District Administration Udhampur. These value added products are available under the brand name GREEN HIMALAYA PRODUCTS.

During 2019-20, the production was limited to only 05 quintals with total sales at Rs 1.50 lacs with a profit of Rs 70000. The production capacity reached to 12-15 quintals in 2021-22 and touched Rs 2.0 lakh sale and Rs 1.0 lakh profit. The group is progressing leaps and bounds under the supervision of Chief Horticulture Officer Udhampur Salil Gupta and technical guidance of Manager cum Chemist Udhampur K S Sodhi.

The Green Himalaya also survived the brunt of COVID-19 pandemic. The District Administration Udhampur provided a sale outlet to the group through SRLM for sale of these products. The strategic location of the unit on Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road is helping them to earn a decent livelihood.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks

“Devil & hellfire r eternal realities but #Friday sermons shud focus more on life’s issues- forgiveness, compassion, parenting, trade ethic, social responsibility, moderation & modesty etc”,
@riyaz_masroor

“ dangerous trend is setting in people with symptoms of covid are not testing and self medicating. Some roaming freely, this way they are not only putting their own lives at risk but at the same time of their near and dear ones as well.kindly get tested and isolate”
@dirmirmushtak

“This poster by a Srinagar houseowner only reflects the car parking crisis the city is going through. Single line parking has been banned by courts and new parking lots are oddly placed and unaffordable. People are paying more money as fine than their monthly petrol bills”
@peerashiq

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

The Free Press Principle

Free the press! It is a familiar refrain, one that grows louder year-on-year yet never loses relevancy. Why should a free press even be up for discussion? Are we failing to get the message across?

The simple answer is that the press equals power, and wherever power lies there are those who seek to control or influence it. By nature, a free press is untamed; capable of speaking unfiltered to public opinion, it has always been a vital conduit for free expression.It has therefore been a constant target. As we increasingly embrace our digital citizenship, the tyrants who oppose free speech are quickly learning how to act as digital oppressors. Targets are more numerous, attacks more complicated and diverse. Our awareness and vigilance must adjust with similar voracity. Impunity for the killers of journalists extends also to those who murder bloggers. Censorship does not discriminate between editorial platforms. Prisons are built for those who “offend”, regardless of media.

It is impossible to prevent the oppressors of free speech from eroding our basic freedoms. And they do, as the press freedom indexes show, frequently and without heed for the consequences.

Our right to seek, receive or impart information through any media may be enshrined in international human rights law, yet the media must fight daily to remain a bulwark against intrusions on free speech. As a check on power, an independent press acts as society’s window through which the abuses, digressions, untruths and self-interests of the powerful are revealed for public scrutiny.

According to corrupt governments, violent criminals, and fundamentalists of every description, this window would be better permanently bricked-up.

Take Mexico, for example, where journalists face a violent, often deadly reception. The wider effects are devastating. “A climate of fear grows and it becomes better to remain silent than speak out about events that may pose a threat,” says journalist and writer, Anabel Hernández “This leads to self-censorship, which affects freedom of expression, which in turn affects the quality and depth of information that society receives. If society does not know the reality that surrounds it, who can make decisions?”

Wherever you live, whatever you do, pause for a moment and reflect on what kind of a society would be in front of you, were it not for the presence of an inquisitive media.Who makes decisions on your behalf, and just how transparent is the process?This, ultimately, is why we defend journalists and a free press worldwide.

Yet the Internet is undeniably raising the stakes. Checks and balances that provide the counterweight to power, of which traditional media were for so long custodians, are shifting rapidly beyond media-defined parameters.

The Internet invites censors into our homes, often unwittingly, and in the process has made freedom of expression a concern for anyone who signs on to social networks, communicates via email, and owns a smartphone or tablet device.

Or at least it should be of concern. Paradoxically, the great digital revolution that has introduced a truly globally connected age provides yet another mechanism for control, an opportunity for speech to be curtailed. Online news media, forewarned by the experiences of the written press, may be better prepared to combat this. But are we as individuals?

Online and off, new challenges or familiar threats are no less shocking. Each year heralds a roll call of journalist casualties, imprisoned media professionals or publications threatened, intimidated or financially strangled to the point of closure.

Above all, with a sense of solemn reflection, 3 May is an occasion to remember colleagues targeted for their work, especially those killed in the line of duty.

That ‘duty’ was not simply to bring us the news. Their work – by nature risky, sometimes dangerous, yet always outspoken – went beyond the headlines that became unintentional obituaries. Their work signifies a belief in a principle, exhorted by democracy and made tangible with every article, picture or broadcast.

It is that principle behind which we stand proud. It is upon that principle that our industry is founded, and that journalism thrives.

The article is an Editorial from KO Archives and was originally published on 3rd May,2013

An (Un)Holy Alliance?

Renewing Turkey-Israel Relations On Erdogan's Cards May Appear New But Turkey Has Always Been Close Yet Unreliable With Israel

Haris Rashid

Turkey is desperately trying to rehabilitate its ties with Israel. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Israel's president Isaac Herzog have talked thrice since the latter assumed office in July 2021. Erdogan, this week, told reporters that Herzog may visit Turkey soon. The Turkish president also expressed a revival of interest in the transportation of Israeli natural gas to Europe through Turkey. The comments on the EastMed pipeline by Erdogan came days after the US withdrew its support from the project which consisted of Israel and a group of countries, including Turkey's historic rival Greece. The pipeline was controversial as Turkey and Israel had previously planned to cooperate on the project but the negotiations failed in 2016 after Turkey condemned Israel's actions in Gaza Strip. Israel went ahead with an alternative that excluded Turkey, outraging Ankara over the plans to bypass it.

This warming up to Israel by Erdogan follows a year of Turkey's battered economy. Further, even though Turkey is formally a NATO ally, its relations with the US are in deep crisis. The US recently imposed CAATSA sanctions on Turkey over the purchase of the Russian S-400 missile system. Historically, Turkey has been oriented towards the West but it is now trying to reshape its foreign policy to suit it to the multipolar system of the world that is seeing the rise of powers like China and Russia. It is in this context of striking the balance between the West and the East that Turkey's relations with Israel come in.

Turkey was the first Muslim majority country to recognize the state of Israel. It formally recognized Israel nine-months after it came into existence in March 1949. Turkey also happened to be the first country in the Middle East and Asia to recognize Israel. This relationship between the two countries was solidly based on mutual interests and common strategic goals. The circumstances in which Israel came into existence and its quest for legitimacy made it important for Israel to have relations with Turkey. Therefore, Israel viewed the non-Arab Muslim majority Turkey in the vicinity, as a key to breaking its isolation. For Turkey's rulers, relations with Israel were politically expedient. At that time, the relations with Israel were the bellwether of its commitment to Western orientation. Hence, the reasons for the establishment of relations with Israel included help in Turkey's relations with the West and access to American credit mechanisms.

Turkey-Israel relations went into a deep freeze in 2010 when Israeli commandos stormed and killed ten Turkish citizens on board the Mavi Marmara, a ship that was part of an aid flotilla trying to breach the blockade of Gaza. Israel later apologized and provided compensation to the



ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY EITAN NAEH, left, presents his letter of credence to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the presidential Complex in Ankara. (AFP/File)

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families of those who were killed. Bilateral relations were normalized in 2016 but when the US recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2018, relations again deteriorated with Turkey expelling the Israeli ambassador and withdrawing its ambassador from Tel Aviv.

Despite all these confrontations, Israel holds an important position in Turkey's politics and economy. The bilateral trade has been decoupled from politics.

As is evident from the chart on bilateral trade, the political issues between the two countries did not affect the trade. Politically, Turkey's relations with Israel are expedient. When Turkey feels it has something to gain from the friendship with Israel, it normalizes ties and when it thinks it can profit from snapping ties with Israel, it downgrades relations with Israel. It can be said that there is an inherent tension that has always defined Turkish-Israeli relations. On the one hand, Turkey used Israel's leverage in corridors of power, particularly in the United States, to accrue benefits in state interests, strategic

priorities and security. On the other hand, the Turkish public has always been sympathetic to the cause of Palestinians. Therefore, due to domestic pressure, the politicians in Ankara cannot ignore the Palestinian issue completely. Right now, as Erdogan reaches out to Israel for mending relations, the leaders in Israel are wary that Erdogan wants to leverage the normalized relations to improve the economy of the country as well as his image. After achieving these goals, Erdogan may do with the relations whatever he wishes depending on the kind of issues he would be facing. In the case of domestic politics, normal ties with Israel will not be helpful but in the case of international issues, friendship with Israel can always pay off.

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

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The Economic Costs Of Closed Minds

Kaushik Basu

NEW YORK – This year began amid widespread despondency about the resurgent COVID-19 pandemic and the struggling global economy, as well as premonitions of heightened political conflict in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and even the United States. True, there is now some hope that the Omicron variant may be the pandemic's last hurrah. But troubling questions remain about the economic and political legacy of the crisis.

The World Bank's latest biannual Global Economic Prospects report, released last week, points to some possible answers. Produced by a team of talented economists, the report is one of the best summaries of the current outlook for the world economy. And while the report uses the diplomatic language of multilateral organizations, it nonetheless packs a powerful cautionary punch.

For starters, the World Bank forecasts that global economic growth will slow to 4.1% in 2022, from 5.5% last year. With debt burdens rising, supply-chain bottlenecks impeding the flow of goods and services, and inflation picking up, governments are losing the capacity to provide further fiscal support. The report warns that the surge in debt caused by countries trying to soften the "pandemic-induced global recession" means that several economies are now "at high risk of debt distress." Some may need relief.

Usually, emerging market and developing economies, helped by their lower base, grow faster than advanced economies. But, according to Global Economic Prospects, the prognosis for EMDEs through the end of 2023 is worse than for advanced economies, because EMDEs have limited policy space to provide additional support and face greater risk of hard landings. Moreover, the pace of recovery is likely to vary significantly between countries. Once the dust settles after the current turmoil, therefore, there will most probably be new winners and losers.

One of the main reasons for the uneven recovery has more to do with politics than economics. From advanced economies



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depth of the pandemic-induced downturn of 2020, as economies climbed back toward their earlier GDP level. In 2020, Argentina's economy contracted by 9.9% and India's by 7.3% – making them, along with Mexico, the worst-performing major economies that year.

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tion. Argentina's open economy, now closed to the world, soon stagnated, and the US surged ahead.

The lesson seems even more relevant today. In a globalized world, with new ideas and research emerging everywhere, countries that succumb to nationalist solipsism and pull down their economies' and societies' shutters will be anything but great.

One of the remarkable achievements of post-independence India was that its founding fathers and early thinkers, like the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and the author Rabindranath Tagore, were passionate advocates of openness to the world of ideas. They stood out, not just in India but globally, for their commitment to absorbing the best, from wherever it or they came, and to upholding a common human identity.

I remember a friend of my father's, who visited us regularly and held forth on the need for more strident nationalism. He was critical of Indian thinkers who, while opposing Western colonialism, argued that India must keep its doors open to the best of the West – in science, literature, and philosophy. One day, angry at his failure to persuade us, he thundered, "My motto is: the West does not follow us, so we must not follow the West."

I was in elementary school, but even then, I could see that his aggressive nationalism had blurred his thinking into adopting a motto that contradicted itself. At a time when policymakers are confronting an ongoing public-health crisis, and in some cases the threat of violent turmoil, countries that succumb to hyper-nationalism lay the foundations of their own failure.

Usually, emerging market and developing economies, helped by their lower base, grow faster than advanced economies

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

The author is a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate

Some Insights Into The Rise And Fall Of Muslim Intellectualism

BOOK EXCERPTS

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

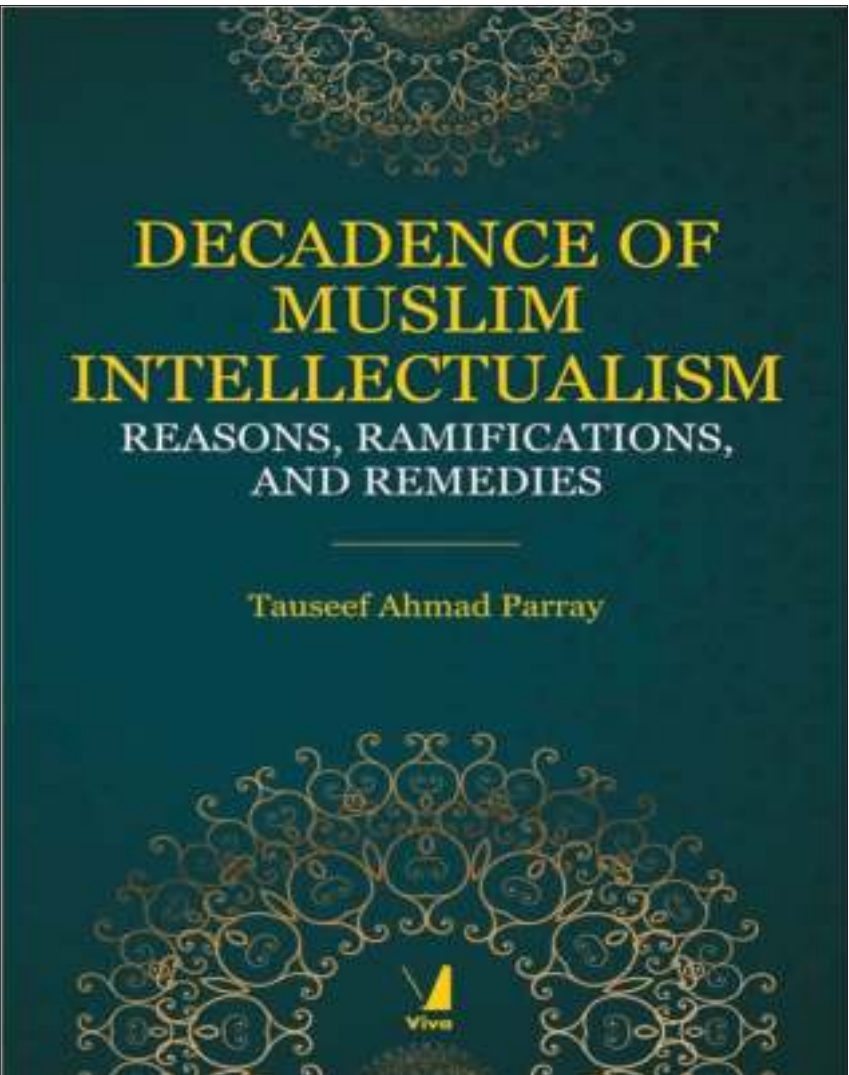
"God does not change the condition of a people [for the worse] unless they change what is in themselves" (Qur'an, Surah al-Ra'd, 13: 11)

OVER THE YEARS, one of the disturbing questions that has both intrigued and fascinated me—and resulting in the present book—is: Islam, as a civilization, has seen a 'classical' and 'golden age', but how, where, and "What Went Wrong" in the Islamic civilization—speaking from the perspective of intellectual legacy—that there has aroused a need of "Radical Reform"? Why, and how Muslims—who are heir to a great intellectual legacy—have faded away from the 'intellectual map' of the present world? What were the reasons that led the Muslims to miss their track/route to such an extent that there is no recognition of them in the scientific field now? These questions, though very perturbing and most worrying, are not new, but have worried many Muslims, students and scholars equally, both in the past and in present as well.

For instance, looking at the intellectual map of Muslims, one observes that back in 1980s Ismail Raji al-Faruqi (d. 1986) described "the malaise of thought and methodology", and the state of education in Muslim societies, as a "crisis". In the same era, Syed Ali Ashraf (d. 1998) pointed towards the "Crisis in Muslim Education" and accordingly proposed the theory of "New Horizons in Muslim Education", while as Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas (b. 1931) provided a "framework for an Islamic Philosophy of Education".

Moving directly to the first decade of the 21st century, one sees that in 2003, the Arab Human Development Report highlighted that there is a "knowledge deficit" in the Muslim world, especially in the Arab societies, and thus proposed for "Building a Knowledge Society". In the second decade of third millennium, there have been 'calls' for the 'revivification of Islamic knowledge and thought' or 'reforms in Islamic Education', because the picture presented by "the state of education in Muslim countries", is very "catastrophic"; and thus, there is cry for the 'reform[ation] of Muslim education' vis-à-vis 'intellectual renewal'. Looking at this grim situation and abysmal state, there are 'calls' for a comprehensive and an extensive "Education Reform" through the 'Integration of Knowledge' process. The reason is simple but genuine, as Ziauddin Sardar puts it very powerfully as: it is "through education" that a civilisation not only "passes on the accumulated skills, knowledge and wisdom of the past to future generations", but "preserves the cultural identity and historical legacy of a society" as well as "ensures its survival as a distinct entity".

Though these 'calls'—appeals and pleas—for the 'reformation' of educa-



ALTHOUGH THESE 'CALLS'—APPEALS AND pleas—for the 'reformation' of education and/ or 'intellectual renewal' are not the first, or the only calls; but, what is important here is that the language and style of these statements clearly suggests and depicts that on the 'intellectual map', the Muslims "are on a sharp decline"; therefore, one sees calls for overcoming "Intellectual Dependency in Education"

tion and/ or 'intellectual renewal' are not the first, or the only calls; but, what is important here is that the language and style of these statements clearly suggests and depicts that on the 'intellectual map', the Muslims "are on a sharp decline"; therefore, one sees calls for overcoming "Intellectual Dependency in Education".

The Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the basis of Islam, and things Islamic, including the Islamic education system. From the very first word of the first revelation (Q. 96: 5), "the Message of Islam focuses upon the education of human being". Moreover, the frequent Qur'anic references to knowledge, learning, wisdom, observation, thinking, or to pen, etc., reveal the significance of knowledge/ education—and by that way of the 'intellectualism'. It is striking to note that the word 'Ilm (knowledge), in its different forms, occurs over 800 times in

the Qur'an. It is this concept of 'Ilm—as Franz Rosenthal puts it beautifully in his magnum opus Knowledge Triumphant—which has "dominated Islam and given Muslim civilization its distinctive shape and complexion"; and it is the concept of 'Ilm "that has been operative as a determinant of Muslim civilization in all its aspects". Fazlur Rahman also puts it briefly, but very eloquently, as: "for the Qur'an, knowledge—that is, the creation of ideas—is an activity of the highest possible value".

In between 8th and 13th centuries CE, Islamic civilization produced a great intellectual legacy, a 'classical age', a legacy described as "one of the brightest chapters in the intellectual history" of the world, or "one of the most brilliant civilizations in the history of humanity". During this 'Golden Age', a period of over 500 years, "the spiritual, intellectual, commercial and military accomplish-

ments of the successive Muslim empires were striking" and "the distinguishing feature of Muslim civilization was the pursuit and celebration of knowledge in all its forms: exact, experimental, and human sciences". But it has not remained so powerful and dominant in the succeeding centuries: from 13th century onwards, especially with the Mongol invasion of Baghdad ('Fall of Baghdad') in 1258 CE, Muslim world has passed through "a subsequent collapse". This 'collapse' was due to many reasons, both internal and external, and ranged from "long periods of instability, doubt and fear of competing civilizations and empires" to "favoring", in time of crisis, "legislation and the imposition of limits", etc. Such a miserable situation not only had "a negative impact of Islamic thought" but it formed "the main obstacles to an intellectual, scientific, and artistic renaissance" as well.

Considering the above context and scenario, the question that comes to mind is: How can an Ummah, for which knowledge ('Ilm) has been given such an extraordinary status, and which was leading the whole world, for many centuries, in the intellectual field and scientific discoveries, can meet such a reprehensible failure? For Muslim intellectuals, the question of Muslim intellectual collapse has long been worrying, yielding repeated efforts to analyse and diagnose various factors responsible for this stagnation and decline. A number of Muslim intellectuals, in many eras, have attempted to analyse the causes and factors responsible for the overall decline of the Muslim, and two main reasons they mention, which are relevant in the context of present study, for the decline of Muslims after 12th century—or what I term as 'Muslim intellectual deficit'—are "loss of dynamism in Islam after the rise of dogmatism and rigidity; [and] decline in intellectual and scientific activity". The present work, focusing exclusively on the 'Decadence of Muslim Intellectualism'—makes a modest attempt and substantial effort to find answer(s) to these (disturbing) questions.

The major objective of this book is to look, meticulously, on the various aspects of the theme of Muslims backwardness in academics vis-à-vis their 'bright past' and 'present grim scenario'. To achieve the objective, the book is divided into following Eight (8) chapters:

- Preface
- Prologue: The Noble Qur'an as 'Epitome of Knowledge'
- Islamic Concept of Knowledge ('Ilm)

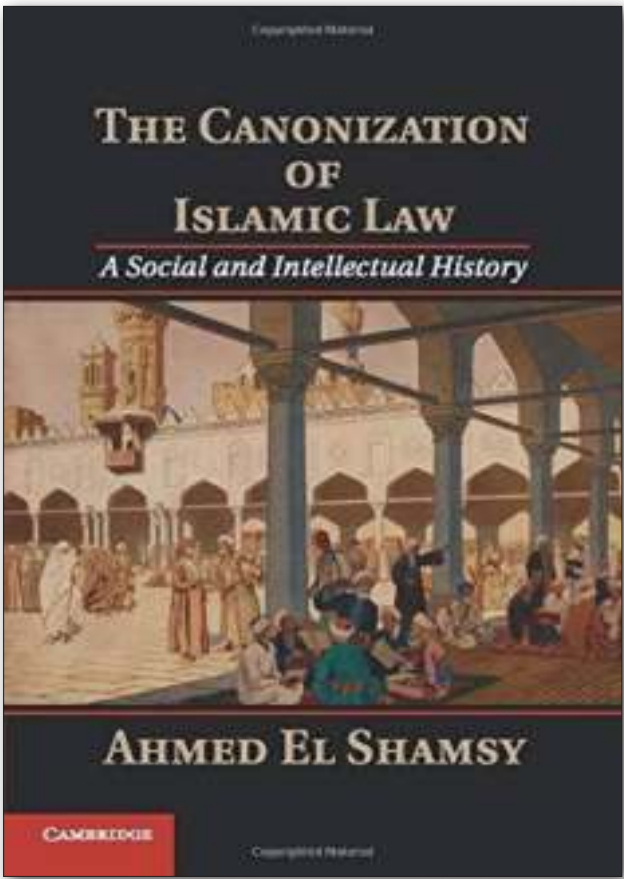
- Muslim Intellectual Contribution: From Formative Period to the 'Golden Age'
- What (and Where) Went Wrong?
- Post-Colonial Era Challenges and the Muslim World (1950s Onwards)
- The Other Side of the Coin: Internal Challenges
- Some Important Muslim Research Institutes and Centres
- Epilogue: The (Possible) Way Out from current 'Muslim Intellectual Deficit'
- Appendix
- Bibliography
- Index

The major theme of this work is, thus, to highlight, describe, and analyse the rise of 'Muslim intellectualism', reasons and ramifications of its fall (decadence), and to provide some (possible) remedies to overcome this 'decadence' and 'deficit' in the present scenario. In other words, it attempts to find answers to these perturbing questions: what were the reasons that led to the fall of Muslim intellectual legacy, or 'Muslim intellectualism'; and how Muslims can rise again from this 'slumber' to make their presence on the 'intellectual map' of the 21st century global world.

Note: Excerpts from the 'Preface' (pp. ix–xvii) of the author's recently published work, 'Decadence of Muslim Intellectualism: Reasons, Ramifications, & Remedies (New Delhi: Viva Books, in association with Springs, South Africa: Ahsan Academy of Research, 2021); ISBN: 9789390054930; Pages: 224; MRP: 995/-; Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.in/dp/9390054931?ref=myi_title_dp

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies in Higher Education Department, J&K. He is the author of six (6) books on Islamic intellectual tradition, Quranic Scholarship, and Islam and contemporary issues. Feedback at tauseef.parray21@gmail.com

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

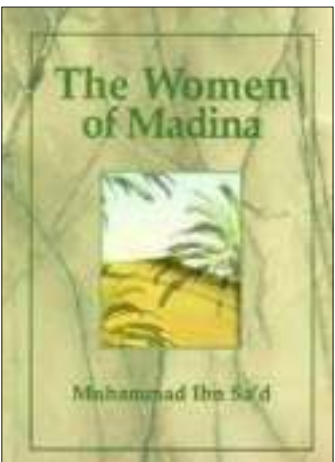


KO WEB DESK

The Canonization of Islamic Law

Product Description: The Canonization of Islamic Law tells the story of the birth of classical Islamic law in the eighth and ninth centuries CE. It shows how an oral normative tradition embedded in communal practice was transformed into a systematic legal science defined by hermeneutic analysis of a clearly demarcated scriptural canon. This transformation was inaugurated by the innovative legal theory of Muhammad b. Idris al-Shafi'i (d. 820 CE), and it took place against the background of a crisis of identity and religious authority in ninth-century Egypt. By tracing the formulation, reception, interpretation and spread of al-Shafi'i's ideas, the author demonstrates how the canonization of scripture that lay at the heart of al-Shafi'i's theory formed the basis for the emergence of legal hermeneutics, the formation of the Sunni schools of law, and the creation of a shared

WHICH DEALS EXCLUSIVELY WITH the women who met the Prophet Muhammad, blessings and peace be on him and on his family and Companions, or who transmitted from him. this storehouse of information gives readers a vivid taste and feel for the lifestyles and characteristics of the people of Madinah at the time of the Prophet (pbuh). Some of the Many issues discussed in this book include:



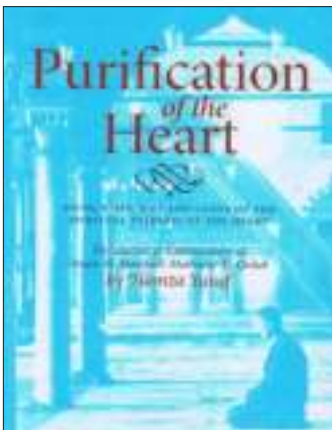
methodological basis in Muslim thought (Amazon)

The Women of Madina

Which deals exclusively with the women who met the Prophet Muhammad, blessings and peace be on him and on his family and Companions, or who transmitted from him. this storehouse of information gives readers a vivid taste and feel for the lifestyles and characteristics of the people of Madinah at the time of the Prophet (pbuh). Some of the Many issues discussed in this book include:

The manner in which the prophet received women's allegiance. The Wives, Daughters, Aunts of the Prophet. Women Companions of the Prophet. Various Other Topics concerning Women (Amazon)

The Purification of Heart



This exploration of Islamic spirituality delves into the psychological diseases and cures of the heart. Diseases examined include miserliness, envy, hatred, treachery, rancor, malice, ostentation, arrogance, covetousness, lust, and other afflictions that assail people and often control them. The causes and practical cures of these diseases are discussed, offering a penetrating glimpse into how Islam deals with spiritual and psychological problems and demonstrating how all people can benefit from these teachings (Amazon)

How a Simple Math Equation Can Transform Your Productivity

Ozan Varol

I woke up in the middle of the night, utterly confused. I had been dreaming—of an equation. I was in a classroom, and on the blackboard, there was a simple equation written in chalk: $0.8 \times 0.2 = 0.16$.

To be clear: I rarely ever dream about math. When I do, it's often a nightmare about bombing a theoretical physics final in college.

Even though this was no nightmare, the equation really bothered me. The middle-school math checks out: 0.8 multiplied by 0.2 in fact equals 0.16 . What bothered me was the underlying implication: The product of two numbers could be less than each number (0.16 is less than both 0.8 and 0.2).

The outcome makes sense to the astrophysicist in me. But in the

dream, I was staring at this equation as a mathematical beginner, completely befuddled by the result. How could that be? If you multiply two numbers together, shouldn't the result be greater than each part?

Dreams are written in disappearing ink. But this one lingered with me for a while, as if there was a message embedded within that I needed to learn.

And then the message hit me. When we operate at a fraction, we compromise the output.

Most of us go through life operating at a fraction in everything we do. We check email during Zoom meetings. We shove a sandwich into our mouth with one hand while scrolling through our phone with the other. When we work, we think about play. When we play, we think about work. We exist in this in-between state—we're neither



fully here nor there—constantly operating at a 0.2 or a 0.8 instead of a full 1 .

As a result, our output suffers. What we produce becomes less than what we put in. We achieve only an

iota of what we're capable.

When people meet a great leader, they often say, "She made me feel like I was the only person in the room." Imagine giving that type of complete attention to everything

you do—and making that thing the only thing in the room.

Not just deep work. But deep play. Deep rest. Deep listening. Deep reading. Deep love. Deep everything.

This mindset requires being aware of your own limitations. When I write, for example, my output begins to significantly drop after about two hours. By the fourth hour, I'm operating at a 0.2 at best. If I keep pushing, I know I'll write gobbledygook that isn't even worth editing. I'm much better off taking my hands off the keyboard and giving my attention to something else.

This isn't just about being mindful of what you're doing. It's choosing one activity over others. It's approaching everything you do with intention. Often, we're operating impulsively, moving from one notification to the next, one email to the next,

living our lives in a frantic blur.

But if you slow down for just a moment and intentionally choose to give your full attention to what you're going to do next, you'll trigger your internal defibrillator that can jolt you back alive and bring you closer to your full capacity.

It's like the way a great leader might shake your hand and greet you. Hello activity. It's great to meet you. I'm choosing to engage with you. I'm going to treat you like you're the most important person in the room and ignore everyone else.

$0.8 \times 0.2 = 0.16$. There's now a post-it note on my desk with that equation.

It serves as a constant reminder to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, as Thoreau put it, instead of living at a fraction of what I'm capable.

(Next Big Idea Club)

Lifetime Workplace Exposure To Pesticides Linked To Heightened COPD Risk: Study

Agencies

Toxic effects by pesticide exposure have been known to range from mild symptoms, like minor skin irritation or other allergic symptoms, to more severe symptoms, like strong headache, dizziness, or nausea.

Now, a large population-based study, published online in the journal *Thorax*, found that lifetime workplace exposure to pesticides is linked to a heightened risk of COPD, the umbrella term for a group of

included spirometry, a lung function test that measures the amount and/or speed of air that can be breathed in and out in one forced breath.

Among the 502,649 participants who provided the full complement of personal data, 457,282 (91 per cent) also took the spirometry test.

The lifetime job histories of these participants were collected and coded using OSCAR, a validated web-based tool, used to categorise paid employment for a minimum period of 6 months. And a job exposure matrix was used to



respiratory diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing problems.

The findings are independent of key risk factors for COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease): smoking and asthma.

Workplace exposures are important preventable causes of COPD, with recent estimates indicating that around 14 per cent of all such cases are related to work, said the researchers.

It can be challenging to pinpoint which jobs and exposure levels might have the most impact because of the need for studies to include sufficient numbers of participants, with full employment histories, and tracked over a sufficiently long period of time.

The researchers managed to get round these difficulties by drawing on data from the UK Biobank, a large population-based study of over half a million men and women recruited between 2006 and 2010 throughout the UK.

They invited a random sample of more than half a million 40-69-year-olds from among NHS patients who lived within specified distances of 22 health assessment centres in the UK to take part in their study.

At entry to the UK Biobank, personal data, including age, sex, lifetime smoking history, current employment, and doctor-diagnosed asthma, were collected and measurements of physical health taken. These measurements

code three levels of exposure from 0 (none) to 1 (low) and 2 (high) to 10 categories of workplace agents.

These included biological dusts, mineral dusts, gases and fumes, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, aromatic solvents, chlorinated solvents, other solvents, and metals—plus two composites of the above, to include all pesticides and vapours, gases, dusts, and fumes.

The final analysis was based on 94,514 people for whom full data, good quality lung function tests, and complete job and smoking histories were available. Most participants had never smoked (55,574; 59 per cent) and only a few were current smokers (5298; 5.5 per cent). About 11 per cent of participants had been diagnosed with asthma. The prevalence of COPD, identified by spirometry, was 8 per cent, corresponding to 7603 cases.

Unsurprisingly, the prevalence of COPD was higher among current smokers (17 per cent) than among former smokers (9 per cent) and never smokers (7 per cent).

Relatively few participants had been exposed to pesticides alone during the course of their work: just over 4 per cent among those with COPD and 3.5 per cent among those without. But nearly half of those with (48 per cent) and without (47 per cent) COPD had been exposed to a mixture of several agents.

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL ENGINEERING WING KUPWARA
Email: xenrewkup@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE NO:- 138 of 2021 -22 DATED:, 25-01-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K (UT) , e-tenders in SINGLE COVER SYSTEM are invited on item rate basis from approved Contractors /Reputed Firms/companies shown as under for the below noted work:-

S No	Name of work	Block	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contractor DEE/CEE	Cost of Tender documents (in Rupees)	Time of completion	Scheme / Major Head of Acctt.
1	Const. of fencing around graveyard at Watsar Pyt Halqa Bawanwatsar	Rajwar	3.00	DEE/CEE	200	30 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev. Fund) PRI
2	Const. of fencing around graveyard at Bawan Pyt Halqa Bawanwatsar	Rajwar	8.00	DEE/CEE	300	30 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev. Fund) PRI

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of funds = Approved

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria ,specification, Drawings, bill of quantities(B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Critical Dates Table	
1. Date of issue of Tender Notice.	25-01-2022
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents.	27-01-2022 To 02-02-2022
3. Bid Submission Start Date.	27-01-2022 from 10.00 AM
4. Bid Submission End Date.	02-02-2022 up to 03.00 PM
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	02-02-2022 at 4.00 P.M. in the office of Ex. Engineer,REW Kupwara

1. Special Condition:, For Works Adv. Cost Up-to Rs. 3.00 lakhs, only DEE Class and DDC Registered Card holders of respective Panchayat Halqas shall take part in tendering process in light of the Govt Order No 238-F of 2021 Dated 09-07-2021. Bidder must upload any document Residential certificate/ Aadhar card/Ration card/ Electricity Bill showing Panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the particular Panchayat halqa

2. The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into treasury under Major Head 0515-OR's the bidders must upload the scanned copy of treasury acknowledgment slip.

3. Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

4. All Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

5. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

6. The date and time of opening of technical bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message one their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of all e- Bidders shall be opened on same Web site in the office of Executive Engineer REW Kupwara (tender receiving authority).

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a. Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid /tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and condition of the bid.
b. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

9. Instruction of bidders regarding e-tendering process:-
I. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "bidder Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.
II. To participate in bidding process, Bidder has to get " digital signature Certificate (DSC). As per information technology Act-2000. Bidders cab get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
III. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

IV. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

V. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

VI. The DSC and registration shall be in the same name otherwise tender shall be rejected.

VII. Note:-Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

10. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

11. Scanned copy of cost of tender documents in shape of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer REW Kupwara must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (bill of quantities) contents in no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

12. Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include Price escalation and all taxes up to completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

13. Qualification Criteria:- To qualify for award of contract, the bidders must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the Individual contracts:-
i. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
ii. All bidders shall upload Bank deposit receipt / Pay in slip.
iii. All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration Form
iv. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
v. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of latest GST clearance certificate.

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB).
a. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submissions of bid.
b. Non-attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
c. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.
d. If the bidders does not quote rate for any item of the rate list/quantity schedule, cost of such items/items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such items/items in the allotment of contract

DIPK-17242/21

Executive Engineer
REW Kupwara

NO:, XEN/REW/KUP/
Dated: 25/01/2022

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:- Admission to DNB (Broad Specialty) Courses-2021.

Reference:- Letter No. HD-GazDGen/38/2022-09 dated 20.01.2022 from Health & Medical Education Department, UT of J&K

Notification No:- 008-BOPEE of 2022
Dated:- 27-01-2022

In pursuance of letter No.HD-GazDGen/38/2022-09 dated 20-01-2022, received from Health & Medical Education Department, UT of J&K, offline applications are invited from the willing and eligible NEET PG qualified in-service candidates/Doctors of UT of J&K/Ladakh for admission to Post MBBS DNB Seats, Post Diploma DNB Seats & Post MBBS Diploma Seats (Broad Specialty) on prescribed form which is annexed and shall be available on the website of the Board viz; (www.jkbopee.gov.in) .

Category (a): Eligibility for Post MBBS DNB & Post MBBS Diploma seats:
i) Candidate must have qualified NEET PG - 2021 conducted by NBE (National Board of Examination).
ii) Candidate must be domicile of UT of J&K/Ladakh.
iii) Candidate must have NOC issued by Health & Medical Education Department of J&K Govt./Ladakh, as the case may be.

Category (b): Eligibility for Post Diploma DNB Diploma seats:
i) Candidate must have qualified DNB PDCEET-2021 conducted by NBE (National Board of Examination).
ii) Candidate must have passed Post MBBS Diploma in either of the following streams/disciplines: a. Anesthesiology b. Psychiatry c. Obstetrics & Gynecology d. Pediatrics.
iii) Candidate must be domicile of UT of J&K/Ladakh.
iv) Candidate must have NOC issued by Health & Medical Education Department of J&K Govt./Ladakh, as the case may be.

The candidates are advised to submit their Application forms alongwith the following documents w.e.f 29th January, 2022 to 07th February, 2022 (till 3.00 p.m.), physically in the J&K BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu (only on working days):-
For Category a)
1) Domicile Certificate of UT of J&K/ Ladakh (For candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, ST Certificate shall be treated as Domicile Certificate).
2) Valid Reserved Category Certificate, wherever applicable, in dated 21.10.2005 read with SRO 518 dated 02.09.2019, S.O 127 dated: 20-04-2020.
3) Difficult Area Certificate in pursuance of SRO-48 of 2018 dated 30.01.2018, wherever applicable.
4) No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Government/Competent Authority. However, if any eligible candidate(s) who fail to submit NOC at the time of submission of application form up to 07-02-2022 are advised to submit an undertaking (on plain paper) to the effect that he/she shall submit the NOC at the time of admission in the requisite institution if selected, otherwise his/her admission shall be treated as cancelled ab-initio.
5) NEET PG -2021 Score Card.

For Category b)
1) Post MBBS Diploma in either of the following:
a. Anesthesiology
b. Psychiatry
c. Obstetrics & Gynecologist
d. Pediatrics
2) Domicile Certificate of UT of J&K/ Ladakh (For candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, ST Certificate shall be treated as Domicile Certificate).
3) DNB PDCEET – 2021 Score Card.
4) Valid Reserved Category Certificate, wherever applicable, in terms of SRO-294 of 2005 dated 21-10-2005 read with SRO 518 dated 02-09-2019 and S.O 127 dated: 20-04-2020.
5) Difficult Area Certificate in pursuance of SRO-48 of 2018 dated 30-01-2018, wherever applicable.
6) No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Government/Competent Authority. However, if any eligible candidate(s) who fail to submit NOC at the time of submission of application form up to 07-02-2022 are advised to submit an undertaking (on plain paper) to the effect that he/she shall submit the NOC at the time of admission in the requisite institution, if selected, otherwise his/her admission shall be treated as cancelled ab-initio.

NOTE
I) The persons with disability (PWD) candidates are directed to submit their valid PWD certificate in BOPEE Office Srinagar/Jammu upto 07-02-2022 positively.
II) The candidates who want to avail benefit of sports category are advised to apply and submit their sports certificates to Secretary J&K Sports Council Jammu/Srinagar as and when notified by the department of sports. However, the sports category benefit shall be given to only such candidates whose names/eligibility shall be forwarded by J&K Sports Council.
III) The cut-off date for validity of the category certificates shall be the last date for submission of off line application forms viz; 07-02-2022.
IV) Mere submission of Application forms shall not confer any right on the candidate(s) for admission, which is subject to further check and verification of their eligibility / documents.
V) For candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, an undertaking in the form of compulsory Service Bond (available on BOPEE Website) to the effect that he /she shall serve in the UT of Ladakh for prescribed period as decided by UT of Ladakh immediately after completing his degree/diploma.
VI) The candidates whose names shall figure in the Provisional Merit List (PML), which shall be notified in due course of time, after conclusion of last date of submission of forms, shall have to deposit counseling fee of Rs.2000/- through POS machine available at J&K BOPEE offices, Srinagar/Jammu.
VII) The candidates in their own interest are advised to remain in touch with the website of the Board viz; (www.jkbopee.gov.in) for day to day updates.
VIII) This Institution/Discipline wise tentative intake is annexed as Annexure B to this notification for reference.
IX) The Annexure A & B to this Notification shall be available at BOPEE Website only.

E&OE
No:- BOPEE/Exam-28/2020
Dated. 27-01-2022

DIPK-NB-6785/21

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

Google To Invest USD 1 Bn In Airtel; To Buy 1.28 Per Cent Stake For USD 700 Mn



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Google will invest as much as USD 1 billion in Bharti Airtel in picking up a 1.28 per cent stake and in scaling up offerings of India's second-largest mobile phone operator, the telecom major said on Friday.

Alphabet Inc's Google will pay USD 700 million (Rs 734 per share) for a 1.28 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel Ltd and the rest towards multi-year plans that will include devices.

This will be the second investment by Google, which had two years ago committed to investing USD 10 billion in India via its digitisation fund over 5 to 7 years through equity deals and tie-up.

It had in July 2020, invested USD 4.5 billion for a 7.73 per cent stake in billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms.

While the 2020 investment valued Jio Platforms' equity at Rs 4.36 lakh crore (USD 58.1 billion), the USD 700 million investment announced on Friday values Bharti Airtel's equity at Rs 4.1 lakh crore (USD 54.7 billion).

The US tech behemoth got a seat on Jio's board and has co-developed JioPhone Next - the world's most affordable all-touchscreen smartphone running on Pragati OS an optimized version of Android OS.

The funding from Google gives billionaire Sunil Mittal-led Bharti more firepower to bolster

its 5G plans as well as take on market leader Jio.

Google made the investment as part of its Google for India Digitization Fund. The amount Google invested in Jio was Rs 33,737 crore (USD 4.5 billion), which was 6.4 times its investment in Bharti Airtel at Rs 5,250 crore (USD 700 million).

"This will comprise- USD 700 million equity investment in Bharti Airtel at a price per share of Rs 734," Airtel said in a statement.

Out of the total investment, USD 300 million will go towards implementing commercial agreements, which will include investments in scaling Airtel's offerings that cover a range of devices to consumers via innovative affordability programs as well as other offerings aimed at accelerating access and digital inclusion across India's digital ecosystem.

"Under the larger strategic goals of the partnership, both companies will also potentially co-create India-specific network domain use cases for 5G and other standards, with cutting-edge implementations," the statement said.

Bharti Airtel board has approved the issuance of up to 71,176,839 equity shares of face value of Rs 5 each of the company to Google International LLC on a preferential basis at a price of Rs 734 per equity share aggregating to Rs 5,224.3 crore (around USD 700 million).

Lockdown Adversely Impacts Livelihood Of Daily Wagers, Businesses Community: KCC&I



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The fresh lockdown imposed by the government has again adversely impacted the livelihood of daily wagers and businesses community, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCC&I) said on Friday.

Sheikh Ashiq Ahmad, President, KCC&I as per a statement urged the administration to keep the livelihood of the business community in mind before taking any future decision and tackle the situation in consultation with traders / industry/business community.

As the successive pandem-

ic triggered lockdowns have wreaked havoc on economy, after the receding of second wave, the businesses had started to resuscitate. But much to the dismay of stakeholders, the lockdown came again to haunt.

The years of lockdowns have pushed Business Community to the wall and they are reeling under tremendous stress. The only stability they have been staring is financial instability.

The government according to President should ensure that people adhere to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and the protocol is followed strictly. Lockdowns cannot be the first solution or perhaps are not

solution as it does more harm than good.

The business community ensures support to the administration in implementing proper Covid protocol.

In times like these, when the financial instability is marring the community, we request government to come out with certain packages for the business community in the prevailing circumstances.

Sheikh Ashiq Ahmad, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries urges Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene and demanded a "financial sustenance package" for the businesses community.

Vegetable Seedling Distribution To Commence From 15th Feb

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Friday visited Hi-tech poly houses at Kitchen Garden premises (Lalmandi, Srinagar) to take stock of the preparations for the distribution of seedlings among the farmers and agriculture entrepreneurs.

The Director visited different blocks of the hi-tech installation and talked to the technical experts and concerned officers.

He was informed that this year the Department will commence the distribution of vegetable seedlings among the farmers from 15th of February (in phased manner) which is 10 days before the scheduled date.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that the department has been successful in achieving the idea of providing the farmers with round the year availability of seedlings of different vegetable (traditional



/exotic) crops to a very large extent. Amid changing global economic scenarios, the Department is working on a multi-dimensional roadmap to promote and secure the economic interests of the farming community, he added.

Iqbal said that in addition to the commercial vegetable cultivation, the vegetable enterprise is being adopted by the kitchen garden lovers, backyard farmers throughout the region and has therefore raised the demand for vegetable seedlings manifold.

Director Agriculture asked the concerned officers and technical staff of the hi-tech poly houses to add more vegetable crops (traditional/exotic) to their lot, so that the farmers could be provided with more options to add to their basket.

Earlier, the Director visited hi-tech poly house installations of district Budgam and impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure that the quality seedlings of different vegetable crops are made available to the farmers well in time.

Govt Appoints V Anantha Nageswaran As CEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Days ahead of the Economic Survey, the government on Friday appointed V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).

Nageswaran, an academic and former executive with Credit Suisse Group AG and Julius Baer Group, succeeds K V Subramanian, who demitted office of CEA in December 2021 after the completion of his three-year term.

An official statement said Nageswaran assumed charge on Friday.



His appointment comes two days ahead of the Economic Survey for 2021-22 which is expected to give growth projection of around 9 per cent for the next financial year as Asia's third-largest economy is showing signs of recovery from the pandemic.

The Economic Survey is sched-

uled to be tabled in Parliament on January 31.

India is poised to grow as the fastest large economy in the world during the current financial year with the economy projected to grow around 9 per cent despite the pandemic.

The economy, as per the advance estimates of the National Statistical Office (NSO), is expected to record a growth of 9.2 per cent during the current fiscal, which is a tad lower than the 9.5 per cent projected by the Reserve Bank.

Budget Should Boost Consumption Demand By Offering Tax Breaks, Cutting Fuel Taxes: Report



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The forthcoming budget needs to delay fiscal consolidation, instead should focus more on supporting the pandemic battered-economy and boost consumption demand by offering income tax soaps and cutting fuel taxes, says a report.

In a pre-budget report, India Ratings said it expects the new budget to consolidate and strengthen the plan set out in the last budget, rather than trying out new things by continue with the revenue and capital expenditure pattern of FY'22 to provide stability and consolidation to the past/ongoing efforts, and to focus on boosting demand by generating employment opportunities in areas/sectors that have been impacted more by the pandemic.

The report therefore expects the finance minister to delay fiscal consolidation and make it to be a gradual and calibrated process, thus ensuring the necessary fiscal support that the economy needs is available till the recovery acquires its own momentum.

Calling for tax reliefs to households to boost demand as the purchasing power of households was badly hit since the pandemic, the report said this could be done through some income tax reliefs and lowering taxes on oil products as higher fuel prices has been driving up inflation.

After the two supplementary demands for grants this fiscal the revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 3 lakh crore higher than the budgeted

amount, but the non-interest and non-subsidy components of revenue expenditure, which impact the direct demand in the economy, is likely to be Rs 13,100 crore lower than the budgeted.

Since recovery is still uneven and weak, the government will have to analyse why direct demand in the economy is not benefiting from the increased Rs 3 lakh crore spending by ensuring that active government support is still available to the needy sectors of the economy.

The agency expects the size of the revenue expenditure in FY23 to be larger than the revised estimate of FY22, not only in nominal but also in real terms.

Government capex is showing a rising trend increasing to 2.5 per cent of GDP in FY22, up from 2.2 per cent in FY21 and 1.6 per cent in FY20.

However, given the high gestation period and cost overrun of large infrastructure projects, the agency expects the FY23 budget to accord priority to capex spending on rural infrastructure and/or infrastructure where the gestation time is short and projects are employment intensive.

According to official data as much as 445 of 1,673 infra projects had a cost overrun of Rs 4.38 lakh crore end-November 2021.

The National Statistical Organisation's (NSO) periodic labour force survey for 2019-20 released in July 2021 shows a rise in the share of labour force employed in agriculture, despite the policy objective of moving labour force out of agriculture into manufacturing.

'Budget Likely To Aim At Boosting Growth, Achieving Fiscal Consolidation'

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: In view of upcoming state elections, the Union Budget for the 2022-23 financial year will aim at boosting growth, achieving fiscal consolidation and driving consumption, Bank of Baroda (BoB) said in its latest economic research report.

It also stated that there could be changes in tax concessions, while production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes may see higher allocation to push investment demand.

To avoid bond market volatility, gross borrowing will likely be maintained in the range of Rs 12-13 trillion, despite higher repayment obligations. Thus the estimated fiscal deficit is expected to be between 6 per cent and 6.25 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal, the report said.

In line with a 13 per cent increase in nominal Gross Domestic Product, the Centre's net revenue is estimated to rise by

12.2 per cent and spending to increase by 4.5 per cent in the coming fiscal, it said.

Assuming that a large part of the divestment target in the current fiscal will be met, the expected disinvestment proceeds in the next financial year will be around Rs 750 billion, the report claimed.

According to it, the fiscal deficit will be financed by market borrowing next fiscal.

The report also mentioned that the gross tax revenue to GDP ratio is expected to remain broadly unchanged.

Higher nominal GDP will imply that gross revenue will increase to Rs 26.5 trillion in the next fiscal from Rs 22.2 trillion as per current fiscal budget estimates.

The upcoming budget may focus on increasing the standard deduction limit for the salaried class by Rs 50,000. Overall, there could be a balance between consumption and investment centric policies, the report added.

SHORT TAKES

Markets Succumb To Late Sell-Off; Log Weekly Losses

MUMBAI: Market benchmarks reversed early gains to close in the red on Friday, capping a week of heavy declines triggered by a hawkish US Federal Reserve, geopolitical tensions and unabated foreign fund outflows.

Starting off on a high note, the 30-share BSE Sensex soared above the key 58,000-level, before plunging to a low of 57,119.28.

After fighting bouts of volatility towards the fag-end of the session, the index finally closed 76.71 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 57,200.23, marking its second straight session of losses.

Likewise, the NSE Nifty too swung between gains and losses before ending 8.20 points or 0.05 per cent down at 17,101.95.

Maruti was the biggest laggard among the Sensex constituents, skidding 2.99 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, PowerGrid, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and SBI.

In contrast, NTPC, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, M&M, Wipro and ITC were among the prominent gainers, jumping as much as 3.89 per cent.

Bharti Airtel advanced 1.23 per cent after Google announced an up to USD 1 billion investment in India's second-largest telecom operator. (PTI)

Apple's Holiday iPhone Sales Surge Despite Supply Shortages

SAN RAMON (US): Apple shook off supply shortages that have curtailed production of iPhones and other popular devices to deliver its most profitable holiday season yet.

The results posted Thursday for the final three months of 2021 help illustrate why Apple is looking even stronger at the tail end of the pandemic than when the crisis began two years ago.

At that point, Apple's iPhone sales had been flagging as consumers began holding on to their older devices for longer periods. But now the Cupertino, California, company can't seem to keep up with the steadily surging demand for a device that has become even more crucial in the burgeoning era of remote work.

iPhone has never been more popular," Apple CEO Tim Cook crowed during a conference call with analysts. The company's Mac computers and, to a lesser extent, iPads also continue to proliferate. With the iPhone leading the way, Apple disclosed it now has more than 1.8 billion devices worldwide now in use.

Apple's inability to fully satisfy the voracious appetite for iPhones stems from a pandemic-driven shortage of computer chips that's affecting the production of everything from automobiles to medical devices. (AP)

Airasia Renamed Capital A To Show It's More Than An Airline

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's AirAsia Group said Friday it has changed the name of its listed holding company to Capital A to reflect the diversity of its business portfolio as it seeks to grow its non-airline revenue.

Capital A CEO Tony Fernandes said the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed the group to accelerate plans to grow beyond the airline business to become a one-stop digital travel and lifestyle services group.

The airline retains the AirAsia brand name. But the group will focus more on expanding other businesses including logistics, aircraft engineering, venture capital, education and mobile applications for payments, travel and lifestyle.

It's a significant milestone that marks a new era for the group. Today's announcement is about telling the world that we are much more than an airline," Fernandes said. (AP)

SC Grants 3 Weeks To Spicejet To Resolve Financial Issues With Swiss Firm

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Friday granted three weeks to Spicejet to resolve financial dispute with Swiss firm Credit Suisse AG and stayed the Madras High Court order on its winding up, saying that it was a serious matter and the airlines cannot say it is a busy organisation and would not pay.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, while staying the publication of winding up notice and the order directing the official liquidator attached to the Madras High Court to take over the assets of the low-cost airline, questioned the approach of Spicejet.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, took note of the submissions of senior advocate Harish Salve that Spicejet would try to resolve the issue with the Swiss firm.

Senior counsel Harish Salve sought three weeks' time for trying to resolve the matter and Mr K V Vishwanathan (appearing for the Swiss firm) also agreed to the adjournment. Meanwhile, the high court order is stayed for three weeks, the bench said in its order. (PTI)

Rupee Closes Almost Flat At 75.07 Against US Dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee snapped its three-day losing streak to close 2 paise higher at 75.07 against the US dollar on Friday amid expectation of better dollar inflows from upcoming IPOs.

However, the rebound in the rupee was restricted amid weakness in domestic equities, analysts said.

Forex traders said geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices and hawkish US Fed stance also weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.12 a dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.88 and a low of 75.13.

The domestic unit finally settled at 75.07 against the American currency, up 2 paise over its last close of 75.09.

Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against the basket of six currencies, rose 0.11 per cent to 97.35.

"The Indian rupee managed to stabilise after sharp sell-off in the last three days and re-traced from one-month low on expectation of better dollar inflows from upcoming IPOs and position downsizing ahead of the Union Budget," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

DU Issues Notification to Discontinue M.Phil from next

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Delhi University has issued a notification stating that M.Phil will be discontinued from the next academic session in line with the National Education Policy-2020.

The university will be implementing the policy from 2022-23. However, a section of teachers criticised the move to discontinue the degree, saying it will be disadvantageous for students who are not economically strong and even for women.

In a notification issued on January 27, the varsity said M.Phil programmes being run in various departments of the University of Delhi will be discontinued from 2022-23 in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

There won't be any new admissions to M.Phil programmes while students who are already enrolled will continue to study the course, according to a university official.

Former Executive Council member Abha Dev Habib said, "NEP-2020 is all about widening the gap between the haves and have nots. Either commit to doing a Ph.D or remain without a research degree. The NEP, which is floating on advertisement of 'choice', is taking away real choices which students had. Students with disadvantaged backgrounds looked up to M.Phil as a research degree they could afford before going towards teaching jobs."

"This degree (M.Phil) is being discontinued not because of any organic need of the system but because of NEP-2020," she said.

Habib said as opposed to Ph.D, M.Phil is a short-term research degree for students, which provides them an exposure to research work and adds to their curriculum vitae.

Social scientists believe that students with M.Phil did better in their Ph.Ds, she said.

JNU professor Ayesha Kidwai, in a Facebook post, said there is a gender dimension to the M.Phil abolition as well.

She said that since 2012 2013 M.Phil, enrolment has consistently had a majority of women, currently verging on about 60 per cent.

"This is also the one degree that the NEP-2020 recommends must be eliminated from the education system, with immediate effect, without any pretence even at consultation with stakeholders," Kidwai said.

"M.Phil. is often the only research degree that women (as well as other disadvantaged sections) can pursue... Ph.D degrees require an investment of time and a loss of earnings that patriarchal society lets only a few afford and the need for its immediate abolition is difficult to fathom," she said.

Questioning the rationale behind the discontinuation of M.Phil, she said the announcement signals how women's participation in formulating and studying research questions and in the labour force of the education sector is of little significance to educational policy-makers.

Academic Council member Mithuraj Dhusiya said that the M.Phil course, over several generations, has played an important role in the Delhi University and other Indian universities in developing research aptitude through robust course work and introduction to higher research.

"M.Phil research degree has been a degree by itself separate from and at the same time above Master's degree. It is extremely unfortunate that the NEP-2020 discontinues M.Phil," he added.

Determination of inadequate representation of SC/STs in govt jobs discretion of State: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Friday refused to "lay down any yardstick" for granting reservation in promotion to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in government jobs saying determination of their inadequate representation is the discretion of the State.

The top court said it is neither legal nor proper for the Courts to issue directions or advisory sermons to the executive in respect of the sphere which is exclusively within their domain under the Constitution.

"Determination of inadequate representation of SCs and STs in services under a State is left to the discretion of the State, as the determination depends upon myriad factors which this Court cannot envisage..."

"Laying down of criteria for determining the inadequacy of representation would result in curtailing the discretion given to the State Governments. In addition, the prevailing local conditions, which may require to be factored in, might not be uniform," a three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said.

The apex court said it should leave the decision-making to other branches of government after directing their attention to the problems rather than itself entering into the remedial field.

Referring to its verdict in the M Nagaraj case, the bench said that this Court made it clear that the validity of law made by the State Governments providing reservation in promotions shall be decided on a case-to-case basis to establish whether the inadequacy of representation is supported by quantifiable data.

"Therefore, we are of the opinion that no yardstick can be laid down by this Court for determining the adequacy of representation of SCs and STs in promotional posts for the purpose of providing

reservation," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai.

The top court said the percentage of posts reserved for Backward Classes, as prescribed by the State, has to be strictly followed and cannot be varied or changed simply because some members of the Backward Class have already been appointed/promoted against the general seats.

The vacancies arising in the cadre, after the initial posts are filled, will have to be filled from amongst the category to which the post belonged in the roster, it said.

The bench said that it had observed in earlier judgments that the appropriate Government has to apply cadre strength as a unit in the operation of the roster to ascertain whether a given class/group is adequately represented in the service.

"The entire service cannot be considered to be a cadre for the purpose of promotion from one post to a higher post in a different grade. Promotion is made from one grade to the next higher grade, in relation to which cadres are constituted," the bench said.

It said before providing for reservation in promotions to cadre, the State is obligated to collect quantifiable data regarding the inadequacy of representation of SCs and STs.

"Collection of information regarding the inadequacy of representation of SCs and STs cannot be with reference to the entire service or 'class/group' but it should be relatable to the grade/category of posts to which promotion is sought."

"Cadre, which should be the unit for the purpose of collection of quantifiable data in relation to the promotional post(s), would be meaningless if data pertaining to the

representation of SCs and STs is with reference to the entire service," the bench said.

The top court noted that there is near unanimity amongst the counsels that the data collected to establish the inadequacy of representation, which forms the basis for providing reservation for promotions, should be reviewed periodically.

"We are not inclined to express any view on discontinuation of reservations in totality, which is completely within the domain of the legislature and the executive. As regards review, we are of the opinion that data collected to determine inadequacy of representation for the purpose of providing reservation in promotions need to be reviewed periodically."

"The period for review should be reasonable and is left to the Government to set out," it said.

The bench said collection of quantifiable data for determining the inadequacy of representation of SCs and STs is a basic requirement for providing reservation in promotions and the State should justify reservation in promotions concerning the cadre to which promotion is made.

"Taking into account the data pertaining to a 'group', which would be an amalgamation of certain cadres in service, would not give the correct picture of the inadequacy of representation of SCs and STs in the cadre in relation to which reservation in promotions is sought to be made. Rosters are prepared cadre-wise and not group-wise," the bench said.

The top court had earlier said that it would not reopen its decision on the issue of the grant of reservation in promotion to SCs and STs and said it was for the states to decide how they are going to implement the same.

SBI Tweaks Recruitment Rules For Pregnant Women Candidates



Agenceis

New Delhi: The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has put in place new rules wherein a woman candidate with more than three months pregnancy will be considered "temporarily unfit" and can join the bank within four months after delivery.

The move has elicited criticism from some quarters, including from the All India State Bank Of India Employees' Association.

In its latest medical fitness guidelines for new recruits or promotees, the bank said a candidate would be considered fit in case of pregnancy which is less than 3 months.

"However, if pregnancy is of more than 3 months, she will be considered temporarily unfit and she may be allowed to join within 4 months after delivery of child," as per the medical fitness and ophthalmological standards for new recruits and promotees dated December 31, 2021.

For recruitment, it said, the policy will be effective from the date of approval December 21, 2021. The revised standards in respect of promotion will be applicable with effect from April 1, 2022, it said.

Earlier, women candidates with up to 6 months of pregnancy were allowed to join the bank subject to various conditions.

The conditions include furnishing a certificate from a specialist gynaecologist that her taking up bank's employment at that stage is in no way likely to interfere with her pregnancy or the normal development of the foetus, or is not likely to cause her miscarriage or otherwise to

adversely affect her health.

The revised rules have attracted criticism from some quarters, including from the bank's staff.

An e-mail sent to SBI seeking comments on the guidelines did not elicit any immediate response.

CPI Rajya Sabha MP Binoy Viswam has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman demanding immediate withdrawal of medical fitness circular issued by SBI pertaining to the guidelines for the recruitment of pregnant women, saying "it undermines women's rights."

According to the All India State Bank Of India Employees' Association General Secretary K S Krishna, the union has written to SBI management urging it to withdraw the guidelines.

"The proposed amendment by the bank is fundamentally prejudicial and against womanhood. The proposed amendment will be unconstitutional as it discriminates against women, by treating pregnancy as a disease/disability."

"It cannot be forced upon a woman to have a choice between bearing a child and employment as it interferes both with her reproductive rights and her right to employment and such an action cannot have any place in the present modern era," he said.

In this regard, he said, the union has also submitted that the stipulation of 6 months itself must be removed and no pregnant women if willing to take up employment at any stage must be debarred from employment.

In 2009 also, the same proposal was mooted by the bank but was withdrawn after a lot of hue and cry, he added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Under 64-Hour

spike in cases, the SEC last week extended the lockdown to 64 hours from Friday 2.00 pm to Monday 6.00 am.

However, the fresh order exempted the pregnant women employees from physical attendance and allowed them to work from home.

4354 Test Positive

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 916 new cases of Coronavirus, Kupwara 618, Anantnag 329, Baramulla 290, Kulgam 262, Budgam 229, Bandipora 109, Pulwama 90, Ganderbal 42 and Shopian 29.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 763 new cases of infection, Udhampur 111, Ramban 106, Samba 104, Doda 103, Poonch 91, Kathua 68, Rajouri 43, Kishtwar 30 and Reasi 21.

"Moreover, 5850 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 1918 from Jammu Division and 3932 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that five more people, three from Jammu division and two from Valley died of Covid-19 related complications, taking the death toll in the pandemic to 4647 in J&K—2268 in Jammu and 2379 in Kashmir.

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

LG Calls For Ramping

in home isolation. The LG also underlined the importance of involving Community in awareness campaigns to sensitize people on mask usage and Covid protocol.

"We need to protect healthcare personnel, patients and communities, and accordingly our focus should remain on ramping up healthcare infrastructure, availability of oxygen, ventilators, essential medicines, etc," Sinha said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG stressed that testing, tracing, treatment, Covid Appropriate Behaviour and vaccination will continue to be our strategy to effectively fight the Covid-19.

Sinha, he said, also impressed upon the officials to ensure proper implementation of Covid Protocol and CAB among the people to effectively break the chain of transmission.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG was briefed about the Covid containment measures at the district level including functionality of War rooms, Covid help-lines, IEC campaign regarding Covid Appropriate Behaviour, distribution of Covid kits, besides facilities for extending assistance to people in need.

"The chair also took stock of the vaccination drive for the 15-18 years age group and the precaution dose vaccination for healthcare & frontline workers and those over 60 years of age with co-morbidities," he said.

The Deputy Commissioners and other concerned officials, he said, were directed to widely publicize the COVID helpline numbers and other emergency contact numbers.

According to the official spokesperson, Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a

detailed briefing on the district-wise analysis of Covid-19 situation, status of testing, contact tracing and vaccination across the UT, besides the status of bed occupancy in the designated hospitals.

"It was informed that five districts - Kulgam, Shopian, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Poonch have completed the 100% coverage of 1st dose of vaccination in the 15-18 years age group, besides 70% of the total targeted population in the 15-18 years age group has been inoculated with the first dose across the UT," he said.

He further said that the chair also took stock of the implementation of directions passed in previous meetings.

Cop Escapes

case has been registered and further investigations have been launched.

4 Soldiers Injured

in the area when an explosion took place, which is suspected to have taken place due to a hand grenade.

They said that four soldiers got injured in this explosion and were shifted to a nearby Army medical facility for treatment. However, three among the injured were referred to Rajouri Army Hospital while another was referred to Udhampur Army Hospital.

They said that senior officers of Army were rushed to the spot soon after the incident while a probe into the matter is going on.

KU To Conduct

declaration of results/ completion of degrees," he said as per a statement.

"Students are advised to ready themselves for offline examinations in accordance with the necessary guidelines, policies in vogue," he said, adding, "Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) shall be strictly adhered to during the conduct of said examinations."

He said students, in their own interest, must frequently visit the University website to know their datesheets, as and when these are uploaded.

"The University is committed to work in the best interests of students, who are our primary stakeholders, keeping in view their future prospects without compromising, in any manner, the sanctity of Examinations," he added.

Principal Secy

persons for selection to the post of chairperson and member(s) of the RERA.

But a high-level committee is yet to finalise its recommendations for appointment of chairperson and members of RERA—(KNO)

BSF To Get

The proposal for these units has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs which has approved it in principle. A further process for financial sanction is underway.

The BSF officials have already contacted senior officials of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Delhi to get solar power projects sanctioned for these FDLs which has also been approved.

At present, all activities at these locations including cooking and daily ablutions, are

carried out using power sourced from kerosene and diesel, they said.

These upcoming habitats will accommodate at least 12 troopers at a time and the attached kitchen will have all facilities to serve freshly cooked food in even the most inclement and harsh conditions. The kitchen and toilets will be attached to the main living huts.

As of now, the troops at these icy locations at altitudes ranging from 8,000 feet-16,000 feet, live in corrugated galvanized iron sheet-made hutments along with their rations and weapons, exposing them to the sub-zero temperatures. Due to the weather, the areas remain snow clad on an average of five to seven months in a year.

The BSF has already finalized the design of these steel huts which will be provided with entertainment systems too. The officials said that once they get final clearance from the government, the construction of these huts will start at the higher altitudes first. They expect that the construction work can start from May-June onwards.

They said that before finalizing the design, they evaluated the composite Border Out Posts (BoPs) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and that of the Army deployed on the higher altitudes to equip them with modern facilities.

The BSF move came after the visit of Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh to these locations in November last year and a proposal was sent to the MHA for approval and the MHA has approved it. The solar power panels that will be installed by the New and Renewable Energy Ministry will help in reducing the carbon footprint and pollution generated because of heavy use of diesel and kerosene by the troopers for their cooking and other needs.

"Under the prevailing conditions for more than five to seven months, it is indeed very hard to survive and protect the borders as the weather is itself a strong enemy", an officer in the central security forces deployed in the J&K security grid said. Once these steel habitats are set up at these altitudes, the troopers will man the borders in a better way and with more alertness, he added.

Apart from the LoC, the BSF is tasked to guard about 2289 km of the India-Pakistan International Border, ranging from Jammu to Punjab, Rajasthan and up to Gujarat in the western part of the country.

Cyber Police

the details of these transactions, where from it was revealed that the said hefty amount has been transferred through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and Internet Banking into different online payment gateways. The matter was further taken up with the gateway authorities to ascertain the transaction details," the spokesman said.

The investigation team was successful in tracing all the transactions in different online payment gateways which were being used to exchange into foreign currency and whole amount of Rs30 lakhs was blocked and further refunded to complainants' bank accounts.

Late Arrivals

commuters inside Srinagar, the passengers from south and north Kashmir decry the slow

drive.

"Since this Sumo ban, it takes hours to reach Srinagar now," said Sheikh Reyaz, a resident of Khrew. "The lack of alternate mode of swift transport is creating issues for us."

As the roads beyond Pantha Chowk and Parimpora have become 'no-go zone' for the cab drivers, some of them detail the desperate travel scenario created by the Sumo sanction.

"I lately entered Srinagar and saw some 13 people waiting for the lift at the deserted stand," said Bashir Ahmad, a Sumo driver,

"Most of them were women and my cab was the only vehicle for that route. I was forced to bundle them all into Sumo. You can imagine the scene where 13 anxious people are jostling for the space meant for 9 passengers only. But nobody complained about it as none of them had any choice."

Weather Improves

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).

Clerk Caught

a bribe of Rs. 2000 for settling a grievance of the complainant.

In the complaint, the spokesperson said that it was alleged by the complainant that land measuring 1 kanal falling under survey No. 193, 192, 214, 264 intikal No. 191, Khewat No. 38 situated at Daslipora Pattan District Baramulla is his ancestral property and the same has been grabbed by his aunt

"For settlement of the issue the complainant on many occasions approached revenue authorities of tehsil Singhpora but they keep on delaying the matter. The complainant had also applied before the Tehsildar Singhpora, Pattan, District Baramulla for settlement of grievances," he said.

He said that the application filed by the complainant was duly marked by Tehsildar Singhpora to the Naib Tehsildar concerned for verification and for taking appropriate necessary action.

"When the complainant approached the office of Naib Tehsildar Singhpora for redressing grievance and for conducting verification and taking appropriate action as directed by Tehsildar, they refuse to take any action and keep delaying the same because the complainant refused to give them any bribe which was demanded by a clerk namely Hilal Ahmad who is posted in Naib Tehsil office Singhpora," the ACB spokesperson said.

He further said that as the contents of complaint prima facie disclosed the commission of offence as defined under section 7 of the PC Act 1988. Accordingly, a Case FIR No. 04/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla against the clerk.

"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The trap team caught Hilal Ahmad red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of 2,000 from the complainant. He was arrested and taken into custody by ACB Team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses," the bureau spokesperson said, adding that further investigations in the case are going on.

SPO Injured

Abdul Rashid Dar, a resident of BK Pora Budgam was killed on the spot while the SPO Shabir Ahmad posted at Kakapora succumbed to the injuries at hospital in Srinagar, officials said, as per news agency GNS.

A police officer confirming it said that the injured cop was admitted at Super Speciality Hospital at Shireen Bagh Srinagar where he however succumbed to his injuries this afternoon. "Further investigations are underway," the officer added.

Two-Way Traffic

highway viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa . TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic," a traffic department official said in a statement. He said Traffic Control Unit Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic, he said.

He said cut off for LMVs/private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) will be at 0700 hours to 1200 hours, from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0800 hours to 1300 hours and from Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) 0900 hours to 1300 hours "subject to change depending on the road position then"

He said no vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings.

Regarding HMVs/Load carriers, he said, "subject to fair weather and better road conditions, they shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the traffic situation on highway." He said TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the highway.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali.

Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also remained closed in view of snow accumulation, the traffic department official said. (GNS)

Ladakh Sees

No fresh death was reported from the union territory, they said.

As many as 191 patients recovered from the disease and were discharged from hospitals, they said. With this, the total number of recoveries has reached 23,875, they said.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh has come down to 1,250 including 953 in Leh and 297 in Kargil district.

Of the 133 fresh cases reported from the Union territory, 87 were from Leh district and 64 from Kargil district, they said. (PTI)

Ranji Trophy To Be Held In 2 Phases, Confirms BCCI



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on Friday said that the postponed Ranji Trophy would be held in two phases starting next month, clearing the decks for India's premier domestic competition to resume after being cancelled last season.

It is expected that the 33-team tournament will begin in the second week of February and the first phase will continue for about a month.

The tournament, which was not held last year due to the Covid pandemic, was scheduled to begin on January 13 but was postponed owing to a third wave of infections across the country.

"The Board has decided to conduct the Ranji Trophy this season in two phases. In the first phase, we plan to complete all matches of the league stage while the knockouts will be held in June," Shah said in a statement.

"My team is working closely

to mitigate any kind of health risk caused by the pandemic, while at the same time ensuring a highly competitive red-ball cricket contest."

Shah said that the BCCI understands the significance of Ranji Trophy.

"Ranji Trophy is our most prestigious domestic competition, which has been providing Indian cricket with an enviable talent pool every year. It is absolutely important that we take all necessary steps to safeguard the interest of this premier event," he said.

The BCCI announcement has come a day after its treasurer Arun Dhimal had said that the Board intended to host the event.

The two phases are required since the BCCI also plans to host the IPL from March 27 and hosting two big tournaments would not be possible practically as the players' availability would also be an issue.

Indian Cricket Will Be Spineless If Ranji Trophy Is Ignored: Shastri

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former head coach Ravi Shastri on Friday said that Indian cricket would become "spineless" if the Ranji Trophy is ignored, his comment coming just before the BCCI announced that the marquee domestic event will be held in two phases starting next month.

The Ranji Trophy was scheduled to start on January 13 this year but was postponed indefinitely by the BCCI due to the third wave of the pandemic.

"The Ranji Trophy is the backbone of Indian cricket. The moment you start ignoring it our cricket will be SPINELESS!" Shastri tweeted.

Just about an hour after Shastri's comment, BCCI secretary Jay Shah issued a statement, confirming the phased resumption of the tournament.

It is expected that the 38-team tournament will begin in the second week of February and the first phase will continue for

about a month.

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal, after a meeting of the Board on Thursday, had said that the body intends to hold the tournament in "two phases".

This is because the BCCI is planning to start the IPL from March 27 and it will be practically impossible to hold the Ranji Trophy at a stretch.

Dhimal had said this after many state units and the BCCI brass held a meeting to discuss the way forward.

The meeting was also attended by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and Shah.

The pandemic had played spoilsport last season as well when the BCCI could only organise two men's white-ball tournaments (Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy).

The BCCI paid 50 per cent of the earlier match fee as compensation to all first-class cricketers who endured financial losses due to Ranji's cancellation last year.

Iran Defeats Iraq 1-0 To Qualify For Spot In World Cup



Agencies

TEHRAN: Mehdi Taremi scored from close range to lead Iran's national football team to a 1-0 victory over Iraq and seal the Islamic Republic's third straight World Cup berth.

Taremi, the FC Porto striker, scored the only goal of the game in the 48th minute in the second half. He scored from inside the penalty box on a pass from midfielder Ali Reza Jahanbakhsh.

Iran's win came in Group A of the Asia region.

The win at Tehran Azadi stadium was Iran's earliest jump into the qualifiers. It marked the sixth time Iran has earned a spot in the World Cup in the nation's history. Despite the fast spread of the

aggressive omicron variant of the coronavirus in Iran, the government Wednesday approved the presence of some 10,000 spectators in the 100,000-seat stadium.

More than 2,000 were women. It was the second major soccer event that Iranian women have watched in the stadium. In 2019, for the first time in decades, hundreds of Iranian women were allowed to watch Persepolis play the Kashima Antlers of Japan in the Asian Champions League final.

FIFA had long demanded that Iran provide assurances that women will be allowed to attend 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Women have been mainly prohibited from attending men's games and other sports events in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

UNDER-19 WORLD CUP

Afghanistan Defeat Sri Lanka, Set Up Semifinal Clash With England



Press Trust of India

OSBOURN: Afghanistan sneaked into the Under-19 World Cup semifinals after edging out Sri Lanka by four runs, courtesy a sensational fight-back, here.

The odds were heavily stacked against them when they posted just 134 on the board after Sri Lanka asked them to take first strike but Afghanistan produced a superb performance with the ball to bowl the island nation out for 130 in 46 overs.

A composed stay at the crease from Sri Lanka skipper Dunith Wellalage (34 off 61) looked like would pull his team over the line, but it was not meant to be.

Afghanistan will now face England in the first Super League semifinal on February 1.

Put to bat, Afghanistan openers Nangeyalia Kharote and

Bilal Sayedi looked solid for the opening 10 overs before Traveen Mathew struck with a wicked delivery that removed Sayedi.

Kharote departed in the very next over and when skipper Suliman Safi was trapped LBW after making just one, Afghanistan were reeling.

Ijaz Ahmadzai lost his wicket without troubling the scoreboard, but fellow middle-order batter Abdul Hadi was able to steady the ship with a crucial 37-run knock.

Vinujia Ranpaul then helped clear-out the tail for Sri Lanka, ending with a five-wicket haul at the expense of just ten runs.

The Sri Lankan reply was shaky from the start. Opener Sadisha Rajapaksa went for a duck in the opening over, and his replacement Shevon Daniel went for just 2 after he was clean bowled by Bilal Sami.

After 13 overs, they were in a worse position than Afghanistan were during their innings. Noor Ahmed then produced a cracking delivery to remove Ranuda Somarathne and put Sri Lanka in real trouble.

Their dreams of lifting a first U-19 World Cup trophy were fading fast. However, the eighth wicket partnership between captain Wellalage and Raveen de Silva looked like it might save the day, taking Sri Lanka from 43 runs for seven to 112.

Kharote took the crucial wicket of the skipper, who played cheaply, before Naveed claimed the wicket of de Silva to set-up a nerve jangling finish. Sri Lanka got to within five runs of victory, but their fourth run-out of the innings cost.

Mathew the final wicket and gave Afghanistan a dramatic victory.

U-19 WORLD CUP

Asian Rivals India & Bangladesh To Face Off In QF

Press Trust of India

OSBOURN: Covid-hit India will be bolstered by the return of key players when the record four-time champions meet holders Bangladesh in the third quarterfinal of the U-19 Cricket World Cup at Osbourn (Antigua) on Saturday.

Most of the half a dozen India players, who were affected by the dreaded virus, have recovered and are set to feature in the crucial clash.

Six players, including skipper Yash Dhull, had gone into isolation ahead of India's second league fixture against Ireland, dealing a big blow to the record four-time champions.

Five of them tested positive in the RTPCR tests and also ended up missing the last league game against Uganda.

However, the depth in the squad ensured India won both those games comfortably and qualified for the quarterfinals as group toppers.

Nishant Sindhu led the side in Dhull's absence as India struggled to field 11 fit players on the park in the game against Ireland.

"Most of the players have recovered and should be fit enough to play tomorrow," a BCCI official told PTI.



Skipper Dhull, his deputy Shaik Rasheed, Sidharth Yadav, Aaradhya Yadav and Manav Parakh had returned positive RTPCR tests before the Ireland game.

Both Dhull and Rasheed are important batters for the team and had looked in good touch against South Africa in their tournament opener.

Opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi and all-rounder Raj Bawa's confidence must be sky high after they scored match winning tons against Uganda.

Left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal has been India's stand out bowler in the tournament with seven wickets.

Another left-arm spinner Sindhu has been tidy with the ball, taking four wickets at an economy rate of

2.76 runs per over.

The Bangladesh batters will also not have an easy time negotiating the extra pace of Rajvardhan Hangargekar.

The game will be a rematch of the previous edition's final in 2020 when Bangladesh had stunned the favourites to win their maiden title. Current Bangladesh skipper Rakibul Hasan was part of that memorable final.

In the recently held Asia Cup semifinal in the UAE, India had outplayed Bangladesh and gone on to win the title.

Bangladesh's entry into the knockouts here wasnt as smooth as India's. England outplayed them in the first game before they qualified with wins over Canada and UAE.

Vlahović Undergoing Medical With Juventus For Transfer

Agencies

TURIN: Coveted striker Dušan Vlahović was undergoing a medical at Juventus on Friday to complete what is expected to be one of the biggest moves of the transfer window.

Juventus tweeted a video of Vlahović signing autographs and posing for pictures with fans before he went inside Juventus' medical facility.

Juventus will reportedly pay Fiorentina a transfer fee of 67 million euros (\$75 million) for Vlahović, plus another possible 8 million euros (\$9 million) in bonuses.

The 21-year-old Vlahović has scored 20 goals in 24 matches in all competitions for Fiorentina this season and is joint top of the Serie A scoring charts, along



with Lazio's Ciro Immobile.

In fifth place, Juventus has struggled to replace Cristiano Ronaldo since his move to Manchester United in the offseason and scored only 34 goals this season — fewer than any of

the top 10 teams in the Italian league, apart from Torino.

Vlahović, a Serbia international, could be the perfect player to change that, having just matched Ronaldo's feat of scoring 33 league goals in a calendar year.

Juventus is also without injured winger Federico Chiesa.

"Dusan Vlahović continues to amaze. Last year he was the best young player in Serie A, this year he is living up to great expectations by proving himself to be one of the best players this season," Serie A CEO Luigi De Siervo said after Vlahović was named the league's player of the month for December.

"Physical strength, technique, a spirit of sacrifice and a great sense of goal make him one of the most complete forwards around."

Former Zimbabwe Cricket Captain Banned For 3 1/2 Years

Agencies

CAPE TOWN: Former Zimbabwe cricket captain Brendan Taylor was banned for 3 1/2 years Friday for breaching anti-corruption and anti-doping rules after he failed to report a match-fixing approach and tested positive for cocaine.

The International Cricket Council said Taylor admitted to four charges under the anti-corruption code stemming from an incident in 2019 when he said he accepted \$15,000 from businessmen in India, who asked him to fix international games. Taylor claimed he took the money but never fixed any games. Taylor also was found guilty of an anti-doping offense after testing positive for the stimulant Benzoylcocaine, which is a cocaine metabolite.

He tested positive after a one-day international against Ireland in September, the ICC said. Taylor retired from international cricket after that series.

Taylor announced the ICC ban was coming in a personal statement on Monday, when he said he had been tricked into meeting with businessmen in India three years ago on the pretense that they wanted to discuss a "spon-



sorship opportunity" for him.

Taylor said he was offered cocaine at a dinner with the businessmen and they then used a secret video of him using the drug to blackmail him into becoming a match-fixer for them. Taylor said he took the cash so he could get out of the situation but never fixed.

However, he didn't report the incident to the ICC's anti-corruption unit for four months.

The 35-year-old Taylor also admitted he had a problem with cocaine and said he was going to check into a rehabilitation center this week.

The ICC banned him for 3 1/2 years for breaching the anti-corruption code and one month for the doping offense, which will run concurrently.

Oman To Host ICC Men's T20 WC Qualifier A From Feb 18

Agencies

DUBAI: ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A gets underway in Oman from February 18 with Nepal taking on the hosts in the opener.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A features hosts Oman, Bahrain, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Nepal, Philippines, and United Arab

the Philippines whilst, Group B features Bahrain, Germany, Ireland, and UAE.

"70 teams started the qualification process for this event, and we've now reached the final stages with four spots at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 set to be decided in two global qualifiers starting with this one in Oman," ICC Head of



Events, Chris Tetley said as per an official ICC release.

Emirates (UAE). Ireland and Oman had qualified for this tournament after being eliminated in the first round.

Nepal and the UAE booked their slots via their rankings in the ICC Men's T20I Team rankings. The other participating teams qualified through regional qualifying tournaments held throughout the course of last year.

The teams in Qualifier A are divided into two groups of four. Each team will play all the other teams once in its group, followed by position classification matches. The two teams that reach the final will advance to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia later this year.

Group A of the qualifier features Canada Nepal, Oman, and

"With such a prize at stake, we're anticipating top quality and competitive cricket as the teams battle to secure their place in the final and onto the plane to Australia later this year. Thanks to Oman Cricket, who are hosting their second ICC global event following last year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, for their support in planning what we trust will be another safe and successful event," he added.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier B will be held from July 11-17, 2022, in Harare, Zimbabwe and will feature Hong Kong, Jersey, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Uganda, the United States of America (USA) along with hosts Zimbabwe. (ANI)

Medvedev To Meet Nadal In Australian Open Final

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Daniil Medvedev reeled off the last five games to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a heated Australian Open semifinal and continue his bid for back-to-back major titles.

The second-seeded Medvedev will play Rafael Nadal in the final on Sunday as he continues his bid to be the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title at the next major tournament.

Nadal is bidding for a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title after beating Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Nadal shares the men's record at 20 major titles with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Medvedev had to save a match point and rally from two sets down in the quarterfinals late

Tsitsipas be cautioned for receiving coaching from his father in the crowd.

Medvedev lost the set, took a five-minute break and returned with more composure. He converted a crucial service break late in the third set and

the won the

Wednes- day and had another emotional match against Tsitsipas two days later. He yelled at the chair umpire after dropping serve in the second set and demanded that

last five games to wrap it up. Medvedev also beat Tsitsipas in the semifinals at Melbourne Park last year before losing to Djokovic in the final. (AP)

Indian Family That Froze To Death At Canada-US Border Identified

Agenceis

Officials in Canada say they have confirmed the identities of four Indian nationals whose frozen bodies were found in Manitoba near the Canada-United States border last week.

The High Commission of India in Ottawa on Thursday released a statement saying the four who died were Jagdish Baldevbhai Patel, a 39-year-old man, Vaishaliben Jagdishkumar Patel, a 37-year-old woman, Vihangi Jagdishkumar Patel, an 11-year-old girl, and Dharmik Jagdishkumar Patel, a three-year-old boy.

The family's immediate relatives have been informed, the High Commission said in its statement, highlighting the need "to ensure that migration and mobility are made safe and legal and that such tragedies do not recur".

Investigators say the family of four had attempted to cross over the border by foot on January 19 during severe winter weather

they had picked up a group of Indian nationals on the US side.

One of the individuals, Steve Shand of Deltona, Florida, was found with a backpack full of items for an infant. He told investigators he was carrying the backpack for a group that got separated from them.

Investigators have said they believe the deaths are linked to a human trafficking scheme.

Shand faces counts of transporting or attempting to "transport illegal aliens". He was released on conditional bail on Monday.

Meanwhile, six people running a travel and tourism company in the western state of Gujarat have been arrested in connection with the deaths, said police official AK Jhala in the state capital, Gandhinagar.

"We are now trying to nab the human traffickers who managed to send this family and others abroad via illegal channels," he added.

Ashish Bhatia, director general of police in Gujarat, said



and died from exposure.

Officials said they got separated from the group of 18 people and were probably caught in a blizzard, resulting in a tragedy Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau described as "mind-blowing".

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said they believe the family arrived in Canada on January 12, first reaching Toronto, and then travelled to Emerson, Manitoba, around January 18.

No vehicle was abandoned near the border, suggesting someone dropped them off and left, said Rob Hill, a criminal operations officer.

A special team, led by a senior consular officer from the Consulate General of India, is in Manitoba to help with investigations on the Canadian side and to offer services for the victims.

The RCMP in Manitoba said they found the four bodies near Emerson after the US border patrol agents advised them

investigators are trying to determine whether there was a travel agent in India who helped the group.

"The nexus of human trafficking runs deep, often involving local politicians too," said police official Jhala, adding that people even sell their land and homes to fund their migration to the US or Canada.

Canada is a sought-after destination by Indians facing massive unemployment at home.

However, crossings into the US from Canada are relatively rare; the US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) apprehensions of migrants trying to cross between ports of entry along the US-Canada border dropped from 6,806 in 2009 to 916 in 2021.

CBP apprehended 339 Indians trying to cross into the US at the northern border in 2019, 129 in 2020 and 41 last year.

By contrast, the RCMP apprehended 16,503 asylum seekers crossing north between border crossings in 2019.

11 Arrested After Delhi Woman 'Gang-Raped, Paraded In Streets'



Agenceis

Eleven people including several women have been arrested after a young mother was allegedly abducted, gang-raped and then paraded through the lanes of Delhi in broad daylight, Indian police said on Friday.

The incident, the latest to spotlight sexual violence in India, drew widespread condemnation including from the Delhi Commission for Women and Delhi's chief minister, who called it "shameful".

Footage on social media, which could not be independently verified, showed the victim — her face blackened with ink and her hair chopped off — being pushed and heckled by several women as onlookers cheered and filmed with their phones.

R. Sathiyasundaram,

deputy commissioner of police, said the incident in the Shahdara district of east Delhi on Wednesday was a result of "previous enmity" among neighbours.

He gave no further details but media reports said a 16-year-old relative of the perpetrators had killed himself by jumping in front of a train after the married 21-year-old woman rejected his advances.

"All 11 arrested including two minors, who can't be tried as adults, belong to a single-family and the videos clearly show that the women were at the forefront," Sathiyasundaram told AFP.

The victim told police that she was abducted by members of the family before being raped by several men and minors — egged on by the women — and then beaten with sticks

and paraded outside.

"We are examining the videos to identify others who were involved and there will be more arrests," Chinmay Biswal, additional commissioner of Delhi police, told AFP.

The woman, who has a two-year-old child, is now receiving counselling after the incident, which reportedly took place barely 50 metres (yards) from a police booth that was unmanned at the time.

India's rape laws were overhauled after a notorious 2012 gang rape in New Delhi but the number of offences remains high, with more than 28,000 rapes reported in 2020.

Many more are thought to go unreported and police have long been accused of not doing enough to prevent violent crime and failing to bring sexual assault cases to court.

Rockets Hit Baghdad Airport Compound Near US Airbase

Agenceis

At least three rockets have landed in the Baghdad International Airport compound and near an adjacent US airbase, damaging one disused civilian aeroplane, Iraqi police sources said.

The rockets hit Baghdad International Airport's runways or parking areas, a source at the interior ministry said, noting that a "civilian plane has been hit and damaged". The attack was not immediately claimed.

The officials did not report any other damage or any injuries in Friday's attack, adding that the damaged Iraqi Airways aircraft was out of use.

Iraq's state news agency reported, citing the country's aviation authority, that there was no disruption to travel.

On its social media pages, Iraqi Airways posted pictures of the damage, consisting of a hole near the nose of the plane. No flights were affected by the attack, the airline added.

The US airbase, known as Camp Victory, is located around the perimeter of Baghdad's civilian airport.

Rocket attacks, which the United States and some Iraqi officials blame on Iran-aligned Shia armed groups who oppose the US military presence in the region, have regularly hit the complex in recent years.

Earlier this month, at least four rockets targeted the US embassy in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, wounding two civilians, according to two Iraqi security officials.

Three of the missiles struck within the perimeter of the embassy, while another hit a school located in a nearby residential complex, injuring two people.

The Green Zone hosts most foreign diplomatic missions, including the US embassy and the Iraqi prime minister's house.

It has been repeatedly targeted by rocket attacks since the killing of Iran's General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a US drone attack in January 2020.

The armed groups have pledged revenge for Soleimani's killing and have conditioned the end of the attacks on the full exit of American troops from the country.

Baghdad and Washington agreed in a fourth and final round of the strategic dialogue on July 26 to withdraw US forces from Iraq by the end of 2021.

Some 2,500 soldiers will remain as the coalition shifts to an advisory mission to continue supporting Iraqi forces.

On January 3, US forces downed two armed drones that targeted the coalition at Baghdad airport, according to a coalition source.

Pak Boy, 14, Shoots Dead Entire Family Under PUBG Influence: Police

Agenceis

LAHORE: A 14-year-old boy shot dead his entire family, including mother and two minor sisters, allegedly "under the influence" of online game PUBG, police in the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province said on Friday.

Nahid Mubarak, a 45-year-old health worker, was found dead along with her 22-year-old son Taimur and two daughters aged 17 and 11 in Lahore's Kahna area last week.

Her teenage son who remained unhurt and is the lone survivor of the family turned out to be the murderer, police said in a statement.

"ThePUBG(PlayUnknown's Battlegrounds) addict boy confessed to have killed her mother and siblings under the influence of the game. He has developed some psychological issues because of spending long hours of the day playing the online game," the statement said.

Police said Nahid was a divorcee and often used to admonish the boy for not paying attention to his studies and spending most of his time playing PUBG.

"On the day of the incident, Nahid scolded the boy over the matter. Later, the boy took out her mother's pistol from a cupboard and shot her and his three other siblings dead in their sleep.

"Next morning, the boy raised an alarm and the neighbours called the police. The boy that time told police that he was on the upper storey of the house and did not know how his family was killed," the statement said.

The licensed pistol was acquired by Nahid for her family's protection, police said, adding that the weapon is yet



to be recovered from a drain where the boy had dumped it.

The blood-stained cloth of the suspect has been recovered, they said.

According to a report in Dawn newspaper, this is the fourth such crime related to the online game in Lahore. When the first case surfaced in 2020, the then capital city police officer Zulfiqar Hameed had recommended a ban on the game to save lives, time and the future of millions of teenagers.

Three young players of the game have died by suicide in the last two years and the police in its reports declared PUBG as the reason behind the deaths, it said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially included gaming disorder as a disease in the International Classification of Diseases.

Gaming disorder is defined as a pattern of behaviour characterised by impaired control over gaming (digital or video), increasing priority given to it over other activities to the extent that gaming takes precedence over other interests and daily activities, and continuation or escalation of gaming despite the occurrence of negative consequences

UN Human Rights Chief Allowed To Visit Xinjiang After Olympics

Agenceis

China has agreed to allow United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) Michelle Bachelet to visit Xinjiang in the first half of 2022 after the Beijing Winter Olympic Games, according to an exclusive report in the South China Morning Post newspaper, which cited unnamed sources.

Rights groups have accused China of perpetrating wide-scale abuses against Uighurs and other minority groups in its western region of Xinjiang, including mass detention, torture and forced labour.

The United States has accused China of genocide in Xinjiang, and an unofficial and independent UK-based tribunal has ruled that Beijing is indeed guilty of genocide.

Beijing denies all allegations of abuse of Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims and has described its policies as necessary to combat religious "extremism".

Bachelet has been pursuing negotiations with China for a visit to the region since September 2018.

China's foreign ministry, China's mission to the United Nations in New York, and the United Nations did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The South China Morning



Post cited sources saying that the approval for a visit after the conclusion of the Beijing Winter Games, which run February 4 to 20, was granted on the condition the trip should be "friendly" and not framed as an investigation.

It also reported that Beijing is also understood "to have pressed for a delay" in the release of an upcoming UNHCR report on Xinjiang until the Games have wrapped up.

As in 2008, the Olympic Games have again cast a spotlight on China's human rights record, which critics say has worsened since then, prompting a diplomatic boycott from the United States and other countries.

"No one, especially the world's leading human rights diplomat, should be fooled by

the Chinese government's efforts to distract attention away from its crimes against humanity targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities," Sophie Richardson, China Director at Human Rights Watch, told the Reuters news agency in an emailed statement on Friday.

United Nations experts and rights groups estimate more than a million people, mainly from the Uighur and other Muslim minorities, have been detained in camps in Xinjiang in recent years.

The United States and many of its allies, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan and Denmark, have said they will not send official diplomatic delegations to the games in protest against China's human rights record.



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