

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

Saturday 23 July 2022 | 23 Zil Hajj | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 169 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



A wholesome meal for people on the go

## Turkish Burger

Now Taste Mediterranean Flavour in Srinagar

**Bun Maska & Irani Chai** JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard, Srinagar-1

## Experts Call For Caution, Calm As Daily Coronavirus Cases Rise

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** With a substantial rise in Covid-19 cases prompting the Jammu and Kashmir administration to reintroduce the rule of face masks in public places in many districts, some experts feel that symptoms of the new variant of Covid shouldn't be a cause for panic.

They also pointed out the non-adherence of Covid-appropriate behavior (CAB) and people being unenthusiastic about getting the booster dose, which possibly has increased the pool of population susceptible to the infection.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer,

### J&K Logs 531 New Cases, 162 In Srinagar

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir continue to shoot up as 531 more people tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday, the highest single-day spike in over five months, even as no fresh fatality was reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Of the new cases, Kashmir Valley registered 243 while 288 others were detected in Jammu division, taking the **More on P6**

Professor and HoD Community Medicine, SPM, GMC Srinagar, Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan said that symptoms of the new variant of covid are mild.

"As long as there isn't an

increase in severity of the new variant and the hospitalization rate and death numbers are low, there's nothing to panic about," Dr. Salim noted, adding that the morbidity and mortality rate is

very low.

However, the prominent doctor quickly added that the number of positive cases may be higher than what we're seeing as people are not adhering to

Covid-Appropriate Behavior.

"People are ignoring covid symptoms, testing and isolation by finding similarities between covid and flu symptoms. The important thing is that most

of the people who are getting infected these days are immunized and have a common cold and a mild influenza-like illness but they've to isolate themselves to contain spread of virus. This time covid may be mild in nature but that doesn't mean it's nothing to sneeze at. Its transmissibility is higher and people should not lower their guard. There is no need to panic, but one must remember that Covid is very much around us," The expert observed.

531 people tested positive for the virus on Friday with no fresh fatality reported from the Union Territory. Of the new cases, officials said, 243 **More on P6**



### Hybrid Militancy Pakistan's 'Strategic Move': DGP



Agencies

**Anantnag:** Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Friday said that "hybrid militancy" was a strategic move of Pakistan to get crimes committed and to shield the criminals involved.

Talking to reporters here after inaugurating the Women's Police Station, Singh said that Hybrid militancy is a well-planned strategic move of Pakistan to promote a new sort of militancy where they want crime to be committed and criminals to go scot free.

"In this type of faceless militancy, hybrid militants kill people including innocents and policemen then go underground in a bid to give the impression that they have done nothing. But police have busted and exposed all such underground modules who were involved in innocent killings," the DGP said.

He said Hybrid militancy is destined to fail as the police network was very strong to counter it.

He said that the impression about police working on the anti-militancy front was wrong and the fact remains that "social crimes" are also being dealt with. "Since militancy has affected one and all in Kashmir, it looks like that police was focussing on handling militancy only," the DGP said.

He said that setting up a women's police **More on P6**



A nomad passes through a stream to reach his hutment in the picturesque Kousarnag Lake in South Kashmir's Shopian district. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Modi, Shehbaz Likely To Shake Hands In Uzbekistan

Agencies

**Islamabad:** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Secretary General Zhang Ming is visiting Pakistan on Friday for three days and will invite Pak Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to participate in the SCO annual summit to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on September 15-16, The News reported.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend the summit, which will provide an opportunity to the prime ministers of Pakistan and India to come face-to-face. It is for the first time in six years that the two prime ministers will be present under one roof and avail an opportunity to see each other, The News reported.

Highly-placed diplomatic sources told The News here on Thursday that a chance meeting between Shehbaz and Modi couldn't be ruled out since both would be in the same compound for two days. "No structured meeting of the two has been tied up since India hasn't requested the same yet. In case such a request is made, Pakistan's response will be positive," the sources said.

China, Pakistan, Russia, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan,

Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are full members of the group. The group's new chair has already outlined its priorities and tasks. These include efforts to raise the potential and authority of the organisation, ensure peace and stability in the region, reduce poverty and ensure food security.

Putting together a plan for the development of intra-regional trade, which will include measures to eliminate trade barriers, align technical regulations and digitalise customs procedures, will also be on the table for discussions.

Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after militants attacked the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by groups based in the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on an Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The relationship deteriorated further after India announced withdrawing the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August, 2019.

India's move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 outraged Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian **More on P6**

## Govt Renames Public Institutions In J&K After 'Martyrs'



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday approved renaming of schools, roads and buildings in the Union Territory after the slain security personnel and eminent persons under the ongoing "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations.

The decision about the renaming of public institutions after martyrs and eminent persons was taken by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha while chairing the

Administrative Council (AC) meeting here on Friday, an official spokesperson said.

"As a mark of respect and acknowledgement of the exceptional contributions towards the security and development of the Union territory, the identified institutions will be renamed after the martyrs and living legends from Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

In Jammu province, the spokesperson said that institutions will be renamed after martyrs **More on P6**

### New GMC At Udhampur Approved

The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday accorded administrative approval to the establishment of new Government Medical College (GMC), Udhampur. Earlier, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India under its centrally sponsored scheme, had sanctioned establishment of two new government medical colleges at Kupwara and Udhampur, each for **More on P6**

## 'Time For Dynasty Politics Is Over' BJP's Shahnawaz Takes Potshots At Abdullahs, Muftis

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Some opposition leaders in Jammu and Kashmir are frustrated and cannot see development and tourists here, BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain said on Friday and asserted that the time for dynasty politics is over.

So many tourists are coming here. There are more than 80 flights. Some people, who oppose us, are saying where is the development and where are the tourists?

They should be made to stand at the airport for some time to count the people coming in, Hussain, who is also a minister in the Bihar government, told reporters here.

He said some opposition leaders in J-K, who did nothing for 70 years, have become frustrated.

They cannot see the tourists here. These people used to defame J-K, but J-K has now

become a favourite tourist destination for India and for the world. J-K has also become a favourite destination for food processing and horticulture industry, the BJP leader said.

He said the era of dynasty politics was over.

A poor woman born in a Tribal family, Droupadi Murmu, has become India's President. The era of dynastic politics is over. Those involved in dynastic politics in Kashmir should search for some work sooner. They can do anything like business, hotels, they have done it earlier as well, but their business of politics is coming to an end, he said.

Without naming anyone, but in an apparent reference to the National Conference, Hussain said the era of grandfather, son and then grandson becoming chief ministers is over.

Now Murmu's time has come, she **More on P6**



**NO STRUCTURED MEETING OF THE TWO HAS BEEN TIED UP** since India hasn't requested the same yet. In case such a request is made, Pakistan's response will be positive."

## SHORT TAKES

### Arms Recovered From Hideout In Doda

Security forces on Friday busted a hideout and recovered arms and explosive material in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, police said.

On specific information, the J and K Police and the Army's Rashtriya Rifles launched a joint operation in Khasodi Chansar forest of Gandoh area and busted an old hideout of militants, a statement issued by police said. One Under Barrel Grenade Launcher **More on P6**

### Two Migrant Workers Fall To Death

Two migrant workers died after falling off an under-construction building in Bemina area of Srinagar district on Friday afternoon, officials said. An official said that two migrant workers from Bihar fell off an under-construction building of SDA at Shah Jahan Complex in Bemina. He said that they fell off the building while doing plaster work and died on the spot. The official identified the deceased workers as Ram Lal and Mohan Lal of Bihar. **More on P6**

### Teenager Drowns In Shopian Stream

An 18-year-old student drowned while taking a bath in Rambhara Nallah in Heff Shirmal area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday. Sources identified the victim as Shahid Ahmed Allaie son of Abdul Rashid Allaie, a resident of Allalepora. He was a student of 12th class. The operation to retrieve his body was underway when the last reports came in. (ONS)

### Eight Gamblers Held In Budgam: Police

Police on Friday arrested eight alleged gamblers in a raid in Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Sajad Ahmad Masoodi, Sajad Ahmad Dar, Feroz Ahmad Malik, Ashiq Hussain, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Nawab Ahmad Ganie and Javaid Ahmad Khan were arrested by a team of cops from police station Chadoora in an input driven raid at a gambling site in Wathoor area, a police spokesperson said Friday. **More on P6**

### Truck Crushes Woman To Death

A middle-aged woman was crushed to death on Friday by a truck near Kahnepeth stop in Ganderbal district of Central Kashmir. 56-year-old Aziz Begum was critically injured after being hit by a truck near her native Khanepeth village on Friday morning, reports said. The elderly woman was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital. However, the doctors there referred her to SKIMS Soura. However, **More on P6**

### Two Found Dead In Anantnag

Two bodies were recovered in two separate incidents in Qazigund and Pahalgam areas of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday, officials said here. A man was found dead in Nussu Badragund area of Qazigund, while an unidentified body was also found in Pahalgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday. An official told a local news agency KNO that the body of a man was spotted by some **More on P6**



# Neuroscience Says These 5 Simple Tricks Will Calm Your Anxiety Instantly

We live in anxiety-ridden times. What's going to happen to the economy? Is political strife going to get worse? Am I doing the right things with my life?

Fortunately, we can point to simple techniques that neuroscience suggests work effectively to make people much less anxious-quicker than you think.

Here are five of them:

1. Listen to this specially designed song.

I'm putting this first because it's my favorite and I'm still shocked at how well it works.

A decade ago, British musicians teamed up with sound therapists to record a song called Weightlessness that stimulates specific neurological reactions: lower heart rate, lower blood pressure, and reduced levels of the stress hormone, cortisol.

"The song...contains a sustaining rhythm that starts at 60 beats per minute and gradually slows to around 50," explained Lyz Cooper, founder of the British Academy of Sound Therapy. "While listening, your heart rate gradually comes to match that beat."

It's just eight minutes long, and it works like a charm. I first tried it several years ago, and I've kept it bookmarked on my computer ever since. I'll embed a YouTube version at the end of this column.

2. Use the 4-7-8 breathing method.

Another very easy, almost too-good-to-be-true method that actually works. In short, by breathing in a very simple way, you can kick-start your parasympathetic nervous system, which causes the body to become calmer.

In short, just do this:  
Find a place to sit comfortably, back straight.

Put your teeth on the back of your tongue, and exhale completely through your mouth, making a sound like "whoosh" as you breathe out.

Breathe in through your nose for 4 seconds.

Hold your breath for 7 seconds. Breathe back out again as you did at the beginning, for 8 seconds.

Repeat steps 3, 4 and 5 a total of three times. Bonus: If you're ever lying awake at night unable to sleep, the 4-7-



This one is fairly recent, and it comes from the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Researchers studied 66 college students during the pandemic, and concluded that negative thoughts and anxiety were appreciably less prevalent when participants exercised

8 method of breathing works wonders for that, too.

3. Get 45 minutes of vigorous exercise.

This one is fairly recent, and it comes from the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Researchers studied 66 college students during the pandemic, and concluded that negative thoughts and anxiety were appreciably less prevalent when participants exercised:

lightly for just under 2 hours per day moderately for 80 minutes per day, or vigorously for 45 minutes per day. Choose whatever works for your ambition and schedule; I tend to recommend the 45 minute version, simply because if part of what is creating anxiety is concern about getting things done, adding a 2-hour habit to your day might be a bit self-defeating.

4. Get some nature.

We have all kinds of studies to point to here. Two of my colleagues on Inc.com have written pretty extensively about how taking an "awe walk" in

nature can make people feel less anxious -- even one lasting just 15 minutes.

You don't even have to walk, necessarily; researchers found that simply commuting to work through "outdoor spaces that contain 'green' and/or 'blue' natural elements" (think trees, grass, and bodies of water) made people less anxious.

For that matter, researchers at the University of Hyogo in Japan say that simply putting small plants on workers' desks in an office "contributed to their psychological stress reduction regardless of their age or plants choice."

Bottom line, it's a lot harder to be anxious when you're surrounded by green and blue.

5. Save it for later.

This last trick is less about shutting off anxiety than it is about making it manageable. In short, make a note about the things that make you anxious -- even a literal, written note -- and then promise yourself that you'll set a block of time later in the day to be worried about them.

Seriously, pick a time and put it on your schedule: "From 2 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. is my 'worry time.' Any other time of day, I jot down my worries so I can feel anxious about them at the appropriate time."

"This strategy focuses on not postponing your worries," psychologist Dr. Regine Galanti explained to Time, "[instead] setting up a time where you can worry all you want. ... [I]t sets boundaries, so when a worry comes up at 9 a.m., you can say, 'Hey, not now, your time is coming.'"

Perhaps the best part about this trick? By whatever time you've set aside for worrying, you'll often find you're no longer worried.

Bonus: Train your brain

As I write in my free e-book Neuroscience: 13 Ways to Understand and Train Your Brain for Life, there's nothing more fascinating than the human brain, and the unexpected ways in which it works.

If it helps to get rid of anxiety, that has to be at the top of the list.

## Facebook Gives Users New Way To See All Their Friends' Posts

Associated Press

Menlo Park (US)- Facebook is rolling out an update that enables its two billion daily users to more easily view their friends' posts in chronological order.

The new feature is the company's latest attempt to keep people coming back to its social network amid intensifying competition with its trendier rival TikTok.

The changes announced on Thursday will offer up two different perspectives.

When Facebook users open the app, they will initially see the usual news feed featuring posts selected by an algorithm that the company says is designed to highlight topics and friends most likely to appeal to each individual's tastes and interests.

The main feed on the newly dubbed Home" section will also include an option to look at short videos called

Meta Platforms, is trying to address those concerns with a new Feed tab located to the left of the notifications tab on the shortcut bar in both the iPhone and Android versions of its mobile app.

After clicking on the Feed tab, users will be able to toggle over to a chronological presentation of their Facebook favourites, Facebook groups they have joined or feeds consisting exclusively of posts from all their Facebook friends in the order they were shared.

The new option is designed to address complaints from users who believe they have been missing interesting posts because Facebook's algorithm omitted them from their feeds.

One of the most requested features for Facebook is to make sure people don't miss friends' posts," Facebook founder and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in the announcement.

Facebook is giving users



Reels Facebook's clone of TikTok.

But many users have expressed frustration with the feeds forced upon them by Facebook, while critics of the Menlo Park, California, company have blasted the algorithm for spreading misinformation and creating polarising echo chambers.

Facebook, owned by

more control at a time when it has been struggling to grow, partly because other social media such as TikTok have become more popular, particularly among young generations.

That stagnation, in turn, is making it more difficult for corporate parent Meta to boost its profits from the digital ads that appear in users' feeds.

## A Better Way To Walk Nordic Walking Improves Quality of Life, Depression, and Functional Capacity

Elsevier | Sci Tech Daily

Nordic walking, also known as pole walking, requires more effort to be applied to the poles with each step than conventional walking does. Upper body muscles are stimulated more during Nordic walking than they are during regular walking, which may cause considerable increases in heart rate at a given speed. When compared to walking without poles, it has been reported that Nordic walking may increase energy consumption by over 40%.

A recent study published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology shows that Nordic walking is superior to other kinds of exercise in cardiovascular rehabilitation for improving long-term functional capacity

In comparison to standard high-intensity interval training and moderate-to-vigorous intensity continuous training, researchers found that Nordic walking in patients with coronary heart disease resulted in a greater improvement in functional capacity, or the ability to carry out activities of daily living. Their randomized clinical trial's findings have recently been published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology.

Following severe cardiovascular events, cardiovascular rehabilitation and exercise training programs are linked to significant gains in functional ability, cardiorespiratory fitness, and mental health. However, some people find monotonous exercises like stationary cycling and walking to be boring and may quit working out after their cardiovascular rehabilitation program is over. In order to find out whether they might encourage more people to keep exercising and what advantages might be obtained, researchers looked at more appealing workout choices

that would appeal to a wider audience.

A growing body of research indicates that non-standard exercise interventions, such as Nordic walking and high-intensity interval training, are superior to conventional exercise methods for increasing functional capacity as evaluated by the six-minute walk test, a key indicator of cardiovascular events in people with



coronary artery disease. Nordic walking is a more advanced kind of walking exercise that employs poles with specialized designs to better involve the muscles in both the upper and lower body.

"Patients with coronary artery disease frequently demonstrate diminished functional capacity, low quality of life, and increased the risk of subsequent cardiovascular events and mortality," explained lead investigator Jennifer L. Reed, Ph.D., Exercise Physiology and Cardiovascular Health Lab, Division of Cardiac Prevention and Rehabilitation, University of Ottawa Heart Institute; Faculty of Medicine; and School of Human Kinetics, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Investigators compared the prolonged effects of 12-week rehabilitation with 1) high-intensity interval training; 2) moderate-to-vigorous intensity continuous training; and 3) Nordic walking,

on functional capacity, quality of life, and depression symptoms in patients with coronary artery disease. One hundred and thirty patients were randomized to a 12-week training in one of these three groups followed by a 14-week observation phase.

While all exercise programs improved depression symptoms and quality of life, the improvement in functional capacity was greatest after Nordic walking (+19%) when compared to high-intensity interval training (+13%) and moderate-to-vigorous intensity continuous training (+12%).

"This is a key finding because lower functional capacity predicts higher risk of future cardiovascular events in people with coronary artery disease," noted Dr. Reed. "Nordic walking engages core, upper and lower body muscles while reducing loading stress at the knee, which may have resulted in greater improvements in functional capacity."

"No previous study has directly compared the long-term effects of high-intensity interval training, moderate-to-vigorous intensity continuous training, and Nordic walking," commented Tasuku Terada, Ph.D., Exercise Physiology and Cardiovascular Health Lab, Division of Cardiac Prevention and Rehabilitation, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, ON, Canada.

"This study is novel in that it simultaneously compared the sustained effects (i.e., 14 weeks after the completion of cardiovascular rehabilitation) of different exercise programs that can readily be incorporated into daily exercise. When prescribing exercise for patients with coronary artery disease, patients' preferences should be considered. Our findings can impact patient care by providing alternative exercise options based on their interests and needs," he concluded.



## LONE NEWS / ADVT AGENCY

e-Mail: lonenewsadvt@gmail.com

### Deals In Sale Of Newspapers And Advertisement In Newspapers

**Drop Your Advt/Public Notice & Grab Your copy at Lone News Agency Ratnipora**

**For More Information Call us at**  
**9 7 9 7 5 0 9 1 4 2**

**Address: Near Markazi Jamia Masjid , Ratnipora Pulwama**





## Police Arrest Duo In Connection With The Death Of Chattabal Man

Agencies

Srinagar: Police in Srinagar arrested duo in connection with the murder of a man.

Shameem Ali Nath son of Ali Muhammad Nath resident of Veir area Chatabal Srinagar, was missing since 5 July. His dead body was later on recovered from the Sangam area of Srinagar on 19 July this month. Subsequently, inquest proceedings under section 174 of CRPC were initiated in PS Sangam. The post-mortem of the deceased was conducted by a team of doctors and after medico-legal formalities, the dead body of the deceased was handed over to NOK's for last rites.

During the inquest proceedings, it came to fore that the deceased was mentally and physically harassed by two middle-aged individuals namely Ashiq Wani son of Ghulam Wani of Chatabal, Srinagar and Fayaz Ahmad Mewafarash son of Abdul Aziz Mewafarash from Sarnal, Anantnag on account of some financial dealings between the deceased and the duo.

It is pertinent to mention here that both the accused had illegally locked the resi-

dential house of the deceased situated at Vier area Chatabal on account of some debt that he owed them, on 5 July, the date when the deceased went missing. (The house and lock has been opened as soon as information was received by Safakadal Police Station, police said.

Police further said that on the basis of available oral and technical evidence, the inquest proceedings were converted into a formal case under FIR number 137/2022 under sections 306, 452, 427 and 506 of IPC P/S Safakadal.

Both the accused Ashiq Wani and Fayaz Ahmad have been arrested. A SIT headed by SDPO MR Gunj, Muhammad Farooq Bhat has been formed for in-depth investigation of this case.

The Post mortem report and some FSL reports are awaited and other sections like murder, destruction of evidence and other relevant sections will be added to the case based on the findings of the Post mortem report.

Police said that it assures the citizens that no crime shall go undetected and all modern means of the investigation will be utilized to unearth such crimes. (KNT)

## GCoE Students Conduct Cleanliness Drive In Schools

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The students of Government College of Education (GCoE) on Friday conducted a cleanliness drive at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Khanyar.

The drive was initiated by the interns of GCoE pursuing an internship at the Model School. The GCoE students said the cleanliness drive is part of the co-curricular activities being held as part of

Another student voiced similar views "For a nation aspiring for development, cleanliness is of utmost importance" said Izzat Showket.

"Cleanliness influences the hygiene, health, aesthetics and natural setting of the nation, we aspire for a clean and a green India" she said.

Sanitation and neatness play an important role in our day to day routine. Cleanliness brings good and positive thoughts in the mind which



the internship programme.

The slogan of the cleanliness drive was "Clean City: Green City". The participating students called for an end to the use of plastic in and around the city.

from the students, faculty members of the school also took part in the cleanliness drive and rallied in the campus.

Irm Mehraj an internee said "Cleanliness drive is being held to create civic sense among children so that they know keeping the city clean is the responsibility of everyone who lives in the city".

"There is a clamour need of inculcating such virtues in every individual. Cleanliness promotes good and favorable thoughts among persons and keeps an individual away from diseases" she added.

slows down the occurrence of diseases said Shaila Wani, another intern.

Apart from the cleanliness drive, Students also took part in other activities including Yoga, Self-defense, Quiz competition, poster competition, Public Speaking and singing.

The activities are being held to involve students in the co-curricular activities.

Apart from students of the college, the faculty of Government Girls Higher Secondary School also took part in the cleanliness campaign.

The interns thanked the Principal and the teaching faculty of the school for their support and cooperation.

On Thursday, the GCoE students conducted a cleanliness drive at Government Higher Secondary School, Sumbal.



## On Cusp Of Marriage, FAA Candidates Facing Selection Hiccup

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Scores of candidates who qualified the Finance Account Assistant (FAA) exam held by the Jammu & Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) continued with the sit-in protest for the ninth day, on Friday.

The protesting candidates amid scorching summer heat raised slogans against the JKSSB and narrated their ordeal.

The candidates said they are on the verge of getting married and they had pinned their hopes on the FAA recruitment. Most of the protesting candidates are unmarried but they wanted to get married at the earliest and after the selection list was declared.

As rumors loom large that the selection list may be scrapped, candidates desperate to marry at an early age may not be able to tie the marital knot at the earliest.

Syed Tasir, 30 a candidate from Srinagar's Old City is en-

gaged to the love of his life. As the SSB released the selection list, he hoped to get married soon.

His hopes of getting married at the earliest were marred after rumors of the FAA selection list getting scrapped started doing rounds.

Since day one of the protest Tasir has been regular in attending the protests at Press Enclave.

"I am under tremendous anxiety and stress and I fainted the other day. If the selection list is quashed, my hopes of getting married early will be doomed" a heartbroken Tasir said Kashmir Observer.

Kysar, 30 from Central Kashmir's Ganderbal District voiced similar concerns.

"In Kashmiri society, in order to get married you ought to have a government job, if this list is scrapped we will be left with nothing" Kysar said.

"I see my father getting retired from government service

in the next few years, who will look after my siblings, they have ailments" he added.

While most of the protesting candidates are unmarried, a handful of them are married and have kids.

Unmarried candidates say if the exam is quashed their hopes of getting married early will die, those married question who will take care of our wives and children.

It is pertinent to mention, the protests were sparked by the rumors that the FAA selection list may be scrapped as it alleged that some candidates may have cheated in the exam.

The JKSSB had advertised posts for the Finance Account Assistant (FAA), Junior Assistant, Sub Auditor and other positions in December 2020.

The exam for which was held in the month of March, 2022. JKSSB had published the merit list on 22nd April, 2022.

Regd. No. A-2586



# Aura Aesthetics

ADVANCED DENTISTRY & MEDICAL AESTHETICS

SKIN | HAIR | DENTAL & LASER CLINIC

Our Derma / Cosmetic Services

PRP, MESOTHERAPY FOR FACE AND HAIR, CHEMICAL PEELS, DMC PIXIGENUS MEDIFACIALS, IONOFACIALS, HYDRAFACIALS, CARBON PEEL, TATOO REMOVAL, LASER HAIR REMOVAL, SCALP MICROPIGMENTATION, MELASMA, WART REMOVAL MOLE REMOVAL, ACNE TREATMENT, UNDER EYE TREATMENT, MICRO BLADING, BB GLOW, SKIN WHITENING GLUTATHIONE IV DRIPS, COLLAGEN/PEPTIDES TREATMENTS AND MUCH MORE

Our Dental Services

Root Canal Treatment & Extraction (Adults & Kids)

Bridges (Crowns)

Restorations (Fillings)

Implants

Smile Designing with Emax Crowns

Veneering( Indirect & Direct)

Teeth Whitening In Office

Scaling

Fixed Orthodontics

Braces and Invisalign

Surgical Tooth Removal

Implants

Pediatric Dentistry

 @AURA\_Aesthetics  @AURA Aesthetics

For Details Contact: 9797-703533 JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK



### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 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- ( Closed )



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**  
23- Zil- Hajj  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 56
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:34
Magrib	7:44
ISHA	9: 18

## This Day In History

- 1793 - The Prussians conquer Mainz
- 1798 - Napoleon captures Alexandria, Egypt
- 1812 - Battle of Mogilev Russia-Napoleon fights Tsar Alexander I
- 1914 - Austria-Hungary presents an ultimatum to Serbia; demanding acceptance within 48 hours making peacekeeping difficult
- 1929 - The Fascist government in Italy bans the use of foreign words
- 1930 - Earthquake strikes Ariano Italy, 1,500 killed
- 1942 - German troops conquer Rostow
- 1942 - World War II: Operation Edelweiss (a German plan to gain control over the Caucasus) begins.
- 1943 - Battle of Koersk, USSR ends in Nazi defeat (6,000 tanks)
- 1944 - Soviet Army marches into Lublin Poland
- 1944 - US forces invade Japanese-held Tinian in WW II
- 1944 - US troops occupy Pisa Italy
- 1956 - Bell X-2 rocket plane sets world aircraft speed record of 3,050 kph
- 1968 - PLO's 1st hijacking of an El Al plane
- 1973 - US President Richard Nixon refuses to release Watergate tapes of conversations in the White House relevant to the Watergate investigation
- 1978 - Israeli government rejects Sadat's call for return of 2 Sinai areas
- 1980 - Soyuz 37 ferries 2 cosmonauts (1 Vietnamese) to Salyut 6

## From KO Archives

## Tunnel Beneath Kohi Sulaiman

Govt exploring feasibility to ease traffic

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR - Jammu and Kashmir government would explore feasibility of constructing a tunnel across the Shankaracharya (Kohi Sulaiman) hill to address the acute traffic congestion on the Boulevard and Dalgate.

"We will explore the possibility of constructing a tunnel in the Shankaracharya hill to connect the Gupakr road with the Boulevard," Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed said here this morning at a function organised to name the road from Jehangir Chowk to Batmalu as Mohammad Yusuf Rathar Avenue. He unveiled a black marble plaque to announce the new name of the road.

Rathar a brilliant-engineer who headed the R&B department in Kashmir lost his life in a grenade blast in the south Kashmir village of Kapran on July 19, 2004.

The Chief Minister said traffic congestion in the Srinagar City is assuming alarming proportions and movement of vehicles on busy routes has become a real problem. He cited the instance of Dalgate and the Boulevard and said his government, apart from planning a flyover near the J&K Bank Corporate Office, is also contemplating construction of a tunnel in the Shankaracharya hill so that some of the traffic is diverted through it. This would ease the traffic congestion at the busy traffic junction of the city. He said technical and environmental feasibility of the tunnel would be explored.

The Chief Minister said he has asked the R&B department to repair on priority the city roads which have been damaged due to heavy snowfall last winter. He said the city is the heart of the valley and its roads should present a beautiful picture. He alluded to the efforts made by his government in the beautification of the city and said the various development measures taken during the last about 3 years would soon transform Srinagar into a city of international reckoning.

Mufti Sayeed paid rich tributes to late Engineer Mohammad Yusuf Rathar and said he was an honest, dedicated and upright officer. He said he had excelled himself as an able and efficient officer. He said the rechristening of the Jahangir-Batmalu Road after his name is a tribute to this son of the soil. He also remembered other victims of the Kapran blast including Abdur Rashid, Special Assistant to Minister for Power and paid tributes to them.

(Kashmir Observer, 23 July, 2005)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to apply for a new Date Of Birth Certificate, as it was not found in the records as Srinagar Municipal Corporation. My details as per my School Matriculation Certificate are:

Syed Yawar Abbass  
S/o Syed Dilawar Hussain.  
DOB: 08-01-1993

If anyone has any objection, they may contact SMC within the period of one week of publishing of this notice. Thereafter no objection will be entertained.



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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

Twitter Talks



“300+ #Covid\_19 cases in #JammuKashmir today. Do we look forward to a pre-autumn #lockdownmode . #heatwave & this threat of #coronavirus. Amid slump in #market , that’s the last thing we would expect”

@riyaz\_masroor

“The rate at which Covid-19 is spreading in Kashmir again is alarming. Despite both doses of vaccine and even booster shots, there are people complaining of extreme illness. There should be a momentary lockdown to stop the rapid spike.”

@meenwhile

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Urban Chaos

The United Progressive Alliance chairperson and Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, has expressed grave concern over the large scale migration of population from rural to urban areas in various parts of the country. She attributed the trend to availability of inadequate employment opportunities in the countryside which has been forcing people to migrate to urban centers. "Since independence, there has been a three-fold increase in the country's population, but the urban population has multiplied by five times," she said after launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission at Bhopal on Monday. People, she said, were moving from rural to urban areas in search of employment which cannot be checked in the circumstances. In her opinion, the solution lies in providing jobs in the rural areas and that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was an important step in the direction. She said the centrally-sponsored schemes like the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and the mid-day meal programme was aimed at checking migration from rural areas. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir, when looked at in this backdrop, is more serious. In the past one and a half decade, the migration from rural areas to the two cities of Jammu and Srinagar has been unprecedented. In fact, it has been worse in the valley where thousands of families have deserted their homes and hearths in the village to settle in and around the Srinagar city. Apart from lack of employment avenues, the other reasons that contributed to the large scale migration are the unpredictable security situation that obtains in villages in spite of the government's claims to the contrary, and availability of better and modern facilities of health and schooling in the city. Obviously, scores of new residential colonies have sprouted all around the capital city over recent years with many of them exclusively inhabited by the rural migrants.

Unless the government is happy to look the other way, it certainly cannot shy away from the nasty fallout which has thrown almost entire city life out of gear, not just for a short while but almost permanently. As a consequence, various civic amenities, such as water and power supply, education, sewerage and drainage, health and hygiene, transport and traffic control systems, have been affected with the state authority pathetically oblivious of the worsening situation. There can be no denying that the improvement and expansion of civic facilities has not kept pace with the rapidly increasing population in the city. The total disconnect between the need for, and availability of, various facilities has given rise to what looks like an urban chaos with the accompanying hardships to the town dwellers, whose individual and collective life has been impacted badly. Although the employment avenues too have been elusive, particularly in the valley where, unlike in Jammu, a viable industrial climate has existed mostly in official handouts, the migrants find themselves at odds with the inadequate civic amenities. It goes without saying that a sizeable number of people, particularly youth, both among natives and migrants, have fallen into bad habits, including drug addiction and other crimes, primarily as a result of stress-related disorders and accompanying frustration. In fact, the growing urban indiscipline and anarchy tend to de-stabilize the entire social order whose traumatic impact is already visible to the naked eye as the townspeople become restive in the all pervasive suffocation that has overtaken the city's landscape almost everywhere. On their part, the Municipal Corporations of the two principal cities, which were expected to take care of the diverse needs of the people, have been faced with an acute shortage of resources and the wherewithal for the purpose, mainly because of the political hues of their incumbent dispensations. Although in place for one and a half years, the coalition government is yet to part with all the departments the civic bodies are supposed to control.

Pertinently, the migration from rural to urban areas has a much more devastating impact on the socio-economic life of the society. What a great Egyptian scholar has said decades ago, the migrant from a village to city overnight turns from a producer into a consumer. While deserting his home and hearth, he also abandons his landed property, his livestock and other assets from which he would produce most necessities of his life like food, milk, vegetables, fruit, and their products. On reaching the city, he becomes a consumer, if not an outright parasite. One is reminded of the ban the state government had imposed on the conversion of agricultural lands around urban centres into residential areas. However, the order was eventually consigned to the dustbin of official apathy with the result that vast areas around cities and towns turned into residential colonies. Before the situation turns more chaotic, it is time the government took a holistic view of the emerging scenario and initiated an effort to regulate the influx of people from rural to urban areas particularly by bridging the wide disparities between them.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on July 10,2007



# What Religions Demand From Us

## A case for tolerance

Amir Suhail Wani

“The creed of Islam has no pantheons, no evolved complex of rituals and neither does there exist an abysmal chasm between man and God which will need a cleric to fill up. The respect we accord to our religious scholars derives its legitimacy from the fact that they inform and explicate for us the word of God, but they shouldn’t take this occasion as an opportunity to interject themselves between man and God and on occasions “Play God”

The recent incident of a cleric slapping a boy inside a mosque has taken social media by storm. Its echoes have travelled well beyond social media and in mosques and at shops, in offices and at homes, people are debating the issue, its genesis , consequences and the larger impact it tends to have on overall built up and characterization of religion – Islam in particular. Are religions, and in this case Islam, springboards and arenas for rhetorical gymnastics? Is it the manifesto of religion to thwart people against one another? Pit them in incorrigible polarities and sow such animosity in society and amongst people that they reach to each throat's and harbour such covert hatred and animosity for each other that raises them to the ranks of fanaticism? While question like these do not encompass the scope of the question raised in the title of this article, but for the immediacy and inevitability accompanying these questions, we shall mainly explore the nature and call of religion in its relation to these questions. Let's start our investigation from the question of vice and virtue, on which are hinged almost all the schisms of religious order and the difference of opinion wherein leads to contestation, conflict and confrontation. What is the Quranic concept of virtue and what are the area it emphasises upon? The Quran replies "Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah , the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveller, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives zakah; [those who] fulfil their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous".

Seen in the backdrop of this vast and encompassing framework, our narrow and self-defined notions of virtue fall flat and the importance of trifling issues which we glorify, zoom in and focus on are reduced to naught. Our ritual-centric notions of virtue, which focus on peripheries and amplify them to the size of whole, prove self-contradictory in the light of this verse and the concept of virtue it sets before us. It only needs our intellect and will to reconcile with this Quran-centric notion of virtue that we will see most of the difference and divergences vanishing away, which otherwise posit us in a state of constant friction. The verse also spells out the ideal of Islam in general and identifies the true belief in God, his apostles and the concept of moral accountability as cornerstones of faith. This is not to say that the issues of Fiqh, the debates of Kalam, the intricacies of Hadith are

to be discounted and done away with. But the point shall not escape our understanding that these are not the issues on which are pegged the fate of belief and disbelief. At a time, when fellow Muslims are being labelled as infidels, the inter-sectarian schisms have risen to apogee and the fanatical tendencies have become the hallmark of religious discourse , one is immediately reminded of the Quranic dictum that "Surely those who believe, and those who are Jews, and the Christians, and the Sabians, whoever believes in Allah and the Last day and does good, they shall have their reward from their Lord, and there is no fear for them, nor shall they grieve." (2:62). This shall serve both as a shut-up call and an instant of awakening for those who claim monopoly over salvation and in the dizziness of their bigotry went on to identify everybody as disbeliever, heretic or apostate. The Quranic concept of vice and evil is a strong corollary of its concept of virtue. It is true that there are sins of theological order and the Quran does often speak of moral evils and their disastrous consequences – all these occupy a place of their own in Quranic theodicy. But the sin which God himself identifies as one of terrible consequences, in addition to associating partners to him, is spreading discord on Earth. This discord can be moral, military or it can result from the perversion of scholars, as happened with Bani Israel. So before battling for the size of trousers, the correct way of offering prayers, the issue of intercession and such, scholars need to guard themselves against the evil of being agents of mischief and discord on the land of God, for this act enmeshes them in a sin of greater order with its repercussions overflowing to societies and civilizations.

What has been underscored above highlights the broader scope of Islam and its approach to human salvation in terms of its theorization of vice and virtue. Having said that, one is obliged to investigate the broader question which characterizes this article. What does Islam want from its followers and what are the liabilities that it puts upon its followers in pursuance of this ideal? Islam doesn't demand from its followers a bigotry and religious zealotry infringing upon the rights and lives of others, nor does it warrant of any religious compulsion. We all know that Islam emphasises on ethics and morality, on virtue and piety, but how many of us recognize that Islam was historically the first religion to guarantee freedom of conscience, the freedom to choose religion of one's choice and the freedom to exercise intellect in matters of faith. It emphasised reason and rationality at the cost of sentimentalism, hyperbole and rhetoric. Bypassing and shunting the primitive elements of war and violence accompanying the human psyche, it made pen might-

ier than sword in the true sense of the word by according to argument a place much higher than force. It initiated the process of dialectic in the matters of faith and enjoined on its followers the usage of "beautiful and wise means of propagation". Quran – the magnum opus of Islam advocates reason and rationality and when it touches upon the themes of war and violence, it takes them up to put a cap and limit on them, instead of granting them blind legitimacy or celebrating the cult of violence. Emancipation from error, liberation for tyranny and oppression, globalization of sympathy and empathy are some of the dominant leitmotifs that recur in Quran and that were catalytic in shaping the movement of liberation theology in Africa against Apartheid in late 80s and 90s. But how much of it we get to listen to in our sermons and religious speeches. When did you last hear from a religious cleric a sermon on environmental consciousness, on gender equality, on poverty and egalitarian world, on the ills that our society is festering with? Does Islam not concern itself with the human life here and now with its all issues of spectral diversity? Of course it does – but unfortunately talking on these issues doesn't fetch our clerics the audience and applause they dream of and that is precisely the reason that they engage in sectarian strife and drag down Islam from its pedestal to the marsh of non-sense it has nothing to do with.

The creed of Islam has no pantheons, no evolved complex of rituals and neither does there exist an abysmal chasm between man and God which will need a cleric to fill up. The respect we accord to our religious scholars derives its legitimacy from the fact that they inform and explicate for us the word of God, but they shouldn't take this occasion as an opportunity to interject themselves between man and God and on occasions "Play God". The responsibilities of Ulema are manifold in comparison to the masses in general for they are capable of setting up an example and their word usually has a wider outreach, but on each instant they need to introduce mankind in general and Muslim audience in particular to the true and unadulterated precepts of God. Any failure therein has a consequence and a price, the price too heavy in spiritual terms, the price which Biblical verse sums up as "Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes"!

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer  
The author is a srinagar based columnist



# Books: Why The Internet Hasn't Killed Them Off

Dominique Boullier  
Mariannig Le Béhec  
Maxime Crépel

We stand amazed by the vitality of printed books, a more than 500-year-old technique, both on and offline. We have observed over the years all of the dialogue which books have created around themselves, through 150 interviews with readers, bookshops, publishers, bloggers, library assistants, 25 participant observations, 750 responses to an online questionnaire and 5,000 mapped sites in France and the francophone world. An impressive collective activity. So, yes, your book carries on living just by staying on your shelf because you talk about it, remember it, and refer to it in conversation. Even better still, you might have lent it to a friend so that she can read it, perhaps you have spent time with people who have spoken about it before buying it, or after having read it. You will have encountered official reviews, of course, and also blogs about it. The conversation goes on even when the book is no longer in circulation.

## PAPER BOOKS CIRCULATE BETTER THAN THEIR DIGITAL VERSIONS

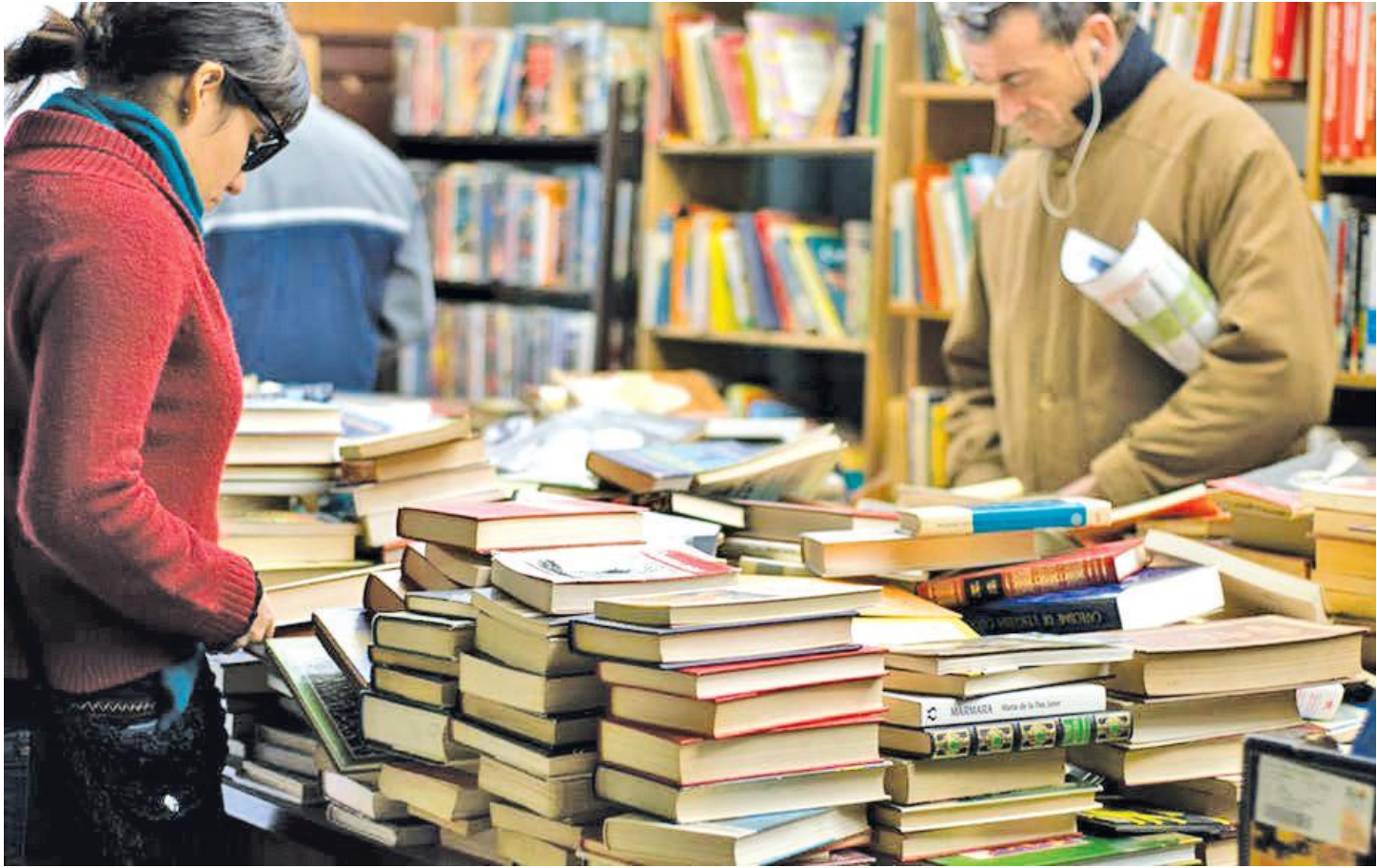
What first struck us was the very active circulation of books in print, compared with digital versions which do not spread so well. Once a book has been sold either in a bookshop or through an online platform, it has multiple lives. It can be loaned, given as a present, but also sold on second-hand, online or in specialist shops. And it can go full circle and be resold, such journeys made in a book's life are rarely taken into account by the overall evaluation of the publication.

The application Bookcrossing allows you to follow books that we "abandon" or "set free" by chance in public places so that strangers take possession of and, then, you hope, get in touch to keep track of the book's journey. Elsewhere, the book will be left in an open-access "book box" which have popped up across France and other countries. Some websites have become experts in selling second-hand books like Recyclivre, which uses Amazon to gain visibility.

Yard sales, antiques fairs, book markets give a new lease of life to countless books which remained forgotten because they were a quick one-time read. The book as a material object, regardless of its age, retains an unequalled sensorial pleasure, and brings with it special memories, bygone times, a sacred piece of craftsmanship with its fragile bindings, or the nostalgia offered by children's books or fairy tales.

Whole professions are dedicated to the web, and increasingly so, since it first came into existence. This has turned the second life of books and the recycling of them into a money-making machine for online retailers, and as a result books are kept alive. Some people have become eBay sellers, experts only thanks to the books they sell on this platform. Sometimes even, these books' lives are extended by charity shops, such as Oxfam. At some stage however, there is only the paper left to give a book its value, once it has been battered and recycled.

One would have thought that faced with the



“Whole professions are dedicated to the web, and increasingly so, since it first came into existence. This has turned the second life of books and the recycling of them into a money-making machine for online retailers, and as a result books are kept alive. Some people have become eBay sellers, experts only thanks to the books they sell on this platform

weight, volume, and physical space occupied by books in print, that the digital book ought to have wiped the floor with its print counterpart. This has been the case with online music, for example, which practically handed a death sentence to the CD, or for films on demand which have greatly shrunk the DVD market. However, for books, this simply has not happened. In the United States like in France, the market for online books never surpasses the 20% mark of the sales revenues of books in print. And that is without including the sales revenue of the second-hand book market as we previously mentioned. The digital book seldom goes anywhere once purchased, due to controls imposed on the files by digital-rights management (DRM) and the incompatibility of their formats on other digital devices (Kindle and others).

## PAPER PLEASURES

Our interviews revealed the pleasure of giving books as presents, but also of lending them. The exchange of the physical item with its cover, size and unique smell bring much more satisfaction

than if a well-meaning friend offers you digital book files on a USB stick containing... a thousand files already downloaded! Indeed, the latter will seldom ever be considered a present but rather a simple file transfer, equivalent to what we do several times a day at work. This also gives rights holders reasons to thus decry "not paying is theft", in this case the gift of files would also become theft.

Bloggers who exchange books as presents (bookswapping) show that goodwill prevails and puts stress on the backburner. This is done on the condition that the book is personalised in some way: a poignant quote, a meaningful object associated in some way with the book (cakes for example!), and the surprise of receiving a completely random gesture of kindness.

## A DENSE AND THRIVING NETWORK RELIANT ON THE INTERNET

What travels even better than books are conversations, opinions, critiques, recommendations. Some discussions are created within or around reading groups or in dedicated fo-

rums online such as the Orange Network Library, for example. There are recommended reading lists, readers' ratings, and book signings with authors are organised. These networks are digital, but they existed well before the Internet, and they remain dynamic today.

However, the rise of blogs at the start of the 2000s led to an increase in the number of reviews by ordinary people. This provided visibility, even a reputation for some bloggers. Of course, institutional and newsworthy reviews continue to play their role in guiding the masses, and they are influential prescribers protected by publishers. But websites like Babelio, combine a popular expertise, shared and distributed among many bloggers who are sometimes very specialised themselves. The website was created in 2007 and has over 690,000 reader members.

The proliferation of content and publications can easily disorientate us; the role of these passionate bloggers, who are often experts in given literary fields, becomes important because they are "natural" influencers one might say, as they are the closest to the public. However, some pub-

lishers have understood the benefits of working with these bloggers, especially in so far as concerns specialist genres like manga, comics, crime novels or youth fiction. Sometimes a blogger, YouTube and web writer is published like Nine Gorman.

Some bookshops contribute even more directly in coordinating these bookworms, they "mould" their audience, or at least they support the books both online and in their shops with face-to-face meetings. Conversation is a unifying force for fans who are undoubtedly the best broadcasters across a broad sphere.

Platforms encourage readers to expand their domain, in the guise of fanfictions, which are published online by the author or his readers. The relationship with authors is closer than ever and is much more direct, the same can be said of the music industry. On particular platforms like Wattpad, texts which are made available are linked with collective commentary.

But above all, the dialogue about reading has often been transformed into writing itself. It might be published on a blog and may be likened to authorial work but at the other end of the spectrum, it might be something modest like the annotations one leaves in their own book. These annotations, more common in non-fiction texts, can form a sort of trade. For example if you lend or sell on a book, which is also stocked and shared with the online systems of Hypothes.is, it allows any article found on the web to be annotated, and the comments saved independent to the display format of the article. This makes it easier to organise readers into groups.

Printed books have in fact become digital through the use of digital platforms which allow them to be circulated as an object or as conversations about the book. The collective attention paid creates a permanent and collaborative piece of work, very different to frenetic posts on social media. Readers take their time to read, a different type of engagement altogether to social media's high frequency, rapid exchanges. The combination of these differently paced interactions can, though, encourage one just to read through alerts from social media posts then followed by a longer form of reading.

Networks formed by books constitute as well a major resource for attracting attention. This is still not a substitute for the effects of "prize season" which guides the mass readership, but which deserves to be considered more critically, given the fact that publishers increasingly take advantage of these active communities.

It would thus be possible to think of the digital book as part of the related book ecosystem, rather than treating it as just a clone. To call it homothetic, is to say that it is an exact recreation of the format and properties of the book in print in a digital format. Let's imagine multimedia books connected to, and permanently engaged with, the dialogue surrounding the book – this would be something else entirely, affording added value which would justify the current retail price for simple files. This would therefore be an "access book" and which would perhaps attract a brand new audience and above all it would widen this collective creativity already present around books in print.

By arrangements with The Conversation

# The Marital Rights of Women in Islam

MARYAM AKRAM

This piece was written in reflection to close friends experiencing abuse in marriage. I wrote the piece after some of my dearest childhood friends ended up in abusive and toxic marriages. As an empath, it broke my heart and affected me mentally to the point where I couldn't sleep properly for months. I tried to find solutions to their problems, but I realised it isn't always simple to leave these types of marriages. I also read the horror stories on various Facebook groups for mothers and every story shattered me. What I realised is that, it's important to prevent women from ever entering these toxic marriages by ensuring rights are met at the start of a spousal search. No doubt, it isn't always straightforward to filter out unsuitable men as some people are forced and pressured into marriages. However, I believe if even one person were to read the article and it made them think or reassess their marriage criteria then this would be a small positive step in protecting women against marital abuse.

Marrying your true love is an exciting chapter of life. It is the epitome of tranquillity, peace and comfort that humanity craves so deeply. The thought of two independent souls united through the holy state of matrimony with mutual love, respect and commitment brings me so much joy. I love the radiant facial glow of couples both young and old who are truly happy and in complete love. Love is the single greatest emotion that connects people together. When you have a similar spiritual, emotional, intellectual and mental capacity as your significant other, mountains become tiny humps and harsh waves appear as Zamzam water drops. That's not to say there won't be any challenges, but you will overcome any hardships as a team.

How can we find a compatible spouse who will love us and journey with us through life's many trials and heartache?

How can we find an equal who will hold our hand and bring us solitude and calmness after a long day at the office?

How can we find our happily ever after?

The answer is very simple. Before you conduct lengthy background checks and converse with a potential spouse to see if your character and personality traits align, it's paramount you ensure the suitor is eligible to marry. Marriage

is a legally binding contract – whether you marry legally or/and Islamically, it is a contract between the state or/and God. The step of checking marriage eligibility is similar to making sure an employee is a suitable candidate for a role at your firm. When hiring someone, you need to examine if the candidate has all the relevant qualifications, work experience, good character and references to qualify as an employee. Similarly, when you intend to marry someone, there are conditions from the Qur'an and sunnah which a man must meet before he can put a ring on your finger.

## WHAT ARE THESE CONDITIONS?

1. The prospective spouse must have a stable enough job in order to provide private accommodation for you and cover yours and your future children's expenses. [Mukhtasar al-qudiri]
2. The prospective spouse mustn't prevent you from going to the Mosque or to study. He mustn't stop you from worshipping God through prayer and fasting – even if he does not pray himself. He must possess sufficient emotional stability to control his anger – as anger is detrimental to a peaceful family life. [Bukhari]

If the prospective spouse meets these requirements – you should make sure he is able to fulfil your rights. As with any contract, there are rights and responsibilities laid down by state or Islamic law and marriage is no different.

## WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS OF A WIFE?

1. The husband must pay a dowry (mahr) to his wife. The amount of money should be what the norm is for women of a similar status in society. He can pay part of it upfront, and part of it later but it must be paid and cannot be taken back. The wife has the right to refuse sexual intercourse if the dowry is not paid. Allah SWT says in the Quran, "And give to the women (whom you marry) their mahr (obligatory bridal money given by the husband to his wife at the time of marriage) with a good heart..." [Qur'an 4:4]
2. The husband must provide his wife with independent accommodation. What does this encompass? A private bedroom, kitchen and bathroom – it's a place where the wife is free to remove

all her clothing and it must be separate from her family home or her husband's family home. [Bukhari, k. Al-jumu'ah, b. Hal'ala man lam yashhad al-jumu'ah ghuslan]

In essence, a studio flat would suffice. With the cost-of-living crisis we are currently facing, it is understandable that not every man would be able to provide his wife with a studio flat at minimum. If a man is unable to afford a studio flat in areas where the rent or house price is high e.g London, he could relocate to a more affordable place if his circumstances allow. If a woman is unhappy with a studio flat and wants to live in a more spacious/luxurious home, she can contribute towards the difference. What's essential is that the husband is able to afford at least a studio flat and is willing to pay for it.

If a wife wishes to live with her husband's family, there will be no sin upon her husband. Living with the in-laws can work greatly for some people, and if a couple is happy with this arrangement, then there is no harm. If at any point, she decides she wants to move out, her husband must make arrangements for that. A husband must intervene if there is any ounce of oppression towards his wife, he must support her and resolve conflict harmoniously.

3. The husband must provide food for his wife. This right may be fulfilled in three ways: the husband can buy groceries and the wife may use it to cook herself food. If she does not want to cook food, he may cook food for her. If she is not happy with his cooking, then he must give her money so she can buy food for herself. Most jurists across all the madhahib are in agreement that it is the husband's duty to provide food and not the wife's. The meals must include: meat once a week, dessert after every meal, some fruits, bread and oil to add taste to the food. This can be tailored if the wife has different food preferences. [Ibn Nujaym, al-Bahr al-Ra'iq]
4. The husband must pay all the bills (electricity, gas, water etc). [Ibn Nujaym, al-Bahr al-Ra'iq]

ALTHOUGH THE PRICE OF BILLS HAS RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY, IT IS STILL THE HUSBAND'S DUTY TO PAY THEM.

5. The husband must provide his wife with feminine hygiene products. These include: shampoo, body lotion, shower gel and a monthly hammam visit post-menstruation. [Ibn Nujaym, al-Bahr al-Ra'iq]
6. The husband must pay for all expenses during his wife's pregnancy and childbirth. [Ibn Nujaym, al-Bahr al-Ra'iq]
7. The husband must provide his wife with clothes. Ibn Nujaym says the husband must provide new clothes every six months (for summer and winter). He must provide the following: two long kamees, two headscarves, a thin overcoat, trousers, two pairs of shoes and a coat. If the wife wants silk clothing, the husband must provide it. [Ibn Nujaym, al-Bahr al-Ra'iq]
- Shaykh Akram Nadwi comments that providing clothes every six months is a guideline and the type and amount of clothing varies depending on need and what type of clothing a wife wears. He also mentions if a woman doesn't want new clothing every six months, he doesn't need to provide it.
8. The husband must provide his wife a bed with bedding for sleeping and a chair and a sofa to sit on during the day. These items become her property. His wife doesn't have to offer her bed to guests when they come to visit if she doesn't want to. Ibn Nujaym comments on this, 'Some husbands are so mean that sometimes they use the furniture of their wives and sometimes they allow guests to use the furniture of their wives (without her permission).' [Ibn Nujaym, al-Bahr al-Ra'iq]
9. The husband must provide accommodation and cover the wife's servants expenses if she has one. Abu Hanifa says, "If the wife has a servant pre-marriage, then the husband must provide accommodation and expenses for the servant." Abu Yusuf, Abu Hanifa's student, comments, "If the wife has two servants, then the husband must cover accommodation and living expenses for both." (al-Kasani, Bada'i al-sana'i)
10. Housework is the responsibility of the husband; he can do it himself or hire someone to complete it. His wife may

do it if she wants, and this will be an act of charity on her behalf. (Bukhari, k. Al-salah, b. man kana fi hajati ahlihi)

Hiring a house helper is common in some societies such as the gulf region, where it is more affordable compared to the UK. If a husband cannot afford to hire help for cleaning and cooking, he may live in a compact property so there's less to clean. He may decide to cook simpler foods in the oven or a pressure cooker if he doesn't have much time to cook before or after work.

If a wife wishes to contribute financially or if she wishes to cook, she can and this will be a great act of charity. This must however be her own wish, she must not be pressured or forced into doing so.

It is clear by the above-mentioned responsibilities of a husband that marriage is not easy. Marriage is an act of worship that requires much effort. Men must meet the conditions of marriage and be able to fulfil their marital responsibilities.

Once you have found a man who is able to fulfil your rights, you should then learn about his character, personality and goals. You can consider whether you have a similar mindset and envision a similar future. It is also important that you are physically attracted to your potential spouse. Unfortunately, people engage in long discussions with a suitor, speaking on topics that will determine compatibility without ensuring the man in question even qualifies for marriage. It is vital you only consider a man for marriage if he is financially able to provide you with private accommodation – it is your God-given right and not a favour. Allah SWT says in the Quran: "Men are the caretakers of women, as men have been provisioned by Allah over women and tasked with supporting them financially." (Qur'an 4:34) Allah SWT has given men this financial responsibility – it's in the nature of men to be a household leader and support their wife and children. Some people question what a wife is supposed to do with her time if it is not her responsibility to support the family financially nor do the housework. She is free to do the following:

1. To work and spend her earnings as she wishes
2. To study
3. To raise her children
4. To engage in charity work

5. To complete housework (if she wishes to)

So many women throughout Islamic history have built mosques and schools – as women don't have financial responsibility, they're able to spend their income on these incredible projects.

Marriage isn't only governed by laws but by Ihsan (striving for excellence) too. Couples should thrive in mutual respect, love and kindness.

The Prophet ﷺ said, "The best of you is the one who is best to his wife, and I am the best of you to my wives." (Tirmidhi; Ibn Majah).

Allah SWT clearly states the importance of kind treatment in the Qur'an, "O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the dowry you have given them. On the contrary, live with them in kindness and equity." (Qur'an 4:19)

I hope this guide serves as a useful tool in your spousal search. It is important for women to reclaim their rights to protect themselves from potential oppression. Men who are able and willing to fulfil your rights with love, will never intentionally oppress you. A man who fears God, will never harm you and will honour your rights. Every woman is worthy of finding a good man – a man who will treat you as a human being by fulfilling your rights and never abusing nor oppressing you.

May Allah SWT guide us towards righteous spouses, who will fulfil our rights, love us, protect us and never oppress us. When you fear there's no one suitable out there for you – remember the comforting words of your Lord, "Good men are for good women and good women are for good men." (Qur'an 24:26) Trust in God, make the effort to seek a God-fearing partner, have patience and make dua. Your high calibre husband will find you – respect yourself, love yourself, understand your worth and God-willing, true love will be yours.

– Amaliah

views expressed in the article are the authors own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer



## WB RECRUITMENT SCAM

## ED Raids Unearth Rs 20 Cr Cash From Home Of Minister's Aide

## Agenceis

**Kolkata:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday carried out simultaneous raids at the houses of around a dozen people, including two ministers, in connection with its investigation into the teacher recruitment scam in West Bengal and seized around Rs 20 crore in cash.

Sources in the central agency said the money was seized from the residence of a close associate of senior minister Partha Chatterjee who was questioned by the sleuths for over 11 hours.

ED sleuths also visited another minister Paresb Adhikari's home in Cooch Behar district in the northern part of the state and talked to his family members. He is currently in Kolkata.

Besides, they carried out simultaneous raids in the houses of former advisor of the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) Shanti Prasad Sinha, ex-president of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education Kalyanmoy Ganguly and nine others, the official said.

The CBI, as directed by the Calcutta High Court, is looking into the alleged irregularities committed in the recruitment of Group-C and D staff as well as teachers in government-sponsored and aided schools on recommendations of the West Bengal School Service Commission. The ED is tracking the money trail in the scam.

"ED is carrying out search operations at various premises linked to recruitment scam in the West Bengal School Service Commission and West Bengal Primary Education Board," the agency said on its official Twitter handle.

The agency shared four photographs of piles of cash in the



denomination of Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 besides a number of sealed packets inside a room, without disclosing the quantity or the owner of the place.

ED sources, however, said that around Rs 20 crore in cash and more than 15 mobile phones were seized from the residence of a woman, a close associate of Chatterjee, in the city's Tollygunge area following a raid there in the evening, an official said.

It is learnt that she has acted in several Bengali, Odia and Tamil films in recent years.

At least 7-8 ED officials reached the Naktala residence of Chatterjee, the former education minister, at around 8:30 am with a few CRPF personnel keeping guard outside. They questioned him for more than 11 hours about the alleged scam.

At one point of time, the senior Trinamool Congress leader complained of uneasiness following which a team of doctors from the state-run SSKM Hospital were called by the ED sleuths, a source said.

"An ECG was conducted on the minister and his condition was stable," said the source, who is close to the minister.

During the interrogation,

ED officials took away mobile phones of the minister's personal assistant as well as the security guards.

Chatterjee, currently industries and commerce minister, held the education portfolio when the scam was allegedly pulled off. He was interrogated by the CBI twice earlier, once on April 26 and then on May 18.

Raids were also conducted at the residence of one of Chatterjee's close associates at Pingla in Paschim Medinipur district, an official of the ED said, though he declined to comment whether the raid was in connection with the probe into the same scam or not.

The agency sleuths, who raided Adhikari's residence at Mekhliganj in Cooch Behar district questioned his family members including his daughter Ankita Adhikari in his absence, he stated.

Ankita recently lost her job as an assistant teacher at a government school where she was appointed through the SSC two years ago after it was found "illegal" by the high court.

Adhikari who had also been

get in touch with his family over the phone.

"They did not intimate us about the visit to our house today. I am in Kolkata in connection with the July 21 Martyrs' Day rally of the TMC. Had I been around, I would have treated them to muri (puffed rice), he said.

ED sleuths also carried out simultaneous raids at the residences of former chairman of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education, Manik Bhattacharya, as well as the board's interim-president Ratna Chakraborty Bagchi, who is also its secretary.

The TMC described the concerted raids as a ploy by the BJP government at the Centre to harass political opponents.

"This raid by ED, a day after the spectacular Martyrs' Day rally that created ripples all over the country, is nothing but an attempt to harass and intimidate leaders of the TMC.

The CBI has already interrogated them (ministers) as part of a court directive and they are cooperating. Now, the ED is being invoked only to discredit them. The money laundering issue is being invented by the BJP," senior TMC leader and minister Firhad Hakim said.

The BJP, however, alleged that the TMC aided large-scale anomalies in the recruitment process of teachers at the primary, upper primary and secondary levels since coming to power in the state.

"TMC leaders and people close to them duped lakhs of qualified youths and handed over their jobs to ineligible ones. The CBI and ED are progressing on the right path. More skeletons will tumble out of the cupboard. The BJP has no role to play in the issue," the saffron party's national vice-president, Dilip Ghosh, added.

## UN Court Rejects Myanmar Claims, Will Hear Rohingya Case

## Agenceis

**The Hague:** Judges at the United Nations' highest court on Friday dismissed preliminary objections by Myanmar to a case alleging the Southeast Asian nation is responsible for genocide against the Rohingya ethnic minority.

The decision establishing the International Court of Justice's jurisdiction sets the stage for hearings airing evidence of atrocities against the Rohingya that human rights groups and a UN probe say breach the 1948 Genocide Convention.

In March, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the violent repression of the Rohingya population in Myanmar, which formerly was known as Burma, amounts to genocide.

Tun Khin, president of the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK, welcomed the decision, saying 600,000 Rohingyas are still facing genocide, while "one million people in Bangladesh camps, they are waiting for a hope for justice.

The African nation of Gambia filed the case in 2019 amid international outrage at the treatment of the Rohingyas, hundreds of thousands of whom fled to neighbouring Bangladesh amid a brutal crackdown by Myanmar forces in 2017. It argued that both Gambia and Myanmar were parties to the 1948 convention and that all signatories had a duty to ensure it was enforced.

Judges at the court agreed.

Reading a summary of the decision, the court's president, US Judge Joan E. Donoghue, said: Any state party to the Genocide Convention may invoke the responsibility of another state party including through the institution of proceedings before the court.

A small group of



pro-Rohingya protesters gathered outside the court's headquarters, the Peace Palace, ahead of the decision with a banner reading: Speed up delivering justice to Rohingyas. The genocide survivors can't wait for generations."

One protester stamped on a large photograph of Myanmar's military government leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing.

The court rejected arguments raised at hearings in February by lawyers representing Myanmar that the case should be tossed out because the world court only rules in disputes between states and the Rohingya complaint was brought by Gambia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The judges also dismissed Myanmar's claim that Gambia could not file the case as it was not directly linked to the events in Myanmar and that a legal dispute did not exist between the two countries before the case was filed.

Myanmar's representative, Ko Ko Hlaing, the military government's minister for international cooperation, said his nation "will try our utmost to defend our country and to protect our national interest.

Gambia's attorney general and justice minister, Dawda Jallow, said: We are very pleased

that justice has been done.

The Netherlands and Canada have backed Gambia, saying in 2020 that the country took a laudable step towards ending impunity for those committing atrocities in Myanmar and upholding this pledge. Canada and the Netherlands consider it our obligation to support these efforts which are of concern to all of humanity.

However, the court ruled Friday that it would not be appropriate to send the two countries copies of documents and legal arguments filed in the case.

Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine state in 2017 in the aftermath of an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. More than 700,000 Rohingyas fled into neighbouring Bangladesh. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and torching thousands of Rohingyas homes.

In 2019, lawyers representing Gambia at the ICJ outlined their allegations of genocide by showing judges maps, satellite images and graphic photos of the military campaign. That led the court to order Myanmar to do all it can to prevent genocide against the Rohingyas. The interim ruling was intended to protect the minority while the case is decided in The Hague, a process likely to take years.

## Parl Panel Hits Out At Flood-Prone States For Not Enacting Model Bill For Flood Plain Zoning

## Agenceis

**New Delhi:** A standing parliamentary committee has rapped flood-prone states like Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for not taking any initiative to enact the model bill for flood plain zoning despite witnessing huge losses of human lives, cattle and properties during deluge.

The standing committee on water resources, tabled in Lok Sabha, said only Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir had enacted legislation, though delineation and demarcation of flood plains are yet to be undertaken.

Flood-plain zoning measures aim at demarcating zones or areas likely to be affected by floods of different magnitude or frequencies and probability levels, and specify the types of permissible developments in these zones, so that whenever floods actually occur, the damage can be minimised.

The model bill for flood plain zoning provides for flood plain



zoning authority to be constituted by state governments with a governing body under the chairmanship of the chief minister which will delineate flood plain zones and other measures for keeping flood plains encroachment free.

The committee noted that despite its benefits, floodplain zoning has not been earmarked/ demarcated in India and a model draft bill for flood plain zoning

legislation was also circulated by the Union government to all the states.

"However, only the states of Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir had enacted legislation, though delineation and demarcation of flood plains is yet to be undertaken. Further, Major flood prone States viz Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West

Bengal, Assam, Odisha etc have not taken initiative to enact any legislation with regard to flood plain zoning," the panel said.

The committee said it is "dis-mayed" to find that the action taken reply of the department is silent as to whether or not the major flood prone States viz Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha etc have taken any initiative/steps for enactment of the Model Bill for Flood Plain Zoning, as these States are witnessing huge losses in terms of human lives, cattle and properties, whenever the flood strikes.

The Committee are of view that merely issuing directions to states will not yield desired outcomes, unless protracted and vigorous efforts are made by the Department to persuade and goad the States for enactment of the Model Bill.

They, therefore, reiterated their recommendation that the Union Government should make renewed and concerted efforts for persuading the State Governments for enactment of the Model Bill on Flood Plain

Zoning and where necessary, States may consider suitably modifying the Model bill and dovetail / customize it taking into account the socio-economic realities of the States

"The Committee were therefore of the opinion that the Model Bill must be suitably modified taking into account the socio-political and economic realities of the regions in which it is to be implemented. Further, the Ministry of Jal Shakti should also consider providing financial assistance to those States that are willing to implement flood-plain zoning," it said.

The committee further said are not satisfied with the reply of the government as it merely states that the draft River Basin Management Bill, 2018 has been circulated among all states/ Union territories and related Union ministries for comments/ suggestions and is presently in public domain and does not mention about the concrete steps that have been taken by the department to persuade the states to enact this important bill.

"The committee are of the view that given the importance of setting up river basin authority for each river basin of the country in order to ensure integrated operation of reservoirs, the committee reiterate their recommendation and urge upon the department to make concerted efforts to persuade states for enactment of the River Basin Management Bill," it said.

On floods in Assam, the committee expressed its deep anguish over the damage of property worth crore of rupees and loss of lives every year by the devastating floods in the state as well as the northeastern region every year.

The committee noted that the fury of floods in Assam and the northeastern region in the long term can be tackled by building storage reservoirs on rivers and their tributaries with adequate provisioning for flood cushion, integrated reservoir operation, interlinking of rivers etc.

However, these measures have many constraints such as topographic, geological, geographical, environmental,

submergence, interstate and international issues.

Taking cognisance of the aforesaid facts, the committee said it believes that preparing and operating these long-term initiatives in a stand-alone manner may be difficult for individual states.

"Therefore, for integrated use of water resources, there is a need to move from the conventional, fragmented and localised approach to a comprehensive river basin approach. In order to provide coordinated river basin development including comprehensive flood control, it is necessary to set up river basin organisations, which would effectively provide immediate, short-term and long-term solutions in addition to the overall development of river basin," it said.

The committee, therefore, recommended that Ministry of Jal Shakti take concrete measures on priority basis to enact the River Basin Management Authority for holistic management of water resources of each river basin.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## Experts Call For

were registered in Kashmir Valley and 288 from Jammu division, thus taking the number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic in J&K to 458987.

"There's nothing to panic about as the rise in the number of cases is not a cause of worry at the moment. Rather, our focus should shift from case-counting to mortality rate and the hospitalization rate which as of now is low," Dr. Nisarul Hassan, president Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) told Kashmir Observer.

Dr. Hassan further added that in the earlier waves, any number of positive cases were culminating into severe outcomes, both in terms of hospitalization and deaths.

"But now, we are in a different phase of Covid-19. With the widespread immunization, in the form of vaccination and natural infections, the new cases are not winding up into hospitals or deaths. It's just a mild infection, so there's nothing to panic about. If we talk about our region, the present variant of covid is as good as any other respiratory virus like influenza virus. The rise and fall of cases won't determine the severity of the virus," said Dr.Hassan, adding that vaccines and booster doses should not be ignored.

Meanwhile, with a steady rise in covid cases in J&K, the department of health has also chalked out a strategy to meet any possible challenge in the coming days.

"We don't have to worry about the rising cases as covid in Kashmir is already in its endemic phase. Only the hospitalization rate and death rate will determine the viciousness

of the infection. There are only a handful of cases admitted in hospitals, that too, with very mild symptoms. So, let's not trigger fear-psychosis among people," a practicing physician, Dr. Riyaz Ahmed Daga, told Kashmir Observer.

Dagga further said that during the unprecedented outbreak of the first wave, the numbers of covid positive cases mattered as the hospitalization rate and death rates were high.

"Since then, the two waves have boosted our immunity against the new variants of the virus. That's why the number of positive cases doesn't matter. This time, covid is very mild. Death rate and hospitalization rate is also very low. There are no new cases with any respiratory issue," Dr. Riyaz said, adding that people with morbid diseases are at risk.

## J&amp;K Logs 531

total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 458987, officials said Friday.

In the Valley, Srinagar reported the highest 162 new cases of virus, followed by Baramulla with 30, Ganderbal 18, Budgam 12, Pulwama 10, Kupwara four, Bandipora 3, Kulgam and Anantnag two each.

In the winter capital, Jammu reported a maximum of 152 new cases of Coronaviruss, Kathua 55, Udhampur 21, Poonch 16, Kishtwar 15, Rajouri 10, Samba and Doda nine each, and Reasi one.

Also, the officials said that the death toll remained unchanged at 4761 in J&K—2336 in

Jammu and 2425 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours in the Union Territory.

"Moreover, 197 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 115 from Jammu division and 82 from Kashmir division," they said.

## Hybrid Militancy

station was a move to bridge the gap between police and women. "We will upgrade the women police stations across Kashmir to provide breathing space to women. Such stations will also help deal with crimes against women to large extent," the DGP said.

## Modi, Shehbaz

High Commissioner in Islamabad. It also snapped all air and land links with India and suspended trade and railway services. (IANS)

## Govt Renames

Const. Rajinder Kumar, Const. Raj Kumar, Ct Naseeb Singh, SPO Jalal Din, Ct. Shamim Ahmed, HC. Raghu Nath, Sep. Joginder Singh, Havaladar Sartool Singh, Ct. Raj Kumar, and Ct. Jagdev Singh.

Similarly, in Kashmir region, the institutions will be named after Late Sarwanand Kaul Premi, Reyaz Ahmad Lone, Rfn. Mohammad Safer Khan, Para Trooper Shabir Ahmad Malik, Rfn. Abdul Hameed Chara, HC Abdul Rashid Kalas, Sgt. Ghulam Mustafa Barah, and HC Sheraz Ahmad.

## New GMC

Rs. 325.00 Crore, an official spokesperson

said. He said that the upcoming medical college at Udhampur will improve the doctor patient-ratio in Jammu and Kashmir as the intake capacity of MBBS students will increase by 100 seats and t will be completed in 2024-25.

"This will cater the ever increasing patient load, and bring improvement in the medical services at secondary level of treatment in the region," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the availability of quality medical services at the district headquarter will also reduce the response time for medical emergencies/traumas, minimize inconvenience, decrease IMR/MMR, and increase life expectancy.

## BJP's Shahnawaz

has become president. Ramnath Kovind became president. Son of a poor man, a tea-seller, became PM. Our party does politics for the poor, he said.

## Arms Recovered

(UBGL), one UBGL grenade, one RPG shell, 25 electronic detonators and two UBGL accessories were recovered from the hideout in a rusted condition, it said.

A case was registered at Gandoh police station in this connection and investigation taken up, police said.

The area from where the arms and explosive material were recovered was infested with militancy in the past, they said. (PTI)

## Two Migrant

Confirming the incident, a police official said that a team is on the site to collect more details.

Pertinently, three labourers hailing from Uttar Pradesh died yesterday at Ukho Pulwama after the wall of a brick kiln collapsed. (ONS)

## Eight Gamblers

Besides playing cards, he said, an amount of Rs 54,400 was also seized from the spot.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case FIR No. 137/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Chadoora and investigation has been initiated. (ONS)

## Truck Crushes

she succumbed to her injuries during treatment at the SKIMS Soura.

Meanwhile, Police have arrested the driver and seized the vehicle involved in the accident. (Agencies)

## Two Found

locals in Nussu village of Qazigund, who accordingly informed the police.

He said that soon after Police rushed to the spot and took the body into their possession. "The man was identified as Sajad Hussain Lone son of Altaf Hussain Lone of Sangran area of Qazigund. Further investigation has been taken up in this regard," he said.

He further said that another unidentified body was found at Rafting Point near Batakoot area of Pahalgam by locals who informed the police and later police took the body in their possession.

He added that identification of the body was being ascertained, while further investigation has been taken up (Agencies)



## LG Calls For Hassle Free Services To Citizens



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday directed the officials to make provisions with better coordination and convergence of departments for effective disposal of building permissions by the authorities, ensuring hassle free services to common citizens.

The LG passed these directions while reviewing the status of ongoing projects of Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) during a high-level meeting to assess the functioning of the department, at the Civil Secretariat here, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, the LG took several important decisions in order to resolve the bottlenecks and to expedite the execution of the flagship programmes.

Sinha, he said, sought the status of deliverables under various projects and schemes viz. eBuses, Housing Colonies, Integrated Townships, PM SVANidhi, PMAY, AMRUT, Smart Cities, SBM/SWM. He directed the officials for doubling their efforts, besides meeting the set timelines and ensuring utilisation of funds for early and effective completion of the projects.

According to the spokesperson, the LG directed the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to shortlist the projects to be completed on

Mission mode and submit the timelines for their completion at the earliest.

On the process of procurement of eBuses, he said, Sinha was apprised that the delivery of buses in pilot phase would be done by 31st October this year.

“The Lt Governor directed the concerned officers to make provisions with better coordination and convergence of departments for effective disposal of building permissions by the authorities, ensuring hassle free services to common citizens,” he added.

Enquiring about the implementation of the skill training program in the construction sector, the LG, as per the spokesperson, directed for completion of the said training for up-skilling of construction workers in a fixed timeframe.

Sinha, he said, also sought progress on the achievement of ODF plus status for all ULBs in J&K and on developing Waste Management Systems.

Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, H&UDD gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved under various projects by the department.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Rahul Yadav, Commissioner JMC; Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner SMC, besides senior officials of the concerned departments attended the meeting.

## Various Delegations Meet LG At Raj Bhavan



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Mir Junaid, President, Jammu & Kashmir Workers Party (JKWP), Delegations of International Gurjar Mahasabha (IGM) and Community Development & Employment Foundation (CD&EF) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here on Friday

Junaid while calling on the Lt Governor apprised him about various issues of public importance. He discussed the issue of mining in Langate, Kupwara, besides concerns related to Jal Shakti Schemes, College and Sports Stadium.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the President, JKWP assured him that the genuine issues put forth by him would be taken up with the concerned quarters of UT administration for early redressal on merit.

Similarly, a delegation of International Gurjar Mahasabha led by Ms Tazeem Gujar met the Lt Governor and expressed gratitude for the unprecedented and immense development works and schemes initiated by the UT administration for the welfare of Tribals of J&K UT.

She said that it is for the first time since Independence that the Government of J&K has given so much attention to providing equal opportunities to tribal people and ensuring their socio-economic prosperity.

Later, a delegation of Community Development and Employment Foundation led by Syed Mohd Rafiq also called on the Lt Governor and expressed gratitude for the arrangements made by the UT administration for the Hajj pilgrims, besides highlighting issues of public importance.

## MeT Predicts Light To Moderate Rain In J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Weatherman on Friday forecast scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorm in Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official also said that rains lashed Jammu region and parts of Kashmir Valley in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today with Jammu district recording 29.7mm followed by Katra with 23.0mm, Batote 10.4 mm, Banihal 8.6 mm Bhaderwah 2.7 mm, 0.6 mm in Gulmarg, 0.2mm in Qazigund and traces in srinagar.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperatures recorded a slight

rise at most places in Kashmir Valley and Jammu division.

The MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 21.9°C against 20.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.2 °C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 18.2°C against 19.9°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.2°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 16.3°C against 13.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.3°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of

17.4°C against 18.9°C last night and it was 1.1°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 12.5°C against 13.6°C and it was 0.4°C above normal for the place.

Kupwara town saw a low of 18.2°C against 18.0°C on previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the place during this time of the season, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 24.6°C against 23.9°C on the previous night. It was 0.5°C 'below' normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 18.2°C, Batote 18.0°C, Katra 22.7°C and Bhadarwah 19.6°C, the official said. (GNS)

## Govt Okays JK Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Rules, 2022



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday approved the Jammu and Kashmir Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Rules, 2022 under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019.

The Act provides a comprehensive mechanism to ban the unregulated deposits and to protect the interests of depositors.

The Banning of Unregulated

Deposit Schemes Act, 2019 puts a ban on the promotion, operation, and advertisement of unregulated deposit schemes which lead to fraudulent default in the repayment/return of deposit amount on maturity. A prize chit or a money circulation scheme is also banned under the provisions of the Act.

The Jammu and Kashmir Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Rules, 2022 lay out the provisions and scope of powers and duties of the competent authority under the Act; powers vested while conducting investigation or

inquiry; powers relating to absconding persons; power to seize properties; power to appoint legal practitioner and others; power of Government to empanel agencies for forensic or digital audit, valuation or sale of assets; valuation reports to be obtained while releasing properties attached; and ceiling for Self Help Groups.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

## H&ME Gets Administrative Control Of 2 Nursing Colleges In Jammu And Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday approved the transfer of administrative control of two B.Sc Nursing Colleges of Jammu and Srinagar to the Health and Medical Education Department.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

These B.Sc Nursing Colleges were established in 2016 by the Higher Education Department,

one at Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and another in Government College for Women, M.A Road Srinagar. The first batch of the course started in September 2019. However, the teaching faculty for the medical curriculum in these colleges was being provided by the Health & Medical Education Department.

The aim of opening these Colleges was to provide the technical education in health sector especially to the female students of both the divisions to address the shortage of human resource in health sector and promote women empowerment.

To provide sectoral expertise to the nursing colleges, the Administrative Council has approved

the transfer of the administrative control to the Health & Medical Education Department.

With the decision, all incomes and expenses of these colleges will now be accounted in the budget of Health and Medical Education Department. The Health and Medical Education Department will also bear the responsibility for all further development in these colleges, including admissions, teaching and award of degrees/diplomas.

Accordingly, the two colleges along with students enrolled, faculty and allied human resource as well as all movable assets will also be transferred to the Health and Medical Education Department.

## Amarnath Yatra Suspended Due To Inclement Weather



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Amarnath Yatra on Friday has been suspended from Jammu due to due inclement weather and bad condition on Jammu-Srinagar national highway, officials said.

No fresh batch was allowed to proceed from here to the base camps of the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, they said.

The highway was reopened for one-way traffic on Thursday night after its closure due to landslides and shooting stones triggered by heavy rain at several places in Ramban district, officials said.

“The yatra has been suspended from Jammu for onward journey to Amarnath in view of the bad condition of highway and inclement weather conditions, a yatra management officer told PTI here.

Earlier, Amarnath Yatra was suspended from Jammu due to bad weather on July 10 and resumed on July 11.

Authorities may allow yatra from Jammu in late afternoon in case highway become fully operational and conducive for

vehicular traffic, officials said. Jammu-Srinagar highway, which was reopened for vehicular traffic, has been shut due to shooting stones at Cafeteria Morh and Mehar in Ramban, they said.

The annual 43-day yatra commenced on June 30 from the twin base camps — traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

Over 2.30 lakh pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, the officials said.

A total of 1,24,714 pilgrims have left from the Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

A total of 35 people mostly pilgrims have died during the on-going yatra till now excluding 15 pilgrims, who died in the flashfloods at the cave shrine on July 1.

## DC Kupwara Issues Advisory As MeT Predicts 'Heavy Rains' Next Week

Asks Officers Not To Leave Stations Without Permission



Agencies

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, who is also Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Kupwara on Friday issued an advisory for people of Kupwara district. The advisory reads that in view of prediction by Meteorological Department there is possibility of heavy rains for next week.

The people of Kupwara district in general and residing in the areas like Keran, Karnah, Machil, Budnamal, Jungund, Nowgam, Kumkadi and those living on periphery of different nallahs/ rivers, flood prone and sloppy areas are advised to refrain from venturing in avalanche prone areas during the rainfall and till

the improvement of weather.

Further, all the line departments like Revenue, Police, I&FC Deptt, R&B Deptt. Health, PHE (Jal Shakti), PDD Deptt. BEACON, Mechanical Department, Urban Local Bodies, Sheep/Animal Husbandry Officers, PMGSY, FS&CA Department are advised not to leave their headquarters without permission from the competent authority and keep close liaison with the general public.

The advisory further reads, that the General public can contact District Disaster Management Control Room at 9419268121, 01955-253522, Police Control Room Kupwara on 01955252451 and Police Control Room Handwara on 01955-262295, for any information/help. (GNS)

## Govt Frames Four Panels To Monitor PM Kisan Scheme In J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday constituted four committees including two UT level and two district level committees for monitoring of PM Kisan scheme in Union Territory of J&K.

As per order issued by Principal Secretary to the government, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, the Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department will chairperson of two UT level committees while as District Magistrate and Additional district magistrate will be chairpersons of District level monitoring committee and District level redressal committee respectively.

The order reads that the administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department will be Chairperson, Special Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department (State Nodal Officer UT of Member Secretary J&K) member Secretary and Director, Agriculture Production Department Kashmir/Jammu, Assistant Commissioner (Central), Office of Divisional Commissioner (Jammu/Kashmir), Joint Director Extension, Agriculture Production Department, Kashmir/Jammu and representative of SLBC (concerned) will be members of

the UT Level Review/Monitoring Committee.

“The terms of Reference of the committees are that the UT Level Monitoring Committee shall monitor PM-KISAN scheme as per the guidelines at the UT level and shall also guide and steer implementation and review progress of the scheme on a monthly basis,” he said. “District Development Commissioner (concerned) will be chairperson, Assistant Commissioner, Revenue (concerned), Assistant Commissioner, Development (concerned), District Agriculture Officer (Extension) (concerned) and Representative of Lead District Manager of DLBC (concerned) will be members and District Agriculture officer (Concerned) will be member Secretary of the District Level Review/Monitoring Committee(s).”

The terms of Reference of the committee are that it shall monitor PM-KISAN scheme as per guidelines at the district level and shall also guide and steer implementation and review progress of the scheme on a monthly basis.

“Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production will be chairperson, Special Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Department Production Department

## Building Screening Committee Constituted

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a building screening committee to clear all proposals for construction of new buildings in UT of J&K. As per the order, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Home department will be chairman of the committee.

Financial Commissioner (Additional Member Chief Secretary), Finance Department, Principal Secretary to Government, General Administration Department, Administrative Secretary of the Concerned Department will be members of the committee while as Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department will be member

secretary of the committee.

“Reference include to examine rationality or necessity of the proposed Building and to analyze/explore the possibility of utilization of an appropriate existing Government Building/ Infrastructure for the purpose as also to determine whether renting a building would be sufficient,” the order said, adding that “the Administrative Departments shall ensure that the clearance of the Committee is obtained before processing proposals for Administrative Approval of the Competent Authority prescribed. The Committee shall be serviced by the Planning Development and monitoring department.”

(State Nodal Officer, UT of J&K) will be member secretary of the committee, Director, Agriculture Production Department Kashmir/Jammu and Representative of State Level Banking Committee (concerned) will be members

while as Senior Most Regional Level SMS (Subject Matter Specialist), Kashmir/Jammu will be Executive-Member of the UT level grievance redressal committee,” the order adds.

It states that the terms of ref-

erence of the UT level Grievance Redressal Monitoring Committee will be to look into all grievances related to implementation of the scheme appropriate and take steps for their redressal within the frame work of guidelines.

“Furthermore Additional District Development Commissioner (concerned) will be chairperson, Chief Agriculture Officer (concerned) will be member secretary, District Panchayat Officer (concerned), District Officers (Extension) (concerned), Senior Most District Level SMS, District Lead Bank Manager or his representative concerned, Representative of Deputy Commissioner from Revenue Department and Representative of Deputy Commissioner from Rural Development Department will be members of District Level Grievance Redressal Committee(s),” the order reads, adding that the terms of Reference of the District level Grievance Redressal Monitoring Committee(s) shall look into grievances related to implementation of the scheme and take appropriate steps for their redressal within the frame work of guidelines and shall ensure submission of fortnightly reports to the UT level Grievance Redressal Monitoring Committee”—(KNO)

## 'One Village One Drone' Initiative

Govt Starts Drone Tech For Agri Activities In Kathua

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday kick-started the use of drones for spraying insecticide and other agricultural activities.

Drones were launched in Kathua district under 'One village one drone' initiative for spraying insecticides to protect maize crops from fall armyworm. Trials were carried out for using drones in agriculture related activities at Balan Pain village in Hiranaga belt of Kathua, officials said.

Kathua deputy commissioner Rahul Pandey accompanied by block development committee chairman Brijeshwar Singh kick-started the trial in the presence of local farmers.

The maiden trial carried out by a specialised team through agriculture department included spraying of insecticide and nano urea in maize fields through drones, they said.

According to Pandey, the purpose of introducing drone technology in agriculture sector is to minimise the woes of farming community in carrying out the agro-activities.

“Some farming tasks that require hundreds of workers in traditional techniques can be accomplished by a single drone in a matter of hours”, Pandey said.

Block development committee chairperson Brijeshwar Singh said the technological intervention in agriculture will help farmers save their hardwork and time.



## Dir I&C Holds Interaction With Bat Manufacturers



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In the backdrop of recently held SLC meeting of Forest Department, Director I&C, Kashmir and Conservator of Forests, South Circle-Bijbehara along with the officials of DIC, Anantnag held a joint interaction and consultation on Friday with the stakeholders of wood based industry including cricket bat industry.

In the said interaction, the stakeholders were informed about the Jammu & Kashmir Wood Based Industries (Establishment & Regulation) Rules, 2022 issued by J&K Government under S.O. 321 Notification.

The said notification provides that no license or registration would be required by furniture/ wooden handicrafts unit instead it requires only one time registration to be granted by the licensing authority.

At the outset of said interaction, Director, I&C, Kashmir highlighted the importance of cricket bat industry and the need for cleft seasoning plant so as to make the Kashmir cricket bat competitive at Global Level and boost the industry.

The bat manufacturers who were present in the said interaction put forth various suggestions desired to be incorporated in the said notification which include improvement of root stock, GI of Kashmir Willow, Seasoning plant, Incentivisation to the bat manufacturers in the form of turnover incentive, DG set subsidy, etc.

Director, I&C, Kashmir assured the stake holders of the cricket bat industry that the suggestions have been noted and will be put forth before the higher authorities for consideration.

Director, I&C, Kashmir apprised the stakeholders that GI dossier has been submitted in this regard and its approval is expected soon.

The stakeholders put forth a demand of incorporating the left out bat manufacturing units as well which are lying beyond the periphery in the already declared Industrial Zone for bat manufacturing units from Jawbara, Awantipora to Doonipora, Sangam (500 meters of either side of NH-44).

Director, I&C, Kashmir directed the GM, DIC, Anantnag to submit a proposal for the same.

## DC, SP Shopian Inaugurate Boys Inter-District Chess C'ship



Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaisya and SP, Tanushree on Friday inaugurated the Inter-District Provincial level Chess Championship for Boys of all age groups in an impressive function organised by District Youth and Sports Office, Shopian.

Besides, Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, Kashmir Bashir Ahmad who was Guest of Honour on the occasion, Chief Education Officer, Shopian, Mohd Mushtaq and District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Noor Ul Haq were also present.

About 144 players from all the 10 districts are participating in the competition.

During the Inaugural Speech, Deputy Commissioner Shopian laid emphasis on the holistic de-

velopment of personality which he said is possible through physical development.

He praised the department's efforts to organise such grand provincial level tournament in district Shopian.

He said the championship shall inspire others to take part in sports activities for holistic personal development.

Superintendent of Police also spoke on the occasion and advised the students to do their best in the competitions.

The championship declared open by the Deputy Commissioner Shopian shall conclude on July 23.

Later on, Noor ul Haq District Youth Services and Sports officer Shopian delivered vote of thanks and presented mementos to the guests.

## Volleyball Tournament Concludes At Kulgam



Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** Volleyball tournaments for Under 19 girls and Under 17 boys concluded here at Kulgam on Friday with the final matches played between the teams of both the age categories.

On the occasion, Additional Development commissioner Kulgam Showket Ahmad Rather was the chief guest.

The Under 19 girls volleyball tournament final match was

won by GHSS Kulgam. While under 17 volleyball tournament of boys, Zone Yaripora won the match and the tournament.

Moreover, inter-zone District Level Under 14 Volleyball girls tournament and Inter-School Zonal Level Under 14 boys cricket tournament were also inaugurated by ADC here at Sports Stadium Kulgam.

Later, an award ceremony was also organised to felicitate the players and teams.

## Indian Pencak Silat Team Leaves For World Championship From Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday flagged off the Indian Pencak Silat team for the 19th World Pencak Silat Championship to be held at Melaka, Malaysia from 26th July.

The LG interacted with the Pencak Silat players and coaches and wished them success in the upcoming world championship.

It is a matter of great pride to represent the country in the World Championship. Have a great game out there and make us all proud. More than a billion

will be cheering for you, the Lt Governor told the players.

The LG also enquired about the facilities and training provided to the players during the 21-day long National Coaching Camp conducted at Srinagar.

It was the first Pencak Silat or any martial art discipline national coaching camp organized in the region, informed Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

The team of 36 players (Men & Women) from across the country will be departing to Malaysia. Eight players from Jammu & Kashmir - Karan Chopra, Sheikh Najmus Saqib,

Suhaib Jeelani, Peer Aadil Manzoor, Ravees Ahmad, Komal Dhiman, Bilqis Maqbool and Aqsa Gulzar are part of the team representing the country in the world championship.

A total of six coaches & staff members including two coaches from J&K- Mohammad Iqbal & Irfan Aziz, besides one staff member - Mufti Hamid Yasin are also accompanying the Indian Team for the World Pencak Silat Championship.

This is the first national contingent which will depart for the international tournament from Srinagar.

## Here's How India Is Preparing For The T20 World Cup



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Team India is all set to face Australia and South Africa for a white-ball series at home, between September 20 and October 11.

According to ESPNcricinfo, the Men in Blue will square off against Australia for a three-match T20I series and a series of three T20Is and three ODIs against South Africa. These will be the last fixtures for all three teams before they travel to Australia for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia, to be

held from October 16.

The three T20Is against Australia will be played in Mohali, Nagpur and Hyderabad on September 20, 23 and 25 respectively. The South Africa T20Is will be played between September 28 and October 3 in Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati and Indore, while the ODIs, which follow, will be played in Ranchi, Lucknow and Delhi, between October 6 and 11.

Team India is currently in the Caribbean to play a series of three ODIs and five T20Is, between July 22 and August 7. The

team is led by Shikhar Dhawan as he will become the seventh skipper to lead India this year during the three-match ODI series against the Men in Maroon. Original captain Rohit Sharma and experienced players like Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya have been rested for the ODI series.

The three ODI matches will be played on July 22, July 24, and July 27 at the historic Queen's Park Oval. They will be followed by a five-match T20I series from July 29 to August 7. (ANI)

## 'ODI Cricket Is Dying A Slow Death'



Press Trust of India

**BRISBANE:** Australian Test opener Usman Khawaja believes ODI cricket is witnessing a slow death because of the proliferation of T20 leagues around the world and a hectic international calendar.

Khawaja is the latest cricketer to join the debate over the existence of 50-over cricket after England superstar Ben Stokes on Monday stunned the cricketing world by announcing his sudden retirement from ODI cricket at the age of 31.

Calling playing three formats as "unsustainable" for him,

Stokes, who is also England's Test captain, said cricketers 'are not like cars' and there is 'too much cricket rammed in'.

"I think personally one-day cricket is dying a slow death," Khawaja, who has represented Australia in 40 ODIs since making his debut in the format in 2013, told reporters in Brisbane on Friday.

"There's still the World Cup, which I think is really fun and it's enjoyable to watch, but other than that, even myself personally, I'm probably not into one-day cricket as much either."

Khawaja argued that 50-over

format has lost its relevance, of late, as the T20 World Cup in knocking on the doors.

"Right now it feels like it's not really that important because of the T20 World Cup," Khawaja said. "Something has to give, because you can't have all three formats all together playing all the games; you're going to have to decide and choose."

Pakistan pace bowling legend Wasim Akram had also voiced his concerns and wanted the administrators of the game to scrap the ODI format for good. Former England skipper Nasser Hussain had also slammed the crammed cricket calendar.

## BCCI Introduces A+ Category For Umpires



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** CC Elite Panel member Nitin Menon is among 10 officials grouped in the newly introduced A+ category of BCCI umpires.

The others in the A+ category include four international umpires -- Anil Chaudhary, Madan-gopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and K N Ananthapadmanabhan.

Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu are also part of the A+ category.

Twenty umpires including C Shamsuddin form the A group, 60 are in Group B, 46 in Group C and 11 in Group D which falls in the 60-65 age bracket.

The complete list was tabled at the Apex Council meeting on Thursday following the work

done by former international umpires K Hariharan, Sudhir Asnani and Amiesha Saheba, and members of BCCI umpires' sub-committee.

Umpires in A+ and A category are paid Rs 40,000 a day for a first-class game while Rs 30,000 a day are paid in the B and C category.

The board has not added to its umpires' list since 2018. With the threat of COVID-19 reducing, the BCCI has decided to conduct a full fledged domestic season after two years. The board plans to organise as many as 1832 games across age groups in men and women's cricket, a massive exercise.

The standard of Indian umpires is often criticised in the highly watched IPL.

Only one Indian, Menon, is part of the ICC elite panel.

## Pakistan's SL Win At Par With 1987 Bangalore Test Victory Over India: PCB Chief



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** PCB chairman Ramiz Raja has lauded the national team for its recent win against Sri Lanka in the Galle Test, saying the victory is at par with Pakistan's historic triumph over India in the 1987 Bangalore Test.

Pakistan chased down a stiff 342-run target on the final day to register a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the opening Test in Galle to go 1-0 up in the two-match series.

"From a difficulty point of view, I would say this is one of Pakistan's best Test wins in a run-chase probably the best. In terms of difficult conditions, I would say the Galle win is at par with the victory we achieved in Bangalore against India on a turning pitch," Ramiz told a Pakistani news channel.

The former Test captain was part of the team led by Imran Khan that beat India in a low-scoring Test at Bangalore in 1987. Ramiz feels giving a free hand to Babar helped him to build a strong team.

"The team is his property and I am happy to say that not only he as captain but other players also took full ownership of the team and performances," he said.

"I have never tried to interfere in team matters although as chairman I can and we have given Babar a free hand and he has made a good team."

"We should internally also give respect to this team they don't get the same respect internally that they get internationally." He said a proper environment and good communication was one of the reason behind the team's success.

## Barcelona Sells 2nd Package Of Spanish League TV Rights



Agencies

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona has sold a second package of its television rights to an American investment firm for an undisclosed amount as the Spanish club claws its way out of debt.

Barcelona said Friday it had agreed to sell an additional 15% of income from TV rights from Spanish league games for 25 years to Sixth Street. That gives the investment firm a total of 25% of the club's TV rights for La Liga games after Barcelona and Sixth Street struck an initial deal last month.

While Barcelona made public that the first deal for 10% of the TV rights would earn the club 207.5 million euros (\$210 million), it did not reveal the amount Sixth Street would pay for the next 15%.

The initial deal was followed by Barcelona signing Robert Lewandowski from Bayern Munich and Raphinha from Leeds on transfers

that could reach 110 million euros (\$111 million).

In June, Barcelona earned the approval of its club members to sell 25% of its Spanish league TV rights for a projected total of around 450 million euros (\$457 million).

The club run by president Joan Laporta also said last month that it is seeking a buyer for 49% of the company Barcelona operates to negotiate its licensing rights and merchandising. The club hopes to get between 200-300 million euros (\$203-304 million) in return for that potential third deal.

Laporta has said that the drastic measures were necessary to "generate profits and have positive equity" as Barcelona struggles to recover its financial health after its debt ballooned to 1.3 billion euros (nearly \$1.37 billion). The huge salaries and transfer fees paid by Laporta's predecessor, Josep Bartomeu, are blamed for ruining Barcelona's finances.