



P3 CITY

TOURISM DEPARTMENT KICK-STARTS PARAGLIDING IN CITY

In a bid to boost adventure tourism in the Kashmir Valley, the Tourism Department started a range of adventure activities in the city from Friday. The events are organised under the tagline

P5 THINK

COVID PALLBEARERS OF SCANTY FUNERALS

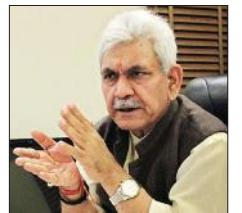
'I am more scared of the living than the dead. The bodies - before they are Hindu or Muslim - they are human.' At any other time, this would have been a truism, a self-evident do-gooder statement that may have even been overlooked for its obvious



P7 STATE

GOVT'S TOP-MOST PRIORITY IS HEALTHCARE FOR ALL: LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that affordable and accessible healthcare to all segments of society was his



Quote!

Character is simply habit long continued

- Plato

NEWS DIGEST

3 JKAS Officers Transferred

Srinagar: Government on Friday ordered transfer of three JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to a government order Sahil Jandyal (JKAS), Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mendhar, holding the additional **More on P6**

J&K Logs Five More Covid Cases

Srinagar: Five more people tested positive for Coronavirus on Friday while no fresh fatality due to the deadly infection was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, three new cases of **More on P6**

Four Die Of Suspected Asphyxiation

Srinagar: At least four people, including a father son duo on Friday died in a probable case of asphyxiation in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. Locals said that commotion broke out in Keegam Kandi village of the district on Friday afternoon after news spread of four **More on P6**

Miscreants Damage Six Vehicles In Bijbehara

Srinagar: Locals from Wopzan Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district Friday appealed to police to nab the culprits responsible for damaging at least six vehicles in the area. Locals told a local news agency KNT that miscreants during the intervening night damaged tippers, Tata-Mobile, **More on P6**

Policeman Shot Dead In Pulwama

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A policeman was shot dead by militants at his residence in Gudoor area of Pulwama district of South Kashmir on Friday, an official said.

Around 8:20 am Friday, Constable Reyaz Ahmad Thoker was fired upon by the militants inside his residence in Gudoor area of the district, a police spokesperson said.

Thoker, he said, received critical gunshot injuries in the militant attack and was evacuated to the district hospital, Pulwama for treatment

However, from there, the injured cop was rushed to the Army's 92 base hospital in Srinagar, where he succumbed.

Soon after the attack, police,

army and CRPF reached the village and launched a search operation to nab the attackers. Senior police officers also rushed to the spot to take first-hand account of the situation.

"Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime," the spokesperson said.

He said to pay honor and respect to the slain Constable, a wreath laying ceremony was held at District Police Lines, Pulwama.

This is the second attack by militants within 24 hours.

A Kashmiri Pandit government employee was shot dead inside his office at Chadoora in Budgam district on Thursday.

2 Militants Killed In Bandipora Encounter



File Photo

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants who had recently infiltrated into Kashmir were killed in an encounter with government forces in Bandipora

district of North Kashmir on Friday, police said.

Government forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in Brar in the **More on P6**

Bus Fire Kills Four, Injures 20 In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Four people were killed and 20 others injured when a passenger bus caught fire in Katra area of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Friday, officials said.

According to the officials, the bus, on its way to Jammu from Katra, caught fire near Nomai, about 3 kilometers from Katra. Katra is the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine.

The injured have been hospitalized, they said. Confirming the deaths, Additional Director General (ADG) of **More on P6**

Population Not Sole Criteria For J&K Delimitation: CEC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Population was an important but not the sole criteria while carrying out the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said on Friday and asserted that the union territory has to be seen as "one unit" where the entire population has to be given representation in 90 assembly constituencies.

Chandra, who was an ex-officio member of the delimitation panel which gave its final order on restructuring the



assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir earlier this month, also said there were "lots of problems" with the earlier delimitation and those have been corrected now. **More on P6**

SC Seeks Response On Delimitation Plea

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Centre, Jammu, and Kashmir administration, and Election Commission of India (ECI) on a plea of two Kashmir residents challenging the government's decision to constitute the delimitation commission for redrawing the assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in **More on P6**



GIVEN THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA and huge rush at the Airport road there were inputs that terrorists may take advantage of the same and may attack the protesters in order to create communal clash/tension."

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday resorted to baton charge and firing of tear gas shells to disperse a group of Kashmiri Pandits who were marching towards Srinagar airport to protest the killing of Rahul Bhat by militants in Budgam a day earlier.

The protesters first assembled at the Sheikhpora Pandit residential quarters in Budgam district and then tried to proceed towards the airport but were stopped **More on P6**

Slain KP Employee Cremated In Jammu Amid Protests

Government employee Rahul Bhat, who was shot dead by militants inside his office in central Kashmir's Budgam district, was cremated on Friday amid a protest by members of the Kashmiri Pandit community here. Rahul Bhat was killed by militants inside the Tehsil office in Chadoora town on

Thursday. He had got the job of a clerk under the special employment package for migrants in 2010-11. As the mortal remains of Rahul Bhat reached his home in Durga Nagar area of Jammu on Friday morning, his relatives wept inconsolably. Rahul Bhat's wife and daughter, **More on P6**

LG Meets Family, Assures Justice

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday assured justice to the family of Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit government employee, who was shot dead by militants on Thursday in Budgam district. Sinha met Bhat's family amid protests by members of the community against the killing. The LG met the relatives of Rahul Bhat and **More on P6**

Special Team To Probe Bhat's Killing

Facing massive outrage over the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit employee by unknown militants in Budgam district on Thursday, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday announced constitution of a special investigative team (SIT) to probe the case. On Thursday, unknown militants shot **More on P6**

Authorities Deny Mass Resignation Reports

The authorities in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday rubbished reports of mass resignation by Kashmiri Pandit employees over the killing of a community member by unidentified militants in the district on Thursday. "The social media reports of resignations **More on P6**

Govt Sacks KU Proffesor, Policeman For 'Terror Links'

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday sacked three government employees, including a professor and a policeman, for their alleged links with militant groups, officials said.

The trio was terminated from services based on the recommendation of a designated committee constituted under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution that allows dismissal from service without an inquiry in the interest of the State's security.

Those sacked are Altaf Hussain Pandit, chemistry professor at Kashmir University, Mohammed Maqbool Hajam,

teacher in the school education department, and Ghulam Rasool, a constable with the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"Altaf Hussain Pandit is actively associated with the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islam (JeI). He had crossed over to Pakistan for terror training and remained an active militant of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front for three years before his arrest by the security forces, sometime in 1993."

He continued to be an active cadre of JeI and worked as a militant recruiter. Pandit was instrumental in organising stone pelting and violent protests over the killing of militants in 2011 and 2014, the officials said. **More on P6**

AMARNATH YATRA

Drone Cameras, Over 12000 Security Personnel To Be Deployed

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: At least 12,000 paramilitary troops and hundreds of Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, with the help of drone cameras, will guard the Amarnath yatra which is scheduled to begin on June 30 after a gap of two years, officials said.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Friday reviewed the security preparedness for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine located in south Kashmir at an altitude of 3,888 meters.

The Amarnath yatra could not be carried out in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, while it was cut short in



2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370.

The pilgrimage will be a big security challenge for the government as Jammu and Kashmir

has been witnessing a number of targeted killings by militants in recent weeks.

The home secretary reviewed the security **More on P6**

'TERROR FUNDING' CASE

Ex-NIA Officer, Khurram Parvez Charge-Sheeted

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a charge sheet against seven people, including its former officer Arvind Digvijay Negi and Kashmiri human rights activist Khurram Parvez, in a militant funding case.

The charge sheet was filed in a special NIA court in New Delhi against former Superintendent of Police Negi, Parvez, Muneer Ahmad Kataria and Arshid Ahmad Tonch of north Kashmir, Zaffar Abbas of Bihar, and Rambhawan Prasad and Chandan Mahato of West Bengal under relevant laws, a

spokesperson of the agency said.

Negi was arrested in February this year and Parvez in November last year in connection with a case related to a conspiracy hatched by the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) to fund and recruit operatives and over-ground workers (OGWs) for providing support in planning and execution of militant activities in various parts of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir.

The NIA registered the case on November 6 last year.

"Investigation revealed that LeT operatives based in Pakistan had hatched a conspiracy with Parvez, Kataria, Tonch and Abbas **More on P6**

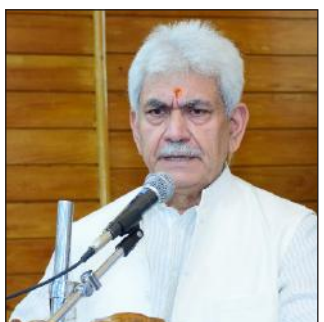
LG Asks Officers To Work With Problem Solving Approach

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asserting that easing the day to day life and improving the quality of living is the top priority of his administration, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday directed the officers to work with promptness and problem-solving approach in the shortest possible time.

The LG passed these directions while chairing a high-level meeting of senior officers of the UT administration, including Administrative Secretaries, DCs and SPs at the Civil Secretariat here, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, the LG passed directions for working on the public deliverables promptly and efficiently in a time-bound manner. He asked



the officers for regular public meetings to resolve the issues.

Sinha, he said, also directed all Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police to regularly conduct field visits for monitoring the working of district offices and various government institutions.

"The Lt Governor **More on P6**

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Diabetes Almost Doubles Risk Of Death From Covid-19: Study

Press Trust Of India

People with diabetes were almost twice as likely to die with Covid-19 and nearly three times as likely to be critically or severely ill compared to those without the disease, according to a study. The researchers from the University of Aberdeen in the UK reviewed data from hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world, and found that good management of disease can mitigate the risks. The team, including researchers from King's College, London, found that while diabetes presents a significant risk of severe illness and death with Covid-19, good control of blood sugar in these patients can significantly reduce this risk. The researchers reviewed findings from 158 studies that included more than 270,000 participants from all over the world to determine how Covid-19 affects people living with diabetes. The pooled results showed that people with diabetes were 1.87 times more likely to die with Covid-19, and 1.59 times more likely to be admitted to ICU, according to the researchers. They were also 1.44 times more likely to require ventilation, and 2.88 times more likely to be classified as severe or critical, when compared to patients without diabetes, they said. The study, published in the journal Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, looked at the risks



of Covid-19 in patients with diabetes while factoring in the patients' location and thereby highlighting potential healthcare resources available as well as possible ethnic differences and other societal factors. Data was gathered from all over the world including China, Korea, US, Europe and the Middle East. The researchers found that patients in China, Korea and the Middle East were at higher risk of death than those from EU countries or the US. They suggest this may be due to differences in healthcare systems

and affordability of healthcare which may explain the finding that maintaining optimal glycaemic control, significantly reduces adverse outcomes in patients with diabetes and Covid-19. "We found that following a Covid-19 infection, the risk of death for patients with diabetes was significantly increased in comparison to patients without diabetes," Stavroula Kastora, who worked on the study, explained. "Equally, collective data from studies around the globe suggested that patients with diabetes had a significantly higher risk

of requiring an intensive care admission and supplementary oxygen or being admitted in a critical condition in comparison to patients without diabetes," said Kastora. However, the researchers, including Professors Mirela Delibegovic and Phyo Myint, found that the studies that reported patient data from the EU or US displayed less extreme differences between the patient groups. "Ultimately, we have identified a disparity in Covid-19 outcomes between the eastern and western world. We also show that good

glycaemic control may be a protective factor in view of Covid-19 related deaths," said Kastora. "In light of the ongoing pandemic, strengthening outpatient diabetes clinics, ensuring consistent follow up of patients with diabetes and optimising their glycaemic control could significantly increase the chances of survival following a Covid-19 infection, the researcher added.

Equally, collective data from studies around the globe suggested that patients with diabetes had a significantly higher risk of requiring an intensive care admission and supplementary oxygen or being admitted in a critical condition in comparison to patients without diabetes

Samsung Launches AI-Enabled Washing Machine Range

AI EcoBubble is India's first washing machine that learns user behaviour

Press Trust Of India

Consumer electronics major Samsung has launched its range of artificial intelligence-enabled bilingual AI EcoBubble fully automatic front load washing machines in India. The 2022 line up of 40 models comes with intelligent features such as AI wash, air wash technology and super speed cycle, Samsung

time, using machine learning, it added. While its air wash technology deodorises and sanitises clothes without washing them with water. On the other hand, super speed cycle reduces laundry time drastically by shortening the rinsing time using speed spray and accelerating spin speed to quickly spin-dry clothes. Starting from Rs 41,600, the new line up of wash-



said in a statement. "AI EcoBubble is India's first washing machine that learns user behaviour and suggests the most preferred wash cycle, providing ease of use by eliminating the need to juggle through multiple options," said Samsung. This smart Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled washing machine line up can be connected with Samsung smart devices such as Galaxy smartphones, Samsung smart TVs and family hub refrigerators as well as voice devices such as Alexa and Google Home, it added. "When connected with the Samsung SmartThings App, AI EcoBubble washing machines provide best wash options basis 2.8 million big data points," it said. Its AI wash uses sensors to sense the laundry's weight and level of soiling and optimises the amount of water, detergent and rinsing

ing machines will be available across all retail partners in India along with Samsung's official online store Samsung Shops and channel partners Amazon and Flipkart. Samsung India Senior VP, Consumer Electronics Business, Mohandeep Singh said: "Our new AI-enabled bilingual washing machine line up is a breakthrough innovation that leverages the advances in machine learning to offer simple, intelligent and personalised laundry solutions to consumers. We are confident that the new range will further enhance consumer lifestyles and will witness strong adoption across the country." Last month, rival South Korean firm LG Electronics had introduced a new line up consisting of smart appliances with AI technology. It had also introduced AI Direct Drive washing machines.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE, KHANSAHIB

Khansahib, Budgam, Kashmir. 191111

Email: gdcckhansahib@gmail.com Phone / Fax: 01951-277294

NO: GDC/KSB/22/119

Tender Notice

Dated: 12-05-2022

Sealed tenders affixed with a revenue stamp of Rs 2/- and accompanied with a CDR of Rs 3000/- pledged to Principal Govt. Degree College Khansahib are invited from desirous persons for running the college canteen on rent basis for the session March 2022-23 in Govt. Degree College Khansahib. The last date of receiving the tenders is 25th of May 2022. Information with regard to college canteen can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during all the working days from 10 am to 4 pm. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any tender without assigning any reasons thereof.

Terms and Conditions.

1. No tenders without CDR shall be entertained.
2. Tenders received after last date will not be entertained.
3. The Tenders will be opened on the next working day of the last date of receiving the tenders.
4. The items should be as per our specifications, quality standards and hygiene.
5. Till the completion of canteen building the selected Contractor will run canteen facility in a temporary makeshift space
6. The monthly rent will be Rs. 4000/- per month after shifting in the canteen building.
7. Usage of plastic items will not be allowed in the campus.
8. Maintenance jobs such as replacement of light bulbs, tube lights, taps, etc. in the canteen/kitchen area are the sole responsibility of the catering contractor.
9. The College would reserve the right to check on cleanliness and upkeep of premises, quality of provisions, service and quality of the food and any deficiency found penalty procedure will be applied.
10. The contractor will NOT employ any child labor.
11. The Contractor will provide only those food items in the canteen which are allowed by the College and will get the rates of all the rates approved from the competent authority of the College and they must be displayed prominently.

Sd/-
Principal
Dr. Syed Tanvir Indrabi

DIPK-1924/22

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

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Dated 28-04-2022

Sub.- construction of Chain link fencing around 0.45 lac gallon capacity SR, Construction of 2 No chamber at Ziran and Tangmarg and construction of protection wall, retaining wall at ziran for WSS Harda Ichloo zespora.

Whereas the above cited work has been advertised under JJM/NRDWP vide ENIT No. 60 of 2021-22 and subsequently allotted to you vide this office allotment No. 93-PIIE, Dated:- 02/2022 issued under endorsement No. 8395-99. Date /> 17.02.2022.

Whereas, time of completion as stipulated in The ENIT is 30 days from the date of issuance of allotment i.e 17.02.2022.

Whereas you did not turn up for the starting the work despite notices Served by Concerned AEE as well by this office to you vide his Nos.1944-45/TSD, Dated:- 28.-03.2022. No.02-03/TSD, Dated:-04.04.2022.S6-57-TSD, Dated:-12.04.2022. and this office No. FBID/342-45. Dated:-16.04.2022.

Whereas now 41 days after the expiration of 30 days stipulated period of completion the work has not been started by you.

Whereas you persistently neglected to respond notices and verbal requests for starting the allotted work and thus have committed default in complying within terms and conditions of the contract.

Whereas it has become clear that you are not interested to start the work and further wait in th is regard is wastage of time.

In view of the above, you are finally hereby asked to start the work within two days after the issuance of this notice failing which action as warranted shall be initiated against you at your risk, cost and responsibility.

DIPK-1945/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, FBI
Division. (JSD) Tangmarg.

Public Notice.

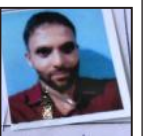
I have lost my driving license bearing number 1568/LEH now I want to apply for its duplicate if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the ARTO Leh with in the period of seven days.No objection will be entertained after stipulated time.

Ali Mohd
S/o Mohd Ramzan Wani
R/o: Veer Nubun Anantnag.
Ph.No:-9596097168

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh S/o: Ghulam Qadir Sheikh R/o: Yarikah Khansahib (Transferor) of LMV Alto. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04E - 4781. Chasis number 60611 Engine no. 37819 Model 2018. In favour of Shri.. Nisar Ahmad Rather S/o. Abdul Aziz Rather R/o Yarikah Khansahib Budgam (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Arizal.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.827 Dated 13/05/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Miss: Sharifah Akhter S/o: Abdul Rehman Dar R/o: H. No 54 Near Masjid Sharief Nadigam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 9087 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance B/U Budgam.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.816 Dated 12/05/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Jahangeer Khan Pathan S/o: Mohd Aslam Khan Pathan R/o: Koker Bagh Zogvari owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 7185 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J & K Bank Ltd B/U Poshkar Budgam.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.834 Dated 13/05/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
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Private Schools Association Decries New Govt Order

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) has expressed its anguish over a series of new government orders issued by the government recently.

The Association said that there seems to be some kind of ploy to demolish all small and big private schools in Kashmir. "Be it transport issues, order to get NOCs, retrieval of land order which has affected 100's of community schools, everything is being used to crush private schools. Now the latest government notification S.O 233 dated 10th May, 2022 is aimed to target new schools with futuristic vision who have invested huge money in different districts to give quality education to students," said a spokesperson of PSAJK.

The Association said that the latest notification issued by the government has disempowered all private schools and entrusted the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) with sweeping powers to determine fees for every school and impose heavy penalties. "This is a bizarre order. Schools are providing services and people who do not have an idea of accounts and finance have been given powers to determine how much they can charge. Every school is different with different sets of facilities, teaching aids, logistics, skilled manpower etc. Fee is a major incentive to upgrade facilities for a school and enhance quality of education. When fee fixing power is snatched from schools, then why will a school invest and upgrade its facilities," said G N Var president PSAJK.

AP Hijacked By Few, Says Khawaja Yaseen After Resignation

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu Kashmir Apni Party leader and in-charge Srinagar's Khanyar Constituency resigned from the party claiming that the party has been hijacked by a few vested interest elements.

Khawaja Muhammad Yaseen who had joined Apni Party soon after it was founded was instrumental to pull crowds and organize party meetings in Khanyar Constituency.

Yaseen said that he was dejected to see some politicians trying to hijack the party and discouraging those who are keen to serve the people and the party.

"I have great regard for some party leaders including the Chairman Syed Muhammad Altaf Bukhari, Ghulam Hasan Mir, and Noor Muhammad Sheikh, but it was a tormenting experience to witness the internal affairs of the party. New entrants and those who work on the ground are being neglected. There are few leaders inside the party calling the shots for their benefit," Khawaja Muhammad Yaseen said. He said he will continue to serve the people and his constituency. "Some leaders in the Apni Party believe that peoples' interests are subservient to their interests which is really aching," he said and pledged to work for the welfare of the people.



Kashmiri travel agents Friday protested against hoteliers for "sidelining" them in the ongoing tourism season in the valley.

Police Arrests Non-local Thief From Srinagar

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: After video footage of locals nabbing a thief went viral on social media, Police on Friday said that a non-local thief was arrested in Srinagar's Aali-Kadal area.

The Police said, stolen items were also recovered after

the thief was caught by local residents.

Abdul Rashid, a local of Aali Kadal who was seen holding the thief in the video, said the incident took place late in the evening.

"It looks like he was part of a larger group of thieves" he said.

According to police, thief has been identified as Milan Islam S/o Mohd Noorul Islam R/o West Bengal who presently resides at Rajbagh area of the city.

However, police said that "some subversive elements are trying to give it a different color." "One thief namely Milan Is-

lam S/o Mohd Noorul Islam R/o West Bengal a/present Rajbagh was caught by locals. Some stolen items were also recovered. He was allegedly caught red handed while attempting theft at Aalikadal. Some subversive elements are trying to give it a different color," Srinagar Police tweeted.

Law Student, Sheema Latif Makes Her Name As Mehandi Artist

Agencies

Srinagar: A 21-year-old girl from Srinagar, who is aspiring to become a lawyer, has made her name as a Mehandi artist and at times provides free of cost services to the people, who cannot afford to pay hefty sums, aiming to assist the poor in need.

Sheema Lateef, who hails from Soiteng locality of Nowgam in the outskirts of Srinagar city, is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Law from Vitasta School of Law and Humanities in Srinagar and at the same time she is also pursuing her hobby of being one of youngest and certified Mehandi artist in the Kashmir Valley.

Originally hailing from Khayam locality of Srinagar, Sheema wants to work for the welfare of the people both as a lawyer and a Mehandi artist.

"Being a lawyer and a Mehandi artist, I want to work for the welfare of the people. Nowadays artists, be it makeup artists or Mehandi artists, charge hefty amounts, which sometimes people cannot afford. So keeping that in mind, I have

kept a cap at Rs 2500 for every person and for those who cannot afford even this amount, I offer the services free of cost," Sheema said.

Being a self-taught article, Covid-19 lockdown helped her hone her skills in this art and she would offer services to the people during lockdown at her home.

She said that she had created an Instagram page and she would get bookings through this and people would come to her home.

"During lockdown people would come to my home. Since I knew this art from the beginning, it was not difficult for me to learn more about it. But I had to fight a lot of stereotypes as people would sometimes look down upon artists like us as people think we belong to lower class families," she said.

She said that a lot of people gave up on their professions of being Mehandi or makeup artists as people would often mistreat them, forcing them to give up.

"But I overcame such stereotypes and moved on with my hobby as well as my profession. I am pursuing law and I am cur-

rently doing an internship at District court Srinagar as I am in 5th semester of my course. At the same time I am pursuing my hobby of being one of the youngest Mehandi artists in the Kashmir Valley" she said.

Though, field of law was not Sheema's choice, she ended in this profession after opting out of Robotics course at IIT Delhi, where she had secured 2nd position in the entire Kashmir Valley.

She said that even though this course was a fully-funded scholarship by the government, she still ended up being an aspiring lawyer as this was written in her destiny.

"Being a lawyer was by chance and not by choice as I had not thought about this profession, but destiny had something else in store for me. But while pursuing law I learnt about working for the welfare of the people and this is what motivated me to take up the hobby of being a Mehandi artist. As through this I also want to work for the welfare of the people," she said.

Women From Downtown Locality Protest Water Scarcity

Agencies

Srinagar: Water scarcity brought the Wazapora area of downtown Srinagar on roads on Friday.

Women were seen on the road carrying empty buckets and raising slogans against the Jal Shakti Department.

"This is a tempest, this is injustice, we have never seen a situation like this," the female protesters said.

They appealed to LG to intervene and urge upon the PHE Department to supply water to them.

After repeated requests, they dispersed with the assurance that they will get potable water. (KNT)

DIAL-EMMA

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
12 Shawwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 55
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:20
Magrib	7:27
ISHA	9: 01

This Day In History

- 1264 - Battle of Lewes, 2nd Barons' War: Simon de Montfort the younger, Earl of Leicester, defeats English King Henry III
- 1509 - Battle of Agnadello, French beat Venetians in Northern Italy
- 1664 - Turkish Grand Vizier Köprülü Fazıl Ahmed attacks 120,000 Donau soldiers
- 1702 - England & Netherlands declare war on France & Spain
- 1702 - Swedish troops under King Charles XII occupy Warsaw
- 1811 - Paraguay gains independence from Spain (National Day)
- 1853 - Gail Borden, land surveyor, newspaper publisher and inventor, patents his process for condensed milk
- 1861 - The Canellas meteorite, an 859-gram chondrite-type meteorite, strikes the earth near Barcelona, Spain
- 1862 - Adolphe Nicole of Switzerland patents chronograph
- 1863 - American Civil War: The Battle of Jackson, Mississippi takes place
- 1868 - Japanese Boshin War: end of the Battle of Utsunomiya Castle, former Shogunate forces withdraw northward to Aizu by way of Nikk
- 1897 - Great Britain signs treaty with Emperor Menelik II of Abyssinia
- 1907 - Sweden adopts universal suffrage for elections to its lower house and proportional representation for both houses
- 1921 - Mussolini's fascists obtain 29 parliamentary seats in Italian elections
- 1939 - Lina Medina becomes the world's youngest confirmed mother in medical history at the age of five.
- 1944 - British troops occupy Kohima
- 1944 - General Rommel, Speidel & von Stulpnagel attempt to assassinate Hitler
- 1945 - Physician Joseph G. Hamilton injects misdiagnosed cancer patient Albert Stevens (CAL-1) with 131 kBq (3.55 µCi) of plutonium without his knowledge. Stevens lives another 20 years, surviving the highest known accumulated radiation dose in any human
- 1948 - Israel declares independence from British administration
- 1948 - Jordan's Arab League captures Atarot, north of Jerusalem
- 1948 - US grants Israel de facto recognition
- 1948 - Golda Meir [Goldie Meyerson] is one of the signatories of Israel's independence declaration

From KO Archives

'Tribal Justice' Surfaces In Sleepy Kokerag Village

Women Branded with Red-Hot Irons For 'Illicit Ties'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The police has arrested two persons and is looking for another five for branding two married women with red-hot iron rods in a village on the outskirts of Kokernag.

Some people in the Dardyu village of the Larnu area in Kokernag yesterday accused two local women, Mubeena Akhtar and Meema, of having an illicit relationship with one Riyaz Ahmad Paddar, a youth living in the neighbourhood.

The villagers caught the three accused and awarded punishment to the two women on their own.

According to, the police, the villagers took the law into their own hands and shaved the heads of the two women, and later branded their bodies with red-hot irons. The women were stripped by their accusers, reports said.

The area is seething with anger at the incident.

The women lodged a case with the Kokernag police, who arrested two persons, Syed Javed Ahmad Shah and Muhammad Ashraf Shah for causing injury, to the women.

A hunt has been launched for five more villagers identified as Syed Arshad Ahmad, Syed Nisar, Naseeb Ahmad, Basheer Ahmad and Manzoor Ahmad. Raids were conducted at several places to nab the suspects whose arrest has been demanded by the people of the area.

(Kashmir Observer, 14 May, 2007)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the renewal of my passport issued under no K392553 dated 10-04-2012. As per my all documents I want to change the surname from Mala to Mir. Anybody having any objection may submit the same to the office of regional Passport officer Srinagar Kashmir within seven days from the publication of this notice.

Shabir Hussian Mir
S/o Mohammad Akbar Mir
R/o 370 Hamdania Colony
Bemina Sector E Srinagar
Kashmir

SS

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Javid Gaffar S/o Abdul Gaffar Gojri R/o Mominabad Salfia College Road Batmaloo (Transferor) and Shri Adnan



Intikhab S/o Intikhab Alam R/o Malik Sahib Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Etos carriage route Permit No 1191/AR/ 2015 Covering Vehicle No JK01X- 5275 .

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer.

Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S Manzoor TPT Namely Mohd Yousuf

NOJK-RTOK 2674
Dated: 13/05/2022
pko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Officer,
Kashmir

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE INFORMATICS OFFICER

Room No. 100, Block-B, Central Office, Karan Nagar Srinagar, 190010

Phone: 0194-2476931email: info.officer-smc@jk.gov.in

No.SMC/IT/135-138

Dated: 11-05-2022

Subject: Extension notice to RFP 01 o 2021-22 dated: 06.10.2021 issued vide No.SMC/IT/1221 dated: 06.10.2021 and retendered vide No.SMC/IT/09-11 dated: 06.04.2022

EXTENSION NOTICE

The bid submission date for above cited NleT is hereby extended as under:-
Last date of submission of bids online 20.05.2022 up to 4.00 PM
Technical bid shall be opened on 23.05.2022 up to 4.00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the NleT.

No/SMC/IT/135-138
Dated:11-05-2022

DIPK-NB-840/22

Informatics Officer,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



“A Kashmiri. A Muslim. A Woman.
@mattoosanna Congratulations for the Pulitzer.
This is much more than you alone”

@safwatzgr

“Women suffer so much in Desi households. I am
literally in tears. You'll be this dope independent lady
before marriage and this one man will make your
life miserable. There's one example in my family and
there will be hundreds in other hundred families”

@pparinday

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Cluttered Academy

The cultural academy’s unseemly haste to shoo prominent Kashmiris into their graves shows how keen the undertakers of this region’s art culture and languages are to preside over the funeral of its heritage.

Even in this ghoulish enterprise, the academy cannot avoid the overarching element of farce which many believe has become its hallmark.

One could take a charitable view of the whole unsavoury episode and attribute the academy’s death notice of the editor-in-chief of the Srinagar Times, Sofi Ghulam Muhammad, to a genuine mistake, but to compound it by seeking to make amends by announcing the demise of another well known Sofi when that gentleman, too, was still with this world is incomprehensible. The academy did not even have the grace to go red in the face at this dual faux pas, but resorted to the stock official response of “inconvenience is regretted,” as if it had erred in notifying the price of mutton and poultry.

The academy seemed to have no appreciation of what it means to lose the founding chief editor of one of the oldest surviving newspapers of Kashmir, or a musical legend like Ghulam Hassan Sofi, both of whom have had deep associations with the institution. Apparently, the academy is so overloaded with literary and cultural geniuses that it can’t tell one from the other. One Sofi can do as well as another. The learned bosses of the academy could not even manage a decent biographical sketch of either of the victims of its necro-predilection, leave alone a graceful obituary worthy of the contributions of the supposedly departed subjects. What it eventually coaxed out of itself after a disingenuous condolence meeting of its babus in Jammu after Ghulam Hassan Sofi actually passed away was an atrocity on the soul of that gentle singer. Shot through with grammatical errors bordering on the obscene, the grudging press release was a rehash of news reports of the previous day. Evidently, the pillars of erudition in charge of the academy have such a low opinion of others that they deem it beneath themselves to monitor what the institution brings out about people who have made some mark in public life. Or else, the academy has become a den of incompetence and mediocrity exemplified by its atrociously drafted handouts, which, by the way, the press has been generously silent about.

That such travesty finds its way out of the academy unchecked is a scandal by itself for which big heads should roll, as the picture presented of the guardians of the state’s art, culture and languages is one of unconscionable ineptitude. And greater still is the scandal of such undeserving elements finding a place in an institution requiring at least a nodding acquaintance with the nuances of language.

The fiasco does nothing to instill confidence that the institution as currently run is qualified to do justice to the creative and literary talents in Kashmir or be a genuine platform for genuine talent to surface and flower. Rather, the cosmetic theatrics the academy sponsors in the name of native culture are a death knell for whatever survives of Kashmir’s unique ethos. Successive governments have done pitiful little in making the academy a true repository of native genius, often foisting people with dubious qualifications and credentials on this highly sensitive institution. More often than not, the academy and its exalted positions have become a means of dispensing favours to politically convenient elements or rewarding people useful in advancing some nefarious agenda. One such strand in this sneaky design is the pathetic state of the Kashmiri language, spoken in most of the state. The academy could have been a patron for the promotion of this language, if only it could disentangle itself from the shackles of bias and sycophancy.

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

“

The 28 years newly married woman soon died and was buried along with her hopes, dreams, and pangs. In her death, Kashmiri men and women saw an avoidable murder, a criminal offence. Though the headlines continued using the term ‘Domestic Violence’ for the offence, the unwritten part said her in-laws were not among us, they were not humans at all and deserved punishment, probably not for domestic violence-a symptomatic of the more general oppression on women in a patriarchal society, but the murder



Credits: Shonagh Rae

A Deadly Romance

Domestic Violence in Kashmir is Deadlier than Ever, What is the Way Ahead?

Dr Shazia Malik

A heart-wrenching image of an injured Muslim married woman, Zahida Bano, lying in a hospital was being circulated on social media reportedly after getting beaten up by in-laws at Baramulla just a day after Eid. The 28 years newly married woman soon died and was buried along with her hopes, dreams, and pangs. In her death, Kashmiri men and women saw an avoidable murder, a criminal offence. Though the headlines continued using the term ‘Domestic Violence’ for the offence, the unwritten part said her in-laws were not among us, they were not humans at all and deserved punishment, probably not for domestic violence-a symptomatic of the more general oppression on women in a patriarchal society, but the murder. This anger is not new, nor such bruised images of victims of domestic violence. Though all forms of violence against women is a global phenomenon, the surge in domestic violence cases in Kashmir, has emerged as a grave issue for women in last 15 years. The anger of the common masses translates into protests only when they hear about the death of domestic violence victims- ‘officially recognised’ crimes against women.

Lately, a women-only, private Facebook group called @Yakjut Kashmiri Ladies has been instrumental in creating spaces fairly comparable with consciousness-raising groups of second wave feminism. Within this group, women from different backgrounds discuss their domesticity issues, child-raising issues, dealing with abusive relationships, work experiences, etc. violence in the conjugal homes abuses in Kashmir is reflected in most of the discussions and debates on this page regularly, which appears to have only revived in recent years. The stories reveal that an important part of the power relationship between spouses and their families is related mainly to dowry related issues and older gender order. Surprisingly domestic violence is not a priority area of research in Kashmir among the major disciplines. We hardly know about the violence within the family, there is no information about the nature and kind of violence that is perpetrated against women in Kashmir within the family or community. We know almost nothing about the structural patterns of violence that are culturally specific. Even though features like, wife-beating, economic abuse, and psychological abuse are some recognized sub-themes under domestic violence in academic circles; it hardly translates into the ‘collective anger’ or ‘collective shame’ enabling resistance to patriarchy. What I figured out while working as a women’s studies scholar in Kashmir is that patriarchy is never seen as a potential source of oppression for women in Kashmir.

While patriarchy may not be the overarching cause of all abuse, it is an enormously significant factor, because in traditional patriarchy males have a disproportionate share of power. Many abusive men, in order to maintain their fragile sense of masculinity, use physical force to keep their wives in their proper place. However, Kashmir has seen the emergence of a ‘new patriarchy’ to control women in public as well as in private domains. Gender violence in

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Kashmir has a social context that is informed by shifts in perceptions of gender identities, and the role of women in marking/ preserving the community honor. It is also tied to the shifts in the organization of the family and household, for the tensions that emerge in the outside, public/ political spaces create new anxieties, leading to a renewed assertion of masculine authority in the spaces of the household. The unprotected social and political environment has turned women vulnerable to violence from their own community.

Why don't women speak up?

Even though the images of women are changing and apparently, she is as never before, represented as more active with ideas and purposes of her own and women seem to have become more individualized in the age of economic specializations and social media outlets. It is annoying for them to bear violence and discrimination on a daily basis due to the misuse of social and cultural values and religious norms in the Kashmiri society. The irony is that this violence is a highly stigmatized issue as society often blames women for the violence that they experience. This form of violence is so regular and normalized in our society that the majority of women consider it a ‘normal’ act. Clearly then, married women have more reasons to remain silent on issues of violence till the matters get worse. While we have a lot of legal measures assuring an escape from domestic violence under various law enactments such as Domestic Violence Acts 2005 and Section 498A etc, a growing consensus is being formed that women mostly misuse these provisions and frame false charges against their in-laws. While there is no denying the fact that a negligible number of such cases were proved false, the blame is not entirely on women. It is mostly the male law-

ence against women that is being offered widely these days is that men also are abused in domestic spaces by women. Again, it is agreeable that domestic violence is experienced by both men and women, and no one deserves domestic abuse irrespective of their gender. Yet women and men are differently vulnerable to domestic violence. Men’s violence and coercive control is linked to wider social norms and messages that support men’s control over their female partner. No such social acceptability is granted for such behaviour in women. There are social norms that continue to grant male entitlement, that grant men control over female behaviour, masculinity is linked to the legitimate use of violence, whereas violence is not legitimized by femininity. Domestic violence is the leading cause of death and injury for married women. Clearly then physical violence, as well as other forms of aggression is used as a method to ensure obedience from women. Unsurprisingly, an overwhelming majority of women who experience physical or emotional abuse in conjugal relationships do not report it to the police. While men retain their primary relations (mother, father, sisters and brothers) after their marriage, women usually become the ‘other’ while taking up the new roles and attempting to embrace the family of their husbands as their own. Unsurprisingly owing to the social stigmatization the victims are sensitive to the judgment they fear from others, whether they are suffering domestic violence. Sometimes women have difficulties in revealing embarrassing and humiliating details and might choose to remain silent. A domestic violence victim may stay silent because of various other situational factors. However, when they speak up, their vulnerability increases most often. Women often lack a support system that could sustain them financially and emotionally both in times of crisis in relationships, consequently, they are at the receiving end. Another major factor is that women are threatened that children will be taken away from them if they think of isolation from the abusive husband. The economic dependence of women on their abusive husbands and in-laws also prevent women from accessing legal redress. As we go more into the issue of domestic violence-it turns more and more complex than it is perceived generally. Despite the fact that domestic violence cannot be seen as an issue of gender only, it is an important analytic category in understanding the domestic violence against women. Other identity markers like religion, class, caste also play a vital role in determining how the victims of domestic violence will be treated. Likewise, illiteracy and poverty also serve to restrict the access of victims of domestic violence to legal remedies.

The irony is that this violence is a highly stigmatized issue as society often blames women for the violence that they experience. This form of violence is so regular and normalized in our society that the majority of women consider it a ‘normal’ act

ing a married woman appear to be an unjust action because domestic violence is not even considered the bone of contention in Kashmir. Even though the last few years saw frequent killings, burnings, suicides, and severe wife-beatings, there is no acceptance of the fact that patriarchy is responsible for such actions by powerful men. Domestic violence more preferably intimate partner violence is also not to be simply understood as a violent act in a private setting rather it is a pattern of behavior in a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. We need to, first of all, acknowledge domestic violence as a problem and own responsibility for the oppressive actions against women as a community. Since Kashmir has seen repeated cycles of violence due to the presence of decades old armed conflict, our community, and the support

systems legally available for women such as police and judiciary are less likely to approach them for redress, because of their inherent violent natures experienced by the common masses. In addition to this an atmosphere of global Islamophobia also prevents the members of the community at large to accept the fact that issues such as domestic

Even though the last few years saw frequent killings, burnings, suicides, and severe wife-beatings, there is no acceptance of the fact that patriarchy is responsible for such actions by powerful men. Domestic violence more preferably intimate partner violence is also not to be simply understood as a violent act in a private setting rather it is a pattern of behavior in a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner

violence exist in our society. As a community, we need to build strong indigenous spaces to support the marginal sections, especially women. Combating domestic violence requires us to collectively promote structural changes. We need to challenge social norms surrounding domestic violence through properly organizing ourselves not against the individuals but against the system of patriarchal oppression that normalizes humiliating women on a daily basis which eventually results in heightened violence in the later phases. There is a dire need of feminist organizations that are capable of collaborating with other forms of organizations fighting different kinds of oppressions in the valley. Once women have a reliable and understanding support system and they are able to confide their grievances without the fear of being judged, women will definitely speak up. She will be strong enough to leave the abuser and prioritize her own life and happiness which she deserves.

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

The author is Assistant Professor,
Women’s Studies Center, Faculty
of Social Sciences, University of
Kashmir, Srinagar, J&K

yers who frame the charges in that way to make their case stronger. Another counter to domestic vio-

The Way Ahead

The anger and protest directed towards an individual act of kill-

Covid Pallbearers of Scanty Funerals

Excerpts from 'To Hell and Back: Humans of Covid' by Barkha Dutt published by Juggernaut Books (2022)

Barkha Dutt

'I am more scared of the living than the dead. The bodies – before they are Hindu or Muslim – they are human.' At any other time, this would have been a truism, a self-evident do-gooder statement that may have even been overlooked for its obvious good manners. But Indian public discourse had already been coarsened by a communal, poisonous conversation around the role of the Tablighi Jamaat, an orthodox Sunni sect, as a super-spreader. The proselytizing organization, which urged believers to return to Islam as practised in the age of the Prophet, was spread across eighty countries with its markaz or centre in Delhi. In early March 2020, roughly ten days before India was officially locked down, a religious congregation was organized in the capital's Nizamuddin area, a Muslim-dominated neighbourhood made up of untidy, byzantine lanes where

fourteenth-century domes built from red sandstone and inlaid marble shared space with overcrowded slums, pavement dwellers and child beggars. An advisory from the Delhi government had warned against gatherings of more than 200 people but did not specifically ban religious events. Hundreds of foreigners had also entered India from COVID hotspots like Indonesia and Malaysia to attend the congregation held between 13 and 15 March. A few thousand pilgrims attended the event. Thereafter, the oblivious Tablighis fanned out in different directions of India, carrying the virus with them. It was only after the first COVID case was traced back to the Tablighis in Tamil Nadu that the Centre sounded the alarm across states and a massive contact-tracing programme started. That the organization of a mass event in the middle of a pandemic was criminally negligent was never in dispute. But there were lapses all around. Malaysia and Indonesia

had already emerged as COVID flashpoints in Southeast Asia, and there too a gathering of the Tablighi Jamaat at a mosque on 28 February had led to a sharp spike in cases. And yet, in the first three months of the year, more than 2,000 foreigners were able to enter the country without any screening or restrictions. By the end of March more than 800 of them had dispersed to different destinations across India. As the remaining Tablighis were finally evacuated in the busloads, television networks began smearing the entire Muslim community in language that normalized religious hatred. Phrases like 'Corona jihad' were used to suggest a wilful spread of the virus. Prime-time anchors referenced visual graphics on rising cases depicting the numbers against silhouettes of men in skullcaps. The hashtag #CoronaJihad was used over 300,000 times and was seen by 165 million people in less than a week.²⁸ There were other religious communities that were on

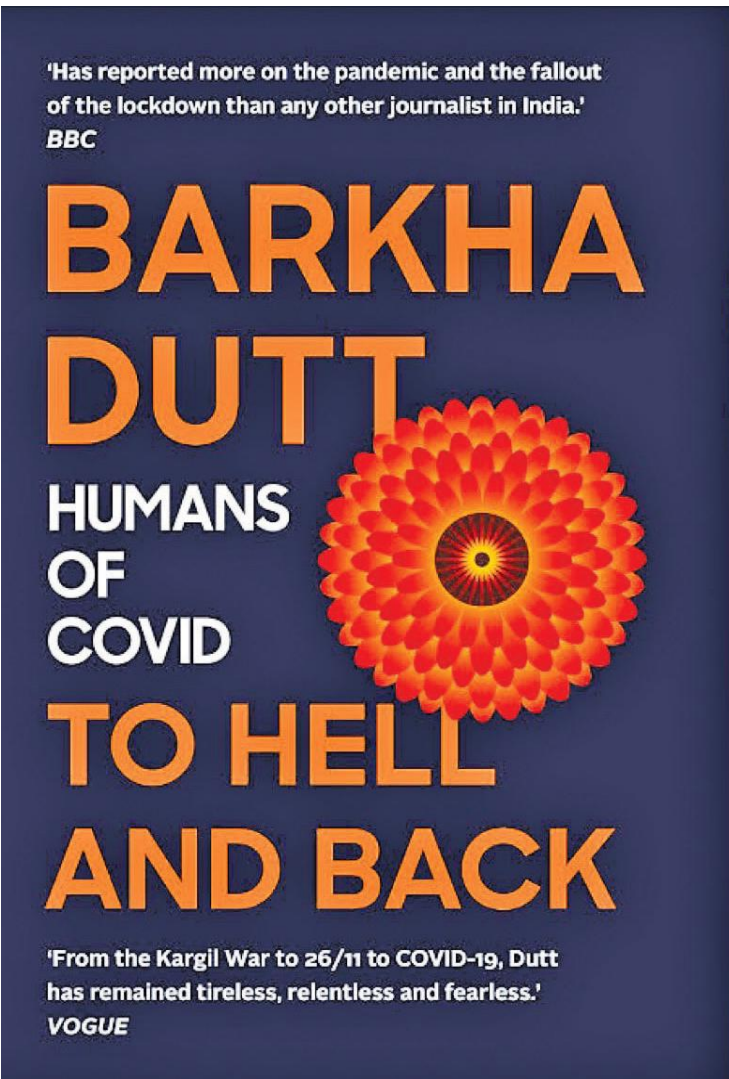
pilgrimages when the lockdown was announced by the prime minister – Sikhs at the gurudwara in Nanded in Maharashtra, Hindus at Vaishno Devi in Jammu – but the language used for them in mainstream media was very different. When they were brought back to their states, it was a homecoming. By contrast, multiple headlines spoke of the Tablighis as having been 'hiding' in mosques across the country.

The pandemic reinforced prejudices, both obvious and latent. It did so not just in India, where differences of class, gender and religion were magnified in an almost macabre, bare-boned way; but also in societies globally, including America, where Trump's characterization of the virus as 'Chinese' led to a spate of attacks on Asian Americans.

In India, paradoxically, in a Dickensian besting and worsening of times, the breakdown of social and community structures ran parallel to extraordinary displays of

courage and compassion. And nowhere was this more evident than in the stories of those who stepped up to be the pallbearers of COVID. It was a job no one else was ready to do... The COVID pallbearers – Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian – were the handymen tasked to repair and reassemble the broken bits of our humanity. Nearly all were poor or of modest means. Many had spent years at the very bottom of the caste or economic ladder, socially discriminated against, even though it is in their hands that we place the bodies of those who have our hearts. They are the gravediggers, the body washers, the corpse burners and the furnace cleaners, the conduit between the end of this life and whatever lies on the other side.

Excerpted with permission from 'To Hell and Back: Humans of Covid,' Barkha Dutt, Juggernaut Books



Ocean Vuong

As a culture, we often fetishize the debut writer as some sort of self-arising wunderkind, someone that comes "out of nowhere" or had "splashed onto the scene" unannounced, seemingly without a pre-history or predecessors. This is compounded for writers of color, who seem, according to this narrative, to arrive at the literary table by "transcending" their cultural, economic or racial milieu into the hegemonic literati. I want to take a moment, in light of this, to put some shine on 10 books that made my debut, On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous, possible.

Some of these texts (in no particular order) are canonical, some are not—but they each had an idiosyncratic force on my education as a writer and informed and enriched On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous, and in particular, supported the novel's metaphor-rich approach. The metaphor, heavily used in the 19th century as a means toward the ecstatic sublime, became more passive after the World Wars, when the pastoral dream was no longer feasible amidst European fields rotting with cattle corpses. I wanted to use the metaphor differently, on terms removed from a Eurocentric worldview.

Vietnamese refugees, for example, use metaphor as a coping mechanism; metaphor provides a way to talk about trauma without stating the experience outright. An abortion is described as having "papaya seeds scraped out of you," or sexual assault as having "the doorway of your body broken into." To die is to "get on the road." Likewise, when Abel Meeropol wrote the poem "Strange Fruit" about the lynching of African Americans in the South, he was not reaching for the Romantic sublime—but to render the horrific via an alternative speech act. The metaphor in the mouths of survivors became a way to innovate around pain.

These texts also helped in formulating the novel's shape. Using Kishōtenketsu, a narrative structure used in Chinese poetry, then later developed in Japanese storytelling, I was able to write about American violence without it becoming vital to the novel's arc. It was important to me, at least in this book, that violence remain independent from any character's self-worth, rendering it inert, terrible, and felt—but not a means of "development." Through Kishōtenketsu, violence becomes fact and not a vehicle towards a climax. Having been a student mainly of Western literature, it became clear to me that the most perennial protagonist is not necessarily the main character, but conflict-driven plot. In Western narratology, the plot is the dominant mode to which all characters are subordinate. But I wanted a novel to hold these characters thoroughly and, most importantly, on their own terms, free from a system of governance, even one of my own making. I could not employ the plot-heavy strategy because I needed these people to exist as they are, full of stories but not for a story.

The truth is no writer comes "out of nowhere" and wunderkinds are only as real as our aversion to a more sobering—albeit less glamorous—reality: that a writer's growth is often a slog, the slow burn of reading and trying and failing when, finally, by some luck or mercy, the book you're reading turns into a torch in your hands. And with it you make a sentence so new and exacting to your desire that it startles you into a new vision,

a new life, one that exists through the presence of elders before you, both here and gone and some nearly forgotten but never lost.

These authors and their books found me. They helped realize my thinking. Hopefully they will do the same, however large or small, for you.

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Dictee

This book is one of the most radical approaches to the novel that I've read, one where time-honored narrative decrees for cohesion, fluidity, character development, plot and arc, are refused in order to privilege a necessary, orchestrated sense of disorientation as a method of enacting displacement, trauma, and national and private grief. The novel gave me courage to stop seeing historical trauma as something that has to be refurbished in order to achieve "fine art," and more so that fracture, even incomprehensibility, can be a powerful conscious mode of storytelling, one that interrogates colonialist gauges of successful art-making without forsaking its central thrust: to tend and hold close the bodies expelled by canonical narratives.

Because Cha was also a visual artist, the book can be read as an exhibit, both in the curatorial sense (images and calligraphy often interrupt the text) as well as a judicial one—where documents and family albums are scanned as evidence of erased histories.

Toni Morrison, Beloved

There is not more I can say about Beloved that has not been said much more concisely and eloquently. When I first came to the book, I discovered something I did not expect coming in: that, along with the myriad things that Beloved is and does, it is also a refugee narrative. The novel positions survival as an act of creation, particularly how mothers who witnessed a generation of a horrific trauma acquire the power of protection through love—even if it means committing the ultimate act of rescue: death. It is a treatise where-in literary violence can—and is at times obligated to—match that of history, that nothing is "too much" or "indulgent" if it is true. I saw in Morrison's characters the thinking and innovation of women in my family. Although Morrison's characters inhabit a completely different historical sequence, incomparable to anything else, the novel taught me to see Vietnamese refugees as survivors with agency, like Sethe, who must now furnish a future within incomprehensible aftermaths. It gave me the confidence and determination to see Vietnamese American life as worthy and exceedingly beautiful in the project of literature.

Anne Carson, Autobiography of Red

This hybrid book (a novel in verse) taught me what can happen when a fictive story is contextualized through other texts, where it can collabo-

rate, argue with, and celebrate the original while also gaining its own life. In Carson's case, it was the recasting and expansion of the classical myth of Geryon. But what's more, it uses Geryon's anecdotal life in a larger male-dominated narrative as an epicenter, thereby decentralizing the Greek original into Carson's contemporary vision of rural queer life, the isolation of art making and the

“

Wanted a novel to hold these characters thoroughly and, most importantly, on their own terms, free from a system of governance, even one of my own making. I could not employ the plot-heavy strategy because I needed these people to exist as they are, full of stories but not for a story

brutal repercussions of favoring interiority in a patriarchal system.

But perhaps what's most inspiring to me about this book is Carson's refusal to enact her protagonist's development via a false and forced inhabitation of heteronormative ideals. Geyron, a quiet, small, artistic mama's boy, does not become a masculinist hero in order to "solve" his outcast position. Instead, he bravely embodies his otherness, or "monstrosity," as Carson writes, through emotionally-informed aesthetic vision. It's a book that insists on the necessity of alterity as agency instead of succumbing to the readily assimilative.

Herman Melville, Moby-Dick

I have always felt that Melville was the writer who enacted Whitman's decree for American multiplicity in ways far richer and complex than Whitman did himself. A book that simply refuses to compromise, that employs the autobiographical gaze to suggest radical modes of queerness, polytheism as progressive self-knowledge, expansive meditations on whiteness, both in regards to the whale's purity and to race, Moby-Dick forges the allegory of the hunt as a doomed American quest for self-knowledge. Reading it, I thought, What would happen if a queer Asian American decided, in Melville's vein, to also not compromise? What would happen if all modes of voices, themes,

threads, systems of knowledge and influence were potent in equal measure within the novel's temporal investigation?

Because I knew I did not want to write a 600-page tome, the epistolary mode allowed me the quick detours and returns, while still retaining the vital urgency and vulnerability of a direct address. In this way, the voice, the letter itself, became the main plot, the digressions in memory, cultural investigations, and vignettes its tributaries. And the whale, ever fleeting, out of reach, and finally impossible, is the mother's readership of the letter.

James Baldwin, Go Tell It on the Mountain

The novel that Baldwin claims he "had to write if [he were] ever to write anything else" is a masterclass on how potent and vital an autobiographical text can be for a writer of color. In a literary culture that often casts the debut as arriving out of serendipitous phenomenon, the autobiographical novel, as evidenced by Baldwin, serves as a map of one's journey towards art. It says, essentially, that a writer of color does not arrive at the literary table, as is often believed, in spite their geographical and cultural roots, but because of them, that those origins, complex and rich with joy and challenges, were foundations within their praxis—not shackles that denied them an imagination.

The Germans would call such a book a Künstlerroman—an artist novel. In Baldwin's hands, Go Tell It becomes more than that, it becomes a map of passage wherein a gay black writer garners self-knowledge through the careful, thorough, and luminous rendering of his elders, which includes their flaws, triumphs, and the near-obliterating effect of American racism on their minds and bodies.

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and bodies.

lê thị diễm thủy, The Gangster We Are All Looking For

A truly innovative book that centralizes oscillation and destabilization as a mode of inquiry and storytelling. Moving through multiple points of view, voices and non-linear time, thủy builds a narrative that feels, at times, more like landscape art than writing—all to a tremendous embodied effect. This book was so important to my education as a novelist because it shows how easily writers of color can be relegated to incompressible if they choose to enlist unconventional, non-canonical models to work from.

thy only breaks the rules of traditional Western narrative; she insists that such rules can be consciously rejected because their rubrics were made without considering the bodies her book holds—even at this risk of rendering it, in the eyes of critics trained to recognize and celebrate hegemonic styles, as nonsensical or wrong. The result is a bold and empowering refusal of conformity in search of other ways of speaking and being.

Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse

This book still feels anachronistically bold in its total recalibration of conventional plot-making as a means of privileging characters, people and ideas over "story;" all of it a treatise for a woman's interior life as a central motif for fiction. It's subtly subversive but also starkly innovative in action—or inaction (the entire narrative can be summed up—with a touch of, but not much, hyperbole—as five people crossing a lawn while a woman tries to finish her painting). What's so illuminating to me is Woolf's insistence on the extended metaphor (near Homeric at times) as a means of destabilizing the temporal function of plot. What is real when the metaphor becomes just as felt, if not more so, than the narrated life, when it becomes a portal?

And Woolf did this at a time where overly metaphorical writing, a style that once represented the pinnacle of masculine achievement in the 19th century (James, Melville, Dickens, Whitman), was feminized via epithets like purple, florid, flowery, and unrestrained so to be rendered defunct or passé. In other words, a set of tools can be considered useless only once it has been retroactively prescribed to women. Using that "florid" style in a novel that negotiates a woman's inner life within the restrictions of patriarchy while also laying bare the arbitrary gendering of style, was and is incredibly radical to me.

David Wojnarowicz, Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration

If a personal queer bible could be such a thing, this would be mine. The potent beauty in this col-

lection of essays is evident in its wide swath of styles and range of diction and modes. Wojnarowicz oscillates between essayistic rages against the Reagan administration to deeply lyrical meditations on queer loneliness, illness, artmaking and the mourning of lovers and friends lost to the AIDS epidemic.

It feels at times as if Wojnarowicz's sentences are attempts at laying ground within a community disintegrating before his eyes and voice. What remains in this collection that spans nearly his entire life is a testament to queer innovation and survival—but also the residue of a boy's coming of age in broken homes in New Jersey to an equally blighted yet life-savily vibrant New York. This book shines as one of the most vital prehistories of how queer art is possible today and its impact is still felt all around you, even if you've never read it. I will forever be indebted, not only to this book but also David's life and work.

Scott McClanahan, Crapalachia: A Biography of Place

Scott McClanahan is one of those rare writers who achieves Kafka's credo that a book should be the axe that shatters the icy soul of our interior. Crapalachia, with its tongue-in-cheek title, is anything but refuse and detritus. In fact, it's a broken and half-sung ode to place and people and history, a personal reclamation of falsehoods cast on rural communities in West Virginia. It shows that just because the place you live in has been written about by others ad infinitum, does not mean it was written with you or your folks in mind. This book gave me the courage and power to write about Hartford, a city both haunted and adored by the specters of literary giants like Wallace Steven, Mark Twain, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. But what's most indelible about this book is its commitment to wonder and awe. It looks at a region that is deemed blighted beyond repair by outsiders and insists that the sublime, under the writer's honest and unflinching gaze, is made as true and palpable within the text as it is for those who live, dance, and die there.

Jenny Offill, Dept of Speculation

A modern testament to the power of the vignette as a narrative strategy. This book collapses Sherwood Anderson's story cycle novel into Marguerite Duras's elliptical, episodic style to fashion something entirely its own. What ensues is a refreshed demand for the reader to participate in the novel's arc, each gap, like stanza breaks in a poem, both asks and allows us to feel the emotional pressures made resonant through associative leaps. This strategy is incredibly difficult to pull off as it demands charged and complicated emotive renderings to carry into white space without through bridges and narrative connections.

In other words, it operates using a continuous stream of thematic ricochets that compound as the vignettes increase. It takes a master to wield a book like this without it disintegrating into arbitrary "entries." As such, reading it is a masterclass in the power and ramification of space and distance. An inexhaustible classic.

The article was originally published by Lithub

2 Militants Killed

Aragam area of Bandipora following inputs about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the hiding militants fired upon government forces personnel, who retaliated.

In the ensuing exchange of fire, two militants were killed, he said. The official said the identity of the slain militants was being ascertained.

Earlier in the day, Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the two militants trapped in Brar were Pakistani and belonged to the LeT.

“They had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir recently. They had managed to escape during an encounter in the Salinder forest area on Wednesday, he said.

The militants were tracked down and trapped in Brar in Bandipora on Friday, the IGP said in a tweet.

However, in a statement issued late Friday night, police claimed that the two Pakistani militants Faisal alias Sikander alias Mohsin and Ukasha were behind the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit government employee in his office in Budgam a day ago.

The duo came under the scanner of the security forces during tracking of a local LeT militant, named Lateef Rather alias Osama, who was involved in militancy incidents in Srinagar and Budgam in the last two months, the police spokesman said.

A week ago, the movement of Rather was confirmed in the Salindar area of Bandipora where he had gone to receive a fresh group of LeT militants who had infiltrated into the union territory, the spokesman said.

He said that the presence/movement of these militants was confirmed and shared with the Bandipora police. Accordingly, an operation was launched on May 11 resulting in the elimination of a local militant, identified as Gulzar Ahmed Ganaie of district Baramulla.

However, the two Pakistani militants managed to escape from the spot. A police team kept following their footprints and their presence was confirmed technically in the Chadoora area of Budgam where the Kashmiri Pandit government employee was killed on Thursday.

Thereafter, the spokesman said, their footprints were again confirmed in Brar and accordingly the operation was launched on Friday, resulting in their killing.

A hunt was underway for Rather alias Osama, the spokesman said. (PTI)

KP Employee's

by a posse of police personnel, they said. They were requested to disperse but they refused to budge and insisted on marching ahead, following which the police used batons and fired some tear smoke shells, the officials said. There are no reports of any casualty, they added.

Bhat (35), a Kashmiri Pandit employee, was shot dead by militants inside his office in the Chadoora area of Budgam on Thursday.

In a statement issued here on Friday evening, a police spokesperson said that a few tear smoke shells were fired to disperse the protesters as inputs suggested militants might attack them in order to create communal clash and tension.

He said the community members protesting Bhat's killing since Thursday afternoon at Sheikhpora, Budgam, started moving towards the airport road around 11:00 am on Friday. “Although the magistrate repeatedly requested & tried to pacify the protesters not to proceed towards the very busy & over crowded Airport road, however, protesters while ignoring such persuasions and repeated requests from the administration, kept on moving towards the said road while forcibly breaking all the physical barriers en-route and pushing the police & Security Forces who were peacefully trying to persuade/stop them from moving ahead,” he said.

The protesters, he said, who were adamant to block the Airport road however did not pay any heed and instead managed to travel a distance of about one kilometre from Sheikhpora.

“Given the topography of the area and huge rush at the Airport road there were inputs that terrorists may take advantage of the same and may attack the protesters in order to create communal clash/tension,” the spokesperson said.

“Therefore in view of this, while sensing the security of the protesters who had resorted to violence and neglected the pacification requests by administration and to thwart evil designs of ANEs, police were constrained to finally hurl few teargas smokes to disperse them,” he added.

However, the spokesperson said that the protesters again re-assembled at Sheikhpora road and sat on protest & blocked the main road.

“Later on all of them went back to their home,” he added.

The community has been protesting since Thursday against the “failure” of the government to protect their lives.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, meanwhile, claimed that she has been placed under house arrest to stop her from visiting Budgam to express solidarity with the protesting Kashmiri Pandits.

In a tweet, Mufti said she was put under house arrest as the BJP did not want Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits to empathise with each other's pain.

“Wanted to visit Budgam to express my solidarity with Kashmiri Pandits protesting against GOI's failure to protect them. Have been put under house arrest as the fact that Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits empathise with each other's pain doesn't fit into their vicious communal narrative,” the PDP chief said.

Police officials, however, refused to comment over Mufti's claim.

Later, in a video message, Mufti said the situation in Kashmir was getting from bad to worse. She also urged the majority community in the valley to stand by the minorities.

“While the central government is playing a game of pitting Hindus against Muslims to hide its failures and presenting them as the biggest enemies of each other, Jammu and Kashmir is the only state where Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists are living together as one,” Mufti said.

“So, it is the duty of all people of Jammu and Kashmir to stand together with those who live among us -- be it Kashmiri Pandits or Sikh

brothers, like the way we had protected their lives and properties in 1947 when Gandhiji also had seen a ray of hope from Kashmir at that time,” she added.

Mufti also urged the people to uphold Jammu and Kashmir's legacy of brotherhood and unity.

“We have to stand with our minorities, and so, I appeal all the people to strongly advocate Hindu-Muslim brotherhood across all the mosques on the occasion of Friday congregational prayers.

“We need to give a message to the whole country of J-K's brotherhood and its history that we are a secular state and a united people so that the government does not get a chance to defame Muslims,” Mufti said.

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said it was shameful that legitimate and justified protests are met with a heavy-handed response.

“This is not new for the people of Kashmir because when all the administration has is a hammer every problem resembles a nail. If the LG's Govt can't protect KPs they have a right to protest,” he wrote on Twitter.

“Tourism is not normalcy, it's a barometer of economic activity. Normalcy is the absence of fear, the absence of terror, the inability of militants to strike at will, the presence of democratic rule & by any yardstick you choose to use, Kashmir is far from normal today,” Abdullah said.

Condemning the killing of a policeman in Pulwama on Friday, the NC leader said targeted killings were continuing unabated in the valley.

“Rahul in his office yesterday, Riyaz Ahmad Thoker, a SPO with J&K police, in his own home today. Targeted killings continue unabated. I can't condemn this killing strongly enough. May Allah grant Riyaz a place in Jannat,” he said.

Slain KP Employee

who were putting up with him at Sheikhpora migrant colony in Budgam, accompanied the body as it arrived here from Kashmir.

His brother Sunny lit the pyre at the Buntalab cremation ground as chants of “long live Rahul Bhat” rented the air.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits gathered at Bhat's house in Jammu for the last rites.

The community members, including Rahul Bhat's family, accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of making young Kashmiri Hindus “cannon fodder” in the name of rehabilitation of the community.

They also said the incident has shattered their dream of resettling permanently in the valley.

You (BJP) have formulated a plan to get young Kashmiri Pandits killed in the name of giving them jobs and rehabilitating them,” Soon Nath Bhat, a relative of Rahul Bhat said.

Such people are sitting ducks for militants who are using them for target practice , he added.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and other party leaders, who attended the funeral, had to face the ire of the community members as they raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the saffron party.

The protesters also blocked a stretch of road. On Thursday, Rahul Bhat's father Bitu Bhat had demanded a probe into the incident.

An inquiry should be ordered into the incident to identify all those who are involved in his cold-blooded murder, Bitu Bhat said at his Durga Nagar residence.

“I was at a hospital accompanying my ailing brother when a family friend called from Kashmir and informed me about the incident. I tried to contact the deputy commissioner of Budgam and the concerned police officers but my calls went unanswered, the father told the mediapersons, trying to put up a brave face and hold up his emotions.

He said it was the responsibility of the deputy commissioner to at least inform the family as his employee was killed inside his office chamber in broad-daylight.

If a person is shot inside his office, nobody is safe in the valley when such a thing has happened it is a glaring example of the government's failure. Those serving (among the Kashmiri Pandits) there are doing it at their own risk as the government has failed to provide security to them, he said.

Tears rolling down her cheeks, Rahul Bhat's mother Babli asks the government to “return” her son.

A relative of Rahul Bhat broke down before the media.

They have taken our children for dying there and not for jobs.

Rahul Bhat's neighbours said he was a thorough gentleman and the news of his killing came as a shock for them.

LG Meets Family

assured justice to the family.

“In this hour of grief, the government stands firmly with Rahul's family. Terrorists and their supporters will have to pay a very heavy price for their heinous act,” Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

Special Team

dead Rahul Bhat inside his office in Chadoora area of Budgam district. Bhat, who was recruited as a clerk under the special employment package for migrants in 20120-11, was removed to Srinagar's SMHS hospital, where he succumbed to serious gunshot injuries. His killing set off massive protests by the community members in Budgam and Anantnag districts.

“A decision has been taken to constitute special investigative team to probe all the aspects of the despicable terror attack. The SHO of the concerned police station has also been attached,” the office of J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, tweeted on Friday.

In another Tweet, the LG office announced that the administration will provide a government job to Bhat's widow in Jammu, besides financial assistance to the family.

“The government will bear educational expenses of the daughter,” the Tweet added.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman here “denied” “social media reports of resignations by Migrant employees”, saying “no such letter of resignation(s) have been received by the administration.”

“Service related issues are being addressed

in time bound manner, in week. The process has been already started,” the official said.

Authorities Deny

By Migrant employees are denied as no such letter of resignation(s) have been recieved by the administration. Service related issues are being addressed in a time bound manner in a weeks time,” Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza posted on his official Twitter handle.

Mirza's post came hours after a purported letter made rounds on social media claiming enmass resignation of all Kashmiri Pandit employees recruited under the Prime Minister's special employment package.

Bus Fire Kills

Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh said initial probe does not point to use of any explosive.

A forensic team is looking into the cause of fire.

Further details are awaited.

Population Not

He was responding to questions on criticism from certain quarters that going by the population ratio, Kashmir Division got a lesser number of seats as compared to Jammu.

“Population is only one of the criteria of the delimitation. Besides population, there are four other criteria as per provisions of the Delimitation Act and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act which say that consideration will also have to be given to the physical conditions, and communication facilities, public conveniences and the administrative units of that area. So these are four other criteria that have to be looked into. It (population) is one of the important criteria but not the sole criteria. That one should keep in mind,” Chandra told PTI.

Chandra, who demits the office of CEC on Saturday, said Jammu and Kashmir should be seen as one unit. “It cannot be (seen) in different parts. It is one single union territory. The whole population will have to be given representation in 90 constituencies. The (Kashmir) valley has been given less or Jammu (division) has been given less -- it is one whole unit comprising 20 districts and 207 tehsils. We will have to see it as one whole unit.”

The Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, formed in March 2020, notified its final report on May 5 giving six additional assembly seats to the Jammu region and one to Kashmir Valley and bringing areas of Rajouri and Poonch under the Anantnag parliamentary seat.

Jammu Division will now have 43 assembly seats and Kashmir 47 in the 90-member house.

The changes will come into effect from the date to be notified by the central government.

Earlier, the erstwhile assembly had 87 seats -- 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu 37 and four in Ladakh.

Ladakh, in the reorganisation of the erstwhile state, was declared as a union territory without an assembly.

The population of Jammu Division is 53.72 lakh and Kashmir Division 68.83 lakh, according to the Census of 2011.

Out of the 90 assembly constituencies, nine have been reserved for Scheduled Tribe -- six in Jammu and three in Kashmir Valley.

Chandra said there were “lots of problems” in the earlier delimitation which have been corrected now.

“There were only 12 districts when the earlier delimitation was done. Now there are 20 districts. Many constituencies were spread in more than one district. Many villages were spread into two or three constituencies. So these things will have to be rectified,” he said.

SC Seeks Response

the Union Territory.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh issued notice to the Centre and Election Commission of India and sought their responses within six weeks and said that the rejoinder affidavit shall be filed in two weeks thereafter.

At the outset, counsel appearing for two Srinagar residents Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Dr. Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, said that contrary to the scheme of the constitution, this delimitation exercise was carried out and alteration of boundaries and inclusion of extended areas could not be done.

The bench said that the delimitation commission was formed sometime back and asked the petitioners, where were they during that time and why did not they challenge the constitution of the commission.

The counsel said that as per the delimitation order, it is the election commission that is empowered to do any changes.

The bench said that it is asking a specific question under Article 32 of the constitution why you have not challenged the formation of the commission itself and do you challenge the abrogation of Article 370 also.

The bench told the counsel, who was making objectionable submissions, to choose his words properly and said that Kashmir was always part of India and just a special provision was removed.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that effectively the plea is two-fold and that delimitation can be conducted only by the Election Commission of India and not the delimitation commission.

Mehta said that secondly, they have raised questions about the census.

The answer to the questions is in the reorganisation Act. There are two types of delimitations. One is geography which is conducted by the delimitation commission and the second is by election commission with regard to reservation of seats , he said.

Mehta said that the petitioners' case is that once Article 370 is gone, the census will only take place in 2026.

The bench then noted that the petitioners have not challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and therefore pleadings concerning Article 370 are to be ignored.

It said that the challenge is about the delimitation pursuant to the notifications of March 6, 2020, and March 3, 2021, and directed the Centre and ECI to file their replies.

Counsel for the petitioners said that the government will place the delimitation order before Parliament and it further complicates the matter.

The bench told the counsel that he wants the court to stop the government from tabling the paper before Parliament. If you were too anxious, then why didn't you take it up two years ago?

It posted the matter for further hearing on August 30.

The plea sought declaration that the increase in the number of seats from 107 to 114 (including 24 seats in Pakistan controlled Kashmir) in Jammu & Kashmir is Ultra vires the Constitutional Provisions such as Articles 81, 82, 170, 330, and 332 and Statutory Provisions, particularly under Section 63 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

It said that while Article 170 of the Constitution of India provides that the next delimitation in the country will be taken up after 2026 then why has the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir been singled out?

The plea said that the last Delimitation Commission was set up on July 12, 2002, in the exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, after the 2001 Census to carry out the exercise throughout the country and the commission had issued guidelines and methodology for the Delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies vide letter dated July 5, 2004, along with the Constitutional and Legal Provisions.

It clearly stated that the total number of existing seats in the Legislative Assemblies of all states, including UTs of the National Capital Region and Pondicherry, as fixed based on the 1971 census shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026 , the plea settled by senior advocate Ravi Shankar Jhandhyala said.

It sought to declare the notification dated March 6, 2020, constituting the delimitation commission to take up delimitation in the UT of J&K and states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland by the Centre and consequential omission of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland from the process of delimitation vide, notification dated March 3, 2021, and conducting delimitation only for Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is unconstitutional as it amounts to classification and violates Article 14.

On March 6, 2020, the Union Government, Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) had issued a notification in exercise of power under Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, constituting a Delimitation Commission, with former Supreme Court judge (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai as Chairperson, for the purpose of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the state of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland, for a period of one year.

Govt Sacks KU

In 2015, Hussain Pandit became an executive member of the Kashmir University Teachers Association and used his position to propagate secessionism among students. He was instrumental in motivating three students of the Kashmir University to join militant ranks, they added.

Hajam, a teacher of the school education department, was also a militant over ground worker (OGW) and he used to radicalise people, they said.

He was part of a mob which attacked a police station in Sogam and other government buildings, officials said, adding that despite being a government teacher, he was always found to be involved in militant activities.

Rasool, a constable with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, was working as an underground supporter of militants.

He also acted as an informer to militants and used to tip-off militants and OGWs about anti-militancy operations. He used to leak the names of police personnel involved in anti-militancy operations, the officials said.

Rasool was also in touch with Hizbul Mujahideen militant Mushtaq Ahmad alias Aurangzeb, who has crossed over to Pakistan, they added.

“The recent crackdown is part of the government efforts to detect and mitigate militant elements within the system who somehow managed to sneak in during the previous regimes”, a senior official said.

Drone Cameras

preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra with top officials of paramilitary forces and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the officials said.

About 12,000 paramilitary personnel (120 companies) in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes via Pahalgam and Baltal, they said.

Drone cameras will hover over the pilgrim routes to help the security forces ensure the protection of pilgrims, officials said.

About three lakh pilgrims are likely to take part in the yatra, which is expected to end on August 11.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags will also be given to the pilgrims.

CRPF Director General Kuldeep Singh and BSF DG Pankaj Singh, along with other officers, attended the meeting physically, while Jammu and Kashmir officials joined it through video conference.

There has been a spurt in attacks on non-Muslims and outsiders living in Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, in August 2019.

On Thursday, militants killed a Kashmiri Pandit, Rahul Bhat, in Budgam district.

Bhat is the second Kashmiri Pandit to have been killed by militants in the last seven months.

A prominent member of the Kashmiri Pandit community, chemist Makhani Lal Bindroo, was shot dead by militants on October 6, 2021 in Srinagar.

As many as 14 people belonging to Jammu and Kashmir's minority community, including Kashmiri Pandits, have been killed by militants in various parts of Kashmir between August 2019 and March 2022.

Those targeted included prominent businessmen, sarpanches and block development council members.

Ex-NIA Officer

to run a network of OGWs of LeT for furthering the activities of LeT and to commit “terrorist acts” in India, the NIA said.

The agency said these accused persons collected information regarding vital installations,

deployment and movement of security forces, procured official secret documents and passed on the same to their LeT handlers through encrypted communication channels for monetary consideration.

“Investigation also revealed that Negi, being a public servant, abused his official position and unauthorisedly passed on official secret documents to the co-accused for monetary consideration and also demanded illegal gratification through co-accused for compromising investigation, the spokesperson said.

The NIA said Prasad and Mahato had forged identity documents and used them for procuring SIM cards and opening bank accounts and passed them on to the co-accused for monetary benefits.

The spokesperson said Negi was charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Official Secrets Act and the Prevention of Corruption Act, while Parvez was charged under relevant sections of the IPC, Prevention of Corruption Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Further investigation in the case was underway, the spokesperson said.

LG Asks Officers

said that the Block Diwas should be organized in a systematic manner while preparing the action taken report on the grievances of people. He asked the officers to pay special attention to quality disposal of the grievances,” he added.

In order to ensure proper functioning of all Patwar Khanas across the UT, the official spokesperson said that the LG asked Revenue Secretary to expedite the digitizations of land records.

Sinha, he said, also reiterated that the distribution of land passbooks to beneficiaries should be completed by 15 August 2022.

“The Lt Governor also passed directions to the Divisional Commissioners for submitting fortnightly reports regarding progress of various flagship initiatives like Industrial Estate Development to the office of Chief Secretary. Instructions were also passed for robust and meticulous implementation of tribal plan,” the spokesperson said.

He further added that the LG directed for complete saturation of flagship schemes like PMAY Urban, PMAY Grameen, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, PMJJBY, Smart City Mission, PMAY Housing for All, BAPD, SBM, Digital India, KCC, Atal Pension Yojna etc.

During the meeting, he said, the LG also brought out the issues shared by the people from various walks of life pertaining to road improvement, proper sanitation; disturbances created by stray animals and directed the concerned officers to ensure their redressal at the earliest.

“The Lt Governor said that easing the day to day life and improving the quality of living is the top priority of the UT Government. He impressed upon all the officers to work with promptness and problem-solving approach in the shortest possible time,” the spokesperson said.

He said that the LG directed CEO Mission Youth to further publicize the schemes and their benefits so that the maximum number of target population could take benefits out of the Government-run flagship schemes under Mission Youth.

According to the spokesperson, the LG also discussed the status of utilities and facilities for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra route. Sinha, he said, directed for preparation of traffic plan keeping in view the smooth flow of tourists and pilgrims, besides ensuring that there is no use of plastic during the Yatra.

3 JKAS Officers

charge of the post of Sub-Registrar Mendhar, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Jammu Development Authority.

Reetika Arora, JKAS Secretary, Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner, (Migrants), Jammu, against an available vacancy Jammu Relief Organization.

Mohammad Jhangir, JKAS, CDPO, Haveli, Poonch, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mendhar, the order reads, adding “He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar Mendhar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.”

J&K Logs Five

Covid-19 were registered in the Jammu division and the remaining two from Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley, raising the total number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic in J&K to 454131.

During the same time, the officials said, four more people from the winter capital recovered from the deadly infection.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4751n J&K–2328 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

Four Die Of Suspected

persons falling unconscious while cleaning a well.

People from the area went to the site in a bid to rescue the persons, however one person who entered the water source, he also fell unconscious, they said.

“The victims were later on retrieved from the well by the locals and police with the assistance of the army and taken to 168 Military Hospital Drugmulla”, the sources told a local news agency GNS, adding “despite efforts made by the doctors, four persons could not be revived.”

The deceased have been identified as Abdul Gani Magray and his son Lateef Ahmad, Nazeer Ahmad Magray and Obaid Ahmad Magray.

The other person identified as Mohammad Younis of Kerbal Anantnag working in MES, has been referred to SMHS Srinagar for treatment.

Meanwhile officials have confirmed the death of two persons so far.

“We have so far received reports about the death of two persons and the other persons are under treatment”, they said.

Miscreants Damage

tractors and a bulldozer.

They said some people heard a blast-like sound

Kashmiri Pandit Protesters Vent Anger At Admin, BJP Leaders

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Protesting against the killing of Rahul Bhat by terrorists, members of his Kashmiri Pandit community members on Friday vented their anger at the J-K administration and BJP leaders, alleging they had failed to ensure their security in the valley.

BJP leaders had to face the ire of mourners at the Jammu house of Bhat, the Kashmiri Pandit government employee who was shot dead by militants inside his office in the Chadoora area of Budgam on Thursday.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and other party leaders, who attended the funeral, were heckled and roughed up and police had to intervene when they visited the cremation ground in Jammu.

Raina said security forces have broken the "back of terrorism" and the few remaining militants will also be eliminated.

"Those who lost their loved ones to terrorism will be angry, they will speak, but only we have come here because we feel the pain, they are our brothers... No one else will come, neither the Congress, nor NC nor PDP," he told reporters when asked about the anger against the BJP.

Hundreds of protestors blocked roads and burnt tyres at Muthi, Hazuribagh and Buntalab in Jammu. They raised slogans against Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the BJP and demanded that Kashmiri Pan-

dit be relocated from the valley.

Residents of Muthi camp led by its president Anil Bhan took out a rally and blocked a road for hours.

"The BJP is ruling this Union Territory through the LG and every failure on the part of LG is theirs. How long will we receive coffins from our homeland. Our boys and girls joined the services in Kashmir in national interest and to serve Kashmir," Bhan said.

In Kashmir, hundreds of Kashmiri pandits employees blocked a highway in the Vessu area of Kulgam district and went on an indefinite pen-down strike, accusing the government of failing to ensure their protection and safety.

"Our dharna which started last evening will continue till the government does not attach us all with the office of Relief Commissioner. We are not going to serve places where we face threats to our lives. We are not here to get killed but to serve people", Sanjay Kumar of Vessu camp said.

There were claims that several hundred KP employees have tendered en-masse resignation and sent the letter with their signatures to the LG for acceptance. However, there was no official word on it. "Home Minister Amit Shah claimed in parliament about the start of a rehabilitation plan. Since then, dozens of Hindus were killed and four temples suffered damage. Our boys and girls who are serving the people of Kashmir are in fear and terror. Is this the rehabilitation plan?" Jagti camp leader Sunil Kumar said.



A WOMAN COVERS HER FACE while villagers run for cover after cops lobbed tear smoke shells to disperse a demonstration in Sheikhpora, Budgam against the killing of a KP employee by unknown militants on Thursday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Govt's Top-Most Priority Is Healthcare For All: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that affordable and accessible healthcare to all segments of society was his administration's top-most priority and healthcare professionals need to work together to evolve affordable healthcare strategies in the future.

The LG made these remarks during his visit to the Sub-District Hospital, Sopore to take stock of the facilities being provided in a Mega Health Camp, an official spokesperson said Friday.

The Mega Health Camp is being organized in collaboration with Rotary Health International at Baramulla, Kupwara & Ganderbal from 11th May where General Surgery, Gynecological Surgeries, Plastic Surgical Procedures, ENT, Urology, Orthopaedic Surgeries, Ophthalmology, Dental Procedures and other Minor Surgeries are being performed.

According to the spokesperson, the LG appreciated the medical fraternity, and members of Rotary International for keeping human service paramount to build a healthy society.

Chairing a meeting regarding the Mega Health Camp, the Lt Governor said that doctors coming from across the country for the Camp reflect the core essence of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

While extending gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his tireless efforts in introducing unprecedented reforms in the health sector, the Lt Governor observed that in the last 2-3 years, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the leading States/UTs in the healthcare sector and medical education.

"Affordable and accessible healthcare to all segments of society is our top-most priority. Healthcare professionals need to work together to evolve affordable healthcare strategies in the future", the Lt Governor said.

Special attention is being given to strengthening private-public partnership, decentralization of services, extending best health facilities & developing Health & Wellness Centers in far-flung, rural, tribal, and hilly areas, he added.

The Lt Governor noted that many doctors who have come



to Jammu and Kashmir for the first time for the Mega Health Camp will get the ground experience of the change that has taken place in the healthcare infrastructure in J&K.

"Two AIIMS, two cancer institutes, seven new medical colleges, 10 new nursing colleges, 150 district/sub-district hospitals and thousands of health and wellness centers, besides universal health insurance coverage for up to Rs. 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT have brought fundamental changes in J&K's health care system," observed the Lt Governor.

"We are dedicating greater attention to medical education. J&K is ahead of the national average with 8.23 MBBS seats per lakh population, besides spending about Rs 1.7 crore daily on medical treatments. Projects worth Rs 881 crores have been completed in the last financial year to strengthen the existing health infrastructure of district hospitals in the UT," he added.

The LG further said that as many as 23 investment proposals have been approved for Medicity which in total will add 5,865 additional beds to the existing system and at least 715 additional MBBS seats will be available for young students.

"Moreover, J&K is getting a much higher average per capita healthcare budget allocation (Rs 7,873 cr) than the many states having more than twice the population, he added.

Underscoring the initiatives taken by the government which led J&K to be a frontrunner in terms of Covid management & vaccination, the Lt Governor said that all 4290 Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir are now fully capable to deal with

the challenges of Covid pandemic.

"Digital health systems and services have significantly improved the quality of the health system in Jammu and Kashmir during the Covid pandemic and necessary steps have been taken to ensure that this system continues in future in all districts, the Lt Governor observed.

"We are also moving ahead towards online appointments and digitization of medical records of the patients, to provide Anytime, Anywhere Treatment facility to the people," added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor informed that the Government Medical College Jammu has become the first hospital in the Union Territory to successfully perform three kidney transplants this month.

"Before August 2019, only few districts of J&K were having dialysis facility. Now, this facility has been made available in all the districts. Today, the facility of 211 Critical Care Ambulances is available to the people 24x7 across the UT," Sinha said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Anganwadi and ASHA workers for fulfilling their responsibility with full sensitivity and compassion to ensure health and nutritional security. The Lt Governor also expressed pain and anguish over the "barbaric" killing of Rahul Bhat at Budgam.

Dr Rajiv Pradhan, Chief, Rotary Club briefed on the activities and health services being rendered by Rotary Health International. He informed that a team of doctors and volunteers are extending multi-specialty health services in association with Government Doctors.

Rotary club of London President, David Johnson also spoke on the occasion and briefed the gathering on various initiatives of the organization being run across the globe.

IUST Celebrates International Nurses Day



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Syed Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCNMT), a constituent college of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Thursday celebrated the International Nurses Day with theme: Nurses' A Voice To LEAD: "Invest in Nursing and Respect Rights to secure Global Health."

The programme was held in collaboration with UHTC Mattan, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Anantnag to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale under the supervision of Dean Outreach IUST.

Principal SMMCNMT, Asmat Parveen convened the programme in view of role of nurses in improving the health indices of the population as well as to contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable

Development Goals.

The Programme was attended by Incharge UHTC Mattan, Community Health Officers, lady health visitors, staff nurses, paramedical staff of Mattan, Faculty from SMMCN & MT and intern students of IUST.

Chief Guest Dr. Ifra Naqshbandi, echoed the sentiments of Nursing professionals for their social recognition, amenities and prosperous future. The programme was part of multiple events organised by the Varsity on this occasion which included a debate competition on the theme followed by presentations by the B.Sc. Nursing students of SMMCNMT.

Earlier, Mubashir Bashir (Tutor), welcomed all participants and Rohi Jan (Tutor) presented the vote of thanks. An Inter-college quiz competition was also organised, in which Students of SMMCNMT college secured the first position.

Border Population In Kashmir Lack Basic Amenities: BSF IG

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A senior Border Security Force (BSF) officer in Kashmir has flagged lack of "basic amenities" such as healthcare, school education and mobile connectivity to the population living in forward areas along the India-Pakistan border saying government officials "rarely" visit these remote areas.

BSF Inspector General (IG) Raja Babu Singh has shot off a letter to Pandurang Pole, the divisional commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir based in Kashmir, after he recently finished his forward area tour of the Macchal sector in Kupwara district.

Singh said the locals complained to him about multiple issues being faced by them, such as non-availability of school teachers, lack of regular power supply, erratic or negligible mobile and internet connectivity and non-availability of a coaching centre to help students crack competitive exams such as National Defence Academy (NDA) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) among others.

The IG said he found that these forward areas and villages "lack the most basic amenities" even as the country is celebrating 75 years of Independence under the aegis of the central government themed 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahot-

sav.' He urged the commissioner to direct "responsible" government officers to take "more care of border areas".

Singh said field staff of various government departments "do not prefer" to stay in these areas and go back to Kupwara or adjoining Bandipora. They "rarely" cross Shamsabari mountain range, where a sizeable border population lives like in areas of Tangdhar bowl, Keran, Machhal and Gurez valley among others, he alleged.

The officer urged the commissioner to undertake some measures on a "priority basis" so that the border population can be helped.

The IG also informed the administration that he is supposed to travel to forward areas of the same sector next week to inaugurate some BSF-run medical camps for the population and if officials from the health, education, agriculture and veterinary care can join, it would help the border population in a "big way".

The BSF is deployed to secure the Line of Control (LoC) along Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir under the operational command of the Army. Its frontier head-quarter is located here.

The IG has undertaken multiple such forward area tours in the border areas of Kashmir where he not only meets his troops and reviews security but also meets locals and launches welfare initiatives

Municipal Committee Awantipora President Held Over Bribe Charges

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested the president of Municipal Committee Awantipora in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe to discharge his official duties, officials said.

The ACB received a complaint alleging therein that Bilal Ahmed Bhat, president Municipal Committee Awantipora, is demanding Rs 1,000 for processing the bills of the complainant, a spokesman of the anti-corruption agency said here.

The complainant alleged that Bhat used to demand commission at the rate of five per cent for processing the bills, he said.

The complainant said that he

is an owner of an IT firm and was allotted a tender a year ago but the accused was demanding five per cent of the total bill amount of Rs 20,650 for the renewal of the existing contract for the year 2022, the spokesman said.

Since the contents of the complaint disclose demand of bribe by alleged accused Bilal Ahmed Bhat, president of Municipal committee, Awantipora. Consequently, a case was registered and investigation taken-up, he said.

During investigation, a trap was laid and Bhat was caught demanding and accepting Rs 1,000 as bribe, the spokesman said.

He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team and the bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses, he said.

Pahalgam Received Over 1 Lakh Tourists In April

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The famous tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir received over

one lakh tourists in April, four times more than the number of visitors from last year's April.

As per the figures, 105,666 tourists visited Pahalgam last month while just 28,721 tourists visited the tourist destination in the same month last year. According to break-up of tourists, 925,959 were domestic tourists, 124 foreigners and 12,583 locals.

This year 20,785 tourists visited

Pahalgam in January, 21,049 in February, 59,274 in April this year.

Moreover, 4, 61,130 tourists visited Pahalgam in 2021, which includes 2,37,839 domestic, 316 foreigners and 2,22,975 locals.

Due to the uptick in tourist footfall, tourism players in Pahalgam are feeling jubilant as the number of tourists visiting the tourist destination is witnessing an uptick this season after many years. Shopkeepers, pony walas and others said they earn that their livelihood and income is proportional to the rush of visitors and this year footfall is very good. —(KNO)

20 New Hostels Coming Up For Tribal Students In J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Twenty new hostels with an intake capacity of 3,000 tribal students will start functioning from the current financial year in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Friday as the Tribal Affairs Department finalised various proposals for the community at a meeting here.

The administration has initiated a process for special projects to focus on tribal students' education which includes establishment of 20 new hostels, model residential schools and special scholarship scheme for students among other key sectors on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the official said.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary chaired the union territory level committee meeting which approved establishment of 20 new hostels with intake capacity of 3,000 students to be started in the current financial year, he said.

He said the state land will be provided by respective district administrations to the department for setting up the new hostels.

The step is aimed at providing quality residential facilities to tribal students enrolled in colleges and other institutes of higher secondary education. The government intends to establish 50 new hostels over the next two years for tribal students, the official said.

He said the report of the com-

mittee constituted for devising a special scholarship scheme for students enrolled in seasonal centres was also reviewed.

The new scheme offers incremental scholarship up to Rs 2,400, replacing the existing slab of Rs 450 for boys and Rs 675 for girl students, the official said.

He said the new scheme will benefit more than 34,000 students in 1,200 seasonal educational centres and will promote education among tribal students.

Additional support related to uniforms, school bags, sports material and teaching material was also discussed, the official said.

He said 10 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have also been recommended while six such schools are being made operational this month which include two in Rajouri and one each in Anantnag, Kulgam, Bandipora and Poonch.

District EMRS committee, Anantnag has operationalised the boarding school while other districts are at final stage, he said, adding districts have also been asked to provide land for establishment of new EMRS.

Addressing the meeting, Choudhary asked the officers for effective coordination with district administrations and sectoral departments to ensure timely start of new projects and implementation of ongoing educational projects including smart schools in a time-bound manner.



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Budgam
Zainakote, Srinagar
T : 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. Mohammad Yousuf Dar, 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 23.04.2021 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely **Ishtiaq Ahmad Kasana S/O Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Kasana & the mortgagor namely Parvaiz Ahmad Kasana S/O Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Kasana both R's/O Hariganian, Tesil Kangan, District Ganderbal** to repay an amount of **Rs.79,86,923.15 (Rupees Seventy Nine Lac Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three And Paise Fifteen Only)** being the balance outstanding as on 31.03.2021 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/ Mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, Notice is hereby given to the said borrower/Mortgagor 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 **11th day of May 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 aggregating to **Rs.93,05,201.55 (Rupees Ninety Three Lac Five Thousand Two Hundred One And Paise Fifty Five Only)** being the balance outstanding as on 30.04.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower together with future interest thereon from 01.05.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring 01 Kanal along with residential house constructed thereon falling under Khassra no 253min, Khata no.345 & Khewat no.63 situated at Mouza Hariganian Tehsil Kangan District Ganderbal standing in the name of Mr.Parvaiz Ahmad Kasana S/O Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Kasana R/O Hariganian, Kangan.

Dated : - 11.05.2022
Place:- Ganderbal

DIPK-NB-847-22

Mohammad Yousuf Dar
Authorized Officer
J&K Bank Ltd.

Srinagar Youth Cycles To Kargil & Back In 35 Hours



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 27-year-old youth recently concluded a 404 km solo journey bicycling from Srinagar to Kargil and back in less than 35 hours and 30 minutes.

Mir Iterat Haideri, a resident of Baghwan Pora, Lal Bazar, said that he did the solo ride without any practice, and claimed he is the first youth from Srinagar to achieve this feat.

"Nothing is impossible in this

world for a strong-willed and passionate person," Iterat said.

The youth consecrated his travel with the message "Save Humanity" and "Avoid Drugs". Iterat started his journey on May 4 and constantly updated his Facebook profile with pictures of his arduous journey of cycling 8,789 feet above sea-level. He reached back on May 8 and has also shot a vlog of his travels and plans to upload it on his YouTube channel soon.

First Ever Hogam Sports Tournament Held In Srinagar



Adil Hussain

SRINAGAR: Under the auspices of Hogam International Council, India's Hogam Federation hosted the first Hogam sports tournament. The tournament began with a run from Dachigam National Park to Chandpora Ground. The participants had some basic race formats from the start: Sprint (3Km, with about 20 obstacles).

The Hogam Sports Relief Art has three sports branches, called Tisapa (Crossing Sports Barriers), Lighting (Individual Arts-Deformation), and The Drama (Dramatic Fighting). One of the special activities of this sport is practice in the nature of the forest, mountains, sea and desert in various climatic conditions for the purpose of sport and healthy recreation.

A large number of students participated in this tournament from different schools and clubs. Mother Land High School, Millennium International School, Crescent Public School, Iron Fist Wing Chun Academy, Leez Karate Dojo, International Tigers Martial Arts, among others were part of the tournament.

"I was pleasantly surprised with my performance espe-

cially in having the energy and strength for the obstacles, ascents, descents, and the running," said Areeba (gold medalist in senior category).

While speaking with Mr. Parvaiz, the event's organiser, he stated that this was India's first hogam event and this game originated in Iran.

"In the future, we will hold hogam events in every state of India. I am grateful to all of the parents that permitted their children to participate in this event," he said.

Syed Manzoor, Dr. Peerzada Mohammad Iqbal, Adil Hussain, Mohammad Irfan Lone, Syed Mursal Mosvi, Naveed Mukhtar, Rabia Tariq, Fazil Ahmad, Tahir Manzoor, Sahiba Nisar, Najeeb Ahmad, Dawood Sofi, Mohammad Shoaib, Muskaan, Ashiq Sultan Dar, Shahid Hilal Malik were the tournament officials.

The event was administratively supported and directed by the Chinara Corps of the Indian Army to promote goodwill and friendship between the Army and the awaam, particularly youth and children.

Farooq Renzushah, Chairman of the Kashmiri Society, Khushab Kumar, Area SHO, Anadan Shah (MD Fashion Fiesta) and MrArshad were the guests at the event.

U-19 Girls ISDL Competition Concludes At Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Organised on the instructions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Shopian, Gurmukh Singh Dutta, the Inter School District level Tournament of Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho For Under-19 Girls concluded on Friday at Sports Stadium Batapora, here.

In Volleyball, Government Higher Secondary School Imamsahib defeated Government Higher Secondary School Turkawangam, in Kabaddi Gov-

ernment Higher Secondary School Shopian beat Government Higher Secondary School Sedow and in Kho-Kho Government Higher Secondary School Imamsahib beat Government Higher Secondary School Shopian.

Earlier, students were given a brief description about the benefits of these games and how they help children to develop social skills such as communication, sharing, waiting, taking turns and enjoying the company of others in the game.

Inter-School Tournament Begins Across Kishtwar

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: Inter-school tournament commenced on Friday across six zones of Kishtwar district under the aegis of Youth Services and Sports Kishtwar.

The tournament would witness Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Carrom, Chess, Table tennis, Speed ball, Rope skipping, football, Badminton, Yoga, Wrestling and Cricket competitions and will continue till May 25, 2022 said DYSSO Kharati Lal Sharma

after declaring the Kishtwar Zone tournament open here on Chowgan grounds.

Similar events were also held in Drabshalla, Indarwal, Nag-seni, Marwah and Padder zones under the supervision of I/c ZPEOs Kalash Kumar, Sanjay Sharma, Suresh Parihar, Om Parkash and Ram Lohi, respectively. At zone Drabshalla the inter school tournament was inaugurated by ZEO Suresh Kumar in presence of Kalash Kumar I/c ZPEO.



KO Photo by Abid Bhat

With Adventure In Mind, Tourism Department Starts Paragliding

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Giving J&K's adventure potential a further push, the Tourism Department started a whole range of adventure activities in the city from Friday.

Organised under the tagline of "Spirit of Adventure & Healthy Life", the adventure activities included Paragliding from Astanmarg top to Chandpora ground. The flight covers a vertical drop of 2000 ft which is considered a feast to adventure lovers and tourists.

Astanmarg, it may be mentioned here, is a meadow on

top of Zabbarwan range near Srinagar city at a height of 7300 feet above sea level and overlooks Dal Lake, Mahadev Peak, Dachigam National Park, Mughal Gardens, Hariparbat Fort and other scenic spots in Srinagar.

The other adventure activities being planned by the Department include Mountain Biking and trekking activities up to and around Astanmarg besides a cycling trail from the city up to the upper belt of Dara.

Around 70 adventure lovers and sports persons are expected to participate in the event.

Adventure tourism, it may be mentioned here, has been flagged by the Department as an added attraction for the tourists and many new trekking routes were thrown open for trekkers by the Government last year.

Also many new snow activities like night skiing at Gulmarg, water activities like rafting were started last winter and recently Hot Air balloon activity was also started from Zabbarwan by the Department. Besides, other outdoor activities like festivals and events were also held by the Department during the period.

District Wushu Championship Begins In South Kashmir

Secretary Sports Council declares event open

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A three day District Anantnag Wushu Championship being organised by J&K Sports Council in collaboration with J&K Wushu Association commenced on Friday at Nelandrusu Indoor Hall, Anantnag.

The mega sports event was declared open by Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, in which more than 850 players including boys as well as girls are participating.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary J&K Sports Council lauded the efforts of J&K Wushu Association and its affiliate District unit of Anantnag for providing the opportunity and a platform to the youth of South Kashmir to prove their mettle at the national and international level events.

She also added that J&K Sports Council is aiming to organise mega events for all recognized games in district centers to break the mundane of remaining confined to one particular place and this event is a step in that direction.

Addressing the mammoth gathering, Nuzhat Gul said, "all this was possible only due to



sports-friendly measures adopted by the government, like creating world-class infrastructure with all possible training and learning facilities".

She said there are no second thoughts that the youth of J&K are immensely talented and they deserve more opportunities to display their talent and bringing events to district centers shall help in realising the dream of players waiting in wings.

The Secretary Sports Council said that the apex sports body is always available for the hand-holding of athletes and help them realize their potential.

This step is also aimed to ensure panchayat level participation of all blocks and to estimate the response and inclination of players to any particular game which shall help prepare the

youth of the union territory of J&K for big events like the Asian Games and Olympics and World Championships, she added.

"J&K Sports Council has drawn a roadmap to produce athletes of repute who can give their competitors a run for the money and we are duty-bound to serve our sports stars to the purpose," she said while concluding.

Members of the media fraternity from South Kashmir, who were present in large numbers applauded this gesture of Sports Council to organise major events in the district Anantnag and thanked J&K Sports Council and expressed their gratitude to Secretary J&K Sports Council.

The 3-day long event which began here shall conclude on 15th of this month.

FIFA Takes On EA Sports In Football's New Rivalry

Agencies

LONDON: The name "FIFA" can bring to mind images of the World Cup and football's greatest players, like Pele, Zinedine Zidane, and Lionel Messi. The acronym for the sport's governing body may also remind some of shameless bribery and corruption.

For many, though, it's the video game that is synonymous with FIFA.

For three decades, the Switzerland-based football body has enjoyed a flourishing, mutually beneficial relationship with EA Sports. The annual edition of the video game, alongside related products, has raked in billions of dollars and has proven to be so lucrative that FIFA thinks it can be making even more on its own.

FIFA severed the licensing deal partnership with Electronic Arts Inc. on Tuesday, making FIFA23 the last new EA game

with the involvement of both sides.

They are now becoming opponents.

EA will continue to make football games with the best players and biggest teams, they



will just be stripped of the FIFA brand and instead called EA Sports FC.

Confusingly, perhaps, FIFA24 should also be on the shelves next year because the football body is determined to go ahead with its own launch.

EA has already begun to highlight its advantages over the FIFA game, given it has the rights to show 19,000 players

from more than 700 teams in more than 30 leagues playing in 100 stadiums. Manchester United, Barcelona, and Paris Saint-Germain will still be there, along with their best players.

"That is the only place that you can have an authentic, famous, and fully representative football experience," David Jackson, vice president of brand for EA SPORTS FIFA, told The Associated Press. "I do think that there is an element of potential confusion in the marketplace."

The hyperbole from FIFA is already trying to undercut EA's marketing by claiming it is in talks with multiple rival gaming companies and has plans to enter the metaverse.

"I can assure you," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said, "that the only authentic, real game that has the FIFA name will be the best one available for gamers and football fans."

IPL: SRH Face KKR In Battle Of Survival



Press Trust of India

PUNE: Smarting from four straight losses, Sunrisers Hyderabad will need to sort out their bowling issues when they face an inconsistent Kolkata Knight Riders, as both the teams look to stay afloat in the IPL play-offs race here on Saturday.

A series of losses after a five-match winning streak has dragged SRH down to the sixth spot with 10 points and they would need to win all their remaining three games to harbour any hopes of making it to the play-offs.

KKR, however, are on the brink of elimination and their woes were compounded with the ruling out of pace spearhead Pat Cummins owing to a hip injury.

Shreyas Iyer's men have just two more matches to go and wins in both will only take them to 14 points, which might not be enough with Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bangalore already sitting pretty in the top four with 14 points from 12 games.

One of the main reasons behind SRH's awful run in the last few games is injuries to frontline bowlers -- Washington Sundar and T Natarajan -- and the sudden loss of form of speedster Umran Malik.

It culminated in SRH conceding more than 190 plus runs in

each of the last four games.

While Sundar had injured his bowling hand again, death over specialist Natarajan had picked up a niggles. But coach Tom Moody was hopeful of the duo's return against KKR.

Malik, who looked fast and furious in the earlier games clocking 150kmph consistently, has gone wicket-less and conceded too many runs in the last few matches and his form will be key for SRH.

KKR, on the other hand, are paying the price for making constant changes to their playing XI and are staring at elimination after losing seven of their 12 games.

KKR, however, are coming into the match after beating Mumbai Indians in their last game and they would look to end things on a high.

The 2021 finalists have struggled in the power play this season but with Venkatesh Iyer, who was dropped due to his lean run, back in the mix, KKR produced a good effort against MI.

The seasoned Tim Southee and Cummins produced a solid effort after returning to the XI, sharing four wickets against MI. However, KKR were dealt a massive blow as the team management confirmed that Cummins has been ruled out of the remainder of the IPL with a mild hip injury and has already left for Australia for rehabilitation.

Zambia Calls Off Football Friendly Against India



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Three days after confirming their availability to play an international friendly match against India, the Football Association of Zambia has called off the game due to the unavailability of players.

The Indian men's senior team was scheduled to play against the higher-ranked Zambia in Doha on May 25.

"We regret to inform you that our efforts to secure our professional players for the friendly against India that was scheduled for 25th May 2022 against India has proved futile.

"Most of the players season

ending matches are close to the scheduled date making it practically impossible to join camp," Zambia FA's general secretary Adrian Kashala wrote in his letter to Indian counterpart Kushal Das.

The match was part of India's preparation for the forthcoming AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Final Round scheduled to be held in Kolkata from June 8.

The Indian senior team is ranked 106th in the FIFA chart, 19 places below the 87th ranked African nation.

The news of the cancellation came barely few hours after the All India Football Federation had issued a press release confirming the match.

Benzema Draws Level With Raúl As Madrid's 2nd-Highest Scorer

Agencies

MADRID: Karim Benzema continues to add his name to Real Madrid's record books, scoring his 323rd goal to draw level with Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Benzema netted in the first half of the team's 6-0 rout of last-place Levante in the Spanish league on Thursday, with Madrid having secured the title a few rounds ago.

The result sealed Levante's relegation after five consecutive years in the first division.

Vinicius Júnior, Benzema's trusted attacking partner all season, scored a hat trick for Madrid as it continues to prepare for the Champions League final against Liverpool in Paris on May 28, when it will try to win a record-extending 14th European title.

Benzema is now 128 goals shy of the 451 scored by Ronaldo, who played at the club until 2018. Raúl, the coach of Madrid's "B" squad, played for the club in the 1990s



and 2000s.

Benzema's close-range header in the 19th minute off a cross by Vinicius gave the French striker his league-leading 27th goal, which is nine better than any other player in the competition this season. He has scored more than a third of Madrid's 79 league goals so far.

It was the 20th goal in the last 15 matches in all competitions for Benzema, who has been key in the team's run to the Champions League final, scoring decisive goals in every knockout round of the European tournament -- including two hat tricks. (AP)