

Vested Interest Rattled By J&K's Transformation: LG

Says People Want Development, Prosperity And A Better Future For The Country
Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that people want development, prosperity for the society and a better future for the country while those with vested interest are rattled by overall transformation in the Union Territory. "People are now coming out on the street **More on P6**



'It's Our Commitment To Serve People Equally'
Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that the expectations of the people have grown immensely as a result of socio-economic success and a responsive service delivery system, and thus it is the responsibility of administration **More on P6**

- Over 25,000 Govt Employees to Participate At All Levels
- 15-18 Lakh People Expected To Participate In B2V4
- Target To Issue 2 To 2.50 Lakh Certificates Under Various Services.
- 1Lakh Golden Cards, 10 Lakh Land Passbooks To Be Issued
- 60,000 To 65,000 Youth To Be Identified For Self Employment Assistance

HC Reopens Nadimarg Massacre Case After 11 Years Now Statement of Witnesses To Be Recorded In Jammu

Agencies

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday ordered the re-opening of the infamous Nadimarg massacre case in which 24 Kashmiri Pandits were killed on March 23, 2003. Allowing a revision petition filed by the Government against the 2011 order by the trial

court in Shopian, a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul directed examination of the witnesses on commission. "In view of the well settled legal position laid down by the Supreme Court, I am of the view that the court below has dismissed the application of the prosecution-State for



examining the witness on commission on the irrelevant consideration while overlooking the material and relevant aspects of the case," the court said. "This revision petition is allowed and order dated 09.02.2011, passed by the court below is set-aside, and the application

for issuance of commission for examination of witnesses moved by the prosecution-State/petitioner is allowed," the High Court said, adding, "The court below shall now take all the necessary measures for ensuring the examination of the witnesses concerned by issuing commission and/or recording their statement **More on P6**

6 BACK TO VILLAGE ALSO PROVIDES AN opportunity to every single individual to foil the nefarious attempt of anti-social elements. People should expose justification or condoning of terrorism under whatever pretext by those trying to disrupt peace."

Snowfall, Colder Days May Hit Surface Traffic: MeT

Urges Farmers To Harvest Produce Prone To Such Weather Conditions
Agencies

Srinagar: Weather department on Saturday said that snowfall and low temperature during the first

week of November may lead to temporary disruption of surface transportation, mainly over Zojila and Mughal Road. "As per today's conditions, for whole 1st week of November (1-6th) weather is most likely **More on P6**

Landslide Hits Power Project Site In Kishtwar, 1 Dead

5 Injured, Many Trapped; Rescue Ops Underway
Observer News Service

One person was killed on Saturday and five are feared trapped after a landslide hit an area where labourers were constructing a link road near a power project site in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said. Five people were also injured in the incident that occurred in the Ratle area, they said. Labourers were working on the construction of a link road near the Ratle power project site and a JCB machine was digging when a big **More on P6**



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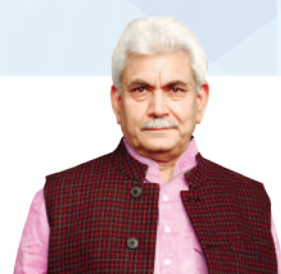


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Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



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meetings in every
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2

ZOMBIE WORLDS

Mystery Behind Five Spooky Planets Orbiting Dead Stars

The Conversation

All stars, including the Sun, have a finite lifetime. Stars shine by the process of nuclear fusion in which lighter atoms, such as hydrogen, fuse together to create heavier ones. This process releases vast quantities of energy which counteracts the ever-present inward pull of the star's gravity. Ultimately, fusion helps stars to resist gravitational collapse. This balance of forces is called "hydrostatic equilibrium". However, there will come a time when the supply of fuel in the core of a star starts to run out and it eventually dies. Stars with more than about eight times the mass of the Sun will typically burn through their fuel in less than 100 million years. Once fusion ceases, the star collapses – generating a massive instantaneous final burst of nuclear fusion which causes the star to explode as a supernova. Supernovas release enough energy to outshine the entire galaxy in which they occur. What's left afterwards are collapsed, dead stellar cores called neutron stars or, if the progenitor star was massive enough, a black hole. Any planets orbiting a star when it goes supernova would be obliterated. Mysteriously though, a handful of "zombie planets" have been detected orbiting neutron stars. And they are some of the weirdest worlds in the cosmos. Neutron stars are extremely dense, containing as much mass as the Sun squashed into a sphere only a few miles across. Some neutron stars emit beams of radio waves into space – and it is around these "pulsar" stars that planets have been found. As the pulsar spins, its radio beams sweep through space generating regular radio flashes. Pulsars were discovered in 1967 – you can listen to the sounds of the radio emission from some of them here. The regularity of these radio pulses make pulsars ideal for hunting nearby planets. If a pulsar has a planet, they will both orbit a shared gravitational centre. This means the radio emission will be periodically stretched and compressed in a predictable fashion – allowing us to detect the planet.

Phobator, Draugr and Poltergeist
Some 2,300 light years from Earth lies the pulsar PSR B1257+12. It flashes 161 times per second and has been nicknamed "Lich" after an undead creature in western folklore. It is orbited by three rocky, terrestrial planets named Phobator, Draugr and Poltergeist. These planets hold a special place in the history of astronomy, as they were the first beyond our Solar System (exoplanets) to be discovered back in 1991. A few years ago, NASA released this "zombie worlds" poster of them: Their discovery challenged ideas about planetary formation, which normally takes place as a new star forms. In contrast, these planets must have formed after the dying star's supernova. It is not yet known with certainty how this happened. Material in a disk of debris orbiting the pulsar may have coalesced into planets after the supernova. Draugr, named after an undead creature in Norse mythology, is the innermost of the three. It has about twice the mass of the Moon and is the least-massive planet currently known, orbiting Lich every 25 days. Its larger cousins, Poltergeist and Phobator, orbit every 67 and 98 days respectively, and are each about four times the mass of Earth. Pulsars have powerful magnetic fields which may allow electric currents to arc through space between the pulsar and an orbiting planet. So if any of these planets have atmospheres, they might constantly be bathed in the unearthly light of powerful aurora (similar to our northern lights). If you were to stand on the surface of one of these zombie worlds, you would see, through the powerful hue of the aurora, the incandescent Lich in the sky projecting two powerful and tightly confined beams of light outwards in opposite directions into the blackness of space.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Aditya Birla Capital COVID Scholarship for School Students 2022-23

Description: Aditya Birla Capital Foundation invites applications from Class 1 to 12 and undergraduate students to support them in continuing their education. The scholarship is meant for those students who have lost their parent(s) due to COVID-19.
Eligibility: Open for Indian students who have lost their parent(s) due to COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must be studying in Classes 1 to 12 and undergraduate (general and professional) courses. Applicants should be enrolled and continuing their education.
Prizes & Rewards: Fixed one-time scholarship up to INR 60,000
Last Date to Apply: 10-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ABCC3

Scholarship Name 2: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2022

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2022 from Class 12th passed girl students, who have secured more than 75% and whose annual family income is less than or equivalent to INR 3,20,000. The scholarship aims to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses from acclaimed universities and colleges.
Eligibility: Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to 1st year graduation programmes in professional courses from institutes of repute (NAAC/NIRF accredited) can apply. Professional courses include professional graduation courses like Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, integrated LLB, etc.
Applicants must have scored more than 75% marks in their Class 12th board examinations.
Annual family income must be INR 3,20,000 or less from all sources.
Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1.5 lakh* per year
*Disclaimer: Please note, the renewal of the scholarship



every year will be at the sole discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation

Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KKGS12

Scholarship Name 3: Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children

Description: Mahindra Finance invites applications for the 'Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children' from students belonging to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. The scholarship is meant to support underprivileged and meritorious children of drivers (all light motor vehicles and small commercial vehicles such as

Taxi, Jeep, Car & delivery vans such as Pickup, magic, school van etc) holding a valid driving license who are studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level
Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying at Class 1 to postgraduation level in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Applicants who are pursuing studies from Class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 4,00,000.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship ranging from INR 5,000 to INR 20,000 for 1 year
Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SKSP2

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Rahila Manzoor
D/o: Manzoor Ahmad Dar
R/o: Rathsun Beerwah



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2417248 Session /Year Annual / Reg. 2014
Higher Secondary School Examination (class12th)
Roll No 2419299 Session /Year Annual . 2016
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
bmg Sub Office Magam

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/133-01/2022-23 Dated: - 28-10-2022

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

| S. No | Name of Work | Name of Division | Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs) | Cost of document (In Rs.) | Earnest Money (In Rs.) | Time Allowed for completion of tender | Time and date of opening of tender | Class of Contractor |
|-------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Repair/ renovation of Quarter No 02 block-E at PHC Qammerwarai Srinagar. | PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar | 2.46 lacs | 200/- | 4920/- | 45 days | 06-11-2022 | A, B, C & D |
| 2 | Repair/ renovation of Quarter No 08 block-I at PHC Qammerwarai Srinagar. | PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar | 2.47 lacs | 200/- | 4940/- | 45 days | 06-11-2022 | A, B, C & D |

Date of Publishing 31-10-2022 at 10:00 hours.

- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1030 hours on 31-10-2022
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 01-11-2022 to 05-11-2022 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 06-11-2022 on line.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 06-11-2022 at 1100 Hrs.
- The lowest bidder i. e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).
- The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.
- Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.
- Performance Security :- In case, the successful bidder found unbalanced i.e. 15% or below the advertised cost, shall have to produce performance security @ 3% of the quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5-days after opening of price bid and shall be released after successful completion of the work. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
- The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
- Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(III).
- Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.
- All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.
- Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
- Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line.
- The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ. However, the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer Incharge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.
- In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 in vogue with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation.
- Any item of work not advertised in the rate list but found necessary during execution of work should be got approved by the competent authority before proceeding further beyond the allotment and payment for the same shall be made on sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 and LMR with contractor's overall appreciation/depreciation.

DIPK-12516/22

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2022-23/8725-32
Dated: 29-10-2022.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/Sgr.

Youth Arrested For Sexually Assaulting Minor

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said that it has arrested a person for allegedly kidnaping, and sexually assaulting a minor in Srinagar district.

Taking on to micro-blogging twitter, Srinagar Po-

lice wrote, “A minor girl of around 13 years (name withheld) was kidnapped & sexually assaulted by one Adil Shafi Hajam (21 yrs) S/o Md Shafi Hajam R/o Syed colony, Nishat. FIR No 61/22 U/s 366, 376 IPC & 3/4 POCSO Act reg. at Rajbagh PS. Special team was constituted & the accused was arrested.”

Annual Urs Of Sufi Saint Ahmad Batwari Observed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual urs of Sufi Saint Ahmad Batwari was observed on Saturday with great gaiety and fervour at Buchpora Srinagar in collaboration with Cultural Unit Kashmir, Department of Information and Public Relations.

The Sufi Saint Ahmed Batwari is well known for preaching and promoting the ideals of brotherhood through his Sufi kalaam.

The speakers on the occasion said that Sufi traditions having roots in Kashmir, have also spread to other places of the country thereby spreading the message of love and peace.

They said the best tribute to the saints would be to follow their teachings

The Sufi Saint Ahmed Batwari is well known for preaching and promoting the ideals of brotherhood through his Sufi kalaam.

of love and compassion as they spent their life for the people and worked for their welfare in this world and the hereafter.

On the occasion, thousands of devotees prayed for peace and prosperity of the whole nation.

Some prominent sufi Folk singers left the audience spellbound by presenting the Sufi Kalam of Ahmad Sahib Batwari.



Man Involved In Sacrilege Incident Arrested: Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar- A mentally unsound man, who was involved in a sacrilege incident in the Nowhatta area of Srinagar, was arrested here, police said on Saturday.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that a sacrilege incident took place in Khan Masjid Gojwara, and the whole incident was recorded on CCTV cameras.

The statement reads that as the incident caused a public outcry, Nowhatta police station under the supervision of SP North Raja Zuhaib took cognizance of the matter and multiple teams were formed to catch the culprit.

“Raids were conducted throughout the night and in the wee hours, the accused namely Irshad Ahmad Mir son of Mohd Sultan Mir of Maloora, Srinagar was arrested. A case un-

der the jurisdiction of Safakadal PS last year.

“Prima facie the accused person seems to be of unsound mind. Further investigation in the case is underway and the

Raids were conducted throughout the night and in the wee hours, the accused namely Irshad Ahmad Mir son of Mohd Sultan Mir of Maloora, Srinagar was arrested

der FIR no 100/2022 under section 153A of IPC was registered in Nowhatta PS,” it reads.

It added that during the initial investigation it came to the fore that he was involved in a similar incident earlier as well, an incident that happened

public is requested to bring to the notice of police any additional facts and also to report all such incidents,” it added.


Meanwhile, people and the local Masjid committee appreciated the police for their swift action in arresting the accused person.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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PDD: 0194-2450213
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PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

| | | |
|---|---------|-------|
|  HIJRI CALENDAR 03 Rabi ul Sani 1444 | PRAYERS | |
| | FAJR | 5:25 |
| | ZUHR | 12:15 |
| | ASR | 4:03 |
| | Magrib | 5:44 |
| | ISHA | 7: 05 |

This Day In History

- 637 - Antioch surrenders to the Muslim forces under Rashidun Caliphate after the Battle of Iron bridge
- 1137 - Battle of Rignano between Ranulf of Apulia and Roger II of Sicily.
- 1470 - Wars of the Roses: Henry VI of England returns to the English throne after Earl of Warwick defeats Yorkists in battle
- 1502 - Vasco da Gama returns to Calicut, India for the second time.
- 1697 - Germany signs French/English/Spanish/Dutch/ Brandenburgs peace treaty ending Nine Year War.
- 1739 - Great Britain declares war on Spain: War of Jenkin's Ear [NS=Oct 19]
- 1883 - Austria-Hungary, Germany and Romania sign military treaty
- 1886 - Great Britain and Germany agree boundaries in East Africa
- 1899 - Battle of Ladysmith, Natal: Boers defeat the British, leading to the Siege of Ladysmith
- 1918 - Slovakia asks for creation of Czechoslovakian state
- 1918 - WWI: Turkey signs an armistice with the Allies, agreeing to end hostilities at noon on 31 October.
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini forms government in Italy
- 1930 - Turkey & Greece sign a treaty of friendship
- 1939 - USSR & Germany agree on partitioning Poland, Adolf Hitler deports Jews
- 1944 - Sweden announces intention to stay neutral & refuse sanctuary in WW II
- 1944 - Tholen Island (Netherlands) freed during WWII
- 1956 - Israel captures Egyptian military post at El-Thamad
- 1957 - Soviet Union launches Sputnik II, carrying a dog named Laika
- 1961 - Soviet Union tests a 58 megaton hydrogen bomb named Tsar Bomba, the most powerful nuclear weapon ever detonated
- 1961 - Soviet Party Congress unanimously approves a resolution removing Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb in Red Square

From KO Archives

IAS Officer, Others Face Prosecution For Fraud

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Kashmiri officialdom was never very particular about how contemptibly low it stoops to plunder public funds, but it must have required an unusual degree of meanness to cheat backward Gujjars and Bakarwaals of their paltry government compensation for losses suffered due to hailstorms and heavy rain . In this 7-year-old case, the then deputy commissioner Pulwama -incidentally, a se-nior IAS officer - S. D. Lone; another deputy commissioner, Muhammed Akram Hajam; the then assistant commissioner -er, revenue, and presently director, land records, Srinagar, Muhammed Afzal Bhat and the then tehsildar Pulwama, Habibullah Mir, along with nearly half-a-dozen petty of-ficials of the district DCs office have been challaned by the vigilance) organisation misappropriating Rs 15 lakh which the state had sanctioned as relief to the nomads for livestock losses during natural calamities in the hilly areas of Shopy-an and Pulwama. The entire amount had been placed at the disposal of the then DC, who had been charged with the responsibility of disbursing it to the deserving members of the community after proper verification.

Vigilance investigations revealed that the officers named m the case, in collusion with four private persons (who have asked been charge sheeted had manipulated records to show that Rs 14,80,940 had been distributed among 652 members of the Gujjjar and bakarwaal community.

Sixty-two persons among the supposed beneficiaries selected at random by the VO, denied having recieved any relief, and the finger impressions on acquittance rolls did not tally with the fingerprints. Expert established that thumb impressions supposed to be the marks of 181 different recipients were in fact the thumbprints of only a few people repeated over and over on the rolls. The VO also found that recipients who were shown belonging to the Udhampur and Rajoun districts were only fictitious names and that Rs 3,75,090 were deposited with Reshi Gas Agency rather than going to a sufferer.

Having prima-facie established the officers' involve-ment in the fraud, the VO has pressed charges against them under relevant laws before the special anti -corruption court in Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, October 30, 2000)



Do Crèches' Serve The Purpose Of Child Grooming?

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Children are malleable that their core values and traits can be shaped very strongly at a young age. So, choosing a pre-school that imbibes the necessary traits and values in children helps a great deal. It helps create school ready children.

Over the years, the number of Pre-preparatory Schools or crèche's in Srinagar have registered mushroom growth. The number of children seeking admissions to these pre-preparatory schools is more than ever before. However, it is also raising questions that are crèches really contributing to the purpose of child grooming or parents are falling for what most people in the society do.

For me, sending my children to pre-preparatory school was more of a compulsion than a choice. Sometimes, handling kids becomes so difficult that one cannot give the right affection to her child. Earlier, the joint family system was prevalent and grandparents would take care of the children. In changing times, parents want to bring their children their way without the interference of others. It is part of popular culture.

Amreen Yusuf
Homemaker (Mother)

For working women, crèche's are no less than a blessing. Pre-preparatory schools prepare children for schools and provide them with a friendly environment for the same. Children take part in co-curricular activities which helps them for a better tomorrow. Moreover, people in the city have space constraints, children get addicted to mobile phones so it is better they be put in a play way atmosphere which is only available at a crèche.

Tazeem Zainab
Working Woman (Mother)

The kind of infrastructure available in creches is impossible to have at home. The child is involved in a lot of activities, some of which are done in groups which makes the child proactive. It makes a child disciplined in a way that he or she has to attend formal school tomorrow. So, in my opinion, In order to keep pace with time, children need pre-schooling so that when they enter schools they behave in a disciplined way.

Syed Ather
Banker (Father)

In contemporary times everyone is busy, my child was over active and outgoing. That was the primary reason I sent him to pre-preparatory school. But it is important to ensure that a crèche has the requisite infrastructure and properly trained teachers for the overall development of the child. One has to ensure that his or her child goes happily to the pre-primary school and he or she is not pressured to do so.

Waseem Khan
Educator (Father)

The care a mother gives to her child cannot be given by any other individual. Those who run these crèches need to understand that they are dealing with tender human brains. It needs to be ensured that these children get one to one attention which is not possible when only the commercial angle is taken into consideration.

Usually, a two year child is admitted to a crèche, it is a very sensitive age. Under normal conditions a child should not be separated from a child at a very tender age but with the change in lifestyle, it has become a compulsion.

If the family atmosphere is hostile, then crèche becomes a good choice but if the household is healthy there cannot be any parallel to that in terms of child care.

Those who work at crèches need to be trained at emotional level. The infrastructure should be up to the mark.

As far as the crèches in the city are concerned, whether they have the requisite infrastructure and trained professionals is a matter of research.

Wasim Kakroo
Child, Adolescent & Family Therapist

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Catalyst For Peace

The regional security summit of sixteen Asian nations at Almaty,Kazakhstan, ended at a very somber note after leaders of two important countries of the region refused to meet. In the wake of December 13 terrorist attacks outside the Parliament House at New Delhi the tension between India and Pakistan touched dangerous heights. More than a million soldiers armed to teeth supported by war machinery are facing each other eyeball to eyeball for over six months now. In many areas along the Line of Actual Control the two sides have been exchanging fire. Many an innocent lives have been consumed by mortars and shells along this dividing Line . The war hysteria is at its peak in the two countries and there are possibilities of war breaking out between the two hostile nuclear neighbours any time and any moment.

With the two countries poised for a war, the Almaty summit meet had provided the Asian leaders an opportunity to iron out there differences and define broader parameters for a dialogue. Hopes of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee meeting Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf were belied after Prime Minister Vajpayee publicly refused meeting Pakistan President. The two leaders despite attending the same summit failed even to exchange greetings. The stubborn attitude of leaders of the two countries has disappointed the international community. Russian President Vladimir Putin despite making all out efforts to make the two leaders of the South Asian region to talk to each other miserably failed. He exhausted all his diplomatic skills after Indian Prime Minister refused to enter into any sort of dialogue with his neighbour. The Russian President compared the prevailing situation to Cuban missile crisis of early fifties when US and Ex Soviet Union returned from the brink and resolved the most crucial issue through dialogue. There can be no denying that India and Pakistan are sitting on an active volcano, which can explode any time and bring about unimaginable devastation. The statistics published in a New Delhi weekly suggests that Pakistan has 25-50 nuclear bombs against India's 75-100. Both have very capable delivery systems. The bombs of both the countries are capable of bringing about mass destruction. The effects of a nuclear war can be far more devastating than the human mind can think off. In these wars there are no winners but only losers. The great loser is the humanity.

It is unfortunate that BJP Government has shut doors of its mind to suggestions even from Indias trusted friends. True, the United States has not been a friend of India and its offering hand of friendship at this juncture can also not be without asking for a pound of flesh. But Russia is a time tested and trusted friend. It has stood on Indian side during the most critical times. India should have welcomed the Russian Presidents offer of mediation. It is naive of Indian leadership to reject third party mediation for resolving the dispute which has remained unresolved for more than half a century now and cause of constant friction between the two. Mediations work as catalyst for bringing about lasting peace and helping in resolving most complex issues. Instead of remaining prisoner of acrimonious past with Pakistan there is need for writing a new chapter of peace and prosperity in the South Asian region.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on June 07,2002

Is Your Child Safe Within Your Safety?

Amir Suhail Wani

As for the “conspiracy of silence,” in this case, it describes our behavior to remain silent when we see child abuse happening around us. Parents have the most important role to ensure their children are not meted out with any abuse. They have to be vigilant. They do not have to ensure the safety of children only at schools and other places outside the home but they must make sure that kids are safe at their homes as well

When a mirror is presented to an individual or a society to contemplate and redress the bruises and scars veiling its face, the reaction is usually one of denial and blaming the mirror. The analogy best depicts the scenario of child abuse in Kashmir and the popular reaction to it. Despite all evidences to the contrary, people still claim Edenic innocence and challenge all the qualitative and quantitative indicators pointing to the rise and pervasion of child abuse in our society. This mode of denial in unison with lack of awareness on the intricacies of child abuse has only aggravated the problem and made its solution an inaccessible path. The lack of agencies dedicated to this cause of elimination of child abuse, the legal illiteracy, the innocence of children to recognise what is happening to them and their inability to report the same have all deepened and complicated the issue of child abuse. The present article attempts to delineate the contours of child abuse and the possible mitigation measures that can be of help in neutralising and checking the malice.

Child abuse is an umbrella term and is used to define physical, sexual and psychological maltreatment of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver. A WHO report suggests that nearly 3 in 4 children - or 300 million children - aged 2-4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers. One in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child aged 0-17 years. 120 million girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact. The dimensions of child abuse has each its subtleties, complications, complexities and a host of resolution challenges associated with it. For the fact that sexual abuse presents a salience of its own and has long term traumatizing affects, goes largely unnoticed and has consequences outscoring those of any other form of child abuse, the same has been deemed important for the present article. The abuse of children has been a phenomenon quite common in history, across geographic and class divide. “Throughout history, violence against children has been manifested in every conceivable form: physically, emotionally, neglect, sexual exploitation, and cruel labour. Esteem for children has been slow to appear in his-



tory. In the 17th century, there was a shift from communal to family groups, and the child gradually achieved a place of honour in the family. Generally, protective services have consisted of institutionalizing children or placing them in foster care. In spite of good intentions, children have suffered physical and psychological damage under this system. Increasingly laws have been enacted to limit the rights of the father to manage his children as he wills”, writes S X Rabbidill. Children are vulnerable and are left to the whims of elders/ parents/caretakers and this vulnerability and inability to understand what is happening to them leaves them shield-less against the myriad forms of violence they are exposed to.

The cases of sexual violence and abuse against the children have been on the rise and apart from statistical testimonials certifying the same, the undocumented, unreported and unrecorded horrendous stories of sexual offences against the children strike our ears regularly and with increasing frequency. The gruesome and challenging aspect of the problem has been that parents, teachers and instructors have been found perpetrating sexual offence against the children, thereby making the problem too entangled and sensitive, defying the traditional remedial approaches.

At the individual level, perpetrators of child sexual abuse have poorly developed socio-emotional skills, attitudinal and cognitive distortions, and possess similar attributes to sex offenders against adult women, namely a sense of sexual entitlement, empathy deficits, a construction of masculinity emphasizing sexual performance and dominance, and a history of childhood victimisation. At the institutional level, such as in

schools and religious institutions, child sexual abuse is more likely to be perpetrated, concealed, and to continue when there is a rigid power hierarchy, a culture of silence protecting the institution's reputation, and an absence of protective regulatory mechanisms including robust organizational policy, employee screening, codes of conduct, incident reporting processes, and staff education. At the societal level, child sexual abuse is enabled when children's rights are not recognized, laws and policies do not prohibit and prosecute sexual offending, social norms against sexual violence are weak, gender inequality persists, constructions of masculinity emphasize aggression and sexual dominance,there is ignorance about sex and sexual violence, and opinion leaders in social institutions lack the will to act. We need to get out of the “culture of denial” and shun the assumption that bad things can happen only to other people's children. It is also needed to understand that it is not always the outsiders who can harm our child's physical, social and emotional health. Family members and close relatives can also do the same. As for the “conspiracy of silence,” in this case, it describes our behavior to remain silent when we see child abuse happening around us. Parents have the most important role to ensure their children are not meted out with any abuse. They have to be vigilant. They do not have to ensure the safety of children only at schools and other places outside the home but they must make sure that kids are safe at their homes as well.

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

In a world where the millennial generation (26-41 years) accounts for around thirty per cent of the global population as of 2020, is the notion of a perceivably “lost” generation, a paradox?

Having faced multiple economic headwinds in the job market, be it a recession or the pandemic, millennials seem to have moved away from conventional lifestyles, particularly in North America and in developing South Asian countries like China and India. A shift that points to a reduced ability and/or willingness to take on significant economic and social commitments earlier in life.

In contrast to the Baby Boomers and Generation Y, millennials are more likely to define themselves as highly disciplined or disciplined financial planners. With an increasingly global mindset and factors like social responsibility, the environment and ethical choices frequently play a pivotal role in placing their money. Millennials are proving to be comfortable with cryptocurrency and point-of-sale lending alternatives.

While spending and earning styles have shifted dramatically across parents and millennials, the latter have wealth levels 34% below where they would most likely have been if the financial crisis hadn't occurred. The 2008 Recession, followed by regional political turbulences that affect the global market, and the pandemic followed by the Russia-Ukraine War have pushed most economies towards inflation or stagflation, pushing the Millennials towards being financially wary or conservative.

Millennials are starting to save for retirement earlier than previous generations. Millennials started saving at 24 years, whereas Gen X started saving at 30 and the Baby Boomers at 33. Among those saving for retirement: 48% put money into savings every month, 67% who have savings are utilizing employer-sponsored retirement plans 28% would rather work harder today and retire early, instead of working longer and having more free time now and 52% who have savings are investing in the market.

With clarity in their financial goals, the millennial workforce is actively prioritising planning for the future over non-essential buying. As per the Bank of America, 73% of millennials are actively saving. The report found that the top savings priorities for millen-

On World Savings Day
Millennials are Making Money Moves

Mahoor Shaw



nials include building an emergency fund (51%), retirement (75%), and buying a house (32%)4. Millennials are struggling more financially, than the previous generations despite reaching peak earning potential, which has impacted savings for contingencies drastically.

Against popular perception, millennials are displaying financial prudence. Ninety-five percent of Millennials report spending more time searching for savings than in prior years, via coupons, bulk deals and big discount days. A wariness exists with 72% of Millennials being significantly pessimistic about achieving financial security in

retirement, compared to 43% of Boomers.

The borrowing intent and spending pattern of India's millennials are not just recreational these days, but more responsibility driven. The eventfulness of the past three years has shifted the focus of the older millennials towards maintaining a healthy savings ratio over instant gratification and more thoughtful buying behaviour and responsible consumption patterns.

Though the saving pattern and financial prudence may vary across regions, the millennial generation with easy access to the internet displays more financial autonomy. They fearlessly have taken control of their funds and plan for their investments, loans and life decisions with great economic intuition. They may delay their larger life goals like a house, car or marriage, but go for them with better preparedness and sounder financial acumen than their parents.

They fearlessly have taken control of their funds and plan for their investments, loans and life decisions with great economic intuition. They may delay their larger life goals like a house, car or marriage, but go for them with better preparedness and sounder financial acumen

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The author is an experience curator and Digital Marketer

Imagining Band'pur Through Geography

Najam Sakib

Band'pur is a small town in the northern part of Kashmir valley, and it is a two hours drive from Srinagar. It is looked over by beautiful mountain peaks on its east and north. From south and west, Wullar lake holds it in its arms.

It is said that Band'pur is "the cradle" of knowledge, hospitality and water. However, that is a thing of the past and people who still believe this is the case are being delusional. There are multiple reasons for arguing that it is out of date to think that it continues to be the land of knowledge, hospitality and water. Geographical, political and historical reasons are all together at play here to work to the disadvantage of this place.

Let's take an imagined journey through Band'pur and an eagle's eye view, with geography taking precedence over other factors.

Locating Band'pur in Kashmir valley is similar to finding Kashmir valley in South Asia. Jehlum drains Kashmir Valley, hence a part of the Indus Basin. The Basin's mouth is at Karachi, which merges with the Arabian Sea. The Kashmir valley is in the North-East if we look at it from Karachi. Moreover, Kashmir valley would have been just another extension to the plains of Punjab if Pirpanjal mountain range had not divided it. Therefore, Kashmir valley is a trans-Pirpanjal depression in the Himalayas that only connects to mainland India and Pakistan through a couple of passes in mountain ranges. This premise gives us an idea of how the valley of Kashmir is geographically isolated, which plays an essential part in providing a distinct identity to Kashmir and its people culturally, socially and, more importantly, economically.

Looking at the map of Kash-



FOR ADMIRERS OF BEAUTY, IT MAY BE BEAUTIFUL AND IDYLIC; however, Band'pur has a disadvantageous relief that hinders the holistic prosperity of the area. As pointed out at the start, it is confined by mountains in the North and East. Undeniably then, Band'pur is sandwiched between the foothills of the Himalayas and the Wullar lake

mir valley, Band'pur falls in the same North-East, albeit the valley. Zooming down onto the Band'pur town, Wullar lake holds it on the west and south. Drawing a parallel with how the Valley of Kashmir is situated in the subcontinent — Band'pur town in Kashmir Valley follows the same geographic pattern. Therefore, Band'pur can also be identified as a trans-Wullar landmass.

For admirers of beauty, it may be beautiful and idyllic; however, Band'pur has a disadvantageous relief that hinders the holistic prosperity of the area. As pointed out at the start, it is confined by mountains in the North and East. Undeniably then, Band'pur is sandwiched between the foothills of the Himalayas and the Wullar lake. Band'pur has only two 'openings' (routes leading to Band'pur)

because one other major route stopped functioning after the ceasefire line divided the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Band'pur used to connect Kashmir valley to Gilgit-Baltistan through Burzil Pass and, therefore, used to be a vital trading part of the route connecting Kashmir Valley to Central Asia. Now, if we compare Band'pur skeletally to its adjoining towns

like Sopar and Sumbal, one observes that both the towns tend to have a structure like a spider web while Band'pur is more linear. In other words, Band'pur has less connectivity with other parts of the valley.

Picking up from what we discussed above, Band'pur is prone to receive less economic attention from people living in Band'pur and those residing outside Band'pur. Due to the amount of risk involved, there are fewer investments by people in business and entrepreneurs, which hinders the creation of new economic opportunities. People from the town and adjoining areas generally go to Srinagar and Sopar for economic opportunities and to spread their businesses.

Furthermore, and more importantly, the point to argue here is that since there is almost negligible capital in Band'pur, it lacks state-of-the-art infrastructure. The most crucial being schools. If Band'pur is "the cradle" of knowledge, where are the schools that impart education of the highest quality? Education in modern times can not only thrive on imparting it in traditional classrooms. Even if there may be new schools, the geographical jinx may not allow them to get on par with the best in the valley. The other argument may be that building a private school with state-of-the-art infrastructure requires enormous investment. Since there is no capital, who will take the initiative?

These are some musings on Band'pur — an aerial view — a scattered rambling; a well-meaning one at that. More soon.

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History Behind 'House of the Dragon'

David Routt

In three decades of teaching medieval European history, I've noticed my students are especially curious about the intersection of the stories told in class and the depictions of the Middle Ages they see in movies and television.

Judged by their historical accuracy, cinematic portrayals are a mixed bag.

However, popular fantasy, unencumbered by the competing priority of "getting it right," can, in broad strokes, reflect the values of the medieval society that inspires it.

"House of the Dragon" is one of those TV shows. A king, lacking a male heir to his throne, elevates his teenage daughter to be his named successor, and a complex dynastic drama ensues.

This storyline reflects the real obstacles facing women who aspired to exercise royal authority in medieval society.

THE QUEEN AS A CONDUIT TO POWER

George R. R. Martin, whose novels were the foundation for the HBO series "Game of Thrones," has made no secret of his inspiration for "House of the Dragon": the Anarchy, a two-decade period, from 1135 to 1154, when a man and a woman vied with each other for the English throne.

The story went like this: Henry I sired two dozen or more children out of wedlock. But with his queen, Matilda, he had only a daughter, the future "Empress" Matilda, and a son, William. With William's birth, the foremost responsibility of medieval queenship was fulfilled: There would be a male heir.

Then tragedy struck. In 1120, a drunken 17-year-old William attempted a nighttime channel crossing. When his also-inebriated helmsmen hit a rock, the prince drowned.

The queen had died two years earlier, so Henry I remarried — Adeliza of Louvain — but they had no children together. The cradle sat empty and the sands in Henry I's hourglass ran low, so he resolved that his lone legitimate child, Matilda, would have the throne as a ruling queen.

The move was unprecedented in medieval England. A queen could exert influence in her husband's physical absence or when, after a king's death, their son was a minor. Her role, moreover, as an intimate confidant and counselor could be consequential.

But a queen was not expected to swing a sword or lead troops into battle and forge the personal loyalties on which kingship rested, to say nothing of the misogyny inherent to medieval English society. The queen was the conduit through which power was transferred by marriage and childbirth, not its exclusive wielder.



VISERYS AND HENRY I SHARE THE SAME PLIGHT

A similar scenario drives the plot of "House of the Dragon." The absolute preference in the fictional kingdom Westeros for a male ruler is expressed in the series' opening scene.

The old king, having outlived his sons, empowers a council of nobles to choose his successor between two of his grandchildren, the cousins Rhaenys and Viserys. Rhaenys, a female, is the older of the two.

Yet the male Viserys becomes king and Rhaenys, "the queen who never was," later ruefully concedes that this represented "the order of things."

Once installed, however, Westeros' new king would have understood the plight of England's Henry I.

Aemma, Viserys' queen, suffers stillbirths and miscarriages and produces only a daughter, Rhaenyra. A fading hope for a son is dashed when a breached birth and a brutal Caesarian section, intended to save the child, ends up killing Aemma. The boy — the desperately desired heir — doesn't live out the day.

Sonless, Viserys' named heir is his younger brother, the debauched, sinister Daemon. When Daemon's conduct becomes intolerable, Viserys disinherits and banishes him. Left with his young daughter Rhaenyra, he decides to make her a ruling queen, a role the girl relishes as she seeks to change "the order of things."



Westeros is not 12th century England. For Martin, the author, the Anarchy does not serve to establish historical fact but is a wellspring for his creative vision. The fire-breathing dragon — that denizen of the medieval imagination — exists in Westeros. Rhaenyra's pursuit of the throne may be fraught with difficulties, but she is a dragon-rider, and dragons were the most fearsome military asset in the kingdom

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR A RULING QUEEN

The challenge for a medieval king, whether Henry I or the fictional Viserys, was to per-

suade the nobles to overcome their prejudices and not just accept but actively support a woman's ascension to power.

Henry I pursued measures to make his daughter palatable to them. Matilda, who had married the Holy Roman Emperor Henry V in 1114, returned to England a widow in 1125. Henry I, determined to forge a sacramental bond between his daughter and England's magnates, compelled his barons in 1127 to swear their support for her as his successor. Henry I then turned to arranging a marriage for Matilda so she could give birth to a grandson and buttress her position.

After Matilda's nuptials with Geoffrey, count of Anjou, the barons were summoned to renew their oath to her in 1131. A son, Henry, was born two years later, and a third pledge followed. Henry I died two years later of food poisoning after eating eels, a favorite dish of his.

The durability of his arrangements for Matilda's rise to authority was immediately tested.

Viserys in "House of the Dragon" works from a similar playbook. The worthies of Westeros vow their loyalty to Rhaenyra as royal successor. Once Rhaenyra becomes marriageable, Viserys fields a plethora of suitors for her hand. A reluctant bride, Rhaenyra finally accedes to a union in which she would "dutifully" produce a male heir but then let her heart have what it wanted.

The unfortunate result is her inability to conceive with her husband while having three sons by a lover. Her situation is further complicated by Viserys' remarriage to the

lady Alicent, who gives him sons. Dangers stalk Rhaenyra's path to power. In Westeros, as in England, a princess is expected to guard her chastity closely until marriage and, once wed, to be monogamous and not to "sully" herself in order to ensure the legitimacy of her children — a blatant double standard when noblemen frequently had children out of wedlock.

Yet even rumors of female infidelity could threaten succession. Lineage matters. Blood binds, as evident in the streams of it running from family crest to family crest in the series' opening credits.

WAR ENSUES

Did these strategies work?

Not for Matilda. Stephen of Blois, a son from the marriage of Henry I's sister Adela to a French count, aggressively registered a claim to the crown after Henry I's death. Many English magnates conveniently forgot their oaths to Matilda, and Stephen became king.

Matilda was not without supporters — her half-brother Robert, earl of Gloucester; her husband, the count of Anjou; nobles disaffected by Stephen's rule; and opportunists seeking personal gain from the conflict. Matilda resisted and the Anarchy ensued.

Forces supporting Matilda invaded England in 1139 but, save for a moment in 1141, she never ruled. She then focused instead on elevating her son to the crown.

Prosecution of the war ultimately passed to the young Henry. His mounting military successes jogged the barons' memory of their past commitments, and the contending parties reached a settlement. Henry would succeed Stephen. With Stephen's death, Henry became Henry II. England wouldn't have another ruling queen until the ascension of Queen Mary I in 1553, nearly four centuries later.

BUT WHAT OF RHAENYRA?

Westeros is not 12th century England. For Martin, the author, the Anarchy does not serve to establish historical fact but is a wellspring for his creative vision. The fire-breathing dragon — that denizen of the medieval imagination — exists in Westeros. Rhaenyra's pursuit of the throne may be fraught with difficulties, but she is a dragon-rider, and dragons were the most fearsome military asset in the kingdom.

This makes her dangerous in a way Matilda of England could hardly have conceived. Nonetheless, "House of the Dragon," through the lens of fantasy, reflects a slice of the English medieval experience.

By arrangements with The Conversation

HC allows custody of 16-yr-old Muslim girl to husband

Press Trust of India

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has allowed the custody of a 16-year-old girl to her husband while reiterating that a Muslim aged 15 and above can marry a person of her choice and such a marriage will not be void.

A Bench of Justice Vikas Bahl heard a habeas corpus petition of Javed (26), seeking custody of his 16-year-old wife who was kept at a children's home in Haryana's Panchkula.

The petitioner had stated that at the time of their marriage, his wife was more than 16 years of age and the marriage was performed out of their free will and without any pressure.

The petitioner through his counsel had submitted that both were Muslims and they performed 'Nikah' on July 27 at a mosque in Mani Majra here.

The petitioner's counsel, while relying upon the judgment of a coordinate Bench of the High Court in Yunus Khan vs State of Haryana case, argued that the custody of the girl should be handed over to the petitioner.

However, the state's counsel had opposed the petition and submitted that she was a minor, therefore, she was being kept at Ashiana Home.

The state's counsel had prayed for the dismissal of the petition.

While going through

the judgment in the Yunus Khan case, the judge in his September 30 order said its perusal "would show that a coordinate Bench of this court in the above said judgment had observed that the marriage of a Muslim girl continues to be governed by the personal law of Muslims."

The court said the HC Bench had "relied upon the principles of Mohammedan Law" and after considering the same, it has been observed that "15 years is the age of puberty of a Muslim female and on her own willingness and consent, after attaining puberty can marry a person of her choice".

"Such a marriage would not be void in terms of Section 12 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006," the court said.

"The law laid down in the above said judgment would apply to the facts of the present case," said the Judge in his order.

The judge then allowed the handing over the custody of the girl to the petitioner.

"Keeping in view the above said facts and circumstances and law laid down in the above said judgments, the present petition is allowed and the incharge, Ashiana, Sector 16, Panchkula, is directed to hand over the custody of the detainee, as mentioned in the headline of the present petition, to the petitioner," the order said.

36 cases of XBB subvariant of Omicron found in Maharashtra so far; experts worry about 'long COVID'

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: The number of cases of XBB subvariant of Omicron in Maharashtra has reached 36, the health department said on Saturday, adding that in most of these cases patients recovered in home isolation.

The experts on the state government's COVID-19 Task Force, however, expressed concern about rising cases of 'long COVID' at a recent meeting, it said.

Pune district has reported 21 XBB cases to date, followed by 10 in Thane, two in Nagpur and one each in Akola, Amravati and Raigad.

Two of the XBB patients were in the 11-20 age group, 13 in the 21-40 segment, 14 in the 41-60 category and seven were over 60. The patients comprised 22 males and 14 females.

"Nine of the 36 patients had some symptoms, while others displayed mild symptoms or were asymptomatic.

Nagarnar Steel Plant Commissions Coke Oven Battery No.1



Observer News Service

Nagarnar: NMDC's Nagarnar Steel Plant inched closer to its commissioning today when Somnath Nandi, Director Technical, NMDC commissioned Coke Battery No.1 in the presence of K Praveen Kumar, ED Incharge, Nagarnar Steel Plant and other senior officials.

The first batch of coke was discharged this afternoon paving the way for sequential commissioning of subsequent key units.

Nagarnar Steel Plant being a greenfield integrated steel plant, several major units need to be commissioned sequentially so that their interdependence can be established smoothly.

Battery No. 2 is due for commissioning in the next few days and the process will eventually culminate in the commissioning of the Hot Strip Mill and Thin Slab Caster in the coming months. Nagarnar Steel Plant aims to produce 2.89 million tonnes of high quality HR Coils, Plates and Sheets annually, using state of the art technology and achieving the highest level of energy efficiency.

Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC appreciating the collective effort described the development as "an important day in the

history of Nagarnar Steel Plant and a significant milestone in commissioning of 3 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant".

He exhorted the Collective to, "put all-round sincere efforts as a team to achieve the final milestone of commissioning the Plant". Commenting on the achievement, Somnath Nandi, Director Technical, NMDC said, "This is the first major step towards commissioning of the steel plant. Today's development inspires confidence that we will soon fulfil the dream of a steel plant in Bastar."

Mr. Praveen Kumar, ED Incharge, Nagarnar Steel Plant highlighted that these eco-friendly coke oven batteries will produce coking coal without releasing any toxic fumes. He referred to today's commission as 'a validation of the team's commitment' and expressed confidence that the steel plant commissioning will also follow soon hereafter.

The annual metallurgical coke production capacity of Nagarnar Steel Plant's Coke Oven Complex is 1.76 million tonnes, when fully operational. Constructed at a cost of Rs.1978 crore, the Project executed by a consortium comprising of BEC (Bhilai), M/s Giproskoks (GPK) of Ukraine,

M/s CUI and M/s Concord.

The Coke Oven Complex consists of 2 batteries of which Battery No. 1 was commissioned yesterday. Each battery has 67 ovens that are 7 metre tall and a Coke Dry Cooling Plants (CDCP) which will ensure dry quenching of coke using nitrogen. This effectively protects against pollution and also helps in utilising the heat to generate power.

When fully functional, Nagarnar Steel Plant has the capability to generate in-house 80MW of power of its total requirement of about 296 MW

By-Product Plant also Commissioned

By-product plant, a critical unit that is intrinsically linked to Coke Oven, was also commissioned. This is an absolute prerequisite for starting a coke oven battery because all toxic elements produced during the coke making process are captured, treated and commercialized by the By-product Plant. This unit effectively aids pollution free coke production by extracting Tar, Napthalene, Sulphur and Ammonia as by-products. M/s Hutni of Czechoslovakia is the technology provider.

UN probe demanded in killing of Pak journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya

Press Trust of India

Islamabad: Salman Iqbal, a prominent Pakistani media personality and businessman has demanded a probe by the UN into the killing of journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya as he does not have faith in the investigation carried out by the current PML-N government.

Sharif, 49, fled Pakistan in August for the UAE and later went to Kenya where he was killed on Sunday night. The Kenyan police later said it was a case of mistaken identity during a search for a similar car involved in a child abduction case.

Salman Iqbal, the President and CEO of ARY Digital Network as well as having multiple businesses, was associated with his channel and it is alleged that he asked Sharif to flee the country and also persuaded him to go to Kenya.

Iqbal issued a statement on Twitter on Friday after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah levelled allegations against him during his press conference and demanded that he should be brought back from the UAE for the probe.

It has been stated that I should be included in the investigation into the killing of Arshad. I do not believe in the independence of the investigation being undertaken by

the present (Pakistan Muslim League (N) PML-N government but will answer any questions put to me.

I am calling for an independent investigation overseen by the UN Human Rights Office, and will of course provide my full cooperation to any such investigation seeking to get to the full truth behind the killing of Arshad Sharif with a view to bringing those responsible to justice, he said.

He said that it was not easy to be a journalist in Pakistan and there were threats to Sharif.

We knew that threats to Sharif's life were legitimate. He repeatedly appealed in writing to all relevant sectors of government for protection. Instead of receiving help, he was targeted with cases of sedition, multiple FIRs and arrest warrants, which compelled him to make the difficult choice to leave Pakistan, he said.

Iqbal condemned the smear campaign against him by the incumbent government.

Sharif, a senior journalist and former ARY News anchor was killed in Kenya where he was living in self-exile. A seasoned journalist, he was one of Pakistan's top news anchors.

His death has created a storm in Pakistan where allegations are being traded among politicians, apparently to gain political mileage.

Delhi AIIMS to replace parking stickers with RFID tags from Apr 2023, install GPS in electric shuttles

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: All parking stickers issued by AIIMS here will become invalid from April 1, 2023 and be replaced with RFID tags, while all electric shuttles will be fitted with GPS, according to a new traffic circulation plan issued by the hospital.

Electric shuttles are used to transport patients and their attendants across the All India Institute of Medical Sciences campus.

According to an office memorandum (OM) issued on October 27, AIIMS Director Dr M Srinivas recently took rounds of the East Ansari Nagar and Masjid Moth campuses

and noted that there is a lot of traffic congestion, unauthorised parking and lack of internal transport facilities for patients and their attendants.

"Private and public vehicles are noted to be using AIIMS as a thoroughfare at high speed which is causing discomfort to wheelchair-bound patients and pedestrians and is also leading to increased pollution levels within the campus.

"Also, in the absence of access control, such thoroughfare is posing a risk for students residing in girls and boys hostels and is also leading to penetration of anti-social elements in the premises," the OM stated.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Vested Interest

to isolate individuals spreading hatred and inciting violence. People want development, prosperity for the society and a better future for the country. Those with vested interest are rattled by overall transformation in the Union Territory and fast-paced socio-economic growth," the LG said.

Sinha made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting to review the progress and further action plan for saturation of deliverables during the ongoing Back to Village programme, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, termed Back to Village programme as a celebration of inclusive development, Jan Bhagidari and public awareness.

"It is a unique and ambitious exercise of taking government to the doorsteps of people," the LG said.

"Back to Village also provides an opportunity to every single individual to foil the nefarious attempt of anti-social elements. People should expose justification or condoning of terrorism under whatever pretext by those trying to disrupt peace," he added.

The spokesperson said that the LG highlighted the role of the people, public representatives, and government departments in the peace and development process.

Sinha, he said, also asserted that it is not just the Police and Security forces' responsibility to establish peace but also the prime objective of every stakeholder of the community as well as those in the civil administration to ensure all sections of society enjoy the fruits of development.

On being briefed about the targets aimed to be achieved during the ongoing Back to Village programme, the LG, as per the spokesperson, directed the Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to ensure saturation of all deliverables.

'People First' should be the spirit of the Back to Village programme. It is the administration's responsibility to watch over the interests of the common man and help them to prosper. Officers on the ground must establish close interaction and cooperation with the people as well PRIs, monitor quality of delivery of public services

and bottlenecks in the field to be assessed," Sinha told the officers.

"It is our aim to saturate the deliverables, identify gaps and take immediate corrective measures. The effective implementation of initiatives under the Back to Village will strengthen the economic growth and social change," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, further stated that the administration's focus is on Youth, Skill Development, Self-Employment, Strengthening of PRIs, Nasha-Mukt Panchayat, 100% saturation of welfare schemes for sustainable and inclusive development.

He further said that the LG directed the visiting officers to identify the youth for Self-employment and Skill development programmes as per their abilities.

Sinha, as per the spokesperson, called for taking on board private and government banks for providing financial assistance to youth for Self-employment, besides asking the IT department to create awareness among youth about the online gaming, cyber & information security threats.

On the sidelines of the meetings, the spokesperson said, the LG took stock of the situation of Lumpy skin disease in the UT and directed for intensifying fogging and vaccination activities, especially in rural areas.

Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary to the Government, Information Department briefed the meeting about the action-oriented deliverables for the fourth edition of Back to Village.

Over 25,000 government employees at all levels will participate including 4,500 gazetted officers who will be deployed to Panchayats. Around 15-18 lakh people are expected to participate in the Back to Village-IV. Target has been set to issue 2 to 2.50 lakh certificates under various services. As many as One lakh Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards and around 10 lakh land passbooks to be issued.

60,000 to 65,000 Youth (15 youth per panchayat) for self employment assistance and One lakh youth (20 youth from every panchayat) for skill training to be identified.

The performances of visiting officers to be evaluated and ranking of

departments will be done on the basis of feedback received from the people. Data of the Back to Village-IV will be digitized, it was informed.

It's Our Commitment

to encourage common man to participate in the governance process. Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with the people during this month's "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing here at Civil Secretariat, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, took first hand appraisal of the grievances of randomly selected applicants of JK-IGRAMS from across the UT and issued on spot directions to the concerned officials for taking prompt action.

"We have made significant progress in addressing people's concerns, and need to work as a cohesive unit to sustain and build upon all that we have achieved," the LG said, while reiterating the government's commitment to serve all equally.

"The expectations of the people have grown immensely as a result of socio-economic success and a responsive service delivery system. It is also our responsibility to encourage common man to participate in the governance process," the LG added.

During the programme, the spokesperson said that the LG issued on spot directions to officials for taking prompt action to resolve public grievances

Addressing the grievance of Rattan Lal from Jammu regarding the dilapidated condition of a Government Middle School building, the LG, he said, directed the School Education Department to conduct a survey of the status of school buildings. Directions were passed to Deputy Commissioners to take up unsafe school buildings on priority in District Plans.

"Timely redressal of grievance is an important instrument for initiating and managing social change," the LG said.

On the complaint of Mohd Yosuf Mir from Budgam regarding land dispute and encroachment of land,

the spokesperson said that the LG instructed the concerned Deputy Commissioner to personally look into the issue and make necessary intervention.

"A complainant namely Rameez Ahmad Mir from Ganderbal drew the attention of the authorities to the under construction bridge at Shilvat-Guzhama Ganderbal. Principal Secretary to the Government Public Works (R&B) Department informed the chair that the project is currently under procedural process," he said.

The spokesperson further said that the LG took assessment of the progress made on JK-IGRAMS and directed for monitoring of grievance disposal at all levels.

Sinha, he said, also asked the officers to put special focus on the issuance of certificates, sanctioning of benefits under various schemes; resolving grievances with regard to development projects; uploading Action Taken Report; satisfactory disposal of grievances and clear response by the department.

HC Reopens Nadimarg

videoconferencing and shall ensure expeditious proceedings so as to conclude the matter at the earliest."

According to the prosecution, the witnesses had migrated out of Kashmir Valley and they were reluctant to depose before the trial court at Shopian in view of the threat perception.

On August 25 this year, the high court had recalled its 21 December 2011 order by virtue of which it had upheld the 9 February 2011 order by Principal Sessions Judge Shopian.

The then State government had also filed a petition in 2011 before the High Court under 561-A, seeking its directions under inherent powers for fresh trial of the case or in the alternative transfer of the case to any court of competent jurisdiction at Jammu so that statements of all the migrated witnesses available in the winter capital can be recorded without any fear. However, this petition was dismissed by the court.

The police have filed challan against seven accused persons initially before the Court of Principal Sessions Judge Pulwama in connection with FIR No. 24/2003 for offences under Sections 302, 450, 395, 307, 120-B, 326, 427 RPC, 7/27 Arms Act and Section 30 of Police Act. It was later transferred to the Court of Principal Sessions Judge, Shopian, upon the creation of the Court. (GNS)

Snowfall, Colder

to remain generally cloudy with possibility of light to moderate rain/snowfall over middle and higher reaches of J&K at scattered places of J&K (forecast confidence >75%), a meteorological department official said here.

He said during the period, there will be "drastic fall" in day temperature and there days will be colder.

Regarding probable impacts, he said, "Snowfall and low temperature may lead to temporary disruption of surface transportation, mainly over Zojila, Mughal Road, Sadnatop, etc."

The weather department also reiterated advisory to farmers and urged them to harvest their agricultural produce, fruits etc. which are prone to snowfall and low temperature.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 2.6°C against 3.5°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.2°C below normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 2.2°C against 2.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was below 0.4°C than the normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 0.9°C against minus 0.9°C on the previous night and it was 0.4°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 5.2°C against 4.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.2°C against 1.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north

Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 1.6°C against 2.2°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 16.0 against 14.6°C on the previous night. It was 0.1°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 4.6°C (below normal by 0.3°C), Batote 7.6°C (0.3°C below normal), Katra 13.7°C (above normal by 0.6°C) and Bhabdarwah 5.6°C (above normal by 1.0°C). (GNS)

Landslide Hits

boulder rolled down, trapping the workers, Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Devansh Yadav said.

A rescue operation was launched immediately and five people were pulled out from the debris and taken to the hospital. One person died in the incident, he said.

Five people are still feared trapped under the debris. Army, police and administration are carrying out the rescue operation, Yadav said.

Earlier, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh also said that a rescue team of about six people also got trapped under the debris.

"Spoke to DC Kishtwar, J&K on receiving the report of a fatal landslide at the site of the under-construction Ratle Power Project. JCB driver unfortunately died. A rescue team of about six persons, deputed to the site after the incident, has also got trapped under the debris," Singh posted on his official Twitter handle.

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also expressed anguish over the incident and said that district administration has been directed to provide all necessary assistance.

"Deeply anguished by mishap at Drabshalla-Ratle hydroelectric project. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. Prayers for early recovery of injured. Army, SDRF & police are carrying out rescue operations. Dist Admin directed to provide all necessary assistance," Sinha Tweeted. (With PTI inputs)

LG Inaugurates 31st Senior National Wushu C'ship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: LG Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 31st Senior National Wushu Championship in Srinagar on Saturday. As many as 1500 athletes from 45 associations across the country are participating in this aspirational mega sporting event.

The LG also dedicated the newly constructed Wushu Academy to the talented youth of J&K on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the LG said the Wushu National Championship being held at Srinagar reflects the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and provides a great opportunity for people to showcase and share the culture and heritage of J&K.

"J&K has now emerged as one of the top sporting UTs in India and many talented Wushu players have established themselves as a powerful contender at the world stage," the LG added.

Emphasising that sports is the powerful instrument of hope, unity and symbol of a vibrant and progressive society, the LG said it gives a new aim, new hope to the society and nurtures aspirations of the young generation.

Sports contribute to social change and create new heroes. J&K is witnessing exceptional transformation and extraordinary efforts of sportspersons, coaches full of promise and possibilities, he added.

The LG said that J&K is now continuously hosting National and International championships in

different disciplines of sports. The Sports Council selects new talents in a transparent manner and gives emphasis to their training and coaching. Today Sports is the priority of the government, he added.

Access to play, opportunity to hone one's skills and energy is what builds the talent of the future and it is our commitment to support deserving talents, the LG further said.

The National event will be another big step for the promotion of sports in the region. It will improve the performance of the Wushu players of Jammu and Kashmir and will certainly offer new opportunities to realise their true potential, he added.

The LG lauded young talents like Munazah Gazi and Sadia Tariq who brought laurels to the nation and complimented Abhishek Singh Jamwal, Abhijit Singh, Pan-kaj Raina, Ishant Singh, Owais, Pratham Singh and Dronacharya Awardee Coach Kuldeep Handoo for winning 6 medals in Wushu for Jammu and Kashmir in the National Games held in Gujarat.

Bhupendra Singh Bajwa, President of the Wushu Association of India, highlighted the significant role of J&K in promoting and taking Wushu to new heights.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council in her welcome address expressed gratitude for providing continuous support and assistance for promoting sports in J&K.

40000 sportspersons are being trained in the discipline of Wushu in J&K, it was informed.

T20 WORLD CUP

NZ Win Big Against SL

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Glenn Phillips rode his luck to smash a special hundred as New Zealand put their poor start behind to register a crucial 65-run win over Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup, here on Saturday.

New Zealand found themselves tottering at 15 for three inside the powerplay before Phillips (104 off 64) shared an 84-run stand with Daryl Mitchell (22 off 24) to stabilise the innings.

The 25-year-old, who was dropped twice including early on in his innings, played some sensational strokes en route to his second T20 hundred. His knock comprised four sixes and 10 boundaries.



Sri Lanka too lost early wickets but, unlike New Zealand, could not recover from there to end at 102 all out in 19.2 overs.

Trent Boult caused the maximum damage with the new ball and ended up with career-best figures of four for 13 in four overs.

It was New Zealand's second win in three games, with their previous game against Afghanistan being a total washout. The semifinal passage gets a lot tougher for Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka, who suffered their second loss in three games.

Qatar Evicts 100s Of Migrant Workers As World Cup Looms

Agencies

DOHA: Qatari authorities have evicted hundreds of migrant workers from buildings in central Doha, casting a new shadow over the countdown to the World Cup, residents and workers said Saturday.

Municipal workers and security guards moved into about 12 buildings late on Wednesday to clear and lock them, according to local residents, ahead of the tournament that kicks off on November 20.

The government said the buildings were "uninhabitable", proper notice was given, and that alternative "safe and appropriate accommodation" had been found for all evictees.



The affected area, largely around Al-Mansoura, has been massively redeveloped in recent years and some World Cup fans will stay in apartments in the district, where dozens of mechanical diggers are parked in the streets.

In the early hours of Saturday, Yunus, a Bangladeshi driver, slept on the back of his flat-bed truck on a street in Al Mansoura, three nights after being forced out of one block. Yunus said it was the third time he had been forced to move in three years. (AFP)

Inter District Kabaddi C'ship Ends At Pahalgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Provincial Level Inter District Kabaddi tournament for All Age Groups (AAG) boys concluded on Saturday at Pahalgam with Baramulla lifting the overall trophy.

Chairman District Development Council Anantnag was the chief guest at the final ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the efforts of the department for providing sports facilities to the budding youth. He also laid stress on the involvement of more and more youth in sports activities. He also threw light on the ill effects of drugs and advised the participants to stay away from drugs. Later a presentation ceremony was held at which the chief guest distrib-

uted the prizes among the three position holders.

Final match was played between district Baramulla and district Srinagar. In a close contest, district Baramulla emerged as winners, Srinagar bagged the 2nd position while as District Bandipora settled at third position.

Among others who were present on the occasion included District Youth services and Sports Officer Anantnag Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori, staff members of Higher secondary School Pahalgam, members of the activity section, technical officials and good numbers of students.

The competition was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag.

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR
BANK OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**
(Constituent unit of AIJKBOF and Affiliated to AIBOA)
M A LINK ROAD SRINAGAR KASHMIR

CONDOLENCE

The membership is deeply saddened on sudden demise of our colleague Mr Riyaz Ahmad Bhat Manager at branch office Qasba Hyhama Kupwara who left for his eternal journey to hereafter on 28/10/2022. The undersigned on behalf of JKBOA Kashmir pay heartfelt condolences to bereaved family and patience in this time of distrust, praying for the eternal solace and highest place in Jannah.

Mohammad Nayeem Rather
Asstt Gen Sectt

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the Go...



**Bun
Maska**



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