

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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P3 CITY

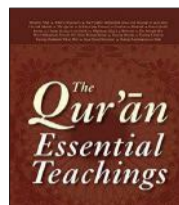
## OVER 10000 LAND PASSBOOKS ISSUED TO LAND OWNERS IN SRINAGAR

Continuing its endeavour to accelerate the pace of recently launched land mark initiative of providing Land Passbooks to legal Owners of land, the District Administration Srinagar

P5

## MAJOR AND VITAL RECURRING THEMES OF THE QUR'AN

PROFESSOR ABDUR RAHEEM KIDWAI is currently (Honorary) Director of K. A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), India. He has two PhDs in English, one from AMU and the other from University of Leicester (UK). .....



P8 SPORTS

## AUSSIE CRICKET LEGEND SHANE WARNE DIES AT 52

Australian cricket great Shane Warne has died aged 52. The man known as Warne and dreaded by a generation of batters for nearly over 10 years from the



## Quote!

A boo is a lot louder than a cheer

-Lance Armstrong

## NEWS DIGEST

### 3 'Militant Associates' Held In Shopian

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed to have arrested three alleged militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in South Kashmir's Shopian district. Around 6:15pm Friday, a joint team of police and army's 44 RR laid a naka at Khudpora orchards **More on P6**

### 5 Gamblers Arrested In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in a raid in Hajin area of Bandipora district. Bilal Ahmad Fafoo, Nazir Ahmad Baba, Fayaz Ahmad Wani, Waseem Ahmad Langoo and Showkat Ahmad Mir were arrested by **More on P6**

### Patwari Caught Accepting Rs 20K Bribe

SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested a revenue official for demanding and accepting a bribe to issue revenue extracts to a man in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. According to a spokesperson, the anti-graft body **More on P6**

### Ladakh Logs 23 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh reported 23 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the overall caseload to 28,084 while the active cases in the union territory has gone down to 137, officials said on Friday. Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, Ladakh has recorded 228 **More on P6**

## Massive Fire Forces Patients Out Of B&J Hospital



Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: A massive fire broke-out on Friday night in Kashmir only Bone and Joint (B&J) hospital in Barzulla area here, forcing scores of patients to flee to save their lives.

An official told Kashmir Observer that the fire started from the Emergency Theatre at around 9:30 PM and engulfed the building within no time.

The fire sparked panic among the patients and their attendants, who were seen running from the hospital while employees and others evacuated the badly fractured patients to safer places.

Medical Superintendent of B&J hospital, Dr. Suhail

Ahmad told Kashmir Observer that all the patients have been evacuated safely and are being shifted to the SKIMS Bemina. He said the cause of the fire was apparently a short circuit. "We are on the job, will update the media further," he said.

Over six fire and emergency service vehicles were pressed into service to douse the raging flames, while several NGOs also pressed their ambulances to shift the patients to SKIMS, Bemina.

"I have so far shifted over 30 patients to JVC hospital. Hundreds of patients are waiting on Barzulla Bridge for their turn," Ajaz Ahmad of the Help Poor Voluntary Trust told Kashmir Observer. **More on P6**

KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Friday Prayers Held In Srinagar Jamia Masjid After 31 Weeks

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Congregational prayers were held at the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar on Friday for the first time in 31 weeks after authorities lifted restrictions on prayers there.

Hundreds assembled at the mosque in the morning for the weekly Friday prayers after over seven months, officials said. The reopening of Grand Mosque coincided with the occasion of following Friday of Me'raj-e-Aalam.

Imam Hai Syed Ahmed Naqshbandi led the prayers and delivered the Friday sermon as chief priest Mirwaiz Umer Farooq remains under house detention.

"People in large numbers came to the Masjid and there was a huge gathering



KO Photo Abid Bhat

today on the Friday following Me'raj-e-Aalam," a member of Anjuman-e-Auqaf said

Ghulam Qadir Rather, a devotee said that it is after a

long gap that he came to the Grand Mosque to offer Friday prayers.

"Over these years, the closure of central **More on P6**

### Friday Following Me'raj Observed

With improved weather conditions, tens and thousands of people thronged mosques, Khanqah's and shrines as Friday following Me'raj-al-Aalam was observed with religious fervor across the Kashmir Valley. The biggest congregation was held at Dargah Hazratbal here where thousands of devotees converged to have a glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh). Devotees including men, women and children visited the shrine throughout the day to offer prayers and have glimpse of the holy relic which was displayed after every congregational prayer. However, the **More on P6**

### Injured Militant Arrested After Shootout: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Police on Friday said that a newly recruited militant was arrested in injured condition at Langate area of Handwara in North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

A police official said that the injured is presently admitted in hospital where his condition is stated to be stable.

The injured militant has been identified as Abrar Hassan son of Ghulam Hassain Gori resident of Azad Gunj Baramulla, the officer said.

"Abrar was earlier a stone pelt and there are two FIR against him. Later **More on P6**

## Worshippers Attacked During Friday Prayers in Pakistan, 56 Killed

Agencies

PESHAWAR: A suicide bomb attack ripped through a crowded mosque during Friday prayers in northwestern Pakistan, killing at least 56 worshippers and wounding around 190 others, in one of the deadliest attacks on a Muslim place of worship in the world this year. The casualties could go up further, doctors told reporters in Peshawar city.

According to reports a suicide



bomber gate crashed into Shia Jamia mosque in Qissa Khwani bazaar area of Peshawar city and blew himself **More on P6**

**6 ATTACKER CLAD IN BLACK SHALWAR-KAMEEZ** rushed into the mosque during Friday prayers and opened fire with a pistol, picking out the worshippers one-by-one. He then blew himself up"

### Govt To Buy Weapons Worth Rs 1523 Cr For Central Forces

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has approved Rs 1,523 crore for procuring state-of-the-art weapons and improving the IT infrastructure of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the CRPF and BSF, in the next five years.

The implementation of the 'Modernisation Plan-IV for the CAPFs' will improve the overall operational efficiency and preparedness of the forces and positively impact the internal security scenario in the country, a Union Home ministry statement said.

With a total **More on P6**

## PM Modi Made Kashmir 'Crown Of India' Post Art-370: Amit Shah

Agencies

UTTAR PRADESH: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made Kashmir the "crown of India" after revoking Article 370.

Addressing an election rally in Jakhania, Ghazipur, Shah said, "Akhilesh Yadav said that there'll be a bloodbath if Article 370 is revoked... We revoked it, nobody even pelted a pebble, let alone a bloodbath, PM Modi made Kashmir the crown of India."

Slamming the



Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, Shah said that he wears spectacles of two glasses -- one for caste and the second for religion.

"Akhilesh only sees caste and religion through his spectacles. A religion is seen through one lens, in which you and I are not. Through another lens, he sees caste, through which also we are not visible. Only BJP can do Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas," he said.

Shah, who has been on a campaigning trail in Uttar Pradesh for the ongoing seven-phased Assembly elections, said that this election is "not only to make the BJP candidate an MLA, but it is to ensure the bright future of crores of backward **More on P6**

### Back From Battle Zone

## Kashmiri Students Return To Teary Reunion

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As many as 10 Kashmiri students, who returned from the war zone Ukraine, were warmly recieved by their families as they finally touched down at the Srinagar Airport on Friday after being caught up in the middle of war for over five days.

At the same time, parents were relieved to see their children return safely. Emotional scenes were witnessed as soon as these students met their

parents. Tears were seen in the eyes of the parents who had been anxious about their children all these days.

Amid an ongoing war in Ukraine, parents at Srinagar airport were also seen comforting their children as they hugged and thanked almighty for their children's safe return.

Notably, these ten students had arrived safely in New Delhi at 5 AM on Thursday via a specially launched rescue flight under Government of India's Operation Ganga **More on P6**

## Hangul Population Upticks In Kashmir's Dachigam Park

Auqib Javeed

In a positive sign, the population of endangered Kashmiri Royal Stag, vernacularly known as the Hangul has shown a marginal increase in the Valley, officials said Thursday. The good news came on the day when the department was celebrating World Wildlife Day on Thursday.

Altaf Hussain Dentoo, Wildlife Warden Central division told Kashmir Observer that the population of Hangul has marginally increased to 261, as

per latest census by the department as compared to 237 recorded in 2019.

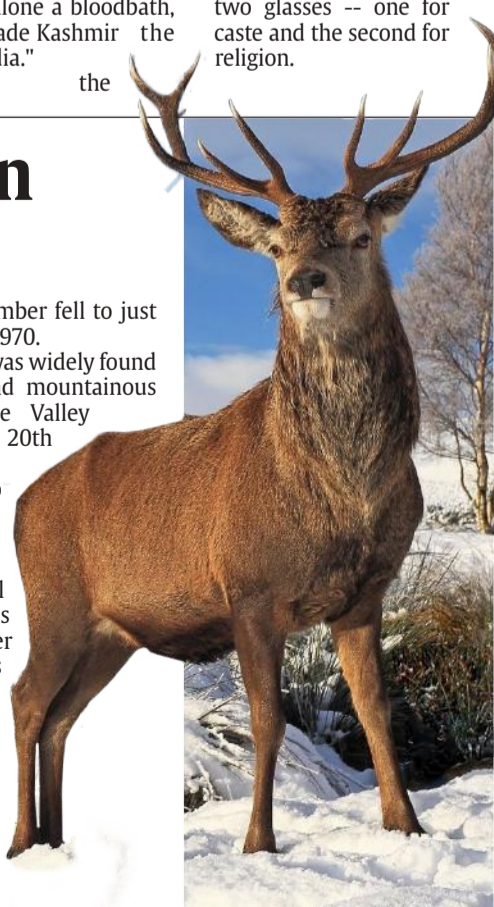
The data from the department suggests that the small upward trend began in 2015, when the Hangul population was 186 and then rose to 197 in 2017.

Regional Wildlife Warden Rashid Naqash, in his book titled Management Plan, Dachigam National Park, writes that the Hangul population decreased from 3,000 in the 1940s to a little over 200 by 1969. However, due to hunting and encroachment of their natural

habitat, the number fell to just around 150 in 1970.

The Hangul was widely found in the hilly and mountainous regions of the Valley in the early 20th century.

Dentoo told Kashmir Observer that the census of the Hangul population is conducted after every two years to check their **More on P6**



## Covid III Wave 'Almost Over', GMC; SKIMS Report No Cases

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: For the first time in the last two years, no new cases of Coronavirus were reported on Friday at the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar here, with officials saying that the third wave of highly contagious infection is almost over in Jammu and Kashmir

Medical Superintendent of SMHS, Dr. Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer that the Covid-19 third wave is almost over but people shouldn't lower their guard.

"We had reserved two wards—19 and 20 of our hospital for COVID-19 patients but since there were no patients there, we fumigated it and

closed it down," Singh said.

He further added that people shouldn't lower their guard as there are reports of a fourth wave in June and July. "So the precautions are better than cure," he said.

A health official from SKIMS told Kashmir Observer that the hospital witnessed zero cases today and no patient has been admitted so far in the Covid-19 wards.

"Yes, we can say the covid-19 third wave is over now," he added. The Valley registered just 18 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Friday, according to a government spokesperson.

The occupancy of 4838 dedicated beds was 0.25, the spokesperson said, adding "Currently, 12 patients **More on P6**

### 18 New Cases Reported In Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir reported 33 fresh Covid-19 cases even as there was one death due to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Friday. They said 15 of the fresh cases were reported from Jammu Division and 18 Kashmir Division, taking the overall tally to 453167. Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 9 cases, Baramulla 4, Pulwama and Kupwara 2 each and Bandipora 1. The five districts of the Valley, including **More on P6**

**6 THIS WAS THE BIGGEST HERD** I have seen ever in my life, It's a healthy sign for all of us, since the Hangul figures in Red List of threatened species."



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# Extra Virgin Olive Oil: Why It's Healthier Than Other Cooking Oils

Richard Hoffman | The Conversation

It's common advice for people watching their waistlines or looking to eat healthier to beware of the amount of oil they use while cooking. But that doesn't mean we should cut oil entirely from our diet. This is because extra virgin olive oil in particular can have many benefits for our health. Numerous studies have shown that consuming olive oil – in particular extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) – can have many different benefits for our health. For example, the Spanish Predimed study (the largest randomised control trial ever conducted on the Mediterranean diet) showed that women who ate a Mediterranean diet supplemented with extra virgin olive oil had a 62% lower risk of breast cancer compared to women who were advised to eat a low fat diet. Experts who have since examined multiple scientific studies looking at the Mediterranean diet and its effect on chronic diseases conclude that a primary reason the diet protects against breast cancer is because of EVOO. There's also evidence that EVOO may protect against type 2 diabetes and possibly even Alzheimer's disease. So what makes extra virgin olive oil better for us than other types of cooking oil? The answer lies in its composition.

Alongside its fat, EVOO also contains many natural substances, such as polyphenols. Polyphenols occur naturally in plants, and have been linked to many health benefits, such as reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and cognitive disorders. Studies also seem to show that a major reason why EVOO is beneficial to our health is because of the polyphenols it contains. Polyphenols are thought to have many benefits in the body, such as improving the gut microbiome.

Research shows that the polyphenols in extra virgin olive oil are linked with lower risk of cardiovascular disease. In fact, when researchers stripped EVOO of its polyphenols, they found it didn't protect the heart from



**The reason EVOO contains such high levels of polyphenols is because it's produced by simply crushing olives. More processed versions of olive oil – such as light olive oil or spreads – don't contain as many of these polyphenols. This is because to create these requires more processing, resulting in most of the polyphenols being lost.**

disease as well. It's believed that one of the benefits of EVOO on heart health is because its polyphenols prevent cholesterol becoming oxidised. It's when cholesterol reacts with oxygen and is oxidised that it damages blood vessels. The reason EVOO contains such high levels of polyphenols is because it's produced by simply crushing olives. More processed versions of olive oil – such as light olive oil or spreads – don't contain as many of these polyphenols. This is because to create these requires more processing, resulting in most of the polyphenols being lost.

**Other cooking oils**  
Most other cooking oils, such as sunflower

oil or rapeseed oil, are made from seeds. Seeds are very difficult to extract oil from, so they need to be heated and the oil extracted with solvents. This means that most of the polyphenols in seeds are lost during production. It's sometimes claimed that rapeseed oil (also known as canola oil or vegetable oil) is a healthy alternative to EVOO. While there is some evidence that raw rapeseed oil (meaning it hasn't been heated during cooking) can temporarily lower cholesterol levels, there's currently no evidence it can lower risk of developing diseases associated with high cholesterol – such as heart disease. Of course, most of us use oils for cooking. But when an oil is heated at too high a tem-

perature it reacts with the oxygen in the air, causing the fat in the oil to break down. This can lead to the formation of harmful substances that irritate the eyes and even carcinogens. Rapeseed oil is particularly prone to this process – called oxidation – especially when used repeatedly for deep fat frying. Polyphenols help prevent fats from oxidising and so EVOO remains stable even when used at the temperatures needed to shallow fry foods. Because rapeseed oil and other oils such as sunflower oil contain lower levels of polyphenols, the fats aren't so well protected from breaking down during cooking. Another important reason for EVOO's stability is that its main type of fat is monounsaturated fat. This is both a healthy fat and quite resistant to oxidation. Monounsaturated fat is also the main type of fat in rapeseed oil. But unlike EVOO, rapeseed oil also contains quite high levels of a polyunsaturated fat called alpha-linolenic acid. This is not very stable and is another reason why heating rapeseed oil too much is not a good idea.

Coconut oil is often advocated as a healthy oil to use. But coconut oil contains high levels of saturated fats, which can significantly increase low-density lipoprotein (or LDL) cholesterol levels (sometimes known as the "bad" cholesterol). Elevated LDL-cholesterol is linked to cardiovascular disease, and there's evidence that the saturated fat in coconut oil increases the risk of heart disease. One of the important messages about EVOO is that it seems to be far more effective when eaten as part of a Mediterranean diet – which is typically high in vegetables, fruits, legumes, grains, fish and olive oil. This is probably because extra virgin olive oil and its beneficial polyphenols interact with other foods including the vegetables eaten as part of this diet. The Mediterranean diet is linked with lower risk of many chronic diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's disease. This might just make the extra price of EVOO worth paying for.

محکمہ اطلاعات کے کلچرل یونٹ کے سابق کلچرل

اسسٹنٹ محمد خلیل کی اہلیہ کے انتقال پر رنج و غم کا اظہار

مورخہ 3 مارچ 2022ء کو محکمہ اطلاعات کے کلچرل یونٹ میں ایک تعزیتی میٹنگ کا انعقاد ہوا۔ میٹنگ کی صدارت یونٹ کے آفیسر برہان حسین نے کی۔ میٹنگ میں کلچرل یونٹ کے سابق کلچرل اسسٹنٹ محمد خلیل ساکنہ چاڈورہ کی شریک حیات جو کہ مورخہ 2 مارچ 2022ء کو فوت ہوئی تھیں پر رنج و غم کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا کی گئی کہ مرحومہ کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب ہو اور مگوہاراں خاص کر محمد نیل کو یہ صدمہ عظیم برداشت کرنے کی توفیق ہو۔

## Public Notice

The name of my spouse has been wrongly written in my passport bearing no: U9538248 as Shaziya Feroz While her correct and actual name is Shaziya Manzoor Which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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R/o New Colony Shah Mohalla Sonerkul Near Dental College MR Gunj Srinagar  
ird

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I have applied for the issuance of DEE class contract card from R and B office if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she May file his/her objection in the circle of super intending engineer R and B office Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Haris Aijaz Rather  
S/O Aijaz Ahmad Rather  
R/O Waripora bala  
Block Wagoora **RNA**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Route Permit of my Vehicle Bearing Regd No: JK03H - 0259 Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arsheed Ahmad Bhat  
S/O Mohammad Akbar Bhat  
R/o Herpora Semthan Bibehara **RNA**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: 36443/LC. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mir Sajad Bashr  
S/O Bashir Ah Mir  
R/o Gagren Shopian  
Cell No: 8803903269 **ASH K**

## GRATITUDE

We want to thank all our near and dear ones who stood by us during this testing time and extended their warmth and shared in our grief. We are humbled and grateful and thank you from the depth of our hearts for your care, concern and for your heart-felt sympathies.

**REGARDS**  
Mr Mian Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din  
Dr Suhail Mian  
Dr Khurshid Manzoor  
Tabassum Kamili  
Dr Seema Mian

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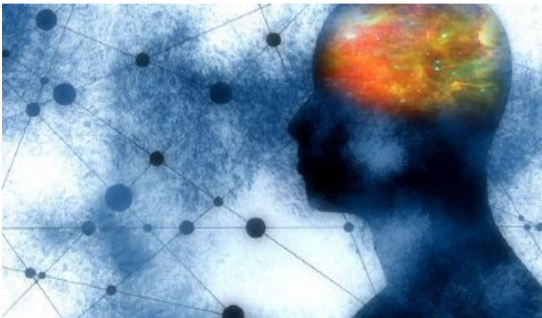
Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

## Extreme Climatic Events May Cause Anxiety, Depression: IPCC Report

Press Trust Of India

Extreme climate conditions can cause mental health issues like anxiety, depression, acute traumatic stress and sleep problems ranging from mild to severe which may even require hospitalisation, said the latest IPCC report on climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II's report titled 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability', released on Monday, warned that a wide range of climatic events



and conditions will have detrimental impacts on mental health.

"The pathways through which climatic events affect mental health are varied, complex and interconnected with other non-climatic influences that create vulnerability.

"The climatic exposure may be direct, such as experiencing an extreme weather event or prolonged high temperatures, or indirect, such as mental health consequences of undernutrition or displacement," said the report.

The IPCC report has cautioned that not eliminating emissions will cause serious harm to the world, especially South Asia with increased unbearable heat waves, food and water scarcity and sea level rise.

The report also mentioned non-climatic moderating influences which range from an individual's personality and pre-existing conditions, to social support, to structural inequities.

"Depending on these background and contextual factors, similar climatic events may result in a range of potential mental health outcomes, including anxiety, depression, acute traumatic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide, substance abuse, and sleep problems, with conditions ranging from being mild in nature to those that require hospitalisation," the report, approved by nearly 200 countries said.

Referring to a study, the report said that in Canada, an association was found between mean heat exposure of 28 degree Celsius within four days of exposure and greater hospital admissions for mood and behavioural disorders, including schizophrenia, mood, and neurotic disorders. "A US study found mental health problems increased by 0.5 per cent when average temperatures exceeded 30 degree C, compared to averages between 2530 degree C; a 1 degree C warming over five years was associated with a two per cent increase in mental health problems.

"Another study found a 1 degree C rise in monthly average temperatures over several decades was associated with a 2.1 per cent rise in suicide rates in Mexico and a 0.7 per cent rise in suicide rates in the US. A systematic review of published research using a variety of methodologies from 19 countries found increased risk of suicide associated with a 1 degree C rise in ambient temperature," the report said.

**75**  
**Azadi Ka**  
**Amrit Mahotsav**

**BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)  
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R. K. Puram, New Delhi – 110066  
**Website: www.beeindia.gov.in, Ph: 011-26766700**

### KIND ATTENTION : ENERGY USERS IN 13 NOTIFIED SECTORS

#### Submission of Report on the Status of Energy Consumption under Energy Conservation Act 2001 (52 of 2001)

All users/class of users of energy in the following energy intensive sectors having Annual Energy Consumption of and above the specified limit shown against the following energy intensive sectors are notified as designated consumers vide S.O. 394 (E) dated the 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2007, S.O. 3542 (E) dated 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2015, S.O. 1388(E) dated 02<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 and 502147 (E) Dated 17th June, 2020, under clause (e) of section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act (52 of 2001).

S. No.	Notified Sector	Threshold Energy Consumption in metric tonne of oil equivalent (mtoe) per year
1.	Aluminium	7,500
2.	Cement	
	(a) Integrated Cement Unit	30,000
	(b) Cement Grinding Unit	10,000
3.	Commercial Buildings or Establishments	
	(a) Hotels	500
	(b) Airports	500
4.	Chlor-Alkali	12,000
5.	Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)*	All licensed distribution companies by SERC/JERC
6.	Fertilizer	30,000
7.	Iron & Steel	20,000
8.	Pulp & Paper	20,000
9.	Petroleum Refineries	90,000
10.	Petrochemical units having gas crackers or naphtha crackers or both	1,00,000
11.	Railways	
	(a) All Zonal Railways (Traction)	70,000
	(b) Workshops	750
	(C) 8 Production Factories of Railways namely ICF, RCF, CLW, DLW, DCW, RWF, MCF & RWP	-
12.	Textile	3,000
13.	Thermal Power Stations	30,000

[\*Energy Consumption of DISCOMs shall be considered equivalent to the total of Aggregate Technical & Commercial Losses (AT & C), which is equivalent to 1000 Million kWh)

All units/establishment consuming more than the listed threshold energy consumption under respective sectors, notified by the Central Government under S.O. 1264 (E) dated 31st March, 2016 and S.O. 998(E) dated 30th March, 2017, S.O. 1409(E) dated 28th March, 2018, S.O. 1473(E) dated 29th March, 2019, S.O. 1254(E) dated 13th April, 2020, S.O. 4491 (E) dated 26th October, 2021 are requested to submit to the concerned designated agency, with a copy to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a report on the status of Annual Energy Consumption, together with their annual production, for the last two years, namely, 2020-21 and 2021-22 in Form 1 notified under clause (I) of Section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (52 of 2001), duly authenticated by the Energy Manager/Chief Executive Officer.

A copy of the required sector applicable Pro-forma or Form-I could be downloaded from BEE website: <https://beeindia.gov.in/content/pat-performa>.

If any person fails to submit a report on the status of annual consumption etc by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, he shall be liable to a penalty under clause 26 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

For more information/query please contact us on 011-26766700 or send mail on [newdc@beenet.in](mailto:newdc@beenet.in).

Mission Director  
NMEEE

DAVP 34106/12/0020/2122

## Seminar On Entrepreneurship And MSME Schemes Held At NIT

Observer News Service

**S**rinagar: The Institutions Innovation Council (IIC) and Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneur Development Centre (IIEDC) in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises on Friday organized a joint awareness seminar on 'Entrepreneurship and MSME Schemes' at National Institution of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran was the Convener of the program and around 60 participants attended the seminar on Friday.

In his message Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal appreciated the organizers for organizing seminar on Entrepreneurship and MSME Schemes. Such initiatives are aimed to provide a stress-free atmosphere on the campus, he said.

"Our society is transforming rapidly, and in this growing and changing era, there is an urgent need to include global awareness issues



in our local discussions. It is important for all-round development of students," he said.

Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari appreciated the organizers of the daylong seminar. He said the primary aim event was to aware students of prevailing market challenges, schemes, and their possible solutions.

The session was hosted by, the Assistant Director of MSME, Srinagar Cluster, SaheelAlaqband. He explained what makes an entrepreneur different from a job seeker and discussed the need for entrepreneurs in Kashmir valley.

Alaqband also explained about the various schemes in MSME and assured the participants come up with a better idea and he will help in getting financial support.

The participants were very eager and asked too many questions about various entrepreneurs' backgrounds also different schemes in MSME to start with their ventures.

Head Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IIEDC) NIT Srinagar, Prof. Saad Parvez said IIED centre has been promoting innovations and entrepreneurship at every level inside and outside the campus," he said. He said IIEDC is on a perpetual journey of deepening the start-up activities in Jammu & Kashmir, especially the valley, by attempting, to solve problems of common people at the individual or community level.

"With the application of knowledge and expertise pursuing product development along with the budding entrepreneurs," he said.

Earlier, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Convener IIC of NIT Srinagar addressed the gathering and stated that they are conducting their activities on regular basis.

"The primary mandate of MIC is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by supporting them to work with new ideas while they are in formative years," he said.

Kumar later presented a vote of thanks to all participants, students for making the event successful and also narrated the year-long activities of the Institutions Innovation Council at NIT Srinagar.



Thousands of devotees from across the Kashmir Valley converged at the Hazratbal shrine on the occasion of Friday following Me'raj-e-Alam. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Over 10000 Land Passbooks Issued To Land Owners In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its endeavour to accelerate the pace of recently launched land mark initiative of providing Land Passbooks to legal Owners of land, the District Administration Srinagar today hold special Camps at all Tehsil offices of the District.

The camps were organized on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AliAzad to issue Land passbooks to the legal land owners as a reform to give fillip to transparency in the service delivery mechanism in the Revenue Department.

During the camps held today, the concerned Tehsildars hand over land Passbooks to number of lawful owners of the land.

Speaking in this regard, the Deputy Commissioner said roll out of Land Passbooks is a historic milestone in Revenue Department aimed to promote people's ease of access to the revenue record.

The DC said Land Passbook carries the same evidentiary value as if being certified copies of Record-of-Rights for all intents and purposes before Courts and Financial institutions.

The DC further said Land Passbooks issued to every landholder contains entry from the Jamabandi



in Revenue Estate, so as to enable the landholder to make its use for availing bank credit and for other matters where Revenue Records are required.

The DC added that each Land Passbook has a unique ID and QR code as an additional security feature, and with the help of QR code any ENYP Ay value as if being certified copies of Record-of-Rights for all intents and purposes before Courts and Financial institutions.

The DC added that each Land Passbook has a unique ID and QR code as an additional security feature, and with the help of QR code any institution, individual or an agency can verify the credentials and

authenticity of the Land Pass Book. "It is going to be a tool for redressal of various grievances, litigations, disputes at various forums and for reference", he added.

Giving Tehsil wise details, it was given out that over 10000 land passbooks have been issued so far summing over all Tehsils of the district.

Meanwhile, the landowners who receive land Passbooks have expressed their gratitude to the District Administration Srinagar for providing land Passbooks. They also appreciated the initiative of providing facility without moving pillar to post for want of Revenue documents.

## Security Lifted Outside Late Geelani's House

Agencies

**S**rinagar: Authorities have removed security personnel from late Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's house.

Sources revealed that the security personnel present outside the

house of late leader were removed on late Thursday night.

Syed Ali Geelani had passed away at his Hyderabad residence on September 1, last year.

Security personnel used to remain present outside the house of Geelani even after his death.

Sources said that only family members and relatives were allowed to enter the house after the demise of the nonagenarian leader, however, the security has been lifted now completely.

Sources added that the grave of late Syed Ali Geelani is still being guarded by the security personnel.

## Ten Days Later SNTPL Still Buried Under Snow

Syed Mohammad Burhan

**Srinagar:** A number of Consumers of SNTPL on Friday complained that the Internet Service Provider has failed to repair the cables damaged as a result of heavy snowfall some ten days ago.

Even as life in Kashmir quickly returned to normal, SNTPL is still struggling to repair the damaged fiber lines in many parts of the Srinagar city, putting hundreds of its subscribers to immense hardships.

The subscribers said even after registering their complaints on the same day, the company has failed to fix the broken lines even as weather started clearing from the very next day of the snowfall.

The consumers said that even after ten days since the snowfall, no one is paying heed to their woes.

Popular Radio Jockey, RJ Vijdan told Kashmir Observer, the officials at SNTPL have taken their subscribers for granted.

"Every time I make a call to the customer care, they say no complaint has been registered". He said.

"One more thing has been added to my daily routine, I call SNTPL daily now" he added.

Customers from various localities of Srinagar made similar complaints saying that SNTPL has failed to restore Fiber connection, which is affecting



their work.

Pertinently, the SNTPL fiber cables could be seen lying on roads in different areas of Srinagar.

"Whenever I call SNTPL service care, the only reply I get is that the Fibre cables are down and that I've to wait a few more days." Faisal Farooq, a resident of Shivpora told Kashmir Observer.

"If I'm asked to pay my monthly bill one day prior from the date of cancellation, then why is SNT-

PL service care running away from getting my connection fixed at this hour of need."

The disruption in high speed internet facilities hampered the working and consumers were unable to do their online work and other related functions. Businesses too were hit. So was the functioning in other sectors.

Notably, consumers also prefer to work from home due to Covid-19 and are availing the SNTPL broadband high speed internet in Kashmir.

"There were problems in the connectivity and breakdown issues due to unprecedented snowfall. But, we had already pressed our men and machinery into fixing these issues but even though these fiber cables were fixed, someone had intentionally cut these cables. It looks like someone is working behind the screen and intentionally disrupting SNTPL services in the city. It will take around a week to restore all the connections." Junaid Hussaini, Director SNTPL told Kashmir Observer.

## Government of India Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment Department Of Social Justice And Empowerment

### Invitation of Expression of Interest

Inviting Expression of interest – cum proposal from the eligible organizations for set up/manage the District De-Addiction Centres under the scheme of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

The eligible organizations shall set up / manage the District De-Addiction Centres in association with the District Collectors concerned in the following Districts. Wherease the District Administration will provide the accommodation, the Agency Selected should set up and run the DDAC in a professional manner:

1. Arunachal Pradesh (Changlang and Lohit) 2. Jammu and Kashmir (Bandipora) 3. Jharkhand (Chatra) 4. Kerala (Mallapuram) 5. Nagaland (Mon) 6. Uttarakhand (Chamoli) 7. West Bengal (Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, and Darjeeling)

The interested organizations shall refer to th website of Ministry Of Social Justice and Empowerment (www.socialjusticenic.in) and at e-Anudaan (https://grants-msije.gov.in/ngo-login) for procedure and other relevant details. The proposals shall be submitted on the e-Anudaan portal of the Ministry. The last date of submission of proposal is 07-03-2022

DAVP:38101/11/0022/2122

### 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**  
01 Shaban  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 32
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4:49
Magrib	6:33
ISHA	7: 53

## This Day In History

- 1793 - French troops are defeated by Austrian forces and Liège is recaptured
- 1795 - Amsterdam celebrates Revolution on the Dam; Square of Revolution
- 1795 - Treaty of Basel - Prussia ends war with France
- 1915 - World War I: The LZ 33, a zeppelin, is damaged by enemy fire and stranded south of Ostend.
- 1924 - Computing-Tabulating-Recording Corp becomes IBM
- 1931 - Gandhi & British viceroy Lord Irwin sign pact
- 1943 - Anti-fascist strikes in Italy
- 1943 - RAF bombs Essen Germany
- 1949 - The Jharkhand Party is founded in India.
- 1958 - Explorer 2 fails to reach Earth orbit
- 1959 - Iran & US sign economic & military treaty
- 1968 - US launches Solar Explorer 2 to study the Sun
- 1970 - Nuclear non-proliferation treaty goes into effect
- 1970 - Dubnium atoms are first detected conclusively.
- 1979 - Voyager 1's closest approach to Jupiter (172,000 miles)
- 1979 - Iran resumes petroleum exports
- 1980 - Earth satellites record gamma rays from remnants of supernova N-49
- 1981 - Michael Stewart's musical "Bring Back Birdie" opens at Martin Beck Theater, NYC for 4
- 1982 - Russian spacecraft Venera 14 lands on Venus sends back data
- 1991 - Iraq repealed its annexation of Kuwait
- 1993 - Fokker 100 crashes at Skopje Macedonia, 81 die
- 1994 - Largest milkshake made; 1,955 gallons of chocolate in Nelspruit, South Africa
- 2012 - 27 members of Iraq's security force are killed by gunmen disguised as police in Haditha
- 2012 - Tropical Storm Irina kills 65 in Madagascar
- 2013 - Venezuelan Vice-President Nicolás Maduro assumes the presidency after the death of Hugo Chávez
- 2013 - Willcom announces the world's smallest mobile phone, weighing 32 grams
- 2014 - A survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights reports that about 1/3 of women in the European Union have experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 2015 - Harrison Ford crash-lands his 1942 Ryan Aeronautical ST3KR aeroplane in California
- 2015 - 8th Islamic State militants ransack and destroy ancient cities of Nimrud, Hatra and Dur-Sharrukin in Iraq
- 2016 - US air strike kills 150 Al-Shabaab militants north of Mogadishu, Somalia
- 2017 - US President Donald Trump in a tweet accuses former President Obama without offering any evidence of wiretapping Trump Towers during the presidential campaign
- 2018 - North Korean leader Kim Jong-un meets South Korean officials for the first time since taking office, hosting a dinner in Pyongyang
- 2018 - China announces a military budget of 1.11 trillion yuan (\$175 billion)

## From KO Archives

## Mines Removal Likely To Delay Bus Service

Agencies

**I**SLAMABAD - Removal of landmines on both, sides of the Line of Control is one of the major problems that can delay the launch of the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus service.

Dawn quoting sources said on Sunday that senior military officers of India and Pakistan had established contact the other day and discussed early clearance of mines. The two sides would exchange information about the number of mines on each side of the border.

They did not rule out the possibility of the assistance in the form of technical know-how and financial help to carry out the job. Both India and Pakistan had planted thousands of mines along their border areas, including Kashmir, after wars in 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1998 (Kargil).

Sources said the two countries had agreed that not only the mines -would be removed but a road would be built to facilitate the bus travel as the existing road on both sides of the LoC was in bad shape.

Report said that Pakistan would provide funds to the army to get the road repaired and mines removed as early as possible.

"Bun this job perhaps cannot be completed by April 7, the date agreed between the two countries for revival of the old kind route on both sides of the LoC", a source said.

During a visit to Jammu on Monday, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had hinted the possibility of starting another bus service between Jammu and Sialkote.

(Kashmir Observer, 05 March, 2005)

IN MY OPINION

Human Life  
Matters, When  
The US Says So



Louay Fatoohi

UNSURPRISINGLY, the news of the Russian aggression against Ukraine is dominating the news. It is also understandable that the suffering of the innocent victims and civilians of this war has been the focus of the reporting. Sadly, this focus on human loss has not always been at the centre of interest in the reporting of other wars by those very news media. More specifically, when the USA is the aggressor, the agenda of the aggressor takes centre stage and only the human side that gets the attention is the personnel of the army that started the war. Welcome to the USA history in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lybia, Syria, and, of course, Palestine. Welcome to the world in which how much human loss matters depends on the identity of the aggressor.

I was living in Baghdad during the First Gulf War, 1991. I experienced firsthand, the relentless bombing and was one of the millions of Iraqis that the USA, supported by client countries, chose to unleash its new military technologies on. I saw and heard “smart” and not-so-smart bombs fall on every area in my city, as was happening throughout the country. I saw the devastation they caused. I visited al- Amiriyya Shelter where over four hundred civilians, mainly women and children, were literally incinerated while in hiding from the bombing. The US knew that this was a shelter for civilians. I do not know what military honours the bombers were awarded.

At the time, I did not follow how the war on Iraq was portrayed in Western media. You could only listen to some broadcasting in Arabic by some radio stations. Not that this would have helped with the raining bombs, the lack of electricity and water, and the shortage of food. What the media of the bombing countries called those unsolicited heavenly gifts was not much of interest or help. But, of course, I was aware of the main focus of the Western media before, during, and after the war: military victory.

When the second gulf war was launched in 2003, I had been living in the UK for over a decade. This time, I did not physically live through the terrible experience of having my country turned into a devastated war zone in the blink of an eye. On the other hand, I witnessed what the media in my adopted country, which had subserviently joined the USA military action, and other Western media made of destroying my country of birth.

Many, if not most, newsreaders, political analysts, and media experts were talking about cutting-edge technology, dominating the enemy, lightning-fast victory, toppling a much-resented dictator, ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction, and so on. What the “shock and awe” of thousands of tons of high explosives would do to women, children, and the elderly would not come up in news bulletins and panel discussions. It is not something one would naturally think of; is it?

When the human cost of the war was mentioned, the focus was on the losses of the invading armies, with quick reference made only now and then to the Iraqi people. After all, the US and British armies were making sacrifices for the Iraqi people. What an altruistic, almost romantic, situation. Really. The great people of Britain went out in their millions protesting against the war, and the millions of Iraqis certainly did not invite Bush and Blair to bomb their country. None of this made much of

a difference. After all, those weapons of mass destruction had to be destroyed. What if they did not exist? Well, something had to be destroyed. Two decades on from the second gulf war, we now have the same media reporting on a new invasion, but the aggressor this time is not the USA. This is a game-changer, and it is indeed a game. This time, the suffering of the Ukrainian civilians is given substantial space and airtime by media outlets. It is, of course, only right that those innocent people, their casualties and losses, and the destruction of their country be the centre of the news. But, why was this not the case in 2003? Are the Iraqis lesser human beings? The fact is that, in wars, the value of human life is decided by the identity of the power behind the aggression. The Iraqis did not matter much because the aggressor was the USA, whereas the Ukrainians do matter, as they should, because the aggressor is Russia. This is why Western media could afford

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Islamic country?

to mention only in passing the many weddings and innocent human gatherings in Afghanistan that USA rockets and bombs regularly wiped out of life justified as operations targeting a terrorist or two. And by the way, there are people in Palestine other than the Israelis.

A major source of the anger of Western media and politicians is the fact that the new war is happening in Europe! “Why and how?”, those bewildered experts ask. Is this not the kind of thing that usually happens in the Middle East or an Islamic country? That is why those Russian idiots should not be allowed to wage war. Wars should be left to those who know where and against whom they should be launched. They should be left to the war experts.

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

Louay is a prolific author who has published over twenty-five books in English and Arabic in Islamic studies

Unabated  
Banality Of  
Western Media



Yemeni children closing their ears to the sounds of bombardment by US-Saudi led coalition

Khan Khawar Achakzai

“This isn't Iraq or Afghanistan...This is a relatively civilised, relatively European city” - CBS foreign correspondent Charlie D'Agata

“This time, war is wrong because the people look like us and have Instagram and Netflix accounts.It's not in a poor, remote country any more” - Daniel Hannan, The Telegraph

“It's an important question. We're not talking here about Syrians fleeing...We're talking about Europeans.”- BFM TV France

RECENTLY, the Ukraine crisis was played on a loop on leading Western news channels while ghastlier predicaments in other parts of the world were read out as passing comments, alluding to a moral relativism and an odious indifference to ‘some’ lives by the Western media. What needs to be understood is that this indifference and relativism were not perchance, but form a constant theme of reportage in the West, across all sorts of journalistic and reporting ideologies.

Representations are underpinned with ideologies and are complicit with power and control. In the Foucauldian sense, those who “represent are the ones who own the gaze”, and use the power to define and produce those who are represented, like Foucault suggested that “subject is produced by discourse”. The language-power exchange can be found in his ‘Incitement to discourse’ pointing out to the premises of “subjugation at the level of language”. Ski Hung Ng explains how language “maintains and reproduces existing dominance”. Therefore, words control!

When the Russian forces entered Ukrainian borders, the very same day there was an Israeli airstrike in the town of Quneitra, which lies near the armistice line on the Golan Heights, numerous airstrikes by Saudi in Yemen and US airstrikes in Somalia. All of them together could hardly manage a few minutes on-air on most of the news channels and an equally indisposed response by the per-functionaries and champions of human rights all over the Western world.

The insouciance and detachment in reporting which Western media has now gone on air to pronounce openly as “less civilised world” points towards what the media had been subtly suggesting over years in order to successfully reinforce racial hegemony of West over East by constructing an entirely different visibility for them. The French theorist Jacques Rancière believed that an image does not just represent itself in isolation but rather, “belongs to a system of visibility that governs the status of the bodies represented and the kind of attention they merit. The issue is knowing the kind of attention prompted by some particular system.”

The angst and disappointment was conveyed by holding Russia responsible for inflicting upon the white races something which was a natural retribution meant only for the “inferior” people of Syria, Afghanistan and Libya. What was meant for the “non-civil” had come to pass the “Civil”. The reporting was rife with comments that reeked White-Supremacy, racism and Islamophobia.

But it is not just the syntax that is racist, it is the innards of the western media that have thrived for years on blatant racial prejudice. Newsrooms have been trite with demonised cultural representation of Muslims, Africans and Latin Americans by employing a vocabulary of distortion and pseudo-rhetoric; of gendered portrayals and racial stereotyping in order to satisfy a self-righteous idea of some vacuous “civility”. News anchors have successfully manipulated the Western psyche into believing that those with a darker skin tone or a flatter nose or a certain attire are of a lesser humanity and have justified the need of flying F-16s over their heads so as to scare the savages into realising the authority of the civilised lighter skinned blue eyed blonde haired race “who look like us, eat like us, use Instagram and Netflix and we would love to have as our neighbours”.

The images of Syrian or Palestinian children with blood oozing out of their ears or eyes popping out might disturb the aesthetic sensitivities of Western intellectuals but their moral and humanistic sensitivities remain largely unfazed.

The racism and hatred is strident and unapologetic when discussing Muslims. The Western media has been triumphant in “defining” as Islam (in Foucauldian sense) what E. Said believed to “belong to the discourse of Orientalism, a construction fabricated to whip up feelings of hostility and antipathy against a part of the world that happens to be of strategic importance for its oil, its threatening adjacency to Christian world, and its formidable history of competitiveness with the West”.

They have served both as propagandists and expositors of the Western aggression, justifying its every action, from grand thefts of natural resources to gruesome bombings of civilians, by spelling out the non-white as a threat to their self-conceived, opaque and morally banal idea of a reductive civility, over and over again.

Thousands of years ago in Greece, anyone who did not speak Greek was automatically relegated as a barbarian, an uncouth “Other” that was to be fought. The otherisation was carried out in theory by historians like Herodotus by constructing a nefarious image of the Scythians and the Persians, often by fanciful imagery. The otherisation paved way to what are known as the Scythian campaigns of Darius which caused widespread damage to Scythians and their allies.

Similar fanciful imagery by the dilettante of the Military-industrial-media complex, have come up with a deliberate disregard for both history and current actualities of their “subjects”. The shallowness to the fact that effluent civilisations date back to a remote history for these races and regions when compared to West. After all, weren't the Saxons and Vikings still raiding and killing savagely across Europe, drowned in the illiteracy and barbarism of the ‘Dark Ages’ when Muhammad Ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi had already finished half of his theorems on algebra and the city of Córdoba had more than 600 libraries? What about the earliest

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Chinese, Mesopotamian and Indian civilisation, the mysteries of which continue to awe the finest of White races till date.

But in the words of Cesaire, “their false objectivity, their chauvinism, their sly racism, their depraved passion for refusing to acknowledge any merit in the non-white races, their obsession of all glory for their own race”, in order to justify a sacred and congenial right to Renan's “regeneration of the inferior or degenerate races by the superior races”, which he considered part of the “providential order of things for humanity”.

The disregard is laced with considerations of power, what Edward Said calls, “a conceptual framework around the notion of us-versus them, in effect to pretend that the principal consideration is epistemological and natural- our civilisation is known and accepted, theirs is different and strange— whereas in fact the framework separating us from them is belligerent, constructed and situational”.

Aime Cesaire in his poetics of anti-colonialism holds not only the sadistic governors and “colonialists who flog” responsible for plundering but also the “venomous journalists, goitrous academics” who are in the essence of reality the tools of torture openly or secretly supportive of the hateful slave trade.

These venomous journalists have created grounds for Western Imperialism by acting as its advocates and cheerleaders . They have proclaimed impunity over themselves and the blood thirsty expansionist enterprises by either legitimising representational inequality or by propaganda.

“A civilisation that uses its principles for trickery and deceit is a dying civilisation.” — Aime Cesaire

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OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



“Narbal to Baramulla road is the highway filled with Trash. District Adm Baramulla seems to have no plans to clear it ? Funds available with @mission\_sbm not utilized on ground Wake up authorities”

@rtimuzaffar

“ Because Russia didn't do what western intelligence expected/wanted, does that make it Russian 'failure'? Western media were told to expect another Dresden or Hiroshima. Didn't happen”

@Bhadrapunchline

“ In Kashmir, schools are finally opening up normally. I hope schools will go easy on kids n not burden them for some weeks. Keep it light. Let them socialise. It's going to be difficult for kids to navigate school. Let the first lesson be friendship”

@tooba\_tweets

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



ALMIGHTY ALLAH HAS BESTOWED AND BLESSED THE HUMAN beings with several blessings, gifts, skills, etc. and conferred him the title Ashraf al-Makhlūqat (the Supreme Creature or the crown of the creation).

# Major And Vital Recurring Themes Of Qur'an

## Introducing Prof. Kidwai's The Quran: Essential Teachings

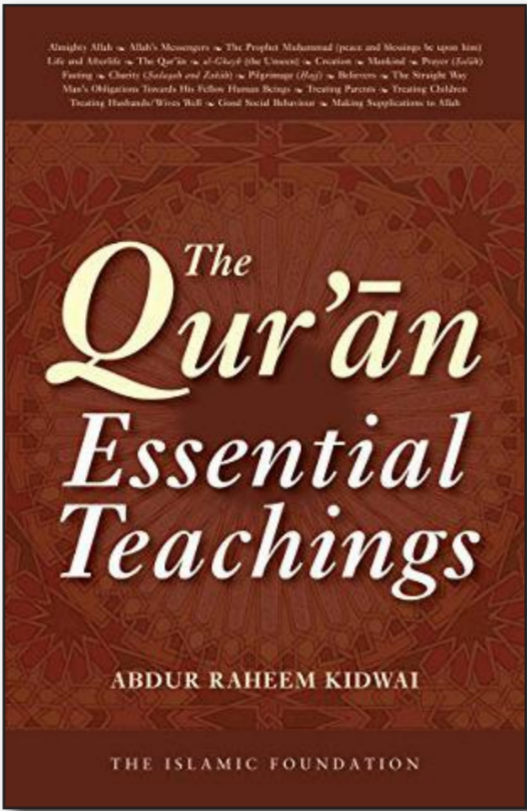


**Title:** The Qur'an: Essential Teachings  
**Author:** Abdur Raheem Kidwai  
**Publication Details:** Leicestershire, UK: The Islamic Foundation, 2005 (also published by Mumbai: Jaico Publishing House, 2006); Pages: viii+192; ISBN: 9788179925690; Paperback

*~'The Qur'an: Essential Teachings' attempts to engage readers of all intellectual levels to focus on the major, vital and recurring themes of the Qur'an in a coherent and lucid style~*

PROFESSOR ABDUR RAHEEM KIDWAI is currently (Honorary) Director of K. A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), India. He has two PhDs in English, one from AMU and the other from University of Leicester (UK). In October 2021, he attained superannuation as professor of English and Director UGC-HRDC, AMU. His major areas of research interest include (i) English and Urdu Literature and Literary Orientalism; (ii) Higher Education and Indian Muslims; and (iii) Islam, Qur'anic Studies, and English Translations of the Qur'an. For his vast academic contribution, he is described by Abdul Kader Choughley (of South Africa) as a "versatile scholar in academia", whose prolific writings cover "fields as diverse as Literary Orientalism, education and Qur'anic Studies. His academic credentials and familial tradition have immensely enriched emerging trends of Islamic scholarship." Some of his major works in the field of Quranic Studies include The Qur'an: Essential Teachings (2005/2006); Bibliography of the Translations of the Meaning of the Glorious Quran into English, 1649-2002 (2007); Daily Wisdom: Selections from the Holy Quran (2011); Translating the Untranslatable: A Critical Guide to 60 English Translations of the Quran (2011); What is in the Quran? Message of the Quran in Simple English (2013/2019); 365 Selections from the Holy Quran (2014); God's Word, Man's Interpretations (2019); and The Quran Speaks to You (2021).

Having a look on these titles it becomes evident, as rightly observed by Dr Choughley, that "Qur'anic studies dominates Kidwai's multi-dimensional career". His The Quran: Essential Teachings (published in 2005 from UK and in 2006 from Mumbai) is one of his early major works in the field of the Qur'anic Studies in general and a significant work in the genre of "thematic studies of the Qur'an" in particular. In this context, below is presented a summary of this book so that to get clues of its contents and coverage, style and structure, methodology and approach, and the contribution it makes in the genre of 21st century literature on "thematic studies of the Qur'an".



First published in 2005 by the Islamic Foundation, UK, it mainly deals, in a lucid and coherent manner, with the concepts of God, Messenger-ship, Hereafter, and on themes like modes of worship and social and family relations. The concepts and themes it covers are: Almighty Allah, Allah's Messengers, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Life and Afterlife, the Qur'an, Al-Ghayb (The Unseen), Creation, Mankind, Prayer, Fasting, Charity (Sadaqah and Zakat), Pilgrimage, Believers, The Straight Way, Man's Obligations towards his fellow human beings, Treating Parents, Children, Husbands-Wives well, Good Social Behavior, and making Supplications to Allah (Dua'). It, thus, brings together, very coherently, some of the major themes of the Quran, and also highlights some vital themes recurring throughout the pages of the Sacred Text. And one of the major features and significant contribution of this work is that on many instances, it makes comparison with major world faiths (like from the Bible and other Christian and other sources) to give a comparative look on some major beliefs, which are common in all religions, and, in Kidwai's words, to give readers a clear idea of the Quranic guidance on some major issues faced by them" (p. vi).

The author highlights, in a chronological order, the concepts of Tawhid, Risalah, and Aakhirah in its opening chapters, viz., Almighty Allah, Allah's Messengers, The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The third chapter is full of remarkable observations about the Prophet's blessed life and his role as a perfect role model for humanity. In the fourth chapter, Life and Afterlife are presented very comprehensively as two stages of man's life cycle. Then it highlights, in a simple but insightful manner, the terms, concepts and themes like the Qur'an, Al-Ghayb (The Unseen), Creation, Mankind, Prayer (Salah), Fasting, Charity (Sadaqah and Zakah), Pilgrimage (Hajj), Believers, and the Straight Way.

This is followed by a number of themes which actually are aspects of 'social ethics in Islam'. These include man's obligations towards his fellow human beings; treating parents and children, and the rights and duties of a husband-wife, and good social behavior. This is followed, in the end, by a chapter on the 'Making Supplications to Allah (Dua)'. All in all, this book is, as its contents reveal, a precious gift which helps in understanding the guidelines and instructions of the Sacred Text for different aspects of life.

Kidwai, in its Preface, highlights that in this work "some basic Qur'anic terms, concepts, and themes are explained in a simple language. The work is intended to help readers get an idea of the Qur'anic worldview, the articles of faith, God-man relationship in Islam, Religious duties in Islam, [and] the Qur'anic code of conduct governing social relations" (pp. v-vi). And in its Foreword, M. Manazir Ahsan writes: Kidwai's work contains a fairly elaborate explanation of twenty Qur'anic terms and concepts with a view to highlighting the Qur'anic viewpoint on some major issues of faith, religious obligations and social life ... [with an] aim of conveying effectively the message of the Qur'an to those who are unable to study the Qur'an in its Arabic original" (p. vii). To grasp an impression of Kidwai's work, and these claims, below are presented few statements from this book which are related to the Qur'an, Life-Afterlife connection, and on good social behaviour; these will prove helpful in justifying the author's claim.

For Kidwai, the Qur'an is essentially Book of Guidance, a universal and a perfect moral code which urges humanity to profess and practice good [activities] and shun evil [deeds]; it cautions humanity against all that is injurious to its moral, emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being; and its moral precepts infuse into man self-restraint, God-consciousness and purity in both word and deed. Being timeless, the Quran as a Book of guidance turned and transformed the 7th century Arabs into timeless role models of excellent conduct and enviable morals and manners. It has continued, and will continue till Doomsday, to provide the same guidance to millions of people in every age. The Quran prescribes the role model of exemplary behavior in both theory and practice, and is a miracle, the like of which cannot be imitated (pp. 40-41, 44, 46).

Almighty Allah has bestowed and blessed the human beings with several blessings, gifts, skills, etc. and conferred him the title Ashraf al-Makhlūqat (the Supreme Creature or the crown of the creation). Among many gifts granted to mankind are the Worldly Life (Hayat al-Dunya) and the Life Hereafter/ Afterlife (Aakhirah). Life is one of the most precious gifts, which God has made sacred and sacrosanct (as in Q. 6: 151 and 17: 33), and has made human beings most sanctified and sacrosanct. Life is a cycle (Q. 2: 156). Each life is an integral part of the humanity as a whole, as becomes clear from Q. 5: 32: "if one kills a (an innocent) person, ... it is as if he had killed all mankind. And if one saves the life of a person, it is as if he saved all mankind."

There is inter-connection between this life and life next to come; and while linking Worldly life with Afterlife, the Qur'an, in Kidwai's opinion, does not reject life in this world and man's concomitant obligations both towards God and towards his fellow human beings. Yet the Qur'an asks man not to let his mind and heart swerve even momentarily from the thought of the Afterlife, for the Qur'an condemns materialism. And in this respect, the Qur'an alone holds the distinction of maintaining a fine balance between this life and the concerns of the Next. It is beyond the human mind to strike such a perfect amalgam (pp. 43-44). Thus, Life and the Afterlife are not some unfathomable mysteries. The former culminates in the latter. Life is

thus a continuum; death is the line of demarcation between the two. Death does not represent the total end. Rather, man's deeds in this life will determine his reward or punishment in the Next Life. Notwithstanding its ephemeral nature, this life is a part of the ultimate reality and has its lasting impact on man's fate in the Afterlife (p. 35).

Similarly, in the light of the Q. 49: 10-13, Kidwai is of the opinion that in these verses the emphasis is on building cordial, happy social relations among men and women, regardless of their affiliations. The directives aim at forging and sustaining a mutually helpful and trustworthy community life, ensuring peaceful coexistence among all members of the society. Social justice is the distinct message of the passage. It seeks to infuse such virtues which guarantee a happy, peaceful life for everyone. It resounds with a strong plea for a tension-free society, without social, emotional and psychological strains (p. 175).

The book has been highly praised both locally and at global levels. For example, (Late) Professor Zafar Ishaq Ansari of Pakistan, in his lengthy review on this book (published in Islamic Studies, 45, 4, 2006: 629-33), writes: "a well-known Indian Muslim scholar [Prof. Kidwai] has attempted to present the Qurans essential teachings [in a] reasonable and efficacious [way] as the most important subjects which the Quran addresses over and again are, by far and large, well-covered. The book not only provides one's mind with food for thought but is also a treat for the eyes". Prof. Abdul Rashid Bhat (Kashmir University), in his review (published in Insight Islamicus, 6, 2006: 211-14) summarizes the significance of Kidwai's book in these lines: "written for the general English readers who want to comprehend the basic teachings and concepts of the Quran, Kidwai's book is about the basic concepts of the Quran and can be broadly divided into four sections. All these sections treat the Quranic teachings about beliefs, status of man, ritual worship (ibadat) and social dealings among human beings respectively. The use of simple and lucid language in the book appropriately befits the objective of the author. By this clarity of the concepts the book becomes more useful for the reader. On the whole, the book is highly commendable work as a systematic, minute and simple treatment of the major teachings of the Quran".

Similarly, Dr Syed Asim Ali, in its critical review (published in AJISS, USA, 25,2, 2008: 133-35), writes that Kidwai's book is a brilliant work, which is designed to equip readers with the necessary tools to grasp better advanced works on the Quran. It presents some major themes, concepts, and teachings of the Sacred Text in a very lucid, fluent, and persuasive manner. For Ali, this book has a great instructional value for those who are predisposed to accept things as they are told to them. It is a highly useful manual for the lay believer.

Thus, on the basis of the above assessment it may be fairly concluded that Kidwai's The Qur'an: Essential Teachings attempts to engage readers of all intellectual levels to focus on the major and vital (recurring) themes of the Qur'an, including perfect code of conduct, ethical values, social behavior, moral precepts and sanctity of human life in a coherent and lucid style. The book not only provides one's mind with food for thought but it acts as treat for the eyes as well. It is a must read for every Muslim to grasp the message of the Sacred Text on some major and vital concepts and themes recurring time and again in the Qur'an—the Last Message from the Creator towards humanity.

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## The Sunshine Leggie

Shane Warne, Australia's Legendary Legspinner, Died Aged 52 Yesterday. In A More Than Two Decades Old Interview, The Cricketer Who Was Fondly Deemed To Be The Mr Hollywood Of The Team Recalls His Most Memorable

S. Dinakar

The man has just about everything. Super looks and super talent. No wonder his teammates call him Mr. Hollywood; he has the aura of a celebrity from the film studios of Los Angeles. Shane Warne... the name spells magic.

But deep down, the Aussie who often spins a web around the best batsmen in the business, who has done more than anyone else to put leg-spin in the forefront and who is one of the richest players in world cricket today, remains a simple man.

The Victorian has no airs about him, even after a hard session at the nets he patiently signs autographs for the fans, with that smile on his face.

The sunshine leggie has provided us with so many memorable moments - the monster leg-break that left Gattling stunned and changed the course of a series, the amazing hat-trick in front of his home crowd against old enemy England, and quite the perfect leg-spinner which did Basit Ali in.

And in this World Cup, Warne came up with a teasing spell at a critical juncture as the Aussies did an escape act at Mohali. He had an off-day in the summit clash in Lahore but as Warne generalises you got to take good days with the bad ones.

Of course, he has had more good days than



bad; it seems like it was only yesterday that he made his Test debut and he already has more than 200 Test scalps. He is a blithe spirit and this is reflected in his approach to bowling. He is never afraid of giving the ball air, even when the batsmen are going hell for leather, even in the cauldron of a one-day game.

Warne spoke to Sportstar in Madras. **How did you take to leg-spin bowling and who were your early heroes?**

I used to watch a couple of club cricketers, who used to bowl a bit of leg-spin. I was curious, and asked them how to go about it. I asked them about the grip and stuff like that. Then I learnt about it myself. It more or less started there. I worked hard on my bowling, you have to make some sacrifices if you have

to get somewhere.

My heroes were Ian Chappell, Rod Marsh, Viv Richards, Ian Botham. Those sort of cricketers were my idols. I never had any leg-spinner as my idol during the early days. Since I started playing, Richie Benaud has been a great influence on me. You can say he is my idol now. He is a person I really like to have a chat with. He has got a very good cricketing brain. He and Abdul Qadir were probably the two great leg-spinners of the past.

**You were one of the early products of the Australian cricket Academy...**

I was the first one who played for Australia from the cricket Academy, but I think it is run a lot better now. When I was there it was not all that good, that's why I left. I left the

Academy because it was not doing much for me at that stage. Now it is very good with Rod Marsh around. It is always good to have the right people at the right places. It is producing good players now.

When I was there there were two make-shift guys who were there to coach the players and I was not happy at all. Now with someone like Marsh around, the results are there for all to see.

**Two deliveries of yours are special, the one that bowled Mike Gatting at Old Trafford and the one that dismissed Basil Ali at Sydney...**

The delivery which got Gatting was a huge leg-break, and bowled him around his legs. It is a delivery I shall remember for the rest of my life. That was my first ball in England, in an Ashes series. Some said they had never seen the ball turn so much. There was a big build-up before the series and my form had not been good before that. It was one of those dream deliveries you can say. It changed the complexion of the series.

The Englishmen were never confident against me after that ball. The Basit Ali delivery was the last ball of the day. The game was evenly poised then. We planned that wicket. Basit Ali loves to waste time, I too wasted some time and made him sweat on the last ball.

Myself and Ian Healy had a chat about it. And Healy is really a shrewd observer. He came up with an idea that I should try to bowl him from outside the leg-stump. I got him. Myself

and Ian Healy had come up with a good plan.

**And then there was the hat-trick before your home crowd at Melbourne against old enemy England with Boon bringing off a splendid catch...**

It was Booney's birthday. I feel sad that he has left now. He was such a great cricketer. I still think he had a lot to offer and he chose to retire. He was a team-man and a real fighter. This is something I shall always remember, getting a hat-trick in an Ashes Test in Melbourne, on Booney's birthday, and Booney taking the catch for my third wicket.

It was a great close-in catch, at short-leg, too. One of the classics. You can always expect Boon to come up with something like that. It was in front of my home crowd and there were 40,000 people on the last day. It was an amazing feeling. There is always that special feeling when you take on England.

**But the spell that really changed your career was against the Windies at the MCG in 1992...**

It really was an important Test for me at the MCG. I got seven wickets on the last day in front of 50,000 people, and Australia won the Test. That was also the Boxing Day. That performance is special to me because that was the first time I won a match for Australia. I remember getting the skipper (Richie Richardson) with a flipper. Suddenly I was a star.

*This interview was first published in the Sportstar magazine dated 30/03/1996*

# BBC Temporarily Suspends Journalists' Work In Russia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London: The BBC said on Friday that it had no choice but to temporarily suspend its journalists' work in Russia after the Kremlin brought in a new law that could mean a jail term of up to 15 years for anyone spreading "fake" information about the country's armed forces.

BBC Director-General Tim Davie said the legislation "appears to criminalise the process of independent journalism" and that safety of the British Broadcasting Corporation staff is "paramount".

It said that its news service in Russian will continue to operate from outside Russia.

The move follows a new law passed in the Russian Duma, the Lower House of its Parliament, on Friday, which warns of imprisonment if so-called fake news leads to serious consequences.

"It leaves us no other option than to temporarily suspend the work of all BBC News journalists and their support staff within the Russian Federation while we assess the full implications of this unwelcome development," said Tim Davie.

He added: Our BBC News service in Russian will continue to operate from outside Russia. The safety of our staff is paramount and we are not prepared to expose them to the



risk of criminal prosecution simply for doing their jobs. I'd like to pay tribute to all of them, for their bravery, determination and professionalism.

"We remain committed to making accurate, independent information available to audiences around the world, including the millions of Russians who use our news services. Our journalists in Ukraine and around the world will continue to report on the invasion of Ukraine."

The new law is designed to give Russia powers to suppress information that it deems as "fake" about its

invasion of Ukraine, which the Kremlin calls a special military operation.

Russia's Upper House of Parliament approved the law on Friday, and it could take effect in the coming days after President Vladimir Putin signs it off.

Access to BBC websites had already been restricted in Russia. News outlets Deutsche Welle, Meduza and Radio Liberty also had their services limited, Russia's state-owned news agency RIA said.

Twitter and Facebook have both reported having their services restricted and deliberately slowed down.

# India Seeks Ceasefire To Evacuate Its Citizens From Conflict Zones In Ukraine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: India on Friday sought ceasefire by Russian and Ukrainian troops for evacuation of its citizens from the conflict zones of Kharkiv and Sumy in eastern Ukraine and said it is yet to see any movement in implementation of the decision by the two sides to create safe corridors for the exit of civilians.

Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said that around 300 Indians are stranded in Kharkiv and 700 are in Sumy, while some citizens out of over 900 are being taken out of Pischyn in five buses.

At a media briefing, he said over 20,000 Indians have left Ukraine since India issued initial advisories in mid-February before the conflict began and that over 10,300 citizens were brought back in 48 flights under evacuation mission 'Operation Ganga' so far.

Bagchi said Indian student Harjot Singh, who received bullet injuries in Kyiv, is safe and undergoing treatment at a hospital, adding the Indian government will pay for his medical treatment.

He said India is primarily focusing on evacuating its nationals out of the conflict zones in eastern Ukraine including from Kharkiv and Sumy, adding that the total number of Indians stuck in Ukraine could be roughly in the range of 2,000 to 3,000.

To a question on Russian media reports that five Indian students were injured in a conflict zone on Thursday and the whereabouts of 11 others are not known, Bagchi said India does



not have any such information.

Asked about Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments on some Indians being held hostage by Ukrainian forces, the MEA spokesperson once again rejected the claim saying India does not have any such information or reports.

On Thursday too, Bagchi rejected claims by both Russia and Ukraine that Indian students are being held hostage in Kharkiv.

In the briefing, he also said that India has evacuated one Bangladeshi national as part of its mission to bring back the stranded Indians.

Bagchi said India was in touch with all parties concerned on the evacuation of the Indians and sought "local ceasefire" in the conflict zones to get them out of the areas witnessing fighting and violence.

The spokesperson also said that India has not seen any movement after it emerged that Russia and Ukraine on Thursday agreed to the need for the

creation of humanitarian corridors to help civilians leave the conflict zones.

"We have not seen anything further to that in terms of implementation of the same on the ground. We are closely and eagerly monitoring that," he said.

"If that happens, it will certainly help our process. We have been asking for a cessation of hostilities by both sides. Local ceasefire or whatever works to get our people out of the conflict zones," Bagchi said.

Asked about Russian reports that Moscow has arranged 130 buses for evacuation of Indians from eastern Ukrainian cities, Bagchi said the buses are around 50-60 km away from where the students are.

"They are frankly too far away. We do not see a safe and secure way to reach them. I would appeal and urge the parties concerned to have a local ceasefire at least so that the students can go to the buses," he said.

"We don't want the students

to cross through a place where they are at risk. Anything can happen in a war zone, so we always want a safe route for our students. We have told both sides publicly that there should be a local ceasefire so we can get our students out," he said.

According to media reports from Moscow, Russian authorities have arranged 130 buses to take stranded Indians from Kharkiv and Sumy to the Russian city of Belgorod.

Bagchi suggested that the Russian side should come with the buses and take the students.

On whether an IL-76 transport aircraft is being put on standby for evacuation of Indians from the Russian side, Bagchi, without giving a specific reply said, "All are in readiness."

"The core problem is how we get the students from where they are to the buses which are far away," he said.

Bagchi said around 20,000 Indians have left Ukraine's borders since India issued its first travel advisories in mid-February. He suggested that it has now emerged that the total number of Indians in Ukraine was more than the 20,000 citizens who had registered with the embassy in Kyiv.

He said 15 flights landed in India as part of the evacuation mission during the last 24 hours, bringing back more than 3,000 nationals.

The spokesperson said 16 flights are scheduled for the next 24 hours.

Over 10,300 Indians brought back in 48 flights under evacuation mission 'Operation Ganga' so far, he added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Massive Fire

Meanwhile, the Health & Medical Education Department said that all patients have been evacuated "as per preliminary information" and they are being shifted to other government health facilities.

"The Health & Medical Education Deptt is deeply concerned and monitoring the aftermath of the devastating fire incident at B&J Hospital Srinagar," the department said in a Tweet.

"Reasons are being ascertained why the incident happened despite regular fire safety audits and adequate measures."

In another tweet, the department said that preliminary information suggests that all patients have been evacuated and are being shifted to other government health facilities.

### Friday Prayers

mosque hurt our religious sentiments badly," he said.

Meanwhile, emotional scenes were witnessed as large number of men; women and children were seen kissing the pillars of the historic mosque with moist eyes.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole and Inspector General of Police, Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar had visited the 14th century mosque in the Nowhatta area on Monday to take stock of arrangements being made to ensure COVID-19-appropriate behaviour is followed in case congregational prayers are allowed to resume.

The mosque remained mostly closed for congregational Friday prayers since August 2019 following abrogation of Article 370. The COVID-19 pandemic also forced its closure for a long time. (With agency inputs)

### Friday Following

attendance was highest at afternoon prayers. Thousands of devotees also offered special prayers last night.

The local administration had made special arrangements and traffic was manned to ensure smooth movement. Besides private and public transport, J&K Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) had made arrangements for carrying devotees.

A senior traffic police said that no traffic jam or any disruption in traffic was complained from any side.

Many makeshift refreshment and medical camps were set up by various government and non-governmental organizations for the devotees.

Similar congregational prayers were held in many other shrines in the valley include Khanqah-e-Mualla, Dastgeer Sahib Khanyar, Ziyarat Syed Sahib Sonwar and Ziyarat Makhdoom Sahib, Jinab Sahib Soura, Aasar-i-Sharief Shahri Kailshpora etc.

Special prayers were also held at Masjid and shrines in Islamabad (Anantnag) mainly at Jamia Masjid Reshi Sahab, Khiram Sirhama, Kaba Marg, Dooru and Seer Hamdan.

### Injured Militant

on he started working as an OGW,"

the official added .

He said that searches have been launched to trace another militant who was accompanying the injured one. He said there was a brief shoot as soon as the duo saw the joint party of Police and army. More details will follow.

### Worshippers Attacked

up among the people offering Friday prayers.

One witness saw the attacker clad in black Shalwar-Kameez rush into the mosque during Friday prayers and open "fire with a pistol", picking out the worshippers "one-by-one".

He "then blew himself up", Ali Asghar said.

Police said that the explosives used in the attack were homemade, weighing around five to six kilograms. Ball bearings and other shrapnel producing material were used in the bomb.

A survivor speaking to journalists said, "I opened my eyes and there was dust and bodies everywhere."

As per reports, there were two attackers but only one of them was a suicide bomber. Capital City Police Officer Peshawar Ijaz Ahsan said two attackers tried to enter the mosque and fired at the policemen standing guard. One policeman was killed while the other was critically injured, he said.

An AFP reporter saw body parts strewn at the site, where desperate family members were held back by police. The explosion blew out the windows of nearby buildings.

A spokesman for Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital said "we have declared an emergency at the hospitals and more injured are being brought".

There was chaos as doctors struggled to move the many wounded into operating theatres. The hospital has been put on red alert, the spokesperson added.

Peshawar -- just 50 kilometres from the porous border with Afghanistan -- was a frequent target of terrorists in the early 2010s but security has greatly improved in recent years.

Sunni majority Pakistan has recently been battling a resurgence of its domestic chapter of the Taliban, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

A one-month truce last year failed to hold and there are fears the TTP -- which has targeted Shia and Sunni Muslims alike in the past -- has been emboldened by the success of the Afghan Taliban.

Shia Muslims in the region have also been targeted by the regional iteration of the ISIS group, Islamic State Khorasan (ISK).

At least 31 people were killed in a suicide blast at a crowded market in Peshawar in 2018.

At least 88 people died and hundreds more were wounded a year earlier when a suicide bomber blew himself up among a crowd of devotees at a revered Sufi shrine in southern Sindh province.

### Govt To Buy

financial outlay of Rs 1,523 crore, the modernisation is to be implemented by

the MHA under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah from February 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026, it said.

The scheme will equip the CAPFs with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment as per their operational requirement, keeping in view their deployment pattern in different theatres, it said, adding that upgraded IT solutions will also be provided.

This would bolster the government's ability to address the challenges faced along the International Border, Line of Control (LoC), Line of Actual Control (LAC) as well as in different theatres, such as areas affected by Left Wing Extremism, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and insurgency affected north-eastern states, the statement said.

The CAPFs are include the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is mostly deployed for internal security duties and the fighting militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Border Security Force (BSF) guards India's border with Pakistan and Bangladesh, besides also often handling internal security assignments.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) protects vital installations like nuclear projects, airports and metro networks.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) protects the Sino-Indian border.

The Shashastra Seema Bal (SSB) guards India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan while the National Security Guard (NSG) is country's elite commando force to tackle any emergency security situation.

The Assam Rifles is deployed along the India-Myanmar border and for anti-insurgency duties in the northeast.

### PM Modi Made

society people of the state."

Heaping praises for the work done by the incumbent BJP government, Shah said they have provided houses to about 82 lakh poor people of the state. "2.54 crore farmers have been given Rs 6,000 in their bank accounts every year under PM Kisan Yojana. After the formation of the BJP government in the state, no farmer will have to pay electricity bills," Shah said.

A total of 54 Assembly seats across nine districts including Azamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra, will go to polls in the seventh and final phase on March 7.

### Kashmiri Students

that was launched to bring back stranded Indian students from Ukraine, Poland, Hungary and Romania.

Earlier, 18 Kashmiri students had landed at Delhi Airport in these evacuation flights from Poland and Romania. 13 of these students were flown back to Delhi from Romania while 5 others were brought back from Poland.

Shahid Habib, one of the students who landed at Srinagar Airport on Friday, told Kashmir Observer that the situation in Ukraine is extremely dangerous.

"Many of our friends are still trapped

there. They should be brought in quickly as they do not have any facilities at present and their difficulties are constantly increasing due to the intensifying war. The students have no food to eat at the moment. There are many Indian students who are still staying in university hostels. Several students have not been able to get out of the bunkers for the past two days," Shahid said.

Shahid says reaching home wasn't as easy as it sounds as the journey from Kharkiv--where these students were putting up in an underground basement--to Moldova was fraught with risks.

Pertinently, ten more Kashmiri students are expected to land on Srinagar Airport from Delhi. These students were stranded in Ukraine for more than six days and had come back to Delhi via Budapest. Earlier, on the day, 5 members of a family had landed at Srinagar Airport.

National Spokesperson of J&K Students Association Nasir Kheuhami confirmed to Kashmir Observer that 10 more Kashmiri students will reach Srinagar on Saturday.

"These students were stranded in Ukraine and came back via Romania to Delhi. J&K Government has arranged their Boarding for tomorrow & for now; they have been shifted to J&K House Delhi." Nasir added.

### Hangul Population

growth or drop.

On Wednesday, a video surfaced on social media showing a large herd of Hangul in Dachigam, much to the delight of officials and the locals.

The video was posted by Naqash on Twitter which showed a 53-strong Hangul herd on the snow-covered slopes of Dachigam park in the Zabarwan mountain range.

"This was the biggest herd I have seen ever in my life," Dentoo said, adding "It's a healthy sign for all of us, since the Hangul figures in Red List of threatened species."

He said the department has taken many initiatives to preserve Hangul and the latest census is the testimony to that.

Dantoo further said that the group spotted Wednesday has given hope that the conservation efforts of the department have started yielding positive results.

He said apart from patrolling to stop poaching, the department is regularly maintaining the habitat for the Hangul which include plantation of fruit bearing trees so that there is no scarcity of food for the Hangul and creation of water holes for them.

"From last 2-3 years, we have planted almost one lakh fruit bearing trees for the Hangul in Dachigam," Dentoo said.

He said that the department in February made arrangements for food for Hangul following a snowfall.

He further added that they have fenced those areas where there are chances of man-animal conflict and have also taken people on-board for

the conservation of Hangul.

Meanwhile, the department on Thursday celebrated World Wildlife Day by organising a series of programs in Kashmir.

At Srinagar, a programme was held at Dachigam Park--home of the Hangul, in which local youth and representatives were sensitized about role, responsibilities and potential for eco-guides in Wildlife Protected Areas, Dentoo said.

### Covid III Wave

infected with COVID-19 are admitted for treatment in the entire J&K,"

Dr Saleem Khan, Head of the Department Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar, confirmed to Kashmir Observer that the COVID Testing lab (Department of Microbiology) reports 'No Positive' status on Friday, when all 1651 samples tested in last 24 hours tested Negative for SARS CoV-2.

"It is good news, the cases are reaching at lowest levels," Khan said.

He further added that testing in GMC Srinagar started in March 2020 and for the first time in two years all the samples (1651) came out Covid-19 negative.

### 18 New Cases

Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Shopian and Budgam registered no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu detected a maximum of 12 new cases of virus, Doda 2 and Kishtwar 1. No fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from the remaining seven districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi.

Also, the officials said that one more person succumbed to Coronavirus related complications in Jammu division on Friday, taking the death toll due to pandemic to 4749 in J&K--2326 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir.

"Moreover, 83 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 60 from Jammu Division and 23 from Kashmir Division," they said.

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

### 3 'Militant Associates'

and observed the movement of 3 suspects who were challenged to stop, a police spokesperson said. Instead of stopping, he said, the trio started fleeing away from the spot but were chased and arrested tactfully by the alert joint party.

The spokesperson identified them as Ishfaq Ahmad Dar, Nadeem Rafiq Rather and Rouf Mushtaq Najar.

He said that incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 1 Pistol, 1 magazine, 8 rounds, 1 hand grenade, 1 AK magazine, 20 AK rounds were recovered from their possession.

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 19/2022 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Shopian and further investigation into the matter is in progress," the

spokesperson added.

### 5 Gamblers

police during a raid at village Hakbara in Hajin, a police spokesperson said Friday. He said that the raid was carried out on specific information about gambling activities in the village.

"Officers have seized stake money of Rs 5600/- and playing cards from their possession. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No. 11/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Hajin and further investigation has been taken up.

### Patwari Caught

received a complaint alleging that Abdul Majid Bhat, Patwari of Halqa Goom, Ahmadpora in Pattan was demanding a bribe of Rs 20, 000 from a man for preparing & providing revenue extracts to him.

Giving further details, the ACB spokesperson said that the complainant had stated that some ten years back he had purchased 2 Kanals of land at Goom, but he could not prepare sale deed at that time.

"Therefore about six months back, complainant approached the Patwari Halqa for revenue extracts of land but Patwari deliberately delayed matter on one pretext or other," he said

Finally, the spokesperson said the Patwari demanded Rs. 10000 each for two separate extracts required for execution of sale deed by complainant in favour of his daughter and sister-in-law.

"Immediately upon receiving the complaint which prima facie discloses the commission of offence U/S 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 case FIR No. 09/2022 U/sec 7 of PC Act 1988 was registered at P/S ACB Baramulla and investigations started," he said.

Subsequently, the Bureau spokesperson said that a trap team was constituted and accused Patwari was caught red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe from the complainant in presence of independent witnesses.

"The accused was arrested on the spot; the bribe money was also recovered from his possession. Further investigations in the case are going on," he added.

### Ladakh Logs

Covid-related deaths -- 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil, they said. There was no death reported from union territory on Thursday, they said.

As many as 24 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh. With these, the total number of cured patients is 27,719, they said.

Of the total of 23 fresh cases from union territory, 22 such cases were reported from Leh district and one from Kargil, they said.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh is 137 including 135 from Leh and two from Kargil. (PTI)

## Govt Takes Note Of AT&C Losses In Some Feeders

CS Suspects 'Connivance', Directs PDD To Launch Crackdown On Power Theft



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Taking a strong note over some feeders registering 80-90% aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses, the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday suspected 'element of connivance' and directed the officials to identify officials in whose jurisdiction, feeders are exhibiting surmounted losses and sustained electricity leakages through unauthorized connections.

Mehta passed these directions while chairing a meeting to review the functioning of the Power Development Department (PDD) and power scenario in Jammu and Kashmir here on Friday, an official spokesperson said.

The Chief Secretary, he said, asked the Department to ensure tight enforcement and crackdown on power theft through regular inspections, disconnections, and connection regularization.

In the meeting, the spokesperson said that it was informed that through sustained and dedicated efforts, the department has brought down the transformer damage rate to 23% and 29% in Jammu and Kashmir, respectively. "These efforts include tagging all

transformers with unique identification numbers to track their repair history and augmentation of distribution capacity by adding 4100 MVA. The Chief Secretary expressed his concern on the high damage rate and directed time-bound efforts to bring them down to the nationally accepted level," he said.

Mehta, the spokesperson said, emphasized the reduction of AT&C losses to below 10% through installation of smart meters along with the usage of aerial bundled cables (ABC).

To further check electricity pilferage and leakage, he said, the department was asked to ensure installation of 100% meters on all feeders and transformers within one month.

"The Chief Secretary directed the Department to undertake an assessment of repetitive damages on transformer and location basis, besides identifying the repair workshops administering sub-standard repairs leading to recurrent damages and failures in transformers," he said.

"The Department was asked to take disciplinary action against the delinquents in the matter, and submit a report within seven days," he added.

## 1.5 Lakh Tourists Visited Gulmarg In Two Months



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Amid third wave of Covid-19 in Jammu and Kashmir, over one lakh tourists have visited Gulmarg in the first two months of an ongoing year.

An official of the tourism department said that in January and February 2022, over 1.5 lakh tourists have visited Gulmarg and among them over 80,000 tourists are domestic.

He further added that in the month of January 49,193 tourists including one foreign tourist, 10,686 locals and 38,506 domestic tourists visited the famous tourist destination.

He further added that in the month of February 56,154 tourists including 24 foreigners, 14,760 locals and 41,570 domestic tourists visited Gulmarg.

In total in first two months, 105,547 tourists visited Gulmarg in January and February months which includes 25 foreign tourists, 25,446 local and 80,076 domestic tourists.

It is pertinent to mention

here that government this year decided to bring more tourists spots on winter tourism map due to which tourist footfall at Pahalgam and Sonamarg has increased this year.

Gulmarg is located at a distance of 31 km from Baramulla and 49 km from Srinagar. The town is situated in the Pir Panjal Range in the Western Himalayas and lies within the boundaries of Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary.

Gulmarg is very famous for its skiing scenes and Gondola services.

Tourism officials said that with Covid-19 third wave weaning off, the tourist footfall has started increasing in J&K.

They said that for the past several months, tourist arrivals towards Kashmir picked up gradually.

"The arrival of more than five lakh tourists in Kashmir last year has given hope to tour operators this year. The number of arrivals could further go up as department is working to promote more tourist destinations," officials said—(KNO)

## 7 Injured In Scuffle Over Land Dispute In Poonch

Agencies

**POONCH:** At least seven persons were injured after a scuffle broke out between two families over a land dispute in Sakhimadan area of Mendhar in Poonch district.

News agency GNS reported that a clash erupted between families of Mohammad Shafi and Shah Mohammad near Ziarat Chota Badshah over a land dispute, during which seven persons were injured.

Besides Shah Mohammad (70) himself, four other persons of his family identified as Bago Begum (65), Hakim Din (65), Ghulam Nabi (60), Abdul Hamid (35) sustained injuries while as Shaheena Akhter (32), Salma Kounser (24) were injured from the family of Mohammad Shafi.

Soon after intimation, Tehsildar Mendhar Gourav Sharma besides SHO Manzoor Kohli and SDPO Sheezan Bhat visited the spot and controlled the situation and directed for evacuation of injured persons for treatment. The injured were subsequently taken to a nearby health facility.

BMO Mendhar Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad Khan said that two ambulances were rushed and the injured evacuated from the spot to Government Sub District Hospital Mendhar. "All of them are stable and responding well to the treatment", the medical officer said.

Meanwhile a police official said that they have registered a case into the incident. "We have also arrested one Mohammad Shafi", the official said.



**WOMEN DEVOTEES RAISE THEIR HANDS** in supplication as the unseen cleric of Hazratbal Shrine displays a relic believed to be from beard of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), on the Friday following Me'raj-e-Alam. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Sun Shines After Fresh Snowfall In Gulmarg, Pahalgam

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Weather improved in Kashmir Valley even as Gulmarg and Pahalgam resorts received fresh snowfall till Friday morning.

With overnight cloud cover, the night temperature hovered around above freezing point in all but Gulmarg.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, had 4.3mm of rainfall in last 24 hours till 0830 hours today while as the summer capital of J&K recorded a low of 4.8°C against last night's 4.6°C on the previous night. The weather improved and sun was out for better part of the day.

Qazigund had 17.2mm of rain and recorded a low of 2.2°C against 0.9°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, received 7.6mm of rain and had a low of 1.3°C against 0.9°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, received 4 cms of snowfall and recorded a low of 0.0°C against 0.5°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg received 10.2cms of fresh snowfall and recorded a low of minus 3.4°C against minus 4.4°C on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 1.1°C above normal for this time of the year in the famous resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir received 3.0mm of rain and recorded a low of 4.4°C against 4.6°C on the previous night, the official said.

Jammu received 1.8mm of rainfall and recorded a low of 10.6.0°C against 14.0°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 1.7°C below normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal had received 16.2mm of rainfall and recorded a low of 1.6°C, Batote with 11.8mm of rainfall had a minimum of 3.9°C while Bhaderwah had 4.4mm of rain and recorded a low of 4.2°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a minimum of minus 6.6°C against last night minus 4.6°C on the previous night while automatic Kargil station at recorded a low of minus 8.0°C. Drass, the sec-

ond coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 5.0°C against 11.7°C on the previous night, officials said.

"A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from 6th March to 7th March. Widespread light to moderate rain in plains with moderate snowfall over middle and high reaches of Kashmir Division is most likely to occur," the meteorological department official here said.

"The main activity of the system will most likely to concentrate over higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Budgam and Ganderbal with chances of heavy snowfall over isolated places of these districts."

Regarding Jammu, the official chances of light to moderate rain during 6 to 7th March with chances of thunderstorm. "There is possibility of moderate to heavy snowfall over Zojila-Gumri axis and moderate snow over Drass and Minamarg and light snow over kargil and Leh district".

Till night of March 5, "dry weather" is expected, the official added. (GNS)

## CS Launches E-Services On Mobile Platform In J&K Initiative Offers 25 Services Through Online Mode

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Ushering an era of mobile governance in J&K, the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday launched 25 e-services on the UMANG platform.

The UMANG unified mobile application for new age governance is a multi-lingual mobile platform for providing 'any time-anywhere governance'.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Secretary said that in sync with the vision of 'APPKA MOBILE HAMAARA DAFTAR' the Government of J&K is committed to providing citizen centric services through the mobile mode. "This will enhance the accessibility of services and add to the convenience of citizens availing services", he added.

The services on the UMANG platform are end to end digitized and provide a one-stop solution to the citizens starting from application for a service, its processing to receipt of certificates /permissions. The services being provided are integrated with online payment gateway and Rapid Assessment



System (RAS) of digital feedback.

The Chief Secretary complimented the efforts of IT department and directed them to integrate more services on the mobile platform.

It was informed that henceforth 25 popular services like birth certificate, death certificate, rehri license, marriage certificate, income certificate, character certificate, dependent certificate, SC/ST RBA certificate etc. can be accessed by the public at <https://web.umang.gov.in> or by downloading mobile

app 'UMANG' which is available on 'Android' and 'IOS' platform.

Among others Mr. Deeraj Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Prerna Puri, Secretary, Information Technology Department, Amit Sharma, CEO, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency, Dr Rajinder Kumar Khajuria, Additional Secretary, Information Technology Department, Saleem Khan, Additional State Informatics Officer (SIO) were present on the occasion.

## Approves UT Action Plan Under NCAP

**JAMMU:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday chaired the Apex Committee meeting and approved the action plan for implementing the National Clean Air Programme in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Commissioner Secretary, Transport Department, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department along with Director, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, Chairman and Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board (PCB) and concerned HoDs participated in the meeting.

It was informed that no indus-

trial cluster in J&K falls under the critically polluted area. The approved plan aims at eliminating the use of pet coke and furnace oil in red and orange category industries within one and two years, respectively; and simultaneously promoting the usage of alternate energy sources like CNG, PNG, and electricity.

Moreover, all 17 categories of highly polluting industries in J&K have installed online emission monitoring systems (OCEMS) linked with PCBP Server to help track the discharges of pollutants, emissions, effluents therefrom.

Further, it was informed that installation of Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) and tree plantation within unit premises have

been made mandatory for all the Orange and Red category units.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the constant monitoring of air quality in Jammu and Kashmir and asked the Department to install a grid of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) across all districts for real time assessment of PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NOx, NH3, CO, O3, and benzene in the Union territory.

Regarding the functioning of brick kilns, the Pollution Control Board has prescribed the use of adequate height of stacks, use of zig zag technology or vertical shaft, and use of coal/piped natural gas as fuel instead of charcoal and firewood; to check the air pollution associated with this sector.

## JK Tourism Starts Promotional Campaign Across Various Markets



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In an effort to woo tourists to Jammu and Kashmir following the decline in Coronavirus cases, the department of tourism has started its promotional campaign among the various tourism markets across the country.

In this connection, the Department has been participating in the three day Travel & Tourism Fair at Bangalore and India Travel Mart at Ahmedabad beginning today.

Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu, Natasha Kalsotra and CEO, Gulmarg Development Authority, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar are attending the Tour & Travel Fair at Bangalore while as CEO, Rajouri Development Authority, Vivek Puri and Deputy Director,

Tourism, Kashmir, Ahsanul Haq are representing the Department at the India Travel Mart at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Both the events started today and visitors exhibited keen interest in tourism products and services put on display. Both the events would last for three days during which there would be B2B meetings and interactions between officers and local stakeholders.

During their interactions with members of the travel fraternity, the officers apprised them about various tourism products available in J&K for the tourists of any genre. They also apprised them about various initiatives taken by the UT Government post Covid-19 for the revival of tourism, providing quality infrastructure and services to tourists visiting J&K.

### JANAUSHADHI DIWAS

## PMBJP Holds Awareness Programme At Women's Polytechnic College



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In connection with Janaushadhi Diwas, being celebrated across the country from 1st to 7th March every year, the J&K Chapter of PMBJP on Friday organised an awareness programme in the conference hall of Government Women's Polytechnic College, here.

The programme started with the Power Point Presentation (PPT) about the scheme and Rifat Nazir Nodal Officer PMBJP (J&K) presented a detailed report about the achievements and future targets of the scheme.

She applauded the impressive and effective efforts of Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary Health and Medical Education Department J&K for training the scheme to the newer heights of success in the UT of J&K.

The Nodal Officer also thanked Department of Health Services Kashmir and Jammu for their co-operation in implementing the

scheme most effectively. She also paid gratitude to Department of Drugs and Food Control also for their efforts in popularising the scheme across J&K.

Rifat further stated that about one hundred more JanAushadhi Kendra's are being opened across J&K within a short span of time.

Others, who spoke on the occasion, include Dr Bilquees Shah Deputy MS JLN Hospital Srinagar, Dr Zubair Saleem Geriatric Consultant JLN Hospital Srinagar and Mohammad Rafi Matoo Secretary Red Cross Society Kashmir.

Vote of thanks was presented by Shafiqat Ara, Principal of Government Women's Polytechnic College (GWPC) Srinagar.

Besides owners and pharmacists of different Kashmir based JanAushadhi Kendra's, a good number of female students of (GWPC) were also present in the function.

JanAushadhi Diwas Pledge Certificates were also presented to some pharmacists and members of the civil society.

## Revival Of VDCs Deflates Govt's Normalcy Claims: NC

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference on Friday said that the revival of Village Defence Committees brings back the haunting memories of early 1990's and simultaneously deflates the tall claims of the government of India about the region witnessing peace.

Fighting the reconstitution of VDCs, the Party Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said that the government's words don't match its actions.

"Not so long ago, the Government was saying everything is hunky dory in J&K. The words and actions of the government don't match. Recently the government declared that militancy has almost ended in Chenab region. Why are the VDCs reactivated again? The measure puts a big question mark on the claims of the government," he said.

Arming people without any set mechanism of accountability will lead to anarchy, he said, adding that it will escalate the problem instead of solving or containing it.

"Involvement of VDC or for that matter any independent

group or agency in law and order erodes the credibility of the administration and makes governance shoddy and murky. The VDCs in Jammu and Kashmir were established in 1995, first in Doda district. Due to the lack of manpower, the need to have VDCs was felt then. But now when the government has enough forces on ground, why are such bodies needed? Is the situation as bad as the 90's? Has the government backtracked from its own claims? If the situation is bad, then what are the new forms of threats to the security situation, peace and tranquillity that are emerging post 2019? Government must come clean on all this," he added.

These committees have faced accusations of gross abuses in J&K in the recent past, Imran said adding, "Reportedly J&K Police has filed around 200 cases against erstwhile VDC members. Their role is shadowed by their involvement in rampant human rights abuses and other anti-social activities." He said that the move, far from ushering peace in the hilly regions of Jammu, will prove counterproductive.

## I-League: Real Kashmir Draw 1-1 With Kenkre FC



### Agencies

**KOLKATA:** Real Kashmir FC played out an entertaining 1-1 draw against Kenkre FC in I-League 2021-22 at Kalyani Stadium on Friday.

Midfielder Vijay Nagappan (45+1') gave Kenkre FC an early lead. However, Real Kashmir dominated possession and captain Mason Robertson (66') converted an opportunity in the second half to bring his team back on level terms. Both teams fought till the final whistle, but were unable to do so and the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Real Kashmir Head Coach David Robertson brought on fresh legs in the 65th minute replacing Meitei with Ragav Gupta. The change in formation worked for Real Kashmir as Mason Robertson scored a goal in the next minute as Ragav gave

a brilliant assistant to his captain inside the 6-yard-box, which Robertson collected with ease and put it past the nets. In the 73rd minute, Kenkre FC goalkeeper Tenzin made a tremendous straight shot from Jon-goh Park. Tenzin remained calm and caught the ball safely.

In the 87th minute, Real Kashmir received a corner. Tiago grabbed the ball just in front of the goal, but Kenkre FC defender Arvind made a tremendous save just ahead of the goal line, saving the match for his team. Robertson continued to make threatening penetration inside Kenkre FC's box but was unable to find the perfect finish, and Kenkre FC succeeded in holding Real Kashmir to earn one point.

Real Kashmir will play against Gokulam Kerala FC on March 7, 2022.

## Ranji: Railways Take First Innings Lead Against J&K

Abid Mushtaq take 5 to give J&K a fighting chance

### Agencies

**CHENNAI:** Railways ended day two of their Ranji Trophy Group C match against Jammu and Kashmir at 297 for 8, taking a 38-run first innings lead on Friday. The match is being played at the IIT Chemplast Ground in Chennai.



Left arm spinner, Abid Mushtaq, clinched his third domestic five-wicket haul to give J&K a fighting chance in the match. Auqib Nabi took 2 wickets, while Parvez Rasool took 1 wicket for J&K.

Pratham Singh top scored for Railways with a knock of 75. J&K will now look to bowl out Railways as soon as possible on day three of the Ranji match.

## 14 Days Skiing Course Organised By IUST Concludes At Gulmarg



### Observer News Service

**GULMARG:** The 14 days Snow Skiing Courses held in Gulmarg by the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) from 18th February to 3rd March concluded here Thursday in which student skiers were trained in three skiing courses Basic, Intermediate and Advanced level by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports IUST in collaboration with Department of Youth Services & Sports J&K.

During the closing ceremony, Vice Chancellor IUST Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo congratulated students on their course completion and said, "Winter Sport sector is developing rapidly in Kashmir and we are trying to train our students in different sports and adventure sports to help

them become significant human resource for the well being of society."

"Recently Gulmarg has emerged as a very important Sports Center for Winter Games and at IUST we intend to promote sports at a macro level through our proposed Alpine Club which will be the first such initiative in this part of the country," Prof. Romshoo added.

Earlier Assistant Director Sports IUST, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather welcomed the Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries including Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Malik, Finance Officer and Chairman Sports Committee IUST Sameer Wazir and thanked Director Youth Services and Sports Gzanfar Ali for deputing professional Skiing Trainer Gh. Nabi Reshi for the said courses.

## Wushu Gold Medallist Sadia Tariq Meets DGP J&K



### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Gold medallist Wushu sports star Sadia Tariq called on Friday met Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh at Police Headquarters here. Sadia won a gold medal in the recently held Wushu Star Championship 2022 held in Moscow, Russia.

The DGP while praising her achievements at such a young age said she is making the nation proud. He said that winning gold medal at international level, she has brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir, he added. He said that Sadia has be-

come a role model for many young budding talented children of J&K.

The DGP advised Sadia Tariq to continue hard work with dedication and with the practice in her game to keep shining. He said that J&K Police will provide all possible assistance and support. He wished her best of luck for her future assignments.

Sadia thanked the DGP J&K for the encouragement, support and good wishes. Dronacharya Awardee Kuldeep Handoo, who is Chief Coach of India in Wushu, and Vijay Saraf President Wushu J&K were present on the occasion.

## Aussie Cricket Legend Shane Warne Dies At 52

Suspected heart attack, says report

### Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Australian cricket great Shane Warne has died aged 52.

The man known as Warnie and dreaded by a generation of batters for nearly over 10 years from the 90s, died in Koh

S a m u i, Thailand, of a suspected heart attack, Australian media reported.

Warne's management released the statement of his death on Friday evening IST that he had died.

"Shane was found unresponsive in his villa and despite the best efforts of medical staff, he could not be revived," read the statement. "The family requests privacy at this time and will provide further details in due course."



Warne took 708 Test wickets in

a stellar career that lasted over 15 years. His is the second most successful bowler in Test cricket after Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan, who took 800 wickets. Warne ended his career with 1001 international wickets.

This is the second big loss to Australian cricket within 24 hours after Rod Marsh had died on Friday after suffering a heart attack last week.

Warne's last tweet early on Thursday morning was a tribute to Marsh.

"Sad to hear the news that Rod Marsh has passed," Warne's tweet said. "He was a legend of our great game & an inspiration to so many young boys & girls. Rod cared deeply about cricket & gave so much-especially to Australia & England players. Sending lots & lots of love to Ros & the family. RIP mate."

### WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

## West Indies Stun New Zealand By 3 Runs In Opener

### Press Trust of India

**MOUNT MAUNGANUI:** Deandra Dottin complemented Hayley Matthews' whirlwind century with an immaculate last over as West Indies notched up a stunning three-run victory over the fancied New Zealand in the Women's ODI World Cup opener at the Bay Oval here on Friday.

Hayley smashed a 128-ball 119 (16x4, 1x6) but the rest of their batters failed to convert their starts as West Indies set up a 260-run target after the White Ferns skipper Sophie Devine opted to field. In reply, the 2000 champions rode on Devine's chancy 108 to overcome a shaky start but only to choke in the final over.

Needing six runs in the final over, New Zealand lost three wickets in four balls to get all out for 256 in 49.5 overs with pace bowling allrounder Dottin returning with splendid figures of 0.5-0-2-2.

Having survived some anxious moments both in the form of a run-out and a couple of missed catches, Devine completed her sixth ODI century but could not take her team over the line.

Chinnelle Henry took a spectacular return catch to dismiss the White Ferns captain in the



45th over, something that revived the Windies hopes before the veteran allrounder Dottin sealed the issue.

Asked to defend six runs in the last over with New Zealand having three wickets intact, Dottin claimed two wickets in three balls, before the 17-year-old Fran Jonas was run out in the fifth ball to concede the Windies a thrilling win.

Windies turned the match around after Henry took a juggling return catch to dismiss the centurion Devine.

The win would have come easy but the West Indies were sloppy on the field as they leaked runs in plenty and dropped a slew of catches.

Under pressure, the Windies

decided to give the task to Dottin after much discussions in the middle as the veteran pacer trapped Katey in her second delivery with a perfect yorker.

Pressure kept mounting on New Zealand with the asking rate creeping above six but Devine kept them in the hunt.

On the way to her century, Devine also entered the 3000 ODI run club when she cut Anisa Mohammed for a boundary in the 34th over.

For the Windies, Anisa Mohammed and Hayley Matthews also grabbed two wickets each. Anisa became the fourth woman cricketer to take 300 wickets when she went through Lea Tahuhu's defence with a low ball that sharply turned in.

## As War Rages, Winter Paralympics Open In Beijing Without Russia



### Agencies

**BEIJING:** The 2022 Winter Paralympics open Friday in Beijing, with the Russian athletes sent home and the Ukrainian team escaping a war zone to get here.

"It's a miracle that we have made it to the Paralympics," the head of the Ukrainian delegation, Valerii Sushkevych, told a news conference on the eve of the Games.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, shortly after the Winter Olympics wrapped up in Beijing,

is roiling the world. And the world of sports is no exception.

Paralympics organizers initially announced that Russians and Belarusians would be allowed to compete in Beijing, but reversed course one day before the opening and expelled athletes from both countries. They cited tensions in the Athletes Village.

Sushkevych said it took four days for team members in Ukraine to reach Beijing. He said he slept on the floor of a bus because of a back condition

during the last two days of the journey through Europe.

"We overcame a lot of barriers on the way," he said. "Many members of our team had to escape while there was bombardment and shells exploding."

The Paralympics were set to open with a night ceremony at the Bird's Nest National Stadium. Chinese President Xi Jinping and International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons were to attend the opening ceremony. The Games close on March 13.

## Felt Like I Am Making My Debut: Kohli On 100th Test

Pant propels India to 357 for six on the opening day



### Press Trust of India

**MOHALI:** Virat Kohli had "butterflies" in his stomach and "felt nervous" like a debutant when he walked out to bat in his 100th Test but he is not bothered by lack of hundreds as he feels he is batting well.

Kohli scored 45 and looked set before being bowled by Lasith Embuldeniya on the opening day of India's first Test against Sri Lanka here on Friday.

"I am preparing as I have always prepared. As long as I am batting well, I am not bothered. We are somehow crazy about milestones and materialistic achievements," Kohli told media persons when asked if he wants to revisit his process since big runs have dried up.

"It felt like I am making my debut. Had butterflies in my stomach, did feel very nervous," he said.

However, he admitted that he needs to convert his starts.

"Obviously disappointed as

I got a good start. I was batting well. You obviously feel disappointed as a batsman. Endeavour is always to make sure to play a big innings for the team and put the team in a strong position," he said.

One of the pertinent points that he raised was that in a post COVID-19 world, there is very little time left for course correction when one needs to do it.

"It's not an easy environment to get away from game and work on things you need to finetune," Kohli added.

"It's been tough playing three formats and IPL for so long. Proud of how I have handled my physique, my body."

Meanwhile, Rishabh Pant scored a 97-ball 96 to power India to 357 for six on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka on Friday. Pant hit nine boundaries and four sixes in his whirlwind knock that was put to an end by medium pacer Suranga Lakmal.

## Pakistan In Strong Start Against Australia In 1st Test



### Agencies

**RAWALPINDI:** Opener Imamul Haq cracked a maiden Test century Friday to lead Pakistan's solid start in the first match of the series against Australia in Rawalpindi.

The 26-year-old left-hander struck Australian paceman Mitchell Starc through the covers to the boundary to reach three figures in the final session of play on the opening day after Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat.

Haq reached his hundred in 277 minutes off 220 balls, hitting 13 boundaries and two sixes as a near-capacity 12,000 fans erupted with joy at his achievement. Pakistan were 192-1 with Haq's opening partner Abdullah Shafique (44) the only man out. The duo put on 105 for the opening wicket.

Azhar Ali and Imam combined in an unbroken stand of 66 runs in the second session as Australia tried all its bowling resources, including part-time spinners Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne without success after Pakistan resumed after lunch on 105-1.

Australia seemed to have erred in their selection as they went

into the Test — their first in Pakistan in 24 years — with three pacers, a fast-bowling all-rounder and a lone spinner in Lyon.

In contrast, Pakistan included two spinners, a part-time slow bowler and two frontline pacers.

Australia's pace bowlers did not take a wicket in the first session, and Lyon was brought in to bowl in the eighth over.

Lyon, who so far has figures of 1-36, turned his first ball sharply and beat the bat for an unsuccessful caught behind appeal off the fourth. Shafique hit a six in the spinner's third over, but the very next ball Lyon induced an edge to leg-slip — only to see Travis Head drop a sharp chance with the batsman on 21.

Haq, playing his first Test since December 2019, was solid as he hooked Cummins for his eighth boundary to complete his third 50 in 12 Tests.

Haq, nephew of former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq, started his Test career with a match-winning knock of 74 against Ireland in Dublin in 2016. His previous highest Test knock, of 76, came against Australia in Dubai in October 2018. This is his 12th Test.

## Russia To Appeal To CAS Over FIFA & UEFA Suspensions

### Agencies

**MOSCOW:** The Russian Football Union (RFU) will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the decisions by FIFA and UEFA to bar Russian teams from international competitions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, it said on Thursday.

The union said in a statement it would file one lawsuit against the two governing bodies to demand that Russian men's and women's national teams be allowed to compete, including in qualifying for this year's World Cup in Qatar.

FIFA and UEFA had decided together this week that all Russian teams, whether national or club sides, will be suspended from participation in FIFA and UEFA competitions until further



notice.

"The RFU will demand the restoration of all men's and women's national teams of Russia in all types of football in the tournaments in which they took part (including in the qualifying round of the World Cup in Qatar), as well as compensation for damage," the RFU said.

"In order to ensure the possibility of the participation of Russian teams in the next scheduled matches, the RFU will insist on an expedited procedure for considering the case."