

## Power Discourse Shifts To Climate Change As Kashmir Braces For Winter

Auqib Javed

**Srinagar:** Come winter, Kashmir valley is once again witnessing power outage with officials maintaining that the situation might go bad to worse, if people don't use electricity judiciously.

Complaints are pouring in from the rural and urban areas of the valley that the Power Development Department (PDD) has failed to provide adequate electricity amid the dip in temperature.

The situation is equally bad for both metered as well as the unmetered areas.

"The unscheduled power cuts are taking a toll on students, patients and the business community," Shakeel Ahmad, a resident of HMT Srinagar said, adding that "even if we clear the electricity bills timely, we don't get the adequate power supply."

However the top officials of Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) maintain that they have increased the power supply to 1600 megawatts but the demand has increased as the winter is approaching.

"Since people use a lot of electronic gadgets in the valley



to beat the cold, the demand has increased," Chief Engineer KPDCL, Javed Yousuf Dar told

**THE WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE COMING** days and also since the winter is approaching, the load has increased but we are trying our best to provide adequate power supply."

Kashmir Observer.

Then where is the problem? A junior engineer from the KPDCL told Kashmir Observer that the Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to generate around 20,000 megawatts of hydel power but generates only around 1200 megawatts.

"But in winters the UT is able to generate only 300 MW of electricity against the demand of over 1800 MW's," he said.

The officials blame rainfall deficit and the melting of glaciers as the reason for less generation of electricity.

"Since there was less rainfall

and the glaciers melt very fast in summers only, we are unable to generate the power," he added.

According to the meteorological department, the Union Territory recorded -40.92 percent less rainfall than normal this year.

The data available with Kashmir Observer reveals that almost all the districts recorded less rainfall.

The data shows that the Jammu region received just 2.1 mm of rain this year, as compared to 66 mm in the past. Similarly, Srinagar—the summer capital, received just 21.3 mm of rainfall against 117.6 mm that it | **More on P10**

## J&K Braces Up For 3-Day Wet Spell

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The weather department Friday issued a yellow warning, predicting light to moderate rain and snow in middle and higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the light wet spell is also expected in the plains of the Union Territory from November 5-7.

"There is a possibility of light rains and snow in the plains of Kashmir while moderate rain or snow is expected in the middle and higher reaches of the Valley from November 05-07," Deputy Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said Friday.

He said that the yellow warning has been issued by the department as the wet spell could lead to the slippery condition of the roads and other related issues.

Ahmad further said that the weather conditions would start gradually improving from November 07 late afternoon. However, he said that as per the forecast another two-day light wet spell is expected on November 09-10, adding that there is no forecast of heavy snowfall in the coming days.

MeT Deputy Director also said that the maximum temperature would go down by some degrees while there is a possibility of a rise in the minimum temperature from tomorrow.

The advisory issued by the MeT has said that the snowfall and the low temperature may lead to the temporary disruption of the surface transport, mainly over Zojilla, Sinthan Top, Mughal Road and other areas.

Pertinently, the weatherman had predicted frequent wet spells from November 01 in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that back to back Western Disturbances are affecting the Union Territory from the first week of November.

## 'J&K People Faced Healthcare Neglect For 63 Years'

# AIIMS Kashmir To Be Made Functional Next Year: LG

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday said that AIIMS at Jammu is fully functional while the one at Awantipora in Pulwama district will be made functional next year.

"Till 2014, there were only three medical colleges in J&K, but with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's interest, seven new medical colleges were sanctioned. The AIIMS in Jammu is fully functional and the one coming up at Awantipora will be made functional next year," the LG said

The LG made these remarks during the inauguration of 'Jashn-e-Sehat', two-day health conclave to celebrate people's right to health and deliberate challenges and future roadmap for better health services delivery, here at Convention Centre, an official spokesperson said Friday.

Sinha said that the people in the erstwhile state faced persistent neglect of healthcare for almost 63 years, while the Prime Minister established a resilient health system and provided health assurance to all.

"A more happier and productive society is our prime objective. I believe public health is fundamental to stable



socio-economic growth. Prudent policy followed by robust implementation helped us to fill gaps in health care capacities and eradicate inequality between rich and poor," Sinha said.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also maintained that while many developed nations are mulling over Universal health coverage, PM Narendra Modi has ensured equal access to health services without financial hardship.

"For almost 67 years, people of J&K faced persistent neglect of healthcare. There was no government health insurance scheme. Prime Minister established a resilient | **More on P10**



A farmer picks up saffron flowers from his field in Pampore area in the South of Kashmir. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## ED Attaches Shabir Shah's House Under PMLA

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate on Friday said it has attached Jammu and Kashmir separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah's Srinagar house as part of a money laundering probe linked to a case of fuelling terror activities in the union territory.

The house, worth Rs 21.80 lakh, is located in Botshah colony, Sanat Nagar, in Srinagar's Barzulla police station area, officials said.

The money laundering case against Shah stems from a FIR filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in May 2017 against Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed and others under various sections of the Unlawful Activities



Prevention Act (UAPA).

"Shabir Ahmad Shah was actively involved in the activities of fuelling unrest in Kashmir valley by way of stone pelting, processions, protests, bandhs, hartals and

other subversive activities.

"He was involved in receiving funds from terrorist organisation Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and other outfits based in Pakistan as well as from | **More on P10**

## JKSSB To Conduct CBT For Posts Of JE Civil, SI In Dec

### Issues Notification, Says Final Dates Of Examination To Be Notified Separately

AGENCIES

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (SSB) has announced the conduct of the Computer Based Test (CBT) for the posts of Junior Engineer, Civil (Jal Shakti Department) & Sub Inspector, Police (Home Department) tentatively in the month of December this year.

Notably, the recruitment process for the posts were earlier cancelled by the government after the allegations of irregularities in the selection process and also ordered a CBI probe into the recruitment process.

"JKSSB is going to conduct the Computer Based Test (CBT) for the posts of Junior Engineer, Civil (Jal Shakti Department) & Sub Inspector, Police (Home Department) tentatively in the

month of December, 2022," JKSSB Official tweeted.

The JKSSB in a notification, said that it is hereby notified for the information of aspirants/candidates that the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) is going to conduct Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for the posts of Junior Engineer (Civil) (Jal Shakti Department) and Sub Inspector (Home Department). "All such candidates who have applied for the said posts, are accordingly informed to participate in the Written Examination. The syllabus for the above posts has been notified by the Board earlier," it said.

The notification added that this is an advance notice for information of concerned candidates. "The final dates of examination, | **More on P10**

## Meets Kin Of Slain KP Villager

**J**ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday met the family members of Puran Krishan Bhat who was gunned down by militants in South Kashmir's Shopian district. Bhat was killed on October 15 outside his ancestral house in the Chowdhary Gund area of Shopian where he had gone to look after his orchards. Flanked by Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh, L-G Sinha, visited the house of Bhat at Muthi in Jammu and offered his condolences to his wife Sweety Bhat and children Shriya and Shanu. | **More on P10**

**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND IS NOT JUST A MANTRA** for me but it is also my commitment to the people. Public well-being is always at the center of our policies and our spending on health programs has risen as compared to many developed and bigger states."

### S H O R T T A K E S

#### Falling Boulder Kills Mother-Daughter

**A** woman and her minor daughter died on Friday after a big boulder following a landslide hit their house in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The incident took place in Dooner area of Baffiaz on DKG road at around 5.50 am, they said.

The 48 Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army and the police along with locals immediately launched a rescue operation, they said.

According to officials, the boulder caused extensive damage to the house and four injured people were rushed to the sub | **More on P10**

#### Biker Arrested Over 'Scary' Silencer

**A**youth was arrested on Friday for using a modified silencer to scare people, especially girls in north Kashmir's Baramulla town. Earlier, video of a few bikers went viral in which a biker was seen scaring a group of girls while honking near them in Baramulla town.

A police official said that with reference to video of bike antics, the police detained the accused who was using a modified silencer to scare people, especially girls, on road sides. The police identified the youth as Aamir Bashir Gojree, a resident of Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla.

"Action under law | **More on P10**

#### Woman Injured In Mine Blast Along LoC

**A** 32-year-old woman was injured in a landmine blast along the Line of Control in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, official sources said.

They said the woman, Saleema Begum wife of Abdul Rasheed Khatana, was injured near Chruna Uri. She has left foot injury and the incident happened while she was collecting woods from nearby forest area.

She was imitated shifted to SDH Uri for treatment where from she was later shifted to GMC Baramulla for further treatment, they said.

A police official told a local news agency GNS that | **More on P10**

#### Missing Mother-Child Recovered

**J**ammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed to have recovered a mother-child duo from Rajasthan, a week after they went missing.

"On 29-10-2022 Police station Budgam received a written complaint from one Ali Mohammad Dar resident of Chandpora Budgam stating therein that his sister and her daughter aged 02 years went missing since 27-10-2022," a police spokesman said.

Upon this information, a missing report was registered at Police Station Budgam and search initiated, police said, adding | **More on P10**

#### Notorious Drug Peddler Held In Budgam

**J**ammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a notorious drug peddler from Budgam and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

"A Police party of PP Soibugh during patrolling at Warpora Soibugh, intercepted a suspicious person who on seeing police party tried to flee from the spot but police party apprehended him tactfully," a police spokesman said. The police identified the accused as Zahid Ahmad Rather son of Gh Nabi Rather resident of | **More on P10**

#### Fair Price Shops Inspected In Sumbal

**I**n order to monitor functioning of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs), Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Dr Bashir Lone Friday visited Fair Price Shops at Sumbal.

During the visit, the SDM checked the FPSs to oversee their functioning and to ensure conformity of norms by the dealers meant for delivery of food grains, under Public Distribution System (PDS).

The visit was conducted in compliance with the directions of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Department of Food and Public Distribution, GoI, under the celebrations of | **More on P10**



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## Scientists Find Evidence Of 'Substantial' Transmission Of Monkeypox Even Before Symptoms Appear

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have found evidence to show that the monkeypox virus can spread from an infected person up to four days before they even start exhibiting symptoms of the disease, a new study has claimed.

The researchers behind the study estimated that 53 per cent of the transmission of monkeypox occurred in this pre-symptomatic phase, meaning that many infections cannot be prevented by asking individuals to isolate after they notice their symptoms.

According to them, if these findings published in the British Medical Journal are supported by other studies, pre-symptomatic transmission "would have important implications for infection control globally".

While previous research on pox viruses did not rule out transmission prior to symptoms, this work represents the first evidence to support this. To explore this further, researchers at the United Kingdom Health Security Agency set out to analyse the transmission dynamics of the monkeypox outbreak in the country, the study said.

The two main measures of in-

terest to the researchers were serial interval the time from symptom onset in the primary case patient to symptom onset in the secondary contact and incubation period the time from exposure to onset of symptoms.

mean incubation period was estimated to be 7.6 days in one model and 7.8 days in the other model, while the estimated mean serial interval was eight days in one model and 9.5 days in the other.

For both models, the median serial interval was between 0.3 and 1.7 days shorter than the median incubation period, indicating that considerable transmission is occurring before the appearance or detection of symptoms.

Their findings are based on routine surveillance and contact-tracing data for 2,746 individuals who tested positive for the monkeypox virus in the UK between May 6 and August 1, 2022. Their average age was 38 years and 95 per cent of them reported being gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men, the study mentioned.

To estimate the above values, the scientists linked information on exposure and symptom onset dates from these individuals to their contacts through contact-tracing case questionnaires, which they then analysed using two statistical models.



models were adjusted for several biases common to virus outbreaks, such as changes in infection rates over time, that would otherwise affect the results.

Analysis of individual-level patient data, collected from a subset of patients with more detailed information, seemed to confirm this explanation, with 10 out of 13 case-contact patient pairs reporting pre-symptomatic transmission. Four days was the maximum time that transmission was detected before symptoms appeared.

Based on these results, the researchers say an isolation period of 16 to 23 days would be required

to detect 95 per cent of people with a potential infection.

These are observational findings, and the researchers point to several limitations, such as relying on contact tracing to identify the correct case-contact pairs and the self-reported data on the date of symptom onset. Further, the results may not necessarily be directly applicable to other populations with different transmission patterns.

Nevertheless, this was a large study using robust methods and adjusting for key biases that are present in the data, providing greater confidence in the conclusions.

These findings have impor-

tant implications for isolation and contact-tracing policies, the researchers said, adding that backward contact-tracing strategies (tracing from whom disease spreads) should account for a pre-symptomatic infectious period when trying to find the contacts of confirmed cases.

In a linked editorial, researchers based in the US, UK, and Nigeria argued that pre-exposure vaccination and vaccine equity are urgently needed worldwide.

Vaccination is likely to be more cost-effective than managing the consequences of preventable infections, including hospital admissions, loss of income during isolation, and long-term complications, they explained.

However, they pointed out that many of the public health measures that have been critical during monkeypox outbreaks in high-income countries remain unavailable in much of Africa.

"As the monkeypox outbreak declines in Europe and North America, we have a responsibility to deploy effective tools for viral control on a global level not just in wealthy nations," the researchers said. "These tools include research into understanding transmission dynamics in African settings and the inclusion of endemic countries in vaccine trials."

## Why Booking Travel On Your Phone Is A Bad Idea

Associated Press

Since the first iPhone launched 15 years ago, consumer shopping habits have slowly but relentlessly shifted toward mobile devices.

According to a survey of 3,250 US consumers from Pymnts.com, a website dedicated to analysing the role of payments in new tech, the majority of travel service purchases (51.4 per cent) were made on a mobile device in February 2022.

The trend is even starker among younger shoppers. About 48 per cent of millennials ages 25-40 prefer using mobile phones for online shopping, compared with only 34 per cent of all shoppers globally, according to a 2021 survey of 13,000 shoppers from Klarna, an online payment company.

So, it seems that shopping for travel on an old-fashioned computer will eventually go the way of the horse and buggy. Indeed, some travel shopping services, such as the travel search engine Hopper, offer only in-app shopping for certain bookings, leaving

diminishes and sometimes reverses.

Anyone who has shopped for airfare on a budget airline such as Spirit or Frontier knows exactly how this drip pricing plays out. Yet what surprised Santana and her colleagues was how unwilling customers were to compare alternatives, even after the final price had risen.

Consumers perceive high search costs associated with starting their decision process over, and they think they will save less money than they actually will, Santana said.

Basically, shoppers tend to get to the final checkout screen and grudgingly accept whatever fees have been added on. They assume it will be too much hassle to start over and find another option, even if doing so would save them money.

THE WRONG TOOL FOR THE JOB

Shopping on mobile devices is quick and easy for simple purchases, like ordering cat food or paying a bill. Yet shopping for travel is far from simple, and it usually requires switching between several tabs and apps to find the best deal.



desktop users high and dry.

However, while buying a flight on a phone is more convenient, it could be more costly.

**WATCH OUT FOR DRIP PRICING**

The rise in mobile shopping in the past decade has coincided with a sea change in how travel brands earn revenue. Add-on fees, including baggage and seat selection fees on flights and cleaning and resort fees with lodging, have become more common and pricey.

US airlines collected USD 5.3 billion in baggage fees alone in 2021, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

However, a 2021 study in the journal Marketing Science found that shoppers tend to make suboptimal decisions under these drip pricing situations, that is, when hidden fees are tacked on throughout the checkout process.

Shoppers tend to compare initial prices across competitors, which are low, rather than the higher final price.

When firms employ a drip pricing strategy, the initial price is almost always lower than a competitor's all-in price, said Shelle Santana, assistant professor of marketing at Bentley University and one of the study's authors, in an email interview.

But once they start to add on amenities such as a checked bag, seat options, etc., that difference in price across firms

Consider the common decision of whether to purchase a flight with either cash or reward miles. This involves several steps. First, you'll need to search on the airline app or website for award availability, likely while switching to a personal calendar to check dates.

Then, you'll search on a third-party flight tool, such as Google Flights, for estimated cash fares before determining the value of the redemption in miles versus dollars.

Once you've determined the best option, you'll then need to navigate through the entire checkout process from both cash and award flight options to determine the true final price.

Maybe some fleet-fingered Gen Zers can manage this task on a mobile device. But for many, it's too daunting.

Indeed, a 2018 study in the journal of Marketing followed nearly a million sessions on a shopping website and found that shoppers who switched from a phone to computer completed their transactions at a higher conversion rate.

Interestingly, this higher conversion rate effect was even more true for higher priced or risky products.

So, even if you like scrolling for flights on your phone, or if you feel overwhelmed by the mobile-based options, follow the advice of the experts who prefer booking travel which can be both expensive and risky using a computer.



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Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department(IAPMD)

Zonal Office Srinagar

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## Possession Notice

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

Whereas Mr. Asif Rasool Kanue as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 26.08.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely 1. Mst. Jabeena Afroz W/O Late Afroz Hussain Wani R/O Abu Bakar Lane, Azad Colony, 90 Ft Road, Saura (Legal heir of deceased borrower and mortgagor) 2. Mr. Mujtaba Afroz Wani S/O Late Afroz Hussain Wani R/O Abu Bakar Lane, Azad Colony, 90 Ft Road, Saura (Legal heir of deceased Borrower and Mortgagor) 3. Mr. Falak Afroz Wani D/O Late Afroz Hussain Wani R/O R/O Abu Bakar Lane, Azad Colony, 90 Ft Road, Saura (Legal heir of deceased Borrower and Mortgagor) to repay an amount of Rs.6,16,32,500.08 (Rupees Six Crores Sixteen Lacs Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Paise Eight) being the balance outstanding as on 31.07.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October of the year 2022.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.6,30,33,933.08 (Rupees Six Crores, Thirty Lacs Thirty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Three and Paise Eight Only) together with future interest thereon from 30.10.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred. The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of the Immovable Property**

Mortgage of residential house with attic along with a piece of land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 1 (one) Kanal 14 ½ Marlas falling under Khastha No.224 min and 712 min, Khata No.22 min and Khawat No.12 min situated in Estate Owanto Bhawan, Tehsil and District Srinagar, standing in the name of Afroz Hussain Wani (deceased).

Dated: 29-10-2022  
Place: Srinagar  
Ref. No. JKB/ZOKC/IAPM/SRFS/2022-

DIPK-NB-4768/22

Hakim Shabir Abbasi  
Authorized Officer

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (E-NIT)

Tender Reference No: 114 of 2022

Dated: 03-11-2022

Managing Director, JKHPMC Ltd., invites e-Tenders under "Double Cover System" on "Turn-Key Basis" from Registered Firms/Companies/Agencies for the "Empanelment of Agency (for a period of one year) for Construction of Tube Wells on Annual Rate Contract basis". The Bidding Documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, BOQ, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 04-11-2022 to 17-11-2022.

The Critical Details of the e-Tender under reference are as follows:

CRITICAL DETAILS

Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) NON-REFUNDABLE (Only to be deposited in JKHPMC's Bank Account Online)
Date of up-load of e-tender	04-11-2022
Last Date of Online Bid submission	17-11-2022
Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	19-11-2022
Bid Validity	90 Days from the time of Opening of Bids
Period of Contract	One (01) Year

DIPK-NB-4760/22

No: JKHPMC/MD/22/2988  
Dt: 04/11/2022

Sd/-  
Managing Director  
JKHPMC

## KAZMI FAMILY BEREAVED



*Surely we belong to Allah and to him shall we return,*

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Syed Muzaffar Hussain Kazmi S/o Late Syed Ali Shah who left for heavenly abode in Tehran, Iran. May almighty Allah grant Jannat ul Firdous to the departed soul. Fateh-khwani for departed soul will be held on 6th November, 2022 (Sunday) from 10 am onwards at the residence of Syed Sajad Hussain, Al-Hijaz lane, Opposite Police Post Qamarwari Srinagar.

**Bereaved**  
**Syed Sajad Kazmi,**  
**Family & Friends**

SS

## University of Kashmir, Srinagar

### Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Younis Bashir  
Parentage: Bashir Ahmad  
R/o: Radbugh Magam  
Registration No: 2693-BRU-2011  
Certificate(s) lost : Marks Cards B.E 2nd and 4th Semester



Roll No(s) 2431/4277 Session / Year Annual 2012/ May 2014 Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled No: F(Duplicate/ ) KU

Assistant Controller  
of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof)



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CULTURE**  
**BTI SECTION**

## Financial Assistance for the Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of Himalayas

Ministry of Culture invites applications in the prescribed format under the said Scheme for the year 2022-23 from Voluntary Organizations registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) or similar Act. The Organization against which previous grant/Utilization Certificate under this scheme is pending will not be considered for fresh grant. The application in the prescribed format complete in all respect, duly spiral bound and continuously page numbered, alongwith check-list duly recommended should reach the Section Officer, BTI Section, Ministry of Culture, 2nd Floor, Puratatav Bhawan, D Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 by 31.12.2022.

2. The organization shall also submit the requisite documents such as (i) Bond, (ii) Resolution, (iii) Bank Authorization letter and (iv) Agency registration form alongwith the application form. The details of the scheme and application form may be downloaded from Ministry of Culture website [www.indiaculture.nic.in](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in).

3. The organization should register their society on the Website of Niti Ayog i.e "http://niti.gov.in/content/ngo-darpan" for obtaining Unique ID, if not registered earlier. The organization should also link their bank account number with PAN Card. The Unique ID of Niti Ayog and PFMS User ID is mandatory.

CBC- 09101/11/0022/2223



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## SCREENING NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned who have applied for the post of **Principal cum Professor (Nursing)**, advertised vide Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2022 dated: 20-07-2022, that the Preliminary Screening Report is available on the University website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in).

Deficient documents and objections, if any, in this regard shall have to be submitted in the office of Registrar, IUST upto **10-11-2022** along with documentary proof of their claim. Thereafter, no claim / objection whatsoever shall be entertained.

No. IUST/Reg/Adm/E/22/270

Dated: 03-11-2022 **DIPK-NB-4748/22**

Sd/-  
Registrar



## Vigilance Awareness Programme Held At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A mega vigilance awareness programme was held at the University of Kashmir on Friday as part of the countrywide observance of the Vigilance Awareness Week.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan chaired the inaugural session as chief guest, while AIG, Anti-Corruption Bureau Headquarters Abdul Waheed Shah was a guest of honor and SSP ACB Srinagar Zahoor Ahmad was a special guest.

The programme was jointly organized by the varsity's Office of NSS and Departmental Vigilance Office in collaboration with the SBG Branch of the ACB.

In her presidential address, Prof Nilofer said corruption is a major obstacle to the economic and social progress of the country and there is a need to work together to eradicate this menace.

She said the University of Kashmir, being a premier institution of higher learning in the country, is fully conscious of its responsibility to function in the most transparent manner in strict adherence to the transparency norms.

Complementing the organizers for holding the important programme, Prof Nilofer

said such events must be a continuous exercise to educate different stakeholders on deleterious impacts of corruption on the nation's progress.

In his special address, Abdul Waheed Shah highlighted the genesis of observing the Vigilance Awareness Week every year from October 31 to November 6.

"With this programme, we want to send out the message that we all need to collectively fight corruption in all its forms and manifestations, whether it's collusive, coercive or systematic corruption if we have to see our nation progress and develop," Waheed said, asserting that while ACB is on the forefront of fight against corruption, "the society on the whole has to come forward to eliminate this scourge."

KU Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir discussed in detail the functioning of the University and its various units in accordance with the set codal procedures governing infrastructure development, procurements and release of bills. Mir assured the University's full support to such awareness programmes and also thanked the ACB for organizing the current programme at the University of Kashmir.

## NIT Scholar Selected For TEEP At Taiwan University

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Ph.D. scholar at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been selected for a prestigious internship at the International program, Taiwan Education experience program (TEEP) at National Taiwan University for a period of six months.

Mr. Nisar Rana, Ph.D. scholar at the Department of Physics, NIT Srinagar. He will work on the development of phosphors materials for solid-state lighting applications.

Rana is currently working with Prof. Seemin Rubab and Dr. Vijay Kumar. His research interests are mainly photoluminescence spectroscopy and its applicability towards display device applications, and LED fabrication.

Director NIT, Prof. (Dr.), Rakesh Sehgal extended his greetings to Ph.D. scholar Nisar Rana for bagging the prestigious internship and hoped that he would justify the fellowship with a quality research outcome.

"It is a proud movement for the entire Institute. Research is important and vital for any engineering institution. Without research and investigation, there will be no progress and we cannot stay relevant in a competitive market," he said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari extended his greetings to the Ph.D. scholar. He said this prestigious internship will provide him with exposure and would fulfill his professional aspirations.

Prof. Bukhari said there is no dearth of talent among the NIT Srinagar students, they need guidance at right time.

To support students on campus, we have developed state-of-the-art facilities for research and will continue to expand our activities in future, he said.

Head Department of Physics, Dr M.A. Shah also congratulated Mr. Rana for bagging the prestigious fellowship.

"This program enables the students to gain firsthand experience in academic research and education," he said.

## Dr Qazi Mudasar Awarded By GARC

Agencies

Srinagar: Dr. Qazi Mudasar from Central Veterinary Hospital Srinagar has been awarded internationally by Global Alliance for Rabies Control, a US & UK based alliance for Rabies Control.

GARC is dedicated to eliminating rabies in both humans and animals in support of the global goal to end deaths due to canine-transmitted rabies by 2030. Its mission is to prevent human rabies deaths, and to relieve the burden of rabies in other animal populations, especially dogs. It is dedicated to eliminating rabies in both humans and animals.

Dr. Qazi Mudasar reported that incidence of Rabies in animals has been reduced to almost nil in Kashmir valley by educating masses regarding the role of prophylactic and

post bite anti-rabies vaccination in animals.

Further, making people aware regarding the behaviour of canines and keeping the provision of food & shelter for strays has definitely helped better community relationships between humans and dogs.

Directorate of Animal Husbandry Kashmir under the guidance of Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Production Department Jammu & Kashmir has kept various medicines, vaccinations in the Veterinary Hospitals on subsidized rates so that every animal owner can afford treatment and care for their animals.

The department has also kept provision for free treatment of stray and destitute ownerless animals, who are in dire need of help and treatment.(KNO)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Peer Mohammad Mousab S/O Peer Masood Ahmad Cheshi R/O Hyder Colony Janglaat Mandi Anantnag applied for renewal of my existing passport issued by Regional passport office Srinagar under passport number K0679801. My name in the existing passport is mentioned as Mohammad Mousab. Now, I want to change the name to Peer Mohammad Mousab in the new passport as per my records. Also the name of my mother in the existing passport is mentioned as Zahida Akhter. Now I want to incorporate name of my mother in the new passport as Syed Zahida Akhter as per the records available. Any objection to these changes may be brought to the notice of Regional Passport officer Srinagar (RPO Srinagar) within seven (07) days from the publication of this notice.  
Date: 04-11-2022



## Defunct Traffic Lights Lead To Traffic Snarls In City

KO City Correspondent

Srinagar: Months after being installed at multiple locations across the city, the traffic lights are yet to be made functional.

Experts say, the Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS) is yet to be made operational and is one of the main reasons for traffic jams in the city.

The authorities have installed traffic lights at dozens of locations including Zakura, Dalgate, Lal Chowk, Batamaloo, Hawal, Lal Bazar, Bota Kadal, Hyderpora, Hazratbal and many other junctions across the city.

Alleging official apathy,

commuters say they are at the receiving end and they have to spend a lot of time in traffic jams.

"Authorities have installed traffic lights at many places in Srinagar but are yet to be made operational. Government should prioritize operationalizing traffic lights" said Syed Mehran, a commuter.

"I think it will play an important role in reducing traffic jams" he added.

However, authorities say they are doing their bit to streamline the traffic.

A senior Traffic Official attributed traffic jams in the city to a number of reasons. "Many roads in the city, in and around

the city Centre have been dug up in the city for Smart City Projects which hampers smooth flow of traffic. Moreover, with days getting shorter, people go back to their homes earlier which results in more traffic snarls" he said.

Few months earlier, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan had said that the Municipality had handed over the ATCS to the concerned department. However, months on, traffic lights are still dysfunctional in the city. Despite repeated attempts he did not respond to phone calls.

## Youth With Psychological Issues Successfully Treated By SUKOON Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Each passing day at Sukoon Mental Health Helpline centre touches new success, as the counselors and experts render emphatic guidance, counseling and advice to those people seeking help to recover from psychological issues and abstain from substance abuse.

The Incharge of SUKOON centre, Tahir Ahmad Magrey on Friday informed that more than 400 calls were received in last month during which callers held telephonic conversation with the counselors to receive remedial assistance.

Out of those individuals,

**More than 400 calls were received in last month during which callers held telephonic conversation with the counselors to receive remedial assistance**

more than 60 callers have been perfectly treated till date who recuperated from various issues including depression, negative thoughts, trauma etc while substance victims were also helped to quit the abuse and were rehabilitated, he added.

Remaining individuals are

also being treated who are at different stages of treatment, Magrey said.

A youngster in his early twenties while talking about the Sukoon and improvement of his health said that he was suffering from depression for a couple of years and was yearning for normal life but failed to get such motivation and help. But after Divisional Administration Kashmir took this initiative of free counseling and upon contacting the professional team, he said that he got huge support.

It has been a month now that I have come out of depression which has changed my entire lifestyle and I am living a refined life, he said with satisfaction.

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 09 Rabi ul Sani 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:30
	ZUHR	12:15
	ASR	3:58
	Magrib	5:38
	ISHA	7: 01

## This Day In History

- 1556 - Akbar (14) succeeds his father Humajun as Sultan of Delhi
- 1556 - Battle at Panipat: Mogollegers beat hindu leader Hemu
- 1605 - Gunpowder Plot: Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up King James I and the British Parliament. Plot discovered, Guy Fawkes caught, tortured and later executed along with seven others.
- 1678 - Brandenburgse troops occupy Greifswald in Sweden
- 1725 - Spain & Austria sign secret treaty
- 1757 - Battle at Rossbach (7 year war/French & Indian War)
- 1838 - Honduras declares independence of Central American Federation
- 1862 - Battle at Barbee's Crossroads, Virginia: 51 casualties
- 1873 - Due to the fallout from the Pacific Scandal, John A. Macdonald resigns as Prime Minister of Canada
- 1881 - French government-Ferry resigns
- 188 - 1,600 police and volunteers attack Mori settlement at Parihaka in western Taranaki which had become the symbol of protest against the confiscation of M ori land, New Zealand
- 1900 - Under US military control since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Cuba now calls its own constitutional convention
- 1911 - Italy attacks Turkish North-Africa (Libya), takes Tripoli & Cyrenaica
- 1912 - Democrat candidate Woodrow Wilson is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican incumbent William Howard Taft and Progressive candidate Theodore Roosevelt
- 1913 - Ludwig III crowned king of Bavaria
- 1914 - Britain declares war on Turkey and annexes Cyprus, occupied since 1878; the immediate reason is to keep it from being taken by Turkey
- 1916 - Emperors Wilhelm II (Germany) and Franz Jozef I (Austria-Hungary) establish the kingdom of Poland
- 1916 - Second Chamber accept initial impetus to general males/female suffrage
- 1916 - The Everett Massacre takes place in Everett, Washington as political differences lead to a shoot-out between IWW organizers and local police.
- 1917 - Gen Pershing & US troops see action on Western Front for 1st time
- 1921 - Soviet Russia signs a treaty with Mongolia, temporarily supporting the new government against China and Japanese incursions
- 1925 - Mussolini disbands Italian socialist parties
- 1930 - Nobel for literature awarded to Sinclair Lewis for "Babbitt"
- 1933 - Spanish Basques vote for autonomy
- 1937 - Adolf Hitler informs his military leaders in a secret meeting of his intentions of going to war
- 1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States for an unprecedented third term, defeating Republican candidate Wendell Willkie
- 1941 - Japanese naval staff officers Suzuki and Maejima leave Pearl Harbor.

*From KO Archives*

## Zindabad, Murdabad

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR- That the killing of Agha Syed Mahdi had touched a raw nerve was more than manifest in the slogans raised by thousands of mourners who flocked to Budgam today to attend his funeral, presenting in a microcosm the bewilderment Kashmiris are going through. The zindabads were reserved for Islam and Hussainiyat .The other slogans heard were Pakistan hai hai, Hurriet Conference murdabad, National, Conference murdabaad, STF murdabaad,etc,etc.  
(Kashmir Observer, November 05, 2000)

## Israel Launches New Airstrikes On Gaza As Far-Right Sweeps Election Results

Agencies

Israeli jets launched several airstrikes against the Gaza Strip early on 4 November, allegedly targeting the positions of a Palestinian resistance group.

Tel Aviv says the attack came in retaliation to rockets launched from the besieged enclave towards adjacent Israeli settlements on Thursday night.

"The strike was carried out in response to launches from Gazan territory to Israeli territory earlier this evening," the Israeli army said in a statement.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The impoverished Gaza Strip is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, and has been under a criminal Israeli blockade since 2007, when Hamas took control of the enclave, away from the Ramallah-based Fatah.

Friday's airstrikes on what many consider to be the world's largest open-air prison are the first since August, when Tel Aviv launched a three-day bombing campaign that left 48 Palestinians dead, including 17 children.

The violence flared just a few hours after outgoing Prime Minister Yair Lapid conceded defeat to

far-right leader Benjamin Netanyahu following Tuesday's elections.

"I wish Netanyahu success for the sake of the people of Israel and the State of Israel ... [I have] instructed all branches of the Prime Minister's Office to prepare an orderly transfer of power," Lapid tweeted late on 3 November.

The August airstrikes on Gaza were reportedly an attempt by Lapid to show off his "strength" ahead of this week's elections. At the time, the self-proclaimed "centrist" said he had no intention of apologizing for the murder of innocent women and children.

Control of Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories now falls to a far-right coalition led by racist and Jewish supremacist figures like Itamar Ben Gvir, who Netanyahu has said is likely to be named interior minister.

"The time has come to impose order here. The time has come for there to be a landlord," Ben Gvir tweeted on Thursday.

Nonetheless, his ascension to power comes alongside reports that senior US officials are "unwilling" to cooperate with the extremist settler who once belonged to Kach — a Jewish militant group listed on Israeli and US terrorist watchlists.

## Raisi reminds Biden: 'Iran was freed 43 years ago'

Agencies

**TEHRAN:** Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took aim at comments made by his US counterpart, Joe Biden, who on Thursday vowed to "free Iran."

"I was informed a few hours ago that the President of the United States has uttered some words meant to distract, he said [the US] are aiming to free Iran," Raisi told supporters on Friday, before reminding the embattled US leader that "Iran was freed 43 years ago and is determined not to be occupied by you."

"We will never be your dairy cow," the Iranian president fired back against Biden's interventionist threats.

"The United States, which supports ISIS and other terrorist groups, shows itself as a protector of human rights," Raisi added, before noting that the Islamic Republic has witnessed what Washington has done in Afghanistan and Syria "in the name of freedom."

"The Iranian people will not be captive as they were in the time of the Shah, and will remain steadfast in the face of [the enemy's plots]."

Tens of thousands of Iranians took to the streets on Friday to commemorate the US embassy takeover and the official "National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance."



Friday's pro-government demonstrations stood in stark contrast to the wave of street protests and violent riots that have gripped Iran since mid-September — sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini — and which authorities claim are being fueled by foreign powers in a bid to destabilize the country.

The protests have left many dead and injured, and thousands more have been detained. While Tehran has failed to make public an updated number of casualties, US-based HRANA news agency claims that as many as 300 protesters have been killed and over 14,000 have been arrested.

HRANA is the media arm of the Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRAI) group, which receives funding from the US National Endowment for Democracy (NED) — a CIA soft power front that has for decades funded regime-change efforts across the globe.

## Imran Khan's Shooting Has Grim Echoes Of 2007 Benazir Bhutto Assassination

Agencies

**WAZIRABAD:** For days, Imran Khan's slow-moving "long march" rally has been a hive of activity with reporters and aides swarming Pakistan's former prime minister as he delivered speeches to thousands of supporters.

But on Friday morning, the modified shipping container he would often stand atop was a blood-splattered, bullet-pierced husk — a reminder of Pakistan's sinister political violence.

"This is a horrible tradition that we have," lamented local businessman Osman Butt, who witnessed Thursday's attack on Khan.

Khan was hit in the leg and at least 10 others wounded when a gunman sprayed a salvo from the kerbside.

The shooting has grim echoes of the brutal 2007 assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, killed in a suicide attack as she rallied from a vehicle roof hatch in the city of Rawalpindi.

She had already survived an earlier attack on her motorcade months earlier.

Seventy year-old Khan was not seriously wounded and was able to acknowledge his devoted supporters as he was

taken to hospital.

"Imran came out of the container after a while and made the victory sign, asking us to have confidence and be patient," said 28 year-old witness Muhammad Usman, torn between pride and worry.

In the wake of the attack in the eastern city of Wazirabad — where Khan's march on the capital demanding snap elec-



tions ground to a halt — teenage boys tore around the city on motorbikes trailing fluttering party flags.

They chanted: "Long live Imran Khan!" above the whine of their engines.

Doctors in Lahore say Khan is

recovering well, and an aide said he was expected to be released from hospital later Friday.

Marked man

Pakistan has been riven by decades of militant violence and politicians are often in the cross-hairs of assassination attempts.

Khan's team has warned his life is in danger since he was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April.

## The Impact Of Imran Khan's Shooting On Pakistan's Army, Economy

Agencies

Since his ouster as Prime Minister in April, Imran Khan has embarked on a risky campaign to rally public support against prominent generals who lead Pakistan's most powerful institution. An attempt to kill him on Thursday dramatically raises the stakes for both sides.

Khan, 70, was in stable condition after being shot in the leg while leading a march toward the capital Islamabad to demand an early national election, which isn't due until later next year. His party immediately put the blame on his successor, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as well as an official in the Inter-Services Intelligence, or ISI, which oversees Pakistan's internal security.

Sharif quickly condemned the shooting, which killed one person and injured seven others, and offered assistance to local authorities leading the

investigation. But an outpouring of sympathy for Khan in cities around the country and on social media is only set to put more pressure on the prime minister and the military, which has directly ruled Pakistan for almost half of the period since the country's independence from Britain in 1947.

"It could get quite bloody," said Anit Mukherjee, an associate professor at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies who researches civilian-military relations in South Asia. "There is anger among the supporters of Imran Khan, who would then try to take it out on the establishment."

Khan has shown no sign of backing down as he looks to regain power in the world's fifth-most populous nation, and the shooting is only likely to sharpen his attacks on top generals he blames for orchestrating his ouster. The former cricket star has seen success

rallying the masses to his side, winning key by-elections last month despite facing a range of legal cases that could see him disqualified from standing in the next national vote and possibly put behind bars.

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'Mazel Tov My Friend'

## PM Modi Greets Israel's Netanyahu



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated Benjamin Netanyahu for his success in the Israeli general elections and said he looks forward to continuing their joint efforts to deepen the India-Israel strategic partnership.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid Thursday conceded defeat in the general elections and congratulated opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, whose coalition of right-wing parties secured a comfortable majority in parliament to form the next government and end the political impasse plaguing the country.

"Mazel Tov my friend @netan-

yahu for your electoral success. I look forward to continuing our joint efforts to deepen the India-Israel strategic partnership," Prime Minister Modi said in a tweet.

PM Modi also thanked Yair Lapid for giving priority to the India-Israel strategic partnership.

"I hope to continue our fruitful exchange of ideas for the mutual benefit of our peoples," Narendra Modi said.

PM Modi also put out tweets in Hebrew with the same message.

With 99 per cent of the ballots counted, the Netanyahu-led right-wing bloc has taken a comfortable lead with 64 seats in the 120-member Knesset, paving the way for his triumphant return to power.

## Prophet Remark Row: All Cases Against BJP Leader Transferred To Delhi Police

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday directed that all FIRs against expelled BJP leader Naveen Kumar Jindal lodged across the country in connection with his alleged derogatory remarks against Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) be transferred to Delhi Police.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and MM Sundresh also extended interim protection to Mr Jindal till the probe is concluded by Delhi police.

The Supreme Court allowed Mr Jindal to move Delhi High Court for quashing of FIRs lodged over his alleged remarks and said all future FIRs would also be transferred to Delhi Police for investigation.

"All FIRs to be transferred to Delhi Police IFSO Unit. No precipitative action or further FIRs against the accused for eight weeks so he can pursue his appropriate remedy before the Delhi High Court," the bench said.

The court had earlier provid-



ed similar relief to suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma in connection with FIRs/complaints lodged against her in several states over her remarks on the Prophet during a TV debate.

It had said the FIRs would be probed by the Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Delhi Police.

Ms Sharma's remark on the Prophet (Pbuh) during a TV debate had triggered protests across the country and drew sharp reactions from many Gulf countries. The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party.

## NEWS MAKERS

## Pope Francis Arrives In Bahrain And Calls For Respect For Human Rights

Agencies

On 3 November, Pope Francis arrived in Bahrain, kicking off his four-day trip. In his first speech, he urged the country's authorities to respect human rights, end discrimination based on religion or sex, and eliminate the death penalty, in addition to asking for decent working conditions for immigrants, according to EFE.

After his meeting with King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Pope Francis recalled that the Constitution of the country establishes that "there must be no discrimination based on sex, origin, language, religion or creed", and that "freedom of conscience is absolute" and that "the State protects the inviolability of worship."

During his visit to the country, numerous NGOs, activists, and citizens of the Shiite community asked the Pope to press for tolerance and dialogue in the Arab kingdom, denouncing numerous cases of torture, repression, and imprisonment of opponents for political or religious reasons, according to AP.

In Bahrain, the majority of its approximately 1.4 million inhabitants are Shiites, but its government is led by an absolute Sunni monarchy, close to Saudi Arabia.

In addition, although without citing the death penalty



applied in Bahrain, Francis referred to the need "to defend the right to life, in the need to guarantee it always, also in relation to those who are punished, whose existence cannot be eliminated."

On 21 October, a report that came out entitled "You Can't Say Bahrain is a Democracy: Bahrain's Political Isolation Laws" highlights Bahrain's use of po-

litical isolation in 2018, by preventing political opponents and activists from serving on boards of civil institutions and running for parliament seats.

The report sheds light on how the Bahraini government targets marginalized opposition figures in social, political, civic, and economic sectors, most of whom have their civil rights violated, and stresses that Ma-

nama should repeal its political isolation laws, ending practices that violate human rights.

These practices include Bahraini courts and authorities denying legal counsel to political opponents that can be convicted without viable evidence or cause, which has resulted in the government neglecting the political and civil rights of Bahraini citizens.

## From Imran Khan's Ex Wife Jemima, A Message To The Man Who Foiled Attack

Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** Jemima Goldsmith, the ex-wife of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, praised the man who foiled the attack on the former Prime Minister during the party's long march in Gujranwala and expressed relief after Dr Faisal Sultan said that the PTI Chairman's condition is stable.

After the announcement of Imran Khan being safe and stable following the "assassination attempt," Ms Goldsmith took to Twitter and conveyed their sons' gratitude to the man who caught the attacker.

"The news we dread... Thank God he's okay. And thank you from his sons to the heroic man in the crowd who tackled the gunman," she tweeted.

In a series of tweets, the ex-wife of Imran Khan praises the young man who scuttles the assassinator's plan.

She also praised another man who died while saving the PTI Chief and conveyed her condolences to his family.

"Another hero, who tried to stop the gunman, who very sadly didn't survive. Condolences to his family," Imran Khan's ex-wife tweeted.

## Jailed TMC Leader Wins I Cr Lottery, CBI Probing

Press Trust of India

**BOLPUR (WEST BENGAL):** Officials of the CBI on Friday visited a lottery shop in Bengal's Birbhum district, where jailed TMC leader Anubrata Mondal had bagged a prize of ₹1 crore and sought details of the ticket he had bought.

A senior official of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said the officials spoke to the owner of the shop in Bolpur and other persons employed there, he said.

"We sought details of the ticket on which Mondal won the cash prize of ₹1 crore. As they could not provide us with the details, we asked them to visit our office in Bolpur with all information," the official told PTI.



Anubrata Mondal was arrested by the CBI in August in connection with its probe into a cattle smuggling case.

A source close to him revealed that Mondal had earlier this year won ₹1 crore on a lottery ticket, which was reportedly purchased by his bodyguards on his request.

Asked what could be the con-

nection between Mondal winning the lottery to the cattle smuggling case, the CBI officer said that the agency suspects that proceeds earned from the "crime" was "actually diverted to the lottery business to make black money white".

"There are high chances that the black money earned from cattle smuggling was used in the lottery business. We are investigating the matter. We are talking to several people," the CBI officer said.

Mondal's daughter Sukanya was questioned by an Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing the money trail in the cattle smuggling case, at its Delhi headquarters on Wednesday.

## 300 New Skill Courses Introduced For Tribal Students: TRI

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Department of Tribal Affairs J&K has added more than 300 new courses covering management, soft skills, robotics, data analytics, block chain, artificial intelligence, aviation, coding and other various courses, under Skill Development Training Programme.

This was stated by the team of Officers/Officials of Tribal Research Institute (Tribal Affairs Department J&K) during one day Awareness cum Training Programme held at Boys Higher Secondary School Ganderbal.

Speaking in the awareness camp Javid Ahmad Parry (Coordinator/Nodal Officer) of Tribal Affairs Department said that the Department has launched various special Scholarship Schemes to benefit the Scheduled Tribe (ST) students of the J&K UT for pursuing different degrees and courses.

He also informed that for the first time the Department has distributed 800 Smart Tabs among the various Tribal students who are pursuing their studies in different Educational Institutions.

Coordinator TRI informed the participants that in a significant move the Department has increased the scholarship in Group A courses from existing Rs 30,000/annum from 2011-12 to Rs 72,000/annum including Rs 12,000 allowances. The scholarship for Group B courses

stagnated at Rs 20,000/annum since 2011-12 has now been enhanced to Rs 53,200/annum including Rs 8,200 as allowances. In Group C courses the scholarship has been enhanced from Rs 18,000 to Rs 41,700 and in Group D courses.

He also stated that the aim of these awareness camps is only that more and more ST students can be educated by these types of programmes/ training camps to avail the benefits of the Scholarship Schemes implemented by the Department of Tribal Affairs.

The Convener of the programme, Reyaz Ahmad Shah gave a brief introduction of the Department and the Schemes being implemented by the Department.

The Technical team of TRI (Department of Tribal Affairs J&K) briefed the ZEO's Principals, Head Masters and Institutional Nodal Officer (INO's) of National Scholarship Portal about the different aspects, criteria, guidelines of these Scholarship Schemes and also provided on the spot trainings among the participants regarding National Scholarship Portal.

The camp was also attended by the Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Abdul Majeed Kohli; Deputy CEO Ganderbal, Nazir Ahmad Wani; Principal Govt. BHSS Ganderbal, Ghulam Hassan Bhat; Warden G&B/ST Hostel Srinagar, Naseem Ahmad Choudhary and teachers of different Schools.

## J&K Needs Politics Of Inclusivity, Hope: Sajad Lone

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Over two dozen prominent NC and PDP workers from Kupwara on Friday joined the Peoples Conference during a public meeting in Hyhama.

The new entrants were welcomed by PC President Sajad Gani Lone, a statement issued here said.

Among those who joined the party include Nasir Ali Khan, Afridi Nazir Ahmed Khan, Sunaulah Mir, Ghulam Mohd Mir, Asmat Ali Khan, Ghulam Nabi Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Ghulam Hassan Khan, Masrat Begum, Farooq Ahmed Khan, Khalida Begum, Zakir Hussain Khan, Abdul Rashid Khan, Haji, Mohammad Sultan, Abdul Rahman, Ghulam, Mohammad Wani, Mohammad Sultan Ganaie, Abdul Ahad Mir, Mohammad Samandar Khan among others.

Addressing the gathering of workers, PC President said that Jammu and Kashmir needs poli-

tics of inclusivity and hope, not of favoritism and hopelessness. He said that to achieve this objective, Peoples' Conference is tirelessly working towards empowering the people by placing Kashmir first, above all other fragmented identities and differences of opinion.

"Safeguarding the interests of the people, especially the youth of J&K is the biggest leadership challenge in the current times. The people of J&K need a sympathetic and honest government that puts the needs of the people first, above its own partisan interests," he added.

Lamenting the lack of connect between the administration and the masses, PC President said that the woes of the common masses on the ground are mounting with each passing day and that the administration needs to go beyond the rhetoric and make sincere efforts to engage the people of J&K for a lasting solution to the present challenges.

## DC Shopian Okays 8 Cases In Rent Assessment Committee Meet

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Friday convened a meeting of Rent Assessment Committee (RAC), at Mini Secretariat here.

DDC after discussions with heads of concerned departments and owners of the buildings approved 08 cases for rent assessment pertaining to different departments including Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Fire & Emergency Services, Handi-

craft, Agriculture, and Sheep Husbandry Department.

The committee approved all 8 cases as per the notified schedule of the Government in vogue.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to expedite the payment of rents as per the rates approved in the meeting.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Khurshed Ahmad Khatana; Ex. Engineer R&B; District Sheep Husbandry Officer besides the representative of FCS&CA, Agriculture, Handicrafts and Fire & Emergency.

## Calamity Relief Cases Reviewed At Bandipora

ADDC Bandipora Recommended 36 Cases For Financial Assistance

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan Friday convened a meeting of officers to review and discuss the calamity relief cases of the damages caused to private property/livestock due to fire, pests outbreak disease, flash floods and cloud burst.



The meeting was attended by District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Tehsildar Bandipora, Tehsildar Hamin and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, 36 cases of calamity relief in District Bandipora were considered and recommended for financial assistance under SDRF norms.

## Karan Singh Hits Back At Jairam Over 'Unsavoury Remarks' Against Father

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh on Friday hit back at party colleague Jairam Ramesh for criticising his recent article on Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India and said the "unsavoury remarks" regarding his father were "unacceptable".

In a statement, Singh said he had hoped his views will be taken in the spirit in which he wrote them rather than become a subject of "snide remarks".

Ramesh on Thursday had criticised Singh for "sidestepping" Union minister Kiren Rijiju's "hit job" on Jawaharlal Nehru's role in Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India.

The Congress general secretary's remarks had come over an article by Singh on Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India in an English daily in which Ramesh said he had defended his father and erstwhile ruler Hari Singh.

Reacting to Ramesh's remarks, Singh said, "I notice that the irrepressible Jairam Ramesh has thought it fit to make a statement on my article in the Hindustan Times yesterday. He has made two points, both of which are unacceptable. He starts by alleging that in some way my article was against Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This is absolutely preposterous."

"Pandit ji was my mentor ever since I entered public life at the age of 18 and I will always hold him in the highest regard. To suggest otherwise



is outrageous," said the former 'Sadr-i-Riyasat' of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh pointed out that he had dedicated his latest book "An Examined Life" to Nehru and in his article he made it clear that he was not dealing with the multiple allegations made against India's first prime minister by Rijiju.

He said Rijiju's allegations were a separate matter and needed a much more detailed refutation on which "Ramesh should be working".

Singh said his article in the English daily was specifically directed towards explaining the role of his father in the whole accession process.

"Jairam goes on to make some unsavoury remarks regarding my father. His reading of history is evidently selective. He could go to the book by Prem Shankar Jha and other books on Jammu & Kashmir to get a different view point," the former Union minister and ex-governor of J&K said.

"I am one of the last living eye witnesses to the events preceding and following the signing of the Instrument of

Accession which I have related in some detail in my autobiography," Singh said.

Reacting to Singh's article earlier, Ramesh had said on Twitter, "There is not a single scholarly and serious work on J&K that portrays Maharaja Hari Singh in good light."

"Even this authoritative work by VP Menon doesn't make Hari Singh a wronged man. It is hence natural that his son Dr. Karan Singh defends him in the HT today," Ramesh had said, sharing the screenshot of the cover of a book by Menon.

"What I find surprising though is that Dr. Karan Singh has sidestepped Rijiju's hit job on Nehru...", the Congress general secretary in-charge communications had said.

Jammu and Kashmir's accession came into the focus as it was at the centre of the war of words between the BJP and the Congress last week. Rijiju wrote an article for a portal citing "five Nehruvian blunders", including floating the idea of a plebiscite and terming Jammu and Kashmir's accession provisional.

The minister had said it was important to realise past mistakes to build a new future and added he has not tweaked history but stated facts to set the record straight.

The Congress had demanded an apology from Rijiju over his criticism of Nehru's handling of the Kashmir issue and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rein in ministers from making "irresponsible statements".

## 300-Beded Hospital Inaugurated In Kargil



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur on Thursday inaugurated a 300-bed district hospital in Kargil district and stressed the need for providing the best possible health facilities to the people of the Union Territory.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 40.37 crore, the hospital complex has come up at Lower Kur bathang in Kargil, officials said.

The LG congratulated the people for one of its kind state-of-the-art district hospital in Kargil.

He appreciated the efforts of the Kargil hill council along with the officials of the administration for making the con-

struction of the district hospital with all facilities possible in a short time.

Mathur stated that the MRI machine would be sanctioned for the New district hospital in Kargil and further infrastructure expansion works would be made in the future so that the public could avail their benefits.

Chairman, LAHDC (Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council) Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan, thanked the administration for setting up the New district hospital in Kargil on behalf of the people.

He informed that the hospital was constructed in a short span of time despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

## B2V4 Campaign Ends On High Note In Bandipora



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The last phase of week-long Back to Village' (B2V4) outreach programme concluded on a high note across the district during which designated officers profiled developmental needs of rural areas.

The official spokesperson said the Back to Village-4 programme was held in 151 Panchayats of the district in three phases during which the designated officers reached out to the people in all the Panchayat Halqas

to review the implementation of decisions taken in earlier three phases of Back to village programme, assessed development needs and took feedback from the grassroots, helpful for planning on socio-economic transformation of rural areas.

During the week-long programme, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmed, Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan and ADC Waseem Raja personally visited more than 60 Panchayats and took part in the programme and also inspected several activities taking place during the campaign.

Dr Owais said, 151 officers were deputed by the General Administration Department and district administration to the Panchayats of the district under the B2V4 programme which culminated in three phases. He added that, B2V4 programme in Bandipora marked with participation of senior most officers of the Government including Divi-

sional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole; Secretary, Tourism and Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez; Secretary DM&RRR, Nazim Zai Khan; Director General Woman and Child Development, Tariq Ali; Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Amir Khan; Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir, Abdul Salam and Director Finance RDD, Reyaz Ahmed.

He said the visiting officers documented the developmental profile and identified development and welfare issues which need intervention at government level for resolution.

On the concluding day, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir along with DC Bandipora visited Panchayat Halqa Rakhi Ashman and interacted with the PRLs and public to assess the needs of the inhabitants.

In other parts of the district, visiting officers in 46 Panchayats held interaction with PRI representatives and reviewed the progress of the works on the last day of the B2V4 programme.

They also inspected the on-going developmental works besides inaugurating various developmental projects and distributed thousands of land pass books, artisans cards, beneficiaries certificates, soil health cards and mother and child care kits among the beneficiaries.

The Campaign witnessed huge Public participation and villages remained abuzz with the festivities of the Government's Outreach Programme.

## DC Kupwara Reviews Functioning Of Revenue Dept

Reviews Availability Of Water, Essential Supplies In Far Flung Areas

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Friday convened a meeting of all Revenue Officers to review the functioning of the Revenue department in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed upon all the officers to work with utmost dedication and honesty and ensure people do not face any inconvenience in a smooth public delivery system.

Reviewing the drinking water situation in the district, the DC directed Tehsildars to submit a list of water stressed areas in their respective Tehsils so that a roster can be made for supplying

water through tankers.

Doifode Sagar also took stock of availability of essentials in far flung areas like Karnah, Keran and Machil and was informed that sufficient stock of essential supplies including ration is available in these areas.

The DC also reviewed several departmental issues of the Revenue department. He directed Tehsildars not to leave the station without proper permission from his office.

Earlier, the DC took a detailed review regarding the submission of information by Tehsildars related to State land, Kahchare Land, Shamlat etc and directed them to submit the information within the shortest period.

JD Planning, Abdul Majeed; ACR Kupwara, Jowhar Ali; Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and other concerned attended the meeting.

## J&K Reports New 903 Dengue Cases In Last One Week

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** 903 fresh cases of dengue have been reported in J&K in last one week, taking the tally of total cases reported so far 5,908

As per the data available, 5,908 dengue cases including 15 from other states and nine from Kashmir division have been reported so far in J&K UT

A top health official told a local news agency KNO that around 1,9589 tests have been conducted so far and 5,908 have been tested positive.

Of 5,908 cases around 90 percent of 4,539 cases are from Jammu district only. They added that cases include 230 from Samba, 107 from Kathua, 568 from Udhampur, 94 from Reasi, 72 from Rajouri, 25 from Poonch, 194 from Doda, 35 from Ram-



ban, 20 Kishtwar and nine from Kashmir besides that 15 from other states.

As per data, cases reported in the ongoing month include 126 on 29th October, 106 on 30, 58 on 31, 134 on November 1, 173 on 2nd November, 159 on 3rd November and 147 on 4th November.

According to official data, the highest number of cases

1,837 was reported in 2013 but this year has surpassed it

Notably, Dengue viruses are spread to people through the bite of an infected Aedes species (Ae. aegypti or Ae. albopictus) mosquito. Almost half of the world's population, about 4 billion people, live in areas with a risk of dengue. Dengue is often a leading cause of illness in areas with risk.

## Pak Supporting Terrorism To Divert Attention From Internal Turmoil: Army

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Asserting that Pakistan's calibrated support to terrorism is aimed at diverting the attention of its people from the "ongoing turmoil" in that country, a senior Army officer on Friday said the security forces continue to remain alert on the LoC to counter any attempt to disturb the peace in the region.

The officer said the security forces successfully thwarted a major infiltration bid in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch sector on Thursday and defeated the nefarious designs of the neighbouring country to vitiate the atmosphere in Poonch and Rajouri. "Pakistan's calibrated support to terrorism continues with an aim to divert the attention of its people from the ongoing internal turmoil and target communal harmony in Poonch and Rajouri sectors," the Army said in a press statement issued in Rajouri.

The security forces continue to remain alert on the Line of Control (LoC) to counter any attempt by inimical forces to disturb the peace and harmony in the region, the officer said.

Giving details about Thursday's infiltration bid, Poonch Army brigade commander Brigadier Rajesh Bisht told



reporters here that at around 9:30 am, the troops deployed along the LoC in Poonch sector noticed suspicious movements of three infiltrators, who were wearing Pathani suits and trying to sneak across the LoC in the Nakarkote area.

"When the infiltrators were challenged by our troops, they opened fire," the officer said.

In the ensuing gunbattle, all three terrorists were eliminated. The troops subsequently found the body of one of the ultras, the officer said.

The bodies of the two other terrorists were taken away by the residents of villages in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on carts, officials said.

"As the operation progressed towards the LoC, a weapon

with bullet marks and numerous other war-like stores were recovered and a blood trail was also seen, leading towards the LoC," Brigadier Bisht, who was accompanied by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Rajouri-Poonch range, Haseeb Mughal, said.

Two AK-74 rifles with four magazines and 43 rounds, one Chinese pistol with seven rounds and a magazine, one Claymore mine along with cables and a battery, one SMG magazine, a bag, a pouch, combat colours, a packet of Gold Cup cigarettes made in Pakistan along with a lighter and a small packet of a contraband substance (likely for self-consumption) were seized during the search operation, officials said.

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Negative Not Positive

Current elections have opened opportunities to arrest the erosion caused to democratic process and its institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. In 1977, by allowing a first free and fair democratic exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, the then Prime Minister Mr. Morarji Desai wrote a great chapter in Indo-Kashmir relationship by his courageous decision. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who was then a member of the Morarji government shares that honour. Mr Vajpayee had assured the nation from the rampants of Red Fort in his independence day message that his government was committed of holding a free and fair election in Jammu and Kashmir. He has kept his promise.

Mr. James Lyngdoh, the Chief Election Commissioner has demonstrated more dynamism than his all predecessors. But the lesson of history should not be ignored. Had the tradition established by late Desai received continuity, the democratic aspirations of the people of this state would have largely assimilated with the democratic process in the rest of India. But the frustration of such aspirations led to destructive consequences. The electorate in exercise of its democratic prerogative had power to reaffirm or withdraw that mandate which it had given in 1977. But, the situation was so imposed that after a decade the voters had to channelise their annoyance, but democratically.

The fraud committed in 1987 elections again created genuine doubts in peoples minds and the substitute to ballot became the bullet. Apprehensive voter of this state has once again put to the test the viability in the peaceful process and in case history repeats itself the process of devastation will get vindicated. The present verdict conveys a multifaceted warning.

The too sensitive Kashmiri smells foul and apprehends that the centre has not as a right but as a concession provided fairness in the present hustings as it suits prevalent international compulsions upon it. If the future course of political behaviour of the rulers in Delhi remains committed to genuine democracy in the state such apprehensions will vanish.

National Conference created and then dominated the 20th century history of Jammu and Kashmir. The virtual rout which it faced during this election conveyed a great lesson to its successors and to the government of India. As is commonly said it is not mere non-performance of National Conference government which got it buried in the debris of forgetfulness but it is due to the fact that it was sandwiched in an imposed situation created by confusing centre - state relationship. Its successor government will find itself in the same situation where it has to obey the diktats of organs of the central government in the state, reluctance of imported bureaucracy and ignorance of non-state subject police administration. Besides the fiscal restraints will positively credit its commitments made to the voters.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on Oct 11, 2002

Why is Religious Studies Needed?



Dr. Ashraf Amin

Religions have a capacity and capability to forge themselves into a meaningful dialogue based on academic arguments. The differences as some people believe as the cause of violence is the greatest folly! There is no field in human life where differences of opinion are not exhibited. If difference of opinion would breed conflict and violence, no human institution would survive. So the choice of religion is a fundamental form of freedom

Despite excited and zealous slogans of the erasure of religion from human society with the arrival of industrial and scientific ages, religion and religious values stare confidently at such claims. Nothing has prevented people from being religious. The reality is that religion is not a handiwork of man. It has a supernatural essence and origin. There is no alternative to religion for if religion is abandoned through force and compulsion, people would esteem any other ideology as religion like communism, capitalism, materialism, or nationalism often takes on a religious fervor among their adherents. No Friedrich Nietzsche, no August Comte, no James Frazer, no Bertrand Russell and no Richard Dawkins could prevent people from being religious. The reason is not that people are fools or superstitious or deficient in intellect, but that such intellectuals are overestimating their own intellect.

The reality is such that religion is as real as any other human institution, and the need of religion is not to please one's own self but to make one's own society an abode of love, harmony and order. No law or ordinance stimulates a man to do or seek the good of others than religion does! Religion teaches selflessness and activism to help others. The motivation and conviction that religion induces in human beings to establish peaceful relationships, charitable works, volunteer pursuits, honest dealings, no other mechanism can match religion in achieving that.

The cause of strife and violence is not religion as claimed by some men who claim themselves as irreligious or non-religious. It is out of scope in this brief write-up to mention all those. The seeds of violence are in fact in the man himself. Any phenomenon could be manipulated by man for his

own selfish ends and religion is not an exception! However, humans have to fall back on religion every time it would think of salvation from the miseries of worldly life. And until humans don't make the right use of religion, they won't succeed in attaining peace and tranquility in their individual and social lives. And the harsh fact is that it is religion only that could save humanity from the doom of uncertainty.

The major cause of religious tension is the ignorance of other religions. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan has rightly remarked that the Ignorance of other religions is the mother of injustice. So in order to diffuse and pacify the tensions and build on the cordial religions and the spirit of mutual co-existence, religious literacy is the need of the hour. Islam which is unfortunately blamed much for the violence and the broadcasts go in media outlets day in and day out against Islam is perhaps the only religion that has exhorted its followers to forge a dialogue with the followers of other religions. And it would not be inappropriate to say that it was the Qur'an that talked about other religions at a time when people of other faiths were reluctant to even recognize religions other than their own.

Religion is not an acquired thing but already embedded in human nature. Humans are religious by birth though at times, their religious disposition is manipulated the other ways if not polished in a right way. Hans Kung has rightly remarked that peace cannot be attained in a society until religions are at peace with one another. Religious beliefs and rituals have tremendous influence on men in a society. Religion could bind a community into a strong cohesive union or it could divide communities in antagonism. The right understanding and proper comprehension of the essence of religion thus be-

comes immensely important. Religious people have a tremendous responsibility to partake in the repair and overhaul of the world. All religions of the world have definite and common contours that if working in unison could wrestle religion from the mischief-makers and hate-mongers, fanatics and opportunists. While religions have commonalities, they have differences with one another as well. But religions have a capacity and capability to forge themselves into a meaningful dialogue based on academic arguments. The differences as some people believe as the cause of violence is the greatest folly! There is no field in human life where differences of opinion are not exhibited. If difference of opinion would breed conflict and violence, no human institution would survive. So the choice of religion is a fundamental form of freedom.

While men of great learning from different religions had penned-down books on religions and have attempted to generate religious understanding among different religious denominations. The need of academic departments is equally a pressing need. In this direction, the Department of Religious Studies at Central University of Kashmir which I am a part of is a welcome addition to the religious understanding and communal harmony in India. The syllabi framework and the competent faculty of the department cater to all the needs of students to develop an aptitude of communal wellbeing, religious understanding, widening of the intellect, human progress, and the real expression of religious nature.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer  
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Central banks around the globe have become hyperactive to control inflation. Late to act on the worst inflation in four decades, many central banks are now desperate to redeem themselves in fulfilment of one of their key tasks – to keep inflation under control.

About 90 central banks have hiked interest rates this year. Many have done so more than once. Ethan Harris, the Chief Economist of the Bank of America, has labelled the phenomenon as “a competition to see who can hike (the interest rate) faster.”

This is the broadest tightening of monetary policy globally in 15 years – a stark contrast to the easy money era ushered in after the 2008 financial crisis and then during the Covid pandemic. In September, the US Federal Reserve hiked its key rate by 75 basis points for a third time this year. The Fed's rate hike showed its commitment to bringing down inflation in the US, which is at a four-decade high of 8.5 per cent. To cut through the euphemisms, the Fed's rate hikes are intended to slow down an “overheated” US economy and to throw people out of work to put downward pressure on wages and inflation.

Economist Nouriel Roubini – nicknamed ‘Dr Doom’ for correctly predicting the 2008 housing bubble crash – sees a “long and ugly” recession occurring in the US and globally at the end of 2022 that could last till the end of 2023. He says that achieving a 2 per cent targeted inflation rate without a hard landing is going to be “mission impossible” for the US Federal Reserve.

There is now a 98 per cent chance of a global recession, according to Ned Davis Research data released in late September. The only other times that the recession model was this high were during severe economic downturns – most recently during the 2020 pandemic and during the global financial crisis of 2008-9.

India is not immune to the US or global recession,

Can India Escape The Effects Of A Global Recession?

V Venkateswara Rao

though its economy was never fully coupled with the global economy. The domestic growth rate has slowed by 1.5-2.5 per cent even in normal Fed-led recessions. ‘Dr Doom’ predicts that this recession is going to be a long and ugly one, unlike any other shallow recession.

America's share in India's merchandise exports has increased to 18.1 per cent in FY2022 from 10.1 per cent in FY2011. The rise of the US market share in India's export basket has obviously increased India's vulnerability to a recession in the US economy. In FY2021, the US was the major destination for India's software exports, accounting for 54.8 per cent share. A US recession is bound to have a major adverse impact on India's software exports, margins, and service sector jobs.

Fed rate hikes have already started impacting the Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) fund flows, forex reserves, and the Rupee. FPI outflows from Indian equities may not yet be over. As India's foreign exchange reserves declined for the ninth consecutive week, it dropped to the lowest since July 2020 to \$532.66 billion, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s weekly data released on October 7.

A declining Rupee is facing renewed pressure, as

Fed rate hikes have already started impacting the Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) fund flows, forex reserves, and the Rupee. FPI outflows from Indian equities may not yet be over. As India's foreign exchange reserves declined for the ninth consecutive week

the Dollar continues to strengthen in the wake of the Fed's latest 75 basis points jumbo rate hike. Surging crude oil prices, expectations of continuing Fed rate hikes, and the widening current account deficit are pushing the Rupee to new lows. According to the brokerage house Motilal Oswal Financial Services, India's current account deficit will likely widen to a decadal high of 3.8 per cent of GDP in 2022-23, from 1.2 per cent last year.

The RBI's rate cycle may not be counter to the Fed's rate cycle and the rate hikes will obviously put pressure on India's growth. The RBI's monetary policy panel will have a tightrope walk to do as it tries to reconcile two contradictory goals – to restore a semblance of price stability without choking growth. The RBI increased the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.9 per cent on September 30.

All this makes India's currency, macroeconomic stability, current account deficit and growth rate vulnerable. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is optimistic that despite the global headwinds, the Indian economy will stay on course. However, India's policymakers cannot remain complacent about the global headwinds, though its economy is not completely coupled with the global economy. In a developing country like India, a modest growth rate of about 5 per cent (as projected by UNCTAD) will push millions into poverty, even if it still makes it the “fastest growing economy”. A depreciating currency and widening “twin deficits” will further fuel an already elevated inflation, which will hit the poorest the hardest.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Deccan Herald

BOOK REVIEW

# Swimming Out Into Open Water

## Silence and the Limits of Language

Saadia Peerzada

Open Water by British writer Caleb Azumah Nelson won the debut novel of the year at the British Book Awards 2022. It sold over 100,000 copies by July 2022.

The novel follows a photographer and a dancer who connect over shared histories and un-belonging in London. Their first meeting is riddled with watching, a lack of words, the space between them filled with all that is yet to come. The narrator knows they have a shared past by virtue of the way they both speak but it doesn't need to be pointed out. Dialect is a signifier in itself.

Articulation, then, is also a 'making real' of that which is nascent until it is put into words. The wordlessness of winter for the narrator is followed by a horizon of possibility, of love. "What is better than believing you are heading towards love?" he asks.

A lot of what we do communicates things before it gets put into words. The narrator's grandma laughs as she encourages him to speak of the woman he's met. The movements leading up to putting a basketball in a hoop. "The pure expression, the loud silence" of it. The narrator names basketball a new way of seeing and being, something that existed outside 'knowing' yet felt right. All of these are languages in themselves. The text is also located in a continuum of background noises, the groan of a train passing by, the running of a tap, the sound of crying in an empty room, a variety of sounds where words cannot stand.

In the fourth chapter of the novel, the author compares conversation to a dance. He contrasts it with a world that "engulfs even the most alive." Language becomes a shared space of movement in comparison to a world that extinguishes vitality. This movement can also be read into the way silences become elastic. In lack of surety, the couple holds and eases the silences to create room for reflection, to allow space to stumble, to know what to say and what to save for a later time. Silence is the versatile presence that guides language.

"You don't tell her that it was there, in the slight pauses, that you were able to breathe, not even realizing you were holding air in, but you were."

Silence is also sometimes the distance between solitude and loneliness. In chapter six, the narrator reflects on being in a house too quiet. Something that is usually craved becomes a void that demands to be filled, with music, with company, with stories from the past. In the silence, sound carries the narrator to himself, to the traces that are repressed by the everyday. Catharsis gives way to confession, to self avowal.

The book locates the effect of surveillance, racial policing on the black psyche. A silencing at the core of the black experience mirrors the experiences of readers who might have had other experiences of policing. Systemic violence haunts us with an inability to put its effects into words. "How strange a life you and other black people lead, forever seen and unseen, forever heard

and silenced" (72). Racialisation leaves you hyper visible yet invisible at the same time. And this effect is made visible by the incessant gaze of power.

The police are looking for a robber in a neighborhood and our narrator is stopped and checked in front of his friend's house, because he 'fits the description' of the perpetrator. Which is to say he was a young black man in London. His belongings are scattered on the ground, his voice unheard, reduced to a suspect. This occurrence signals back to another he had experienced before. The narrator is tackled to the ground by police, simply because he is seen as a danger. He asks,

"Let's ask anyone who has ever fit a description: you ever had to play dead? Have you ever not been seen? Are you tired?"

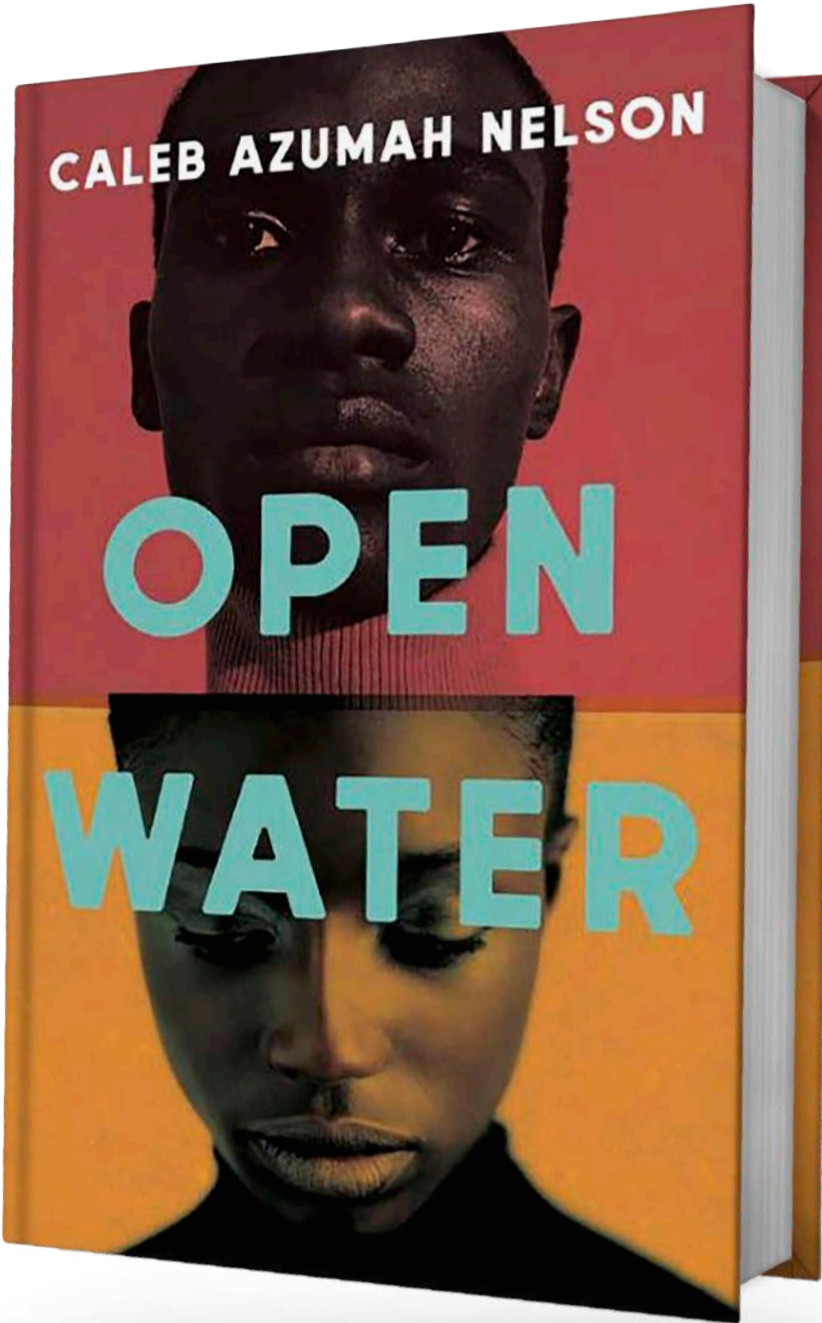
Silence is also a means of preservation. Some things left unsaid help us keep going. But the narrator also signals to that repression saying that it ends up spilling, one must remember to breathe. Like Langston Hughes asks, 'what happens to a dream deferred ... maybe it just sags like a heavy load, or does it explode?' The LA Review of Books describes Open Water as a look into what living in a world like ours does to the Black man — "the unending vigilance, constant trepidation, and inevitable consequence of an identity that appears to disintegrate by the day." The author recognises that not all death is physical. And that not all seeing is being seen, the latter only made accessible through love.

Violence appears to be straightforward. It simply happens. Yet the language of survival is not as plain. The psychological experience of being alive yet anticipating the next time you will be profiled hardly lends itself to words. The human condition itself is underlined by a distinct sense of being trapped even when language might seem to be a respite. Caleb invites the reader to observe how some experiences are more untranslatable than others.

Self censorship of emotion is also explored in this novel. An invisible hand seems to be clamped over the protagonist's mouth when he tries to speak of how political discrimination and oppression render the everyday impossible. He explains that his voice wavers because it is invested with the weight of reality. The narrator prays he gets to live before he dies, prays for a deferral of the day where he has to let go of the claim to his own life. He wishes the mention of death and its reality would grow some distance between them.

Recognition and belonging function on the level of relationships but also on the level of art. Yaa Gyasi defines this novel as 'a love song to black art and thought.' Throughout the text we watch the narrator experience recognition through poetry, song and the beating of drums. A literary space is carved out to write himself into when the world is policed into black and white.

The charming quality of this novel is not what it asks of language and despair but how it does it with unbroken charm. There is a life force pulsing in this book even in its bleakest pages. And that is what Caleb is inviting us to do, find the pulsing vein under our deepest pits and create a life around it, despite it all.



“SELF CENSORSHIP OF EMOTION IS ALSO EXPLORED IN THIS NOVEL. An invisible hand

seems to be clamped over the protagonist's mouth when he tries to speak of how political discrimination and oppression render the everyday impossible. He explains that his voice wavers because it is invested with the weight of reality.”

# Books Transport Us to New Worlds

Aimun Bilal

A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies... The man who never reads lives only one." – George R.R. Martin

You need not be a student or a teacher in order to be a reader. Reading has no specific age or profession. However, not many of us are into the habit of reading, yet it is one of the best hobby a person can inculcate. It not only makes us go through the lives and experiences of many people but it also becomes one of the best ways in which we can spend our time productively. We start looking at world from various perspectives which probably was fixed to a particular perspective earlier. New experiences enter our mind and we feel completely different after reading a particular book which touches us in different ways.

Hence, it depends on an individual and everyone has his own perspectives from which they read a particular book. Also, there are many reasons why an individual reads a book. Some read it as a mere hobby, some read to gain some knowledge, others read to improve their writing etc. Purposes can vary, yet the results are fruitful to all.

Even though it may seem boring and difficult in the beginning, especially if one isn't into the habit of reading, this habit can be acquired with time. Firstly, it's one of the best ways to deal with boredom. There are times when we do not feel like doing any other thing which would require some physical activity. We just yearn to spend some time in isolation and reading a good book is the best thing a person can do. It not only make a person feel bet-



ter but it also shapes ones outlook.

Secondly, at times we are so much caught in our hectic lives and its problems that we seldom enjoy a moment of peace. At such times a good book can help one escape from the vicious cycle of problems that we usually encounter in our lives. There are many such occasions where we find the character trapped in the problem similar to the one we are encountering in our lives.

When we read a book that deals with the same emotions that one is undergoing, it makes the person feel better as he can relate to it somehow. This further reduces the feelings of alienation that a particular individual might be experiencing.

Apart from the above mentioned benefits, reading also helps in improving emotional health. For example, Catherine Winter in her article '10 Benefits of Reading:

Why You Should Read Every Day' mentions various benefits of reading such as it helps in stress reduction, vocabulary expansion, memory improvement, improved focus and concentration etc.

Therefore, it becomes very clear how beneficial is reading to a person.

It also becomes a medium of communication with the author. Someone who's lived or is living in some other part of the

“READING BOOKS CAN ALSO BECOME A MEANS TO STRENGTHEN BONDS WITHIN FAMILIES.

You may read out some chapters from a book to your elders or children who don't know how to read or who are too small to read book

world, you get familiarized with his way of thinking. Books connect us not only to the author but to other readers as well.

More importantly, the more you get into the habit of reading, the more you fall in love with it and a book provides you good company as well.

Reading books can also become a means to strengthen bonds within families. You may read out some chapters from a book to your elders or children who don't know how to read or who are too small to read book. Therefore, you can enjoy a good family time that'll keep all of you engrossed in something useful.

Thus, there are endless reasons that can be stated in order to emphasise the advantages of staying connected with books. So, when are you buying yours!

# Are Bananas Really Radioactive'? An Expert Clears Up Common Misunderstandings About Radiation

The Conversation

The simple mention of the word "radiation" often evokes fear in people. For others, it's fun to think a little exposure to radiation could turn you into the next superhero, just like the Hulk.

But is it true basically everything around us is radioactive, even the food we eat? You may have heard bananas are mildly radioactive, but what does that actually mean? And despite us not being superheroes, are human bodies also radioactive? What is radiation? Radiation is energy that travels from one point to another, either as waves or particles. We are exposed to radiation from various natural and artificial sources every day.

Cosmic radiation from the Sun and outer space, radiation from rocks and soil, as well as radioactivity in the air we breathe and in our food and water, are all sources of natural radiation.

Bananas are a common example of a natural radiation source. They contain high levels of potassium, and a small amount of this is radioactive. But there's no need to give up your banana smoothie – the amount of radiation is extremely small and far less than the natural "background radiation" we are exposed to every day.

Artificial sources of radiation include medical treatments and X-rays, mobile phones, and power lines. There is a common misconception that artificial sources of radiation are more dangerous than naturally occurring radiation. However, this just isn't true.

There are no physical properties that make artificial radiation different or more damaging than natural radiation. The harmful effects are related to dose, and not where the exposure comes from.

What is the difference between radiation and radioactivity? The words "radiation" and "radioactivity" are often used interchangeably. Although the two are related, they are not quite the same thing.

Radioactivity refers to an unstable



There are no physical properties that make artificial radiation different or more damaging than natural radiation. The harmful effects are related to dose, and not where the exposure comes from.

atom undergoing radioactive decay. Energy is released in the form of radiation as the atom tries to reach stability, or become non-radioactive.

The radioactivity of a material describes the rate at which it decays, and the process(es) by which it decays. So radioactivity can be thought of as the process by which elements and materials try to become stable, and radiation as the energy released as a result of this process.

Ionising and non-ionising radiation Depending on the level of energy, radiation can be classified into two types.

Ionising radiation has enough energy

to remove an electron from an atom, which can change the chemical composition of a material. Examples of ionising radiation include X-rays and radon (a radioactive gas found in rocks and soil).

Non-ionising radiation has less energy but can still excite molecules and atoms, which causes them to vibrate faster. Common sources of non-ionising radiation include mobile phones, power lines, and ultraviolet rays (UV) from the Sun.

Is all radiation dangerous? Not really. Radiation is not always dangerous – it depends on the type, the strength, and how long you are exposed to it.

As a general rule, the higher the energy level of the radiation, the more likely it is to cause harm. For example, we know that overexposure to ionising radiation – say, from naturally occurring radon gas – can damage human tissues and DNA.

We also know that non-ionising radiation, such as the UV rays from the Sun, can be harmful if the person is exposed to sufficiently high intensity levels, causing adverse health effects such as burns, cancer, or blindness.

Importantly, because these dangers are well known and understood, they can be protected against. International and na-

tional expert bodies provide guidelines to ensure the safety and radiation protection of people and the environment.

For ionising radiation, this means keeping doses above the natural background radiation as low as reasonably achievable – for example, only using medical imaging on the part of the body required, keeping the dose low, and retaining copies of images to avoid repeat exams.

For non-ionising radiation, it means keeping exposure below safety limits. For example, telecommunications equipment uses radiofrequency non-ionising radiation and must operate within these safety limits.

Additionally, in the case of UV radiation from the Sun, we know to protect against exposure using sunscreen and clothing when levels reach 3 and above on the UV index.

Radiation in medicine While there are clear risks involved when it comes to radiation exposure, it's also important to recognize the benefits. One common example of this is the use of radiation in modern medicine.

Medical imaging uses ionizing radiation techniques, such as X-rays and CT scans, as well as non-ionizing radiation techniques, such as ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

These types of medical imaging techniques allow doctors to see what's happening inside the body and often lead to earlier and less invasive diagnoses. Medical imaging can also help to rule out serious illnesses.

Radiation can also help treat certain conditions – it can kill cancerous tissue, shrink a tumor or even be used to reduce pain.

So are our bodies also radioactive? The answer is yes, like everything around us, we are also a little bit radioactive. But this is not something we need to be worried about.

Our bodies were built to handle small amounts of radiation – that's why there is no danger from the amounts we are exposed to in our normal daily lives. Just don't expect this radiation to turn you into a superhero any time soon because that definitely is science fiction.

## Ultrasound Scan Can Detect Prostate Cancer: Research

ANI

According to new research, an ultrasound scan can be used to detect prostate cancer. Researchers at Imperial College London, University College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust have found that a new type of ultrasound scan can diagnose most prostate cancer cases with good accuracy in a clinical trial involving 370 men.

The ultrasound scans missed only 4.3 per cent more clinically important prostate cancer cases – cancer that should be treated rather than monitored – compared to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans currently used to detect prostate cancer. MRI scans are expensive and time-consuming. The team believes that an ultrasound scan should be used as a first test in a community healthcare setting and in low and middle-income countries which do not have easy access to high-quality MRI scans. They say it could be used in combination with current MRI scans to maximise cancer detection. The study is published in Lancet Oncology.

Professor Hashim Ahmed, lead author of the study and Chair of Urology at Imperial College London, said: "Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the UK. One in six men will be diagnosed with the disease in their lifetimes and that figure is expected to rise. "MRI scans are one of the tests we use to diagnose prostate cancer. Although effective these scans are expensive, take up to 40 minutes to perform and are not easily available to all. Also, there are some patients who are unable to have MRI scans such as those with hip replacements or claustrophobia fears. As cancer waiting lists build as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a real need to find more efficient and cheaper tests to diagnose prostate cancer.

"Our study is the first to show that a special type of ultrasound scan can be used as a potential test to detect clinically significant cases of prostate cancer. The can detect most cases of prostate cancer with good accuracy, although MRI scans are slightly better. "We believe that this test

can be used in low and middle-income settings where access to expensive MRI equipment is difficult and cases of prostate cancer are growing."

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK with around 52,300 new cases diagnosed each year. It develops when cells in the prostate grow in an uncontrolled way. Prostate cancer develops slowly and symptoms such as the blood in the urine do not appear until the disease has developed. It usually affects men over 50 and often men with a family history of the dis-



ease. Black men are disproportionately impacted by the disease and deaths from prostate cancer have now overtaken those from breast cancer. One of the main methods to diagnose prostate cancer is a special type of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan called a multi-parametric MRI (mpMRI) scan, which helps doctors see if there is any cancer inside the prostate and how quickly the cancer is likely to grow. However, the scan takes 40 minutes and costs £350-450.

The new study looked at the use of a different kind of imaging called multiparametric ultrasound (mpUSS), which uses soundwaves to look at the prostate. The test involves the use of a probe called a transducer to make the images of the prostate. It is placed into the rectum and it sends out sound waves that bounce off organs and other structures. These are then made into pictures of the organs. The doctor doing the test also uses extra special types of ultrasound imaging that look at how stiff the

tissue is and how much blood supply the tissue has. These are called elastography, doppler and contrast-enhancement with microbubbles. As cancers are more dense and have greater blood supply, they show up more clearly. Although mpUSS is more widely available than mpMRI there has been no large-scale studies to validate its effectiveness as a test to detect prostate cancer cases.

In the new trial, called cancer diagnosis by multiparametric ultrasound of the prostate (CAD-MUS), the team recruited 370 men at risk of prostate cancer. They

were identified following initial tests such as a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test- a blood test to help detect prostate cancer – and/or an abnormal digital rectal examination – a test that examines a person's lower rectum, pelvis, and lower belly. The study took place at seven hospitals in the UK including lead site Charing Cross Hospital, part of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, between March 2016-November 2019.

The men were given both mpUSS and mpMRI scans at separate visits. This was then followed by biopsies – which involves using thin needles to take small samples of tissue from the prostate to analyse under a microscope to check cancer – for 257 patients who had a positive mpUSS or mpMRI test result. The team then compared the results from the tests. Cancer was detected in 133 men, with 83 men diagnosed with clinically significant cancer. Individually, mpUSS detected 66 cases of clinically significant cancer compared to mpMRI which detected 77 cases.

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Subject :- Interview for the post of Lecturer, Psychiatry, in the Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Science (IMHANS) Government Medical College, Srinagar, notified vide Notification No. 03-PSC (DR-P) of 2022 dated 17.01.2022

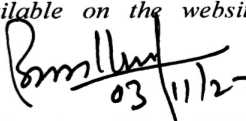
NOTICE  
DATED: 02 .11.2022

The interview of the following candidates for 04 posts (OM=02, RBA=01 & SC=01), of Lecturer, Psychiatry, in the Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Science (IMHANS) Government Medical College, Srinagar, notified vide Notification No. 03-PSC (DR-P) of 2022 dated 17.01.2022, shall be held at J&K Public Service Commission Office, Resham Ghar Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu as per the following schedule:-

S. No	NAME OF CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	DATE	TIME
1.	DR. SABREENA QADRI	SYED AHMED QADRI	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
2.	DR. MANSOOR AHMAD DAR	MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
3.	DR. WARIS AHMAD ZARGAR	SONAULLA ZARGAR	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
4.	DR. BILAL AHMAD BHAT	GH MOHD BHAT	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
5.	DR. REHANA AMIN	JAVOID AHMAD SHIEKH	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
6.	DR. SEEMA BATOOL SHAH	SALEEM HAIDER SHAH	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
7.	DR. SHABIR AHMAD DAR	AB AHAD DAR	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
8.	DR. SYED KARAR HUSSAIN	SYED MUZAFAR SHAH	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
9.	DR. SALEEM YOUSUF	MOHD YOUSUF MALLA	22.11.2022	10:00 AM
10.	DR.HAAMID ISMAIL	MOHD ISMAIL MIR	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
11.	DR. INSHA RAUF	RAUF UL HASSAN	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
12.	DR. MAJID SHAFTI SHAH	MOHAMMAD SHAFTI SHAH	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
13.	DR. FAZL E RUOB	AB RASHID BHAT	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
14.	DR. TARIQ AHMAD BHAT	GH MOHI UD DIN BHAT	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
15.	DR. MOHD ABRAR AHMAD GUROO	MOHD JAVEED AHMAD GUROO	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
16.	DR. SAJID MOHAMMAD WANI	GH MOHAMMAD WANI	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
17.	DR. ALTAF AHMAD MALLA	GHULAM AHMAD MALLA	22.11.2022	01:00 PM
18.	DR. TAJAMUL HUSSAIN	FIDA HUSSAIN DHAR	22.11.2022	01:00 PM

Note:

- The candidature of all the candidates is purely provisional. The documents of the candidates will be again verified at the time of interview. In case, any discrepancy with regard to age and other eligibility conditions is noticed at the time of interview or thereafter, the candidate(s) shall not be allowed to appear in the interview or where the candidate has already appeared in interview, the candidature shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.
- The candidate(s) shall produce their original certificates/testimonials along with hard copy of application forms on the date of interview.
- Experience Certificate, if any, or as applicable shall be submitted by the candidate as per the prescribed format either before the commencement of interview or at the time of interview.
- The candidates shall ensure that the publications/presentations/books/book chapter which they intend to place before the interview board for evaluation shall be properly bound and indexed with cover page in the format available on the website <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>.

  
(Bashir Ahmad Dar) JKAS  
Secretary

J&K Public Service Commission  
No. PSC/DR/Lect/ Psychiatry /H&ME/2022  
DIPK-12875/22 Dated 04-11-2022

## Official Of Israel Embassy Calls on Dulloo



Discusses IIAP establishment of Centers of Excellence in J&K

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Agriculture Attache MASHAV at Embassy of Israel in India, Yair Eshel here Friday called on Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo and briefed him about the Indo-Israel Agriculture Project (IIAP) of establishing proposed Centers of Excellence (CoE) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Project Officer MASHAV, Brihama Dev; Director Agriculture Jammu, KK Sharma; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Moham-mad Iqbal Chowdhary; Director Horticulture Jammu, Sevak Ram, Joint Directors Inputs/Farms/ Mushroom/Apiculture and other concerned were also present during the occasion.

Briefing the ACS, the Agriculture Attache informed that India and Israel have a strategic cooperation on the Government-to-Government (G2G) level in the field of agriculture.

He said the IIAP aims at introducing crop diversity, increasing productivity and optimizing water use efficiency and added that IIAP is being implemented via establishment of Centers of Excellence (CoE), in which Israeli Agri-Technologies and knowledge is disseminated and tailored to local conditions.

He added that the Israeli stakeholder, MASHAV will guide the standard of the CoE and transfer the Israeli knowledge into the IIAP.

He apprised the ACS about his visit to three farms in Jammu division, which include SM farm Chinore, SM Farm Chakrohi and Burmal Farm Hiranagar, while informing him that the region has potential to produce vegetables and fruits by using modern technology for which MSHAV is ready to extend guidance and support in the form of expertise and technical knowhow to the farmers and the department alike.

He informed that CoE are advanced, intensive agriculture farms for knowledge transfer of Israeli Agro-Technology and latest technology and aims to benefit farmers with a focus on selected key crops.

## IUST Organizes Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp At GDC Anantnag



Observer News Service

**AWNATIPORA:** Centre of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Cell, Islamic University of Science and Technology organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp at Government Degree College, Anantnag on Friday.

The Camp attended by more than 200 students and faculty members of the college aimed to motivate the students towards entrepreneurship development as their career.

The Principal of the College appreciated the outreach initiatives of CIED IUST in organizing such programs as it exposes young minds to entrepreneurship opportunities and emerges as 'job providers' rather than 'job-seekers'. The program was inaugurated by Prof. Nazir Ahmed Malla, Head, Department of Botany, GDC Anantnag.

Dr. Parvez A.Mir, Director CIED talked at length about the innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives supported by IUST. "Innovations should be market driven. Our youth need to focus on new information technology-driven skills to develop innovation. This is very

essential for developing an entrepreneurship culture in J&K."

Dr. Asifa Baba, Coordinator IPR cell highlighted the relevance of the registration of patents. Talking about the awareness of patent registrations, she said, "Patent registrations help to safeguard the hard work and innovations of the patentee, and publication of innovations is critical in enhancing the financial value of their initiatives."

Dr. Darakshan Majid, Coordinator Skill and Capacity Development Cell discussed entrepreneurship opportunities in the food industry and food processing. "Women have a huge potential to excel in the food industry. There is a great scope of innovations and entrepreneurship in this area", she said. She encouraged the students to enhance their skills in this industry and also shared information about the training being organized by IUST.

Speaking about entrepreneurship development for women, Dr. Ruheela Hassan from Women Entrepreneurship Development Cell said, "We need to identify innovative solutions to the problems faced by common people and women are more sensitive towards such issues."

## SC Holds Employees' Pension Scheme Of 2014 Legal And Valid

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant development, the Supreme Court held on Friday that the provisions contained in the Employees' Pension Amendment (Scheme), 2014 are legal and valid.

The court said so far as the present members of the pension fund are concerned, it has read down certain provisions of the scheme as applicable in their cases.

A bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Pardiwala said it agrees with the view taken in the 2016 verdict in the case of R C Gupta versus the regional provident fund commissioner, EPFO and others.

It added that the fund authorities shall implement the directives contained in the said judgment within a period of eight weeks.

"We accordingly hold and direct: The provisions contained in the notification no...dated August 22, 2014 are legal and valid. So far as present members of the fund are concerned, we have read down certain provisions of the scheme as applicable in their cases and we shall give our findings and directions on these provisions in the subsequent sub-paragraphs", the bench said.

The top court, which modified the verdicts of the Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi high courts quashing the 2014 scheme, delivered the judgment on a batch of pleas, including those



filed by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Centre.

It noted that after the amendment of the scheme, the maximum pensionable salary was to be kept at Rs 15,000 per month, raising the earlier ceiling of Rs 6,500 per month.

The bench said "the requirement of the members to contribute at the rate of 1.16 per cent of their salary to the extent such salary exceeds Rs 15,000 per month as an additional contribution under the amended scheme is held to be ultra vires the provisions of the 1952 Act".

The top court said it is, however, suspending the operation of this part of the order for a period of six months.

"We do so to enable the authorities to make adjustments in the scheme so that the additional contribution can be generated from some other legitimate source within the scope of the Act, which could include enhancing the rate of contribution of the employers. We are

not speculating on what steps the authorities will take as it would be for the legislature or the framers of the scheme to make the necessary amendments," it said.

The bench said for a period of six months or till such time an amendment is made, whichever is earlier, the employees' contribution shall be a stop-gap measure.

"The said sum shall be adjustable on the basis of alteration to the scheme that may be made," it said, adding that it does not find any flaw in changing the basis for the computation of pensionable salary.

The top court said the amendment to the pension scheme brought about by a notification dated August 22, 2014 shall apply to the employees of the exempted establishments in the same manner as the employees of the regular establishments.

"The employees who had exercised the option under the proviso to paragraph 11(3) of the 1995 scheme and continued to be in service as on September 1, 2014 will be guided by the amended provisions of paragraph 11(4) of the pension scheme," it said.

The court clarified that the members of the scheme, who did not exercise the option as contemplated in the proviso to paragraph 11(3) of the pension scheme (as it was before the 2014 amendment), would be entitled to exercise the option under paragraph 11(4) of the post-amendment scheme.

## Twitter Faces Class-Action Lawsuit Over Mass Layoffs Without Notice

Agencies

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Elon Musk-run Twitter has been sued in the US for mass lay offs without giving employees advanced written notice, the media reported on Friday.

The lawsuit has been filed in the US District Court in the Northern District of California, in violation of worker protection laws including the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act as well as the California WARN Act, both of which require 60 days of advance notice, reports TechCrunch.

The plaintiffs said they were "terminated on November 3 by being locked out of their accounts".

"Twitter is also enacting widespread layoffs across its workforce today, on Nov. 4, 2022, it stated, adding that California's Employment Development Department had not received a notice related to the event," they said.

The plaintiffs asked the court to declare that Twitter has violated the federal and California WARN Acts and "certify the case as a class action suit".

The lawsuit is seeking "a range of relief, including compensatory

damages (including wages owed), as well as declaratory relief, pre- and post-judgment interest, plus other attorneys' fees and costs".

Under Twitter's takeover deal terms, the laid-off employees should receive 60 days of salary and the cash value of the stock.

Musk has blamed activists for a significant drop in the company's revenues.

"Twitter has had a massive drop in revenue, due to activist groups pressuring advertisers, even though nothing has changed with content moderation and we did everything we could to appease the activists. Extremely messed up! They're trying to destroy free speech in America," Musk tweeted.

The company had posted a net loss of USD 270 million in the second quarter ended June 30, 2022 compared to a profit of USD 66 million in the same period a year ago.

The revenue of Twitter had declined to USD 1,176 million during the June 2022 quarter from USD 1,190 million a year ago. Advertisement revenue had increased by 2 per cent to USD 1.08 billion while subscription and other revenue declined by 27 per cent to USD 101 million on a year-over-year basis.

## Samsung India Sells Mobile Phones Worth Rs 14,400 Crore Between Sept-Oct



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Samsung India sold mobile phones worth Rs 14,400 crore between September-October and recorded 99 per cent growth in the premium category smartphones in the first three quarters of 2022, a senior company official said on Friday.

Samsung India senior director and head of product marketing Aditya Babbar told PTI that the company recorded a 178 per cent jump in sales in value terms of 5G smartphones between January-September 2022 on a year-over-year basis.

"Samsung had a record festive season this year. This was an outstanding performance on account of great revenue which we posted of Rs 14,400 crore in a 60-day period starting September 1," he said.

Without disclosing the exact percentage, Babbar said that the growth was in the healthy double-digit compared to sales during the festive period last year.

He said that Samsung Finance Plus was one of the key con-

tributors to the growth and the transaction on the platform tripled to over 10 lakh during the festive season.

"The growth has been much better in tier 2 and 3 towns but it has done phenomenally well in urban centres as well," Babbar said.

The company recorded 99 per cent growth in value terms in the premium segment smartphones priced above Rs 30,000 apiece in January-September 2022 compared to the same period last year.

"Samsung is the fastest growing premium segment brand in India on the back of S22 and Foldables phones. Our growth has been 99 per cent in Rs 30,000 plus category versus January-September last year," Babbar said.

According to Counterpoint Research's latest report, Samsung was the second largest smartphone seller in India with an 18 per cent market share in terms of volume in the July-September quarter and remained the top-selling smartphone in the country.

## Commerce Ministry To Release Trade Data Once A Month

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The commerce ministry has decided to resume the practice of releasing monthly exports and imports data only once in a month with a view to providing a clear picture of the country's trade, an official said.

Since October 2020, the ministry was releasing the data twice every month -- the preliminary data in the first week and then the revised numbers by the middle of the month.

The decision assumes significance as stark contrast between the preliminary and final export growth rate numbers was witnessed in the data for the month of September this year.

According to the preliminary data, released on October 3, the merchandise exports contracted by 3.5 per cent in September to



USD 32.62 billion. However, the final data released on October 14 showed a growth of about 5 per cent to USD 35.45 billion. Some variations in export growth rate figures were seen in the previous months as well.

For example, preliminary data released on September 3 showed a decline of 1.15 per cent to USD 33 billion for exports in August. It was revised to 1.62 per cent at USD 33.92 billion on September 14.

Similarly, the commerce ministry's preliminary data showed a dip of 0.76 per cent to USD 35.24 billion

for exports in July, which was revised to 2.14 per cent growth at USD 36.27 billion.

"Now monthly data will be released once in a month only. The data for October 2022 will be released by middle of this month," the official said.

Earlier, a senior government official had stated that delay in collection of data from some special economic zones (SEZs) and ports was the major reason for the stark contrast in the preliminary and final export growth rate numbers released by the Centre for September.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Sensex Snaps 2-Day Losing Run Amid Firm Asian Cues

**MUMBAI:** The Sensex and Nifty eked out modest gains on Friday after a two-session sliding streak, propped up by firm Asian markets and buying from foreign institutional investors.

A sharp recovery in the rupee further bolstered investors' sentiment, traders said.

Overcoming a wobbly start, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum as the session progressed to close 113.95 points or 0.19 per cent higher at 60,950.36. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 64.45 points or 0.36 per cent to 18,117.15. Bajaj Finserv topped the Sensex gainers' chart, jumping 4.55 per cent, followed by UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, SBI, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance and Wipro.

In contrast, Dr Reddy's, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, NTPC, PowerGrid and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.49 per cent. The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 18 of the 30 Sensex counters closing in the green.

"The Bank of England in its policy announcement, mirrored the Fed's view, dashing hopes for a near-term policy softening... pharma and IT sell-off continued due to concerns about the impending recession."

"The dollar surged along with the US Treasury yield following the hawkish remarks from global central banks, while FIIs continued their domestic support," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. **PTI**

#### Rupee Soars 53 Paise To 82.35 Against US Dollar

**MUMBAI:** The rupee appreciated by 53 paise to close at 82.35 against the US dollar on Friday, boosted by persistent foreign fund inflows and a weakening greenback overseas.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.85 and shuttled between 82.35 and 82.85 during the session. It finally settled at 82.35 against the American currency, registering a rise of 53 paise over its previous close of 82.88.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.34 per cent to 112.54. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 2.05 per cent to USD 96.61 per barrel.

"Euro and Pound too recovered on Friday from intraday lows as broader dollar retraced against its major crosses," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

On Thursday, pound fell sharply against the US dollar after the Bank of England raised rates by 75 bps.

"We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 82.50 and 83.30," Somaiya added.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 113.95 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 60,950.36, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 64.45 points or 0.36 per cent to 18,117.15. **PTI**

#### India Concerned Over Growing Trade Deficit With Korea

**NEW DELHI:** India has raised its "serious" concerns over the growing trade deficit with Korea, which stood at about USD 9.5 billion in 2021-22, an official statement said on Friday.

The issue came up for discussion during the ninth 9th round of the India-Korea comprehensive economic partnership agreement up-gradation negotiation, which was held in Seoul on November 3-4.

The two sides underlined the need to have negotiations based on a win-win approach and are forward-looking and outcome-oriented.

During the meeting, sub-groups on trade in goods, services, rules of origin, investment, sanitary and phytosanitary/technical barriers to trade issues held in-depth discussions.

"India raised serious concerns on the growing trade deficit between the two countries and discussed market access issues. Both sides agreed to work closely to address tariff and non-tariff barriers and deepen the relationship in the services sector," the commerce ministry said.

They also shared a common view that both sides should make utmost efforts to expedite negotiations in order to reach a mutually beneficial and satisfactory outcome during 2023, it added.

It was agreed that the 10th round of CEPA upgradation negotiations will be hosted by India in early 2023. **PTI**

#### IndiGo Q2 Loss Widens To Rs 1,583.34 Crore

**NEW DELHI:** InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, on Friday posted widening of loss to Rs 1,583.34 crore for the September quarter, mainly due to higher expenses.

The airline had a loss of Rs 1,435.66 crore in the year-ago period.

However revenues of the company rose to Rs 12,852.29 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, from Rs 5,798.73 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a release.

In the latest September quarter, total expenses jumped to Rs 14,435.57 crore.

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said that September quarter was the second consecutive quarter wherein it operated at higher than pre-COVID capacity.

"In spite of a seasonally weak quarter, we witnessed relatively good yields with strong demand across the network. However, fuel prices and exchange rates have adversely impacted our financial performance."

"We are on a steady path to recovery, benefiting from enormous opportunities both in domestic and international markets. With an industry challenged by global supply chain disruptions, we are working on various counter measures to accommodate this strong demand," he said. **PTI**

#### Ola Electric To Miss Its Target To Utilise Production

**NEW DELHI:** Ola Electric will miss its target to fully utilise installed production capacity in the next six to eight months and will achieve only 50 per cent of it by November 2023, founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said on Friday.

At the time of the launch of the new S1 Air electric scooter ahead of Diwali last month, he had said the company was already producing more than 1,000 a day at its 'future factory' and would be scaling it up significantly beyond that.

"We feel that in the next six to eight months we will exhaust the (current) installed capacity and we are also in parallel expanding our capacity in the future factory," he had said.

Company officials had insisted that Ola Electric has a current capacity of 20 lakh units per annum at its factory and it would be exhausted in the next six to eight months. However, in a post on Twitter on Friday sharing the company's production targets, Aggarwal wrote, "Our cumulative production numbers: Dec 2021: 0; Nov 2022: 1,00,000; Nov 2023: 10,00,000; Nov 2024: 1,00,00,000. This is the journey to #EndICEAge by 2025."

Ola Electric had said that its factory at Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu would have the capacity to produce 1 crore electric two-wheelers annually when fully completed. **PTI**

1992-93 RIOTS

SC directs Maha govt to submit report containing details of 168 missing people to committee

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Maharashtra government to submit a report containing details of 168 people, who were reported to have gone missing during the 1992-93 communal riots in Mumbai, to a committee constituted by the apex court.

The apex court observed that a March 2020 affidavit filed before it by the principal secretary of the Home department of state notes that 900 people died in riots and 168 persons were reported missing and compensation has been paid to the legal heirs of these deceased and family members of 60 missing people.

A bench headed by Justice S K Kaul passed a slew of directions in its verdict delivered on a plea which sought directions, including to the state to accept and act on the findings of Sri Krishna Commission of Enquiry, and also for payment of compensation to persons identified as missing.

"There shall be a committee headed by the member secretary of MSLSA (Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority) to monitor the implementation of the directions issued by this judgment," said the bench, also comprising justices A S Oka and



Vikram Nath.

It said the state shall appoint a revenue officer, not below the rank of deputy collector, and a police officer, not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police, who shall be the other two members of the committee.

"The state government shall submit to the committee a report containing details of 168 missing persons including their names and addresses. The state government will also place material regarding efforts made to trace family members of 108 missing persons who have been deprived of compensation in terms of the second government resolution," it said.

The bench said the state shall make all possible efforts to trace the legal heirs/ family members of the missing persons.

It said the committee shall monitor this exercise and assist the legal representatives of the missing people to complete the procedural formalities.

The top court said the state shall also submit to the committee the record relating to compensation paid to the persons entitled to it.

It said the state shall provide a list of victims who have not been paid compensation in terms of the two government resolutions.

The bench directed that the committee shall also monitor

the efforts of the state to trace other victims who were entitled to compensation but the same was not paid to them.

"The victims identified hereafter shall also be paid the compensation with interest at the rate of 9 per cent per annum from January 8, 1994, that is, from the expiry of the period of six months from the date of the first government resolution, till actual payment," it said.

The bench said the state shall comply with the requirement of submitting necessary details to the committee within two months.

"The entire exercise of payment of compensation and/ or interest shall be completed by the state government within a period of nine months from today. The state government shall report compliance made from time to time to the committee," it said.

The top court said a detailed report containing details of the compliance of the directions shall be filed by the Secretary of MSLSA before it within a period of 10 months.

The committee shall seek necessary guidance from the executive chairperson of MSLSA for implementation of the directions issued by the apex order, it said, adding the panel shall also be entitled to seek the assistance of para legal

volunteers.

In its verdict, the top court noted that the affidavit discloses the details of the fate of 253 riot related criminal cases and it also discloses that one case is pending in the sessions court.

"The state government shall provide details of the only pending riot related criminal case before the sessions court at Mumbai to the Registrar General of the Bombay High Court who shall bring it to the notice of the concerned court that the case needs to be disposed of at the earliest," the bench said.

It said the state shall provide details of 97 cases on dormant files to the Registrar General of the high court within one month.

"On receipt of the details, the high court on the administrative side shall issue necessary communication to the concerned courts in which the cases are pending to take necessary steps to trace the accused," it said.

The apex court said the state government shall immediately constitute a special cell to trace the absconding/ missing accused in these cases and to assist the concerned courts so that trial can proceed against them.

While disposing of the plea, the bench said a copy of this judgment shall be forwarded to the member secretary of MSLSA.

More than 15,500 students admitted to DU colleges in round 2 of seat allocation

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** More than 15,500 students have been admitted in undergraduate courses across Delhi University colleges in the second round of seat allocation, Registrar Vikas Gupta said Friday.

With this, the total number of students admitted to the university so far has gone beyond 61,500. The university has 70,000 undergraduate seats.

Of the 15,550 candidates admitted in the second round, 9,626 were upgraded from the seats allotted to them in the first list, while 3,806 admissions were done afresh. The rest were admitted in other categories such as people with disabilities (PWD).

The university has also informed the students on its website about the number of vacant seats after the first two rounds of seat allocation.

"The University of Delhi has displayed the matrix of seats that are vacant after the completion of Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) Round I and II," Gupta said in a statement.

Most of the courses in the North Campus have been filled with only a few seats remaining vacant. However, there are certain lesser-known colleges where seats in several courses are still empty.

There are also some courses in certain colleges where seats vacant are in double digits.

In Shyam Lal College, 25 general category seats in BSc Physical Science with Chemistry are vacant. The list of vacant seats issued by the university after CSAS round one showed only four vacant seats. This increase in vacant seats indicates the upgradation of seats of some students to the college and courses of their higher preferences.

In the same college's B.Sc (Prog.) Physical Science with Computer Science, 12 seats in the general category are vacant.

Delhi University will offer a window from November 5 to 7 for mid-entry for fresh applicants and an option to candidates for upgrading for candidates.

"Through the provision of mid-entry, the candidates who either failed to apply to CSAS phase I or could not complete phase II will be able to participate in the third round of CSAS," the registrar said in a statement.

The admission process, which began on September 12, is being conducted in three phases: The first phase was to apply to the university, the second phase was preference filling and the third phase was seat allotment-cum-admission.

This year, Delhi University is admitting students through CUET scores instead of their Class 12 marks. On September 12, the university released the CSAS, its admission-cum-allocation policy.

Primary schools shut; WFH for 50% govt staff as Delhi grapples with 'severe' pollution

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** Alarmed by hazardous pollution levels and health warnings, the Delhi government on Friday announced that primary schools will remain shut from Saturday and 50 per cent of its staff will work from home, while private offices have been advised to follow suit.

Delhi's air quality remained "severe" for a second day on the trot, with stubble burning accounting for 30 per cent of the PM2.5 pollution in the capital, according to the Central Pollution Control Board and SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Ministry of Earth and Sciences.

Over the last few days, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Aam Aadmi Party have traded barbs over the increase in stubble burning in Punjab.

However, on Friday, Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann owned responsibility for paddy straw burning in the agrarian state and promised to curb the practice by next winter.

"We (AAP) have our government in Punjab and we are responsible if 'parali' is being burnt there. Farmers are not responsible for it," Kejriwal said in a joint press conference with Mann.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said stubble burning is not a "political issue" but expressed concern over rising farm fires despite funding and machines provided by the Centre.

The number of stubble burning incidents in Punjab rose 12.59 per cent year-on-year to 26,583 in the last 50 days, with a spurt in such cases after Diwali, according to the latest Indian Council of Agricultural Research

(ICAR) data.

However, when compared to Punjab, the number of paddy stubble burning events in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi remained lower between September 15 and November 4 this year, the data showed.

The Supreme Court agreed to list for hearing on November 10 a public interest litigation seeking fresh guidelines on stubble burning.

Taking note of the hazardous air quality, the National Human Rights Commission asked the chief secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to appear before it on November 10 to discuss the matter, an official statement said.

The commission said it was "not satisfied" with the action taken so far to address the issue

and that "much more" needs to be done to reduce pollution in Delhi.

While parents breathed a sigh of relief following announcement to shut primary schools, academicians expressed concern over learning losses due to the frequent suspension of classes -- earlier in view of the Covid pandemic and now because of deteriorating air quality.

Experts suggested that the government should rejig vacation schedule as pollution turns severe every winter.

At a press conference, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said schools would be asked to curtail outdoor activities of senior students.

Rai ordered 50 per cent of the staff of the Delhi government to work from home, and said an advisory would be issued to

private offices to follow suit.

He said the Delhi government has decided to implement the anti-pollution curbs recommended by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), including a ban on non-BIS VI diesel-run light motor vehicles.

A six-member panel chaired by the special commissioner of transport has been set up to monitor the implementation of curbs on anti-polluting activities. Revenue commissioners have been asked to prepare a plan for staggered timings of markets and offices.

In a bid to ramp up public transport, the government will also launch 'Paryavaran Bus Service' which will include 500 privately-run CNG buses.

Kejriwal said the odd-even car rationing scheme will be implemented if need arises and

discussions on it are on.

According to a study conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute in 2018, vehicular emissions account for around 40 per cent of the PM 2.5 pollution in the capital.

The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of Delhi stood at 447 at 2 pm.

It had jumped to 450, just a notch short of the 'severe plus' category, on Thursday, prompting the authorities to invoke the final stage of anti-pollution curbs under GRAP -- a set of anti-pollution measures followed in Delhi and its surrounding towns according to the severity of the situation.

An AQI of above 400 is considered "severe" which can affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing illnesses.

Almost all air quality

monitoring stations reported "severe" air quality, while 13 of them logged an AQI of more than 450.

The data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPPC) showed that the concentration of lung-damaging fine particles known as PM2.5 was above 600 micrograms per cubic metre, around eight times the national standard of 60 micrograms per cubic metre, in many areas.

According to the World Health Organization, a 24-hour average PM2.5 concentration of up to 15 microgram per cubic metre is considered safe.

According to the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago's Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released in June, the residents of Delhi stand to lose 10 years of life expectancy due to poor air quality.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Power Discourse

received last year.

The data clearly indicates that every district of the valley witnessed a rainfall deficit.

Another official, wishing not to be named, told Kashmir Observer that currently the water level in Jhelum and other tributaries are low and they are unable to generate electricity.

"In such conditions we have to go for peaking, in the daytime we wait for water to accumulate and then run the turbine during the peak hours," the official said.

It may be noted that the UT presently has 20 hydroelectric projects with installed capacity of 758.70 MW located in various districts.

The main contributor among these projects is the Baglihar power project built on Chenab River in the Doda district. The project has a total capacity of 900 MW.

Sumbal power project generates 17 MWs, then the Kangan power project and Lower Jhelum project generate 105 MW respectively. The Upper Sindh-I generates 22.6 MW, Upper Sindh-II, Kangan produces 105MWs, Old-Ganderbal power project generates 15 MWs, Pahalgaon Power house 4.5 and Karnah power house is able to produce 02 MWs only.

In Jammu province, the Chenani-I Hydroelectric Project generates 23.30, while Chenani-II--02 MWs and Chenani-III generates 7.5 MWs. Bhaderwah power project generates 1.5 MWs while Seva project--III generates only 9 MW.

The other projects fall in Ladakh UT. While other projects are under control of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)

All these projects don't cover the demand of the electricity in the winters due to "less water" in the UT and as a result the PDD has to purchase the electricity from the Central grid, New Delhi.

According to sources, one unit of power that is generated in the UT costs only 40 paisa while the same unit is being purchased at 6 Rs from

New Delhi.

"So you can understand if we will be able to generate all the power within the UT, it will be very cheap," the official added.

Pertinently, the J&K government is planning to generate hydroelectric power with projects of over 6300 MW capacity in pipeline for making UT of J&K power surplus.

In April, the Centre announced that it will give a major push to hydroelectric power with a total investment of about 51,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the same month, the Union cabinet approved a proposal to invest 4,526.12 crore to construct the 540 MW Kwar hydroelectric project on the Chenab river.

PDD Chief, Javed Yousuf Dar said that the department will issue a new curtailment schedule before 15 November.

He said that the transmission department of the PDD is re-conducting two transmission lines, thus the power crisis.

"The work will be completed in the coming days and also since the winter is approaching, the load has increased but we are trying our best to provide adequate power supply," Dar added.

He further added that there is a demand of 1800 MW of electricity which might go to 2500 in peak winter while the PDD is able to provide only 1600 MW only.

AIIMS Kashmir

health system and provided health assurance to all," the LG said.

"The State health agency that is implementing ABPMJAY SEHAT has achieved many milestones since the launch of initiative and more than 77 lakh people have been provided with Ayushman cards and so far 6 lakh beneficiaries have been provided free and cashless treatments under the scheme," he added.

Sinha, the spokesperson said, also informed that around 1000 people are using the health golden card per day and getting treatment worth Rupees

two and a half crore daily.

The LG, he said, further observed that approximately 92% of families in the J&K have at least one Ayushman Card with four districts -- Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam and Samba have achieved 100% saturation as per the NFSA database while four other districts-- Poonch, Anantnag, Pulwama and Ramban are nearing 98% saturation.

"Leave no one behind is not just a mantra for me but it is also my commitment to the people. Public well-being is always at the center of our policies and our spending on health programs has risen as compared to many developed and bigger states," Sinha said.

Highlighting the achievements of J&K further, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that the UT is emerging as a shining example across the country with world class health infrastructure.

"Besides, 7 new medical colleges work is underway on 2 AIIMS, 2 State Cancer Institute's, 2 Bone & Joint hospitals and more than 300 health infrastructure projects," the LG said.

"In last three years, 2742 health and wellness centers have been established; 207 Advanced Life Support Ambulances and 286 Basic Life Support Ambulances have been dedicated for the health care of the general public," he added.

The spokesperson said that the LG further informed that on order to shift towards automated service delivery, the government has launched 'e-SAHAJ' project which entails online appointment from doctors, and digitization of patient's medical records etc.

"In the first phase of e-SAHAJ, 575 health facilities have been covered and it is integrated with Rapid Assessment System, which will also provide real time feedback from common citizens," Sinha said.

On this occasion, the spokesperson said, the LG congratulated the people of Jammu Kashmir and appreciated the dedicated efforts of health care workers, officers of State Health Agency and National Health Mission

for the robust implementation of the health insurance schemes.

Earlier, Sinha, he said, felicitated the Deputy Commissioners and CMOs of the Districts, representatives of hospitals of public and private sector for the outstanding work and achievements in the implementation of the schemes of health sector.

A short clip of the testimonies of the beneficiaries of PMJAY AB & SEHAT was also displayed on the occasion.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also launched Qissa-e-Ayushman coffee table book, e-RUPI prepaid e-vouchers for providing diagnostic services, e-SAHAJ (Electronic System for Administration of Hospital and Joint Management), and TeleMANAS (Mental Health Assistance & Networking Across States) cell of NHM. He also released a report on Gap Assessment of District Hospitals as per IPHS 2022.

On the occasion, the LG, he said, underscored that Right to health for all without discrimination is our commitment.

"We have ensured every citizen in need of medical attention is treated with respect and dignity," Sinha added.

Meets Kin Of Slain

"Met the family members of martyr Shri Puran Krishan Bhat Ji at their residence in Jammu and offered my condolences," Sinha tweeted.

He also tweeted that the administration has been directed to provide a permanent government job to Bhat's wife and extend every possible help to the family.

Bhat's brother-in-law A K Raina told reporters that L-G has assured them that the culprits will be brought to book. "The case is under investigation. It is at its conclusion," he said.

Raina said the family raised the issue of job, education for children and ex gratia besides shifting household items from Choudharygund to Jammu.

"The LG has assured us all support," he said adding that the demand for registration of families as migrants was raised with him and he assured us

of support in the matter.

Bhat's wife said that she wants to hear the news that her husband's killers are dead. "This will give me justice". "We lived in utter fear for the past several months. The fear became real when terrorists gunned down my husband at the gate of my house in Choudharygund", she said.

Choudhary Gund residents have submitted a memorandum to the L-G seeking the registration of 13 families as migrants in Jammu. Vir Ji Kaul said that the L-G has "assured us support in facilitating registration as migrants".

Thirteen Kashmiri Pandit families, who migrated from a village in south Kashmir amid 'targeted' killings of members of their community, demanded on Monday that the administration register them as "migrants".

Of the 13 families comprising 43 members, 10 had left Choudharygund village in Shopian district and reached Jammu on October 26. The remaining three had reached the city earlier.

ED Attaches

the Pakistani establishment through hawala and various other means and channels and these funds were then being used for fuelling and supporting militant activities in the Kashmir valley," the ED said in a statement.

JKSSB To Conduct

along-with the schedule for downloading of Admit Cards shall be notified separately in due course of time," the notification said--(KNO)

Falling Boulder

district hospital in Surankote. Naseem Akhter (35) and her daughter Rubina Kouser (12) succumbed to injuries, they said.

Naseem's husband Mohammad Latief (40) is admitted in the Government Medical College hospital in Rajouri in a critical condition. The couple's son Basharat is recuperating, they added.

Biker Arrested

has been initiated against the accused and the bike has been seized as

well," the police said

Woman Injured

investigations have been launched. (GNS)

Missing Mother-

that a special Police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Budgam Inspector Aftab Ahmed to trace out the mother-daughter duo acted swiftly, raided various locations and after strenuous efforts and working on various inputs, Police team traced out the missing duo from District Ganganagar, Rajasthan.

"Today they were brought safely to Budgam. After fulfilling all legal formalities, the mother daughter duo was handed over to their kins. Further investigation into the case is going on," police said.

Notorious Drug

Nasrulahpora Budgam. "During the search, 10 grams of Heroin was recovered from his possession. Subsequently, he was shifted to the police station where he remains in custody," police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 376/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation has been initiated.

Pertinently, the arrested accused person is a notorious drug peddler who used to sell the drugs among the youth of Soibugh and adjoining areas.

Fair Price Shops

"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". Under the nationwide initiative, it has been decided by the Government to undertake visits to about 5000 FPSs across the country by senior officers in order to significantly enhance the visibility of FPSs, and to boost the morale of the officials/FPS owners as well as provide confidence to the beneficiaries. This initiative has been undertaken with a holistic vision to incorporate all the aspects of the Public Distribution System.

J&K Sqay Martial Arts C'ship Begins In Srinagar



**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Friday inaugurated the 23rd J&K Sqay Martial Art Championship for Boys & Girls here at Indoor Sports Complex Pologround in an impressive function organized by District Youth Services & Sports Office Srinagar in association with Sqay Federation of India.

As many as 1650 players representing all 20 Districts of Jammu & Kashmir are participating in the Championship which shall conclude on November 07, 2022.

While declaring the Championship open, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of sports activities and said Martial Art is a fundamental sports activity that involves unleashing of human potential.



Wushu Women's Zonal League Commences In Srinagar

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice-Chairperson J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board on Friday inaugurated a four day long Khelo India Wushu Women's Zonal League as Chief Guest. The league is organised by Wushu Association of India in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Sports Authority of India (SAI) at SKISC Stadium, Srinagar. The Vice-Chairperson, J&K KVIB was given warm welcome by the concerned officers and officials.

Vice-Chairperson at first interacted with various women athletes, who put-forth their grievances and she assured them for early redressal of these grievances.

She was informed that approximately 500 women athletes from different teams of 8 States/UTs – Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Delhi – will participate in the championship. Dr Hina Shafi Bhat appreciated the initiative of Wushu Association of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Sports Council of J&K for organizing the Khelo India Wushu Women's Championship in Srinagar.

She further said that these initiatives by the Government of J&K will not only provide jobs to the athletes under Sports Quota but will also shape the Naya Jammu Kashmir by helping in eradicating the evils of the Society. (KNS)

T20 WC: Group Stage Points Table As Of November 4

GROUP 1	Flag	M	W	L	T	N/R	NRR	PTS
New Zealand		5	3	1	0	1	2.11	7
England		4	2	1	0	1	0.55	5
Australia		4	2	1	0	1	-0.30	5
Sri Lanka		4	2	2	0	0	-0.46	4
Ireland		5	1	3	0	1	-1.61	3
Afghanistan		4	0	2	0	2	-0.72	2

Group 2	Flag	M	W	L	T	NR	NRR	PTS
India		4	3	1	0	0.00	0.73	6
South Africa		4	2	1	0	1.00	1.44	5
Pakistan		4	2	2	0	0.00	1.12	4
Bangladesh		4	2	2	0	0.00	-1.28	4
Zimbabwe		4	1	2	0	1.00	-0.31	3
Netherlands		4	1	3	0	0.00	-1.23	2

Australia's Fate In English Hands; NZ Advances

**Agencies**

**ADELAIDE:** New Zealand and England were the major winners from a game neither of them took part in at the Twenty20 World Cup on Friday as Australia ended up beating Afghanistan by only four runs.

New Zealand, which earlier defeated Ireland by 35 runs, secured its semifinal spot because Australia needed a crushing win to match the Kiwis. New Zealand's run rate of 2.113 makes it the favourite to finish atop Group 1 ahead of England and Australia.

England was also smiling as it will advance if it beats Sri Lanka in Sydney on Saturday, with the added satisfaction of knocking out rival Australia.

It could have been even worse for the hosts but Marcus Stoinis held his nerve in the final over to give Australia a hard-earned win.

Glenn Maxwell's 54 not out off 32 balls helped Australia to 168-8 after being asked to bat. Afghanistan smashed its way to 164-7 in reply with Rashid Khan scoring 48 not out off 23 balls. Khan needed to score 22 off the last six balls but Stoinis was able to restrict him, and Afghanistan, to 17.

Australia looked dejected at the end of the game with its players knowing they needed to restrict Afghanistan to 106 or less to earn a higher net run rate than England.

Now Australia's net run-rate is minus 0.173. With seven points from four games, it climbed to the second spot over England but its fate is no longer in its own hands.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson posted a half-century and his spinners checked Ireland's scoring rate. Williamson scored 61 off 35 balls as New Zealand reached 185-6 after being sent in to bat, his innings negating Ireland pace bowlers Josh Little's hat trick – only the second of this tournament.

Ireland was restricted to 150-9 in reply, with Lockie Ferguson taking 3-22 for New Zealand while spinners Mitchell Santner (2-26) and Ish Sodhi (2-31) took key wickets at the top of the order.

Mohammad Nabi Steps Down As Afghanistan Captain

**Agencies**

Mohammad Nabi stepped down as Afghanistan captain on Friday after the Asian country were eliminated from the Twenty20 World Cup without winning a single match.

Nabi said he was resigning due to differences with the selectors after Afghanistan lost their final T20 Super 12 match to Australia.

They finished the tournament as the only team without a win, with three defeats and two games abandoned due to rain.

"From the last one year, our team preparation was not to a level that a captain would want it or needed for a big tournament," Nabi tweeted.

"Moreover, in some of the last tours the team management, selection committee and I were not on the same page which had implications on the team balance."

"Therefore, with due respect, effective immediately I announce to step down as a captain and will continue to play for my country when the management and team need me."

Nabi took over as captain before the 2021 World Cup when Rashid Khan stepped down for similar reasons immediately after the squad was announced, saying the selection committee had not obtained his consent for the team that was announced.



PCB Allows Players To Sign Up For SA20 League

**Agencies**

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to allow its players to compete in the inaugural South African T20 league, in which Indians own the majority of teams. It can also be said that the postponement of the West Indies tour of Pakistan is one of the reasons that opened up the window for players to participate in the new South African league.

The West Indies tour of Pakistan, of three T20Is, was scheduled for January 2023 but has been called off, providing space in the calendar for players from both countries to become available for T20 leagues in the January-February window.

As per the ESPNcricinfo, at least two Pakistani players without PCB central contracts are expected to sign contracts due to the procedure, which will let each side select one extra player for their squads. If they can find takers, the PCB has also let contracted players compete in the SA20 competition. The tournament's inaugural season starts in January 2023.

"We are introducing a wildcard pick. Post the World Cup, we will allow teams to pick one other player. From a league perspective, we don't get involved with the selection. The teams go to the market and pick," Graeme Smith, commissioner of the SA20 league, told ESPNcricinfo.

Aside from the SA20, other concurrent tournaments include the ILT20 (in the UAE), the BBL in Australia, the BPL in Bangladesh, and the PSL, which will begin in early February. However, the PCB will continue to keep its players away from the ILT20 as intended.

Azam Khan, the wicketkeeper-batsman, and fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain had their NOCs for the competition earlier denied. However, both players were vying for a contract with the league's only non-Indian-owned team, the Desert Vipers. (ANI)

FIFA Pleads With World Cup Nations To 'Focus On Football'

**Agencies**

FIFA has written to World Cup teams urging them to focus on the soccer in Qatar and not let the sport be dragged into ideological or political 'battles'.

The letter from FIFA president Gianni Infantino and the governing body's secretary general Fatma Samoura follows a number of protests made by World Cup teams, on issues ranging from LGBTIQ rights to concerns over the treatment of migrant workers.

"Please, let's now focus on the football!" Sky News quoted Infantino and Samoura as saying in the letter to the 32 nations contesting the World Cup.

"We know football does not live in a vacuum and we are equally aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world.

"But please do not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle that exists."

FIFA was unable to provide immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

The World Cup, the first held in the Middle East, starts on Nov. 20.

Amnesty and other rights groups have led calls for FIFA to compensate migrant workers in Qatar for human rights abuses by setting aside \$440 million, matching the World Cup prize money.

Australia's soccer team last week spoke out against Qatar's record on human rights and same-sex relationships.

Denmark's players will travel to the World Cup without their families as a protest against the country's human rights record, the Danish FA (DBU) told local media last month.

Football Australia confirmed the receipt of the letter from FIFA on Friday, but declined further comment. Reuters also contacted the DBU for comment.

World Cup organisers have said that everyone, no matter their sexual orientation or background, is welcome, while also warning against public displays of affection.

Qatar has acknowledged there are "gaps" in its labour system but the World Cup has allowed the country to make progress on worker rights.

"At FIFA, we try to respect all opinions and beliefs, without handing out moral lessons to the rest of the world," Infantino said in the letter, according to Sky.

"One of the great strengths of the world is indeed its very diversity, and if inclusion means anything, it means having respect for that diversity. No one people or culture or nation is 'better' than any other.

"This principle is the very foundation stone of mutual respect and non-discrimination. And this is also one of the core values of football. So, please let's all remember that and let football take centre stage."

People Calling For Qatar World Cup Boycott Are Hypocrites: Minister

**Agencies**

**DOHA:** People calling for a boycott of the World Cup in Qatar are from a handful of countries that do not represent the rest of the world which is looking forward to the tournament, Qatar's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani has said.

Qatar is the first Middle Eastern country to host the World Cup but the small nation has come under intense pressure in recent years for its treatment of foreign workers and restrictive social laws.

The country's human rights record led to calls for teams and officials to boycott the Nov. 20-Dec. 18 tournament but Sheikh Mohammed said they hold no water as tickets are almost sold out.

"The reasons given for boycotting the World Cup do not add up. There is a lot of hypocrisy in these attacks, which ignore all that we have achieved," Sheikh Mohammed told Le Monde.

"They are being peddled by a very small number of people, in 10 countries at most, who are not at all representative of the rest of the world. It is frankly unfortunate.

"The reality is that the world is looking forward to this celebration. Over 97% of the tickets have been sold."

Several participating teams such as England, Australia, Denmark and the Netherlands have highlighted the plight of migrant workers in Qatar.

After years of pressure from human rights groups, Qatar changed its labour laws to dismantle much of its "kafala" sponsorship system, absolving workers of the need to get the permission of the employer who sponsored their visa in order to change jobs or leave the country.

Last year, Qatar's government denied claims in a report by human rights organisation Amnesty International that thousands of migrant workers were being trapped and exploited.

Sheikh Mohammed admitted "there are still flaws" they are attempting to fix but also accused countries of having "double standards."

"Why do we systematically blame our government for these problems, whereas in Europe, the slightest incident is blamed on the company?" he said.

"I think there are some people who don't accept that a small country in the Middle East is hosting such a global event."

Sheikh Mohammed also said that although the stadiums are air conditioned, it will not be operational during matches due to Qatar's winter climate.

"Temperatures in Qatar in November-December are almost cooler than the temperatures in Europe during the summer. So, air conditioning will not be used," he said.



## Twitter India Begins Sacking Employees



### Agenceis

New Delhi: Twitter has started laying off employees in India as part of a global job cut ordered by the social media platform's new owner Elon Musk to attain economies of scale and make the USD 44 billion acquisition viable.

World's richest businessman Musk began his innings at Twitter last week by firing the CEO Parag Agrawal as well as the CFO and some other top executives.

This was followed by an exodus of top management. Musk has now started a massive exercise to downsize the company's global workforce.

"Lay-off has started. Some of my colleagues have received email notification regarding this," a Twitter India employee told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Another source said the lay-offs have affected a "significant chunk" of the India team.

The full details of the job cuts were not immediately available. Twitter India did not respond to email queries.

The US-based social media platform, in an internal email to employees earlier, had said, "In an effort to place Twitter on a healthy path, we will go through the difficult process of reducing our global workforce on Friday." It said that "everyone will receive an individual email".

The company will temporarily close all offices for safety of employees as well as Twitter systems and customer data.

"If you are in an office or on your way to an office, please return home," Twitter had said.

While Twitter had several run-ins with the government over freedom of speech, the company in the email barred employees from discussing confidential company information on social media, with the press or elsewhere.

## China's Out-Of-Control Rocket Crashed Into Earth Over The Pacific Ocean

### Agenceis

For the fourth time now, China fired its Long March 5B rocket into the skies only to allow it to perform a potentially dangerous reentry into Earth's atmosphere.

In a tweet, U.S. Space Command has now confirmed the latest Long March 5B rocket core "re-entered the atmosphere over the south-central Pacific Ocean at 4:01 a.m. MDT/10:01 UTC".

China's space administration doesn't perform a controlled reentry of its expendable Long March 5B rocket core stage. Instead, it allows the 21-ton rocket part to slowly deorbit, meaning it could fall anywhere over a large area of the Earth, including overpopulated regions.

While most Long March 5B launches have resulted in rocket debris raining down over the ocean, a 2020 mission ended with large rocket parts falling on a village in the Ivory Coast, Africa. Before today's reentry, Spain closed its airspace over its northeastern regions due to fears of rocket debris downing an aircraft.

China's latest rocket debris reentry came after the country launched the third and final module of its Tiangong space station to orbit on Monday, October 31. While the country's space administration deserves plaudits for making China the only country to currently operate its orbital station, the global



press quickly turned its attention to the uncontrolled rocket core stage falling out of the sky.

Officials in China have steadfastly referred to Western coverage of its Long March 5B rocket reentries as a smear campaign against the country's space industry. In an email exchange with IE, Harvard astronomer and astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell said China is "mistaken", adding that "these reentries are objectively worse than what other countries are doing. I praise China's space program when it does good things, as it often does. And I criticize them when they are bad. This is bad."

The seriousness of the problem was highlighted by the fact that Spain had briefly closed airspaces over its northeastern regions, including Catalonia, home to the busy international airport, El Prat, in Barcelona.

Thankfully, a short while later, the rocket debris was confirmed to have fallen harmlessly over the Pacific Ocean. Before that confirmation, a Reuters report quoted Spanish air control services as saying, "due to the risk associated with the passage of the space object CZ-5B through the Spanish airspace, flights have been totally restricted from 09:38 a.m. to 10:18 a.m. in Catalonia and other communities."

Long March 5B will launch again next year.

China has no plans to cease Long March 5B launches, despite criticism on the global stage. In July, after China's last uncontrolled rocket core reentry, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson tweeted, "the People's Republic of China did not share specific trajectory information as their Long March 5B rocket fell back to Earth."

## At This Famous Mumbai Hospital, A 132-Year-Old Tunnel Has Been Found

### Agenceis

Mumbai: A 132-year-old tunnel-like structure has been found on the premises of the government-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai, officials said on Friday.

The 200-metre-long structure was found under a building which originally housed the Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit Hospital for Women and Children. It was later converted into a nursing college.

The tunnel came to light during an inspection of the building following a complaint of water leakage, officials said.

The foundation stone of the British-era heritage building was laid by Lord Reay, then Governor of Bombay, on January 27, 1890, said Dr Arun Rathod, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

Hospital Dean Dr Pallavi Saple told PTI that they have apprised the Mumbai collector and Maharashtra Archaeology Department about the discovery as the building is a heritage structure.

Dr Rathod, who inspected the structure from inside, told

PTI that it is 4.5 feet high and has several brick pillars. The entrance is sealed with a stone wall, he said.

They entered after opening what looked like a sealed ventilation duct, three ft-by-three ft in size. There are many such sealed openings on the front and the rear side of the structure, he said.

According to some former hospital employees, another British-era building located behind this building has a similar structure underneath, but it was yet to be verified, said Dr Rathod.

The two buildings could be connected by a tunnel but this was only a conjecture at this point, he said.

The building under which the tunnel was found was designed by architectural executive John Adams and inaugurated on March 15, 1892. The construction cost was 1,19,351, Rathod said.

The JJ Hospital campus houses several British-era heritage structures.

"We are now planning to start a heritage walk through the hospital premises," said Dr Saple.



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