



#### P4 NEWS

### **JK SCORES 75% UNDER NESDA; 2ND AMONG UTS**

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Monday convened a meeting on e-HRM on J&K, Digital portal for real time monitoring of District Good Governance and J&K e- Services

#### P7

### **5 LATA MANGESHKAR SONGS THAT BECAME KASHMIR MELODIES**

In the 'Jash-ne-Kashmir' of sixties, fresh-faced Saira Banu woos a camera-wielding mainland tourist as a stereotypical Kashmiri girl wearing traditional robes and cultural symbols. But after Shammi Kapoor acts snooty, the playful scene



#### P11 SPORTS

### **CHAHAL CREDITS ROHIT FOR HIS MATCH-WINNING PERFORMANCE**

Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who snared four wickets in the first ODI against the West Indies here, has credited new white-ball skipper Rohit Sharma for



**Quote!**  
All truly great thoughts are conceived by walking  
- Friedrich Nietzsche

# LG Launches J&K Single Window Clearance System

- 130 Industrial Services Made Online On Single Window System;
- Now Global Investors Can Apply For All Their Business Approvals Through Single Window Portal



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Polo View: LG laid foundation stone for multiple Smart City projects in Srinagar.

#### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday launched J&K Single Window Clearance System and its integration with the National Single Window system here at Raj Bhawan.

As many as 130 industrial services have been made online on a single window system & more than 160 services would be integrated this year

on the portal - [www.singlewindow.jk.gov.in](http://www.singlewindow.jk.gov.in).

The Lt Governor reiterated Government's commitment to strengthen the industrial ecosystem in a manner that the benefits percolate to all sections of our society in Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K Single Window Clearance System is a historic move by the UT Government to facilitate investments in J&K. We are ensuring 'Ease of Doing

Business' & 'Ease of Living' through minimum regulatory compliance burden, the Lt Governor said.

J&K is the first UT to be integrated with the National Single Window System. Now global investors can apply for all their business approvals in J&K through the National Single Window system, he added.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister **More on P10**

## Decision On Reopening Of Schools In 15 Days: LG

#### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said Covid third wave has started to settle down and if the situation improves further in next 15 days, the government will take a call on re-opening of schools and colleges in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I congratulate and hail the efforts put forth by the doctors and para medics in fighting the Covid third wave. The wave seems to have settled down now. If things improve further within next 15 days, we will surely deliberate on re-opening of schools and colleges in J&K," the LG told reporters on the side lines of a function in Srinagar.

He also said that government has received around

Rs 1400 to Rs 1500 crore investment in Jammu and Kashmir and are ready to provide land worth Rs 70,000 crore for further investments.

Sinha said, on March 1 the government would organize a ground breaking investment ceremony that would be up to the tune of Rs 20,000 to 25,000 crore.

Sinha said that the stretch of Jhelum bank in the Lal Chowk would be developed for the recreational activities that would depict the rich culture of Kashmir.

On the withdrawal of the government posts before October 2019, Sinha said that the process of recruitment has changed and all the posts would be re-advertised as per the new rules and laws.

#### NEWS DIGEST

#### 2-way Traffic on Highway Today

**QAZIGUND:** Traffic department authorities on Monday said that on Tuesday subject to fair weather and better road conditions Light Motor Vehicles (passenger) and private cars shall be allowed from both sides on the highway. The traffic department in an advisory said "On 08-02-2022, subject to fair weather and better road **More on P10**

#### Army Porter Falls From Tree, Dies

**POONCH:** A 52-year-old porter died after falling from a tree and died on the spot at Banpat sector of Poonch, officials said on Monday. They identified him as Tarlok Kumar Bali son of Sunder Dass Bali of Jhullas Poonch. They said he was a porter with the Army at Banpat sector Poonch. The body was brought to the District hospital Poonch for **More on P10**

#### Sgr Ration Card Holders To Get Golden Cards

**SRINAGAR:** In order to ensure every citizen of Srinagar District is provided a Golden Card to get entitled for benefits under PM-JAY SEHAT scheme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Monday chaired an Officers meeting here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Srinagar, Gulzar Ahmad was also **More on P10**

## Militant Killed in Awantipora, Pistol Recovered: Police

'19-year-Old Had Gone Missing Only 3 Weeks Ago'



#### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A 19-year-old youth who had joined militant ranks only three weeks before was killed in an encounter

with a joint team of Police and army in Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday, officials said. "Based on a specific input generated by **More on P10**

#### Grenade Attack in Ganderbal

Suspected militants lobbed grenade on Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) in Chapargung area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Monday evening. According to police, militants attacked SSB bunker with the grenade. However the device missed the target and exploded on road. In this **More on P10**

## Gulmarg, Pahalgam Receive Fresh Snowfall

**SRINAGAR:** Health resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam received fresh snowfall while rains lashed plains in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar had 0.8mm of rainfall during the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today and recorded a low of 2.2°C against last night's 2.8°C, he said.

Highway town of Qazigund had no rain or snowfall and recorded a low of 0.6°C against 1.2°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had a low of minus 1.3°C against 0.1°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam resort in south Kashmir, received 11.3 cms (around 4.5 inches) of fresh snowfall and recorded a low of minus 0.5°C against minus 3.7°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg received 14 cms (5.5 inches) of snow and recorded a low of minus 5.0°C against minus 7.5°C on the previous **More on P10**

## China Repeats Opposition To 'Unilateral Actions' On Kashmir



#### Press Trust of India

**BEIJING:** China on Sunday pledged closer cooperation with Pakistan under the USD 60 billion CPEC investment programme and called for resolving the Kashmir issue properly and peacefully while opposing any "unilateral actions" that could complicate the situation as Prime Minister Imran Khan held talks with the top Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping.

Khan called on President Xi on the last day of his four-day

visit to China to discuss a host of issues including the slow pace of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and increasing concerns of Beijing over recurring attacks on Chinese personnel working in its various projects in Pakistan.

In his meeting with Khan, Xi said China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, dignity and fighting terrorism, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

He said China is willing to join hands with **More on P10**

## 10th, 12th Result Date Not Finalized Yet: BOSE



#### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Board of School Education on Monday set the rumors on rest about the results of Class 12th of Kashmir division being announced any time soon, saying that no date for declaration for the same has been finalized yet.

A J&K BOSE official said that the dates for the declaration of results of Class 12th as well as 10th standard are yet to be finalized. "We request students not to pay heed to rumours," the official said. He, however, said that result will be declared soon. "It may still take a few days. There are certain modalities to be completed and once everything is done, results would be announced." **More on**

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## 10,000 Register for Hajj-2022 From J&K, Ladakh

Registration Process Comes To An End On Feb 15

#### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** At least 10,000 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have registered for the Hajj in the ensuing year scheduled to begin from May while the last date for registration process comes to an end on 15th of February.

Given the 1st and 2nd wave of the deadly COVID-19 infection across the globe, India and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the last two consecutive years barred overseas Hajj pilgrims.

Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi had welcomed the decision of the Saudi government saying that all arrangements for the Hajj were made while they waited for their

decision and the central government welcomed the call amid a rise in COVID cases.

After the nod from Saudi Arabia regarding the Hajj 2022 in the ensuing year with a decline in infection cases across the globe, the process for registration started in both Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir Union Territories back in November last year.

Haji Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Abdul Salam Mir said that the registration process for both J&K and Ladakh started back in November last year and around 10,000 individuals have registered themselves so far while the final date for same is scheduled on February 15 this month.

He said that so far no pooling of the number of the pilgrims who will leave for **More on P10**

#### NEW LOC FLARE UP

## Hyundai India Affirms Faith After Pak Unit Calls for 'Kashmir Freedom'

#### KO Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Several popular Multi National Brands are facing a blowback in India after they reportedly posted messages of support in Pakistan for pro-independence movement in Kashmir.

Hyundai, Kia Motors, KFC and Pizza Hut have come under scrutiny in India after they posted messages of support on 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' which was observed in Pakistan on Sunday.



On February 5, Hyundai Pakistan's social media handles extended support to "Kashmir Solidarity Day", expressing

solidarity with Kashmiri's 'struggling for freedom'. The Pakistani Instagram handle of Pizza Hut also supported separation of Jammu and Kashmir from the Indian Union.

Pizza Hut Pakistan shared a post two days ago on Instagram that read: "This Kashmir Solidarity day, let's join hands and stand united for the freedom of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters."

Likewise a verified Facebook page of fast food chain KFC with FB handle **More on P10**

#### Hyundai India Responds

Responding to the controversy, Hyundai's India unit said that it has a "zero tolerance policy towards insensitive communication and we strongly condemn any such view. The unsolicited social media post linking Hyundai Motor India is offending our unparalleled commitment and service to this great country," @HyundaiIndia said, adding that it stands firmly behind its "strong ethos **More on P10**

## Charge Sheet Against 3 In Acid Attack Case Soon: Police

#### Press Trust of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police will soon file a charge sheet against three persons, including a juvenile, in the recent Srinagar acid attack case to ensure exemplary punishment for them and to create deterrence among those having such "barbaric" tendencies, a top police officer said on Monday.

Inspector General (Kashmir range) Vijay Kumar also appealed to girls and their parents to inform police in time if anyone is stalking or harassing them.

On February 1, a man accompanied by a juvenile allegedly threw acid on a 24-year-old woman after she rejected his marriage proposal, an incident that shook entire Srinagar and drew widespread condemnation from across society.

The victim was sent to a Chennai eye hospital for specialised treatment on Monday. She had recorded her statement, an important piece of documentation that would help police in filing the charge sheet, before a magistrate on Saturday.

Kumar told PTI that the investigation is nearly complete and "we would soon complete the process by filing a charge sheet in this case."

"The investigation is being conducted professionally and scientifically to make it a fool-proof case so that the culprits are punished by setting an example and deterrence is created among elements having such barbaric tendency," he said.

The officer appealed to girls and their parents to inform police at an early stage if any miscreant is stalking **More on P10**



Researchers Develop Artificial Connections For Damaged Nervous Systems

Agencies

A team of Israeli and US researchers have developed artificial connections to repair damaged nervous systems, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has announced.



of information in the worms' neural network. It turned out that the performance of the treated worms surpassed even those of normal healthy worms, due to the redirection of information in the neural network, and from an amplification of weak signals provided by the artificial synapses, according to the researchers.

The new method does not require a complex external device for the patient, unlike existing expensive uses of electrodes, computers and robots for bypassing brain and spinal cord injuries.

Public Notice

My Name has been wrongly written in my Driving License bearing DL No: JK03-2010001548as Mohd Shafi GanaiWhile my correct Name is Mohd Rafi Ganai...

Public Notice

I have a Pnb Metlife policy under policy no 00258053. In the name of GULZAR AHMAD KHANDI S/O.MOHD AYOUB KHANDY but my correct name is GULZAR AHMAD KHANDAY S/O. MOHAMMAD ABADULLAH KHANDAY...

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Mudasir Ahamd Mir S/o Ab Rashid Mir R/o Vehil Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle Regd. No. JK22-3676 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: -----

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Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of Applicant, Age, Gender, and Address. Lists names like Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Ghulam Ahmad Mir.

انجمن ہمدردی کے نام پر درخواست نمائندگی: میراجد ظہور ولد ظہور احمد ہمدردی کے نام پر درخواست نمائندگی کے لیے درخواستیں قبول کی جاتی ہیں۔

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Office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer, Shopian whereas an application has been received from one Shri MrsMuzafar Manzoor S/o Manzoor Ah Wagay R/O Rashipora Shopian Owner of the vehicle No JK22B-3968 for cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with M/S Mahindra Finance

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Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag Forest Division Anantnag. NOTICE INVITING TENDERS e-NIT NO: -16OF 2021-22DATED: -04-02-2022



## Avalanche Hits Army Patrol In Arunachal, 7 Trapped



Seven Indian Army personnel, part of a patrol, are reported to have been trapped in an avalanche in the high altitude area of Kameng Sector in Arunachal Pradesh, the Indian Army said on Monday.

Search and rescue operations are currently underway. Specialised teams have been airlifted to assist in rescue operations, the force said.

The personnel have been stuck there since February 6.

The area has been witnessing inclement weather with heavy snowfall since the last few days, the force said.

Arunachal Pradesh is generally divided into Kameng area on the west and Rest of Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian Army Eastern Command handles the 1,346 kilometers long Line of Actual Control (LAC), including Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

This command has three corps -- 33 Corps (Sikkim), four Corps (Kameng Sector) and three Corps (Rest of Arunachal Pradesh) to handle the LAC.

In the region, India's Border Roads Organisation has been focusing on the area for road construction after a push from the government.-IANS



## Hijab-Saffron Shawl Controversy Lingers In Karnataka Colleges

Press Trust Of India

The hijab-saffron shawl row in the junior colleges at Kundapur in Karnataka's Udipi district continued on Monday, with students in two junior colleges trying to defy the government order mandating uniforms stipulated by the state government or respective managements of the institutions.

The state education department had issued the order on Saturday.

A group of students studying at Venkataramana College in Kundapur came in a procession to the college on Monday

**AT THE GOVERNMENT PU COLLEGE IN** Kundapur also, the principal talked to Muslim girl students who came wearing hijabs and explained to them the government's order.

wearing saffron shawls. They were prevented from entering the premises by the college principal and the police personnel present there.

The students said they will wear the shawls if hijab-wearing girls were allowed in classes. They agreed to enter the classes removing their shawls only after the principal assured them that no hijab-wearing students will be allowed to enter classrooms.

At the Government PU College in Kundapur also, the principal talked to Muslim girl students who came wearing hijabs and explained to them the government's order.

As the students continued to insist on wearing the headscarves, they were asked to go to a separate room arranged for them.

There was widespread criticism against the way the girls were made to protest outside the college gate last week.

## Mamata Bats For Akhilesh, Says She Wants SP To Win



Press Trust Of India

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday left for Lucknow to campaign for Samajwadi Party (SP) and gave the call to defeat BJP in the coming Uttar Pradesh assembly poll.

Ms Banerjee left for Lucknow this evening.

She will be holding a joint press conference with Akhilesh Yadav, the national president of SP and a virtual rally in Lucknow on February 8, according to sources in the party.

"Akhilesh Yadav has invited me to go there and to campaign for SP. We (TMC) want BJP to be defeated and Akhilesh to win Uttar Pradesh. All of us should support him in the fight against the BJP. That is the reason we have decided not to contest in Uttar Pradesh this time," Banerjee, also the TMC president, told reporters before leaving for Lucknow.

Ms Banerjee said she will also visit Varanasi later in February but the date is yet to be fixed.

**AKHILESH YADAV HAS INVITED ME TO** go there and to campaign for SP. We (TMC) want BJP to be defeated and Akhilesh to win Uttar Pradesh. All of us should support him in the fight against the BJP. That is the reason we have decided not to contest in Uttar Pradesh this time,"

The fiery TMC chief said though the party is contesting only in Goa in the February-March assembly poll in five states, it will contest the 2024 Lok Sabha election in Punjab.

Reacting to the development, Leader of Opposition in West Bengal assembly Suwendu Adhikari wondered whether SP supports the post-poll violence that was unleashed in the state after TMC's assembly poll victory last year.

"The BJP will return to power in Uttar Pradesh. And we would like to know whether Samajwadi Party supports the post-poll violence that was unleashed by TMC in Bengal? If no, then they (SP) should condemn it," the BJP leader said.

During the high octane West Bengal assembly poll, the SP had not contested and extended its support to the ruling TMC.

Akhilesh Yadav shares a very cordial relationship with Mamata Banerjee and had even attended the grand opposition meeting hosted by the TMC sub-premo in January, 2019.

## China Says Move To Field Galwan Valley Soldier In Winter Olympic Torch Relay Met 'Standards'

Press Trust Of India

**BEIJING:** Amid widespread criticism over its move to field a PLA soldier involved in the border clash with Indian soldiers at the Galwan Valley in 2020 as a torchbearer for the Winter Olympics, China said on Monday that his selection met the "standards" to pick up participants for the event and it should be viewed in an "objective and rational light."

China in a provocative move fielded Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), who was injured during the June 2020 clash in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, as a torchbearer for the Olympics Games Torch Relay, which led India to diplomatically boycott the opening ceremony of the games on Friday.

In New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had described the Chinese action of honouring the commander as "regrettable". Top US lawmakers have also



described the Chinese move as "shameful" and "deliberately provocative". Republican Senator Jim Risch, a Ranking Member of the powerful US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also said that the US will continue to support the sovereignty of India.

Asked at a media briefing here on Monday whether fielding Qi in the torch relay went against China's view that Olympics should build bridges, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said, "I want to stress that the torch bearers of the Beijing Winter Olympics are broadly representative and they meet relevant standards."

"We hope relevant sides can view it in an objective and rational light," he said.

To a follow-up question whether the move ignored India's sensitivities, Zhao said, "What I want to say is the relevant sides can view the choice of the torch bearers in objective and rational light and don't read too much into it from a political perspective."

On Thursday, MEA Spokesperson Bagchi said China has chosen to "politicise" an event like the Olympics and that the Charge d'Affaires of the Indian embassy in Beijing will not be attending the opening and the closing ceremonies of the Beijing Winter Games.

Twenty Indian Army personnel laid down their lives in the Galwan clashes that marked the most serious military conflicts between India and China in decades.

In February last year, China officially acknowledged that five Chinese military officers and soldiers were killed in the Galwan clashes with the Indian Army though it is widely believed that the death toll was higher.

## Amit Shah Requests Owaisi To Accept 'Z Category' Security



Press Trust Of India

Home Minister Amit Shah, on Monday, requested Asaduddin Owaisi, president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslims, to accept 'Z category' security offered by the government after a recent attack on his car.

Making a statement in Rajya Sabha, Shah said a government assessment has found that Owaisi still faces security threat, but he has been informed that the Hyderabad MP has refused

to take the CRPF protection. Shots were fired at Owaisi's car on February 3, 2022 in Uttar Pradesh following which two persons were arrested and arms were also recovered.

A detailed investigation is being carried out in the case and the home ministry had sought a report from the state government, Shah said.

"Through the House, I would like to request Owaisi ji to accept the security to address our concerns about his safety," the minister said.

## Boy, 12, Jumps Off Terrace Trying To Recreate Anime Scene, Dies: Police

Press Trust Of India

**KOLKATA:** A 12-year-old boy, in a bid to recreate a scene from an anime series, allegedly jumped off the terrace of a high-rise building in the city's Phoolbagan area and died, a police officer said on Monday.

Biraj Pachisia, a class V student of a reputed city-based school, was declared "brought dead" on being taken to a nearby nursing home, the officer said.

"The boy jumped off the terrace of an 11-storey residential building on Saturday. There are several injury marks on his body. Doctors at a private nursing home stated that he died



due to the fall. We are waiting for the post-mortem report.

"Initial probe suggests that he was hooked to an anime series and wanted to imitate its hero. We have, however, not reached any conclusion. The investigation is underway," the officer added.

## Darul Uloom Deoband's Official Website Banned



Press Trust Of India

**SAHARANPUR-** The official website of the Islamic seminary Darul Uloom at Deoband in the Saharanpur district was banned on Monday.

The ban was imposed by District Magistrate Akhilesh Singh who had been asked by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to probe into an alleged diktat over the issue of legal rights of adopted chil-

dren on their parent's property, an official said.

The NCPDR had asked the Saharanpur DM to probe the matter on a complaint by a local resident over the issue, he added.

Acting on the NCPDR's directive to investigate the matter, DM Singh imposed the ban on the Islamic seminary's official portal which had been carrying the diktat.

He imposed the ban pending the completion of enquiry by him, the official said.

### SHORT TAKES

#### BHU Students Learn How To Make Cow Dung Cakes, Video Goes Viral



**T**he prestigious Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, the Lok Sabha constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently organised a workshop in which the dean of the social science faculty Prof Kaushal Kishore Mishra taught the students how to make 'upala' (cow dung cakes).

A video that went viral on social media, showed Prof Mishra imparting training to the students in making dung cakes. Mishra could be seen surrounded by some students, who could also be seen making dung cakes.

The BHU also later tweeted that a workshop was held at the Integrated Village Development Centre of the University where the students were imparted training in making cow dung cakes.

Prof Mishra said that these dung cakes could be used for performing 'havan' (a ritual by fire), puja and also as a fuel for preparing food. He also urged the central government to make arrangements for selling products that could be prepared from cow dung.

"It will help in increasing the income of the farmers," he said and added that students would be visiting the villages and training the people there in making cow dung cakes. However, the video has drawn flak from various people who have taken to the Internet to slam the university for organising such a workshop.

"Universities should be places for higher learning and the students go there to acquire specialised knowledge and not to and not to learn how to make cow dung cakes," said a netizen.-IANS

#### Woman Charges BJP MLA Of Fathering Her Son



from Sedam, Rajkumar Patil Telkur.

"I know the MLA since childhood. We come from the same place. He has agreed that he is the father of my son, there is no dispute about it. Now, I am asking for justice for my son," she said. "Let him come before me, I will talk to him about it. I am not asking for money. Let him give rights to my son," she said.

"After I asked for justice, about eight policemen came to my flat on Sunday and took me to Vidhana Soudha police station. They kept me in the station and ill-treated me till evening," she said.

The woman divorced her first husband six years ago and presently lives with her second husband and three children. Her advocate Jagadish Kumar has lodged a complaint in this regard with Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant. Kumar has stated that if the police do not file an FIR against the BJP MLA in 24 hours, he would approach the court and get the complaint registered.-IANS

**I**n an embarrassment for the ruling party in Karnataka a middle aged woman has challenged a BJP MLA to swear upon God and deny that he is the father of her 14-year-old son. Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday, the woman levelled serious charges against the BJP MLA

#### Nephew Collects Lata's Ashes



**MUMBAI:** Lata Mangeskar's nephew Adinath on Monday collected the singing legend's ashes from the Shivaji Park in Mumbai, where she was cremated with full state honours. "We handed over the asthi kalash (urn) to Adinath, son of Lata's brother and music composer Hridaynath Mangeskar," assistant municipal commis-

sioner Kiran Dighavkar told PTI. There is no word from the family so far on where will the ashes be immersed.

Lata Mangeskar (92) who enthralled millions with her divine voice for almost eight decades was cremated with full state honours at Shivaji Park on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among those who paid their last respects to the music icon at Shivaji Park Sunday evening.-PTI



KASHMIR  
**OBSERVER**

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K O V I E W

Rise In Cancer

**O**n the World Cancer Day on Friday last, Director of Health Services Kashmir Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather called on people to focus on preventive measures to arrest the growing incidence of the disease in the Valley. He said the government is working on ensuring that the people of all regions, sections and sects get equitable and affordable treatment at all places. The director health was speaking in the light of this year's theme of World Cancer Day which is 'Closing the Care Gap.'

The day was observed across the hospitals of the Valley where doctors stressed the need for creating more awareness about the disease and its symptoms to ensure its early detection and treatment. The doctors said that the disease has seen a rise over the last decade. Data over the last year presents a grim picture. Around 3,075 cancer cases were reported in 2011, 3,288 in 2012, 3,157 in 2013, 3,940 in 2014 and 4,257 in 2015. The figures since have only grown bigger. In 2021 alone, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences alone registered over 5000 new cases of cancer in 2021 with breast cancer showing a conspicuous spike.

This calls for more pro-active handling of the situation from the UT government. In addition to generous allocation of resources for the treatment, there is an urgent need to investigate the reasons for the sudden increase in the number of cancers in the UT. People need to know as to what has changed in Kashmir that has led to the spread of cancer. It is a pity that our major healthcare institutions have been unable to put into public domain credible research about the causes for growing incidence of cancer in the region. Such studies will be immensely helpful as they will persuade people to take due precautions to reduce their vulnerability to the disease. The public awareness that the doctors have talked about will flow from this.

Having said that, an earlier study by the SKIMS had blamed the growing incidence of cancers to "food habits and life style patterns" as also to the consumption of high salt content foods. Many dyes, used in industries and sometimes in foods, are also thought to act as human carcinogens. And some of these dyes, like carmoisine and tartazine, have been found to be used as a coloring agent in many edibles, spices and condiments in Kashmir.

In recent years, food contamination and adulteration has emerged as major issue in Kashmir. Hazardous agents have been found to have been used even in the food products of some major corporate houses. Sadly, J&K Government has so far done little about the growing food adulteration in the UT, which has now been proven to be one of the factors leading to the rise in cases of cancer in the Valley. The rise in cancers is, therefore, a wake-up call. The government has to get cracking on the unscrupulous traders and expose the use of chemicals and dyes in the food. And at least, to start with, there has to be a campaign to create more awareness of the ways in which our food is adulterated.

OTHER OPINION

The Tainted Olympic Games

**I**t would be great if there was something capable of bringing the world together in celebration, something inspirational and pure, and something that wouldn't require us to employ moral and intellectual gymnastics in order to enjoy.

The Winter Olympic Games, which formally begin today in Beijing, China, will not be such an event.

That is a shame. For while we may bask in the triumphs of these incredible athletes competing at the highest levels of their sports, and we will surely cheer on the American team in its quest for gold, it's impossible to look past the deeply troubling human rights record of the host country.

China stands accused by the United States and other countries of committing genocide against the Uyghurs, a Turkish ethnic group of about 12 million people, and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region.

The abuse of these people is well documented. Last year, human rights organization Amnesty International released a 160-page report detailing the mass arrest and continued incarceration of hundreds of thousands of the Uyghurs. China has built a sprawling network of "reeducation" facilities – more accurately described as prisons – where it has held some of those detained for years.

China insists that their security efforts are aimed at eradicating terrorist networks which threaten the security of their state and challenge the leadership of the ruling Communist Party.

But reports by Amnesty, other human rights organizations and international media suggest that the arrests are arbitrary, based on ethnic and religious affiliation rather than because of insurgent activities. And the brutality of their treatment, without due process or judicial review, reflects an attempt at cultural genocide.

How, then, could China be selected to host a distinguished and lucrative event such as the Olympic Games? That's a great question, one the International Olympic Committee has declined to answer.

Though China pledged to the IOC that it would improve its human rights record, honor media freedom during the games, prohibit the use of forced labor and make other progressive reforms as a requirement for hosting, there is no indication China is honoring that agreement or has plans to do so when the games conclude.

For viewers in America and around the world, that poses a profound ethical dilemma as the games begin. How can one enjoy watching these events or support the Olympics when the IOC's commitment to a better, more just world rings so hollow?

After all, it was thought that bringing the Summer Olympics to Beijing in 2008 would come with the spotlight of international attention, opening the world's eyes to the repressive and brutal regime that leads that country of 1.4 billion people. But the Olympics came and went without a noticeable change in global attitudes toward China's abuses or, importantly, a pivot in Chinese policy.

The idea that global sporting events can be a catalyst for improvement was not new at the time. But the 2008 games aptly demonstrated how flawed that thinking is. Instead of bringing more scrutiny on China, it elevated the country's status and allowed the Chinese government a success it could point to for international credibility.

Virginian Pilot

Open Season

A Muslim Citizen's Default State Is A State Of Culpability



Mukul Kesavan

**T**he hardest part of being Muslim in India today must be that neither the State nor civil society gives you the benefit of the doubt. The benefit of the doubt simply means choosing to believe people even when it's hard to know with certainty that they are telling the truth. A Muslim citizen's default state is not a state of innocence, but a state of culpability. When a Muslim is in the news, the reportage that swirls around the newsworthy event, the arguments on social media, turn on the assumption that the controversy is related to perverse behaviour initiated by the Muslim/s in question. We've seen two examples of this in the last week; one relates to high politics and the other to college education.

Asaduddin Owaisi was shot at while travelling in a car to Delhi from Meerut where he had been campaigning in the run-up to the elections in UP. Several shots were fired at the car, one of which punctured a tyre, forcing Owaisi to change vehicles. One of the accused has been implicated in a murder case before. He claims to be a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and there are several photographs circulating online that show him in the company of BJP leaders.

Given the BJP's hostility towards Muslims and the UP chief minister's consistently communal campaigning style, you would imagine that this failed assassination attempt would be investigated in that fraught context. Instead, the statement issued by the additional director-general of police, law and order, Prashant Kumar, informed us that "The accused said they were hurt by his (Asaduddin Owaisi) remarks against a particular religion." Less than two months ago, a Dharma Sansad in Haridwar organized by Yati Narsinghanand had repeatedly called for genocidal violence against Muslims and yet the ADG had found a way of suggesting that the alleged assassination attempt had been triggered by something Owaisi had said about Hindus. Long story short: he started it.

This state of mind is bigger than the BJP and its pliable police forces. Owaisi has been a member of Parliament for several terms. And yet, the response of his parliamentary colleagues from other parties was curiously muted in the aftermath of the shooting. The Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party, which are the prin-

icipal Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh, didn't immediately condemn this shocking assassination attempt. The reason for that isn't hard to find. Owaisi is frequently accused of being in the pay of the BJP. His political excursions outside his home borough of Hyderabad are reviled as deliberate attempts to split the Opposition by siphoning off vital Muslim votes. So the

Muslim-mukt Bharat in the realm of politics, a party like the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen that articulates explicitly Muslim needs and anxieties becomes inevitable. If Owaisi didn't exist, we would have to invent him. Muslims constitute nearly twenty per cent of UP's electorate: when parties pretend that they don't exist, when Priyanka Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav

at least one sartorial exception on religious grounds: the patkas and puggies that Sikh boys and men wear. There is a historical reason for this: the colonial army was disproportionately dependent on Sikh recruitment in the Punjab and created Sikh regiments where the criteria for entry mandated rigorous adherence to the five Ks which included, of course, long hair, kesh, and the concomitant turban. The soldier's turban became an institutionalized precedent.

Thanks to the Sikh diaspora and its enthusiasm for uniformed employment, the turban has proved to be a global challenge to the shibboleths of laicite. One Western country after another has changed the uniform rules of its armed forces to accommodate Sikh soldiers and every exemption has undermined the dogmatic and faintly sinister notion that absolute public uniformity is the soul of secularism. The principals of these Udipi colleges should be asked if they would admit turbaned men. If they say yes (as they must), they must admit hijabi women. If they choose not to, it should be clearly understood that they are actively discriminating against Muslims.

It has been argued that the hijab, unlike the turban for Sikhs, is not integral to Muslim identity, if only because so many Muslim women choose not to wear it. There are many Sikh men who don't wear the turban; I can think of two in the current Indian cricket team. That doesn't make the turban less central as a symbol of Sikh identity for those who do. All religious communities contain a range of practice. It's impossible to find an argument against the hijab that doesn't apply equally to the turban, including the argument from gender.

Indians are free to dislike and vigorously express their dislike for Owaisi and the hijab. What they should be careful of doing is blaming Owaisi and the young students for the predicaments they find themselves in. The girls didn't make their hijabs an issue; the colleges did. Owaisi, it's safe to say, didn't ask to be shot at. They were both ambushed and we owe them both solidarity and concern.

**IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY,** though in a very different context, the responsibility for the stand-off at the Udipi pre-university colleges doesn't lie with the hijab-wearing girls denied admission to class rooms. It's the college authorities who chose to outlaw the hijab and then argued, falsely, that the parents of the affected students had signed an undertaking to that effect

first instinct of these parties is suspicion: is this a stunt? Will a concerted wave of sympathy help his cause? So even in extremis, even when he is at the business end of a bullet, Owaisi doesn't receive the benefit of the doubt.

The irony is that Owaisi wouldn't exist as a political force if the BJP hadn't succeeded in making Muslims politically radioactive and if India's Opposition parties weren't so reluctant to acknowledge their political existence. The Aam Aadmi Party received an overwhelming majority of Delhi's Muslim votes in the last assembly election and repaid these Muslim voters by being ostentatiously indifferent to the plight of Muslims in the subsequent riots in northeast Delhi. This is something of an electoral template: solicit Muslim votes furtively lest it hurt your cause with Hindus or, better still, just take them for granted, because where will they go?

One possible answer to that rhetorical question is – to the likes of Owaisi. Muslims in India have overwhelmingly voted for non-denominational political parties for the same reasons non-Muslims have: conviction, opportunism, principle and profit. Partition made the politics of religious community impossible for Muslims. But now, when India's ruling party is proud not to count a single Muslim in its phalanx of Lok Sabha MPs, when the leaders of Opposition parties vie with one another to enthuse about Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, when the BJP has succeeded in creating a

distance themselves from Muslims leaders that their parties are allied to, they create a political vacuum that begs to be filled. The virtue or wickedness of Owaisi is beside the point: he didn't start this, just as he didn't hothouse the hate that allowed the wannabe assassin from Noida to believe it was open season on Muslim politicians. Owaisi is addressing a political disenfranchisement designed by others.

In exactly the same way, though in a very different context, the responsibility for the stand-off at the Udipi pre-university colleges doesn't lie with the hijab-wearing girls denied admission to class rooms. It's the college authorities who chose to outlaw the hijab and then argued, falsely, that the parents of the affected students had signed an undertaking to that effect. But it would be a mistake to concentrate on the minutiae of a college's uniform rules. Whether they know it or not, the college authorities and their political patrons are invoking a larger principle, the principle of uniformity built into the French construction of secularism, laicite, and we should address the salience of that principle in the context of our republican history.

It's important to note that the hijab-proscribing colleges are government colleges. State institutions are bound by a duty of even-handedness. The girls wearing the hijab argue that it is integral to their religious identity. The reason this is a powerful argument in India is that the country's government institutions and uniformed services make

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

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OBSERVER  
MAIL

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

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St. Luke's Church, Drugjan

**M**y family had been deeply connected with the St. Luke's Church, Drugjan as my mother was a nursing sister in the adjacent Mission Hospital(now known as the Chest

Diseases Hospital) in the 1930's. My father Rev. Sham Lal Kaul (1913-2006) and my mother Martha were married in the St. Luke's Church, Drugjan in 1937. My elder sister Dr. Praveen R. Sondhi(Gynaecologist-USA) and elder brother Dr. Surinder

A. Kaul( Public Health Consultant – WHO) and myself were all born in the Drugjan C D Hospital in the 1940's. It is really a very noble step by the Government Department of Tourism and Culture to have the renovation of this Church done now.

May God bless their endeavours.

Parwez Samuel Kaul  
Director,  
Tyndale – BISCOE and Mallinson  
Society, Sheikh BAGH, Srinagar



**I**N THE COMPETING OBITUARIES OVER HER DEMISE, the singer's songs shot in Kashmir made many nostalgic about the times when her vocals would enthral generations in the musical gardens and theatres of the valley.

# 5 Lata Mangeshkar Songs That Became Kashmir Melodies



Sheeba Wani

**I**N the 'Jash-ne-Kashmir' of sixties, fresh-faced Saira Banu woos a camera-wielding mainland tourist as a stereotypical Kashmiri girl wearing traditional robes and cultural symbols. But after Shammi Kapoor acts snooty, the playful scene of *Junglee* (1962) turns musical with the familiar voice of a singer known for her dulcet duets with the "beloved singer" of Kashmir – Mohammad Rafi.

Six decades later, as the Nightingale of Bombay turned Mumbai Film Industry fell silent, that iconic song—'Kashmir Ki Kali Hoon Main'—was shared as a tribute by sundry in the mountains where Lata Mangeshkar's voice still echoes through the good-old radio.

In the competing obituaries over her demise, the singer's songs shot in Kashmir made many nostalgic about the times when her vocals would enthral generations in the musical gardens and theatres of the valley.

"I was in my teens when I first saw Sadhna enacting 'Ye Sama' song sung by Lata Mangeshkar in a movie opposite to Shashi Kapoor," recalls Mushtaq Shah, a cine-lover of yore in his sixties. "I could see how the nightingale's intense emotional voice left the young people in an emotional state inside the cinema hall. She would make you fall in love."

Sami Ashraf, a retired government teacher, credits the late singer for giving voice to her emotions and generation back in seventies.

"Unlike the crowd of singers today, Lata was one-woman orchestra for us, always entralling our youthful feelings," Sami, who hails from Sopore, says. "She had a massive audience in the valley."

For couples, Lata was a voice of love, says Sheikh Mubashir, a bizman from Srinagar.

"I remember quoting lines from her songs to win my life partner's heart," Mubashir says. "Lata Mangeshkar was the reigning melody queen whose songs gave expression to our feelings."

Amid these reminiscences, here're the five songs by the late lead-singer that became her Kashmir tunes:

## Bekhudi Me Sanam

Sung by the prominent-pair of Rafi and Lata, this classic song from the 1968 movie, *Haseena Maan Jayegi* became anthem back then. Filmed on Babita and Shashi Kapoor, the song is still striking a chord with masses for its poetry, melody and vocals. The Kashmir setting of sixties is only uplifting its visual appeal.

## Bedardi Balma Tujhko

With this iconic song, Lata Mangeshkar cemented her

**WITH THIS ICONIC** song, Lata Mangeshkar cemented her place as the "melody queen" for Kashmiri music connoisseurs. Here, she sings a lover's pining heart for her lost love. Sadhna's graceful acting, Kashmir's striking autumn and Lata's spellbinding vocals are still making listeners to drool over this song.

place as the "melody queen" for Kashmiri music connoisseurs. Here, she sings a lover's pining heart for her lost love. Sadhna's graceful acting, Kashmir's striking autumn and Lata's spellbinding vocals are still making listeners to drool over this song.

## Yeh Sama, Sama Hai Ye Pyar Ka

In this Kashmir melody, Lata lends her voice to Nanda as Shashi Kapoor playing a Shikarawalla acts a hypnotized host. The 1965-ballad from the movie *Jab Jab Phool Khile* remains one of her popular songs for any Kashmir-based film. Here, again, the nightingale sings a lover's heart.

## Husn Pahadon Ka Kya Kehna

In this pre-90 melody, Mandakini and Rajiv Kapoor can be seen singing paeans of Kashmir's fascinating mountains and the meditative life. Lata's elevating voice details the serene picture of the valley that once existed with near perfection.

## Mere Yaar Shabba Khair

Among her trove of tunes that she sang for the movies shot in Kashmir, this ageless number is living up to the moment — giving a farewell to the nightingale of the Hindi cinema.

*Hailing from Pulwama, Sheeba Wani is pursuing Masters in Music from Delhi. She can be reached at wanishe@yahoo.com.*



'Resilience Training And Co-Curricular Activities In Schools Help Prevent Mental Health Disorders'

Agencies

School is the place that forms the foundation of what a person grows up to be. But what if children develop mental health disorders in the school itself? According to a new study, clinicians are calling for coping and social skills training and more extra-curricular activities in schools to help prevent increasing mental health problems in children.

The research, led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and published in 'PLOS ONE', found that clinicians were also pushing for more effective ways to upskill educators in mental health prevention, identification and early intervention including peer support for school psychologists and mental health literacy education for teachers.

The study involved 143 Victorian and South Australian clinicians who were interviewed about their views on how the education system could better support student's mental health and improve access to

support services.

The clinicians, involving psychiatrists, paediatricians, psychologists and GPs, believed the education system could play an important role in improving access to mental health services by harnessing existing staff or co-locating mental health clinicians.

They also suggested schools could identify at risk children, use prevention and early intervention strategies, and implement coping and social skills programs.

MCRI researcher Kate Paton said some clinicians felt that schools were well placed to identify students with mental health problems as systems existed within the education sector for monitoring such as access to attendance and academic records.

"Schools as buildings act as a trusted physical space where mental health clinicians could offer services that are otherwise challenging to access," she said. Clinicians believed teachers can offer prevention by supporting children through school wide psychoeducation, sport and social skills and coping programs."

Ms Paton said given clinician's voices



were frequently missing from the debate, she hoped the findings would help to address the need for mental health support in schools.

"Whilst educators have identified many challenges to providing this support, includ-

ing perceived stigma, lack of resources and an overcrowded curriculum, understanding clinicians' views on the role of educators and schools and how they could work together to achieve good mental health outcomes are important questions," she said.

"It's important to understand whether different perspectives may exist between educators and mental health clinicians which need to be bridged if these professionals are to work successfully together to achieve both good education and mental health outcomes."

The research builds on MCRI's efforts to establish mental health support in schools. A pilot mental health program, developed by the MCRI in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and the Victorian Department of Education and Training was expanded to a total of 100 schools in 2022, after being trialled in Victorian primary schools.

The program was piloted in 10 primary schools in 2020 with feasibility results encouraging, strong support from schools and indications that it could improve care pathways for children with emerging mental

health issues.

The initiative embedded a child mental health and wellbeing coordinator within schools to help identify and manage emerging mental health issues in students and provide connections between education, social and health services.

MCRI Professor Harriet Hiscock said the prevalence of mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, which were the major source of disease burden, had remained unchanged for the past 20 years.

"With about 50 per cent of mental health disorders beginning before the age of 14 years, prevention and early intervention are paramount if we want to reduce lifetime prevalence of mental health disorders and allow children to live their best possible lives," she said. Improving mental health for children and adolescents has therefore become an international priority."

Professor Hiscock said mental health problems have such a large adverse effect on children's education progress that academic potential couldn't be achieved unless schools address student mental health.

Study Finds Why People Divulge Other's Secrets

Agencies

Secrets are a social phenomenon among humans. But when and why would someone divulge another person's secret to others?

According to a new study by researchers at Arizona State University and Columbia Univer-

they were divulged.

"Across a wide variety of commonly kept secrets—ranging from being unhappy at work to sexual infidelity—people revealed other people's secrets 30 per cent of the time on average," Salerno said.

"When we specified



sity, the divulging of a secret has a direct correlation to a person's morals.

The findings of the study were published in the 'Journal of Personality and Social Psychology'.

It seems that when someone learns another person's secret that breaks their own moral code, then the person who was confided in seems to be willing to divulge that secret so to "punish" the secret holder, according to Jessica Salerno, an associate professor of psychology in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University.

"Keeping things about ourselves secret is burdensome and has a negative impact on our relationships and our health," Jessica Salerno said, an associate professor of psychology in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University.

"Confiding in others is important, but we assume that the people we confide in have similar motivations to keep the information quiet as we do to protect us and prevent us from being punished for that secret behavior. Yet, our discovery is that it's not just that people often don't keep our secrets, but they may be inclined to actively reveal the secret to see us punished when they think the secret behavior is immoral."

The research is based on a series of nine studies that asked participants how often they decide it is appropriate to reveal someone else's secrets and what their motivations were behind those decisions.

Salerno and her co-author, Michael Slepian of Columbia University, found a consistent trend in how often secrets were divulged and some of the motivations as to why

that we only wanted to know about secrets that were directly confided in our participants by someone close to them, we expected this percentage to drop a lot, but it didn't, people still revealed 26 per cent of other people's secrets that had been directly confided in them," she added.

"This means that the majority of secrets were kept but a meaningful percentage, that some might consider horrifying when they consider their own confided secrets, were revealed to at least one other person," Salerno said.

As to why people divulged other's secrets, Salerno said, morality played a key role.

"Across many studies and situations, people were significantly more likely to reveal someone else's secret if they considered the secret to be an immoral behavior," she explained.

"And we found out why: People are more likely to reveal other people's secrets that they think are immoral because it satisfies a (perhaps unconscious) emotional need to see that person punished for the morally outrageous secret behavior," she said.

In fact, the role of punishment is a key in the divulging of a secret. If the person who was confided in thinks the person who holds the secret has already been punished, then they are less motivated to divulge the secret. Remove the punishment, however, and then people are more motivated to divulge the secret to fulfill that need to see them punished, Salerno said. This motivation to reveal information as punishment appeared to be limited to the realm of secret information.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS KASHMIR

Sub:-Tentative seniority list of Tehsil Supply Officers/Inspectors etc carrying substantive pay level L-6, Rs. 35400-112400 (Pre-revised Rs. 9300-34800 + GP Rs. 4200/-)

(NOTIFICATION)

Whereas, the tentative seniority list of Tehsil Supply Officers/Inspectors carrying substantive pay level of Rs. 35400-112400, L-6, (Pre-revised Rs. 9300-34800 + GP Rs. 4200/-) was issued vide notification issued under endorsement No. DCAPD/Adm/B-X-304 dated 26.07.2019 for general information of employees of the said category and inviting of objections thereon; Whereas, from the date of issuance of said notification, most of the officials of this category have proceeded on superannuation and some have been elevated to the next higher grade who have accordingly been deleted from this category; Whereas, after bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir State into two Union Territories viz Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh, the sanctioned posts of Tehsil Supply Officers/Inspectors etc. were slashed down from 310 to 208 in respect of Kashmir Division by virtue of SRO 750 dated 25.10.2019 and vide Govt. Order No.1271/JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 15.11.2021 issued under endorsement No.GAD-SERV/DKAS/470/2021 dated 15.11.2021 by General Administration Department, and consequently 20 posts of said category have been allotted to Union Territory of Ladakh; Whereas, two TSO's namely Mr. Nisar Hussain Shah and Mr. Mehdi Ali borne on the establishment of FCS&CA (Union Territory of Ladakh) opted for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and are presently performing their duties in FCS&CA Department Kashmir Lt. in Union Territory of J&K and their salaries are being drawn by this department; Whereas, the rest of the Tehsil Supply Officers/Inspectors etc. are being drawn from the establishment of FCS&CA (Union Territory of Ladakh) which stands communicated to Administrative Department & are performing their duties in the Union Territory of Ladakh and their salaries are being drawn thereby by the concerned DDO's; Whereas, in view of above position, the Tehsil Supply Officers/Inspectors whose services have been placed at the disposal of various departments of Union Territory of Ladakh by the Government of Union Territory of Ladakh vide order referred to above and Tehsil Supply Officers/Inspectors etc. are being drawn from the establishment of FCS&CA (Union Territory of Ladakh) and their salaries are being drawn thereby by the concerned DDO's; Now, therefore, a fresh tentative seniority list of TSO's/Inspectors etc. carrying substantive pay level of Rs. 35400-112400 (L-6) as per Annexure-A to this notification is hereby framed and issued for inviting objections from the interested officials, if any, within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notification and thereafter no objection shall be entertained.

No: DFCS&CA/Adm/B-X-304

Dated:-05-02-2022

Annexure - A to Notification No.FCS&CA/Adm/B-X-304 dated 05-02-2022

Table with 8 columns: S. No., Name of official, R.No., Desig., Qualification, D.O.B, Date of promotion/Increment grade. Lists various officials with their details.

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Note:- The date of birth of officials recorded above is subject to verification of Service records.

Director, Food, Civil Supplies & CA Deptt., Kashmir.

DIPK-17681/21









## Hundreds Of Myanmar Parents Publicly Disown Children Who Oppose Junta

Agenceis

**YANGON:** Every day for the last three months, an average of six or seven families in Myanmar have posted notices in the country's state-owned newspapers cutting ties with sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren who have publicly opposed the ruling military junta.

The notices started to appear in such numbers in November after the army, which seized power from Myanmar's democratically elected government a year ago, announced it would take over properties of its opponents and arrest people giving shelter to protesters. Scores of raids on homes followed.

Lin Lin Bo Bo, a former car salesman who joined an armed group resisting military rule, was one of those disowned by his parents in about 570 notices reviewed by Reuters.

"We declare we have disowned Lin Lin Bo Bo because he never listened to his parents' will," said the notice posted by his parents, San Win and Tin Tin Soe, in state-owned newspaper *The Mirror* in November.

Speaking to Reuters from a Thai border town where he is living after fleeing Myanmar, the 26-year-old said his mother had told him she was disowning him after soldiers came to their family home searching for him. A few days later, he said he cried as he read the notice in the paper.

"My comrades tried to reassure me that it was inevitable for families to do that under pressure," he told Reuters. "But I was so heartbroken."

Contacted by Reuters, his parents declined to comment.

Targeting families of opposition activists was a tactic used by Myanmar's military during unrest in 2007 and the late 1980s but has been used far more frequently since the Feb. 1, 2021 coup, according to Wai Hnin Pwint Thon, senior advocacy officer at rights group Burma Campaign UK, which uses the old name for the former British colony.

Publicly disowning family members, which has a long history in Myanmar's culture, is one way to respond, said Wai Hnin Pwint Thon, who said she was seeing more such notices in the press than in the past.

"Family members are scared to be implicated in crimes," she said. "They don't want to be arrested, and they don't want to be in trouble."

A military spokesperson did not respond to Reuters questions for this story. Commenting on the notices in a news conference

in November, military spokesman Zaw Min Tun said that people who made such declarations in newspapers could still be charged if found to be supporting opposition to the junta.

**VIOLENT CRACKDOWN**

Hundreds of thousands of people in Myanmar, many of them young, took to the streets to protest the coup a year ago. After a violent crackdown on demonstrations by the army, some protesters fled overseas or joined armed groups in remote parts of the country. Known as People's Defence Forces, these groups are broadly aligned with the deposed civilian government.

Over the past year, security forces have killed about 1,500 people, many of them demonstrators, and arrested nearly 12,000 people, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a monitoring group. The military has said those figures are exaggerated.

Journalist So Pyay Aung told Reuters he filmed riot police using batons and shields to break up protests and livestreamed the video on the Democratic Voice of Burma, a news website. After authorities came searching for him, he said he hid in different locations in Myanmar before fleeing to Thailand with his wife and infant daughter. He was disowned by his father in November.

"I declare I am disowning my son because he did unforgivable activities against his parents' wills. I will not have any responsibilities related to him," said a notice posted by his father, Tin Aung Ko, in the state-owned Myanmar Alinn newspaper.

"When I saw the newspaper that mentioned cutting ties with me, I felt a little sad," So Pyay Aung told Reuters. "But I understand that my parents had fears of pressure. They might have worries of their house being seized or getting arrested."

His father, Tin Aung Ko, declined to comment.

Two parents who disowned their children in similar notices, who asked not to be named for fear of attracting the attention of the military, told Reuters the notices were primarily intended to send a message to authorities that they should not be held responsible for their children's actions.

"My daughter is doing what she believes, but I'm sure she will be worried if we got into trouble," one mother said. "I know she can understand what I have done to her."

## Israeli Police Widely Using Pegasus Spyware to Hack Phones: Report

Agenceis

Police used Pegasus spyware to hack phones of dozens of prominent Israelis, including a son of former premier Benjamin Netanyahu, activists, and senior government officials, an Israeli newspaper reported Monday.

The bombshell revelation is the latest from the business daily *Calcalist*, which had previously reported that police used Pegasus without court authorization against leaders of an anti-Netanyahu protest movement.

Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai said that "following the recent publications" he had asked Public Security Minister Omer Barlev to establish "an external and independent commission of inquiry, headed by a judge," to probe the allegations.

"To the extent that the commission finds irregularities and failures, they will be dealt with in accordance with the law," Shabtai said in a statement.

Pegasus is a malware product made by the Israeli firm NSO at the centre of a months-long international scandal following revelations that it was used by governments worldwide to spy on activists, politicians, journalists, and even heads of state.

Israel had come under fire for allowing the export of the invasive technology to states with poor human rights records, but the *Calcalist* revelations have triggered a domestic scandal and



multiple state investigations.

Prior to Monday's report, the attorney general, state comptroller, and the justice ministry's privacy watchdog have all announced probes into the potential use of Pegasus on Israelis.

In its latest report, *Calcalist* said dozens of people were targeted who were not suspected of any criminal conduct, and without police receiving the necessary court approval.

They include senior leaders of the finance, justice, and communication ministries, mayors, and Ethiopian-Israelis who led protests against alleged police misconduct. In another revelation set to rock Netanyahu's ongoing corruption trial, *Calcalist* also reported that key witness Ilan Yeshua, former chief executive of the Walla news site, was also targeted.

Avner Netanyahu, one of the premier's sons, was also on the list. "I truly am shocked," he wrote on Facebook.

Netanyahu is accused of seeking to trade regulatory favours with media moguls in exchange for favourable coverage, including on Walla. He denies the charges.

His lawyers on Monday demanded the trial be halted until the latest revelations were probed.

The trial also suffered a blow last week when multiple Israeli broadcasters reported that police may have used spyware on Shlomo Filber, a former Netanyahu ally turned state witness.

Those reports, which Netanyahu described as an "earthquake", did not mention Pegasus.

Pegasus is a surveillance programme that can switch on a phone's camera or microphone and harvest its data.

NSO has consistently denied wrongdoing throughout the multi-stranded Pegasus scandal, stressing that it does not operate the system once sold to clients and has no access to any of the data collected.

## Ukraine Plays Down Invasion Fears, But US Sounds Alarm

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**KIEV:** Ukraine on Sunday pushed back at "apocalyptic predictions" over a potential Russian invasion, after officials in the United States sounded dire warnings that Moscow had stepped up its preparations for a major incursion.

US officials said the Kremlin has assembled 110,000 troops along the border with its pro-Western neighbour but intelligence assessments have not determined if President Vladimir Putin has actually decided to invade.

The Russian force amassed on the frontier is growing at a rate that would give Putin the firepower he needs for a full-scale invasion — some 150,000 soldiers — by mid-February, US officials have said.

They assess Putin wants all possible options at his disposal: from a limited campaign in the pro-Russian Donbas region of Ukraine to a full-scale invasion. Russia denies that it is planning an incursion into Ukraine.

"Do not believe the apocalyptic predictions. Different capitals have different scenarios, but Ukraine is ready for any development," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba wrote on Twitter.

"Today, Ukraine has a strong army, unprecedented international support and the faith of Ukrainians in their country. It is the enemy who should fear us," Presidency



advisor Mykhailo Podolyak insisted that the chances of finding a diplomatic solution to the crisis remained "substantially higher than the threat of further escalation".

Kiev — backed up by some European allies — has consistently sought to play down fears of an imminent attack as it tries to avoid inflicting further harm on its struggling economy.

Podolyak said the latest Russian moves were "no surprise" as Moscow has sought to keep up pressure on Kiev by conducting large-scale troop rotations, manoeuvres and weapon deployments on a regular basis since massing forces at the border last spring.

"How long will such Russian activity last and for what purpose is it maintained? Only the Kremlin can know the exact answer to this question," he said.

The stark warnings from the US — part of a deliberate attempt from Washington to pre-empt any Russian actions — come as Europe pushes to defuse the crisis.

French President Emmanuel Macron heads to Moscow Monday and Kiev on Tuesday seeking to de-escalate the crisis and push forward a stalled peace plan for the festering conflict with Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will also visit the region for talks with Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky the following week in a bid to further the diplomatic efforts.

US officials said if Moscow does opt for a full-scale attack, the invading force could take the capital Kiev and topple Zelensky in a matter of 48 hours.

## After Houthi Attacks, Senior US General In UAE To Bolster Defenses

Agenceis

**ABU DHABI:** US Marine General Frank McKenzie arrived in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday for talks on efforts to bolster the Gulf state's defenses after a series of missile attacks launched by Houthi militants in Yemen.

In recent weeks, the Iran-aligned Houthis have waged an unprecedented string of largely failed missile strikes on UAE targets that have triggered Emirati and US air defenses and seen American troops briefly taking shelter.

Earlier this month, the Pentagon announced a US deployment of advanced F-22 fighter jets and a guided missile destroyer, the USS Cole, to partner with the UAE navy ahead of a port call in Abu Dhabi.

McKenzie said the F-22s would provide the UAE with "one of the best look-down radars in the world," capable of identifying targets including land attack cruise missiles and drones.

The USS Cole will operate in waters around the UAE, he said, keeping a lookout for shipments of illegal contraband.



The attacks have thrown a spotlight on so-far unsuccessful UN-led efforts to broker an end to the war in Yemen, which since 2015 has pitted the Houthis against a Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen.

McKenzie, who oversees US forces in the Middle East as head of Central Command, said he moved up his planned visit in response to the Houthi attacks, hoping to underscore the US commitment to the Gulf state's defense.

"I think it's a very worrisome time for UAE. They're looking for support. We're here to help them to provide that support," McKenzie told reporters shortly before landing in Abu Dhabi.

Asked about the latest Houthi missile attacks, McKenzie said they could have been prompted by a range of scenarios, including as a response to battlefield setbacks.

"Hard to know all the Houthi reasons behind this," he said. "I think the Houthis aren't used to losing ground in Yemen."

Washington accuses Tehran of supplying high-end weaponry to the Houthis.

"Medium range ballistic missiles that were fired from Yemen and entered UAE were not invented, built, designed in Yemen," McKenzie said. "All that happened somewhere else. So I think we certainly see the Iranian connection to this."

## Kuwait Bans 'Death On The Nile' Movie Casting Israeli Actress

Agenceis

**KUWAIT** has banned the screening of American movie *Death on the Nile*, adapted from a namesake novel by Agatha Christie and starring Israeli actress Gal Gadot, authorities say.

Spokeswoman for the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information, Anouar Mourad, said Sunday that cinemagoers in Kuwait will not be able to watch the film, directed by Kenneth Branagh, just days before the movie was set to be released in the country, confirming press reports.

She said the decision was made in part due to Gadot's status as a "former soldier in the occupying army." Gadot served her mandatory service in the Israeli army. She has frequently come under criticism on social media.

In 2017, Kuwait also banned *Wonder Woman*, in which Gadot played the leading role. At the time, the ministry cited her Israeli citizenship as grounds for preventing the movie from being screened.

Earlier in the day, the Kuwaiti newspaper *al-Qabas*, reported that the decision was made following demands on social media for the film to be boycotted due to Gadot's praise of the Israeli

army's offensive against the besieged Gaza Strip in 2014 and her criticism of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

The devastating war resulted in the death of at least 2,251 Palestinians, most of them civilians.

The Gaza Strip, home to some two million people, has been under a blockade imposed by Israel for over 14 years. The tight blockade has caused a sharp decline in the standards of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

Israel has also launched three major wars on Gaza since 2008.

In the latest bombardment campaign, at least 260 Palestinians, including over 60 children, were killed in a time span of 11 days that began on May 10, 2021. The Gaza-based resistance movements retaliated heavily, which took the Tel Aviv regime by surprise.

Kuwait is staunchly opposed to normalizing ties with Israel, unlike some Arab countries in the region, which have signed normalization agreements with the occupying regime in recent years.

In May last year, Kuwait's National Assembly unanimously approved bills that outlaw any deals or normalization of ties with the Tel Aviv regime.



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