



P3 CITY

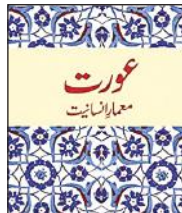
276 PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER SMART CITIES MISSION: GOVT

Building cities that 'work' inclusive, healthy, resilient and sustainable requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. National and local governments have

P5 THINK

FAMILY'S PILLAR, HUMANITY'S MAKER: READING MAULANA WAHIDUDDIN KHAN'S AURAT: MAEMAAR-E-INSANNIYAT

In the present times, 'Women in Islam' is one of one of the fiercely debated issues. Like other scholars across the globe, Muslim scholars of India have also contributed, and are contributing, to this



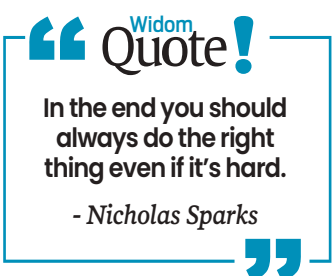
P7 STATE

MET PREDICTS 2-DAY WET SPELL FROM APRIL 19

The meteorological department on Friday forecast another spell of light to moderate rain during April 19-20 in both J&K and Ladakh.



14 TH RAMZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	7:05	4:32
FIQAH JAFARIYA	7:14	4:31



NEWS DIGEST

Soldier Shoots Himself Dead

SRINAGAR: A soldier committed suicide inside a JAKLI centre at Rangreth here during midnight, officials said on Friday. They said Lance Naik Akash Kumar shot himself dead with his service weapon at around 2 a.m. midnight. While the soldier died on the spot, official said that the reason **More on P6**

HC Transfers Six District Judges

SRINAGAR: J&K and Ladakh High Court on Friday ordered transfer of six district judges in the interest of administration. According to an order by Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar General, Sanjay Parihar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, has been transferred and posted as **More on P6**

J&K Closes Five New Corona Cases

SRINAGAR: With five fresh cases, Jammu and Kashmir's COVID-19 tally climbed to 4,53,920 on Friday, officials said here. While one case was recorded in Jammu division, four were reported from Srinagar district in Kashmir division, they said. Eighteen of the 20 districts in the Union Territory did **More on P6**

CRPF Head Constable Dies In Pulwama

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) head constable died in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday morning. An official said that head constable Mohan Singh of F/Coy 183 Battalion suddenly fell unconscious at the place of his posting. He was immediately rushed to district hospital Pulwama by his colleagues, where doctors **More on P6**

Sarpanch Shot Dead In Baramulla

LG Says Perpetrators Will Be Punished Soon, NC Says 'Unending Cycle Of Violence Heartbreaking'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Friday shot dead an independent Sarpanch in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo, an independent Sarpanch was shot dead by unknown militants in an orchard in his native Goshbugh village of Pattan on Friday evening, officials said.

They said Bangroo had received multiple bullet injuries in the militant attack and was taken to the hospital, where the doctors declared him brought dead.

Soon after the incident, police and army reached the spot and launched a search operation to nab the attackers. However, no one was arrested when the last reports came in. "#Terrorists fired upon & #killed one Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo (an Independent #Sarpanch) at Goshbugh area of Pattan, #Baramulla. Area has been cordoned off & search to track the involved #terrorists is in progress. Further details shall follow," Police posted on its official Twitter handle

The killing of Bangroo comes over a month after militants shot dead a Sarpanch inside his home in Khonmoh area of the city outskirts here.

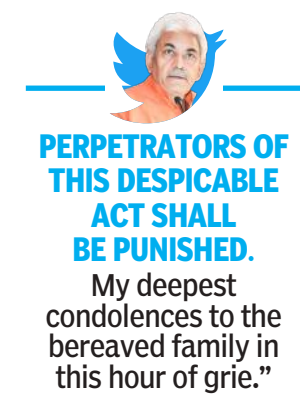
On March 9, militants barged into the house of Sarpanch Sameer Ahmad Bhat in Khonmoh area of Srinagar and fired indiscriminately upon him. Bhat, who sustained critical gunshot injuries in the

attack, was immediately shifted to SMHS hospital for the treatment where he succumbed.

Meanwhile, J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and several mainstream parties condemned the killing of Sarpanch and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family.

"Perpetrators of this despicable act shall be punished. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief," LG Sinha said in a tweet.

Taking to its official Twitter handle, the National Conference said that the "vicious cycle of violence" seems to be unending.



"JKNC condemns the gruesome killing of BJP Sarpanch Manzoor Ahmad in North Kashmir's Goshbugh, Pattan in the strongest possible terms. The vicious cycle of violence seems to be unending. May Allah grant him a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. Condolences to his family and **More on P6**

CAG Raps J&K For Failing To Submit Utilisation Certificates

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has failed to submit 2,205 utilisation certificates (UCs) for an amount of over Rs 10,441 crore as on March 31, 2020, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has said, noting that officials should be held accountable for the lapse.

It said the non-submission of the UCs means that authorities have not explained as to how funds

were spent over the years and is fraught with the risk of misappropriation.

As per the CAG's latest report on state finances, a total of 2,205 UCs involving Rs 10,441.58 crore was outstanding in J and K, of which 1,370 UCs amounting to Rs 5,972.99 crore was outstanding for more than a year.

In a utilisation certificate (UC), it is certified that the funds raised or taken by the entity is used for the intended purposes. The department **More on P6**



DEVOTEES OFFERING ASR (AFTERNOON) PRAYERS at the 13th century shrine of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani in the Old City of Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

AMARNATH YATRA 2022

More Troops Arriving To Protect Biggest Ever Yatra

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: As Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness a spurt in militant attacks, the government of India is pushing thousands of more paramilitary personnel into the Kashmir Valley to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the annual Hindu pilgrimage being held after three years.

According to officials, thousands of additional reinforcements of paramilitaries Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)



and the Border Security Force (BSF) are being rushed to the Kashmir Valley as part of the government's security

arrangements to ensure incident-free pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir. **More on P6**

BSF DG Reviews Preparedness Along LoC

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Border Security Force (BSF) Director General (DG) Pankaj Kumar Singh on Friday reviewed the operational preparedness of the force and visited the command locations in Srinagar, officials said.

According to BSF officials, Singh reviewed the preparedness of the troops on the International Border with Pakistan including the Line of Control and asked the high ups of the Kashmir Frontier to



maintain strict vigil. The BSF DG also inspected the deployment of the troops deployed for law and order duty in Srinagar **More on P6**

Stone Crushers In Rajouri: NGT Seeks Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal has formed a committee and sought a report on a plea against operation of stone crushers in violation of environmental norms in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said it is clear from the report of the district magistrate that there have been serious violations in operation of stone crushers, supported by illegal

From US, Rajnath Sends Warning To China 'If Harmed, India Will Not Spare Anyone'

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: In a strong message to China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that if harmed, India will not spare anyone, as he asserted that India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as a powerful country and is headed to be among the top three economies of the world.

Singh, in his address to the Indian-American community in San Francisco, also sent a subtle message to the US that New Delhi does not believe in a diplomacy of zero-sum game and its relationship with one country cannot be at the expense of the other.

The defence minister was here to attend the India US 2+2 ministerial in **More on P6**

mining to the detriment of the environment.

"Steps so far taken to prevent illegal mining and further pollution are inadequate. So are the steps to make the violators accountable for past violations.

"Serious violations include diversion of flow of the river, lowering of water table, loss of irrigation/crops, damage to the water quality and even death of a person who drowned in the deep pit created by the stone crusher," the bench also comprising Justices **More on P6**

Confessions Of Coldblooded Murderers Who Shocked Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

Inside a police lockup in Srinagar, the two brothers had defied their chilling crime akin to some thick-skinned felons. Sporting a fasting faithful's signature symbol including a skullcap, they kept denying their role even as the sleuths persisted grilling.

Hours later into the questioning and they were behaving as if they had never "slept with the dead body" for 24 hours before dumping it in the murky waters of Dal Lake.

"They were acting as cold-blooded killers—covering up the

act of petrifying patricide," says Lateef Ali, SHO Nigeen Police Station, who was part of the team who investigated the sensational murder that shocked Kashmir in the beginning of Ramadan.

"But in a bid to outwit police, they confessed one of the shock-crimes in Kashmir."

Before taken to the police custody, the siblings—Junaid Khursheed, a private lab technician, and Omair Khursheed, a jobless young man—had conceived the crime to end their father, a retired employee at HMT, Srinagar.

On the night of the murder,

the local mosques were reverberating with special prayers of Ramadan. After offering eight rakats of Taraweeh at Elahibagh Saura's local mosque, Khursheed A. Tota, 62, came back home at around 9:30pm.

The elder was still feeling bitter after facing his spiteful family members earlier that day. He didn't speak to anyone and quietly retired to his room.

"But both his sons had planned to finish him off that night only," SHO Lateef says.

With loud speakers booming with the broadcasted prayers, the siblings caught hold of their father and choked him.

The skinny sexagenarian didn't struggle much and shortly succumbed to the treachery of his own sons.

To conceal the crime, the duo



Tota brothers who killed their father

decided to keep the body at their home for the night.

"They couldn't get their car parked in their neighbour's yard on the same night due to some

construction work," the officer said. "And that's why they waited for the next night."

But the siblings weren't alone in executing the most

THEY COULDN'T GET THEIR CAR PARKED IN THEIR neighbour's yard on the same night due to some construction work, and that's why they waited for the next night."

brutal crime. They had a partner in crime—an accomplice—in the form of their mother and Khursheed's better half.

"She would always take sides of her two sons whenever Khursheed had an argument with them," the SHO said.

The killers conveniently faked normalcy by wearing the faithful Muslim symbols and awaited the next day to "dispose of" the body of their father.

Next day, on April 6, as the fasting Muslims in their area had iftar, the siblings quietly kept their father's dead body

inside their i-20 car and drove towards the Dal Lake.

They took the Foreshore Road and pulled over near a deserted path. Sensing the opportune time to covet their crime, they took out the cold and pale body of their father and threw it into the lake.

They returned home in huff, and shared the news with their mother.

But the lake known to act as a sink of the society's underbelly soon vomited out the ghastly crime dumped in its murky waters.

On April 7, the police received information that **More on P6**

WE WENT THROUGH SEVERAL CIRCUMSTANTIAL evidence, oral witnesses, CCTVs and technical analysis which proved that Khursheed was killed by his own family members at their home."



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

These Are The Most Useless Car Tech Features

Some tech systems in new cars are helpful. Others are not. Here's what's good.

Rob Stumpf | Popular Science

Cars are getting smarter. While you can't buy a true self-driving car at a dealership, the vehicles that are available are still crammed full of the newest tech—even if some features are gimmicky. There's just one problem: hardly anybody is actually using it. Many seasoned drivers remember their first car with cruise control, or air conditioning. Heck, some people who started off in a Ford Model T have even gotten the chance to sit behind the wheel of an all-electric Mustang Mach-E. Technology has changed the way that the world uses the automobile, but some of the features found in modern cars seem to be a tad egregious. According to a 2021 study from J.D. Power, based on a survey of more than 100,000 new-car owners, drivers seem to agree. More than one in three advanced technologies go unused during the average vehicle's first 90 days of ownership. The biggest reason? Most people say that they simply don't need fancy features like an infotainment system that can pay for their coffee, driver-to-passenger communication devices, and gesture controls. For example, General Motors' aptly-named Marketplace app and others like it are infotainment-based tools where drivers can pay for food and fuel, make reservations at a nearby hotel, or check-in to a store for curbside

pickup. These seem like things that the majority of people would do from their phones instead of their car, and most new vehicle owners who have a marketplace-equipped vehicle seem to agree. A total of 61 percent of those owners say they have never used their in-car marketplace, and 51 percent of those also say that they have no need for it at all. Driver-to-passenger communication devices seem to be another gimmick, at least according to owners. These features typically are reserved for larger vehicles and allow the driver and passengers a way to better hear one another without raising their voices—the Honda Odyssey has CabinTalk, the Toyota Sienna calls it Driver Easy Speak, and Cadillac's premium Escalade SUV refers to this as its "Conversation Enhancement System." Still, at least 52 percent of owners have never tried this at all in their feature-equipped vehicle, and 40 percent of those say they don't need it, period. Then there are the features like BMW's gesture controls, which some people find intuitive. Instead of reaching forward to tap on the infotainment screen, drivers can use their hands to navigate menus, change the volume, and more. Unfortunately, this tech also gives buyers the most trouble, with 41 problems reported per 100 vehicles. It also leaves owners the least satisfied of any in-car tech, ranking last in J.D. Power's satisfaction survey for the second year in a row. There are a core set of must-have features for



many new car buyers. Two of the most-loved technologies revolve around vision. Owners say that a camera-based rear-view mirror and ground-view camera are both ranked as the most well-executed tech feature in their vehicle. The systems are also highly desirable for owners, with 62 percent of US buyers saying that they would want the ground-view camera to be equipped in their next vehicle.

Interestingly, one-pedal driving—allowing the driver of an electric car to utilize the regenerative braking of the electric motor to avoid taking their foot off the accelerator pedal to brake—also ranked extremely high among EV buyers. On the topic of electric cars, J.D. Power says that Tesla ranks highest in its Innovation Index. The all-electric automaker has

made a name for itself from its new and innovative features, from an advanced Level 2 semi-autonomous driver's aid to its minimalist screen-focused interior. This ranking is unofficial, however, as Tesla doesn't qualify for an actual place on the board since it doesn't allow J.D. Power to survey owners in 15 states. Officially, Genesis has the highest Innovation Index score of any luxury car maker, and its sister brand, Hyundai, ranks highest in the mass market segment. Mitsubishi ranks last, followed by a tie between Mini and Jeep. So just what does all of this mean for the average car buyer's wallet? "New-vehicle prices are at an all-time high, partly as a result of an increased level of content," said Kristin Kolodge, J.D. Power's executive director of human machine interface, in a press release. "This is fine if owners are getting value for their money, but some features seem like a waste to many owners." Car prices are indeed rising, and have been for years. In fact, the average price of a brand new car topped \$45,000 for the first time in history in September, according to a study by Kelley Blue Book. For comparison, this is up from around \$40,000 in December 2020—a 12.5 percent increase in just nine months. Granted, the semiconductor shortage isn't helping, but neither is all of the unused tech that lies dormant in many new vehicles.

Mental Health May Impact Chances Of Breakthrough Covid: Study

Press Trust Of India

People who are vaccinated against Covid-19, and have a history of certain psychiatric conditions, face an increased risk of breakthrough disease, according to a study. The researchers from the University of California (UC) San Francisco, US, noted that the risk may be related to impaired immune response as well as risky behaviours associated with some disorders. The study, published in the journal JAMA Network Open on Thursday, found that patients over 65 with substance abuse, psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, adjustment disorder and anxiety, faced increased risks of up to 24 per cent for breakthrough Covid. For those under 65, risks were up to 11 per cent higher than for those without a

However, the risk was 24 per cent higher for over-65s with substance abuse, 23 per cent higher for those with psychotic disorders, 16 per cent higher for bipolar disorder, 14 per cent for adjustment disorder and 12 per cent for anxiety, they said. Given the greater incidence of breakthrough infections among younger people, the study showed significantly smaller effects in the under-65s group. Risks were 10 per cent lower in participants with psychotic disorders compared to those without a psychiatric diagnosis, the researchers said. They attribute this decrease to possible lower socialisation among younger people with psychotic disorders compared with older people who "may be less socially isolated because of their greater burden of ill health and contacts with caregivers."



psychiatric history, the researchers said. They tracked data from more than 2.5 lakh US Department of Veterans Affairs patients, who had completed their vaccine regimen and had at least one test for SARS-CoV-2. Just over a half (51.4 per cent) of the patients received at least one psychiatric diagnosis within the last five years and 14.8 per cent developed breakthrough COVID, confirmed by a positive test. "Our research suggests that increased breakthrough infections in people with psychiatric disorders cannot be entirely explained by socio-demographic factors or pre-existing conditions," said senior study author Aoife O'Donovan from UCSF. "It is possible that immunity following vaccination wanes more quickly or more strongly for people with psychiatric disorders and they could have less protection to newer variants," O'Donovan said in a statement. The average age of the 263,697 participants was 66 and 90.8 per cent were male. Overall, those participants with psychiatric disorders had a 3 per cent increased risk for breakthrough Covid infections in 2021, when adjusted for both demographic factors and pre-existing conditions, compared with participants without a psychiatric history, the researchers said.

The higher incidence of breakthrough infection among older participants may be due to "decreased immunological response to vaccine that has been associated with some psychiatric disorders, which may be more substantial in older adults," said study first author Kristen Nishimi from UCSF. It is also possible that older adults with psychiatric disorders "may require more frequent in-person care, which could increase their interactions with the health care system," she noted. Breakthrough risks for other non-psychiatric conditions were also calculated and adjusted for factors like obesity and smoking status, as well as other underlying conditions. The researchers found that patients with chronic kidney disease had an increased risk of 23 per cent, compared with 20 per cent for HIV, 19 per cent for cardiovascular disease, 18 per cent for COPD and 13 per cent for sleep apnea. This shows that certain psychiatric conditions, particularly in the 65-plus group, face risks that are on a par with other conditions, said O'Donovan. "Mental health is important to consider in conjunction with other risk factors and some patients should be prioritised for boosters and other critical preventive efforts," she added.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, ANANTNAG

e-mail:cmoanantnag@gmail.com Ph: 0193222255
NIT No: CMOA/SANJAY/2022/Repairing/57 Dated: 13-04-2022.
Subject: - Tender for Repairing of Machinery equipments etc. for Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2022.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of U. T of Jammu & Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible Registered Organizations /Dealers/ Firms /Companies /Partnership Firms Registered in India under relevant Act of well repute for below mentioned supplies:-

S.NO	Name of Item	Item Description
1.	Repairing of Machinery equipments etc. for Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2022.	As per the Description mentioned in BOQ to this NIT uploaded on www.iktenders.gov.in (Password to unprotect the BOQ sheet to this NIT: testing)

Important Dates and Cost of EMD & Tender Fee:

S.No	Event	Date
01.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-04-2022
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 15-04-2022 (02:20 PM) to 21-04-2022 (10:00 AM)
03.	Bid Submission Start date	15-04-2022 (02:20PM)
04.	Bid Submission End date	21-04-2022 (10:00AM)
05.	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	21-04-2022 (11:50AM)
06.	Earnest Money Deposit	NIL
07.	Cost of Tender Document	NIL

Bids must be accompanied with the scanned copy of cost of Tender document in shape of Bank receipt deposited in the J&K Bank, T.P. Anantnag (Account No:0014010100006056) IFSC Code:JAKA0EMPIRE in favour of Chief Medical Officer Anantnag, J&K and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Chief Medical Officer Anantnag J&K. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website www.iktenders.gov.in. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Chief Medical Officer Anantnag (tender receiving authority). The bids for the supply shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of financial bids.

Terms & Conditions :-

- Supply:-** The service is to be provided on need basis from the date of issuance of contract from this office.
- Security Deposit:-** In case rates quoted by the lowest bidder are found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance Security in the shape of CDR / FDR within 02 days after opening of Financial bids.
- Testing /Quality Assurance:-** The testing of the supplies shall be done by the technical expertise. Payment shall be released only after the product matches the specifications mentioned in the tender document.
- Penalty for late delivery:-** If the supplier fails to either deliver any or all of the goods or do not complete the supply within the specified period, this office shall without any prejudice to its other remedies, deduct liquidated damage at the rate of 2% of the quoted price for the delayed goods for every week or part thereof subject to a maximum of 10% of the contract value.
- Force Majeure:-** In situations beyond the control of supplier i.e Acts of God, Floods, Riot, Earthquake, General Strike, Lock outs etc such period may not be counted for penalty etc. The supplier shall provide their best possible service in the given circumstances.
- Agreement:-** The successful tenderers shall have to execute an agreement on the devised forms before execution of the supplies, failing which payment shall not be released.
- Forfeiture of Earnest Money:-** The earnest money shall be forfeited, if
 - Any bidder /tenderer withdraws his bid /tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 02 days after fixation of contract.
- Rates** Offered shall be inclusive of all taxes including GST etc. No separate Tax/Levies will be allowed. No representation regarding increase/ decrease/ altering / withdrawal of rates already quoted in the tender shall be considered after the last date of receipt of tenders and no price escalation claim will be entertained at any stage.
- Adherence to RC :-** The successful tenderer shall have to abide by the standard terms and conditions as laid down in the J & K financial rules/Codes and the conditions as per the Rate Contract.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The quantity of goods ordered shall increase or decrease depending on the funds available.
- Document submission:-** A bidder shall have to include the following information and documents with their bids:
 - Scanned copy of GST certificate and latest GST return filed.
 - ITR of 2020-21 Assessment Year.
 - Experience in the relevant field, if applicable.
 - Authorized Dealer Certificate.
 - Self-attested declaration.

DIPK-526/22

No: CMOA/SANJAY/2022/Repairing/210-12

Sd/-
Chief Medical Officer,
Anantnag

Dated: 13-04-2022

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Manzoor Ahmad Sofi S/o: Ghulam Hyder Sofi R/o: Hanjik Budgam (Transferor) of M Cycle. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B-1738. Chassis number 63048 Engine no. 89786 Model 2010. in favour of Shri.. Zahid Hussain Bhat S/o. Ghulam Hussain Bhat R/o Gada Khud Gamud Bandipora (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.187

Dated 15/04/2022

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer

Budgam Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "DEE" Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME:- Zubair Ahmad Sheikh

S/O :- Gh Mohiuddin Sheikh

R/O:- T.B Shah Anantnag

ma

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sahir Ashraf s/o Ghulam Qadir Bhat r/o Bohri Kadal Sringar own a unit registered with the District Industries Centre, Srinagar, entitled "M/S Valley Electronics I/E Khonmoh, Srinagar vide No: 07/09/16481/Prov/SSI Dated 25/06/1997"

The unit is registered for the purpose of assembling/manufacture of voltage stabilizers, voltage transformers, heat convectors, LED lights, gas burners, electric blankets, UPS and fans. I have applied for the change of activity to the manufacturing of cushions, mattresses, pillows etc.

If any person/s has any objection to this effect, he/she may contact the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice beyond which no such objection shall be entertained.

Sahir Ashraf

8825054506

mfs

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

Contact:-0194-3550112

G-mail- yardimciunique92@gmail.com

I.G: yardimci_multi_venture

F.B: yardimci multiVenture

ELECTRONICS

10X MOBILE STORE

All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories

Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-7889657769

TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.

Sannat Nagar Srinagar

Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979





Pazwalpora Residents Complain Of Water Contamination

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The residents of Pazwalpora, Shalimar allege that they get contaminated water supply from Jal Shakti Department. Residents say they have to wash their water tanks every few months owing to the muddy water they are getting.

"We have covered our taps with woolen sacks and after some time mud gets accumulated" said Masrat Syed, a Shalimar resident.

"It is not unusual to get muddy water in our locality" she added.

In addition to water they allege the water they are supplied

is also 'sticky'.

While the residents are up in arms against the Jal Shakti Department, the officials say they are doing their bit to provide quality water supply to people.

Tabish Jehan, Assistant Executive Engineer, refuted the allegations that water is unfiltered. "There is a water treatment plant in the locality and the periodic desilting has also been done. But, she acknowledged, the presence of impurities due to rain.

"We are entitled to provide quality water supply to people, we will get the water samples tested in the shortest period" she assured.

Water Scarcity Triggers Protest In Zaindar Mohalla

Agencies

Srinagar: Inhabitants of Zaindar Mohalla area of Habba Kadal on Friday morning staged a protest against the Jal Shakti department for 'miserably failing' to provide adequate water supply to them from the last four months.

Scores of women from the locality blocked the main road, causing a huge traffic mess in the area, witnesses said.

The protesting residents were seen chanting slogans, they said.

"It has been nearly four months that the consumers in this area are not getting adequate water supply. We have been given assurances multiple

times by the authorities, but nothing has been done in this regard," the residents said.

"In the holy month of Ramadan, we are being deprived of this basic facility. Inadequate water supply even in this month is nothing but a cruelty," the residents said, adding that the concerned authorities don't bother to look into the plights of the consumers, thus leaving them to lurch at large.

They demanded the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar and top officials of Jal Shakti department to look into the matter and redress their genuine demands at an earliest.

Moreover, the residents called off their protest after assurances were given to them by the local police. (KNO)

276 Projects Approved Under Smart Cities Mission: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Building cities that 'work' inclusive, healthy, resilient and sustainable requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. National and local governments have an important role to play towards shaping the future of their development, to create opportunities for all.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration, keeping pace with national policies and programmes envisaging urban development, is initiating numerous measures towards accelerating growth and development of cities of the UT.

The Smart City Projects are aimed at transforming Jammu and Srinagar into modern, sustainable and economically vibrant cities with a dedicated focus on improving infrastructure and services, increasing mobility.

The ambitious project, on completion, would strengthen urban infrastructure, improve city services, public aesthetics, ease of living, provide a clean and sustainable environment besides enhancing administrative machinery in both the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

According to the official figures, 276 magnificent projects of economic importance have been approved in twin cities to bring remarkable transformation and significantly improve the quality of life of people.

These projects include integrated Command and Control Centre, e-services, smart classrooms, smart toilets, smart meters, wifi zones, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCDA), Geographic information system (GIS) for mapping assets, Intelligent Traffic Management system (ITMS), Green spaces, vertical gardens and heritage conservation etc.

J&K Government, through its continuous endeavours, is exploring all the possibilities to develop Jammu and Srinagar cities into world-class modern, sustainable and vibrant cities.

"These new initiatives are in line with our mission of making cities sensitive to the needs of citizens and our vision of evolving them through the use of modern IT & other interventions, enabling seamless information access and better service delivery. We need to adopt meaningful ways and means to cater the ever-changing needs of citizens, to acknowledge the limits of available capacities, and strive dynamically to address the same", Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said.

Variable Message Displays (VMDs) would be put to use as a relevant and instant information dissemination tool to display information regarding government programs, schemes, awareness campaigns, information on traffic congestion conditions and alternate route diversions in case of high traffic; real time display of weather, temperature, air quality, etc.

VMDs would not only be a source of generating additional revenue for smart cities but the Variable Message Displays are strategically located on PAN city bases and have been integrated with ICCO platform, readable up to a distance of 150 metres. The control system is hosted on cloud to ensure 100% runtime besides surface Mounted Diode Technology for better visibility and IP67 Casing for all-weather operability.

The digital delivery of urban citizen services has been started to ease the process of availing the services of the government departments in twin cities. The services include a Building Permission System, issuance of Non Objection Certificate for commercial activities, birth and death certificates and corrections.

The other services which can also be availed at the click of a button are the transfer of leasehold/freehold properties in Govt colonies, booking of parks/ community halls/ municipal premises, street vending/ Rehari License, License for milk Dairy Farm, New sewerage/ water connection besides registration of

Pet Dog/Pet Clinic/ Bird Trade/ Pet Trade and road cutting permission.

To attract tourist footfall and benefit students as well as the business community, free Wi-Fi service would be installed at scores of locations under the Smart City Mission in Srinagar and Jammu.

Under Smart City Mission, the vision for Jammu city is "Transforming Jammu into a sustainable and economically vibrant city with focus on tourism, quality of life and trade by leveraging its heritage and location.

"City chowk multi-level parking, renovation of MA stadium, construction of musical fountain at Bagh e Bahu, improvement of street lighting by LED bulbs, multi-level parking at bus-stand, 100 bedded emergency block at GMC-Jammu, Jammu ropeway project are some notable projects completed under smart city mission in Jammu city, so far.

The building of the Tawi river-side, an ambitious project for the city of temples, marked a turning point for JSCL. The project will improve its overall appearance and provide new opportunities for tourism and economic development in Jammu city.

For Srinagar city, under Smart City Mission the government envisions transforming Srinagar into an eco-friendly, resilient and socio-economically vibrant city that celebrates its natural and cultural heritage creating harmony and opportunities for all.

Srinagar Smart City aspires to leverage its natural and cultural heritage and tourism through innovative and inclusive solutions, enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. EV charging stations, smart street lighting, multi-level parking, sports infrastructure (3 stadium and 5 schools), water transport system in Jhelum river, installation of ornamental LED lighting around Dal-lake, pedestrian walkways and footpath, riverbank development have been started under smart city mission in Srinagar.

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
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 32
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:10
Magrib	7:05
ISHA	8: 31

This Day In History

- 1799 -- Napoleonic Wars: The Battle of Mount Tabor - Napoleon drives Ottoman Turks across the River Jordan near Acre.
- 1865 - Battle of Columbus & West Point, GA (Ft Tyler)
- 1913 - The Bulgarians and the Turks agree to an armistice that will be accepted by the other nations involved
- 1917 - Lenin arrives back from exile in Russia at Finland Station, Petrograd to join the Russian Revolution
- 1921 - Liberal Freedom League forms in The Hague
- 1922 - German-Russian treaty signed in Italy, Soviet Union recognized
- 1922 - Rapallo Agreement, between Germany and Russia, is signed
- 1939 - Stalin requests British, French & Russian anti-nazi pact
- 1943 - 40 NZ bombers attack Haarlem, Netherlands (85 killed)
- 1945 - Red Army begins Battle of Berlin
- 1945 - US troops enter Nuremberg, Germany
- 1946 - 1st US launch of captured V-2 rocket, White Sands, NM; 8 km alt
- 1953 - British royal yacht Britannia launched by Queen Elizabeth II
- 1957 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
- 1972 - Two giant pandas arrive in US from China
- 1972 - Apollo 16 launched; 5th manned lunar landing (Decartes Highlands)
- 1974 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakhstan/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 2003 - Treaty of Accession is signed in Athens admitting 10 new member states to the European Union
- 2007 - Virginia Tech massacre: The deadliest mass shooting in modern American history. The gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, kills 32 people and injures 23 others before committing suicide.

From KO Archives

Pervez Visit To Begin With Prayers

India to fire new CBMs At Pak

New Delhi - Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf will begin his two day India visit Saturday with prayers at dargah of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinudin Chisti at Ajmer before commencing extensive talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on all outstanding issues, including Kashmir, on Sunday.

Seeking to break fresh ground, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is expected to place new confidence building measures to carry forward the peace process in his talks with Pakistan President, who visits India on his first visit after the failed 2001 Agra Summit.

Singh, who will hold parleys with Musharraf after witnessing the last one-day Indo-Pak cricket match for over an hour in the morning, is likely to suggest opening of additional bus routes and ways to promote tourism in Kashmir to enable people-to-people contacts. A joint statement after the talks is not ruled out.

Official sources said that Musharraf, who will be accompanied by his wife Sebhna and a 40-member delegation, has been conveyed Singh's suggestion that providing full security to the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service was the "joint responsibility" of the two countries and signals from that side have been "positive".

On the eve of Musharraf's visit, the Prime Minister told a Chief Ministers' conclave here that "it is the joint responsibility of the Governments of India and Pakistan." to provide full security to the bus passengers. The two countries should fight the scourge of terrorism in the region, he added.

FIGHTING TERROR TOGETHER:

India and Pakistan can work together in fighting the sources of terrorism in the region making it clear it was their joint responsibility to ensure full security to the passengers of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.

He said "I do believe that it is the joint responsibility of the Governments of India and Pakistan, and of the local authorities on both sides of the line of control, to work together in providing full security cover to the bus service which is a service for peace and for promotion of reconciliation."

"I sincerely hope we can work together in protecting the lives of innocent people and in lighting the sources of terrorism in the region," Singh said.

(Kashmir Observer, 16 April, 2005)

Several Political Workers From Srinagar Join PC

Agencies

Srinagar: Former PDP Zone President Mohd Maqbool Beigh along with Chairperson BDC, 4 BDC's and 2 Sarpanches from Hazratbal constituency joined the Peoples Conference on Friday. They were welcomed into the party by PC President Sajad Gani Lone and senior leader Mohammad Khursheed Alam at Srinagar.

While welcoming the new entrants, PC President said that their joining will im-

mensely benefit the party.

"I whole-heartedly welcome all of you into the PC. We want to play a pivotal role and contribute to the politics and welfare of J&K. I am hopeful that all of us will continue to work tirelessly to mitigate the problems of people and take the state out of the current impasse and towards peace & prosperity", he said.

Speaking on the occasion senior leader Khursheed Alam said that the people of Srinagar have been pushed against the wall and are facing a reign of political and economic persecution.



سنگوگاران شیر علی مشغول، تخلیق علی، ماسٹر محمد افضل، خواجہ ثار علی

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER NAGAM

TENDER NOTICE

As the block Nagam is in need of diet for pregnant ladies under centrally sponsored scheme JSSK thus authorized dealers/ approved restaurants holding valid license and GST numbers can submit their quotations affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- within one week time after the publication of the notice, the CDR of Rs. 5000/- shall be attached with the quotation. The list of diet will be provided in the office of the undersigned during the working days from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

No: BMON/NHM/22-23/188
Dated: 14/04/2022

DIPK-539/22

sd/-
Block Medical Officer
Nagam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the renewal of my passport bearing number K5107920 and want to make corrections as per my matriculation certificate .I want to correct my father's name from Fayaz Ahmad Bala to Fayaz Ahmad Balla and mother's name to Shakeela from Shakeela bano as per my matriculation certificate.

Anyone having objection in this regard may submit the same to the Passport office Srinagar within seven days from publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the said date.

Maleeha Zainab
D/o Fayaz Ahmad Balla
R/o Mehjoor Colony, Zakura Gulab Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir

rko

Office Of The Tehsildar Anantnag East (Mattan)

Subject:- Land Alienation case of

1. Bimla Raina w/o Lt. Shri. Moti Lal Raina
 2. Arvind Raina S/O Lt. Shri. Moti Lal Raina
 3. Preme Nath Raina S/O Lt. Radha Krishan Raina
 4. Paaaray lal Raina S/O Lt. Radha Krishan Raina
- Residents of Akura at Migrant as required Migrants Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and reservaton on Distress Sales) Act, 1997.

NOTCE

The above titled migrants land alenation case for land measurng 1 kanal 11 Marlas 2 Sirsai under Survey Number 1255/473 situated at Bon Nambal Tehsil Anantnag East Mattan District Anantnag is under process in this office for grant of permission under Sec-3 of J&K Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restrained on Distress Sales) Act, 1997.

The land proposed to be sold in favour of Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh S/O Lt. Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh R/O Babagund Bona Nambal through his/their legal attorney holders viz Lassa Bhat S/O Akram Bhat R/O Bon Nambal Tehsil Anantnag East Matttan District Anatnag. The power of attorney has been executed duly attested by the District Court Jammu (Sub Registrar Third Additional Munsif Jammu) Dated: 05-10-2007.

If any body is having any objections regarding sale of The piece of land, he may furnish his/ her objections in writing before, the Tehsildar concerned/ Deputy Commissioner Anantnag/Divisional commissioner Kashmir, Srinagar personally or through his authorized agent within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. After expiry of the date no claim shall be entertained.

No: TIM/OQ/1345
Dated 9-4-2022

iko

Tehsildar Anantnag
East Mattan

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Budgam.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Twitter Talks



“Anyone wondering what Israel’s endgame is should look at the last few days in which it has killed 14 Palestinians, sown chaos across the West Bank, and wounded dozens of worshipers during Ramadan. This is an apartheid regime by choice, and the goal is to preserve it at all costs”

@edokonard

“Walking from Parreypora to Hyderpora has become a nightmare because of the rowdy bikers and scooty borne students of coaching centers.Its a disaster in the waiting till someone is crushed by these bikers. Very little footpath available for pedestrians”

@rjnaskashmir

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Strike And Bad Sense

What began as a campaign for the genuine rights of government employees in Jammu and Kashmir has fast taken on the overtones of extortion and blackmail, with the general public as the ultimate victim.

The ordinary tax-payer, who shells out hard-earned money as duty on every purchase, and funds the huge salary bill of the government, finds himself short-changed at both ends - the services of the so- called public servants were far from satisfactory to begin with, and now the public has been saddled with the additional burden of frequent strikes, the five-day lockdown beginning on Tuesday being the latest example. Had the striking employees been liable to bear a financial penalty for the workdays lost, they would have thought a hundred times before going on an extended shutdown, but assured as they are of their full salary at the end of the month, they find themselves at liberty to milk the already impoverished exchequer. It is time that the employees were unambiguously told that they have been playing the victim for far too long, and now with very little justification. Their pose as the injured party no longer carries conviction, as a bulk of their demands has been met to the extent allowed by the economics of the state. There salaries have swelled disproportionate to their performance in comparison to the private sector where even highflying executives burn out prematurely due to work stress. Government employees, on the other hand, have an extremely easy time of it, with minimal demands, and no monitoring of performance, not to speak of the uuper kee kamayee which they consider their birthright.

Government employees are not aliens from outer space not to know the state of the government’s coffers or the heavy dependence of Jammu and Kashmir on regular dozes of financial inputs from the center, so it does appear unreasonable of them to insist on disbursements which they know the state to be in no position to make. The fundamental mistake appears to have been made by the authorities who are said to have committed themselves last year to conceding certain demands within a particular timeframe. It is unrealistic to hold the government to its purported word when the latter appears to have miss-projected its accruals. The strikers have perversely ignored subsequent clarifications by the government which has made it more than clear that any movement forward on the release of arrears was subject to receipts from the center. In light of the stark realities, employees’ unions appear to be motivated by concerns other than those doing with the immediate welfare of their members.

A peculiar aspect of employees’ agitations that merits notice is that they primarily revolve round pecuniary benefits, and never ever touch upon what has become the hallmark of officialdom in Kashmir – rampant corruption at all levels of the administration and the political leadership. Union bosses have never been heard stressing on virtues like punctuality, uprightness and other elements of a healthy, productive work culture, or exhorting their followers to take to the streets against political and administrative corruption. This could speak of a relationship where the employee leadership co-exists comfortably with widespread venality, or, in fact, owes its very positions to it. It is no secret that the chai-pani and bakhshesh culture has a stranglehold over the state’s officialdom at all levels, and files rarely move from one table to another without money changing hands. The union bosses have never been heard to denounce such practices or take steps to discourage them. It is unheard of in any government office for unions to have ostracized or censured corrupt elements, or inculcated a sense of duty among their members.

The noise the unions have been making for months over patently selfish reasons has begun to grate in the ear, and alienate the public from what are increasingly seen as self-serving motives.

The article is an editorial from KO’s archives and was originally published on June 12,2010

The responsibility of tilting the academic bob towards social sciences is something incumbent upon all the stakeholders – public as well as governments. In a society like ours, festering as it is with social diseases of all sorts, the urgency to take social sciences seriously gathers more importance and indispensability. Having witnessed widespread wars and violence, systemic exclusion of people, humanitarian issues of humongous order, the task can’t be delayed

Amir Suhail Wani

The Decline of Social Sciences

In the fourth decade of the last century, Alexis Carrel, a French Surgeon, Nobel laureate and Sociologist bemoaned the lack of integrated and comprehensive “science of man”. Carrel went on to write an entire treatise “Man The Unknown” to circumscribe the lacunae, flaws and misgivings arising out of the unprecedented progress in Positive (Material) sciences and the lag experienced by Normative (Social) sciences. Carrel had truly predicted that galloping progress in science and technology, with little or no attention to social sciences endangered the entire society and posed challenges like social chaos, hyper-consumerism, unchecked capitalism, large scale poverty, crimes and social and international paranoid.

The predictions have turned true and an asynchronous relationship between material and social sciences has thwarted our society and world against the issues and conundrums of all breeds. Our society, based on and driven by the principles of Capitalist economy as it is, has asymmetrically favoured sciences that result in increase of capital and material productivity and ignoring social sciences to the point of neglect.

What picture does emerge in our minds as we try to think of social sciences? It is usually an image dominated by the graphics of armchair scholar, skimming through abstract ideas and given to theories least pertinent to human lives. These images of a sociologist, which remove him farther away from the orbits real social business and project him into some abstract space are both inadequate and incorrect. If atoms are the constituents of matter, individuals are the constituents of society and call for Sociological investigation and understanding as much as atoms call for scientific understanding.

Society is neither the domain of biology nor physics, but rests on principles that are called Sociological principles and by their nature call for Sociological understanding. It is society and men living therein which form the raison d’etre of sciences, of all technological adventures and all other activities implied by the term “Positive Sciences”. In any case of Social disequilibrium, any episode of social disaster or any accident of social import, the material prog-



ress loses its worth and meaning. This makes the question and importance of social sciences an inevitable phenomenon and any lag or lapse on this front entails the coup of civilization. In this context, where social sciences rise to occasion of embracing the entire civilization in its lap, what are the contours and responsibilities that Social Sciences and Humanities are supposed to assume?

Social Scientists are auditors of society, which evaluate, not only the micro issues in their quantitative aspect, but also examine and scrutinise the qualitative stability of social superstructure on the whole.

Social Sciences and Humanities are indispensable in determining our relation to own self, to society and the physical world at large. Any policy making which doesn’t incorporate insights and understandings from social science is bound to commit excess and errors. It is by virtue of social sciences that a whole-scale understanding of society is brought in and policies, remedial measures, initiatives are adopted accordingly. In absence of proper Sociological understanding, the remedial measures adopted and the policies followed, not only end in fiasco but sometimes backfire in a bad way.

The aforesaid assistance in policy making is by no means the only or the primary role assigned to Social Sciences. Their role in resolving social tensions, in retaining values in the face of denuding modernity and their importance in stabilising institutions is well understood and acknowledged. In

a world where the issues of identity, individuality, lack of meaning and such are conspicuous, the role and responsibility of Social Sciences is augmented multi-fold. Having said that, the importance of Social Sciences is so obvious that our policy makers, administrators, educationists and governments should have been proactive about the same.

But the dismal state of social sciences is a cause of concern not only from an academic point but social point of view too. As we entrust our material well being to scientists and technocrats, so is it obligatory to make Sociologists and Social scientists the trustees of our social health, lest we discover our society in the throes of anarchy and disorder.

The responsibility of tilting the academic bob towards social sciences is something incumbent upon all the stakeholders – public as well as governments. In a society like ours, festering as it is with social diseases of all sorts, the urgency to take social sciences seriously gathers more importance and indispensability. Having witnessed widespread wars and violence, systemic exclusion of people, humanitarian issues of humongous order, the task can’t be delayed.

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

The author is a writer and columnist based in Srinagar

Can Indian Start-Ups Beat The Funding Slowdown In 2022?

Priyadarshi Nanu Pany

Indian start-ups had a phenomenal year in 2021. Venture capitalists (VC) invested a record high of \$38.5 billion in Indian start-ups, with the country minting 44 unicorns in 2021. The start-ups have got a headstart in 2022, mopping up about \$10 billion during the first quarter (January-March), up from \$5.7 billion in the same period in 2021, as per data collated by Venture Intelligence.

But there are some grim concerns about whether our start-ups can sustain this investment tempo. Global headwinds like a hike in interest rates by the US, geopolitical tensions arising from the escalating Russia-Ukraine conflict, crude oil prices going uphill, and battering of tech stocks have induced caution among investors.

Globally, the macroeconomic headwinds have slowed the pace of deal-making in the start-up ecosystem. This phenomenon has a ripple effect on Indian start-ups, too. According to a Bain and Company report released in collaboration with Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA), the Indian start-up ecosystem is likely to witness a shift in the pace and quality of VC deals in 2022.

Indian start-ups are gradually feeling the heat of a subdued investment climate. SoftBank founder Masayoshi Son has reportedly advised his executives to go slow on investing in tech start-ups. The news doesn’t bode well for the incumbent and aspiring Indian tech unicorns. SoftBank has invested in many successful unicorns like Oyo Rooms and Paytm. Some of the notable tech stocks have seen



The funding winter means Indian tech start-ups will come under the lens of investors for their business practices, governance and growth trajectory. Still, I feel the Indian start-up story is one of buoyancy and resilience and can beat the funding blues.

an erosion in stock valuations post their euphoric listing on the stock markets. Companies like Zomato, Nykaa, CarTrade, Policybazaar and others have witnessed a 40-60 per cent slump in their stock prices. Paytm, India’s biggest IPO, has seen its stock nosedive by over 70 per cent since listing.

The lacklustre stock performance of tech unicorns has spurred Delhivery (logistics start-up) and Oyo to delay their listing plans. Ride-hailing major Ola has kept its IPO plans in abeyance due to the bearish sentiment for tech stocks and is considering a fresh round of funding.

The funding winter means Indian tech start-ups will come under the lens of investors for their

business practices, governance and growth trajectory. Still, I feel the Indian start-up story is one of buoyancy and resilience and can beat the funding blues. Ours is a robust start-up ecosystem with more than 57,000 start-ups launching operations and creating value worth \$450 billion. An interesting catch is in the route tapped by the start-ups to raise funds. They have raised \$112 billion between 2014 and 2021, but fundraising is largely concentrated in VC and angel funding space.

When funding by VCs and private equity (PE) players is getting mired in uncertainty, it’s time for the start-ups to leverage the other funding channels. Family offices or private wealth management advisory firms have emerged as a viable

option. Backed by industry titans like Narayana Murthy, Ratan Tata and Azim Premji, they are investing in the start-up growth story. Murthy’s Catamaran Ventures has invested in start-ups such as Paper Boat and Udemey. Ratan Tata’s RTN Associates has made investments in ventures such as Car Dekho, Ola and Snapdeal. PremjiInvest’s portfolio includes brands such as Flipkart, Snapdeal and Lenskart. According to a report by 256 Network and Praxis Global Alliance India, family offices have invested over \$5 billion in Indian start-ups in the past few years. By 2025, it is estimated that family offices in India will account for 30 per cent of the total \$100 billion in start-up funding. That’s a considerable funding potential waiting to be tapped. The other option is in Ultra High Networth Individuals (HNIs), who are likely to invest up to \$30 billion in tech start-ups in India by 2025, says the same report.

Indian start-up companies in the e-commerce, Fintech, and Edtech sectors can beat the funding slowdown with their disruptive nature, scalable business potential and problem-solving capacity. By shifting gears to strong financial metrics and defining a clear path to profitability, the tech start-ups can survive the funding winter and emerge stronger.

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

The article was originally published by Financial Express

The author is founder & CEO of CSM Technologies

Book Review

Family's Pillar, Humanity's Maker: Reading Maulana Wahiduddin Khan's *Aurat: Maemaar-e-Insanniyat*



Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

The book highlights the dignified status of women in Islam, exhibits the positive role women have played (and have to play) in the society and in building humanity, and criticises women liberation/ gender equality on rational grounds

In the present times, 'Women in Islam' is one of the of the fiercely debated issues. Like other scholars across the globe, Muslim scholars of India have also contributed, and are contributing, to this discourse (for more details, see my column, 'Defying 'Misconceptions' and Defining 'Real Status' of Women in Islam', *Kashmir Observer*, 24th September 2021). Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (d. 2021)—an Indian Muslim (spiritual) scholar, a Qur'an commentator, an ardent advocate of peace, interfaith dialogue, social harmony, and gender justice, and author of over 200 books on Islam and its diverse aspects—is a significant contributor to this discourse. His significant works on this theme are: *Women between Islam and Western Society* (1995; republished in 2014 and available in Arabic and Urdu versions as well); *Woman in Islamic Shari'ah* (2020; originally published in 1995); and *Aurat: Maemaar-e-Insaniyat/ Woman: The Builder of Humankind* (2018; originally published in 2004). Here I intend to present a summary of the main contents and themes discussed in 2018 edition of his last mentioned book.

First published in 2004 and republished in 2018, *Woman: The Builder of Humankind* attempts to highlight the positive role played by women in the society through historical instances, rational analysis as well as by presenting the accounts of some ideal models and historically prominent women figures as well as in the light of his experiences. The book consists of fourteen (14) chapters, excluding a brief Conclusion, and spans over 208 pages, it also highlights some theoretical discussions on women issues, both past and present.

In its opening two chapters, the book highlights the "System of Nature"/ *Fitrat ka Nizam* (pp. 7-12) and the "Principle of Pairs"/ *Zawjain ka Usul* (pp. 13-18), respectively, arguing that the "basic principle for the advancement of life is that being compatible with nature is success and opposition to natural system results in failure" (p. 7). He also states that "in the modern times, the advocates of women's liberation movement have preached the

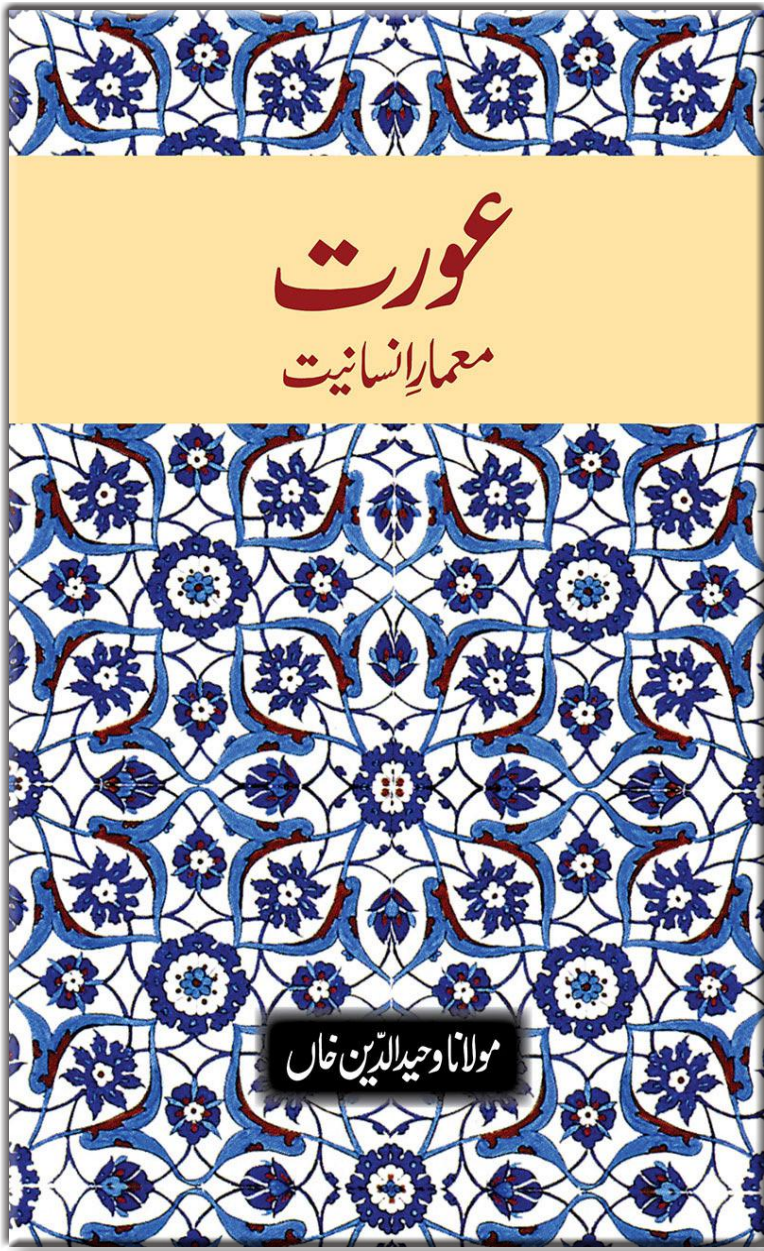
principle of gender equality, which is totally an unnatural principle, as it has resulted in creating anarchy in the family system" (p. 9). He, thus, rejects the term "gender equality" (pp. 9, 13) which holds "men and women to be equals" (p. 13) and labels it with the term "Gender Complementarity", which he defines as "men and women as part of one another" or "to be lifelong partners of each other", but not the "equals" (p. 14).

The next two chapters (3 and 4) discuss the women's position and place, respect and regard, in the light of the Qur'anic verses (pp. 19-53) addressed to her directly and thus "brings to the fore the real picture a woman has in the Islamic system of life" (pp. 19, 20), and selected Ahadith (pp. 54-70), which "reveal what place and position woman possesses in the human society" (p. 54). This is followed by a chapter on "Guiding Principles of the Marital Life" (5th chapter, pp. 71-89) gleaned from the Qur'anic principle (as mentioned in Q. 90: 4: "We have created man for toil and trial")—a natural principle which, in Khan's understanding, applies to men and women equally.

In the 6th chapter, Khan focuses on "Test Design"/ *Naqsha-e-Imtihaan* (pp. 90-93) in the light of the principle that "this worldly life is a temporary phase and thus a testing place for humans and its results are to be borne by each in the Hereafter according to one's deeds and performance done in this life" (pp. 90-91).

The next two chapters (7 and 8) describe the life, upbringing and intellectual contribution of "Aishah Siddiqua" (pp. 94-115), especially her contribution in hadith narration in the light of authentic narrations from the Hadith collections and other Islamic sources and in the next chapter the "Issue of Age at the time of her Marriage" (pp. 116-125) is discussed and he provides rational explanation and justification for her marriage at an early age. Based on the Qur'anic verses like Q. 3: 195 and 9: 71 and mostly on the discussions and evidences garnered from 8th chapter, Khan discusses "Woman as an intellectual Partner" in the 11th chapter (pp. 159-170), wherein he argues that husband and wife are not just companions, but are actually "intellectual partners" and a woman, who is generally expected to be an expert in the "domestic science or professional education", must learn and be an expert in the "art of intellectual partnership" as well through the smooth "intellectual exchange" between them (pp. 160-68).

In chapters 9, 10 and 13, "Some Exemplary (Muslim) Women" (pp. 126-46), "Character of (Muslim) Women" (pp. 147-58), and "Examples of some (Historically Famed) Women" (pp. 179-196), respectively, Khan presents an account of some prominent Muslim women of Islamic history—before, during and after the Last Prophet's time, and from his (own) family: in 9th chapter he presents an account of Hajrah, the wife of Prophet Ibrahim (AS); Asiya Binte Mazahim, wife of the Egyptian Pharaoh; Maryam, the mother of



Title: *Aurat: Maemaar-e-Insaniyat [Woman: The Builder of Humankind]*
Author: Maulana Wahiduddin Khan,
Publication Details: New Delhi/ Noida: Goodword Books, 2018
Pages: 208; ISBN: 9788178984476; paperback; Price: Rs. 80/-

Prophet Isa (AS); and Khadijah bint Khuwaylid and Umm Salmah (RA), the wives of the Prophet. He argues that "all these women are ideals and role models for the whole humanity from different perspectives as all of them have passed through different situations and have faced different circumstances" (pp. 126, 146).

In 10th chapter, he refers to such prominent historical figures, like Umm ad-Dardah, Rabia Basri, Tartar women and Maryam Makani (mother of Mughal emperor Akbar) for playing an efficient and effective

role in different arenas. In 13th chapter, he first refers to the examples of women of his own family, including his mother (Zaibun Nisa), for her role in his "character building" (p. 19); his wife (Sabiha Khatun) for "showing enduring patience" during his ups and downs (p. 185); and his daughter (Farida Khanam—who served as professor of Islamic Studies in *Jamia Milia Islamia*, New Delhi) for her "unselfish services", "dedication", for being his "intellectual assistant" and much more (pp. 188-92). In the second part of this

chapter he provides a brief profile of some women from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Dubai who are actively contributing through their missionary activities in their countries and the author has well acquaint-



Woman: The Builder of Humankind highlights the exalted status of women in Islam, discusses and demonstrates the positive role women have played in the society and in building humanity—both at social and intellectual levels—as well as reflects on the role she has to play in the present times

tance with them (p. 193). The major objective of this chapter is to reveal that "what the author [Khan] believes and expounds on the topic of women in Islam is a matter of actual fact and he has experienced it himself as well" (p. 179).

The remaining two chapters (11 and 14) throw light on two significant themes, "Woman—The Builder of Humanity" (pp. 171-78)—which is the title of this book as well—and "Women in Contemporary Times" (pp. 197-204), respectively: in the former, he discusses (in the context of Q. 2: 158) the significance of the rite of *sa'i* (the act of running back and forth seven times between Safa and Marwah during the Pilgrimage). 'What was the significance of this act by Hajrah? He raises the questions and answers it as: "The significance of this act lies in the fact that it was an act of sacrificing one's life for the sake of nurturing a new generation" (p. 172). He further remarks that it was aimed "to bring into being a live community which, free of all superstitions and all other corruptions of civilization, would play a revolutionary role led by the last Prophet [pbuh]. ... Through this Abrahamic plan it was thus demonstrated that what role a woman plays in human history—the role of preparing and guiding the future generations" (Ibid.). From this historical, but revolutionary, episode Khan validates that "Islam thus aims woman not just a builder of a family, but the builder of the whole humanity; she

should not confine her naturally bestowed feminine qualities to her offspring (sons and daughters) but the whole humanity should benefit from them. Thus, God has created a woman as the builder of humanity and it would be her under-use if role is restricted for her offspring only" (p. 177).

In the last chapter, "Women in Contemporary Times" (pp. 197-204), Khan starts with the quote, "There is a woman at the beginning of all great things", and maintains that "the greatest example in human history for its proof is of Hajrah, wife of Prophet Ibrahim [AS]; her marvellous sacrifice gave rise to a new era in the human history. It was a revolutionary act whose imprints were felt by the whole world" (p. 197). Her extraordinary sacrifice was aimed "to bring into being a new generation that would be free from all kinds of polytheistic thoughts and concepts" and the fruits of this sacrifice were attained by the humanity till the modern times, "but from last two centuries, humanity is again surrounded by a maelstrom—i.e., the wave and whirl of materialism. While in the previous era humanity was facing the evil of idolatry, but in the present times world is affected by the curse of materialism, which has resulted in humanity's destruction and most affected aspect of this destruction is (seen in) the collapse of value system" (pp. 198-99). Therefore, he suggests that "present situation demands woman like Hajrah who will change the course of history by their extraordinary sacrifices, and will turn the materialistic world into the world of monotheism" (p. 199).

He further asserts that the slogans of gender equality by the women's liberation movements have added to the miseries of social life and both men and women have neglected their original role of being "each other's lifetime companions" as well as the principle of "division of labor", which has "never been intended as a form of discriminatory treatment, but its main purpose has always been to preserve the distinctive characteristics of both sexes". Therefore, what is actually required is "division of labor, not gender equality", and it is on the basis of this principle that "a balanced system comes into existence" (p. 204). The book ends with a "Summary" (pp. 205-208) and puts forth many arguments in the light of previous discussions, which are related to the past, present and future of women and their role in the society.

Keeping in view the contents and topics addressed and discussed, *Woman: The Builder of Humankind* highlights the exalted status of women in Islam, discusses and demonstrates the positive role women have played in the society and in building humanity—both at social and intellectual levels—as well as reflects on the role she has to play in the present times.

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, at DGC Sogam, Kupwara (J&K). Email: tauseef.parray2@gmail.com

Reading Dostoevsky and Tolstoy in Ukraine

Ani Kokobobo

As someone who teaches Russian literature, I can't help but process the world through the country's novels, stories, poems and plays, even at a time when Russian cultural productions are being canceled around the world.

With the Russian army perpetrating devastating violence in Ukraine – which includes the slaughter of civilians in Bucha – the discussion of what to do with Russian literature has naturally arisen.

I'm not worried that truly valuable art can ever be canceled. Enduring works of literature are enduring, in part, because they are capacious enough to be read critically against the vicissitudes of the present.

You could make this argument about any great work of Russian literature, but as a scholar of Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky, I will stick with Russia's most famous literary exports.

After World War II, German critic Theodore Adorno described the Holocaust as a profound blow to Western culture and philosophy, even going so far as to question the very ability of human beings to "live after Auschwitz."

This idea, born of the very specific context of the Holocaust, shouldn't be haphazardly applied to the present moment. But following Adorno's moral lead, I wonder whether – after the brutal shelling of the city of Mariupol, after the horrors on the streets of Bucha, along with atrocities committed in Kharkiv, Mykolaev, Kyiv

and many more – the indiscriminate violence ought to change how readers approach Russia's great authors.

CONFRONTING SUFFERING WITH CLEAR EYES

Upon learning that Russian writer Ivan Turgenev had looked away at the last minute when witnessing the execution of a man, Dostoevsky made his own position clear: "[A] human being living on the surface of the earth has no right to turn away and ignore what is happening on earth, and there are higher moral imperatives for this."

Seeing the rubble of a theater in Mariupol, hearing of Mariupol citizens starving because of Russian airstrikes, I wonder what Dostoevsky – who specifically focused his piercing moral eye on the question of the suffering of children in his 1880 novel "The Brothers Karamazov" – would say in response to the Russian army's bombing a theater where children were sheltering. The word "children" was spelled out on the pavement outside the theater in large type so it could be seen from the sky. There was no misunderstanding of who was there.

Ivan Karamazov, the central protagonist in "The Brothers Karamazov," is far more focused on questions of moral accountability than Christian acceptance or forgiveness and reconciliation. In conversation, Ivan routinely brings up examples of children's being harmed, imploring the other characters to recognize the atrocities in their midst. He is determined to seek retribution.

Surely the intentional shelling of children in Mariupol is something Dostoevsky couldn't possibly look away from either. Could he possibly defend a vision of Russian morality while seeing innocent civilians – men, women and children – lying on the streets of Bucha?

At the same time, nor should readers look away from the unseemliness of Dostoevsky and his sense of Russian exceptionalism.

“After publishing “War and Peace,” Tolstoy publicly denounced many Russian military campaigns. The last part of his 1878 novel “Anna Karenina” originally wasn’t published because it criticized Russia’s actions in the Russo-Turkish war. Tolstoy’s alter ego in that novel, Konstantin Levin, calls the Russian intervention in the war “murder” and thinks it is inappropriate that Russian people are dragged into it

These dogmatic ideas about Russian greatness and Russia's messianic mission are connected to the broader ideology that has fueled Russia's past colonial mission, and current Russian foreign politics on violent display in Ukraine.

Yet Dostoevsky was also a great humanist thinker who tied this vision of Russian greatness to Russian suffering and faith. Seeing the spiritual value of human suffering was perhaps a natural outcome for a man sent to a labor camp in Siberia for five years for simply participating in a glorified socialist book club. Dostoevsky grew out of his suffering, but, arguably, not to a place where he could accept state-sponsored terror.

Would an author who, in his 1866 novel "Crime and Punish-

ment," explains in excruciating detail the toll of murder on the murderer – who explains that when someone takes a life, they kill part of themselves – possibly accept Putin's vision of Russia? Wars and all, would Russia's greatest metaphysical rebel have recoiled and rebelled against Russian violence in Ukraine?

I hope that he would, as many contemporary Russian writers have. But the dogmas of the Krem-

lin are pervasive, and many Russians accept them. Many Russians look away.

TOLSTOY'S PATH TO PACIFISM

No writer captures warfare in Russia more poignantly than Tolstoy, a former soldier turned Russia's most famous pacifist. In his last work, "Hadji Murat," which scrutinizes Russia's colonial exploits in North Caucasus, Tolstoy showed how senseless Russian violence toward a Chechen village caused instant hatred of Russians.

Tolstoy's greatest work about Russian warfare, "War and Peace," is a novel that Russians have traditionally read during great wars, including World War II. In "War and Peace," Tolstoy contends that the morale of the Russian military

is the key to victory. The battles most likely to succeed are defensive ones, in which soldiers understand why they are fighting and what they are fighting to protect: their home.

Even then, he's able to convey the harrowing experiences of young Russian soldiers coming into direct confrontation with the instruments of death and destruction on the battlefield. They disappear into the crowd of their

battalion, but even a single loss is devastating for the families awaiting their safe return.

After publishing "War and Peace," Tolstoy publicly denounced many Russian military campaigns. The last part of his 1878 novel "Anna Karenina" originally wasn't published because it criticized Russia's actions in the Russo-Turkish war. Tolstoy's alter ego in that novel, Konstantin Levin, calls the Russian intervention in the war "murder" and thinks it is inappropriate that Russian people are dragged into it.

"The people sacrifice and are always prepared to sacrifice themselves for their soul, not for murder," he says.

In 1904, Tolstoy penned a public letter denouncing the Russo-Jap-

anese War, which has sometimes been compared with Russia's war in Ukraine.

"Again war," he wrote. "Again sufferings, necessary to nobody, utterly uncalled for; again fraud, again the universal stupefaction and brutalization of men." One can almost hear him shouting "Be-think Yourselves," the title of that essay, to his countrymen now.

In one of his most famous pacifist writings, 1900's "Thou Shalt Not Kill," Tolstoy presciently diagnosed the problem of today's Russia.

"The misery of nations is caused not by particular persons, but by the particular order of Society under which the people are so bound up together that they find themselves all in the power of a few men, or more often in the power of one single man: a man so perverted by his unnatural position as arbiter of the fate and lives of millions, that he is always in an unhealthy state, and always suffers more or less from a mania of self-aggrandizement."

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTION

If Dostoevsky would insist that one not look away, it is fair to say that Tolstoy would contend that people must act upon what they see.

During the Russian famine of 1891 to 1892, he started soup kitchens to help his countrymen who were starving and had been abandoned by the Russian government. He worked to help Russian soldiers evade the draft in the Russian empire, visiting and supporting jailed soldiers who did not wish to fight. In 1899 he sold

his last novel, "Resurrection," to help a Russian Christian sect, the Doukhobors, emigrate to Canada so they would not need to fight in the Russian army.

These writers have little to do with the current war. They cannot expunge or mitigate the actions of the Russian army in Ukraine. But they're embedded on some level within the Russian cultural fabric, and how their books are still read matters. Not because Russian literature can explain any of what is happening, because it cannot. But because, as Ukrainian writer Serhiy Zhadan wrote in March 2022, Russia's war in Ukraine marked a defeat for Russia's great humanist tradition.

As this culture copes with a Russian army that has indiscriminately bombed and massacred Ukrainians, Russia's great authors can and should be read critically, with one urgent question in mind: how to stop the violence. Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny noted during his March 2022 trial that Tolstoy urged his countrymen to fight both despotism and war because one enables the other.

And Ukrainian artist Alevtina Kakhidze cited "War and Peace" in a February 2022 entry in her graphic diary.

"I've read your f—ing literature," she wrote. "But looks like Putin did not, and you have forgotten."

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

RAM NAVAMI VIOLENCE

Bulldozers Brought In To Remove 'Illegal Encroachments' In Gujarat's Khambhat

AHMEDABAD: Days after communal violence rocked Khambhat town of Gujarat's Anand district, the administration on Friday brought in bulldozers to remove illegal encroachments along a road in Shakarpara area of the town where a Ram Navami procession came under attack on April 10.

Apart from the illegal encroachments, including wooden cabins and some concrete structures, the administration was also clearing bushes from the land in Shakarpara, as miscreants had used these to hide after throwing stones at the procession, Anand District Collector MY Daxini said.

"Miscreants had used the bushes and thick vegetation to attack the procession. Hence, we have launched a drive from today to clear bushes and illegal structures built on government land alongside a road in Shakarpara. This drive will continue in the coming days till the entire area is cleared," Daxini said.

On March 10, clashes erupted between two communities in Khambhat after stones were pelted on a Ram Navami procession in Shakarpara.

Anand district superintendent of police Ajit Rajian had earlier said that communal violence in Khambhat town was a "pre-planned conspiracy" hatched by a sleeper module to achieve the dominance of the Muslim community in the town.

The police have already arrested 11 persons involved in the entire conspiracy.

The perpetrators had planned to attack the procession and spread violence to teach the members of Hindu community a lesson to not take out any such procession in the future, the police said.

As planned, some of the accused, including Maulvi Ayyub Malek and Vasim Malek, intentionally started arguments with organisers of the procession over the issue of music and asked them to turn it off when the procession reached Shakarpara.

Ministry Of Heavy Industries Organises Conference On Climate Change, Manufacturing Industries Should Work Towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' To Make India A Global Manufacturing Hub: Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Heavy Industries organised a day-long meeting of its consultative committee on the theme of Climate Change and Manufacturing at Srinagar on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Union Minister of Heavy Industries said that keeping in view the vision of Prime Minister, industries should work towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and make India a global manufacturing hub. He also said that Industrialization is the need of the hour to make the country self-reliant in all fields, but it is equally important that the industry should work to reduce carbon emissions as per the commitment expressed by Prime Minister in COP-26 and Industries should adopt green and state-of-the-art technologies. He emphasized that clean and green environment is the need of hour for better future of nation.

The meeting focused on the efforts done by the Ministry and way forward to tackle climate



change through adoption of innovative and futuristic policies.

In order to promote e-mobility in India, the Ministry has launched Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME I) schemes - Phase I and II. Also, recently the Ministry has also launched Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacture of advanced chemistry cells in India and also for auto and auto parts. With the increased adoption of electric vehicles, the country's

dependency on oil imports is expected to reduce. Also, adoption of E-vehicles will result in improved environmental conditions and lesser pollution.

As a step toward tackling climate change and to fulfill the PM's vision, the ministry has also sanctioned a large no. of EV charging stations across the country.

The ministry is committed to the development of futuristic technologies for India's energy transition and climate mitigation. In a step towards

this direction, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited under the ministry is working towards development of Advanced Ultra Super Critical Technology for coal based power plants. The company is also focussing on the process of coal gasification to provide a solution towards cleaner usage of coal.

Such significant steps by the ministry are contributing significantly to the country's climate goals and PM's vision of sustainable development and making the country Atmanirbhar.

Mob Sets Houses On Fire, Accuses Muslim Man Of Kidnapping Hindu Woman

Agenceis

AGRA : Right-wing activists on Friday set ablaze two houses belonging to the family of a Muslim man accused of kidnapping a Hindu woman, who said in a video clip that she went willingly with him.

Police arrested eight people involved in the mob attack, which they said was carried out by members of a group known as Dharam Jagran Samanvay Sangh.

A police post in-charge was suspended for negligence and a probe ordered against the local SHO.

Police said the mob torched the house in the city's Runakta locality, where Sajid, a gym owner, stayed. An adjoining house belonging to the family was also set on fire.

The mob was demanding his arrest for 'kidnapping' the woman, who police said is 22 years old but still in school. Shops in the local Runakta market also downed shutters, with traders making the same demand.

There were no reports of any injuries in the attack on the gym owner's home.

The woman, who is a class 11 student, went missing on Monday. She was traced two days later by police, but Sajid's whereabouts were not known. Her family members had lodged a missing person's report, prompting a police search. Apparently on the basis of their complaint, a case was also registered under section 366 of the Indian Penal Code.

The section relates to kidnapping of a woman with the intention of compelling or seducing her into sex or marriage.

But in a video that surfaced on social media, the woman said she is an adult and had gone willingly with the man, according to police.

Both are adults, Agra's Senior Superintendent of Police Sudheer Kumar Singh told reporters.

He said police will produce the woman in court. They couldn't do that so far because of the court holidays.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Sarpanch Shot Dead

loved ones," the NC Tweeted.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also expressed deep sorrow over the killing of the Panchayat members.

"Deeply pained by the news of killing of a Sarpanch Manzoor Ah Bangroo in Pattan. Even after multiple security assessments, bundling them in secure accommodations in Srinagar, why do sarpanches still continue to be killed," the PDP Tweeted.

In a statement issued here, Apni Party condemned the deadly attack on an independent Sarpanch and said that the "bloodshed would never pave way towards tranquility and the violence in all its forms need to stop".

The spokesperson also stated that Kashmir has witnessed violence since years altogether and the people of Kashmir have been used as a mere scapegoat to fulfill the vested interests. "I unequivocally condemn this inhumane act on Manzoor Ahmed Bangroo. My sincere condolences to the family of the deceased. I would pray for the strength to the family members to bear the irreparable loss. I hope justice is served at its earliest and the perpetrators of the crime are brought to justice" the spokesperson said.

More Troops Arriving

PRO CRPF Kashmir, Junaid Khan told Kashmir Observer that akin to routine years, this year too, there will be no change in the arrangements made for peaceful conduct of Yatra.

"The foolproof security that had been arranged in the past several years including ROP's for safe passage of convoys won't change this year. In fact, the camps that are put intact on the trekking route from Chandanwari & Baltal [to the holy cave] will also remain the same," Khan said.

However, the CRPF spokesperson said that this year the number of arriving pilgrims has doubled and it subsequently poses a challenge but that won't hamper the security arrangements.

He said that the only change the forces may have to do will be to increase the size of camps for pilgrims besides that no other changes in the arrangements are required.

"As of now, we don't have an exact figure of armed deployment for Yatra as the forces are still being inducted. But as per MHA, we're supposed to arrange 40,000 joint security personnel from CRPF, ITBP, BSF and SSB. Some of these battalions are already conducting their routine activities in the valley and some are still in the process of deployment from other parts," Khan said.

Besides, he said, there will be some additional deployment in the Pahalgam axis and an additional deployment in the Baltal-Srinagar axis depending on the requisition sent by the local police to MHA on the number of personnel required for Yatra related deployment.

"The process of inducting extra battalions from other parts is currently going on. The additional deployment has been called in as many axis require an increased manpower. The Khanbal-Chandanwari axis require an additional deployment for road protection and camp establishment. Similarly, the Srinagar-Ganderbal-Baltal axis also needs extra manpower," the CRPF

spokesperson said.

According to officials, six to eight lakh pilgrims are expected to attend the annual pilgrimage being held after three years in wake of Article-370 abrogation and the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic.

The pilgrimage was cancelled mid-way in 2019, ahead of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August that year.

This year, the Yatra is expected scheduled to start from for June 30 and around six to eight lakh pilgrims are expected to cover the pilgrimage, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Apurva Chandra told reporters here on Monday.

From US, Rajnath

Washington DC. Thereafter, he travelled to Hawaii for meetings at IndoPACOM headquarters and then to San Francisco.

At a reception hosted in his honour by the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, the Defence Minister told the select gathering about the valour shown by Indian soldiers on the border with China.

I cannot say openly what they (Indian soldiers) did and what decisions we (the government) took. But I can definitely say that a message has gone (to China) that India will not spare anyone, if India is harmed. (Bharat ko agar koi chhrega to Bharat chhorega nahi, he said.

The Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas. The face-off escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020. As many as 20 Indian soldiers and an unspecified number of Chinese troops were killed in the clashes.

India and China have held 15 rounds of military talks so far to resolve the eastern Ladakh standoff. As a result of the talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Without making any direct reference to the American pressure with respect to Russia because of the Ukraine war, Singh said India does not believe in a zero-sum game diplomacy.

If India has a good relationship with one country, it does not mean that its relationship with any other country will deteriorate, he said. India has never adopted this kind of diplomacy. India will never opt for this (kind of diplomacy). We don't believe in the zero-sum game in international relationships, he said.

India, he said, believes in having a bilateral relationship which is based on win-win for both the countries.

His remarks came amidst some disquiet in Washington over India's position on the Ukraine crisis as well as its decision to procure discounted Russian oil.

The image of India has changed. The prestige of India has improved. In the next few years, no power in the world can stop India from becoming the world's top three economies, Singh said.

In his address to the Indian community, Singh said that in the past, if any country in the world wanted to develop and prosper, they always thought

about establishing a vibrant trade with India.

We should aim at establishing a similar ecosystem in India by the time we celebrate our 100th independence Day in 2047, he said.

The defence minister said that during his last trip to the US in 2013, at a reception in New Jersey he had told a group of Indian Americans that "the success story of India is not over, it is waiting for the BJP to come into power. At that time, people were disappointed with the performance of the then Congress government."

In eight years, he said, the Modi government has "turned around" the country and the image of India has changed for the better.

(Globally) people have now realised that India is no longer a weak country. It is a powerful country of the world. Today India has the potential to lead the world. This potential of India is something that the world has now realised, he said.

Nothing else could be a grand achievement for a country like India in such a short span, he said.

"There have been several prime ministers in India who became the leader of the country after they occupied this post. But like Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi were the country's leaders even before they became the prime minister," he said.

Today we have a new and confident Bharat, he said, adding that India is now headed towards becoming a self-reliant country and the Modi government is taking several important steps in this regard, including in the defence sector, he said.

India has taken several key steps towards indigenisation of its defence sector, he said as he briefly described some of such decisions being taken by the government.

Observing that India has a lot of faith and confidence in the country's IT sector, the defence minister said that Indian talents are playing a major role in the world's IT sector and the Modi government has taken steps towards massive digitisation.

India today, he said, is marching ahead to become an economic power and the government is not only working towards the welfare and prosperity of its people, but also helping people in other parts of the world as well.

India is now among the world's fastest growing economies. Our economy did suffer a setback due to the pandemic. But now we are having a fast recovery, he said.

CAG Raps J&K

wise breakup of outstanding UCs shows that 86.53 per cent of the total amount of outstanding UCs pertained to five departments of Tourism, Health, Agriculture and Housing and 55.53 per cent of outstanding UCs pertained to the Education Department only, the report said.

Financial rules state that for the grants provided for specific purposes, UCs should be obtained by the department officers from grantees and after verification, these should be forwarded to the state's Accountant General within 18 months from the date of sanction, it said.

As is evident from the data, UCs are

outstanding for the past many years. Out of the 2,029 UCs outstanding as on 30 October 2019, 304 UCs (15 per cent) are pending since 2014-15, the report said.

The CAG took a dig at the J and K administration pointing out that the non-submission of the UCs means that the authorities have not explained as to how the funds were spent over the years.

"There is also no assurance that the intended objectives of providing these funds have been achieved. This assumes greater importance if such UCs are pending against Grants-in-Aid meant for capital expenditure," it said.

The CAG report said, "Since non-submission of UCs is fraught with the risk of misappropriation, it is imperative that the State government should monitor this aspect closely and hold the concerned persons accountable for submission of UCs in a timely manner.

Giving breakup of the pendency of UCs, the report revealed that 1,370 UCs amounting to Rs 5972.99 crore are pending for submission in 2017-18, followed by 403 UCs for an amount of Rs 2218.09 crore in 2018-19, 256 UCs for an amount of Rs 1163.42 crore in 2019-20.

The CAG said non-submission and delay in submission of accounts by the bodies receiving substantial funding from the state budget is a serious financial irregularity.

"Thus, there was no feedback on activities and financial performance of these bodies," it added.

BSF DG Reviews

and took reports from the officials about the deployment in other sectors on the Kashmir Frontiers.

Appreciating the efforts of the troops for maintaining the security in Kashmir division, he asked the troopers to remain on highest alert to prevent any acts of the anti-India elements.

There has been an increase in attempts of infiltration from the Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PcK) after the end of the winter season every year.

Singh also asked the BSF officers to man the international border on the highest level and to increase the regular patrol on the borders.

He also planted one Chinara tree sapling in Panthachowk campus of the Force.

Singh also participated in the high level meeting on the preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra, chaired by the Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla along with the Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar.

The BSF also deploys its security personnel for the Amarnath Yatra and this year, the Force has been asked to spare more troops considering the high number of devotees this year.

Stone Crushers

Sudhir Agarwal and Arun Kumar Tyagi said.

The committee formed by the NGT comprises Justice Janak Raj Kotwal, former Judge of J-K High Court along with officials from the Central Pollution Control Board, state pollution control board, nominee of Secretary Irrigation, J-K and District Magistrate, Rajouri.

"The Committee may consider the reports already furnished and if found necessary, undertake a visit to the site

and interact with stakeholders. Justice Kotwal may fix his own honorarium to be paid by the State PCB. The registry may forward a copy of the entire record to Justice JR Kotwal to enable the entire matter to be looked into. The report may be filed within three months by email," the bench said.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by village head Arti Sharma against operation of stone crushers in violation of environmental norms in Rajouri district.

The plea said stone crushers are located close to residential areas and Tawi river and illegal borewells have been dug for extraction of ground water.

"Requisite environmental clearance has not been taken. Illegal mining is also done on the bank of Tawi river, using heavy machinery. Air pollution is caused by using vehicles for transportation. This is resulting in lowering of the water level, water scarcity, decreasing agriculture productivity," the plea said.

Confessions Of Coldblooded

an unidentified dead body was lying in the Dal Lake near Akhoo Mohalla Foreshore Road.

The body was fished out and shifted it to a hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Police initiated inquest proceedings under section 174 Crpc and a case vide FIR No. 34/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Nigeen.

The investigation was taken up under the supervision of SP Hazratbal, Mashkoor Ahmed Zargar and SDPO Zakura, Showkat Ahmad Dar.

The body had visible marks on neck which was confirmed by the preliminary medical report as well.

Soon the suspects were summoned for questioning. Among them were the two siblings.

Sleuths had sniffed their probable role as they had stayed tightlipped about their father's missing status for days together.

"We became suspicious of them as they didn't lodge a missing complaint in the police station even after three days," SHO Lateef informs."So, we started grilling them."

However, to dodge police investigators, the siblings resorted to lies—asserting that their father went outside soon after returning home from the mosque.

To check the veracity of their statements, the sleuths gathered technical evidences that tracked Khursheed's last movement in his house.

"We went through several circumstantial evidence, oral witnesses, CCTVs and technical analysis which proved that Khursheed was killed by his own family members at their home," SHO Lateef says.

"After we nailed their lies with our meticulous investigation, both the brothers confessed their crime."

The two siblings were arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

But what surprised everyone including police was the motive behind the murder.

"Ever since Khursheed had sold his ancestral property at Bilal Colony,

Soura for over Rs. 90 lakh," the SHO said, "his sons would insist him to handover the said amount to them—which apparently the deceased had refused."

On the day of his murder, Khursheed had withdrawn Rs. four lakh from his fixed deposit account into his own saving account which led to the heated arguments between him and his sons.

Later that day, when he left to offer Taraweeh, the siblings including their mother waited for him to commit the murder most foul.

Soldier Shoots

for him taking such an extreme step could not be immediately known, reported news agency GNS

A police official said that cognizance of the matter has been taken and further investigations are underway.

HC Transfers

Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu against the available vacancy

Ms. Kalpana Revu, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri, has been transferred and posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri against the available vacancy.

Suneet Gupta, 3rd Additional District & Sessions Judge (TADA/POTA) Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Doda vice Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary

Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Additional District, and Sessions Judge, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Doda has been transferred and posted as Additional District and session judge Rajouri vice Mahmood Ahmad Chowdhary.

Ms. Masarat Roohi, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Principal Judge, Family Court, Srinagar against the available vacancy.

Ashwani Kumar, 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge, Jammu, has transferred and posted as 3 Additional District & Session as 3 Additional District & Sessions Judge (TADA/POTA), Jammu vice Shri Suneet Gupta.

Further Registrar General in the order, a copy of which lies with GNS, ordered that Sanjay Parihar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, shall handover the charge to Shahzad Azeem, Registrar Vigilance. "The transferee Judges shall ensure that all matters pending for judgments/part heard, are completed and judgments/orders are pronounced in such matters before moving." (GNS)

J&K Clocks Five

not report any fresh case.

There are 71 active cases of the infection in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,099, the officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the Union Territory stands at 4,750 as no fresh fatality due to the viral disease was reported in the last 24 hours.

The officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus).

CRPF Head Constable

declared him dead, the official said.

"He was posted at Deputy Commissioner's Office in Pulwama" official said, adding that cause of his death is being ascertained—(KNO)

Teacher Suspended For 'Forcing' Students To Do Menial Jobs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The authorities in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday suspended a teacher for allegedly forcing students to do menial jobs at a government run school.

Official sources said that on Friday the accused teacher asked some students to clean rooms of the school and toilet. A teacher interfered and requested him not to clean toilets to no avail.

But it infuriated the teacher and he slapped his colleague and created ruckus, they said.

He manhandled his colleagues including the head of the school drawing protest from students and their guardians.

Students alleged that the teacher often asks them to do menial jobs.

"If anyone is asking our kids to do menial jobs, he must be transferred and action must be initiated against him. The school should be allowed to operate normally so that students don't suffer," parents said.

Chief Education Officer Kul-

gam Mohammad Ashraf Rather told a local news agency KNO that said teacher has been suspended and a committee has been constituted to conduct an inquiry into the issue.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct, Gowhar Farooq Ganie, teacher PS Tengen Zone Yaripora is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect and he shall remain attached with this office during suspension period," said the order issued by Chief Education Officer Kulgam.

"In the backdrop of suspension of Gowhar Farooq Ganie, Teacher PS Tengenm Zone Yaripora in view of his manhandling of head of institution and other staff members, the following officers are hereby nominated as enquiry officers to conduct the in-depth enquiry in this behalf & furnish the report to the undersigned within four days positively," it added.

The committee members include Principal BHSS Yaripora, Principal HSS D.H.Pora and Zonal Education officer, Yaripora (DDO), it said.

JU Vice Chancellor Meets Jitendra Singh, Seeks Integration Of Science Curriculum With Start-Ups



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Jammu University Prof Umesh Rai on Friday met Union Minister Jitendra Singh here and sought integration of science curriculum by engaging and enrolling students of the varsity in various new student and youth-related StartUp and other projects of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

In his first meeting with the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Science and Technology, after taking over as the vice chancellor, Rai requested him to engage the students from the University of Jammu in some of the futuristic science projects launched under the ministry.

Rai, who was a professor in the Delhi University before taking up his present assignment, sought integration of science curriculum by engaging and enrolling students of Jammu University in various new student and youth-related StartUp and other projects, scholarships and fellowships started by Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

Singh responded that the research in the university has to be linked with StartUps and to make the StartUps sustainable, not only the academic streams need to come together but the industry also needs to be made equal stakeholders with equal investments of resources, according to a statement by the Science and Technology Ministry.

On National Education Policy-2020, Singh said its two-fold objective is to correct past anomalies that were persistent for years and to introduce contemporary provisions which are in keeping up with the present global trends.

The minister said Jammu is fast emerging as north India's education hub.

He called for wider integration among different educational institutions of Jammu like Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, AIIMS, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, National Institute of High Altitude Medicine, Bhaderwah, Industrial Biotech Park, Kathua, north India's first Space Centre, Central University Jammu, among others.

MeT Predicts 2-Day Wet Spell From April 19

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The meteorological department on Friday forecast another spell of light to moderate rain during April 19-20 in both J&K and Ladakh.

"Another feeble WD most likely to affect J&K and Ladakh from 19 April," a meteorological department official here said, adding, "Light to moderate rain with thunder over scattered to fairly widespread places over Kashmir Division and isolated places over Jammu and Ladakh is expected during 19th evening to 20th April forenoon," he said.

Meanwhile, after light rains during last couple of days, night temperature registered a considerable drop with mercury settling below normal in Kashmir Valley barring Gulmarg and Kupwara town on Friday.

The MeT official here said that Srinagar received traces of rainfall in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours this morning and recorded a low of 7.0°C against 8.7°C on the previous night. The temperature, he said, was 0.6 °C below normal during this time of the

year for the summer capital.

Qazigund also received traces of rainfall during the time and recorded a low of 4.8°C against 7.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was below normal by 1.7°C for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had 0.8mm of rainfall during the time and recorded a low of 5.3°C against 6.8°C on the previous night. It was 0.8°C less than normal during this time of the season for the place, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, had the highest rainfall of 71mm during the time and recorded a low of 1.2°C against 4.0°C last night. The temperature was 1.6°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg had 0.2 mm of rainfall and recorded a low of 1.8°C, same as on the previous night, the official said. While 1.5°C is normal for the world famous skiing resort during this time of the season, the official said that the temperature was 0.3°C above normal for the place in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir received 1.3 mm of rain in the 24 hours and recorded a low of 6.4°C against 7.7°C on the previous night. The temperature was above normal by 0.1°C, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 19.2°C against 21.0°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 2.1°C above normal for J&K's winter capital which received traces of rain during the time, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.8°C, Batote 10.8°C while Bhaderwah had a low of 7.9°C, the official said.

In March, J&K received 80% deficient rain due to the absence of any strong western disturbance or the winds blowing from the Mediterranean bringing moisture. The capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar were largely dry.

MeT department said that Jammu city received only 2.1mm of rain against normal of 68 mm last month while Srinagar city received 21.3mm of rainfall as against normal of 117.6mm.

This Ramazan, Kashmir Consumes Watermelons Worth Rs 5 Cr A Day

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the ensuing month of Ramazan, Kashmir is consuming at least 100 trucks of watermelon per day at the cost of Rs 5 crore.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir president of Fruit and Vegetable Association Kashmir said that a week ago, they were receiving a supply of 50 to 60 trucks of watermelon from various states of India but the demand went up and has exceeded 100 trucks as of now.

"Every vehicle contains 15 to 20 ton watermelon. In next few weeks, we expect that number of vehicles will reach to 200-250," he said. "Product is coming from Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The produce is yet to come from Punjab and other states."

The rates are coming down with each passing day, he said. "People associated with watermelon trade and business are



earning handsome amount this year owing to the fact that temperatures have remained dry and hot," he said, adding that it has been observed that people love to breakfast with watermelon that gives them a cooling effect.

He said that this is for the first time that in this season, such a huge number of vehicles laden with watermelon are arriving in Kashmir while as each vehicle with watermelon load costs Rs 4-5 lakh. "Consuming 100 trucks of watermelon a day

fetches the businessmen Rs 5 crore," Bashir said.

The watermelon is being sold at higher rates against the Rs 30 per kg fixed price by the Food and Supplies Department.

"We have issued the rate list to the suppliers and sellers. Checking squads are in the field to check the hoarding and who-soever is found involved selling watermelon at higher rates is being fined," said Dr Abdul Salaam Mir, Director Food and Supplies Department Kashmir—(KNO)

Mehbooba Accuses BJP Of Anti-Muslim Policies

'Vengeance With Which BJP Bulldozing Constitution Has Reached Homes Of Minorities'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday accused the BJP of bulldozing the Constitution and the saffron party's leaders of "outdoing each other in stripping Muslims" of their homes and livelihood.

She was referring to the Kargone district administration in Madhya Pradesh demolishing at least 50 "illegal" structures of

people accused of pelting stones at a Ram Navami procession.

A stone thrown at a Ram Navami procession during which loud music was being played near a mosque in Khargone led to arson and communal tension last Sunday. Curfew was imposed in the town after that.

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh said the damage caused to public and private properties during the violence will be recovered from rioters.

"The vengeance with which the BJP is bulldozing India's Constitution has now reached the homes of minorities.



"BJP leaders are outdoing each other in stripping Muslims of everything, be it their homes, livelihood and dignity," Mufti said in a series of tweets.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the "silence" of the majority community was "deeply worrying".

"As Kashmiri Muslims, we are often accused of being silent spectators while Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee.

"But the criminal silence of the majority community in today's India while the BJP wrecks the very idea of India is deeply worrying and problematic," Mufti added.

Govt Bringing Unexplored Religious Places On Tourist Map: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Former Legislator and senior BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here on Friday.

Among various other issues of public importance, Sh Rana discussed with the Lt Governor the development of Purnadal- Utterbehni – the Chotta Kashi area as prominent religious site of Jammu as it holds historical and religious importance, besides revival of the original route to the holy cave shrine at Trikuta Hills which he said will go a long way in seeking the spiritual bliss by the pilgrims and giving economic fillip to the areas enroute the track.

While interacting with the

former legislator, the Lt Governor said that a pilgrimage tourism circuit connecting Shri Mata

Vaishno Devi Shrine, Purnamandal-Utterbehni, Mansar-Surinsar, and Shiv Khori is coming up, besides dedicated focus is being laid on bringing unexplored religious places

of Jammu on religious tourist map to attract more tourists.

He further informed that under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi rejuvenation of Purnamandal and Uttarbehni has been included in the PRASAD scheme.

The Lt Governor assured Rana that the genuine issues put forth by him would be looked into and urged him to continue his endeavours for promoting welfare of the people.

Regularise All Daily Wagers In J&K: Bukhari

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Apni Party president Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Friday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to implement the Mandal Commission report in favour of the other backward class (OBC) community and regularise all daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bukhari hit out at the BJP for its failure to ensure peace and development in the union territory

post abrogation of Article 370.

He said a perception was created that the constitutional protection to the erstwhile state was a stumbling block to development and employment.

"We appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to implement Mandal Commission report in favour of other backward class (OBC) community and regularise all the daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir, Bukhari said at a function in Bishnah on Friday.

NIRC, ICSI Hold First Ever Conference In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A first ever conference was organised by Northern India Regional Council & Indian Company Secretaries Institute in Srinagar.

The program was themed on the challenges and opportunities for Company Secretaries & the Corporate Sector in 21st century. The program was graced with the presence of President ICSI Devendra Deshpande, Vice Chancellor Central University of Kashmir, Prof Farooq Ahmad Shah, AROC J&K & Ladakh Haamid Bukhari, Chairman NIRC Sushil Daga, former president Ashish Garg & Vice President ICSI Manish Gupta.

In his address, President ICSI Mr Devendra Deshpande appreciated the efforts of Srinagar Chapter of ICSI & assured that more of such events would take place in Srinagar.

During the course of event, it was highlighted that the operationalisation of Srinagar office of Registrar of Companies by Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs post August 2019 was the game changer & biggest identifiable help as this office caters to the needs of all the stakeholders.

Incharge officer posted at the Srinagar Office, Mr Haamid

Bukhari highlighted the fact that there is a significant increase in the incorporations of Farmer Producer Companies in the past two years and the number has crossed the mark 100.

"There were less than 10 active Farmer producer companies in 2019 and the number has increased to 100 plus now. This is result of the concerted effort of Department of Agriculture, Govt of J&K, NABARD and the awareness role played by the office of Registrar of Companies through its Information, Education and Communication (IEC) outreach programs with different stakeholders" Bukhari said.

Prof Farooq Ahmad Shah, Vice Chancellor Central University Kashmir talked about the importance of Company Secretary as Profession and argued that they play a crucial role in regulating Corporate Governance in the country.

Before concluding the event, a panel discussion on the role and challenges of Company Secretaries was held by the CS professionals which was led by past President ICSI, CS Ashish Garg who has been instrumental in signing different MoUs with educational institutions and the latest one is inked with the Central University of Kashmir.

72 Fire Fighters Died In Line Of Duty Since 1962: Director F&ES

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the eve of National Fire Services day observed every year on 14th April across the Country, J&K Fire and Emergency Services Department also organized Commemoration Parades at all its Command Offices throughout the Union Territory.

The theme for this year's Fire Service Week is 'Learn Fire Safety Increase Productivity'.

The main function was held at Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, where Dr B. Srinivas, DGP/ Director Fire & Emergency Services led the officers and jawans of the Department in laying floral wreaths at the Martyr's Memorial.

A two minutes silence was also observed on this occasion. The Director also interacted with the families/NOKs of the martyrs and distributed gifts as a token of welfare measure

for the families of the departed souls.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director recalled the significance of the day and said that 72 brave fire fighters of J&K Fire and Emergency Services department have laid down their lives in the line of their duties since 1962.

He exhorted upon the Firemen particularly the recently inducted entrants to dedicate themselves for the cause their fellow men have laid down their lives and work with same determination and dedication for the safety of the people and their properties.

Acknowledging the umpteenth and liberal support of the administration led by the Lieutenant Governor J&K, the Director said that the department has witnessed up-gradation and augmentation in its different facets including manpower, infrastructure, modernization besides steady improvement in the

living conditions of the officers/ jawans throughout the Union Territory.

He stated that it was due to keen interest of the Senior formations of the administration that led to successful culmination of recruitment process and subsequent completion of Basic Training of 670 Firemen/Firemen (Drivers) at SKPA Udhampur, which led to boost the manpower requirement of the Department.

He said that 04 new Stations were added to the department besides up-gradating building infrastructure for the jawans at various Fire Stations. He further mentioned that the process is on and we have already identified around 05 Fire Stations for up-gradation during the current financial year.

On modernization and augmentation of the department, the Director informed that under Smart City Projects of twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar, 11

Water Tenders, 02 Rescue Tenders, 03 Ambulances, 11 QRVs and 05 Staff Cars besides sophisticated fire-fighting/ disaster management equipments were added under Jammu Smart City project costing around 14 crores.

Similarly, under Srinagar Smart City Project, 06 units of Fire Boats, 200 Fire Proximity Suits, 03 Fire Tenders and 05 staff cars were procured besides executing civil works at F&ES Hqrs Batamalo and Gawakadal with a budget of Rs. 7.3 crores. This was in addition to 48 Multi Purpose Fire Tenders and 17 Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs), which were added to the fleet of fire tenders under Plan Budget.

Applauding the role and performance of the Fire-fighters of J&K F&ES, the Director complimented officers and men of the Department for their commitment, selflessness, courage and dedicated service ren-

dered to the society in the call of their duties.

On up-gradation of facilities besides other welfare measures for the officers and jawans of the Department, the Director stated that two Physical Fitness Centres; one each at F&ES Hqr Batamalo and F&ES Gandhi Nagar with state of the art facilities and latest equipment were commissioned.

In his concluding remarks, the Director F&ES stated that during this 'Fire Services Week', the department shall take a series of steps/initiatives for widespread awareness campaigns on fire prevention and safety measures. Special programmes shall also be organized to ensure that the general public including students and other stakeholders are sensitized about safety and fire preventive measures with focus to learn fire safety to increase productivity at the vulnerable places/area.



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited

Impaired Asset Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Budgam
Zainakote, Srinagar
Phone : 0194-2497734-35-37

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Azad Ahmad Bhat, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 08.07.2021 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely **Nazir Ahmad wani S/o Sonaullah wani R/o Charisharief** to repay an amount of **Rs. 13,68,328.56 (Rupees Thirteen Lac Sixty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Eight And Paise Fifty Six Only)** being the balance outstanding as on 30.06.2021 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 11 day of April of the year 2022.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs. 11,73,953.56 (Rupees Eleven Lac Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Three And Paise Fifty Six Only)** together with future interest thereon from 01.04.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

A piece of land measuring 01 kanal & 08 marlas along with residential house under Khasra No. 228 min, Khata No. 256, and Khewat No. 64 situated at mouza Charisharief standing in the name of Nazir Ahmad wani S/o Sonaullah wani R/o Charisharief .

Dated: 11.04.2022
Place : Charisharief

DIPK-NB-282/22

Authorized Officer

MYMP: Thang-Ta, Table Tennis Attracts Huge Crowd In Tral, Pulwama



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Events in the disciplines of Thang-Ta and Table Tennis were held in Tral, Pulwama besides, Hockey and Handball were held in border district of Poonch on Friday.

The events under the banner of "My Youth My Pride" in the disciplines of Thang-ta and Table Tennis were held at multi-purpose indoor hall in Tral, Pulwama in which more than 130 participants took active part besides a large gathering which reached the venue to witness the matches in progress.

Manzoor Hussein Reshi Forest Officer, Tral was the chief guest on the occasion. While interacting with the athletes and others present at the venue, he said that everyone should actively take up games and sports if not as the career prospect but for physical and mental well being.

Games and sports bring discipline in life which eventually reflects in other aspects of over respective lives, he added.

Chief guest also appreciated J&K Sports Council for introducing new sports disciplines in the picturesque Tral.

Meanwhile, Youth League Football Tournament and Spring Shield Cricket Tournaments have turned out to be crowd pullers especially when both the events have entered into the next round.

Yesterday's game between Wonder Boys and Hutmurah Sports went down to wire and in the end it was Wonder Boys which prevailed over their opponents to earn berth in next round.

Only match in Fridau's fixture at the venue between MIE Akura and BSK Karshangam was in progress when report was filed.

Meanwhile, yesterday's football match played between Eithad FA and Bandipora FA in Gani Memorial Stadium Downtown Srinagar was a cliff hanger as both teams displayed exemplary skills though none was able to score the goal till final hooter.

Inter-Zonal Chess Competition U-14/17 Girls Held At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The District Youth Services and Sports Department Shopian on Friday organised an Inter-zonal District Level Chess competition for under 14/17 Girls at Mini Secretariat Arhama, here.

All zones of the district participated in the event.

Both teams earned one point each but on the basis of previous match performance Baramulla FA confirmed their slot in the final round of the Youth League. Ubaid of Baramulla FA for his extraordinary performance was awarded man of the match.

My Youth My Pride activities continued for the second day in Sports Stadium Poonch where matches for Handball and Hockey were organized. Sunil Sharma, President Municipal Corporation Poonch was the Chief Guest and Dr. Updeshpal Sharma was the Guest of Honour while Prem Luthera, Narjeet Singh and Priyanka, Singh Secretary Hockey J&K attended the function as special guests.

While speaking on the occasion chief guests lauded the performance of both Men and Women Hockey teams which represented District in recently concluded UT championship held at K.K Hakhu Stadium Jammu and congratulated all for excellent show in the event.

First Hockey match played between Power House Hockey Club Poonch and Sham Lal Hockey Club Poonch went into the kitty of latter on the basis of solitary goal scored in second half. In the second match played between Khelo India Centre Poonch and Stadium XI latter emerged as victorious after defeating their opponents by 2-1 goals. Handball match between Stadium-A and Stadium-B teams at the venue was in progress when report was being filed.

The players and spectators present on the occasion appreciated the role of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and the Secretary Sports Council in particular for providing equal opportunity not only in both divisions of the Union Territory but equally striking the gender balance as well. Participants also requested the authorities for inclusion of more games and increase the number of intake capacity of participants in these events.

Rasikh Salam Ruled Out Of IPL 2022 With Injury

Agencies

NEW DELHI: KKR pacer Rasikh Salam, who played two matches this season, was on Friday ruled out of the remainder of the IPL 2022 season with a lower back injury. Delhi pacer Harshit Rana has been named as his replacement.

"Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have signed fast bowler Harshit Rana as a replacement for pacer Rasikh Salam for the rest of the TATA IPL 2022 season. Salam, who played 2 games for KKR this season, has been ruled out owing to a lower back injury and will take no further part in the tournament. His replacement, Harshit Rana, from Delhi will join KKR at his base price of INR 20 Lakh," KKR said in a media release.

The 20-year-old Kulgam-born pacer will now look to recover from this setback.



MI In Search Of Perfect XI As They Take On Powerful LSG

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: An auction botched up by poor planning, Mumbai Indians will continue to grope in the dark in search of an ideal playing eleven with an aim to end their five-match losing streak against Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match on Saturday.

This is not the first time that MI have had a losing streak of five matches but this is probably the first time that it seems that the team's think-tank do not have an idea of how to stem the rot that has set in.

It is certainly not skipper Rohit Sharma's fault that the five-time champions had bungled big time at the auction table with below-par domestic signings save NT Tilak Varma, which is coming to bite them.

Against Lucknow in the afternoon Mumbai heat, Rohit and his chosen ten would have to put their best foot forward in order to tame the likes of Quinton de Kock, KL Rahul, Krunal



Pandya, Ayush Badoni to name a few.

There had been some inexplicable team selections and dropping a million dollar plus buy like Tim David after two games is one of them.

Such has been MI's plight that they haven't been able to field their full quota of foreign players in order to have enough bowlers in their ranks.

However, David might be given a go in place of a Jaydev Unadkat, who has once again come short in the highest level of cricket and is an example of the

yawning gap between standards in domestic cricket and IPL.

Not having a quality spinner like Rahul Chahar or Krunal, who can at times stem the flow of runs is also hurting MI.

For Lucknow, mentor and brains behind the strategy Gautam Gambhir needs to think whether both Marcus Stoinis and Jason Holder could be a part of same eleven or they would be better off dropping one of them and playing the hard-hitting Evin Lewis in the top-order alongside Rahul and de Kock.

RCB Need Harshal Boost Against DC

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Their winning streak halted by the defending champions, Royal Challengers Bangalore will hope Harshal Patel returns to the playing XI and contribute in bringing their campaign back on track when they face Delhi Capitals in an IPL match here on Saturday.

RCB were flying high with three successive wins before Chennai Super Kings outwitted them by 23 runs in their last outing.

It was absence of Harshal which hurt the team as skipper Faf du Plessis looked out of options to control the rampaging duo of Shivam Dube and Robin Uthappa, who took the bowlers to the cleaners as CSK posted a huge total on board.

Among others, pace duo of Mohammad Siraj and Akash Deep has been taken for runs, while Wanindu Hasaranga claimed two wickets but he bled 35 in three overs in the last match.

In batting, Du Plessis and young left-hander Anuj Rawat have given the team good starts, while Dinesh Karthik has played the role of the finisher well. Engineer-turned cricketer Shahbaz Ahmed too has impressed with his batting so far.

Former skipper Virat Kohli has blown hot and cold with two 40 plus scores but lacked consistency.

The Capitals, on the other hand, are heading into the match after a massive



44-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders.

With two back-to-back fifties, opener Prithvi Shaw has been in sensational form, while seasoned Australian opener David Warner has provided the team solidity at the top.

The number three spot, however, remains a concern with none of the batter tried by the team able to grab the chance. Skipper Rishabh Pant too will expect more runs from his batting.

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav has emerged as their top bowler with 10 wickets so far, while pacer Khaleel Ahmed too has taken seven scalps in three games.

South African Anrich Nortje, who looked rusty in his only outing, also remains an option, while Delhi also have plenty of bowling all-rounders such as Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur and Lalit Yadav to count on.

With four out of five matches ending in a win for the team batting second, toss might also be a key factor at the Wankhade stadium.

Pakistan Police Arrest Man For Threatening To Conduct Terror Attack On Australian Cricket Team

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Police in Pakistan's Punjab province have arrested a suspect for issuing a threat to carry out a terror attack on the Australian cricket team during its Lahore tour early this month.

The Australian cricket team concluded its tour of Pakistan early this month in which it played three tests and as many ODIs, and one T20.

Following a threat call to the Australian interior ministry that the team would be attacked in Lahore, the Pakistani intelligence agencies launched an investigation into it. "On Thursday, police traced the man who made the terror attack

threat to the Australian interior ministry, and arrested him," police officer concerned Mubashir Maken told reporters.

He said the suspect, Irfan Naseer, was arrested from Toba Tek Singh, some 200 kilometres from Lahore.

"A case has been registered against him under Anti-Terrorism Act and Telegraph Act," he said, adding that the police and intelligence agency traced the suspect through his mobile phone data.

The officer said the police are also probing his link with any banned outfit.

Australian spinner Ashton Agar, who was part of the test squad during Pakistan's tour, was also the subject of a death threat on social media.

Root Quits As England Test Captain After 5 Years

Agencies

LONDON: Joe Root stepped down as England's Test cricket captain on Friday, ending his five-year spell in a role that became increasingly challenging because of the team's long run of series defeats -- including 4-0 in the Ashes over the winter.

"I have loved leading my country," Root said, "but recently it's hit home how much of a toll it has taken on me and the impact it has had on me away from the game."

Root leaves his post holding the record for the number of wins as England Test captain -- at 27 -- while his status as one of the world's leading batters is secure after scoring eight centuries since the turn of 2021.

However, his captaincy has come under scrutiny with England having only won just one of its last 17 Test matches -- the country's worst run since the 1980s.

Losing heavily in Australia, England's biggest rival, was followed last month with a 1-0 series defeat to the West Indies. That made it four series defeats in a row -- and it could be five unless England can beat India in July in the remaining test left over from their unfinished series from last year.

"It has been the most challenging decision I have had to make in my career," said the 31-year-old



Root, who took over as captain from Alastair Cook in 2017, "but having discussed this with my family and those closest to me; I know the timing is right."

Root said he wanted to carry on playing for England, for whom he is the country's second highest run-scorer in Tests behind Cook.

It leaves England's men's team not only without a captain, but also a coach and director of cricket after the departures of Chris Silverwood and Ashley Giles, respectively, in the wake of the Ashes.

Ben Stokes will be among the favourites to take over as captain, although the allrounder has just returned to the team after a spell out for mental-health reasons. (AP)

Man City & Liverpool Meet Again, This Time In FA Cup Semis



Agencies

LONDON: Liverpool is dreaming of a quadruple and Manchester City is targeting a treble. Something has to give when England's top two teams meet in their FA Cup semifinal match at Wembley Stadium on Saturday. Their 2-2 draw last weekend didn't move the needle much in the Premier League title race with City maintaining a one-point lead. It will be a different story at Wembley.

Liverpool clinched the League Cup in February by beating Chelsea on penalties after 120 minutes of scoreless play also at Wembley. The intensity was "insane," Klopp said, and he expects the same on Saturday after both sets of fans navigate around rail

closures to get to London.

Liverpool and City have also advanced to the semifinals of the Champions League and could meet in the final next month in Paris. City got past Atletico Madrid this week but at a cost as midfielder Kevin de Bruyne and defender Kyle Walker went off injured from the bruising 0-0 draw, which allowed the visitors to advance 1-0 on aggregate. City manager Pep Guardiola told BT Sport that "we are in big trouble" with the injuries.

No Premier League club has ever won all four trophies in the same season. Liverpool hasn't won the FA Cup since 2006, while City was victorious in 2019 when it completed the domestic treble. (AP)

DYS&SO Kulgam Holds Inter School Chess & Carrom Competition



Observer News Service

KULGAM: The District Youth Services and Sports (DYS&SO) department Kulgam on Friday under 'Gram Swaraj Month' organised a Carrom and Chess Inter School competition at Higher

Secondary School, Qaimoh.

A total of 110 students from different schools and zones of the district participated in the competition.

Later, prizes were distributed among the winning participants.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
KASHMER
(KASHMIRI AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEALTHCARE,
MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH)

Free Critical Care Ambulance Service 24*7
In Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag & Kupwara
Acute medical and surgical emergency calls will be taken by experts and triaged.
Our expert team will rush to the spot.
Appropriate care will be provided and patient will be shifted to the nearby hospital for further management.

For Emergency call: 9484-100-200
0194-240-4000
Kindly cooperate and make it a Success!

ایمرجنسی طبی سروس
شہر سرینگر، بارہمولہ، اننت ناگ اور کپورہ کے لئے ایمرجنسی صورت حال میں

مفت ایبوجینس کا آغاز
انتہائی نادر اور فوری طور پر طبی امداد کے مستحق افراد کو خدمت فراہم کی جائے گی
امداد کے لئے موصول ہونی والوں کو باہرین کے ذریعے جانچنے کے بعد بھرپور رہنمائی کی جائے گی۔
ہمارے باہرین کی کم جانے مواقع پر، چیک کر مناسب طبی امداد کی سہولت فراہم کرے گی۔
مریض کو طبی عہدہ رشت کے لئے نزدیکی ہسپتال منتقل کیا جائے گا۔
کسی بھی ناکرہ جیسی کے لئے رابطہ کریں:-

9484-100-200
0194-240-4000
برائے کہ اس طبی خدمت کا کامیاب بنانے کے لئے ہمارا تعاون کیجیے۔

Please donate to Account Number: 0365040100013064, J&K Bank branch Lal Mandi
KASHMER in Collaboration with HELP Foundation